

Stories of Impact

A series highlighting achievements in disaster risk management

Building Capacity for Drought Resilience in Tanzania



REGION: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

FOCUS: RESILIENT RECOVERY

COUNTRY: TANZANIA



RESULTS:

- The initiative successfully built the capacity of local officials and communities in the targeted districts, each located in different regions. Work with communities focused on increasing resilience for women and youth.
- The project directly supported over 11,000 beneficiaries and indirectly reached an additional 12,000, through improved access to water for drinking, new livestock for greater food production, and access to drought-resistant seed varieties.
- Over 130 officials at regional, district and village levels improved their capacity to plan, launch, and manage risk reduction initiatives in collaboration with partners and stakeholders. Communities learned to identify, address and report on risks and vulnerabilities to integrate into resilience efforts.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

In many regions of central and northern Tanzania, lives and livelihoods suffer from periodic weather-related stress, particularly from below-normal rainfall. The resulting crop failures and loss of livestock increases economic hardship, forcing thousands of families to skip meals, sell assets, cut back on medical care, or stop attending school. While these strategies help populations live through difficult times, they dampen quality of life and limit opportunities for development.

To address this challenge, a \$674,000 grant to UNICEF for the period from September 2013 through August 2015 was awarded in the framework of the Africa Caribbean Pacific (ACP) – EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Program, an initiative of the ACP Group of States, funded by the EU and managed by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). The grant targeted populations in two vulnerable districts: Same and Kishapo. The project, entitled Strengthening Community Capacity for DRR Interventions in Drought Prone Regions through Children, enabled UNICEF to increase awareness of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and support community pilot programs to increase resilience during periods of low rainfall. The two districts, located in different regions, have since enhanced their capacity to mitigate the impact of drought conditions.



GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program

An initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group, funded by the European Union and managed by GFDRR

CONTEXT:

Tanzania has approximately 60 districts, mainly in the central and northern regions of the country that are vulnerable to periodic droughts. The project supported the government's objective to address DRR in a proactive way in partnership with local authorities.

APPROACH:

The project worked at several levels to address DRR in affected areas. First, it worked to build the capacity of government authorities at regional and district levels in drought-prone areas to enable them to lead DRR initiatives. The approach also relied on strong community engagement, particularly among women and youth groups, who learned to identify, address and report on risks and vulnerabilities. Finally, the project raised awareness and strengthened early warning systems (EWS) for all stakeholders: communities, officials, the private sector and NGOs.

The two participating districts of Same and Kishapo were selected because they were representative of the 60 districts experiencing food insecurity from low rainfall. By piloting innovations in these districts and engaging government authorities in different regions, lessons learned can be adapted and transferred to other vulnerable districts.

The project was implemented through a partnership of the government of Tanzania, UNICEF, the World Bank, the European Union, and local beneficiary communities. The Tanzanian government implemented the project under the leadership of the Disaster Management Department of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO-DMD) and local government authorities at the regional, district and village levels. The World Bank Team provided guidance and support throughout all phases of the project, including proposal development, project implementation and reporting.

NEXT STEPS:

The project was the first step by UNICEF and the PNO-DMD to build the capacity of district and community leaders in disaster preparedness while engaging communities and increasing their resilience. To ensure that good practices are sustained, district and regional governments must monitor progress in the Same and Kishapo districts and expand the model to nearby districts facing similar challenges. UNICEF's country program will continue to work closely with PMO-DMD and local government authorities to support these efforts. The impact on household income and resilience will be measured when drought next occurs in the two districts.



“The project was successful in raising awareness at community level, particularly in focusing on children as agents of behavioral change for reducing disaster risk by raising awareness among their peers, families, and communities.”

— Doekle Geert Wielinga, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank

LESSONS LEARNED:

Partnerships that include communities, central and local government, and other stakeholders are essential for successful DRR project implementation. Each stakeholder group contributes an important element for overall project success. Community members, the ultimate beneficiaries, provide input on what is needed and how to adapt the project to the local context. Government drives implementation of DRR initiatives and ensures that lessons learned are transferred to other districts. International institutions provide resources and guidance and ensure that international good practices are applied.

Combining awareness-raising activities with concrete resources and inputs to improve livelihoods is an effective approach. The project progressed from building the capacity of district and community leaders in disaster preparedness to the community level, where providing basic skills, inputs such as drought-resistant seeds, and improved water infrastructure increased local resilience to weather-related disasters. With experience gained from this initial project, participating regional officials became better positioned to apply their knowledge in other districts in their regions' respective communities.

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*ALL MONETARY VALUES IN USD