

Climate-Smart, Ecosystem-Friendly Livelihoods Assessment

Partners for Resilience - Kenya

The Netherlands Red Cross, The Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid, Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, Wetlands International, Kenya Red Cross Society, Merti Integrated Development Programme, and Wetlands International Kenya chapter

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Prepared by **Amy Quandt**
amy.quandt@colorado.edu

Junior Researcher, Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre
PhD Environmental Studies, University of Colorado - Boulder



Kenya
Red Cross



Executive Summary

This livelihoods assessment was conducted by the Partners for Resilience Project (PfR), an alliance of Dutch based non-profit making organizations namely: The Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC), The Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (Cordaid), CARE Netherlands, Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC) and Wetlands International (WI) in nine countries (Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Mali, Indonesia, Philippines, India, Nicaragua and Columbia). In Kenya, PfR aims at increasing resilience of vulnerable communities in the Ewaso Nyiro North River basin to address increased disaster risks, effects of climate change, and environmental degradation. PfR aims to integrate climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and ecosystem management and restoration approaches. Additionally, PfR aims to take a “livelihood” approach at the community level, and encourage people to diversify and strengthen their livelihoods to reduce the risk of disaster,

adapt to climate variability and change, and manage/restore their ecosystems. Therefore, the assessment aimed to identify resilient livelihood options that are both climate-smart and ecosystem-friendly that could be implemented and/or encouraged in the project areas by the PfR partners and implementing organizations.

The livelihoods assessment is comprised of several components including a document review, 6 focus group discussions, and 270 household interviews. The assessment took place from May to August 2013. Seven communities were selected for the focus group discussions and household interviews based on ecological zone. The zones and communities surveyed include cherap (Basa), charri (Bulesa), town (Kinna and Merti) and riverine (Gotu, Burat, and Manyangalo). The interviews were analyzed using Microsoft Excel.

Based on the livelihoods assessment results, climate-smart and ecosystem-friendly livelihood options are recommended to PfR for implementation in their project areas. The major recommendations include strengthening and improving current livelihood activities to improve their impact on the environment and build resilience to climate change, and also diversifying livelihood activities. The summary of livelihood recommendations is divided by ecological zone and is as follows:

Town

1. Greenhouse and tree nursery project for the disabled
2. Business capacity building
3. Poultry keeping

Riverine

1. Agricultural support
2. Agro-business capacity building project
3. Poultry keeping

Charri

1. Goats and camels stocking
2. Agricultural support
3. Business capacity building

Cherap

1. Goats and camels stocking
2. Business capacity building
3. Agricultural support

The full livelihoods assessment report concludes with both the resources used to conduct the assessment and summaries of the data. The summaries explain in detail why and how the specific livelihood interventions should be carried out. This includes copies of the document review, volunteer training manual, household interview guide, focus group discussion guide, and data summaries for all the communities combined, each ecological zone, and every community surveyed.

In conclusion, there was a lot of hard work put into the assessment from the PfR organizations, Red Cross volunteers, and community members who agreed to be interviewed. One of the biggest challenges faced during data collection was that many households we visited have been interviewed or surveyed on many occasions and by a multitude of organizations, but said that they have not seen the results of the interviews. I therefore urge all the PfR organizations to take action and carefully consider the recommendations of this assessment. Please do not let these communities down; share the results of the valuable time they spent being interviewed.