

Oldonyiro

KEY FINDINGS

ADAPTED BREEDS

Participants rejected the notion that they need more productive breeds to improve their income levels and thus their resilience:

“The reason we have our smaller heads [cattle] is because they can survive the drought!”

NRM INSTITUTIONS

Building the capacity of NRM institutions to facilitate effective planning at the ward-level and coordinate at the County-level was regarded as key to building climate resilience.

COUNTY TO NATIONAL

There needs to be joint enforcement of NRM County byelaws, but these County-level processes must feed up to national-level policy if support is to be effective and sustainable. For this to happen there needs to be systemic acceptance that pastoralism is a highly effective use of dryland resources.

LIVING RESOURCE MAPS

Participants requested that electronic resource maps incorporate ‘live’ pasture and water resource status during drought. *Crowd sourcing* local pasture and water conditions using mobile phones is a potential low-cost data gathering tool to be tested.

COORDINATED ACTION

Timely support for livestock mobility (veterinary care, security) to areas with distinct disease and parasite challenges is critical in extreme drought years.

Conducted 12th-17th May 2012

Resilience Assessment Summary

The Resilience Assessment (RA) was held in Oldonyiro Town and was well attended by over 40 participants including women (24%) and youth (21%). Unlike the previous four RAs, Oldonyiro Ward is occupied predominantly by Samburus. However, as figure 1 illustrates, the proportion of different livelihood types is very similar to other wards

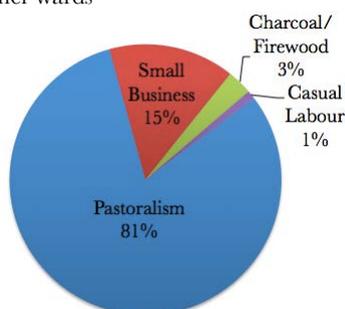


Figure 1

Participants reported rainfall coming in increasingly short bursts causing flash floods (but then drying quickly) and droughts getting closer together. Some older respondents recalled that periods of frequent droughts had come before but that the current period had persisted for much longer. The arrival of mosquitos in the upper areas of Oldonyiro was regarded by locals as unprecedented.

There was some concern regarding the historical trend for marginalised groups (such as the Samburu in Isiolo County) to be forgotten when district or county-level funds (such as the Climate Adaptation Fund- CAF) are distributed. Participants were reassured that the County-level CAF committee would be approving proposals on clear criteria related to the vulnerability level of beneficiaries.

Oldonyiro Ward is affected by severe flooding, with Longopito, Tuale, SabSab, Lorumoki, Naitomia, Kawalash,

Naingura, Ndikir, Parkurak, and Raap particularly affected. The main impacts were destruction of villages, outbreaks of human and livestock diseases, and shortage of food as villages are cut-off.

Improved natural resource management (NRM) was felt to be the most effective strategy to ameliorate the effects of both droughts and floods. The ability to restrict access to key grazing zones (for use in dry season) and control of settlement patterns (away from riverine areas during wet seasons) has been eroded as local NRM institutions are undermined by the formal governance system.

In addition to the importance of NRM, participants prioritised: improvement of veterinary services and availability of good quality drugs and trained dispensary staff and paravets; awareness raising on community land rights under the new constitution; and drilling of boreholes in areas with inaccessible pasture.

Defining Resilience Pastoral Resilience

In defining a family's resilience in a pastoral context participants emphasised the following components:

- ◆ Assets (quantity, diversity, and dispersal)
- ◆ Income and food sources (diversity, seasonality and reliability)
- ◆ Social capital (wealth of extended network, community integration)
- ◆ Adequate human capital (skilled and healthy)
- ◆ Access to external support and services
- ◆ Market access/dynamics
- ◆ Insecurity (impedes mobility and compromises asset holdings).