

FACTORS AFFECTING SUSTAINABILITY OF PROGRAMS IN MITIGATING  
DROUGHT IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF NORTHERN AID PROGRAMMES IN  
MANDERA COUNTY

BY

MOSES NG'ANG'A MUIYURO

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## ABSTRACT

The idea and philosophy of drought management includes improved drought monitoring, better water and crop management, augmentation of water supplies with groundwater, increased public awareness and education, intensified watershed and local planning, reduction in water demand, and water conservation. The main aim of this study was to assess factors affecting sustainability of programs in drought areas. The key objectives were to determine how: funding, monitoring and evaluation, action plan and government policies affects drought mitigation programs in Kenya. In order to clearly examine the topic of research, a descriptive method of research was used. This method of research was preferred because the researcher was able to collect data to answer questions concerning the current status of the subject of study. Descriptive research determines and reports the way things are and also helps a researcher to describe a phenomenon in terms of attitude, values and characteristics (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2006). The target population in this study comprised of 61 respondents. This consisted 48 employees and 13 field officers working in Northern Aid organization. The sample size was attained through census. Data was collected by use of questionnaire and use of observation checklist. The key findings were that; funding highly affects drought mitigation programs. To these end, a coordinated approach to funding is key to local mitigation interventions. Monitoring and evaluation of goals and strategies helps in ensuring the objective of drought mitigation is achieved. Monitoring and evaluation of drought mitigation programs involves groups collecting a wider variety of data. This involves monitoring of rangeland conditions, agricultural losses, forest fire hazard, aquatic habitat quality, water shortages, and revenue losses. The monitoring groups produce and share information, and often respond to and support the government (for example, the office of the president) for disaster declarations and to support legislation or special funding requests. Action planning was established affects drought mitigation projects to a very high extent. The study further found out that agencies dealing with drought are guided by government policies. Majority of respondents stated the effect of government policies in mitigating drought as moderate. Key Recommendations include first, the government and all agencies involved in funding of drought mitigation programs should have emergency funds in place in order to speed up and improve mitigation. Second, Responses to drought events should be improved by investing in long-term planning (including food storage practices and facilities) and taking advantage of local community participation and new technology applications that enable sustainability of drought mitigation management. Third, there should be a shift of policy from disaster response to disaster- risk reduction by intensifying monitoring and evaluation of climatic changes in Kenya and development of appropriate policy responses for each geographic zone. This should be based on aggressive promotion of adaptation of action plans in high- risk disaster zones. Forth, In enhancing action plans on livestock management key measures should include the development of road infrastructure to ease cross border communication and marketing of livestock, intensification of water supply and storage facilities, and introduction of livestock insurance schemes to reduce losses in the event of severe drought, and enhanced mechanisms for timely provision of food aid and cash assistance to affected households. Fifth, On Conservation strategies it is recommended that rehabilitation of degraded water catchments areas, promotion of on-farm forestry and development of a sustainable land use policy for common grazing areas should be established. These ensure smooth coordination of programs activities and helps in achievement of drought mitigation goal.