

HORN OF AFRICA **RESILIENCE**  
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APPLICATION OF EVIDENCE FOR DECISION MAKING



# GOVERNMENT RESPONSIVENESS & GOVERNANCE

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# Government responsiveness

- Describes the extent to which local government responded to community requests to improve community assets or services
  - roads, schools, health center/post, security, water, natural resource conservation, irrigation, transportation
- Part of the enabling conditions that support absorptive and adaptive capacities



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Photo: Sasha Myers / Save the Children

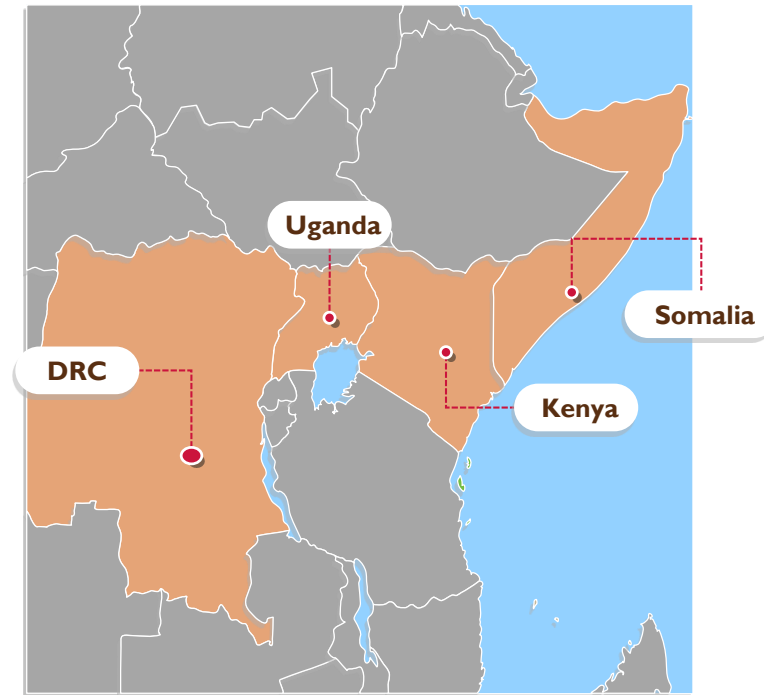
# Effective governance (Somalia)

Effective governance index (range 0-2):

- Residents can voice concerns at village/community meetings
- Community has links to higher levels of government

# Where is it important?

- Regression analysis provides evidence that **recovery** is associated with
  - **government responsiveness** in:
    - DRC
      - FFP DFSA
    - Kenya
      - PREG
    - Uganda (mixed results)
      - FFP DFSA
  - **governance** in:
    - Somalia
      - EREGS



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# Gov't responsiveness: DRC FFP DFSA BL

- Local government responsiveness is associated\* with increased likelihood of...
  - Recovery (29% increase)
  - Higher expenditures (as a proxy for income)
    - Accounts for almost 19% increase in expenditures
    - Finding is different from Uganda and Ethiopia DFSAs
      - No statistically signif. relationship betw. gov't responsiveness and expenditures in FFP DFSAs in Ug. & Eth

\*based on regression analysis of resilience capacity components & well-being outcomes

# Gov't responsiveness: Kenya PREG BL

Kenya context, example of low responsiveness

- One aspect of gov't responsiveness is security
- The majority of FGDs described a **lack** of security
  - terror attack at Garissa University
  - tribal clashes over land boundaries
  - election violence that led to the closure of local businesses
  - constant threat of theft, banditry and raids in rural areas of Turkana to peri-urban areas in Isiolo



# Gov't responsiveness: Kenya PREG BL

A positive example of responsiveness:

- County government, with NGO support, helped improve community infrastructure and technical assistance, layered with emergency assistance in a few communities
  - Wajir, Marsabit



Photo: Edward Ahonobadha / Save the Children



# Gov't responsiveness: Kenya PREG BL



Photo: Juozas Cernius / Save the Children

## Findings

- Overall, local gov't responsiveness is...
  - Low
  - Associated with **INCREASED** likelihood of recovery from
    - Livestock disease (22% greater likelihood of recovery)
    - Increased food prices (12%)

# Gov't responsiveness: Uganda FFP DFSA BL

In the Uganda FFP DFSA baseline...

- Local gov't responsiveness is significantly related to **recovery** from 4 out of 5 shocks
- BUT mixed results—the relationship is...
  - *positive* for excessive rain and flooding (expected)
    - Gov't responsiveness is associated with greater likelihood of recovery
  - *negative* for increase food prices and crop disease
    - may be a result of program targeting HHs considered less able to recover





# Governance in Somalia

- The effective governance index (range 0-2) rose
  - Baseline: 1.5
  - RMS round 3: 1.8
  - Indicates individuals are more able to voice their opinions in village/community meetings; communities have stronger links to gov't
- Baseline levels of *effective governance* increased the likelihood of **recovery** from drought/late rain in RMS, R3
  - Based on estimation equation results



# Big picture

- **Strengthening gov't capacity to deliver services is a long-term investment**
  - May take longer than a 5 year project to achieve
  - Might take even longer to show HH-level impact
- **Gov't officials/staff turnover might result in a sharp decline in service provision**
  - Need to strengthen the institution, teams, multiple people
  - Capacity may vary greatly from location to location within a country

# Big picture

- **Tensions exist between local and national gov't**
  - E.g. Kenya NDMA does assessments for safety nets; local gov't is more familiar with needs and wants credit for providing support
  - Ethiopia tension between regional and national gov't
- **Ethnic tensions**
  - People might not use available services due to ethnic tensions
    - Isiolo: Somalis don't trust and won't use health care in Borena; prefer to go to Marasbit
  - Tension may increase after a shock
    - Increased demand for limited resources

# Thank You

