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Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

DRRAP
Drought Risk Reduction Action Plan

Funded by ECHO

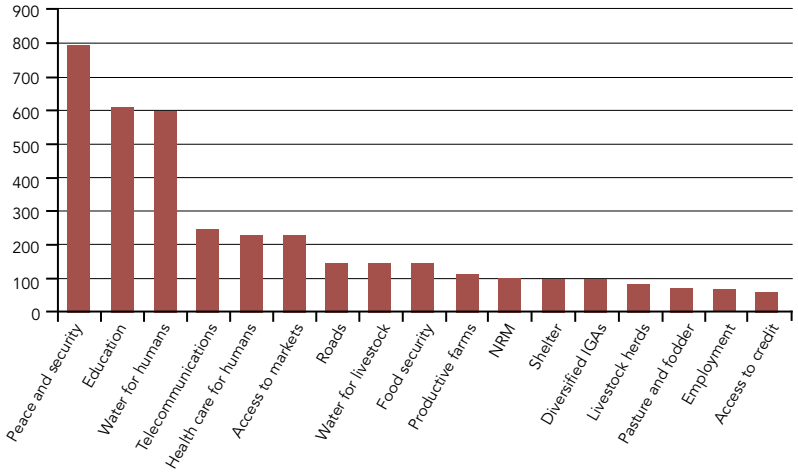
Assessment Location	Marsabit Central, Maikona and Laisamis Districts (Marsabit County, Kenya)
Ecological/Livelihood Zones Assessed	Arid/Pastoral, Agro-pastoralist, and Peri-urban
# of Focus Group Discussions	41
# of Key Informant Interviews	41
Assessment Period	3-15 June 2013
County Statistics	Poverty rate: 76%[1] Population on food aid in 2010-2011 drought crisis: 77%[2]

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Findings

Hazards: The main hazard reported in all the FGDs was drought as the single most significant factor limiting their resilience capacity. Communities reported the 2010-2011 drought as the most recent crisis period in Marsabit to be referred to for the CoBRA assessment.

Priority Characteristics of Resilience: Overall, peace and security, education and water for human use were repeatedly identified by the focus groups as the most important characteristics of a resilient community (Figure 1). This ranking was consistent across all gender/age/livelihood groups interviewed.

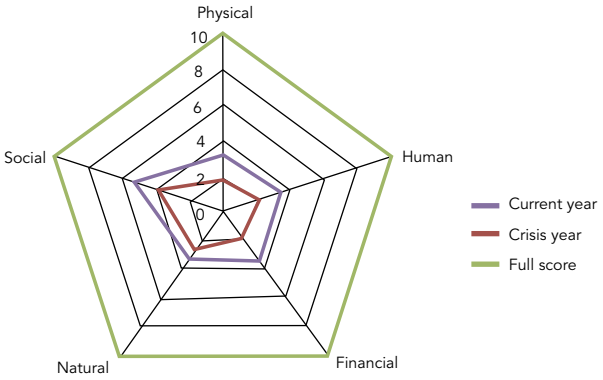
Figure 1: Priority Resilience Characteristics



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.

All characteristics scored less than 6 out of 10 for the current period, demonstrating the communities' low ranking on the achievement of resilience both in normal and crisis periods. Social characteristics, predominantly peace and security, received the highest score, reflecting the improved local situation, though the communities stressed the high volatility of the security situation. Pastoralists scored themselves as the most resilient relative to other groups, though their overall scores may still be considered low (4.1 current and 2.8 during crisis). They also tended to consider their resilience levels to be increasing (76%). Agro-pastoral groups scored themselves as the least resilient (2.6 current and 1.6 during crisis) with highly mixed views on the change in their resilience level over time (38% considering increasing, 38% decreasing and 25% not changed). Peri-urban groups scored similar to the average for all groups.

Figure 2: Priority Resilience Characteristics Attainment Score by SLF Categories



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. The high ranking of restocking is not surprising given the strong dependence of the local populations on pastoralism, hence the importance of livestock numbers on household wealth in the assessment districts.

Table 1: Highly Ranked Current/Future Resilience Building Interventions

Type of Intervention	Current or recent provision	Further or future provision	Total score
Water Water source improvement or improved storage capacity	27	21	48
Education Bursaries, scholarships or construction/refurbishment of school facilities including boarding facilities	25	13	38
Restocking Programmes restocking livestock particularly with drought resilient breeds or animals such as camels	19	9	28

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 (largely small-scale) income generating activities (41 out of 41 groups);
- Households in which a member has employment or wage labour (39 out of 41 groups);
- Households that have a large herd size, i.e. more than 200 shoats and 50 cattle and/or 50 camels (30 out of 41 groups).

Key Informant Interview (KII) Findings

Education level: Over half (55%) of KII households had at least one member who had completed secondary education or above.[3]

Diversified Income Sources: The vast majority (75%) of resilient households reported multiple income sources, including members with wage labour and/or with a business interest. Most resilient households (80%) also had a pastoral and/or agricultural income source. Households with a wage earner or business regularly explained that income from either of these sources had been saved and used to start/grow businesses, grow livestock herds or invest in agricultural production. The business activities described were mostly kiosks or petty trading of food, fuel, phone credits, soap powder and other household items. Animal trading was repeatedly mentioned by pastoral households as both a source of income and a coping strategy. In addition to diversified income sources, households also attributed their resilience to being organized, carefully managing household expenditure and income, refraining from wasteful expenses, savings often as part of self-help/credit groups and/or receiving support from family or friends in terms of loans or remittances. Priority interventions cited by KIs placed greater emphasis on capacity building, namely measures to improve livestock/farm productivity, business skills, savings and credit, etc.

Recommendations

- The high priority was given to a relatively small set of indicators for building resilience, namely **peace and security, education, water, human health, and access to markets.** 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 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 Marsabit 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, etc. 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?

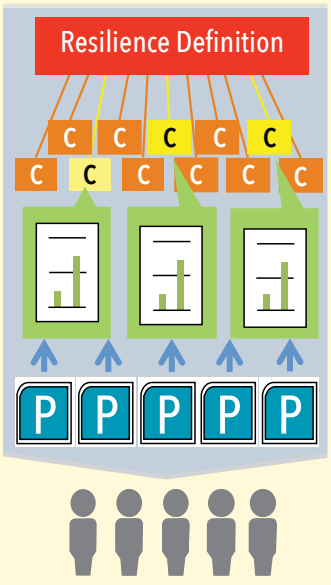
FGD Step 3. Prioritize resilience characteristics: What are the three most important characteristics of resilience in the community, ranked by importance?

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 68% of the population in Marsabit have no education, 26% have a primary education and 6% have a secondary or higher education (KNBS & SID, 2013).

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