

## Resilience of Ethiopian Communities: Measure, Understand and Act



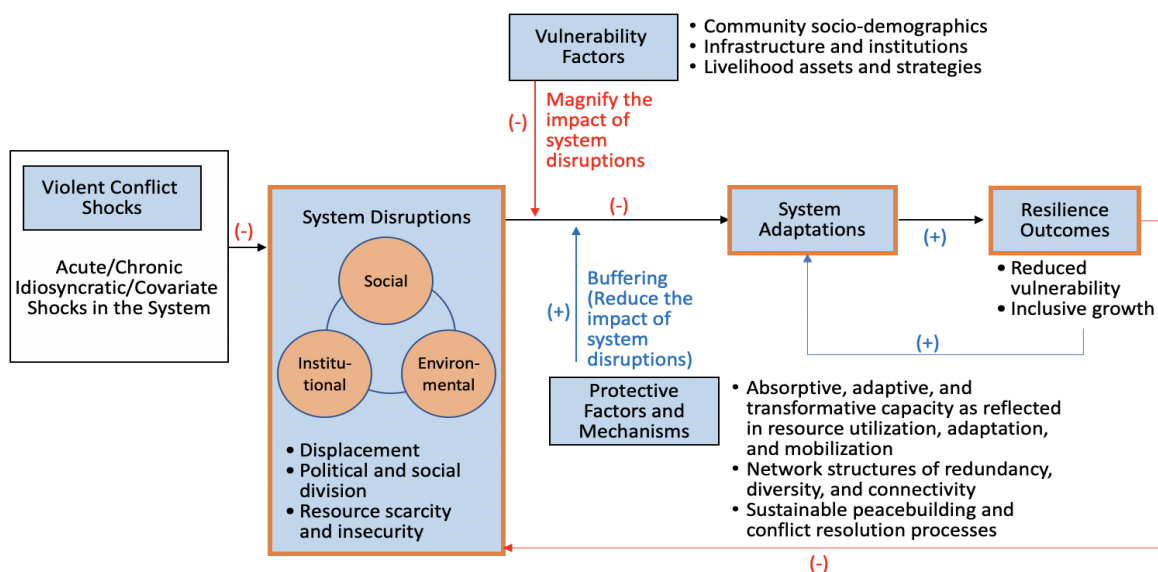
Our research findings reveal a **locally driven resilience system** that is grounded in a web of local, community level relationships.

The conflict ecosystem in the northwestern Somali region is complex and dynamic, consisting of an interdependent system of social and environmental shocks such as conflict and drought which community members respond to with local resources and capacities. We utilized a networks, systems, and human-centered design approach to understand community-level resilience to recurring violent conflict shocks.

This translational research addresses two sets of development challenges. How do communities stay resilient to recurring violent conflict shocks when simultaneously affected by other kinds of shocks? How can we enhance programming to inspire community resilience to recurring violent conflict shocks given the diverse needs of the groups affected? The figure below illustrates the key components of our study.

Our study is situated in the Gursum and Babile woredas in Ethiopia's Somali region. The woredas are the sites of intense competition over resources such as land, water, grazing and farming areas between the Oromo and Somali communities. They are also sites of recurring conflicts. Drawing on academic and grey literature to design our research, we utilized three different data sources: publicly available secondary data, 12 focus group interviews, and 750 individual surveys.

**Our data reveal local relationships and strategies, differentiated by women and men, age groups, and other social groups for responding to shocks.** Community members are dependent on each other, and they trust local (community level) actors more than federal actors. We found that locally driven processes exist and are utilized by community members. Specifically, these locally driven processes are: (a) local processes for preventing conflict and addressing resource shortages and (b) local ways of enforcing rules.



## Findings can influence future programming in the following ways:

- Encourage programming to include measures to support communities in preparing for and responding to different types of shocks as they are likely to continue.
- Acknowledge the interconnectedness of shocks, such as conflict, climate change, and economic instability as well as vulnerabilities faced by communities.
- Recognize that different social groups are experiencing conflict differently and to target them accordingly.
- Recognize and strengthen the informal organizing and networks of women in conflict-affected communities.
- Programming should aim to address the underlying reasons for mistrust toward social groups and work towards building stronger relationships across community members and groups.
- Encourage programming to recognize and prioritize the importance of locally driven community resilience strategies and mechanisms and building on existing capacities and strengths of communities.

**A systems, networks, and human-centered design approach to assessing the resilience of Ethiopian communities experiencing recurring violent conflict shocks**

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<https://laserpulse.org/portfolio/resilience-of-ethiopian-communities/>



Source: ACPA, June 2022

