

PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS REVIEWS

'enhancing effectiveness through evidence-based learning'



Drought Management Initiative: Livestock Component Kenya 2012/13

Kenya's 'Turkana-Pokot Drought Management Initiative (DMI)' was a three-year programme implemented between May 2008 and April 2011 by a consortium of NGOs which aimed to mitigate the effects of climatic shocks among pastoralist communities in north-western Kenya. Oxfam GB was responsible for implementing the livestock component of this programme in three of the most remote pastoralist communities in the northern part of Turkana County. The activities carried out included establishing pastoralist field schools (PFSs) in each community, to provide members with training on improving livestock management, drought mitigation, and livelihood diversification. In the same communities, the project supported the establishment of village community banks (VICOBAs), as well as training community animal-health workers (CAHWs) and setting up village land-use planning committees (VLUPCs).

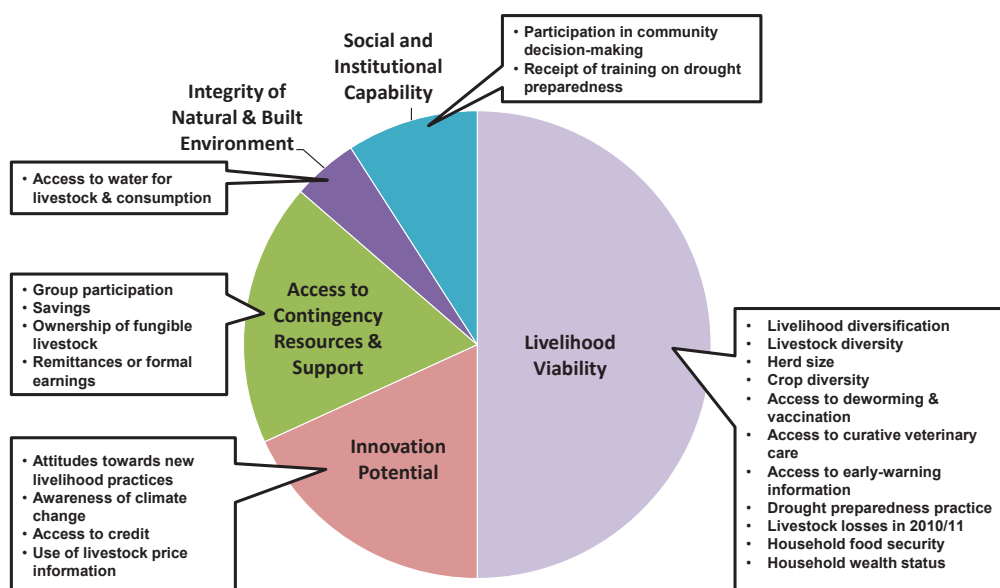


Figure 1: The figure presents the different dimensions and characteristics of resilience assessed in this effectiveness review. Each of the dimensions are weighted to reflect the aspects considered most important to resilience in the local context.

Photo credit: Alejandro Chaskielberg

Evaluation method

In July 2012, with the support of an external consultant, a household survey was administered to 509 households from six communities – three from communities targeted by the project and three from neighbouring comparison communities. In order to compare ‘like with like’, statistical analysis of the resulting data was undertaken using propensity score matching (PSM) and multivariable regression (MVR) to control for observable baseline differences between the intervention and comparison households.

The effectiveness of the project was assessed against 22 characteristics of resilience relevant to the project area (see Figure 1). The results for each of these characteristics were used to create an overall index of resilience for each household, which measures the weighted proportion of characteristics in which the household was above an acceptable level.

Rating key: ● - Evidence supporting large impact; ● - Evidence supporting more modest impact; ● - Evidence of large impact, but only for specific sub-groups/measures; ● - Evidence of modest impact, but only for specific sub-groups/measures; ● - No evidence of impact

Outcome	Rating	Commentary
Overall resilience (global outcome indicator)	●	Households of members of the supported PFS and VICOBA groups demonstrate significantly higher levels of resilience than do the corresponding comparison households. There is no difference in the resilience index between the general population in the project and comparison communities.
Dimension 1 – Livelihood Viability	●	Evidence of impact among PFS and VICOBA members on households’ livelihood diversification, access to veterinary care, household food security and household wealth status. Also evidence of improved access to veterinary care among general population in project communities.
Dimension 2 – Innovation Potential	●	Evidence of impact among PFS and VICOBA members on attitudes towards trying new livelihood practices and access to credit. No clear differences on awareness of climate change or use of livestock price information. No evidence of impact among general population on any of these characteristics.
Dimension 3 – Access to contingency resources and support	●	Evidence of impact among PFS and VICOBA members on increased savings, though no clear differences in regard to group participation. Some positive differences on ownership of fungible livestock and receipt of remittances or formal earnings, although not likely to be a result of project activities. No evidence of impact among general population in project communities on any of these characteristics.
Dimension 4 – Integrity of the natural and built environment	●	Evidence of positive impact on the one measure in this dimension – access to water for livestock and consumption. Evidence of change among both PFS/VICOBA members and general population in project communities.
Dimension 5 – Social and institutional capability	●	Evidence of impact among PFS and VICOBA members on receipt of training on drought preparedness, though no evidence of changes in participation in community decision making. No evidence of impact among general population in project communities on any of these characteristics.

Going forward

Although funding challenges have impeded follow up activities, the team has already taken steps to implement interventions based on lessons and experiences from this project. The team has implemented various projects including an ECHO La Nina III Consortium project aimed at building community resilience. The current programmes include community based risk reduction mechanisms and include working with the VICOBA and PFS in planning risk reduction at community level and designing community disaster risk reductions plans.

Results

The results provide evidence that the DMI Livestock project had a modest but positive effect on the resilience of households of members of the PFS and VICOBA groups. Despite the project activities having ended more than one year prior to the survey, the majority of PFS and VICOBA members report that regular meetings and training had continued. These group members appear to have more positive attitudes towards innovation and have, in fact, diversified their livelihoods activities since the launch of the DMI Livestock project more than members of the comparison groups. This appears to have had significant positive effects on indicators of household wealth and food security. Overall, members of the PFS and VICOBA groups scored positively on average on 49 per cent of the 22 characteristics of resilience considered in the review, compared to 44 per cent in the comparison communities. Overall, approximately 15 to 23 per cent more of the members of the PFS and VICOBA groups scored positively on Oxfam GB’s global indicator for adaptation and risk reduction than did the members of groups in comparison communities. However, it is not clear that there had been any effect on the level of resilience among the wider population in the three project communities.