

KIPRA ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2018
BUILDING RESILIENCE TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF
DROUGHT AND FLOODS
5TH – 7TH JUNE 2018, HILTON, NAIROBI, KENYA



DAILY CONFERENCE REPORT FORMAT

DAY 3: 7TH JUNE 2018

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT: COORDINATION AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

BREAK-AWAY GROUP DISCUSSIONS:

GROUP 3.2: Building Sustainable Capacity for Disaster Management in Kenya

Chair: Mr Paul Kimeu

Presenter: Kevin Ochieng

Rapporteurs: Andrew Levi Olando

Location: Hilton Hotel, Ivory Room

DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Presentation on Strengthening Disaster Management: A Case Study of Kenya

The presentation discussed the current state of disaster preparedness and management in Kenya, with reference to key existing challenges; key gaps in existing research regarding disaster management and preparedness in Kenya; and highlighted the best ways for filling these gaps in disaster management and preparation in Kenya. The bulk of the session focussed on the questions and comments that emerged from the presentation, in respect of enhancing disaster management in Kenya.

The presentation highlighted disaster preparedness and management measures to undertake precautionary and prudent steps to mitigate the effects of disasters. Further, it was indicated that drought-related losses account for nearly 8% of Kenya's GDP. The presentation also indicated a shift in disaster management philosophy to consider the three phases of disaster management and preparedness, namely – the pre-disaster, during the disaster and after the disaster. It was further emphasized that choosing the right disaster management and preparedness approach depends on the nature of the disaster that is anticipated or is occurring. There is no one size fits all disaster preparedness and management approach. It was further identified that it is essential for disaster managers to obtain adequate resources for intervention and make these resources available at the relevant moment to meet needs of emergency situations.

The study was predicated on a conceptual framework which considered disaster management as a dependent variable; three (3) intervening variables which included policies, team players and the legal framework; and the impact of the preparedness, mitigation, resilience and recovery as independent variables affecting disaster management.

Challenges/gaps derived from disaster management and preparedness research:

Regarding the policies and legislations as an intervening variable, it was articulated that Kenya had adopted international and regional conventions, and national and county legislations and policies. Research institutions and other organizations such as the Kenya Meteorological Department and the European Union have been vital in this process of legislative and policy design. However, challenges persist in the laws and policies linked to disaster management and preparedness because they are not developed with reference to each other.

Secondly, it was highlighted that vital players in disaster management and preparedness lack adequate linkages to one another, whereas the integration and support for such institutions (i.e. research institutions) is key to improving both the policy and capacity.

Thirdly, on the role of legal frameworks as an intervening variable, it was highlighted that the policies and laws place inordinate emphasis on national rather than county level provisions and mechanisms. The presenter also noted a need to integrate climate change policies into legal and policy provisions on disaster management and preparedness.

Way Forward from Presentation:

It was highlighted that climate change effects have escalated the prominence and necessity of disaster management and preparedness. It was articulated that climate change is here

to stay and is not something that can be eliminated and, consequently, must be met with adequate and sustained efforts in disaster preparedness and management.

Further opportunities to strengthen disaster management in Kenya included promotion of capacity building and an awareness culture on disaster preparedness. This was coupled with opportunities to improve early warning systems, strengthen institutions and legal frameworks and promote linkages between agencies involved in disaster preparedness and management.

Key Questions, Comments and Insights:

The following emerged as questions and insights following the presentation:

1. A need for capacity building at the county level on disaster impact assessment to facilitate improved county budgetary allocations related to disaster management.
 - a. This reflected concerns from the Tana River County representative that most counties had previously lacked allocations for budgetary allocations owing to a lack of knowledge regarding climate change and disaster management.
 - b. KIPPRA was challenged to write a paper assessing the impact of disasters – including the economic, sociological and psychological impact of disasters - to inform county disaster management budgetary allocations. An example given was quantifying the true costs (economic and psychological) to learning outcomes of relocating school children affected by floods and drought; or of restoring disaster affected schools.
2. Need to learn from best practices and disaster experiences:
 - a. It was highlighted by two contributors that lessons on disaster management need to be drawn from the recent past, if not ongoing, floods and droughts on the true impact of these disasters. Further, it was indicated that local case studies such as the Nyeri Irrigation Scheme Kifiringo which has seen a community increase its resilience, overcome food insecurity and improve lives and livelihoods.
3. There is need to ensure inter-county coordination in respect of mitigating the effects of disasters.
 - a. The point was raised that while disasters may occur in one county, its impact are often diffused into other counties through migration or other coping mechanisms. There is therefore need for counties to work more closely together and in disaster planning and providing resources to manage disasters.
4. It was highlighted that county governments have started to enact legislation related to climate change and setting aside at least 2% of their budgets for the management of disasters, so that except for large scale disasters, counties may have the capacity to provide their own response to disasters. It was also highlighted that some counties such as Kilifi have allocated 12% of their budgets to disaster preparedness. Other such counties include Kajiado, Taita Taveta, Kajiado, Baringo, and West Pokot.

5. Implementation of the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) principles was cited as a vital strategy for building capacity at the community level. This concerned the use of community-led drought management communities, starting at the village level and building all the way up from the wards to the policy-making level. One case study involved the comprehensive training of all community representatives at the community level. With the result of creating and improving resilience cycles and coping mechanisms, enhancing accountability, providing a relevant complaints mechanism with respect to the management of disasters and increased engagement with the media agencies. By improving community mobilization, communities are also better able to participate in CIPDs which have picked their disaster management concerns and suggestions.
6. It was also noted that demographic considerations need to be mainstreamed in respect of disaster management, as unmanaged population growth – related to fertility, mortality and migration rates – lead to the encroachment into habitats that are not meant to house large populations. This demand placed on these ecosystems such as natural forests leads to the destruction of such ecosystems and subsequently the disasters.
7. That Management Development Institutes (MDIs) need to play a bigger role in the disaster management and climate change discussion.
 - a. A representative from the Kenya School of Government (KSG) indicated that the school has a network of managers which disaster managers can leverage to raise the profile and awareness. In addition, they had held symposia on the blue economy. She indicated that there is a real thirst out there for information and sharing on climate change and disaster management issues.
 - b. Related to the role of MDIs, was the need to develop and share more case studies, as there are a lot of opportunities for peer-2-peer learning. In embracing peer-2-peer learning opportunities, stakeholders should avoid the need to reinvent the wheel and learn from successes such as the Kifirigo irrigation scheme in Nyeri county.
 - c. She further noted that while the media tends to focus on what is not going right in disaster management, KSG had worked on six (6) case studies, with the Climate Change Directorate showcasing what had gone right, including as related to technology transfers.
 - d. Concerns were expressed that stakeholders are not working in an integrated manner, that capacity building programmes are not based on community needs assessments, but rather driven by experts. This emphasis on community needs would render such capacity building programmes more sustainable and enhance the resilience of the communities they target.
 - e. Highlighted as one of the weakest links in disaster management and climate change efforts was the failure of disaster management and climate change stakeholders to effectively disseminate their findings. This is because these conversations tend to be very technical and need to be repackaged or simplified during training to enable effective communication and capacity

building. She indicated that far from understanding the technical elements of climate change and disaster management, there are still many who do not know the difference between concepts such as climate and weather. Clear packaging of disaster management and climate change issues would also enhance transparency and accountability.

- f. This led to proposals for more time to be spent offering basic capacity building opportunities at community level in areas such as proposal writing and funding access, as there are adequate funds for climate-related community training.
8. The Director of the National Drought Management Authority challenged the audience that the work of disaster management cannot, for the most part, be done in Nairobi; but in the communities where the disasters occur. He referred to Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction as an approach they embraced

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Key Issues

Media:

A great deal is taking place but there is need for coordination by the actors and communication to the media to be able to pass information to the people on what the actors are doing. This should start with media capacity building through seminars and roundtable meetings to enable them to distil and break down what the statistics contain and enable them pass the information to Kenyans. All players should give people the right information through the media and coordinate actions e.g. using adverts and promo, change people's ways and have them stop cutting trees. An empowered media will ensure an informed society.

KNBS

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) is capacity building data users to enable them interpret data efficiently; bringing them into sector committees to validate the data that is emanating from the sectors, including the universities, to ensure required standards are met. Through quarterly meetings, data is validated before it is disseminated e.g. Agriculture, Nutrition and Environmental statistics. The Bureau is strengthening communication strategy to strengthen dissemination methodologies and engages the media.

It emerged that KNBS should produce quality data so that those designing policies and programmes can use reliable data in coming up with evidence-based sustainable programmes. The Bureau should work closely with existing engines such as Google in using artificial intelligence and availing data in the internet and in real time to make it easily accessible. PWDs – feel their number recorded as only 4.6 percent is, understated compared to other countries and affects resource allocation. KNBS involves their society, and which submitted questions to be included in upcoming census instruments.

Kenya Red Cross

Reached 15 counties with nutrition when 3.5 Million people exposed to 2016-17 drought. They are building solar run boreholes; giving in-kind assistance and distributing seeds;

Giving cash assistance through Mpesa; Food Aid Distribution; Animal take-off; Peace building initiative in crash torn areas. On floods, KRC is doing an assessment on shelter damage to help rebuild, and has offered temporary shelters and cash to restore firms.

World Food Programme.

Takes up challenges of coordination, all the way to the county level. This includes mobilizing resources and capacity building. Human resources numbers and capacity to deal with disaster management is wanting. No funds are allocated for disaster management in the counties. Coordination mechanism is fragmented with no formal partnerships and no M&E. Interventions are designed jointly with counties and other stakeholders such as NDMA and Red Cross.

They undertake:

1. Simulations to test systems and procedures.
2. Capacity strengthening – 4 of 13 counties WFP focuses on - Wajir, Marsabit, Baringo, Samburu - Development review of policies, regulations, plans and strategies
3. Support the coordination and ensure similar structures are set all the way down to sub-county level – accountability systems – MIS, those affected etc - Information management; sharing experiences with other counties and cascading early warning to the communities

It emerged that capacity building should be mainstreamed with a way of gauging how the counties and other institution have been capacitated.

IGAD

Noted that rangelands/pastoral areas do not go along political boundaries but along ecological boundaries and that these resources can best be dealt with at the regional level and hence the formation of IGAD. Heads of states committed to shift approach from responding to emergencies to managing risks, which means linking humanitarian to development side by side. IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRISI) was formed, run by a Platform Coordinating Unit with 3 or 4 member country coordinators, as a strategy to develop country policies/programming papers that are aligned to seven pillars of common investment pillars with a common architecture, and a common regional programming paper were developed. It is a 15-year initiative, 1st 5 years are done and midterm review prepared. Kenya is a champion and NDMA is responsible.

It emerged that IGAD should identify best practices from other places that can be promoted within the region and adapted, e.g. growing of cactus as food as is done in Israel desert.

CLOSING CEREMONY

The KIPPRA Conference Action Areas (were read out by Joshua Laichena, Policy Analyst, KIPPRA. They are as follow:

1. Scaling up the Early Warning System

The impacts of droughts and floods can be greatly avoided and or minimized if their occurrence were properly monitored, assessed and mitigated. Strengthening the current

early warning system (EWS) is therefore a priority in planning for, responding to and recovery from the adverse impacts of weather related hazards. The EWS network could be expanded to cover the country's diverse agro-climatic zones.

One way of scaling up EWS is through use of remote sensing technologies and mobile phone applications.

2. Leveraging on Technology

Implementation of various pilot projects in the country have demonstrated that technology can improve the resilience of affected communities, particularly those prone to droughts and floods. Despite their positive outcomes, these technologies have rarely progressed beyond pilot stage. Building the country's resilience will require deployment of appropriate technologies across the sectors, including adoption of climate smart agriculture technologies. Opportunities also exist for integrating satellite-based applications to support disaster reduction measures. This will require investments in research and development to enable identification of appropriate technologies. Where applicable, there is need to blend modern and traditional technologies to enhance their relevance and increase uptake.

3. Institutional Strengthening and Coordination

Many institutions including non-state institutions and development partners are involved in disaster risk reduction, although there are weaknesses in the coordination mechanisms. Gaps also exist at county government level where the disaster management function assigned under Schedule IV of the constitution has not been fully operationalized. This calls for institutional frameworks to handle climate disasters at the local level. Given the intertwined nature of droughts and floods, the mandates of the institutions should cover both disasters.

4. Adoption of Comprehensive Approaches to Disaster Risk Management

The frequency and severity of disasters resulting from natural hazards have been increasing. The complexity of problems posed by natural hazards such a droughts and floods cannot be addressed by single-sector development planning. Thus, Kenya and the region should respond with multi-sectoral approaches and move quickly towards mainstreaming the management of risks from natural hazards into all aspects of development planning and in all sectors of the economy.

The recently adopted Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 addresses knowledge-related issues and provides the opportunity to highlight the critical role of knowledge in disaster risk reduction.

Because the risks from natural hazards can never be eliminated, Kenya and region should ensure a balanced approach that incorporates structural measures, and community-based prevention measures, emergency preparation, insurance, and other non-structural measures such as education and training or land use regulation.

5. Design Programmes that Promote Gender Empowerment in Building Resilience

Women in poor households and rural communities are largely committed to family chores such as cooking, food and nutritional needs of the households and care for children and the elderly. Incidences of droughts and floods worsen the burden for women because of

challenges in accessing food, sanitation and health services, especially when households move away from health facilities and other social amenities. The problem is more complex among pastoral communities that migrate with livestock in search for water and pasture, leaving women to take more male responsibilities. Overcoming these challenges entails:

- Equitable access to economic opportunities such as access to education, entrepreneurial support and land ownership.
- Equitable development that ease access to water and sanitation, health and other social amenities.
- Cultural change in mindset on gender responsibilities.
- Support rain water harvesting technology to boost access to clean water, kitchen gardening and reduce time spent searching for water.

6. Mainstreaming Interventions for Vulnerable Groups in Disaster Management

Special interest groups including women and persons with disabilities (PWDs) are disproportionately affected by droughts and floods. It is therefore important to understand the vulnerable nature of these groups to disasters and integrate their concerns into disaster management at all levels.

There also concerns that statistics on PWDs for Kenya is low compared to regional countries, which may not be the accurate picture. This has consequences for resource allocations to support the group.

Collecting comprehensive information on PWDs is therefore imperative.

7. Enhancing Financing Mechanisms

Adequate, predictable and timely financial resources are key in building resilience and adaptations in the medium and long term. Robust financing is required to deepen technology, build human capital and support extension services. At national level, the National government has established a Contingencies Fund, National Drought Emergency Fund, and Climate Change Fund while some counties have created Climate Change Funds to address disasters. In view of the increasing frequency and severity of disasters, there is need to scale up the capitalization of these funds while at the same time improving coordination.

Deepening of financial instruments including insurance and credit will also be key in building robust coping mechanisms at household and firm level against impacts of droughts and floods.

Dynamics of droughts and floods constrain the supply of financial products, low awareness, affordability and financial literacy imposing demand constraints.

Given the high-risk nature of weather-related insurance and credit, which is at infancy stage, insurance and credit companies need support from government and development partners to increase participation in disaster risk financing. This will also enable application of satellite-based technology which is critical in the design of insurance and credit products.

While the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) has been promoting financial literacy on capital markets, among other initiatives, there is need for greater collaboration among regulatory agencies, industry associations, and developers of financial products to increase awareness and financial literacy. Such initiatives can therefore leverage on exiting

frameworks such as the Capital Markets Master Plan which aims to promote financial literacy.

8. Strengthen Research and Development

Building resilience to droughts and floods at household and firm level requires implementation of coping, adaptation and mitigation measures informed through research. However, disaster-related research in the country is low. Where research has been conducted, it often does not inform research and programme interventions.

Investments in disaster risk reduction research will be key while at the same time strengthening the link between research, policy and industry.

9. Data and Information and Knowledge Sharing

Disaster risk reduction policies and practices require data, information and knowledge for informed decision making and coordinated action. Although the knowledge production and implementation processes are critical for disaster risk reduction, these issues are seldom systematically addressed in-depth in disaster interventions. While efforts and improvements have been made about data collection, only limited resources are committed to improving knowledge identification, creation, processing, storage, sharing and application, thus hindering effective preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

The Kenya Meteorological Department could increase the network of weather stations to generate localized data across the various agro-climatic zones that will serve the needs of local communities. We also need a framework for data and knowledge sharing across the various players.

10. Promoting Sustainable Environmental Management

Environmental resources play a critical role in adaptation and mitigation of climate-related disasters through flood control and carbon sequestration. Rapid degradation of these resources particularly forest and wetlands across various parts of the country expose communities to these disasters.

Efforts to reclaim lost forests and wetlands should be expedited alongside programmes to increase the country's tree cover to enable them to perform their flood and drought mitigation functions.

Geo-thermal, solar and wind power usage could be scaled up to increase their overall share in the country's energy mix, and help diversify the sources of energy.

To manage floods, more dams could be constructed downstream especially in the seven forks dams ecological zone where spillage of the dams has been associated with flooding.

There is opportunity to reposition the fodder value chain by strengthening investments in fodder and production of fodder seeds for large-scale pasture fodder production at the National and county levels, especially in areas abundant with idle land.

11. Land Use and Spatial Planning

Developing and enforcing spatial plans in rural and urban areas is important in disaster risk management. Economic and urban development choices which are less vulnerable to

floods and droughts should be encouraged. In urban areas, especially, good physical and environmental planning is important to mitigate floods. In Nairobi, most of the land surfaces is carpeted with concrete which does not allow water to percolate to the ground and because of poor drainage the floods are common. Policies need to be put in place to have every house based on its surface areas to construct a storage tank to collect water to prevent loss of water which can result to flooding.

12. Investment in Infrastructure and Human Capital Development

Investment in infrastructure and human capital development is key in developing the capacity for disaster preparedness, response and in recovery. Efforts need to be scaled up to revisit the design and building codes to ensure they are climate-proofed and that they can withstand extreme weather conditions, including disaster risk management in professional training to ensure that they are integrated in all aspects of economic planning.

To reduce the impacts of drought, it is necessary for the national and county governments to improve infrastructure development (transport, storage and ICT) by upgrading the existing ones and expanding to areas with low coverage to allow for timely distribution of food from excess surplus areas to scarce areas, and enhance access to the market. Quality communication networks are also key to supporting social support programmes such as cash transfers by the government and development partners.

In addition, housing can act as a buffer to drought-floods disaster cycle in the ASALs. There is need for community involvement in cost-effective planning for housing development especially in the ASALs. Focused attention needed to integrate development of housing schemes as a resilience measure in mitigating the impacts of drought and floods.

13. Use Incentives to Boost Trade and Investment

Tariff and Non-tariff Barriers (NTBs) restrict efficient movement of products in the region, hindering coping measures through trade. The EAC countries, Kenya included, are net importers of essential products such as food that are subject to extreme price fluctuations due to climate related shocks. The implications are macroeconomic imbalances, high costs of production to firms and adverse household livelihoods. Incentive-based approach to private sector can serve to boost investments that support production of essential products domestically. Investments that support climate change adaptation through climate-friendly consumption and production decisions can also be promoted through fiscal and trade incentives. Realization of these goals requires:

- Continued regional efforts to eliminate NTBs and lower common external tariffs.
- Use tax incentives to promote investments in industries that produce products that are eco-friendly and build superior household coping mechanisms.

Vote of Thanks for the various groups were done by KIPPRA Principal Legal Officer.

The Executive Director welcomed Dr Julius Muia Principal Secretary, State Department of Planning to read the closing speech (Annexed)

Closing Prayers

Entertainment by NHIF Choir