

Executive Summary

The following report presents the findings of my research from July to September 2019 with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) under the International Centre for Humanitarian Affairs, and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Center (Climate Center). The primary focus of this report is to present the major findings and recommendations for which impacts should be prioritized. Major considerations for impact-based forecasts in Kenya will also be discussed which will be used to trigger early action before extreme drought events occur, under the Forecast based Financing (FbF) approach.

This summer 2019 I supported this work by participating in the FbF Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings as well as engaging in focus group discussions with community members living in a drought affected region. The aim of this project was to prioritize the most relevant impacts of drought in the context of Kenya as objectively as possible. I conducted this research through a multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach using mixed-methods. I incorporated both expert stakeholders coupled with local knowledge using pair-wise ranking and focus group discussions. This allowed me to triangulate information from both quantitative and qualitative data sources to recommend which impacts of drought should be prioritized for FbF in a national-scale approach.

This report outlines the major findings of prioritization of impacts by key stakeholders as well as the findings from focus group discussions with drought-affected community members.

- Drought impacts must be clearly defined which vary depending on the local context.
- Representing multiple perspectives from both rural and urban populations is required for a more objective prioritization to avoid introduced biases.
- A broader definition of drought may help mitigate some of the definitional and scale issues related to drought.
- Disaggregation of primary vs. secondary impacts is a useful conceptualization that considers what indicators are forecastable and which are actionable given available data.
- Primary impacts are direct, biophysical and include: water scarcity, livestock death, and reduced crop yield.
- Secondary impacts are indirect, anthropogenic and include: food insecurity, outbreak of water-borne diseases, malnutrition, increased resource-based conflicts, decreased school attendance, outbreak of livestock diseases, reduced milk production, poor livestock body condition, and livestock migration.
- The main impacts of drought as described by community members includes: water scarcity, livestock death, malnutrition especially of women and young children, decreased school attendance, and in access to critical services including roads and hospitals.
- Local perspectives through qualitative data collection can supplement the introduced biases of expert led prioritization.

