

Community engagement in responding to health and cyclone-related crises in Ambanja district, Madagascar

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Background and justification

- ▶ Madagascar has been seriously affected by multiple and repeated shocks of cyclones every year with an average of 3-4.
- ▶ These cyclones are leading to floodings, diseases, crops destruction
- ▶ Repeated crops destructions expose to risk of hunger and malnutrition
- ▶ The support to community is mostly based on relief aid in time of crisis
- ▶ Less actions for long term for sustainable resilience
- ▶ Populations struggle alone in solving their problems.
- ▶ Only few NGO are supporting community to build resilience with long-term actions.

Research Aim and Research Questions

Aim

Understand how responders (governments and INGOs) engage with the communities to respond to cyclone-related health shocks, what is the community response for resilience, and what factors facilitate or hinder these partnerships in Ambanja district, Madagascar.

Research Questions

1. How have communities and local leaders affected by cyclone crises responded to environmental/health shocks in Madagascar?

2. Why mechanisms used by crisis-affected communities have been effective or hindered in responding to crisis in Madagascar?

3. How health system and INGO/stakeholders engaged with communities to implement crisis-responses at community level in Madagascar?

4. What are the identified gaps in CEI in interactions INGO – Communities in Madagascar?

Methods

1. Qualitative research:

- 5 Municipalities were selected for the study taking 1 village per municipality.
- 3 ways of data collection.

Qualitative
research



In-Depth
Interview
(IDI); N=10

Key
Informant
Interviews
(KII);
N=12

Focus Group
Discussions(FGDs),
5 groups of 8
participants for
each; N=40

2. Thematic analysis with mix method: deductive and inductive.

Community Response

Community self-groups (GEC) => borrowing money in time of crisis to buy food while waiting for new season.



Fetching forest yams or fruits



Reducing number & quantity of meals => allow long lasting stock

Community Actions



In costal villages, people know very well the time of floods. For some villages, every day 15:00 - 17:00



Adapted model of house construction: built on long pillars of 1.5 to 2 meters allowing people to stay in the house even during flooding period.

Results - Mechanisms of CEI



Community dialogue: constant communication and community meetings => Cyclone Early Warning System



Participatory Approach: NGOs and local people work together for risk reduction and food production strategies

Long-term
Mechanisms

Long-term actions for sustainable resilience: 3 NGOs support the community: Helvetas, BV, and BNGRC

Use of existing community structures: Local leaders, CHWs, local disaster management team => training & support



Community empowerment: support with tools & equipment to restore mangrove forest and plant Napier grass to reduce risk of floods

Results - Mechanisms of CEI

1. Partnership and coordination =>
partnerships emergency interventions:
evacuation, temporary shelters, food
and non-food kits provision.

Most organisations including government intervene for aid-relief during the crisis.

2. Community mapping and support =>
Local active and vulnerable groups
identified. Active groups trained and
involved in the response to support the
vulnerable ones.

Aid-relief
Mechanisms



Results - Mechanisms of CEI

Bundle of
mechanism
and
outcomes



- The 6 mechanisms explained work as a bundle in supporting communities => Trust building.
 - NGO time in communities (presence for long time).
 - Building Participatory approaches => strengthening of partnerships communities - NGOs).
 - Open and honest communication (which then facilitates mutual agreement on solutions).
- } Trust

Results - Identified gaps in CEI

1. What is role of community in constructing resistant irrigation systems?

2. How collected feedback from community informs project implementation?

3. How NGO staff work together with community members for the response?

4. For Aid-Relief:
It is not sure if feedback is collected from community or fit the community need.

=> None of the organisations shows clearly how the community needs inform their project planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Thank you for listening

Any question or comments are welcome

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