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Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

DRRAP
Drought Risk Reduction Action Plan
Funded by ECHO

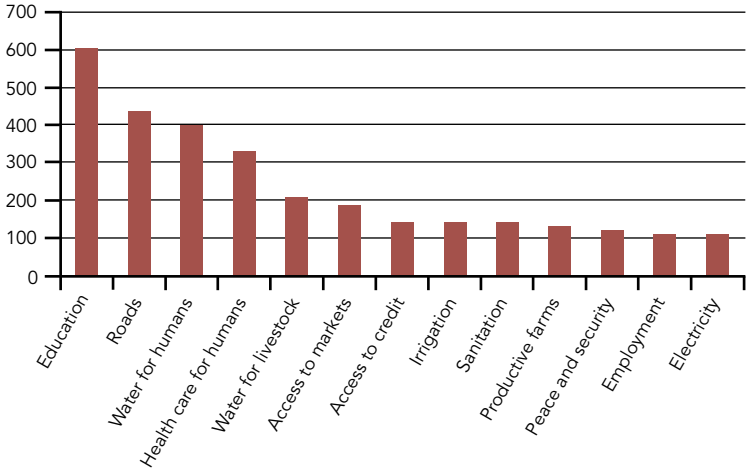
| | |
|---|---|
| Assessment Location | Kajiado Central, Mashuru, Loitoktok, Kajiado North and Isinya Districts (Kajiado County, Kenya) |
| Ecological/Livelihood Zones Assessed | Semi-arid/Pastoral, Agro-pastoral, Agricultural and Peri-urban |
| # of Focus Group Discussions | 36 |
| # of Key Informant Interviews | 36 |
| Assessment Date | 19-30 August 2013 |
| County Statistics | Poverty rate: 38%[1]<br>Population on food aid in 2009 drought crisis: 32%[2] |

## Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Findings

**Hazards:** The main hazard reported in all the FGDs was drought, as the most significant contributor to livestock losses and the single most important factor limiting their resilience. Communities reported the 2009 drought as the most recent crisis period in Kajiado.

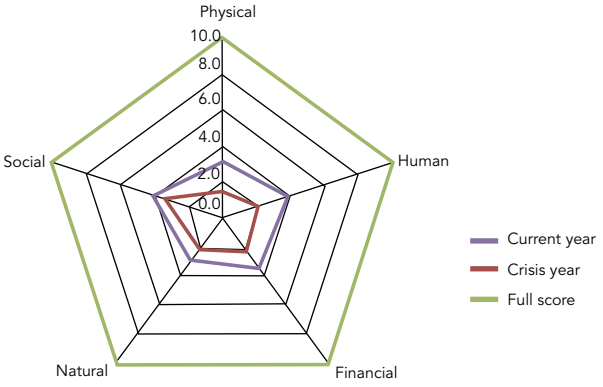
**Priority Characteristics of Resilience:** Overall, education, roads, and water and health were repeatedly identified by the focus groups as the most important characteristics contributing to community resilience (Figure 1). While this ranking was fairly consistent across all gender/age/livelihood groups interviewed, agricultural groups also ranked irrigation and access to markets, and peri-urban groups placed a greater emphasis on roads.

Figure 1: Priority Resilience Characteristics




**Communities' Attainment of Resilience Characteristics:** Figure 2 shows the aggregated attainment scores of the resilience characteristics illustrated in Figure 1 for all livelihood/gender/age groups on a radar diagram. Characteristics have been grouped according to the sustainable livelihood framework (SLF) categories.

Figure 2: Priority Resilience Characteristics Attainment Score by SLF Categories




Overall, the characteristics were scored on average 3.5 and 2.3 out of 10 for the current and the most recent crisis period respectively, demonstrating the communities' low ranking on the achievement of resilience both in normal and crisis periods. Social characteristics, predominantly peace and security, which is relatively stable in this part of Kenya, received the highest score. Other characteristics that are highly ranked for attainment in normal times (relatively speaking) include access to credit (4.4), water for livestock (4.4), education (4.3) and access to markets (4.3). Characteristics that are deemed to be low attainment include employment (2.1), roads (2.1) and irrigation (2.5).

**Interventions that Build Resilience:** Table 1 outlines the most highly ranked current interventions contributing to the communities' resilience as well as the future interventions to enhance their resilience further. Bursaries, scholarships and boarding schools that support secondary education and above were the most highly ranked, along with interventions that facilitate access to clean water for human use, along and improvements to health facilities.

Table 1: Highly Ranked Interventions that Build Resilience

| Type of intervention | Currently/recently provided | Further or future provision | Total score |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Education**<br>Bursaries, scholarships or construction/refurbishment of school facilities including boarding facilities | 35 | 11 | 46 |
| **Water**<br>Water source improvement or improved storage capacity | 17 | 16 | 33 |
| **Health**<br>Improvements to health services, staffing or facilities | 12 | 20 | 32 |

1 Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and Society for International Development (SID) (2013). "Exploring Kenya's Inequality: Pulling apart or pooling together?"
2 Kenya Food Security Steering Committee (2010). 2009/10 Short Rains Assessment Report.

## Key Informant Interview (KII) Findings

Education level: The majority of resilient households (89%) had at least one member who had completed primary education, and 44% had members who had completed secondary education or above.[3]

Diversified Income Sources: The vast majority (92%) of resilient households reported multiple income sources including members with wage labour and/or with a business interest. The business activities described include, among others, milk and livestock trading, shops and petty trading, hotel/taxi business and renting of land. All respondents cited one or more of their multiple sources of income (outlined above) as the reason why they were resilient Apart from income sources, the most frequently mentioned factor for resilience were access to credit and loans (16 households), education (12) and other training received from various sources such as NGOs or previous employment. Some of the most frequently cited interventions for building resilience implemented in the past or needed in the future include expansion of savings and credit and business training, followed by livestock related practices and education.

## Recommendations

- The high priority was given to a relatively small set of indicators for building resilience, namely **education, roads, water for humans, health care, and water for livestock.** Many of these are not always immediately considered part of disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies, as well as factors that require a long-term commitment to investment. Hence a broader conception of DRR is required if resilience is to be built.
- The ultimate success or impact of resilience interventions should be assessed on the extent to which they **build and diversify income and assets** either directly or indirectly, and the sustainability and adaptability of alternative income sources must be carefully vetted.
- The **community perspectives may not be statistically significant but were proven to be "realistic"** through the local CoBRA results review/validation process. Due consideration must be paid to the communities voice and perception, and their needs and priorities must be incorporated into local climate-resilience related planning, decision-making and programme/project processes.
- The consistency in community comments on resilience characteristics suggests that a **few key indicators** can be identified to monitor resilience trends in Kajiado more systematically; for example, percent of households with at least one member completing secondary school, and percent of households with access to sufficient water all year. Some of these indicators are already being measured as part of ongoing data collection exercises.

## CoBRA Field Assessment Steps and Questions Addressed

FGD Step 1. Agree on the definition of resilience: What does a 'resilient' community look like? What are the main hazards or shocks facing the community?

FGD Step 2. Identify resilience characteristics: What does a 'resilient' community look like? What are the characteristics of a resilient community?

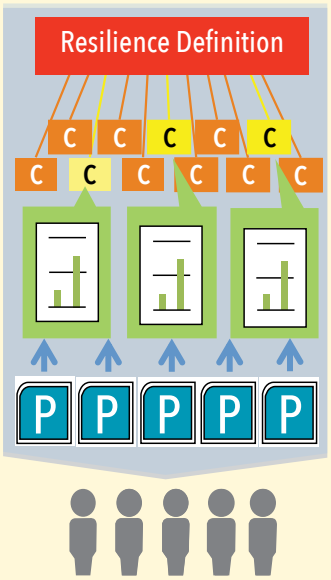
FGD Step 3. Prioritize resilience characteristics: What are the three most important characteristics of resilience in the community, ranked by importance?

FGD Step 4. Rate the community's progress in attaining the priority resilience statements: On a scale of 0 to 10, to what extent has this community achieved each of these characteristics in the current period and in the last crisis period?

FGD Step 5. Identify the households in the community that have achieved (fully or partially) the resilience characteristics and list their common features and attributes

FGD Step 6. Identify interventions that have contributed to household resilience: What interventions have helped to enhance households' level of resilience, and what additional/future interventions would help to build resilience further?

KII with nominated resilient households: What factors or characteristics have contributed to your household's resilience? How did your household become resilient? Why do you think your family coped better with shocks and crises affecting the community? What interventions do you think would best build wider resilience in this community?




3 In Kajiado county, about 31% of the population has no education; 42% of the county's population has a primary education; and 28% have a secondary or higher education. (KNBS and SID, 2013).

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