UN
D P

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

NDMA

Humanitarian Aid
and Civil Protection

Assessment Location	Turkana North, Turkana West, Loima, Turkana Central, Turkana South and Turkana East (Turkana County, Kenya)
Ecological/Livelihood Zones Assessed	Arid / Pastoral, Agro-pastoralist, Fisheries and Peri-urban
# of Focus Group Discussions	42
# of Key Informant Interviews	42
Assessment Date	1-6 July 2013
County Statistics	Poverty rate: 88%[1] Population on food aid in 2010-2011 drought crisis: 58%[2]

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Findings

Hazards: The main hazard reported in all the FGDs was drought, as the significant contributor to livestock losses and the single most important factor limiting their resilience capacity. Communities reported the 2010-2011 drought as the most recent crisis period in Turkana.

Priority Characteristics of Resilience: Overall, education, water for human use, and diversified income generating activities were repeatedly identified by the focus groups as the most important characteristics of a resilient community (Figure 1). This ranking was fairly consistent across all gender/age/livelihood groups interviewed. Other characteristics that featured highly include peace and security, access to credit and access to markets.

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.

Characteristics were scored on average 2.5 and 1.3 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 and natural characteristics, predominantly peace and security, and natural resource management, received the highest score. There was little variation between livelihood and intervention groups, with the exception that fishing communities ranked their overall attainment of resilience characteristics very low, at 1.4 out of 10 in the current year. It emerged during consultation that most of the local households do not significantly benefit from fishing and the main winners are traders, middlemen and people higher up the value chain.

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. The ranking closely reflects the prioritised resilience characteristics. Bursaries, scholarships and boarding schools that support secondary education and above were highly rated, along with interventions that facilitate access to clean water for human use. Improvements to health facilities were also ranked highly.
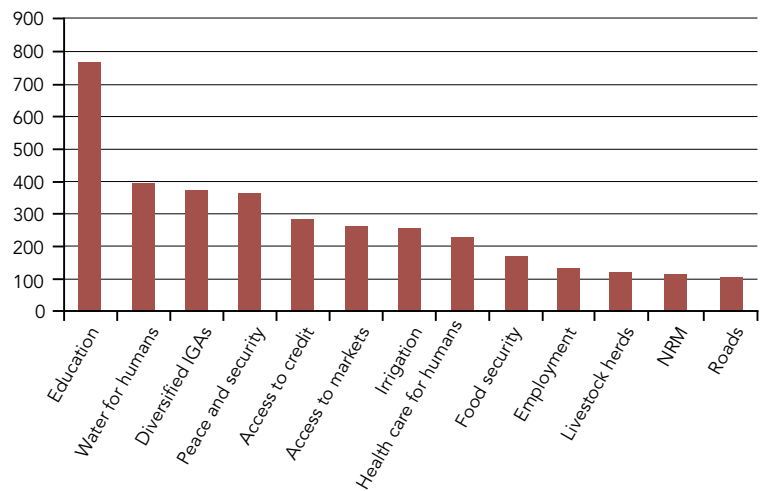
Figure 1: Priority Resilience Characteristics

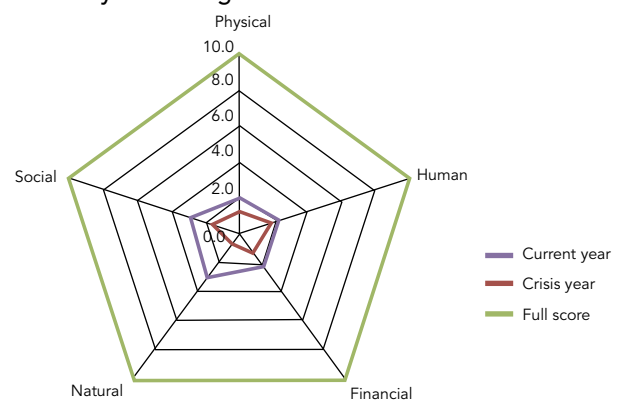Figure 2: Priority Resilience Characteristics Attainment Score by SLF Categories

Current year
Crisis year
Full score

Table 1: Highly Ranked Interventions that Build Resilience

Type of Intervention	Current or recent provision	Further or future provision	Total score
Education Bursaries, scholarships or construction / refurbishment of school facilities including boarding facilities	30	10	40
Water Water source improvement or improved storage capacity	17	18	35
Health Improvements to health services, staffing or facilities	14	12	26

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 (2012). 2011/2012 Short Rains Assessment Report.

Characteristics of Resilient Households: The three most commonly cited characteristics of resilient households include:

- Households that have a business or diversified income generating activities (typically small business activities) (34 out of 42 groups);
- Households with a large herd size (27 out of 42 groups); and
- Households in which a member has employment/wage labour (26 out of 42 groups);

▶ Key Informant Interview (KII) Findings

Education level: The majority of resilient households interviewed (69%) had members who had completed primary education, and 43% had members who had completed secondary or tertiary education.[3]

Diversified Income Sources: The vast majority (90%) of resilient households reported multiple income sources, including members with wage labour and/or with a business interest. Most resilient households interviewed (78%) had a source of income from livestock, farm agriculture and/or fishing. Households with a wage earner or business regularly explained how income from either of these sources had been saved and used to start/grow businesses, grow livestock herds and/or invest in agricultural production. The business activities described were mostly shops and small kiosks or charcoal production. Trading in animals was repeatedly mentioned by households in all livelihood zones as both a source of income and a coping strategy. In addition to diversified income sources, 21% of interviewed households stated that the use of their own savings (often as part of saving and credit groups) had contributed to their resilience. The expansion of savings and credit opportunities was the most frequently cited intervention for building resilience by the resilient households, followed by irrigation, education and water.

▶ Recommendations

- The high priority was given to a relatively small set of indicators for building resilience, namely, namely **education, water for humans, diversified income generating activities, peace and security, and access to credit.** Many of these are not immediately considered as 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 Turkana 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 on-going 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?

Resilience Definition

---
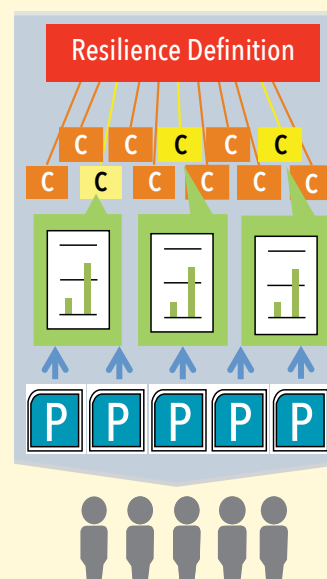
3   82% of the population has no education. Only 15% of the county's population has a primary education and 3% has a secondary or higher education (KNBS & SID, 2013).