

# RESILIENCE CAPACITIES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA REGION

## RESILIENCE CAPACITY COMPONENTS THAT BOOST RESILIENCE IN MULTIPLE COUNTRIES

Resilience is the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth. Some components—resources, strategies, and assets—that especially contribute to resilience capacities\* in the Horn of Africa region include:



### SOCIAL CAPITAL

Social capital is often described as the “glue” or relationships that connect people to one another. **Bonding social capital** is seen in the bonds between community members and is often drawn on after a shock, when households work closely to help each other to cope and recover. **Bridging social capital** connects members of one community or group to other communities/groups and can facilitate links to external assets. **Linking social capital** is often seen as a vertical link between a network and some form of authority. People draw on their social capital to cope with shocks such as by borrowing food or money from neighbors. Communities help those in need by sharing communal resources. Importantly, social capital erodes over time as households are exposed to prolonged or multiple shocks.



### ACCESS TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CASH SAVINGS

Savings act as a buffer against negative impacts of shocks, such as paying for home repairs after a flood. Access to savings groups is important because the groups can help build social capital (see above). Access to formal financial services helps people get loans and build up household assets.



### ASPIRATIONS AND CONFIDENCE TO ADAPT

Aspirations and confidence to adapt relate to exposure to and openness to a variety of experiences and contribute to adaptive capacity—making proactive, informed choices about livelihood strategies. Interventions to improve adaptive capacity promote livelihood diversification, asset accumulation, and social and human capital so that households and communities have a range of options to respond to long-term social, economic, and environmental changes.



### ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Access to information is related to early warning and market data.



### GOVERNMENT RESPONSIVENESS

Government responsiveness involves service delivery and responsiveness to requests for support. This is part of the enabling conditions that support absorptive and adaptive capacities.

\* Resilience is comprised of absorptive capacity (minimizing exposure to shocks and recovering quickly), adaptive capacity (making proactive and informed choices about alternative livelihood strategies), and transformative capacity (enabling system-level changes, such as governance mechanisms and infrastructure, for more lasting resilience).

## ACRONYMS:

**Ethiopia PRIME:** Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement and Market Expansion

**Ethiopia L4R:** Livelihoods for Resilience

**Kenya PREG:** Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth

**DFSAs:** Food for Peace-funded Development Food Security Activities (DRC, Ethiopia, Uganda)

**Somalia EREGS:** Enhancing Resilience and Economic Growth in Somalia

# RESILIENCE CAPACITIES

## IN THE HORN OF AFRICA REGION

**Asset Index**



- DRC DFSAs
- Kenya PREG
- Somalia EREGS
- Uganda DFSAs
- Ethiopia DFSAs
- Ethiopia PRIME
- Ethiopia L4R

**Shock preparedness & mitigation**



- DRC DFSAs
- Kenya PREG
- Somalia EREGS
- Ethiopia DFSAs
- Ethiopia PRIME
- Ethiopia L4R

**Local government responsiveness**



- DRC DFSAs
- Kenya PREG
- Somalia EREGS
- Uganda DFSAs

**Access to cash savings**



- Kenya PREG
- Uganda DFSAs
- Ethiopia DFSAs
- Ethiopia PRIME
- Ethiopia L4R

**Exposure to information**



- Kenya PREG
- Somalia EREGS
- Uganda DFSAs
- Ethiopia DFSAs
- Ethiopia PRIME
- Ethiopia L4R

**Aspirations/confidence to adapt**



- Kenya PREG
- Ethiopia DFSAs
- Ethiopia PRIME
- Ethiopia L4R

**Bonding social capital**



- Kenya PREG
- Somalia EREGS
- Ethiopia PRIME
- Ethiopia L4R

**Bridging social capital**



- Ethiopia DFSAs
- Ethiopia PRIME
- Ethiopia L4R

**Availability of formal safety net**



- Uganda DFSAs
- Ethiopia DFSAs
- Ethiopia PRIME
- Ethiopia L4R

**Access to infrastructure**



- Kenya PREG
- Uganda DFSAs
- Ethiopia PRIME
- Ethiopia L4R

**Education/ Training**



- Kenya PREG
- Ethiopia DFSAs
- Ethiopia PRIME
- Ethiopia L4R



# RESILIENCE CAPACITIES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA REGION

## NUMBER OF CAPACITIES

ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY COMPONENTS	DRC DFSAs	Ethiopia DFSAs	Ethiopia PRIME	Ethiopia L4R	Kenya PREG	Somalia EREGS	Uganda DFSAs	# of capacities
Asset index (productive, livestock, and/or durable goods)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	7
Shock preparedness & mitigation	●	●	●	●	●	●		6
Access to cash savings		●	●	●	●		●	5
Bonding social capital			●	●	●	●		4
Availability of informal safety nets			●	●		●		3
Access to insurance (agricultural, hazard)			●	●			●	3
Availability of humanitarian assistance	●				●			2
Access to remittances		●						1
<b>ADAPTIVE CAPACITY COMPONENTS</b>								
Exposure to information		●	●	●	●	●	●	6
Bridging social capital		●	●	●	●			4
Education/training		●	●	●	●			4
Aspirations/confidence to adapt		●	●	●	●			4
Social network index	●				●		●	3
Access to financial institutions			●	●	●			3
Livelihood diversification				●			●	2
Linking social capital			●	●				2
<b>TRANSFORMATIVE CAPACITY COMPONENTS</b>								
Availability of formal safety net		●	●	●			●	4
Local government responsiveness/effective governance	●				●	●	●	4
Access to infrastructure			●	●	●		●	4
Gender index (norms)				●	●			3
Conflict mitigation				●		●		2
Availability of markets			●				●	2
Access to communal natural resources			●			●		2
Collective action					●		●	2
Participation in local decision making					●			1
Access to livestock services								1
Access to basic services (e.g., roads, schools, health clinic police, banks)								0
Access to ag extension services								0
Gender equitable decision-making index								0

Table shows components that are statistically significant in regressions relating indicators of households' resilience (the dependent variable) to the resilience capacities (the main independent variables) while also controlling for other factors, such as shock exposure, household demographic characteristics, and location of residence. The regression analyses provide suggestive, rather than causal, evidence. Six of the seven studies used "perceived ability to recover" as the measure of resilience. The PRIME impact evaluation used this measure and changes in food security in the face of shocks as the second measure.

