

LESSON 14:

LINK HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO RESILIENCE

Humanitarian and development actors should move beyond short-term relief by integrating immediate drought response with long-term resilience-building. Linking livelihood protection with sustainable systems and coordinated, cross-sectoral collaboration enables communities to recover, adapt and thrive.

Repeated droughts reveal the limitations of reactive, short-term humanitarian responses. Households and communities rely on a mix of agricultural and non-agricultural strategies to survive, yet programmes often fail to support both dimensions in a coordinated way. Effective resilience requires linking emergency assistance with early recovery and long-term systems that strengthen livelihoods, market access and financial stability.

Building resilience demands investment in durable infrastructure, regenerative climate-smart agriculture, nature-based solutions and inclusive financial mechanisms (such as savings groups, insurance and credit). Humanitarian and development actors should align around common tools and frameworks to integrate policies across relief, social protection and disaster risk reduction. Collaboration between governments, non-governmental organisations and communities – grounded in local analysis and locally led initiatives – helps ensure responses are contextually relevant and sustainable.

Number of documents contributing to the lessons: 39

Average evidence scores of all documents contributing to the lessons: 4

Median evidence strength of documents contributing to the lessons: 80%

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Humanitarian and development actors should design drought responses in ways that protect livelihoods and productive assets, reducing longer-term vulnerability alongside meeting immediate needs.
- Humanitarian actors should identify opportunities to align emergency assistance with existing development, resilience and climate-adaptation initiatives in drought-prone areas.
- Donors should support funding approaches that enable stronger linkages between humanitarian response, recovery and resilience, including through multiyear and flexible financing.
- Humanitarian and development actors should strengthen coordination and joint planning across humanitarian, development and climate actors to reduce institutional silos and improve coherence over time.
- Governments and local authorities should be supported by humanitarian actors to lead and coordinate efforts that link drought response with national resilience and development strategies.
- Humanitarian actors and donors should invest in local systems, institutions and capacities during drought response to support continuity and resilience beyond individual crisis periods.