Measuring Resilience in USAID
Defining and Conceptualizing Resilience

USAID defines **resilience** as:

The ability of people, households, communities, countries and systems (social, economic, ecological) to mitigate, adapt to, recover from shocks* and stresses** in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.

* Includes covariate (drought, floods, etc) and idiosyncratic (health crisis in a HH)
** Climate change and variability and population pressure, among others
Dynamics of Vulnerability and Resilience
(Frankenberger, et al 2012)

Resilience measurement

A set of capacities

Realized in connection with some disturbance

Indexed to an outcome
Key Points for Measuring Resilience

- Resilience is not an outcome, but a **capacity** that influences outcomes.
- Resilience as a capacity **exists and must be measured at multiple levels** (not just at HH level).
- Resilience as a capacity must be **measured in relation to outcomes of interest**.
- Resilience as a capacity and its relation to outcomes are **realized in relation to shocks and stresses**.
Measuring Resilience: Topline Outcome Indicators of Interest

**Politically Expedient Measure**

- Humanitarian assistance *needs*
  - Normalized by severity of drought (NDVI)
  - Controlling for population growth
  - In part, a function of ‘methods’ of HA determination*

**Robust Outcome Measures**

- Depth of Poverty (DoP)
  - Contextual complement to Poverty Prevalence

- Moderate to Severe Hunger (HHS)
  - FTF ‘economic resilience’ measures

- Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)
  - Contextual complement to Stunting
Measuring Resilience as a Capacity at Multiple Levels

a. the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems (social, ecological, economic)
   – Mixed methods required to capture resilience at various levels
   – Social, ecological, economic, other systems a challenge
     • USGS systems measurement in the Sahel

b. to mitigate, adapt to and recover from shocks and stresses (i.e. sources of dynamic stability)
   – Direct measures of these capacities provide insight into resilience even when not being tested (i.e. by drought)

c. in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth
   – USAID topline livelihood outcome indicators
   – other livelihood outcome ‘domains’
Measuring Resilience and Outcomes – Kenya’s Northern Arid Lands

Baseline Values for Kenya

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome Indicators</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Humanitarian Assistance Needs (2011)</td>
<td>3.75m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mean Poverty Gap (DoP)</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Moderate to Severe Hunger (HHS)</td>
<td>50.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resilience Capacity Indicators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• HH’s report that they were able to lean on others during 2011 drought (social capital)</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• HH’s indicate that they have not (or have not fully) recovered from 2011 drought (recovery capacity)</td>
<td>52.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• HH’s believe they will be unable to cope with future shocks (coping capacity)</td>
<td>40.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• HH have made pro-active adaptations to livelihoods in anticipation of future shocks (adaptive capacity)</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Efforts to measure community level resilience focus on community capacity for collective action (communal ‘assets’)

- Disaster risk reduction
- Conflict management
- Social protection
- Natural resource management
- Management of public goods and services

- Social capital (reciprocal obligation) in various forms = foundation for community capacity for collective action
  - Bonding within groups
  - Bridging between like groups
  - Linking beyond like groups
Resilience Measurement Resources

• FSIN TWG on RM
  http://www.fsincop.net/topics/resilience-measurement/en/