

Focus Group Interview (men and women separately)

1. Shocks

A. Characteristics

1. What types of shocks are experienced? How long do they last (e.g., days, months)? How many people are affected? (*draw a timeline with participants of shocks and duration*)
2. How is it affecting the community (whole community/ women/ men)?

2. Household and Community Responses (attitudes) to Shocks

A. How do households and the community respond to the shock?

1. Do households and the community know about the shock in advance?
 - a. If yes, what actions did the households and community leaders and members take together to reduce the impact of the shock on the community?
 - b. What actions were most effective in reducing the shock?
 - c. If no actions were taken, why not?
2. Are people in the community supporting each other to recover? How? If not, why not?
3. Are there project interventions (i.e., PRIME) that enable households and communities to cope better with shocks? How?
4. Are there project interventions (i.e., PRIME) that enable households and communities to recover better from shocks? How?
5. Have the levels of trust within the community changed (i.e., do people within the community trust each other more or less)? How?
6. Do people feel that crime has increased or decreased? Describe any changes in how people feel about their physical safety in the community.

3. Behavior

A. What actions are households and the community taking to respond to the shock? What actions are people taking to cope?

1. Are people working together as a community to cope with each shock? How?
2. What has the community learned from previous experience about how to respond to shocks?
3. What did people do differently this time in responding to a shock?
4. Are people within the community sharing resources?
 - a. Which resources are they sharing (e.g., money, food, labor, information, other)?
 - b. Who do they share with (e.g., family, neighbors, most vulnerable, etc.)?
 - c. Who gets priority when sharing resources? (*ask participants to do a simple ranking of resources that are shared, and who gets priority*)
 - d. What are people doing to help each other be productive again (e.g., labor exchange, loaning inputs such as animal labor, passing on information)?
 - e. What are negative ways in which people are coping (e.g., theft, begging, etc.)?
5. How are shocks affecting relationships within the community? (e.g., between individuals, between individuals and local government, etc.)

6. Has social support eroded through time due to continuous drought episodes over the past several years? Please explain.
7. Are there differences in social support across villages? Please explain.
8. Are people breaking up into subgroups to manage shocks?
 - a. If yes, why? What are the groups?
 - b. How does this affect the community's ability to cope?
9. Is there new or renewed conflict due to shocks?
 - a. In the community?
 - b. With other communities?
 - c. If yes, how do households and the community deal with this conflict?
 - d. What kinds of conflict resolution mechanisms are used, and who uses them?
10. Are communities or individuals in other locations assisting you to cope with shocks? Explain.
11. Do people in the community use their connections to people in authority to access support (formal safety nets, services)? How?

4. Participation

(Ask participants to draw a Venn diagram showing relative contribution of different community members. Draw lines to show who is giving help to which person/group, who is receiving help, and who is not receiving help.)

A. Are community leaders effective at organizing support for all members of the community? Why or why not?

1. Who else in the community is helping community members deal with shocks?
2. Is the community engaged in collective action to deal with shocks?
 - a. What kinds of collective action?
 - b. Is there collective action on:
 - i. Maintaining or repairing important community infrastructure (e.g., roads, markets, schools, water, health care facilities, etc.)?
 - ii. Managing common or critical natural resources?
 - iii. Deciding on community priorities through meetings open to all?
 - iv. Cooperative actions with other communities to reduce/respond to shocks that affect multiple communities?
 - v. Other activities?
3. How is this collective action organized (e.g., through religious organizations, informal groups, NGOs, project, government, other)?
 - a. How is each of these groups helping?
4. Is participation in collective action influenced by gender? How?
5. Which households are not participating in collective action? Why?
6. Do you think your community is successfully recovering from the shocks it is exposed to? Why or why not?
7. What do you think are the main differences between a community that successfully responds to a shock and one that does not?

5. Participation in Markets

A. To what extent do households and the community participate in marketing activities?

1. Who participates in market activities?
 - a. Do both men and women participate? Please explain.
2. What types of market activities?
3. Are these market activities seasonal?
4. As market participation increased as a result of the REGAL projects? Please explain.

6. Livelihood Diversification

A. What kinds of livelihood activities are households engaged in?

1. Are these activities affected differently by different types of shocks? Please explain.
2. Are some livelihood activities less susceptible to droughts than others? Please explain.
3. Are some households better able to manage shocks and stresses than others? What is different about these households?

7. Adaptive Capacity

A. Are there differences in the way that households recover from shocks?

1. Why are some households more successful in recovering from a shock than others? Please explain.
2. Are there proactive livelihood adaptations that the more successful households are making to recover from the shocks? What are they?
3. Are there households that feel that each person's future is a matter of destiny? What types of livelihood activities are they engaged in?
4. Are there households that believe that each person is responsible for their future success or failure? What types of livelihood activities are they engaged in?
5. Are there differences between these types of households regarding their ability to cope with shocks? Please explain.

Topical Outline for Key Informant Interviews

Topical Outline – Key Informant Interviews

1) Participation in Government or NGO programs

- What Government or NGO programs are active here?
 - Describe activities
 - Do government and NGO or other programs coordinate activities?
 - Who benefits and how? (men, women)
 - Who does not participate/benefit? Why?
- How have these programs affected the community?
 - Positive changes
 - Negative changes
- Effects of external support on community sharing?
- Which programs are managed well? Which are not managed well? Why?
- Recommended changes to these programs? What is missing?
- Has the community used its links to:
 - Obtain government services? Which ones? For whom?
 - Advocate for change? On what issues? What was the result?
 - Gain access to formal safety nets?

2) Shocks, Risks, & Coping Strategies

- Types of coping strategies when income or agricultural/livestock production is not enough?
- Reliance on other households during income and food shortages?
 - What kind of support?
 - Any changes in this practice? How? Why?
- Household and community adaptations to reduce long-term shocks
- Role of the community in reducing the impact of shocks. Any changes in the last 5 years? What changes?
- Role of organizations in managing shocks
 - Government
 - NGO, community organizations
 - Any changes in the past 5 years? What changes?