

HORN OF AFRICA **RESILIENCE**
W • O • R • K • S • H • O • P
APPLICATION OF EVIDENCE FOR DECISION MAKING



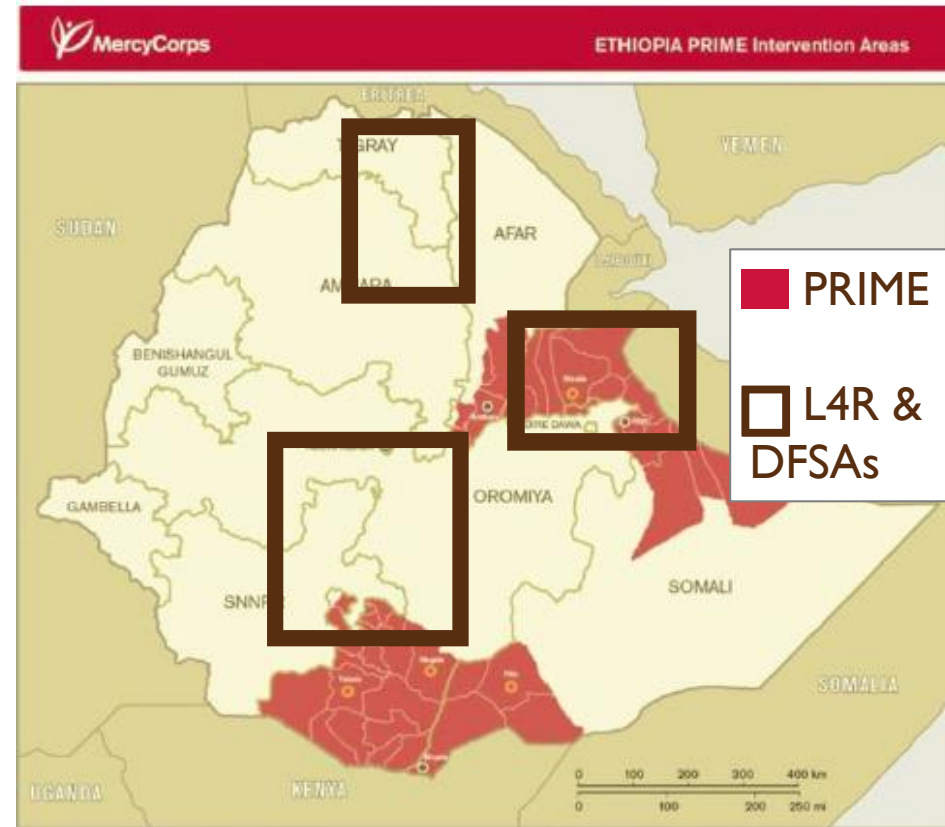
SOCIAL CAPITAL



Where is it important?

- **Social capital** supports recovery from shocks* in Ethiopia & Uganda
 - DFSAs (Eth, Uganda)
 - L4R
 - PRIME

*based on results from regression analyses of resilience capacity components and well-being outcomes



3 types of social capital

- **Bonding social capital** is seen in the bonds between community or group members
- **Bridging social capital** connects members of one community or group to other communities/groups
- **Linking social capital** is seen as a vertical link between a network and some form of authority



Photo: Sean Sheridan / Mercy Corps

Importance of social capital

- Helps individuals and communities cope with shocks
 - L4R participants borrow food, cash, clothes, farm labor, seeds, and/or livestock
 - Communities share communal resources with those in need, e.g., access to forage



Photo credit: Hannah Maule-Ffinch / Save the Children

Importance of social capital: L4R, Ethiopia



In L4R,* social capital contributes to:

- Income (per capita daily expenditures)
- Poverty (using USD \$1.90 daily per capita income threshold)
- Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)

*Based on results from regression analysis of resilience components and well-being outcomes

L4R, Ethiopia: sharing



Photo credit: Zacharias Abubeker / Save the Children

- People share information, e.g., market prices
 - “... we checked the price of sorghum in the neighboring woreda, then when the market price was proved as fair we decided to buy sorghum as a group and share the transport cost”
- men’s FG in Tigray

L4R, Ethiopia: Psychosocial support

- Psychosocial support is common and increases during shock/stresses – men's FG in SNNPR

“Religious leaders have been very important in giving guidance to boost people’s morale and relief from the effects of the drought; this gives a glimmer of hope to most community members.”

- FG respondent in Tigray

Bonding social capital in Uganda DFSAAs

- At baseline, bonding social capital is
 - Low (2.3 out of 6)
 - Associated with
 - *Greater* likelihood of recovery from increased food prices (24% change)
 - *Lower* likelihood of recovery from drought (-44% change)
 - *Greater* likelihood of reducing expenses as a coping strategy (13% change)



Photo credit: Susan Warner / Save the Children

PRIME example



- Context: multiple back-to-back droughts 2013-2018
- Downstream effects:
 - water, pasture shortages; migration for fodder; livestock disease, emaciation and death; food price increases; crop disease/failure; decrease in demand for livestock/ag products; increase in theft, conflict, and price of inputs

PRIME Recurrent Monitoring Survey- I

- **RMS started after 2014 drought**
- **Initially, absorptive capacity helped Borena HHs recover**
 - Bonding social capital is thought to contribute to absorptive capacity
- **Social capital eroded over time (not an infinite resource)**
 - Better-off HHs couldn't help poorer HHs (e.g., food, animals) like usual
 - Community, clan leaders migrated with livestock for water & fodder
 - Community governance struggled function and redistribute food and resources for HHs in need

PRIME RMS 2: social capital eroded

- By RMS 2, the tradition of sharing continued BUT the *ability* to share decreased
 - HHs had fewer resources and assets to share
 - Communities used to give/loan cattle & camels to HHs in need, but recurrent droughts wiped out herds
 - New practice: give/loan goats



PRIME: social capital at endline

Drought was more severe in Borena than Jijiga

- Social capital **declined** in Borena
 - Bonding, bridging & linking capital all decreased ↓
 - Increased theft, conflicts over grazing lands & water points
- Jijiga **maintained** high levels of social capital & sharing
 - Linking social capital ↓, but bonding & bridging capital ↑
 - Communities share resources, even in severe drought

Group activities build social capital

- Community **group activities** are a way to strengthen social bonds and mutual support
 - Example: gov't organized public works groups
 - In L4R, group members support each other in life events

*“We have also used this grouping to solve our communal challenges. .. If a member **dies**, the others contribute flour and food and observe a 12-day mourning period. In the case of **marriage**, each member will contribute ETB 20 (USD 0.72) for the event owner.”*

– KI in Tigray

Interventions to build social capital



Photo: Save the Children Stories team

- Group formation
 - VSLAs
 - Natural resource management groups
 - Market groups
 - Farmers' groups
- Need to build trust and relationships
- Monitor to assess whether social bonds are being used for other types of collective action, e.g.,
 - protecting water sources, resolving inter-village conflict

Measurement issues

- Collecting HH-level info on social capital is difficult
 - In Somalia, people don't talk about how much social capital they have individually but will talk about community-level social capital
 - Need survey and interview questions at household AND community levels

Thank You

