



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Strengthening Early Recovery and Preparedness Coordination Mechanisms in Kenya

Final Narrative Report

January – June 2012

Summary

To respond to the impacts of 2011 drought defined as one of the worst droughts in 60 years, UNDP Kenya partnered with the Canadian Development International Agency (CIDA) to implement a resilience building project. The main objective of the six month project was to strengthen the country preparedness mechanism at national and county level as well as promote approaches that will make dividends of humanitarian work more sustainable. A total of USD 94,000 was provided for this work.

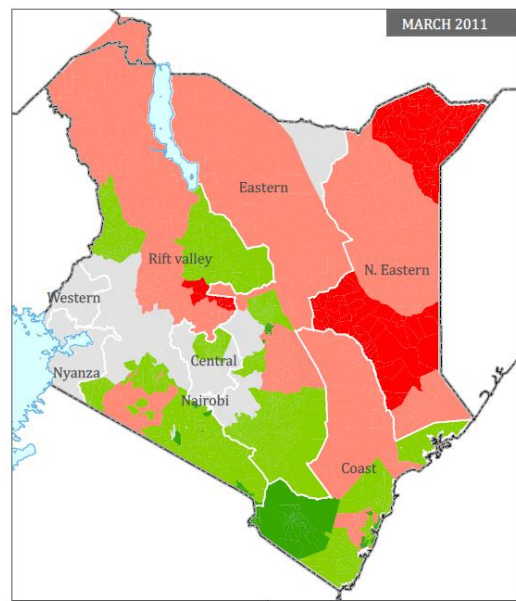
Overall, the project has made positive contribution in laying down a foundation for stronger and a more robust early recovery and preparedness work in Kenya. Key achievements include; the establishment and strengthening of early recovery coordination mechanisms; capacity enhancement for government and other stakeholders on early recovery and disaster risk reduction; development of early recovery knowledge products; and integration of early recovery activities across the humanitarian sectors and key government structures.

Country Context

Kenya, like many countries in the Horn of Africa (HoA) is regularly exposed to a number of disasters especially droughts, floods and conflict. The changing frequency, intensity and magnitude often outpace the community's coping and recovery capacities leading to humanitarian emergencies. Often, the country is forced to divert its development resources to save lives and livelihoods of those affected.

In 2011, the country suffered from one of the worst droughts in 60 years. The drought that affected over 3.7 million Kenyans was particularly severe in Arid and Semi-Arid (ASAL) regions that comprise a third of the country's land mass. A post disaster needs assessment (PDNA) carried out by World Bank, Government of Kenya, UNDP and other partners estimated that Kenya has so far lost USD 12.1 billion in the period between 2008-2011. This makes disasters a key threat to the country development and its progress towards the achievement of Vision 2030.

The increased frequency of droughts leaves little room for communities to recover from the losses and to build enough assets to withstand subsequent shocks. This coupled with inadequate investment in resilience building and disaster risk reduction measures magnifies the impact of such disaster whenever they occur.



Cognizant of the negative impacts of disasters, UNDP in partnership with Government has developed a comprehensive strategy that targets both medium term and long term risk reduction measures. UNDP works to strengthen DRR policy frameworks and institutional capacities for effective and sustainable management of disasters.

Therefore, the CIDA project contributed directly to UNDP's Country Programme Action plan (CPAP) outcome for disaster risk reduction that aims *at enhancing the effectiveness of emergency preparedness, response and early recovery for affected communities and displaced populations in Kenya.*

Achievements of the CIDA funded Project

Outcome Level

Effectiveness of Emergency preparedness, response and early recovery for affected communities and displaced population enhanced

Overall, the CIDA project made substantial contribution in strengthening emergency preparedness, response and recovery for drought affected communities in Kenya. The achievements included but not limited to improved coordination of early recovery work, capacity enhancement of government and key stakeholders in disaster preparedness, recovery and overall disaster risk reduction; and improved access to knowledge and best practices on early recovery.

Improved coordination of ER work: The project supported the existing early recovery coordination structures through additional technical capacity and financial resources. This provided an opportunity for stakeholders to share information, learn from one another and come up with relevant interventions. The sector produced the first early recovery strategic framework that identified priorities and areas of engagement. (See annex 1). This not only provided guidance, but also served as an advocacy tool for integration of ER across the other humanitarian sectors. Partners used this strategy to develop and strengthen their recovery and resilience building interventions in the field.

Components of Early Recovery Strategy

- *Disaster Risk Reduction*
- *Reintegration support for returning IDPs*
- *Conflict and emergencies; Host community support*
- *Urban livelihoods*

Capacity enhancement on disaster preparedness and early recovery: Working with the Ministry of State for Special Programmes (MOSSP) whose responsibility is to coordinate disaster risk reduction and the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), the project improved the capacity of government on ER and DRR through training of over 140 government officials at national and county level. The trainees formed working groups to champion DRR and ER issues at the national level and counties. UNDP will in the future work with the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) to provide further support to these teams and ensure that they are integrating DRR and ER into their work.

Integration of ER and resilience building measures in the 2012 EHRP: Several projects submitted through the 2012 EHRP had integrated early recovery and disaster risk reduction in their interventions. The number of projects submitted through the ER working group increased to 19 compared to 7 in the previous year. In addition, ER was reflected across the various sectors within the EHRP.

Improved Knowledge and best practices on ER: The project produced documentation (video and booklet) covering some of the on-going early recovery practices in Turkana and Garissa districts. This has provided an opportunity for learning and sharing of experiences by different agencies engaged in early recovery work. The documentation will also increase the knowledge and products available for early recovery.

Project Output Level

Contribute to strengthening preparedness and to promote approaches that will make the dividends of humanitarian work more sustainable

Government staff representing key ministries such as the Ministry of State for Special Programmes, Ministry of State for Development of Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands, Ministry of Water, Livestock and Agriculture were trained on disaster risk reduction and early recovery including effective preparedness. The training also focused on mainstreaming disaster preparedness recovery approaches into their ministry/sector plans. Early Recovery expert working closely with government (MOSSP) provided technical support in disaster preparedness and coordination of early recovery.

Regular training, technical support and advocacy to humanitarian agencies enabled increased integration of ER and into humanitarian work. This was evidenced through the number of agencies submitting ER and DRR focused projects through the Emergency Humanitarian Response Plan (EHRP) for 2012.

Increased awareness and knowledge on ER has continued to elicit interest from a number of stakeholders including donors. This momentum needs to be kept to ensure ER work is mainstreamed at all levels.

Specific achievements for each of the activities in the project are as follows:

a) Improved coordination capacity for ER sector working group led by UNDP

- Established an Early Recovery team comprising of an International ER Advisor (on secondment) and a National ER Coordinator. The team provided both technical support and facilitated capacity building activities for all the stakeholders especially government. Ministry of State for Special Programmes (MOSSP) was supported to organize meetings and provide policy briefs to other ministries and decision makers.
- An ER recovery strategy was developed to provide an overall framework of engagement. This offered a tool for advocacy on integration of ER across various sectors as well as served as reference point for those developing ER interventions.
- Knowledge and awareness of ER was increased through participation and contribution by ER sector in various humanitarian forums including the Kenya Humanitarian Forum (KHF). The sector was consistently represented and contributed through briefings to humanitarian stakeholders.
- 19 agencies submitted projects for inclusion in the 2012 EHRP through the ER working group. This was a significant increase compared to 2011 when only 7 agencies submitted projects through ERSWG. A quick review of projects submitted indicated that agencies had integrated resilience building measures into their activities.
- Guidance notes were developed to assist the other sectors in mainstreaming ER into their work



b) Capacity building of the government of Kenya and other relevant Stakeholders.

- Forty three (43) Heads of Department from GOK at national level were trained on ER and DRR programming. The trainees included staff from; Local Government responsible for devolved county governance; Ministry of Planning and Vision 2030 responsible for development planning; and MoSSP that is currently responsible for

ER/DRR Coordination. The forum was upgraded to an ER Network at National level to advocate and champion for integration of ER into government planning process. UNDP and NDMA will continue to work with this team to ensure ER and DRR are mainstreamed in key ministries.

- At the County level (Garissa and Turkana) the project trained 105 government staff and other key stakeholders. The trainees came from 8 ministries in Turkana and 11 ministries in Garissa representing key sectors at the field level. One of the key resolutions from the training was to establish two ER working groups in each of these counties. This will ensure that ER and disasters preparedness become part of the county plans through district/county steering committees. With UNDP presence in these two districts, the committee will continue to receive further support as they champion DRR and ER issues.



c) Best Practice Publication For Early Recovery Guidance



This component set out to gather, document and disseminate evidence-based ER practices among ERSWKG members implementing humanitarian projects at field level in order respond to the growing humanitarian question: **“Is ER happening in Kenya?”** Photo-4: Diversification of livelihoods: Fishing and Basketry over and above livestock – IOM.

Four (4) UN Agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, FAO and WFP), IOM and five (5) INGOs (ADESO, Oxfam, Merlin, IRC and CARE), all active members of the ERSWG volunteered their projects in Turkana and Garissa Counties for ER profiling. The following tasks were achieved:

- A documentary comprising of booklet and a 25 minute video were completed.
- The report through the projects reviewed indicates that whereas ER is happening at the field through a number of interventions, the scale, coverage and impact remain localized. Underlying and structural factors such as high levels of poverty and limited investment in basic social services continue to undermine the recovery progress of most the affected communities. This calls for a coordinated effort by all stakeholders including government to deal not only with humanitarian and recovery issues, but structural factors that regularly weaken the efforts.

d) On-Going Development and Revision of an ER Framework

- The ER strategy that was developed continued to guide the ER work in the country. Even with the changing situation such as worsening localized conflict, the strategy still remains relevant having identified conflict and issues of re-integration of displaced person as one of its key focus areas.

Challenges to Early Recovery and Preparedness work in Kenya

Despite the recognition of the importance of ER work and effective disaster preparedness, key challenges such as inadequate funding for preparedness & early action, frequent disasters, poverty and other structural issues still remain a challenge. The artificial demarcation between development and humanitarian work and funding hinders opportunity for synergy and collaboration. Hence the need to continue to strengthen the stakeholders in ER and DRR so that communities frequently exposed to disasters such as drought can be assisted to become more resilient.

UNDP Overall Direction on Resilience

Globally, UNDP at the highest level of its leadership has put resilience building at the center of its work. UNDP believes that building resilience is not only protective to communities regularly exposed to disasters but is a key building block to long term sustainable development. In the Horn of Africa, UNDP is supporting IGAD to enhance its capacity on policies and programmes that will strengthen its own resilience agenda and those of its Member States. At the national level, UNDP is working with Ministry of Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands and the National Drought Management Authority to implement livelihood and resilience building programmes aimed ending drought emergencies. UNDP is also working with government to strengthen its overall management and coordination of disaster risk reduction at national and county level.