

FINAL REPORT

FRONTLINE KENYA COUNTRY REPORT 2015



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Global Network
of Civil Society Organisations
for Disaster Reduction



Foreword

Kenya, in the recent times has had new challenges with new disasters such as terrorism and ethnic violence coming to the fold. These are complicating the already known disaster profile of droughts, floods, technological accidents, diseases and epidemics that disrupt people's livelihoods, destroy the infrastructure, divert planned use of resources, interrupt economic activities and retard development.

Disaster management encompasses a full continuum from prevention, preparedness, relief and rehabilitation, back to mitigation and prevention. The formulation of the National Disaster Management Policy in 2011 aimed to increase and sustain resilience of vulnerable communities to hazards. This entails a radical shift from the short-term relief responses to sustainable development and continual risk reduction and preparedness. The Policy had the intention of going a long way in preserving life and minimizing suffering by providing sufficient and timely early warning information on potential hazards that may result in disasters. It aims to alleviate suffering by providing timely and appropriate response mechanisms for disaster victims.

Communities in Kenya have been predisposed to disasters by a combination of factors such as aridity and settlement in areas prone to perennial flooding, poor infrastructure and services. These factors, coupled with naturally occurring hazards such as poverty, HIV/AIDS and epidemic outbreaks, among others, and currently propelled by climatic change phenomena, pose extremely high and increasing disaster risks to the Kenyan society.

This report gives the key country results of the **Frontline** 2015 survey as part of the contribution to Kenya and the international sphere on the status of disaster risk preparedness on the part of the local government and in this way empower vulnerable communities by building their resilience to disasters in Kenya and globally and highlight the areas where more action is needed.

I commend this report and am proud of the achievements that have been made with the support of The Global Network for Disaster Reduction. AFOSC-Kenya looks forward to continue supporting the resilience of these local communities in Kenya and by extension the Horn of Africa.

Sincerely



Mohamed M Sheikh

Executive Director-AFOSC

Kenya mission



Acknowledgements

Action for Sustainable Change (AFOSC-Kenya) developed this Frontline 2015 survey with the generous financial support from **GNDR** who facilitated the Frontline 2015 project that emphasized on learning from community members. We also acknowledge and appreciate the Regional Coordinator of the project in West African Region for his generous guidance and support.

We would also like to thank the different Participating Organisations (PO) in Kenya for providing us with significant information on the status of disasters in the country and their invaluable input on effective measures for the collection of information.

We also thank the members of civil society groups, local authorities and most importantly the communities who spared their time and responded to our questionnaires.

Location of Study

This survey was undertaken in six risk zones, namely:

1. Mandera
2. Wajir
3. Samburu
4. Nairobi (Kibra)
5. Kwale
6. Kisumu

Executive Summary

As part of the 'Frontline' project, a participatory action research was conducted in six communities of Kenya namely Mandera, Wajir, Samburu, Nairobi, Kwale and Kisumu. The survey aims at measuring community resilience, identifying actions and advocacy activities that can improve disaster management at local, regional and national levels. The survey also supports local action and learning in the domains of disaster risk reduction.

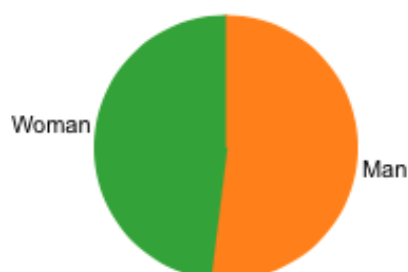
The survey interviewed 384 respondents across the country, with 48% female and 52% male with different age groups. Those between the ages of 26-60 years accounted for 44% of the respondents. Special groups were also involved, with 13.23% respondents identifying themselves as disabled. The survey was conducted in urban (19%) and rural context (81%) with different risk zones. Rural and dry lands accounted for 76.14% while urban slums represented 13% of the respondents. Coastal and lowland risk zones represented 4.9% of the survey respondents each. 97% of the respondents did identify their area as a high risk area.

Drought, Diseases and insecurity were identified as the top threats and they were also the top threats that were tackled in the responses. Perception of the respondents on the scale and impact of the disaster events were also collected. Assessing the disaster events in the past year and also recall of past disaster events going back a decade, did show that 89% of respondents identified the small-scale disasters as the most important and with the biggest impact on the lives of those affected. 66% of the respondents did suffer substantial increase in losses and damages as a result of these events.

Profile of Respondents :

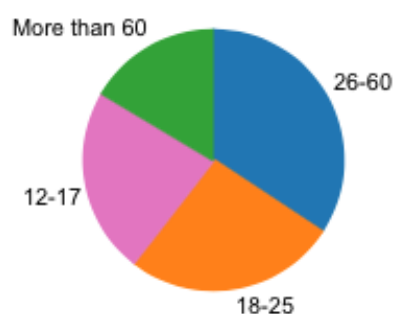
Gender:

51.96% of the respondents were men while women accounted for 48.04% of the respondents



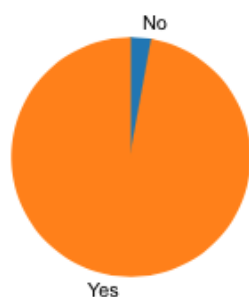
Age

15.56% of the respondents were above 60 years while 43.92% were between 26-60 years. 26.03% of the respondents were between 18-25 years and 22.54% of the respondents were between 12-17 years



Ethnic Group

97.12% of the respondents did mention that they belong to an ethnic group.

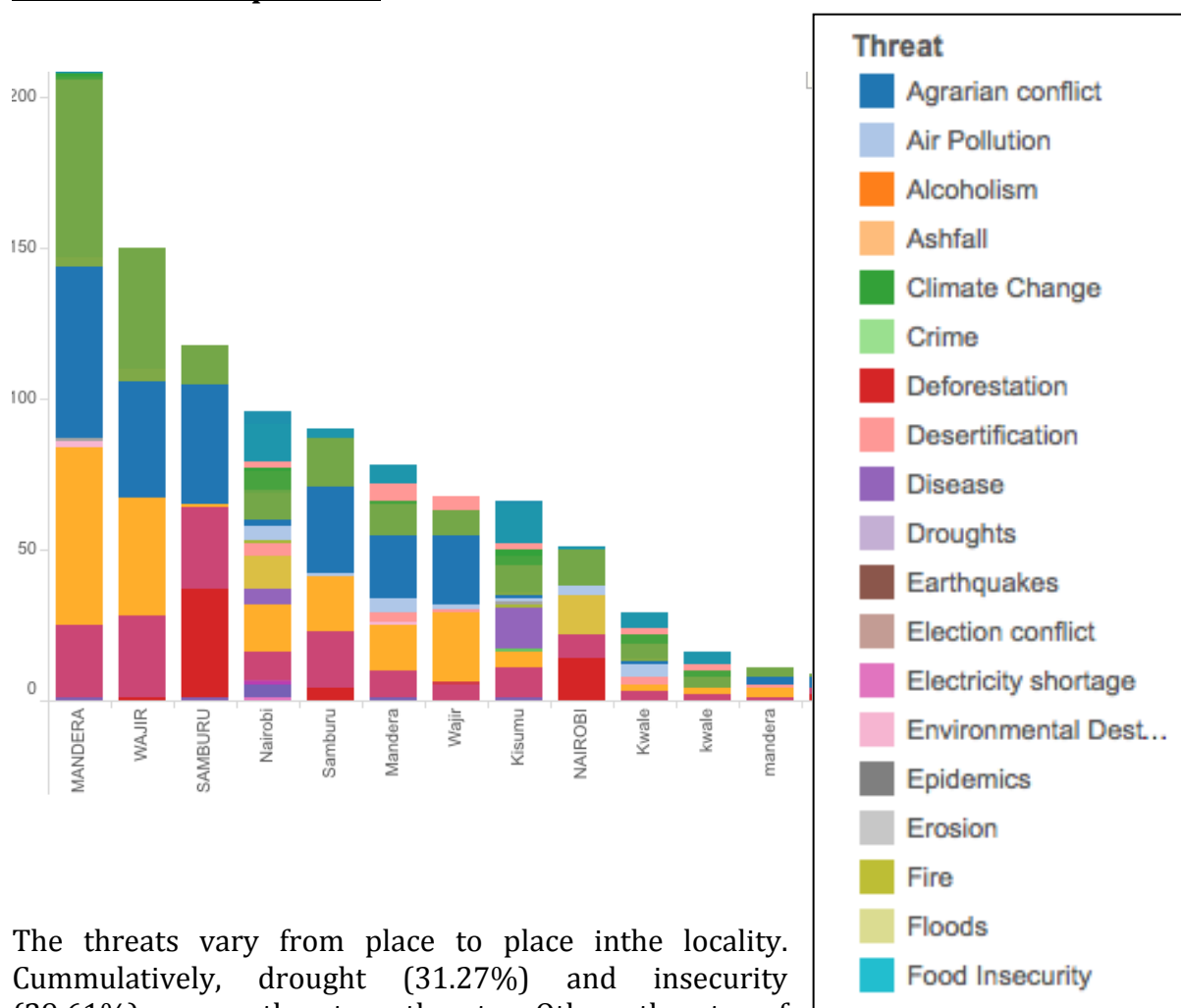


Has a disability

86.77% of respondents did mention to have no disability. 13.23% of the respondents regarded themselves as having a disability

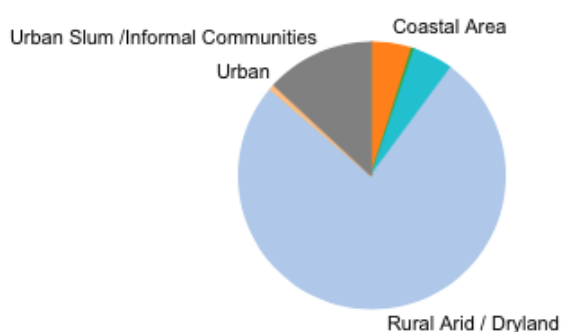


Breakdown of top threats



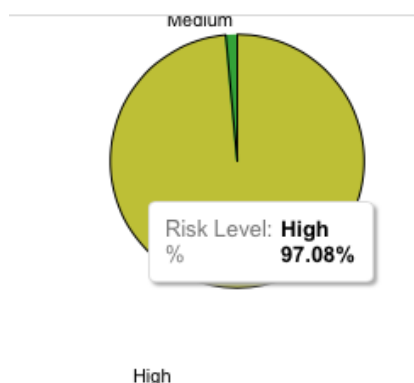
The threats vary from place to place in the locality. Cumulatively, drought (31.27%) and insecurity (29.61%) were the top threats. Other threats of significance are diseases (9.16%), theft and security (8.68%), and poverty (6.90%). Alcoholism (2.85%), deforestation (2.14%), fire (2.73%), and flooding (2.73%) were also mentioned in addition to other threats such as air pollution, climate change, domestic violence, environmental damage, unemployment, waste & pollution. Some of these threats are inter-linked. Northern Kenya, with Mandera, Wajir and Samburu, have the highest number of threats reported. Mandera Municipality, for instance, have the highest threats as drought (45%), insecurity (44.4%); and diseases (8%).

Risk zone



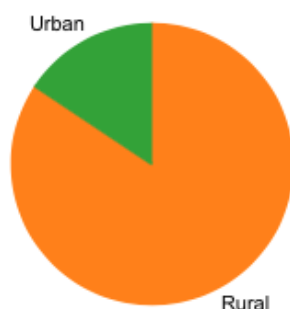
Rural arid drylands accounts for 76.14% of the risk zones. Urban slums (13.07%), coastal (4.9%), and lowland (4.9%) were the other risk profiles assessed. Urban (0.65%) and flooding areas (0.33%) completes the risk profile areas.

Risk level



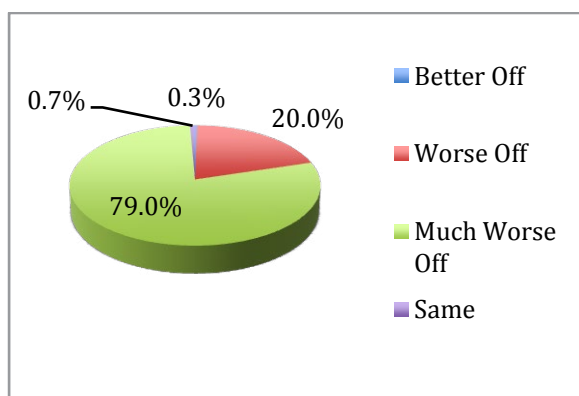
High risk area constituted 97.08% while medium risk area accounted for 2.92% of the study area.

Type of Community



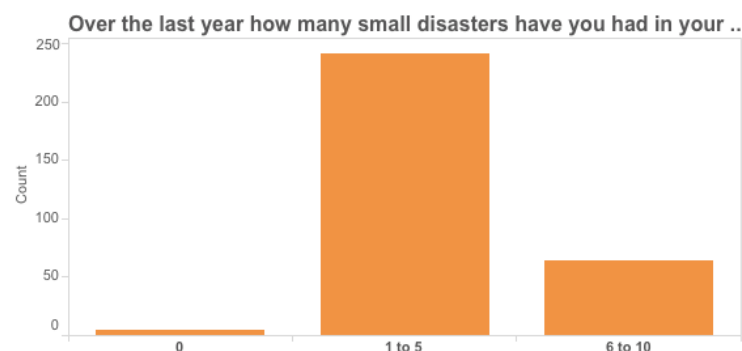
The bulk of the study was conducted in rural areas which accounted for 81.21% of areas assessed while urban context represented 18.79%.

Socio-economic status



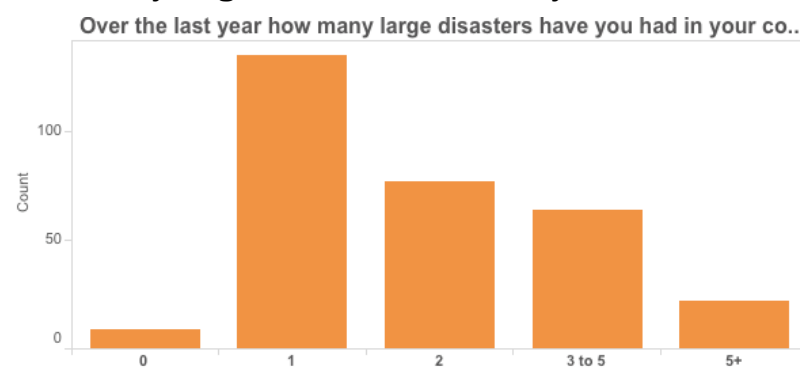
The socio-economic status of the assessed area is in bad condition with 79% reporting a much worse-off situation. 20% are worse off. Only 0.3% are either better off while 0.7% are in the same economic situation.

How many small disasters experienced in the past year?



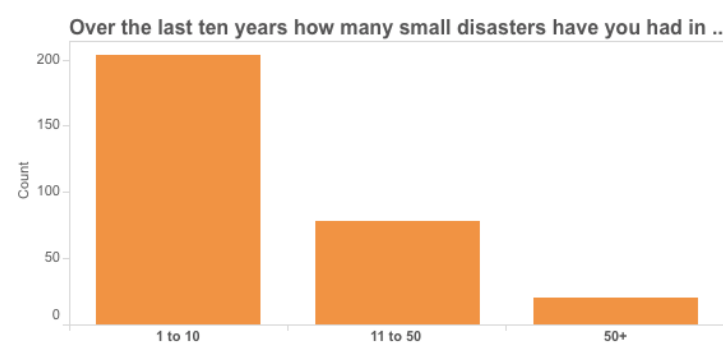
242 people reported small disasters of between the scale of 1-5 while 64 people ranked small disasters in the same locality to a level of 6-10, no one rated the event to less than one.

How many large disasters in the last year?



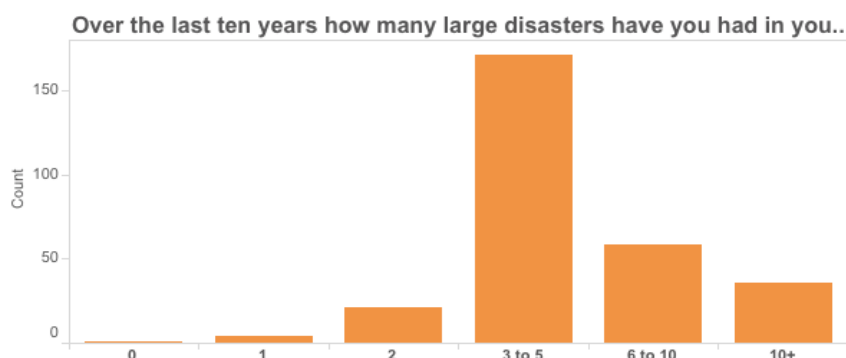
43.9% (135 respondents) did mention that they had one large disaster in the past year while 25% (77 respondents) mentioned two large disaster events. About 34.75% (86 respondents) mentioned that they had three or more disaster events. 2.9% (9 respondents) did not report any large disaster event in the past year.

How many small disasters in the past 10 years?



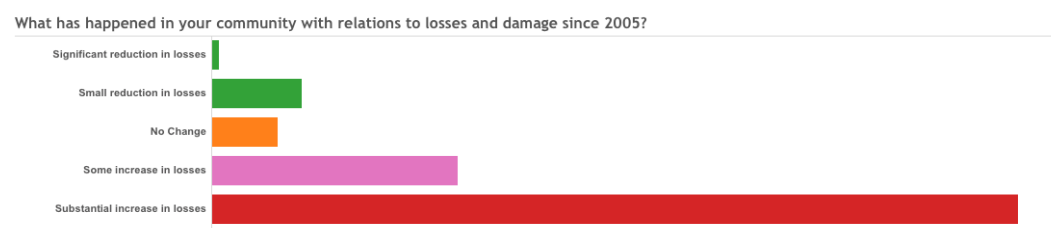
67.44% (203 respondents) did report small disasters between 1 to 10 in the past 10 years while 25.91% (78 respondents) mentioned events between 11 to 50. 6.64% (20 respondents) mentioned to have experienced more than 50 small disasters in the past 10 years.

How many large disasters in the past 10 years?



58.76% (171 respondents) did mention that they had 3 to 5 large disasters events in the past 10 years while another 32.3% (94 respondents) did mention six or more disaster events in the past 10 years. 8.93% (26 respondents) mentioned to have experienced two or less large disaster events in the past 10 years.

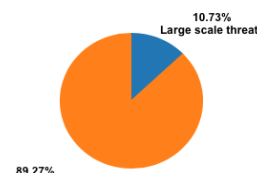
What happened in community with losses and damage?



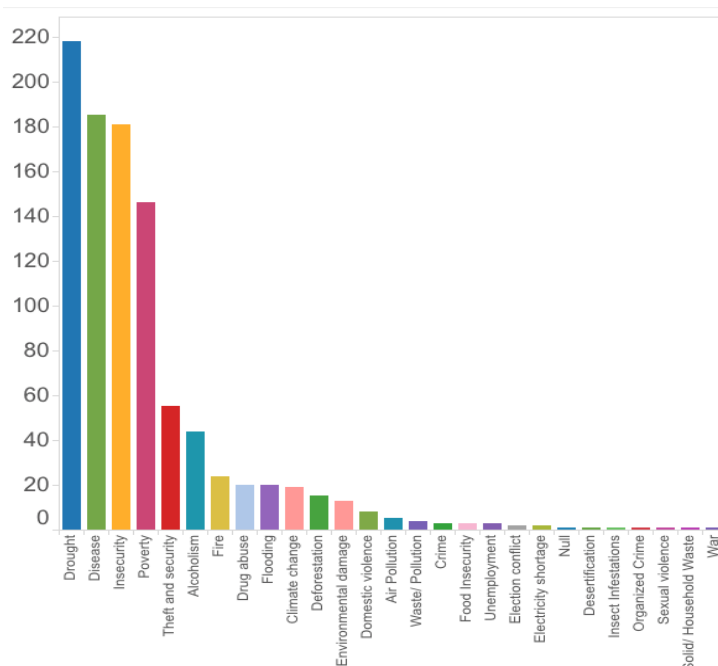
206 respondents (66.24%) stated that there were substantial increases in losses and damages to their community since 2005 as a result of the different disaster events. A further 63 respondents (20.26%) reported to have suffered some increase in losses. 25 respondents (8.04%) did perceive that the disaster events have resulted in small or significant reduction in losses while 17 respondents (5.47%) mentioned to have noticed no change.

Type of risk most affects you

89.27% of the respondents did mention that small-scale local threats are the risks that affects them the most and only 10.73% did report that the large scale threats did matters most to them.



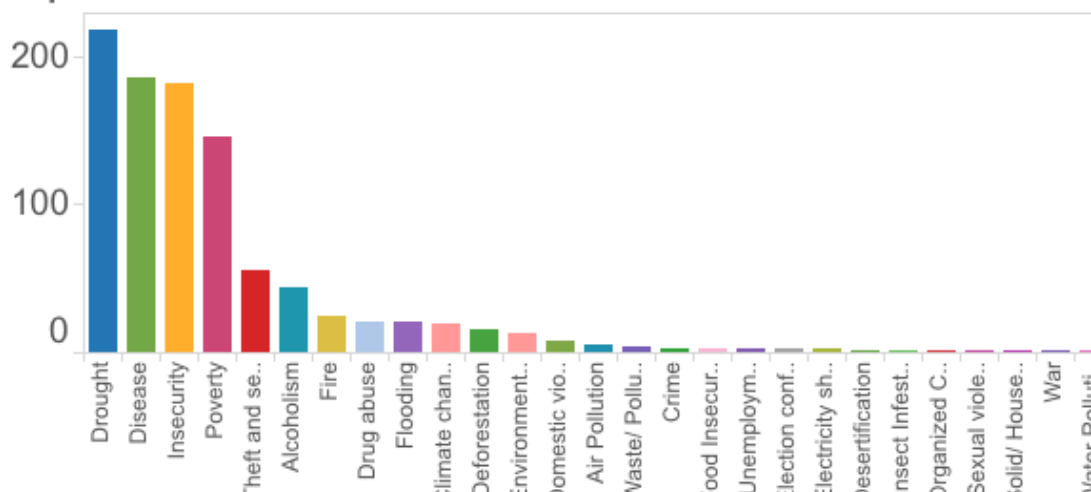
Threat analysis by response:



Droughts (218 respondents), diseases (185 respondents), insecurity (181 respondents), and poverty (146 respondents) were the top threats by response. Theft and security, alcoholism and fire were the next tier of threats.

Top threats

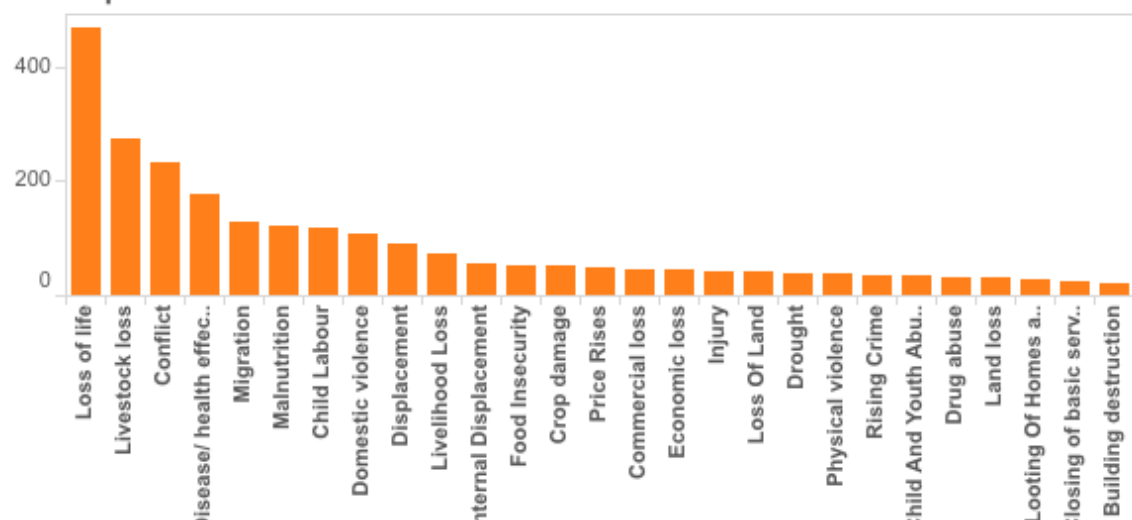
Top Threats



Similarly, drought (218 respondents), diseases (185 respondents), insecurity (181 respondents), and poverty (146 respondents) were identified to be the top threats that the communities assessed faced.

Consequences

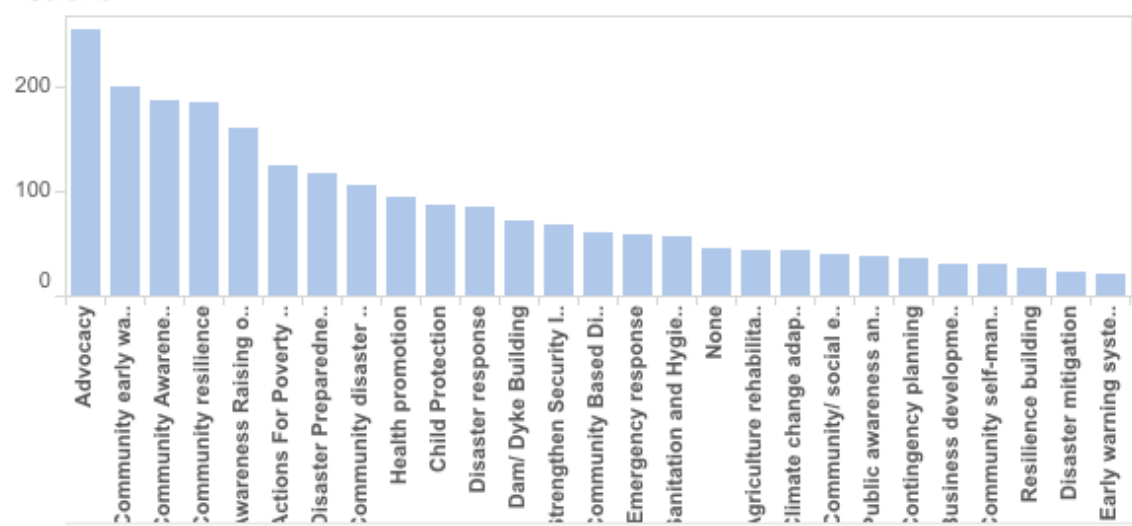
Consequences



They are a number of consequences as a result of the different threats. Loss of life (469 mentions), livestock losses (273 mentions), conflict (213 mentions) and diseases/health effects (177 mentions) were the most common consequences faced by the communities. Other consequences included migration, malnutrition, use of child labour and domestic violence.

Actions

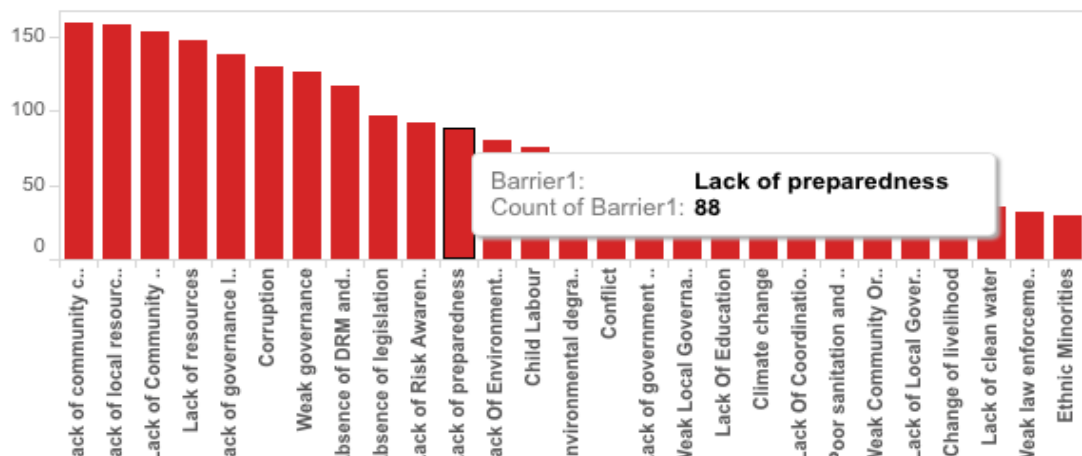
Actions



A number of actions were mentioned to have been done. Advocacy (254 mentions), community early warning systems (199 mentions), community awareness raising (186 mentions), community resilience (185 mentions), and awareness raising on DRR (160 mentions) were the most common actions.

Barriers:

Barriers



A long list of barriers were identified and the top five key barriers are either resources or governance related. Top barrier is the lack of community commitment (160 mentions), lack of local resources (159 mentions), lack of community resources for DRR/Resilience building (154 mentions) and general lack of resources (148 mentions). Other top barriers identified are the lack of governance/leadership (139 mentions) and corruption (130 mentions).

Conclusions and Recommendations

The survey findings does show that disaster events are prone in the surveyed areas and that the communities have responded to the level feasible within their capacity. However, local knowledge of disaster events and its impact can be further enhanced.

The following recommendations are made:

1. Climate Change and its impact were not clearly mentioned by the respondents and this may be attributed to the lack of understanding of these issues at the local level. More awareness on these phenomena and its impacts needs to be created at the community level.
2. Better understanding of the threats, risks impacts and how best to mitigate these risks can be better informed through a good mapping of the disaster events which are common. Community leaders and local authorities need to be empowered to better document these events and its impact.
3. The findings of this survey can be utilized further in the development of the Frontline action to inform the risk understanding by the agencies implementing disaster risks reduction in these communities and by the communities to identify top threats and develop community action plans to respond, including establishment of community early-warning systems given that small-scale disasters that are higher in frequency and number has the major impact on the population.
4. The need to shift from response alone to investing in preparedness planning and strengthening local early warning systems is evident to enhance community's resilience to small scale disasters.







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