



Women in Turkana during a USAID Resilience Learning Event. Photo: USAID

EAST AFRICA

RESILIENCE LEARNING ACTIVITY

Following large-scale droughts that devastated the Horn of Africa in 2011 and 2012, USAID and other development partners support efforts to build resilience against future shocks to the region. Coordinated resilience programming has seen positive results in the arid and semi-arid lands, including an overall drop in households living below the poverty line and an increase in perceived resiliency among local communities. Constant evidence-based learning to inform this programming and promote adaptive management is necessary for progress to continue.

The Resilience Learning Activity (RLA) is in year three of a five-year program funded by USAID Kenya and East Africa, USAID Somalia, and the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. RLA, operating both a secretariat and evidence-based learning initiative, works with regional, national, and local organizations and institutions in Northern and Southeastern Kenya, Somalia, and the Horn of Africa to support entities to apply collaboration, learning, and adapting (CLA) principles to build their capacities for analytics, adaptive management, improving knowledge management, and communications to advance USAID's objectives that support a pathway to sustainability for resiliency actors.

OUR WORK

RLA works with the Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth (PREG), the Southeastern Kenya coordination mechanism (SEK), the HoRN of Africa network (HoRN) and the Somalia Resilience Partnership (SRP) to strengthen each entity's ability to lead, manage, and advance CLA principles.

OBJECTIVES

Through partnerships within the HoRN, Somalia, and in Kenya, RLA works with regional entities (e.g., Intergovernmental Authority on Development and National Drought Management Administration), sub-national, national, and regional governments through coordination platforms (PREG, SEK), development organizations, and community and other resiliency actors to meet the following objectives:

- Increase local analytic capacity,
- Facilitate learning for adaptive management,
- Improve knowledge management and strategic communication for local and host county organizations, and
- Establish and strengthen systems and networks for CLA.

APPLYING CLA PRINCIPLES

Using CLA to apply these objective RLA's work with regional and local governments has led to the ongoing develop of initiatives, such as:

- *Creation of GIS Training Curriculum:*
PREG and SEK county officials used GIS training to inform evidence-based decision making for county investments into resiliency initiatives based on maps generated. This initiative was also shared during the RLA-facilitated annual HoRN learning event to further include more GIS investment across the HoRN.
- *Co-Creation and Co-Facilitation:*
County officials in the PREG, SEK, and RLA Somalia program are working to co-design, co-create, and co-finance activities between county governments, local organizations, USAID programs, and other donors to optimize resiliency program investments.

The ability for county officials to leverage RLA support by continuing to apply CLA principles will further PREG, SEK, and HoRN initiatives as local, national, and resiliency actors continue to forge their own pathway to sustainability.

BUDGET: USD \$19.5 Million

DURATION: 2019-2024

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Northern Kenya, Southeastern Kenya, Somalia, and other HoRN countries (DRC, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Uganda)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

ACDI/VOCA (Northern Kenya and the Horn of Africa)
Mercy Corps (Somalia)

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