



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Measuring Resilience in Ethiopia

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Based on the **USAID Feed the Future FEEDBACK** Baseline Results Report of
the Resilience Impact Evaluation of the USAID Prime Project

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Defining Resilience

- This evaluation conceptualizes resilience according to the USAID definition, which states that 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”
- Definition used by the Resilience Technical working Group of FSIN:
“Resilience is defined as a capacity that ensures stressors and shocks do not have long-lasting adverse development consequences”
- In this evaluation, resilience is viewed as a set of **capacities** that enable households and communities to effectively function in the face of shocks and stresses and still meet a set of well-being outcomes.

Three Capacities of Resilience

- **Absorptive capacity:** The ability to **minimize exposure to shocks and stresses** through preventative measures and appropriate coping strategies to avoid permanent, negative impacts
- **Adaptive capacity:** Making proactive and informed choices about alternative **livelihood strategies** based on an understanding of changing conditions
- **Transformative capacity:** The governance mechanisms, policies/regulations, infrastructure, community networks, and formal and informal social protection mechanisms that constitute the **enabling environment** for systemic change

Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement through Market Expansion

- USAID Ethiopia Feed the Future Project (FTF FEEDBACK)
- Implemented by Mercy Corps with CARE, Kimetrica, Haramaya University, Pastoral Concern, Aged and Children Pastoralist Association, and SOS Sahel Ethiopia
- **Three objectives:**
 1. Increase household incomes
 2. Enhance resilience
 3. Bolster adaptive capacity to climate change
- **Beneficiaries:** Pastoralists in 23 woredas within three pastoralist clusters (PC): Southern (Borena, Guji, and Liban zones) PC, Somali PC, Afar PC
- **Activities:** Fostering the competitiveness of livestock value chains addressing the needs of the very poor and chronically food insecure through value chain interventions, improving policy environment, improving delivery of health services and behavior change

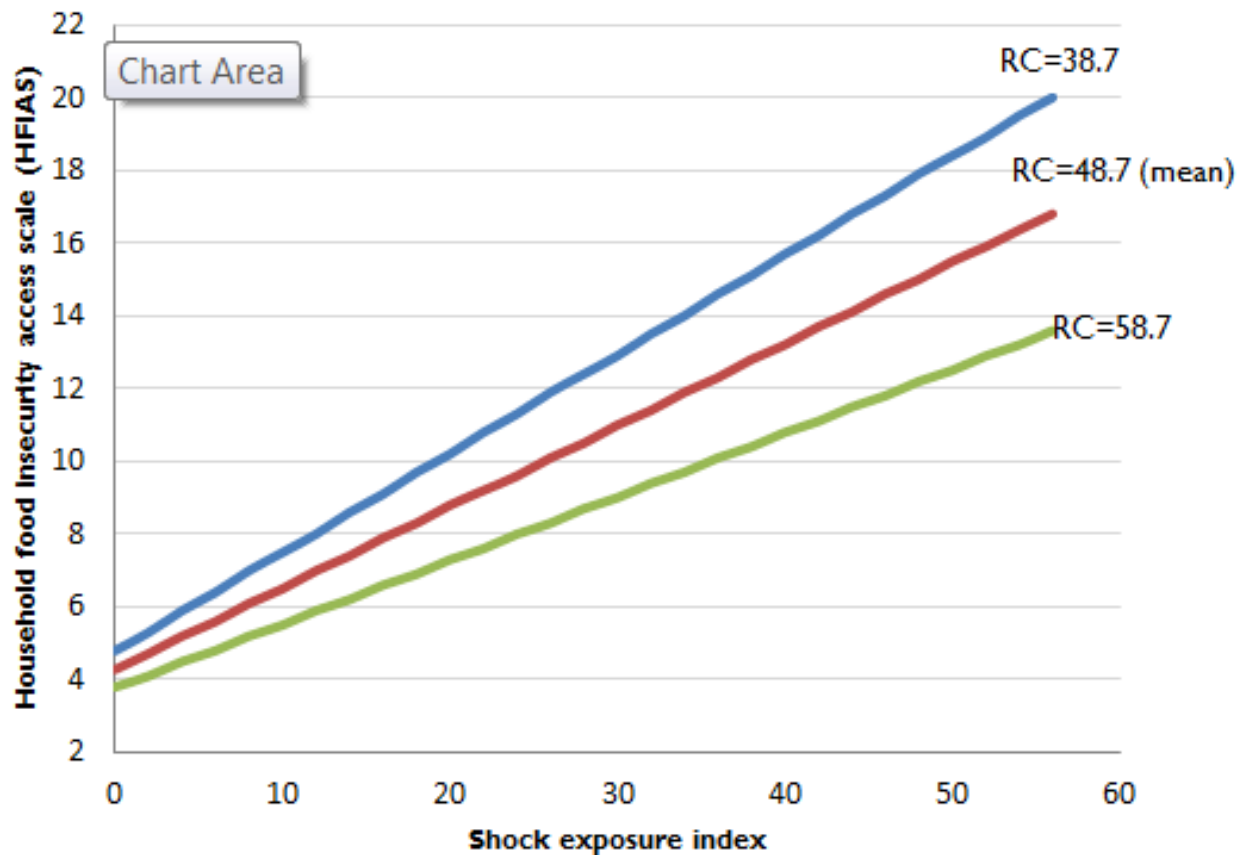
Mixed Method Methodology

- It used two quantitative components—a household survey and a community survey.
- The qualitative data were collected through focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and positive deviant interviews.
- Sample:
 - 3,142 households, 75 communities
 - Sample stratified by:
 - Intervention region
 - High intensity vs. low intensity intervention areas

Main findings from IE:

- The results suggest that **resilience capacity has a positive influence on household food security** in the project area.
- Greater resilience capacity is associated with higher calorie consumption, higher dietary diversity, lower food insecurity overall (a negative coefficient on the HFIAS), and less hunger (a negative coefficient on the HHS).
- **Transformative capacity has a stronger impact** than adaptive capacity, and adaptive capacity a stronger impact than absorptive capacity for all of the indicators except the HHS.
- **Social capital and individual motivation are critical**
- The results suggest that shock exposure increases food insecurity, but less so the higher is a **household's resilience capacity**.

Resilience Capacity – Mediated Relationship between Shock Exposure and Household Food Insecurity



1. Why highlight the PRIME IE method?

Indicators of Resilience Capacity

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graph TD; A[Indicators of Resilience Capacity] --> B[Absorptive Capacity]; A --> C[Adaptive Capacity]; A --> D[Transformative Capacity];
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Absorptive Capacity

- Household perceived ability to recover from shocks
- Social capital (bonding)
- Access to informal community safety nets
- Asset ownership
- Cash savings
- Availability of hazard insurance
- Availability of a disaster preparedness and mitigation program

Adaptive Capacity

- Household aspirations and confidence to adapt
- Exposure to information
- Human capital
- Social capital (bridging and linking)
- Diversity of livelihoods
- Access to financial resources
- Asset ownership

Transformative Capacity

- Availability of formal safety nets in communities
- Access to markets
- Access to infrastructure
- Access to basic services
- Access to livestock services
- Access to communal natural resources
- Social capital (bridging and linking)

2. What did we learn about measuring resilience?

- Importance of robust **qualitative work** in mixed method approach: differential vulnerability and community functions
- Possible to **reduce indicators** per capacity that still give sufficient predictive power (but you need to do the research first...)
- Composite indexes do not tell you what to do: need to **disaggregate** to inform programming decisions (what to do and what not to do!)
- Need to do a better job in capturing **positive adaptive capacity** (livelihood diversification – SCF/FEA)

3. Informing practice

- Resilience capacity... **So what? Application...?**
- We have set up an interim **monitoring system to capture real-time household and community responses** (sequence/degradation of responses) to shocks and stresses as they occur over the next four years (routine and context monitoring)
- **Routine monitoring:** Quantitative and qualitative data collection activities using short survey instruments and topical outlines are being carried out every month over a six month period (stagger qualitative activities)
- **Context monitoring:** information related to shocks and stresses is being collected such as climate variables (rainfall), price levels, animal disease levels, and conflict (thresholds).

What does this mean for you?