

BUILDING RESILIENCE TO SHOCKS AND STRESSES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA REGION

“There have been three recent droughts. The first drought exposed us to losing cattle and short-term [hunger]. The last year was more severe. In previous years, when we were sowing [seed] and getting a little rain that enabled us to store residue for the cattle, even if there was no production. But last year we had no rain at all and nothing for the livestock.”

– PRIME participant in Borena, Ethiopia

People in the Horn of Africa have experienced numerous shocks and stresses. Drought, food price increases, and crop disease and pests are the main shocks. Drought triggers numerous other “downstream” shocks, described below.

Ethiopia PRIME

- Variable rain/drought
- Food price increases
- Very bad harvest

Ethiopia L4R

- Food price increases
- Delay in PSNP food assistance
- Variable rain/drought

Ethiopia DFSAs

- Variable rain/drought
- Food price increases
- Excessive rains/flooding

Uganda DFSAs

- Excessive rains/flooding
- Drought
- Food price increases

Somalia EREGS

- Variable rain/drought
- Unemployment/underemployment
- Food price increases

DRC DFSAs

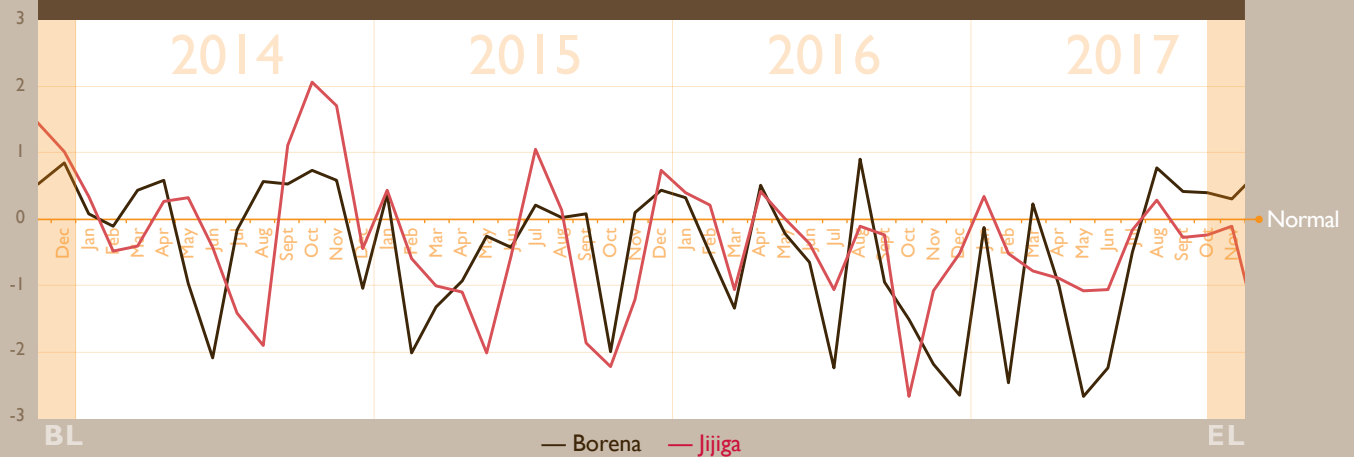
- Food price increases
- Exchange rate fluctuation
- Illness, death, unusual health expenses

Kenya PREG

- Food price increases
- Excessive rains/flooding
- Variable rain/drought

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Satellite data for rainfall in the two PRIME areas (Borena, Jijiga) show that rain was often below normal between baseline and endline.

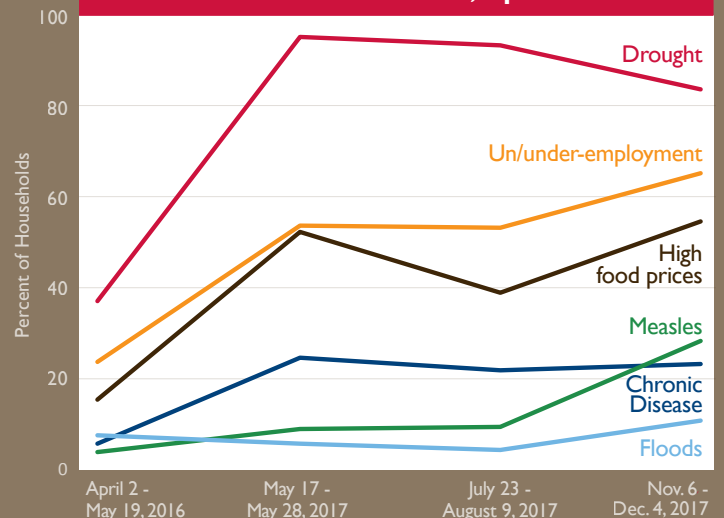


Shocks are interconnected, and downstream effects are evident in Ethiopia (PRIME, L4R) and Somalia (Enhancing Resilience and Economic Growth in Somalia program). Drought creates other conditions that become shocks such as insufficient fodder, livestock disease, and declining sale prices for livestock and agricultural goods. To cope, some people migrate or remove their children from school to work, which can have long term negative effects.

Programs need to monitor shocks and household responses over time to identify whether programs are providing enough support or if contingency plans are needed. Linking humanitarian and development programming is important because humanitarian assistance can help households avoid negative coping strategies.

In May 2017, almost all households in the EREGS program in Somalia reported that they had experienced drought. The drought contributed to numerous downstream shocks and stresses over the next six months such as unemployment, high food prices, and disease.

Shocks & Stresses in Somalia, Apr. '16–Dec. '17



Households are exposed to multiple shocks and stresses. The Somalia survey included 23 shocks and stresses.

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SHOCKS

	DRC DFSAs	Ethiopia DFSAs	Ethiopia PRIME	Ethiopia L4R	Kenya PREG	Somalia EREGS	Uganda DFSAs	# of programs reporting shock
CLIMATE SHOCKS								
Drought	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	7
Crop disease/pests	●	●	●		●	●	●	6
Excessive rains	●	●		●	●		●	5
Flooding	●	●		●	●		●	5
Livestock disease	●		●		●	●	●	5
Variable rain (early/late)		●		●	●	●	●	5
Hail/frost		●						1
Reduced soil productivity							●	1
Weeds (e.g., associated with Strega)								1
Very bad harvest			●					1
ECONOMIC SHOCKS								
Food price increases	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	7
Variable price of ag/livestock inputs	●		●	●				3
Drop in price of ag or livestock products			●			●		2
Unavailability of ag/livestock inputs	●		●					2
Unemployment/underemployment					●	●		2
Exchange rate fluctuation	●							1
No demand for ag or livestock products			●					1
CONFLICT SHOCKS								
Insecurity/violence/inter-tribal conflict	●		●		●	●		4
Looting/theft (e.g., of animals, crops)	●							1
Loss of land/rental property		●						1
HOUSEHOLD (IDIOSYNCRATIC) SHOCKS								
Illness, death, unusual health expenses (incl. measles, cholera)	●			●		●		3
DISRUPTION OF ASSISTANCE								
Delay in Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) food assistance		●		●				2

