

STRENGTHENING LOCAL CAPACITY TO MANAGE EXTERNAL SHOCKS AND RISKS

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INTRODUCTION

- ❑ The 21st Century: An Era of Crises
- ❑ Global shocks disproportionately impact Africa's local communities.
- ❑ Challenges include climate change, pandemics, economic volatility, conflict, and urbanization.
- ❑ The Opportunity: Move from reactive crisis response to proactive, deliberate resilience-building.

Nature of Shocks in Africa

- ❑ Multidimensional & Interconnected Risks
- ❑ Climate Change: From rapid floods (Sierra Leone landslides) to slow-onset desertification.
- ❑ Health Crises: Fragile local health systems exposed by Ebola in Congo and COVID-19.
- ❑ Economic Volatility: Commodity price fluctuations, debt burdens destabilize local livelihoods.
- ❑ Conflict & Insecurity: Fueling displacement and resource competition.
- ❑ Rapid Urbanization: Overstretches infrastructure, informal settlements

Key External Shocks Facing Sierra Leone

- Climate Change: Sierra Leone among top 10 most vulnerable (floods, mudslides).
- Health Crises: Ebola (2014–2016), COVID-19 tested systems.
- Economic Shocks: Commodity price fluctuations, unemployment.
- Conflict & Security: Regional instability affects governance

Why Local Capacity Matters

- Building Resilience from the Ground Up
- First Responders: Local governments are on the front lines during a crisis.
- Contextual Knowledge: Possess unique insights into local vulnerabilities and solutions.
- Community Trust: Responsive local action strengthens the social contract.
- Adaptive Governance: Enables agile, tailored responses to evolving threats.
- Principle of Subsidiarity: Governance is most effective at the lowest level possible.

Case Study (1): Kenya

- County Climate Change Funds
- Mechanism: Devolved fund for county governments to integrate climate adaptation into budgets.
- Example (Isiolo County): Community-led resource mapping and management of water and grazing lands.
- Impact: Empowers local institutions and provides flexible, localized financing for adaptation

Case Study 2: Rwanda

- Decentralized Disaster Management
- Mechanism: Community-based structures for disaster risk management (CBDRM).
- Example: Local leaders trained in early warning systems for floods and landslides.
- Impact: Faster, community-led response and reduced reliance on central government aid.

Case Study 3: Ghana

- Fiscal Autonomy for Crises
- Mechanism: District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) with a portion earmarked for disaster response.
- Example: Rapid deployment of funds for immediate flood response and infrastructure repair.
- Impact: Avoids bureaucratic delays, ensuring a faster and more efficient response

Case Study 4: Sierra Leone

- Post-Ebola and COVID-19 Resilience
- Ebola Lesson: The crisis spurred strong community-based health networks.
- COVID-19 Response: These existing networks enabled a more effective localized response to the pandemic.
- Impact: Illustrates that investing in local structures builds lasting, cross-cutting resilience.

Role of Local Governments (1)

- ❑ Disaster Risk Management: Early warning, evacuation, relief distribution.
- ❑ Health Preparedness: Local clinics, community surveillance systems.
- ❑ Economic Resilience: Supporting MSMEs, food systems.
- ❑ Social Cohesion: Engaging youth, women, traditional leaders.
- ❑ Climate Action: Integrating adaptation into district plans.

Role Of Local Government 2

- Urban resilience: municipalities must integrate land use planning and flood management.
- Social safety nets: local governments can design targeted welfare programs during crises.
- Data role: councils can set up community-based monitoring and reporting systems.

Role of National Government

- Ensure Prompt and reliable release of Funds to the District/Local Government. Eg District Common Fund
- Ensure necessary Legal framework to support Local Government, Subsidiarity, Decentralisation
- Support Human Resource capacity training and building at Local level
- Discourage too much political interference in the work of Local Authorities

Strategic Recommendation 1

- Accelerate Genuine Decentralization
- Goal: Move beyond rhetoric to empower local governments with real authority and resources.
- Key Actions:
 - - Implement phased, systematic transfer of powers.
 - - Establish formal, institutionalized channels for inter-governmental relations.
- Modernize legal frameworks to protect local autonomy

Strategic Recommendation 2

- Foster Fiscal Autonomy and Innovative Financing-
Goal: Equip local governments with flexible, reliable funding for emergencies.
- Key Actions:
 - - Mandate local contingency funds, mirroring Ghana's DACF.
 - - Introduce performance-based grants to incentivize good practice.
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Strategic Recommendations 3

- Explore innovative financing, such as private sector partnerships and community savings, (local emergency funds and insurance schemes)
- Goal: Mobilize diverse resources and expertise for a collective response

Strategic Recommendation 4

- Invest in Community-Based, Technology-Enabled Early Warning Systems
- Goal: Combine traditional knowledge with modern technology for better threat anticipation.
- Key Actions:
 - - Integrate indigenous knowledge with modern tech (e.g., SMS alerts).
 - - Support participatory risk mapping using GIS technology.

Strategic Recommendation 5

- Promote Inclusive and Participatory Governance
- Goal: Ensure resilience strategies are inclusive, legitimate, and owned by the community.
- Key Actions:
 - - Integrate risk assessments into all local development planning.
 - - Engage marginalized groups (women, youth) in decision-making.
 - - Leverage hybrid institutions (formal and traditional) for broader buy-in.

Strategic Recommendation 6

- Cultivate Adaptive Partnerships- universities, NGOs, regional bodies.
- Key Actions:
 - - Build multi-stakeholder collaborations (government, CSOs, private sector, academia).
 - - Facilitate cross-community agreements for managing shared resources.
 - - Strengthen the capacity of local civil society organizations

How AAPAM can Support Sierra Leone

- Technical assistance in capacity building workshops.
- Facilitating peer learning exchanges across Africa.
- Providing tailored research insights and knowledge products.
- Supporting subsidiarity in governance reforms.
- Policy advocacy for decentralization and resilience financing.
- Offer technical guidance on integrating resilience indicators into district monitoring systems.

CONCLUSION 1

- Building a Resilient & Sustainable Africa
- External shocks are inevitable; catastrophic impacts are not.
- Local governments are frontline actors in managing shocks
- Empowering local governments transforms crises into opportunities.
- Resilience and sustainability are interdependent—one cannot exist without the other.

CONCLUSION 2

- The Future: Strong nations are built on strong local institutions that can withstand shocks and build lasting, equitable.
- Building local capacity accelerates SDGs and strengthens governance.
- AAPAM is a partner to Sierra Leone in resilience building.



THANK YOU

