

Assessing The Viability of Using L & IK  
Systems in  
Disaster Risk Management  
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**Sixth Annual IIASA-DPRI Forum  
On  
Disaster Management  
Istanbul  
13-17 August 2006**

# Assessing The Viability of Using **L & IK** Systems in Disaster Risk Management

- 1. Natural and Human Disasters have become so common that insufficient attention paid to the coping mechanisms of the people.**
- 2. Along with these are the changing circumstances in which disasters occur**

# Which Disasters?

- Periodic Floods & Drought
- Diseases & Epidemics
- Earthquakes & Tsunami

oooooo

- **HIV/AIDS**
- **Climate Change**
- **?**

# All Survival & Livelihood Systems is about **Knowledge**

- Present day assumption is that the way forward is the use of modern scientific knowledge.
- Colossal mistake to assume that the way forward is to limp on the leg of modern knowledge.
- The way forward is to run with both feet:  
**1. Modern Scientific 2 Traditional & Proven**

# Proven?

Lions & Igloo

# **Main Disasters Under Changing Circumstances**

1. Population
2. Agriculture
3. Livestock
4. Health
5. Technology

# Changes In Population

- **Population Increase**      0 10m      **O** 35m
- **Shift of population – mainly to the coast**
- **Much greater concentration of population:**      0 .25      **O** 3.2
- **Urbanization: High rise buildings and the **Babel factor**, utilities and power supply**

# Emergence of the formal **DRMU\***

- Disaster/Risk Management Unit (**DRMU**) is located in the Prime Ministers office – est. 1990s
- Second Unit: **TACAIDS** Tanzania HIV/AIDS Commission

Nobody can fault the DRMUs: They integrate, they do their job etc.

# So what is the complaint?

1. **Tendency to ignore the past: Are there lessons from the past, - Institutional memory,**
2. **Reality Factor: Implications of Last Drought,**
3. **The Poverty Factor**
4. **They are Reactive not PROACTIVE**

# The Poverty Factor

- **The formal system pays more attention to the elite.**
  1. **GDP= 10 US \$ Billion**
  2. **Per Capita = \$ 370**
  3. **Increasing disparities in earnings**

**Poverty Eradication a major platform of Tanzania and its partners**

# What are the challenges of **M&SKS** vs **LINKS**

- Absence of an efficient infrastructure
- Human resources
- Investments in **O & M**
- DRM is rarely part of routine responsibility and down-sizing takes place
- Conflict of interests: Period for windfall profits vs offering service

# Disasters: Let us come down to the real world!

1. The Present: **HIV/AIDS**
2. Fairly Soon: **The Next Drought**
3. The Near Future: **Climate Change**

# **HIV/AIDS - What is that?**

- **Juliana, Slim, etc**
- **The estimated number of HIV/AIDS cases hover around 1,700,000 cases**
- **There are more than 3 million orphans**

# The MSKS – The IKS

- 1. You start with what you don't have!**
- 2. You have to create systems which work;**
- 3. You beg**
- 4. You might begin resolving problems in 5-6 years**
- 5. Can you afford it?**

- 1. You start with what you have;**
- 2. The systems are in place;**
- 3. Part of local social responsibility;**
- 4. You could start yesterday;**
- 5. Of course you can afford it – credit is available**

# The Reality Check of MSKS

- 1. You start with what you don't have!**
  - 2. You create systems which work;**
  - 3. You beg**
  - 4. You might begin resolving problems in 5-6 years**
  - 5. Can you afford it?**
- 1. Test Kits, CD Count, Monitoring systems;**
  - 2. Thank you Abbot Laboratory**
  - 3. It requires a great deal of effort;**
  - 4. Good doctors take about 5 years to train;**
  - 5. Of course you cannot afford it!**

# The REALITY CHECK– LINKS

- 1. You start with what you have;**
  - 2. The systems are in place;**
  - 3. Part of local social responsibility;**
  - 4. You could start yesterday;**
  - 5. Of course you can afford it – credit is available**
1. The majority of villages have a healer;
  2. Despite years of neglect TH are ready to work;
  3. TH accept payment even deferred payment;
  4. It was there yesterday and the day before and during the last century
  5. Genuine defaulters are excused

# Some Facts and Figuring

- HIV/AIDS could be considered a disaster.
- Currently donor assistance amounts to over \$ 200 million mainly from US, EU, Japan etc. Enough for about 50,000 HIV/AIDS patients. **So what happens to the remaining 1.7 millions AID cases?**
- What would it cost the GoT to pay for all the cases? **Only about 120% of its export earning per annum, indefinitely!**

# **Fairly Soon: Background to The Next Drought**

- **Africans did not invent Drought....Ask the Greeks, the Chinese or AM/Turner?**
- **It is a very remarkable story but pastoralists can tell you a few things about their livestock; pasture and cattle diseases; My Maasai friend and Tony Blair;**
- **Why has the World Bank stopped funding Pastoralism Projects in Africa?**

# The Next Drought

..... continued

1. The majority of cattle .... will survive,
2. New arrangements will have to be found
3. More attention will have to be paid to be value adding capacity

**But the basic message still remains...The pastoralists have survived because of their LINKS!**

# **The Near Future: Climate Change**

- **Climate Change – The Environment of the Warufiji**
- **We could go the engineering route but after New Orleans I am not sure.**
- **The NCCP is assisting Tanzania – The obvious question rose? How will people cope with Climate Change & Sea Level Rise of 1 metre?**

# The Reality of the Warufiji

- 1. Have lived in the delta for centuries and for a while harboured a greco-roman settlement;**
- 2. Their knowledge of their environment is quite remarkable;**
- 3. All the nine major mangrove plants are known by name and qualities;**
- 4. Houses are built on stilts; multiple cropping depending on micro-environmental factors; multiple livelihoods: fishing; agriculture, trading;**
- 5. Had 24 varieties of rice including a variety that grew rapidly and “floated”**

# The Reality of the Warufiji

....continued

- **A normal flood of 4 metres is a good year but a 7 metre flood would lead to losses;**
- **Could they survive a 1 metre rise of the sea?**

**I think so.**

# Disaster Risk Management...

**Requires the following:**

- 1. All knowledge systems working together; (Walking on two legs)**
- 2. Maximum participation of those at greatest risk;**
- 3. Greater understanding among people**