



Flood
Resilience
Alliance

IMPACT
BRIEF
KENYA

CONCERN
worldwide

Improving Community Flood Resilience

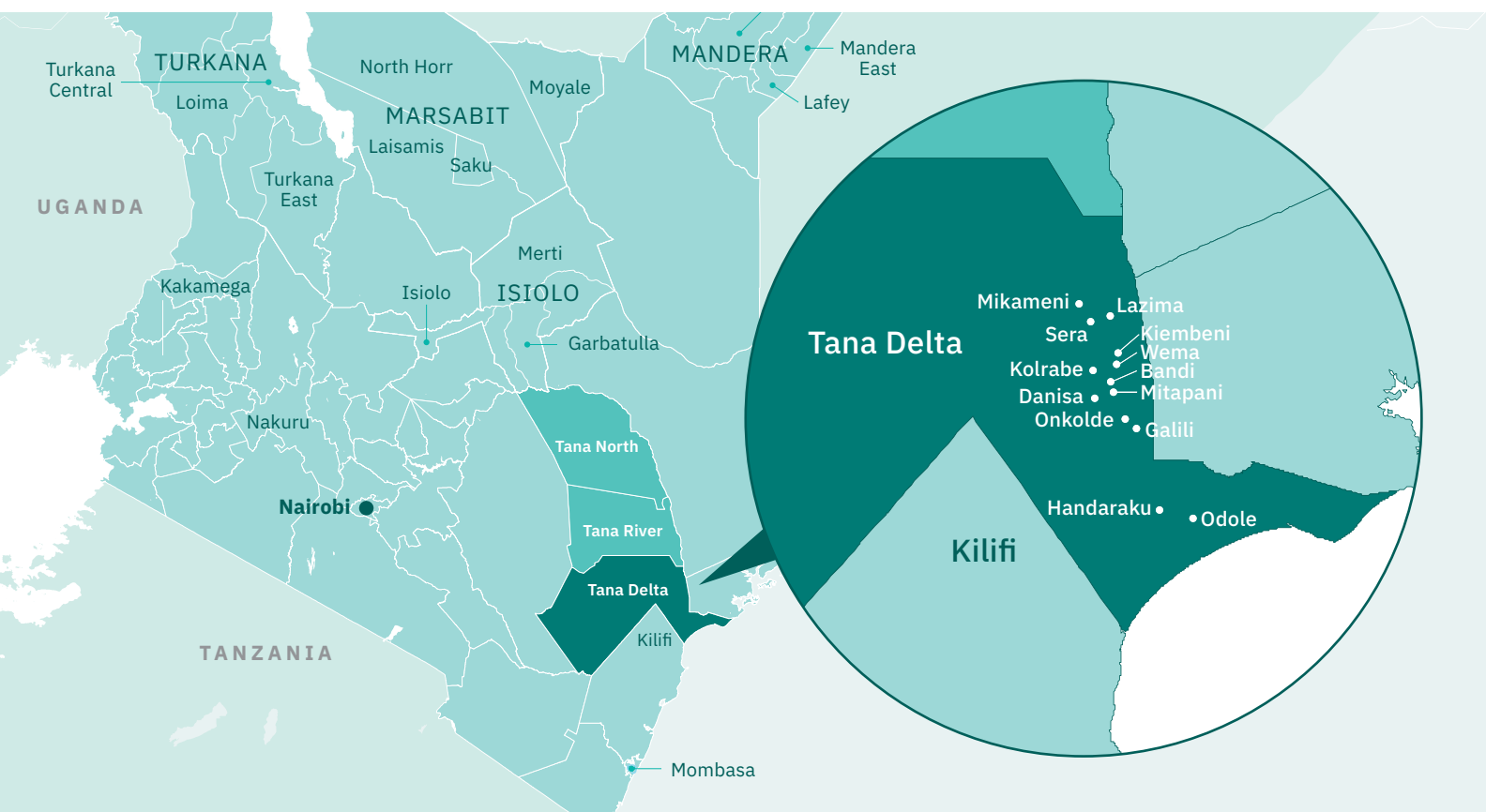
The Zurich Flood Resilience Project in Kenya worked with communities, which had strengths and resources available for mobilisation to reduce the level of risk associated with the impact of floods and increase communities' resilience. Concern partnered with communities in Tana River County to develop ways to prevent or mitigate such flood hazards, adapt to and prepare for floods using local materials and knowledge. Working through various community level structures to leverage and reinforce community resilience pre-event including community early warning systems. At the national level, Concern engaged with key stakeholders during the development of the National Policy for Disaster Management in Kenya, which emphasises preparedness on the part of the government, communities and other stakeholders in Disaster Risk Reduction activities.

The project forms one part of a greater range of projects globally that span across multiple actors, forming the **Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance**.

The project used a range of tools, including the Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities, (FRMC) to assess resilience of a community and support risk informed decision making for flood resilience.



Nuru Chudi tends to her farm next to the river in Mikemani village in Kenya's Tana River County. Photo: Lisa Murray/Kerry Group/Concern Worldwide



Tana River activities list, community numbers:

Activity	Community numbers
Train community on climate smart agriculture	715 (390 female, 325 males)
Installation of a solarized borehole irrigation scheme	243 (132 male, 111 female)
Provide farm mechanization services	100 (58 male, 42 female)
installation of a fully equipped apiculture system	74 (36 males, 38 females)
Strengthen extension service in the community	715 (390 female, 325 males)
Capacity build 4 Disaster Risk Reduction committees on resilience practices like asset protection	60
Dissemination of policies and strategies on flood resilience, response and natural resource management	2,355 people (950 male and 1405 female).
Facilitate the community to develop their own solutions and implement	23,348 people
Facilitate the community on advocacy and lobbying to engage in governance	39 people
Conduct Community Led Total Sanitation	1,362 Households
Train the Community on advocacy and lobbying	39 people

Impact Numbers:

S/No	Beneficiaries	Direct	Indirect
1	325,652	23,348	302,304

Key Advocacy Achievements:

Advocacy at Sub-National Level:

The county government allocated Kes 1,806,500,000 (CHF 12,903,571) from the initial 2% (Kshs 140,000,000 (CHF 1,000,000)) in the CIDP III that was geared towards enhancing DRM in the county. The County Government also allocated a specific budget (Kshs. 60,000,000 (CHF 428,571) for flood preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery in the 2023 – 2024 Annual Development Plan (ADP) which was extracted from the CIDP.

In preparation for the El-nino floods the county government of Tana River allocated and made available an additional Kshs. 200 million in emergency fund for flood response. This efforts were as a result of advocacy work spearheaded by Concern on implementation of the policy.

Following a stakeholder’s forum that brought together the community advocacy champions, government departments, other CSOs and members of county assembly, the MCA’s requested a special sitting with them to discuss policy and budgetary needs emanating from the community priorities presented. Concern Kenya staff met with the Members of County Assembly to lobby for the passing of community priorities in the CIDP and the implementation of the Disaster Risk Management Act, which was passed in 2020 and is yet to be implemented. The lobby meeting was geared towards increasing allocation towards flood related disaster risk reduction. The meeting was a success as the MCA’s ensured that some community priorities were in the plan and budget allocations for flood related disaster risk reduction was included and passed.

Advocacy at Community Level:

77% of the Alliance-supported communities had at least one priority incorporated in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) as a result of the 39 Advocacy Champions that were trained and facilitated by Concern to attend the CIDP public participation forums Mitapani advocacy champions

have approached two donors and subsequently, the community has received two multipurpose shallow wells that are used in the farms. Through the leadership of the advocacy champions communities in Handaraku engaged their Member of Parliament, who has since committed to construct a footbridge in the area. Similarly, the Member of the County Assembly for Garsen North has committed to construct a road in the Feji community area and facilitating the process of establishing of mobile network booster in Mikameni to also serve Lazima community. All these actions are part of the community priorities developed using the FRMC process.



Community advocacy champion, Mohamed Masha Boru in Handaraku Village in Tana River County. Photo: Lisa Murray/Kerry Group/Concern Worldwide

Highlight

The people living in Tana River are no strangers to flooding. Living in the basin of Kenya's largest river, people know that the river can wash away farmland, displace people from their homes and bring disease. Tana River communities identified disease as a major risk during flooding and cited open defecation as significant aggravating factor. With support from Concern the community of Handaraku tackled the problem of open defecation through a process known as Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). The CLTS process involved the mass construction of toilets, and a change in the behaviour of community members. As a result of engaging with community health volunteers, supported by Concern, the community gained a greater understanding of the link between open defecation and disease. Before the intervention there were just six toilets in Handaraku. Now, the community has built 336. The community has designed the toilets to withstand flooding, the toilets are dug deep, with strong Foundations made from re-purposed oil drums, and are built on land above the flood line.

“I want to thank Concern for the toilet intervention which was very good for the community. Throughout the El Niño floods, there was not even one case of Cholera. Previously, we used to get a lot of these cases. Although some of the toilets that we constructed collapsed because of the severe flooding, we are now in the process of constructing new ones, and we are proud to say that not all the toilets were damaged.”



Hussein Mohamed (L), a community health volunteer, does a routine visit to Fatuma Adhan's (R) house in Hanaraku village in Tana River County, where she recently built a toilet. Photo: Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance/Concern Worldwide