

# RESILIENT WATERS PROGRAM BASELINE STUDY MENONGUE AND CAIUNDO

USAID's Resilient Waters Program aims to **build more resilient and water-secure communities** in the Okavango and Limpopo river basins. Resilient Waters focuses specifically on transboundary water security and resource management; safe, sustainable drinking water and sanitation services; climate change adaptation; and conserving biodiversity and ecosystems.

The purpose of this document is to:

- Provide the communities of Menongue and Caiundo with feedback from our study;
- Highlight priority areas for Menongue and Caiundo to become more resilient; and
- Facilitate a planning session based on the information we have collected.

## MENONGUE AND CAIUNDO AT A GLANCE

We interviewed 124 people in Menongue and Caiundo

The distribution of people interviewed was almost equally split between those older and younger than 35.



The split between men and women interviewed was almost equal



In Menongue and Caiundo, **government relief and farming** are key sources of income.

### Understanding of resilience in Menongue and Caiundo



Sources of natural shocks and stressors in **Menongue and Caiundo** are **extreme droughts**

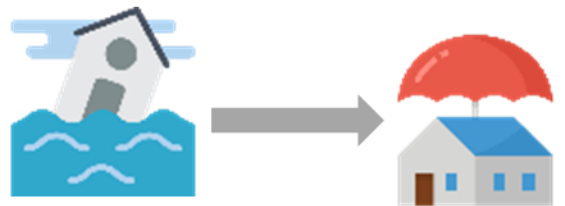


These shocks and stressors negatively impact households involved in agriculture. This negatively affects food security in **Menongue and Caiundo**.



In **Menongue and Caiundo**, resilience is seen as **social protection from the government**.

## What is resilience?



**Resilience** is the ability to respond to shocks and stressors. There are four dimensions of resilience.

## Absorptive Capacity



Can we **protect** ourselves and **cope** with events?



## Adaptive Capacity

Can we **adjust** the way we live after an event has happened?

## Anticipatory Capacity



Can we make a **plan** for other events that might happen to us?



## Transformative Capacity

Can we **change the way that we do things** based on what we have learned?



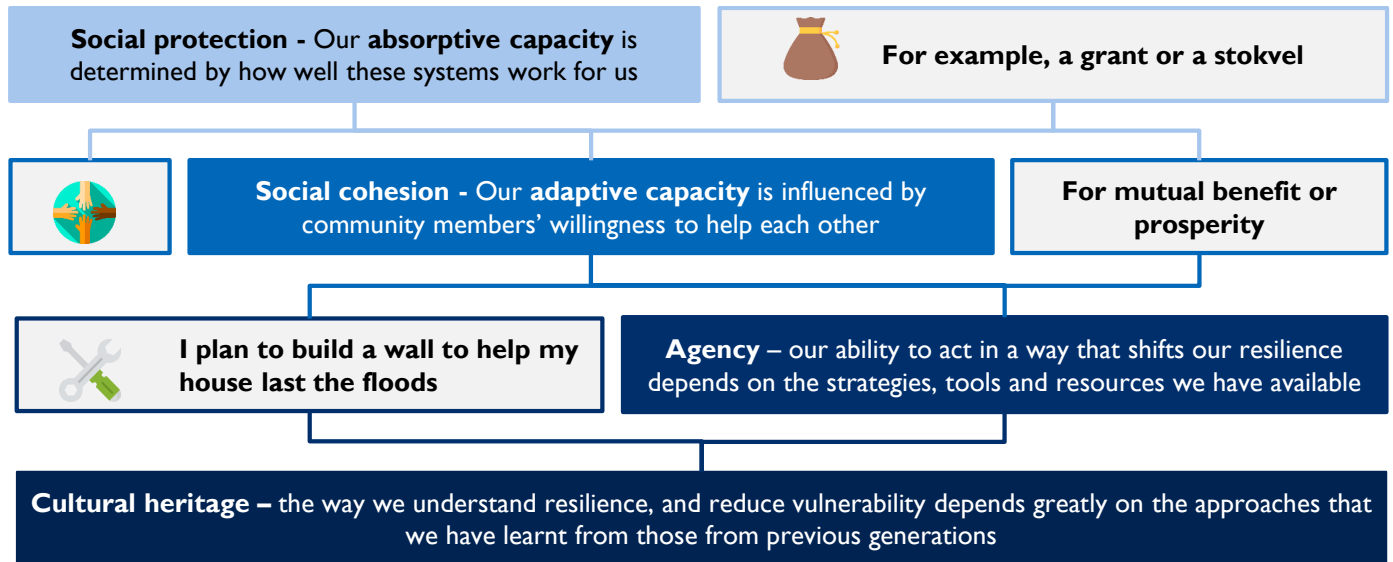
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## BASELINE STUDY

We did a baseline study in 13 communities in seven countries in the Limpopo and Okavango river basins. We did this to find out how households understand resilience, how communities are building resilience, and what this means for our work. We surveyed Menongue and Caiundo. These communities fall into the Okavango River Basin which covers central Angola, Namibia and Botswana.

### WHAT DETERMINES RESILIENCE?

Our baseline study found that resilience is determined by four factors: **1. Social protection, 2. Social cohesion, 3. Agency, and 4. Cultural heritage.**

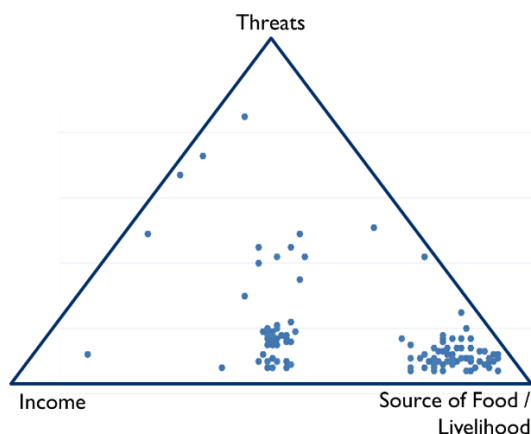


Water shortages are the biggest source of stress for households in Menongue and Caiundo. This has damaging knock-on effects in terms of food security. Many communities in Menongue and Caiundo are dependent on subsistence farming for food. Worsening droughts reduce the crop yields and, in Menongue specifically, have also resulted in increased cases of disease in livestock. The effects of the drought are widespread.

## MENONGUE AND CAIUNDO AND NATURAL RESOURCES

**Natural resources are source of food and income, but also pose a threat for households in Menongue and Caiundo**

The heatmap below shows that water is primarily a source of food / livelihood in Menongue and Caiundo.

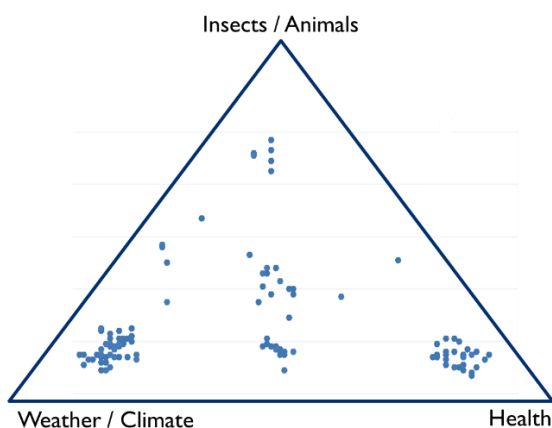


- Plants are primarily seen as a source of food, although they can also be a source of income.
- Animals are seen as both a source of income and food; and as a threat because of the human-wildlife conflict experienced in the area.

## THE CAUSES OF SHOCKS AND STRESSORS

**Weather/climate and health are the main forms of shocks and stressors, with some concern related to the threat of human-wildlife conflict.**

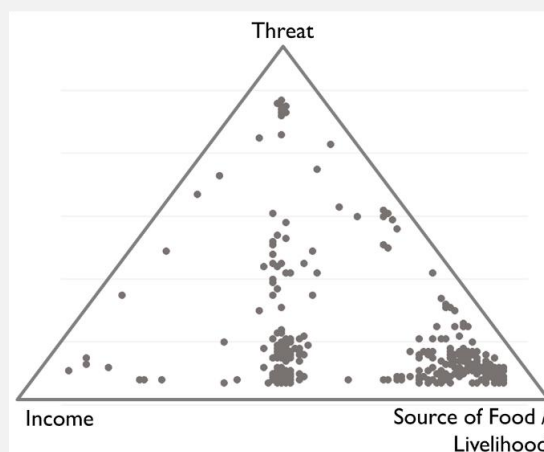
Menongue and Caiundo is heavily affected by drought conditions. Health is another key shock and stressor in these communities. According to the World Health Organization (2020), communicable diseases account for 50% of deaths recorded in Angola making it particularly vulnerable to outbreaks. Malaria presents a major health concern “being the leading cause of death, disease and absenteeism”. In addition, where communities are reliant on subsistence farming, malnutrition, making people more vulnerable to illness, can be an addition consequence of drought.



## MENONGUE AND CAIUNDO COMPARED TO THE OKAVANGO RIVER BASIN

**As with Menongue and Caiundo, natural resources are seen as a source of food or livelihood but can also be threats**

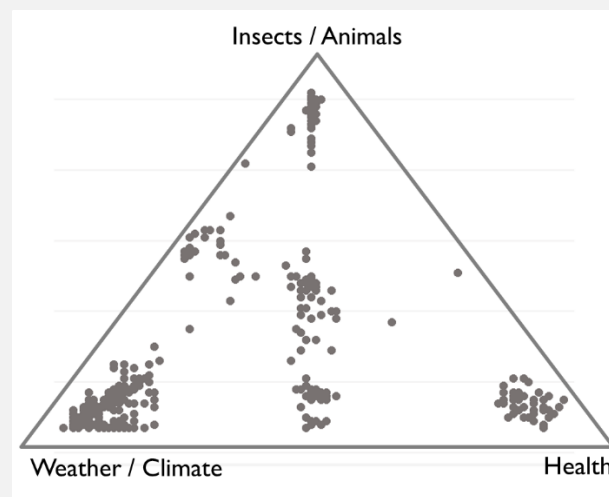
When compared to Menongue and Caiundo, water (or the lack thereof) is seen as a threat more acutely in the Okavango River Basin.



- As in Menongue and Caiundo, plants are largely seen as a source of food although they can also be a source of income.
- As in Menongue and Caiundo, animals are seen as both a source of income, food and as a threat. The

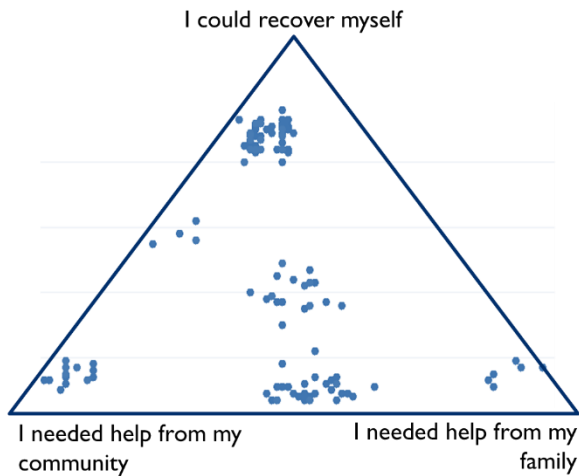
## THE CAUSES OF SHOCKS AND STRESSORS

Weather and climate, along with health (to a lesser degree) are the main forms of shocks and stressors in the Okavango River basin – as in Menongue and Caiundo. Insects / animals, are seen as a threat more acutely in the basin.



## RECOVERY FROM SHOCKS AND STRESSORS

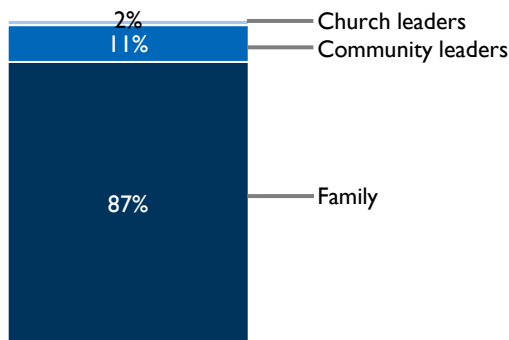
Households in Menongue and Caiundo were either able to recover themselves, or needed help from both their community and their family



## SUPPORT AND PLANNING FOR SHOCKS AND STRESSORS IN MENONGUE AND CAIUNDO

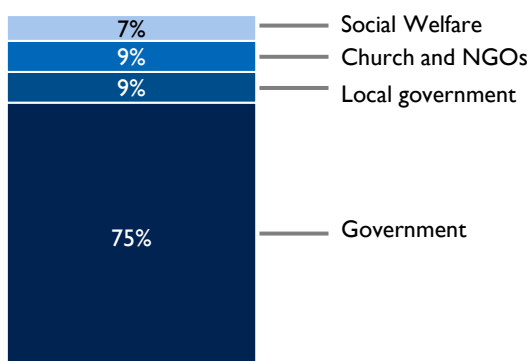
50% of households have people that they can turn to for support

Of those that do have people to turn to, most could turn to family.



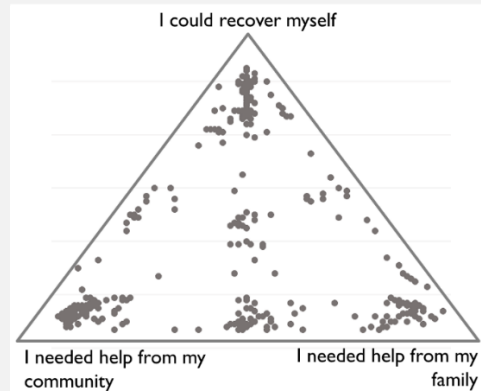
56% of households have organizations that they can turn to for support

Of the 56% who have people to, the majority depend on government – local or national.



## MENONGUE AND CAIUNDO COMPARED TO THE OKAVANGO RIVER BASIN

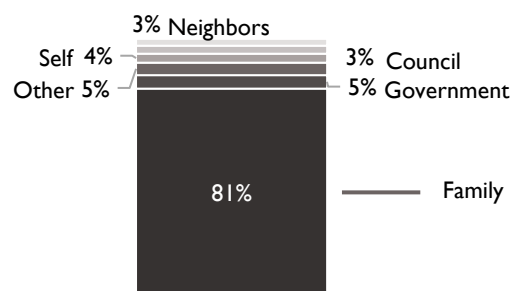
As in Menongue and Caiundo, households in the Okavango River Basin can rely on themselves, their community or family to recover from shocks.



## SUPPORT AND PLANNING FOR SHOCKS AND STRESSORS IN THE OKAVANGO BASIN

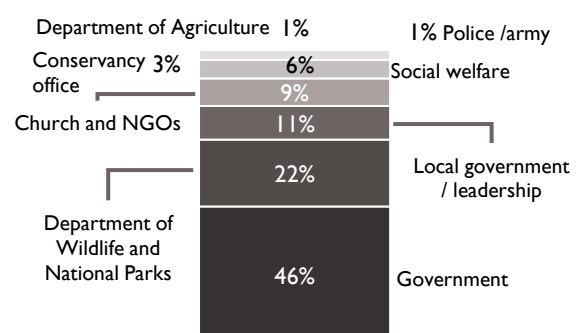
48% of households in the Okavango River Basin have people that they can turn to for support

The proportion of households who have people they can turn to for support in Menongue and Caiundo is very similar to that in the greater basin. Of those that have people to turn to in the Okavango River Basin, the vast majority (81%) could turn to family.



54% of households in the Okavango River Basin have organizations that they can turn to for support

Of the 54% who have organizations to turn to, the majority, as in Menongue and Caiundo, rely on various government departments.



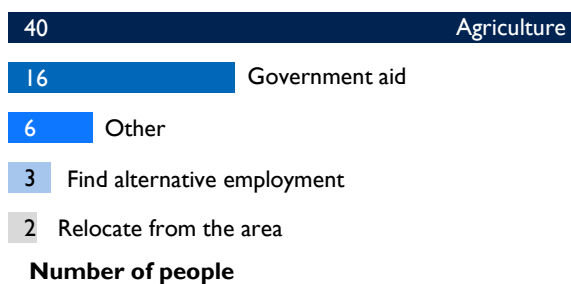
## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Overall, households in Menongue and Caiundo felt **that more resources and more information would help them to respond better** to shocks and stressors in the future.

**Personal beliefs, information received and what others in the community do were critical to people's decision-making.** Therefore, there is a need to ensure that communities have access to reliable and helpful information so that they can plan better.

**53%** of households in Menongue and Caiundo **have a plan** for future natural shocks and stressors. Of the 53% of households in Menongue and Caiundo that have an articulated plan, many are related to agriculture, or the need for government aid. Example of the plans that people reported include:

- **Agriculture:** Planting more crops, selling stock, installing irrigation, planting closer to the rivers,
- **Government aid:** Reverting to government representatives for assistance
- **Other:** Variety of initiatives which ranged from seeking community help, building fences to protect from the crocodiles, planting more trees
- **Find alternative employment:** Insufficient income from existing pursuits is prompting people to look for alternatives
- **Relocate from the area:** Some people noted the challenges in the area were too significant to remain, opting to relocate.



**A lack of resources prevents people in Menongue and Caiundo from implementing their plans.**

## HOW COULD MENONGUE AND CAIUNDO BECOME MORE RESILIENT?

Our research has found that communities that are resilient to natural shocks and stressors can 1. Protect themselves from events and adjust their way of living after an event has happened; 2. Make a plan for other events; and 3. Change the way that they do things. More specifically:

**Communities that can protect themselves from events and adjust their way of living after an event have:**

- Strong communication channels

- Strong social networks
- Access to functional institutions

**Communities that can plan for other events that might happen have:**

- A plan for shocks and stressors

**Communities that can change the way they do things:**

- Manage ecosystems well
- Manage water systems well
- Adapt agricultural practices to climate change
- Adapt livelihoods strategies

Communities in Menongue and Caiundo felt that the lack of resources and lack of social support prevented them from making decisions in response to natural shocks and stressors and thus weakens these communities' resilience given the harsh climate conditions and human-wildlife conflict.

Residents in Menongue and Caiundo felt they would be better enabled to respond to these natural shocks and stressors if they had more knowledge and resources.

Menongue and Caiundo are facing challenges with access to safe water. Coordinated information was identified as an important way to strengthen resilience in these communities. Public engagement platforms, as well as radio, can be tools for key officials to support people to respond to their challenges.

As such, residents may benefit from the following actions which have been developed understanding the context of the communities in the region, the climate conditions and initiative feasibility:

- **Adaptive farming:** given the severe drought, historical farming methods are unlikely to bring forth the same yields. As such, prioritising drought-resistant crops is of paramount importance. As such, prioritising drought-resistant crops is of paramount importance, and ensuring that cattle strengthen, rather than deplete the farmland, through high intensity rotational grazing.
- **Collective seed purchasing:** a collaborative approach to purchasing seeds may provide additional opportunities for funding through government or non-profit organizations. Such an approach also allows for a wide variety of seeds to be shared between residents thus broadening the types of crops grown, and thus nutrients available from which all residents can benefit. This approach reduces individual risk thus increasing overall resilience of the community – particularly in Menongue and Caiundo where food security is threatened.

Based on the findings of our research, the effects of shocks and stressors were experienced in the form of reduced food and water, social support and income / resources. The initiatives highlighted above seek to enable the communities in Menongue and Caiundo to improve their preparation for future shocks, and to recover from these shocks quicker.

## OVERVIEW OF USAID'S RESILIENT WATERS PROGRAMME

USAID's Resilient Waters Programme aims to build **more resilient and water-secure communities** in the Okavango and Limpopo river basins. We have four goals:

- 1** To improve **transboundary water security and resource management** in the Okavango and Limpopo river basins
- 2** To increase **access to safe, sustainable drinking water and sanitation** services
- 3** To strengthen the **ability of communities and key institutions to adapt to change**, especially the impact of climate change
- 4** To conserve **biodiversity and ecosystems**

In order to do this we will build:



### RESILIENT INSTITUTIONS

- Institutions are central to managing resources and building resilience
- We are supporting institutions in building capacity to plan, building strong networks, enhancing an enabling environment and meeting their objectives.
- Institutional ownership is important for sustainability.



### ROBUST INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- To manage resources better and build resilience, we need information that is accessible and that can be used to make decisions.
- We are working on filling information gaps, synthesising information and integrating it into decision-making.



### INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

- We need to consider new ways to live to adapt to climate change. To this, we need to understand what these practices are and how we can use them.
- We will support the innovation and systems of dynamic adaptation.