MEASURING RESILIENCE: A STUDY FROM THE CAFÉ PROJECT IN EAST AFRICA

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF'S CAFÉ PROJECT focused on improving coffee farmers' resilience to climate shocks on the slopes of Mt. Elgon in Kenya and Uganda. The main objectives of the project were to teach farmers how to protect their crops against changes in the local micro-climate, optimize farmers' role in the coffee value chain and ensure that farmer cooperatives were providing equitable services to their members. Project activities focused on strengthening farmer associations' management structures, supporting farmers with improved extension services through demonstrations and one-on-one engagement and addressing the cash flow issues that arise at certain points within the production cycle. The CAFÉ project tested a new model for extension service provision by hiring young farmers from the participating communities to provide services and equipping them with smartphones that allowed them to access a digital platform that both collected data and provided information on a variety of agricultural techniques.

The project developed a theory of change for resilience to climate-related shocks that was later integrated into LWR's Design, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (DMEL) framework for this project.

To read more about the CAFÉ project's resilience measurement approach, please see **lwr.org/cafe_technical_brief**. You can also read more about the project's results at **lwr.org/project-evaluation-summary-cafe** or see the evolution of the two CAFÉ project evaluations at **cafeevaluation.wordpress.com**. All of LWR's resilience guidance materials are accessible at **lwr.org/resilience**.

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RESILIENCE MEASUREMENT IN THE CAFÉ PROJECT

The CAFÉ project's Resilience Theory of Change drew on academic literature on resilience as well as LWR's previous experience through resilience-focused projects. CAFÉ project staff designed the Theory of Change around the resilience capacities and the sustainable livelihoods capitals. To better understand what those capacities and capitals really looked like in the context of the Mt. Elgon coffee farming communities, the staff mapped all the project indicators to the capitals as they related to either adaptive or transformative capacity. The table shows some of the results from those indicators at the intersection between the capital and the capacity.

The CAFÉ team knew that strengthening the capitals alone was not sufficient to increase resilience. The team wanted to use the indicators to determine how the capitals form pathways to resilience capacities. In addition to mapping the quantitative data, the project stakeholders went through two participatory evaluations - the midterm and the final evaluations – to further examine how project activities affected household and organizational resilience.

CAPITALS	CAPACITIES: Adaptive	CAPACITIES: Transformative
Social	80% of farmers purchased crop insurance	98% of farmers expressed satisfaction with the services provided by their organization
Human	100% of farmers know at least one way to mitigate climate change effects on their coffee crops	100% of leaders show at least two of the leadership skills they were trained in
Physical	90% of farmers purchased seedlings from their farmer organization at least once	
Natural	100% of farmers use at least one agroforestry practice on their plantations	100% of farmers report feeling prepared to manage the effects of weather-related shocks
Economic	100% of farmers grow at least one of the climate-adapted crop varieties	58% of members acquire inputs from their farmer organization

The table shows a sample of the project's results as mapped to the resilience capacities and the sustainable livelihood capitals. Source: CAFÉ Project monitoring data