Developing an Early Warning System for Monitoring Drought and Ethnic Conflict for Poverty Alleviation in Tana River District, Kenya

Mary Amuyunzu-Nyamongo
Ezekiel Mbitha Mwenzwa

DEVELOPING AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR MONITORING DROUGHT AND ETHNIC CONFLICT FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN TANA RIVER DISTRICT, KENYA

Research proposal

Presented to

Poverty and Economic Policy Network

By

Lead Researcher: Dr. Mary Amuyunzu-Nyamongo
Co-Researcher: Mr. Ezekiel Mbitha Mwenzwa
African Institute for Health and Development (AIHD)
P.O. Box 45259 00100
TelFax: +254-020-3874621/3873385
Nairobi, Kenya
Website: www.aihd.org (under construction)

Date: April 30, 2006
Abstract
Internal and external conflicts have increased in African countries since independence and especially after the cold war. Whenever civil war occurs, it has often led to destruction of lives and property, leaving behind it a great trail of human suffering. In Kenya, where ethnic conflict has occurred in Rift Valley, Coast and North Eastern provinces, the impact has been devastating. Ethnic conflict in Tana River District can be traced back to 1948, which has resulted in the retardation of socio-economic development. It is against this background that the current study seeks to examine the timing, causes, consequences and the best practices to deal with drought and ethnic conflict. Specifically, it aims at developing an early warning system to monitor drought and ethnic conflict.

The study will be carried out in the three divisions of Bura, Galole and Garsen in Tana River District, Kenya. This will be a collaborative study between the African Institute for Health & Development (AIHD), the government of Kenya and the communities. It will utilize participatory tools of data collection (historical timelines, seasonal calendar, problem analysis flow diagrams, focus group discussions and key informant interviews). An interviewer-based questionnaire will be administered to 685 respondents drawn from the three divisions. It is envisaged that minimizing the effects of drought and tensions that lead to ethnic conflict would significantly contribute to poverty reduction. Peace and security in this district would allow people to engage in agricultural and livestock production, and other income generating activities with minimal worries of possible attacks. The study is expected to contribute to the government’s and its development partners’ drought preparedness plans and conflict resolution not only in Tana River district but also in other areas with similar characteristics.
1.0. Main research questions and core research objectives

1.1. Research objectives

This study will be guided by the following research objectives:

1. Determine the causes of drought and ethnic conflict in Tana River District;
2. Understand the relationship between ethnic conflict and drought on one hand and poverty on the other;
3. Determine the effects of poverty on the ability of households to access other social services such as health, education and safe drinking water;
4. Assess the local governance structures, their effectiveness and impact in mitigating the effects of ethnic conflict and drought;
5. Assess the poverty reduction initiatives already in place and their viability; and
6. Document best practices that can be put in place to minimize the effects of drought and ethnic tensions and thus reduce poverty.

1.2. Research questions

On the basis of the stated objectives, the study will address the following core questions:

1. What are the causes of drought and ethnic conflict in Tana River District?
2. Is there a relationship between drought and ethnic conflict in the district?
3. Is there a relationship between drought and ethnic conflict on one hand and poverty on the other?
4. How does poverty impact on the ability of the household to access other social services including education, health and water?
5. What governance structures are in place for the exploitation of natural resources, such as water and pasture?
6. What poverty reduction initiatives are in place at the present in Tana River District?
7. What are the best practices (taking into view traditional systems) to minimize effects of drought and ethnic conflict in Tana River District?

2.0. Knowledge gaps and scientific contribution of the research

There are yearly reports in Tana River District of acute drought that is often followed by ethnic conflict around sharing of natural resources (WLEA, 2002). Both drought and ethnic conflict retard development and thus entrench poverty (Omosa, 2005; USAID & CARE, 2001). This is because as drought compels local people to deplete their savings in the purchase of food and meeting other basic needs, ethnic conflict does not only lead to destruction of human life, but also property including crops, livestock and shelter (Ndurubagiye, 1996; Kimenyi, 2002; Heinrich, 1997; Horowitz, 1985). Indeed, ethnic conflict compromises the ability of individuals to engage in economic activities including trade and farming. This impacts negatively on savings and entrenches poverty leading to destitution, especially in resource-scarce environments such as Tana River District. In Tana River district in particular, conflict is in the form of inter-tribal wars often centering on communal resources like water and pasture (WLEA, 2002; GoK, 2002). Whereas in Northern Kenya conflict is mainly between pastoralists, in Tana River District, the story is a little bit different. Here, it is conflict between peasant farmers (Pokomo) on one hand and pastoralists (Orma and Wardei) on the other.

The conflict between these communities has persisted as long as they have lived together. This is despite the fact that they pursue different socio-economic and to some extent religious orientations. Whereas the Wardei and Orma are mainly nomadic Muslim communities, their Pokomo counterparts are largely Christian peasant farmers, with few Muslims. Although there has been intermarriage between the communities, this has not helped cease the hostilities (WLEA, 2002). In addition, the whole district falls in the ASAL ecological zone that
is known for few economic opportunities as a result of frequent droughts often accompanied by ethnic conflict as communities compete for scarce resources, including water (Wasamba, 1999; GoK, 2002).

Although there have been concerted efforts by the non-governmental organizations and faith-based groups, particularly Catholic Diocese of Garissa, and the Government of Kenya to resolve these conflicts, conflict in Tana River District has continually led to loss of human life and property (GoK, 2002; WLEA, 2002). Above all, with all this knowledge, there has not been an intervention by way of developing an early warning system against drought and ethnic conflict in the district and the country in general (IPAR, 2002; NCCK, 2001). The proposed study is aimed at developing such an early warning system in Tana River District that would inform the district and serve as a model to be replicated in other parts of the country with similar tensions.

3.0. Policy relevance

3.1. Importance of the study

The Government of Kenya has developed an economic and development strategy - the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation (GoK, 2003). One of the aims of this strategy is the development of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) through improvement of security and diversification of livelihoods. In Kenya and many other developing countries, it is more the practice than the exception for the government to initiate development initiatives without a fair understanding of the local needs (Chitere, 1994; Kona, 1999; Chitambar, 2001; Mulwa & Nguluu, 2003). An example in this regard is the Bura Irrigation Scheme in Tana River District that interfered with the livelihoods of the pastoralists and thus failed. Indeed, it is important that before initiating any development project in Tana River District, ethnic sensibilities that could derail development should be taken care of. It is thus important to undertake a participatory study on drought and ethnic conflict and their impact on local poverty indicators including food security and livestock production to generate a deeper understanding of the issues.

3.2. Decentralization policy and local governance structure

The Government of Kenya in the early 1980s came up with a decentralization policy, the District Focus for Rural Development Strategy (DFRDS). This gave the district development planning team the power to plan for local development, with technical and financial supervision of the central government. Thus, every district in Kenya including Tana River, has a District Development Committee (DDC) composed of district level government officials (District Commissioner, District Development Officer, Officer Commanding Police Division and other departmental heads) and local leaders (including members of parliament, civic leaders/councilors, women and youth leaders). In addition, most districts have a presence of NGOs engaged in various sectors including water, health, governance and conflict resolution. In addition, there are several ministries in the Government of Kenya, each of which is headed by a Minister and assisted by technical bureaucrats. In particular, there is in Kenya under the Office of the President, a Minister in Charge of Special Programmes (that include emergencies, disaster operations, response to drought and floods, etc). Each of the ministries including the one in charge of Special Programmes is represented at the district level. It is through these representatives that possible collaborators and avenues of involvement will be identified and made part of the CBMS team. Hereunder is presented the structure of the Government of the Republic of Kenya.
3.3. Structure of the Government of the Republic Kenya and its relevance to CBMS
The Government of Kenya has an elaborate bureaucratic structure from the national to the village level, which is hereunder presented.

Figure 1: Structure of the Government of the Republic of Kenya.

Key:
1. National/Central Government headed by an elected President and the Cabinet of Ministers
2. Provinces that are each headed by a Provincial Commissioner, a central government appointee.
3. Districts that are each headed by a District Commissioner, a central government appointee.
4. Divisions that are each headed by a District Officer, a central government appointee
5. Locations each headed by a Chief, a central government appointee.
6. Sub-locations each headed by an Assistant Chief, a central government appointee.
7. Villages each headed by a Village Headman/woman who is not an official government appointee, but appointed by the Chief or Assistant Chief to assist him/her.
8. Households. This is however not a government, but a social structure.
Kenya is divided into 8 provinces each headed by a Provincial Commissioner (PC). The provinces are further divided into smaller administrative units called districts, each of which is under a District Commissioner (DC). Each district is further divided into much smaller administrative units called divisions each headed by a District Officer (DO). The divisions are divided into much smaller unit called locations each of which is headed by an officer called a Chief. The locations are divided into sub-locations that are placed under the headship of an Assistant Chief. Sub-locations are further divided into villages headed by Village Headmen/women. The foregoing set up is commonly known as the Provincial Administration. It is noteworthy to mention that a single village is made up of several households and has a population that is fairly small for the Village Headmen/women to virtually know everybody, except perhaps where the population is cosmopolitan as in some urban areas.

In each of these layers of government bureaucracy, the subordinate level is directly answerable to the next (upper) level structure up to the national or central government. When it comes to implementation of development activities, the district level is the most important and all the structures at this level (from the village to the district) work as a team. Thus, in each of the levels, there are potential government and non-governmental stakeholders for CBMS. However, the district is the most appropriate given that it is the local development coordinating arm of the central government and for which every stakeholder by law should work with.

3.4. Relationship with government policy
The Government of Kenya has developed a Poverty Reduction Strategy aimed at uplifting the living standards of its people. However, to effectively implement any development initiative aimed at uplifting the livelihoods of the people, it is prudent to investigate why the livelihoods are at the level at which they are in the first place (Bergdall, 1993). A recent government study on poverty put Tana River District among the poorest districts in Kenya, positioned at 65 out of 72 districts (CBS et al., 2005). One of the shortcomings of this study, however, is that it did not look at the causes and impacts of poverty rather it only measured specific indicators at a very general level. In addition, the study did not seek to determine what specific factors lead to poverty especially among the pastoral-nomadic ethnic groups where ethnic conflict has produced a situation tantamount to permanent insecurity (Wasamba, 1999). This creates a gap with regard to addressing the most appropriate and culture sensitive interventions in any one area, thus necessitating a study such as the one we propose.

4.0. Methodology

4.1 Selection of study site
The district has been selected purposively for the reason that it is one of the poorest in the country and prone to both drought and ethnic conflict. The selection of Bura, Garsen and Galole divisions was also deliberate due to the multi-ethnic nature of the inhabitants. The inhabitants who are peasant farmers (Pokomo) and nomadic pastoralists (Wardei and Orma) pursue different livelihoods that contribute to ethnic tensions and conflict, which are our main study focus.

4.2 Data collection

4.2.1. Poverty indicators in Kenya
In Kenya poverty is multifaceted, therefore efforts to fight it must be multidimensional, involving multiple actors undertaking complementary roles. Some of the poverty indicators that this study will utilize include:

- **Food security** (number of meals a day and whether it is a balanced diet),
- **Shelter** (room for all family members and the construction materials),
- **Family size and type** (number of income earners and dependants, number of wives and children)
- **Occupation** (subsistence versus commercial agriculture, white collar, casual, etc)
- **Income** (against dependants, level, whether it is regular and its source),
• Expenditure (% of household income spent on basic as opposed to secondary and tertiary human needs, % of household income invested if at all and on what?)
• Land (size, use and productivity including implements and technology used in production),
• Education (levels attained and the benefits accrued),
• Water (distance to water points, reliability and fitness for human consumption),
• Health (including distance to health facilities, availability of drugs and quality and cost of and satisfaction with services, health status at the time of data collection),
• Diseases (especially preventable diseases that largely involve observance of simple hygiene measures such hand washing).

The foregoing indicators have been selected for this study because they have a direct bearing on poverty in Kenya. For example, large family size is associated with higher incidence of poverty as most of the members are likely to be young people, while educational attainment has been related to improved earnings, consequently lowering poverty levels (Manda et al., 2001). In addition, the poor are likely to be sick more often, take longer to heal and register higher ill-health induced fatalities than the non-poor (Watkins, 1995). Hence, disease incidences are more pronounced among the poor than the non-poor with the poor being unable to cope due to inadequate access to health facilities. An examination of these factors, among others that are specific to the study sites, will be carried out to determine local poverty levels and whether these are related to drought and ethnic conflict.

4.2.2. Participatory data collection
This will be a participatory study that will seek to engage the community members in in-depth discussions regarding the community life, their cultural ways of relating to their neighbors, conflict resolution strategies and the changes that have taken place over time. The study will be inclusive, targeting respondents from the three communities while at the same time focusing on the elderly, adult men and women and the youth (the latter regarded as future leaders and communities). The participatory tools to be used by the study will include historical timelines, seasonal calendars, problem analysis flow diagrams, focus group discussions and key informant interviews, as briefly described below.

1. Historical timelines: This will provide a historical perspective of ethnic conflict and its relationship to drought and poverty among the communities. Discussions will be held with elderly people in the community to identify fault lines in their communities and warning signs that were and are used to indicate pending ethnic tensions. Specific issues to be explored will include drought cycles, famine, conflicts and causes of conflicts and the casualties suffered by the communities.

2. Seasonal calendars: This technique will be used to map out annual occurrence of the two phenomena that is drought and ethnic conflict. It is from the determination of the annual occurrence or likely occurrence that an early warning system would be developed based on both community and expert opinion. For example, if drought is likely to occur every August or after every two years, it would be easy to put in place mechanisms for mitigating it in good time.

3. Problem analysis flow diagrams: This tool will be used to analyze drought and ethnic conflict as the main problems. It will involve asking the community members about the possible causes of drought and ethnic conflict, their impacts and possible solutions.

4. Focus group discussions (FGDs): This tool will be used to gather community perceptions towards drought and ethnic conflict including their causes, timing and their likely impacts both on human beings and property. FGDs will also be used to capture what the community will consider best practices that will be followed towards minimizing ethnic tensions and possible conflict whether verbal or physical. There will be 18 FGDs – 6 per division that will comprise of male/female youth, adult
men/women and elderly men/women. All groups will be segregated by gender to allow free discussions among the participants.

5. **Key informant interviews (KIIs):** Local opinion leaders (including village elders and clan leaders), government officials and other service providers such as directors of local NGOs, CBOs and FBOs will be interviewed on the central issues identified for this project. This tool will mainly target categories of people who are knowledgeable about the local socio-political dynamics including causes of ethnic conflict. Victims of conflict will be sought and interviewed to gain an insight on the causes of conflict and vulnerability to conflict. In-depth interview guides will be developed in line with each study objective. In total 45 key informant interviews will be conducted – 15 in each of the three divisions. Should the need arise more key informants will be interviewed.

### 4.2.3. Quantitative data collection

To complement the qualitative data collection tools, a quantitative component will be implemented to capture views from the broader population regarding ethnic conflict and the most effective ways of predicting, addressing and avoiding ethnic tensions before they escalate into conflict. A standardized questionnaire will be developed and administered to a sizable proportion of all sedentary and non-sedentary households among the Pokomo, Wardei and Orma ethnic groups since they are the combatants in the three divisions. Thus, owing to the vastness of the three divisions, proportionate samples will be determined for each ethnic group in each division and then questionnaires administered to this sample. Due to the need to collect as much information as possible, it is proposed that the study will interview 50% of the households in each division and from each ethnic community. Information on the number of households in each division and for each ethnic group will be obtained from local level provincial administration officials such as chiefs, their assistants and village headmen/women. These normally have the most reliable data on households because they use the data on a daily basis for purpose of the distributing public resources such as government or NGO relief food. It is from this data that proportionate samples for the respective divisions and communities will be determined. For this reason, sampling will be done at two levels: that of the division and the community. The following is a probable sampling frame.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: Probable sampling frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Division</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total households</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From table 1, out of the probable sample of 730 Pokomo ethnic group households in the three divisions, 50% (365) will be included in the interview. On the other hand, out of 450 households in Garsen Division (for all communities), 50% (225, that is 115 for Pokomo, 65 for Orma and 45 for Wardei) will be involved in the study. In addition, it is worth to note that this will be done in 50% of the villages for each ethnic community in the three divisions. The settlement patterns for each community are that they reside separately and therefore identifying a Wardei or Orma village would be easy given that research assistants will be local residents.

The mobile nature of some of the households may impact negatively on the viability of the findings in the long run. For example, owing to the vastness of the study areas and insecurity (in form of banditry), to get into the very interior of the study areas to follow up on migratory pastoralists may be both risky and difficult. The latter is particularly due to poorly developed road network amidst difficult terrain. Nonetheless, since the mobile population is to be found among the pastoralists (Wardei and Orma), livestock migratory routes will be
identified through the local Livestock and Fisheries Department. Information gathered from this source will be complemented by the study enumerators who will be local people well versed with the local migratory trends. Once routes are identified, members of the migratory households will be followed up and interviewed. Once one group of migratory households is identified, other will be identified through the mud-ball sampling method. This is based on the reasoning that nomadic pastoralists have networks and well-defined migration agreements such that they migrate in different directions to avoid congestion of livestock in a single grazing or cattle watering point. Indeed, information on the number of non-sedentary households will be sought from the Tana River District Information and Documentation Center (DIDC) and the District Statistics Office (DSO).

For the purpose of a pilot-test of the study instruments, 3 households will be interviewed from each of the 3 ethnic communities in each of the 3 divisions making a total of 27 households. After this pre-test, the instruments will be fined-tuned based on the pilot test experience to make sure that they not only collect the correct information about also as much of it as possible. Care will be taken to ensure gender equality in the selection of study participants from each division and ethnic group. In addition, another factor to be considered while selecting participants would be age such that it is not just old or young people who are interviewed, rather have proportionate or near-proportionate age balance, the latter where it can be difficult.

4.3 Data analysis: Data collected from the participatory process will be analyzed manually according to the study themes. The community members will be facilitated to participate in the analysis process (e.g. developing charts on the historical timelines and seasonal calendars) while the research team will be responsible for analyzing the FGD and KII data. All the FGDs will be tape-recorded and transcribed. The quantitative data will be analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

4.4. The CBMS team

A Project Team will be put in place made up of government district representatives (these shall include representatives from each of the participating divisions), NGOs involved in poverty/conflict alleviation, local community leaders and members. Some officials at the provincial and national levels will definitely be involved and incorporated as part of the CBMS team. This will be important for future rollout of the CBMS in other drought and ethnic conflict endemic districts in Kenya. This team will plan the study and direct the implementation and dissemination activities. The involvement of chiefs, their assistants, women and youth leaders is important because these remain local opinion leaders and by-passing them is likely to spell doom to the CBMS for without them community mobilization during both the study and the implementation of the CBMS can be hard to come by.

In addition, while it is a legal requirement that local leaders and especially government officials who include the chiefs and their assistants must be involved in any development project, the afore-mentioned local leaders are the entry points into the communities who are supposedly CBMS beneficiaries. Indeed, local leaders are key in the mobilization of the community as local development advocates/agents. It is only through the incorporation and involvement of these stakeholders that the CBMS information would acquire local ownership and legitimacy, thus ensuring its sustainability and possible duplicability in other areas of the country with similar needs as those of Tana River District. The Government of Kenya is known for working with non-governmental stakeholders especially in matters directly benefiting the community such as the CBMS. For this reason, since the CBMS fits directly into the government decentralization and community development policy, it is expected that bringing the government and other stakeholders on board is inevitable and would be welcomed on the part of government. This will be done through the national offices that would be requested to clear local (district) level government officials to be actively involved in the CBMS work.

Specifically, it is proposed that the CBS team will have representatives from all the divisions and these will include government officials, NGO, Faith-Based and Community Based organizations. The inclusion-
exclusion criteria for representatives from each division will be left to the respective residents. The aim of doing this is to allow residents to choose/nominate people of their own choice and who they think are well-placed to adequately represent them. This will essentially go along way to instill community ownership of the CBMS and by so doing ensure its sustainability. In addition, the CBMS information would be a potential tool for both local and national planning and budgeting. For example, once it is known when ethnic conflict is likely to erupt, contingent plans can be made not only to reconcile the parties, but also for the beefing up of security in terms of additional security personnel, which has financial implications.

5.0. Data requirements and sources

This study requires both quantitative and qualitative data, which will be obtained from the community members, government officials, NGO, FBO and CBO officials and community opinion leaders. Efforts will be made for the process to be inclusive that is engaging the elderly, women and youth. This information will be obtained using various data collection techniques as outlined in the methodology section (see 4.0.). A review of published and unpublished literature from organizations working in the district and elsewhere will also be conducted to provide a broader understanding of issues in the geographical area of study and on the topic.

Recruitment and training of research assistants

Apart from Dr. Amuyunzu-Nyamongo and Mr. Mwenzwa who will oversee the implementation of the study, 12 enumerators (4 per site – 2 males and 2 females) will be recruited to assist with data collection. All the research assistants will be recruited in Tana River District and the main criteria will be residence in the area and knowledge of the predominant language(s). The research assistants will be centrally trained at the district headquarters for 4 days before disbursing to their respective divisions. Doing this will allow participation of local people in the actual work and building upon their knowledge during and after data collection.

6.0. Validation and information dissemination strategies

The findings will be disseminated at various levels. There will be feedback meetings organized for the participating communities. Through these meetings, the information will be validated before wider dissemination and any concerns raised by the community members during the feedback (validation) will be taken into consideration. The purpose of this validation will be to ensure that the information collected is accurate while at the same time helping the communities to understand their own problems and thereby ensuring ownership of the CBMS findings. A meeting will be organized and facilitated by the Project Team at the district and divisional levels.

The divisional level validation will be made up of divisional level stakeholders including the community, local leaders and government and local NGO officials. The district level validation will bring together stakeholders from each division, NGO, FBO, CBO, provincial and national representatives to discuss the study findings. We consider this a key group to consume the information gathered because it will also be involved in the implementation of the CBMS (early warning system). This forum will provide the community and all other stakeholders, including the government, an opportunity to discuss the issues of ethnic conflict and identify ways of solving it in an attempt to alleviate its adverse effects and thus poverty in their midst. Specifically, provincial and national/central government representation will be important for the purpose of initiating the same CBMS in other drought and ethnic conflict endemic areas of the country.

For the purpose of disseminating at the village level, this will be assigned to respective Divisional Development Committees (DDCs) under the guidance of an officer from African Institute Health Development (AIHD) in collaboration with divisional level leaders (including DOs, Chiefs and their assistants, civic leaders/councillors, women and youth group leaders among other interest groups. For broader dissemination, the study findings will be posted on both Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Network and the African
Institute for Health & Development websites (www.aihd.org) (the latter’s is under construction). In addition, in consultation with PEP, the Institute will avail copies of the findings to the Government of Kenya (through the relevant ministry in-charge of disaster response and internal security) and other interested parties including NGOs. The researchers, with the permission of PEP, will endeavour to publish the results in peer reviewed international journals for wider dissemination at the global level.

7.0. Expected capacity building

The tools being utilized by this study provide a process that enhances the community’s capacity to analyse its issues. The historical timelines and construction of seasonal calendars are inclusive processes that allow the community to critically look at itself, and in so doing develop a means to analysing its own issues. In addition, the early warning system will enhance the capacity of the government and other organizations working in the district to predict and therefore address tensions in the community before they erupt into conflict. In addition, local people will be recruited as enumerators and trained in the various data collection tools, thereby creating an important resource within the community. Moreover, the local enumerators will also be involved in the implementation of the CBMS (early warning system) and trained as Community Own Resource Persons (CORPS). This is intended to give the process credibility in the eyes of the community and therefore make it community-owned and managed. This approach has been adopted due to an understanding of the fact that local problems are better solved locally with the intended beneficiaries playing a central role from planning to implementation and in the sustainability mechanisms.

From an organizational perspective, the process of carrying out this study will improve our ability to work among a diverse group of people. The research assistants to be involved in this project will be trained in the various data collection tools providing a resource for the Institute.

8.0. Ethical, social, gender or environmental issues in related areas involving team members

8.1. Ethical issues
The research protocol will be passed through ethical clearance at the Ministry of Education, the government ministry in charge of research clearance. In addition, participation of the community members in this study will be voluntary. Consent forms will be designed and each potential participant will be asked whether he/she will be willing to participate. They will be informed about the importance of their participation but at the same time be given the option to decline before or in the course of the interview.

8.2. Social and gender issues
The implementation of the research will be initiated through discussions with the government district leaders and the local leaders (chiefs, clan and village elders). The communities will be informed of the import of the study and encouraged to participate. However, deliberate efforts will be made to involve women and the youth, the latter who are seen as the future of the community.

Gender issues have been considered in this project, mainly from the composition of the study team and the operationalization of the project in the study communities. The lead researcher is a woman supported by a man while half of the twelve research assistants will be women. In addition, due to cultural issues, men and women will be engaged separately in some aspects of the study (e.g. FGDs) to avoid any conflict. As much as possible female enumerators will interview female respondents and vice versa.
9.0. List of past, current or pending projects in related areas involving team members

The Institute has just completed a national study for the World Bank – Country Social Vulnerability Assessment. The study involved Isiolo District, which is mainly inhabited by Borana – a pastoralist ethnic group that has similar experiences (drought and ethnic conflict) to those of Tana River residents. In addition, the Institute has just concluded an evaluation report from a four-district study for the African Medical and Research Foundation, which included Turkana District, one of the most drought and ethnic conflict-prone districts of Kenya. Mr. Ezekiel Mwenzwa was specifically in-charge of Turkana District during the AMREF evaluation, while Dr. Amuyunzu-Nyamongo coordinated the four-district studies. In addition, while Dr. Amuyunzu-Nyamongo has spearheaded national participatory poverty assessment studies, Mr. Mwenzwa’s special interest is on rural development, ethnic conflict, poverty and human rights. The capacities of the two researchers, backed by the rest of the AIHD team, are capable of delivering on the stated project objectives.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY STATEMENT

The AIHD was established in April 2004 and registered in Nairobi, Kenya by a group of accomplished African researchers and academicians. The Institute’s main focus is on conducting research, training and advocacy on health and development issues that are contextually relevant to Kenya and the African continent. The Institute is also involved in policy formulation on key development issues such as HIV and AIDS, poverty alleviation and malaria, while looking at these from a human rights perspective. The Institute works closely with local and international development partners, such as the International Union of Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), MAP International, African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) and the World Bank. The founder members have been involved in development work in various capacities in Kenya and in the region.

A Board of Directors drawn from accomplished scientists, financial and legal experts, manages the Institute. In addition, the Institute has an external audit report (2004-2005), which provides an up-to-date statement of accounts and procedures. This report is available for perusal by partners and other interested parties.

To accomplish its various activities the Institute has the vision of “Working with communities for better lives” which it seeks to adapt in all its activities. The main focus is on building the capacity of community groups; facilitate resourcing from within; and in-building sustainable mechanisms. AIHD is also committed to building the capacity of young people to work with communities ensuring a generation of trained and capable professionals in community development.

The bios for the founder members and programme staff are outlined below.

Founder members

**Dr. Mary Amuyunzu-Nyamongo** holds a PhD in Social Anthropology, (University of Cambridge, UK, 1994) and she is currently the Executive Director. She has previously worked with African Population and Health Research Centre, The Population Council, African Medical and Research Foundation and Kenya Medical Research Institute. She has been involved in a range of programme management, research activities and project evaluations in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Malawi, Ghana and Burkina Faso.

**Dr. Kaendi Munguti** holds a PhD in Medical Anthropology (UCLA, Los Angeles, USA, 1994). Dr. Munguti has worked as a Regional Advisor in the field of malaria for the World Health Organization, Africa Regional
Office. She has offered technical support on malaria to Ministries of Health in countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, and Zambia among others.

Prof. Isaac K. Nyamongo holds a PhD in Medical Anthropology (University of Florida, Gainesville USA, 1998). He is currently the Director of the Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi-Kenya. His main research focus has been on health seeking behaviour, HIV and AIDS and malaria. He has participated in capacity development programmes in Malawi, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Eritrea. He has conducted research activities in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Eritrea.

Ms. Lynette Okeng’o holds an MA in Education, Education Psychology (Kenyatta University, Kenya, 1995). She is currently finalizing her PhD on Early Childhood at Kenyatta University. Ms. Okeng’o has a wealth of experience in early childhood development. She is conversant with statistical methods, which brings a vital linkage to the qualitative skills on the team.

Programme staff

Ezekiel M. Mwenzwa (Programme Officer) holds an MA in Sociology (Gender and Rural Development, University of Nairobi, 2005). His main research and programmatic interests are in rural development, human rights and ethnic conflict, rural development, governance and crime. He has previously participated in several studies in the country on HIV and AIDS, disability and ethnic conflict.

Mercy K. Tero (Programme Officer) holds an MEd in Educational Research and Evaluation (The Catholic University of Eastern Africa, 2005). Her main research and programme focus is on monitoring and evaluation, with a bias to human development matters including gender, health, education and general public service provision.

Rahel A. Oyugi (Programme Officer) is currently completing an MA in Sociology (medical sociology) at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. She has extensive experience in field studies especially among the poor in both rural and urban areas of Kenya. She has been involved in research activities conducted by AIHD since June 2004. Before joining AIHD, she was a field supervisor for the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) for over 5 years.

Wilson Gituma (Field Officer) has many years of research in informal settlements. He is responsible for project activities in Mitumba informal settlement where the Institute is partnering with the community to implement health and development related interventions.
10.0. Work plan

The study is set to take 14 weeks as shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Weeks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initiation of study in the district and formation of a project team</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation of study tools</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruitment and training of RAs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilot test study instruments, analyse data and review instruments</td>
<td>4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data collection and analysis</td>
<td>7, 8, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report writing</td>
<td>10, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissemination of study findings</td>
<td>12, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11.0. Short list of key references


