

USAID RESILIENT WATERS PROGRAM BASELINE STUDY OTTOSHOOP

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

OTTOSHOOP AT A GLANCE

We interviewed 39 people in Ottoshoop

Most of the people interviewed were older than 35 years.

Younger than 35 (31%)	Older than 35 (69%)
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Most of the people interviewed were female.

Male (36%)	Female (64%)
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In Ottoshoop, **employment through mining** is a key source of income.

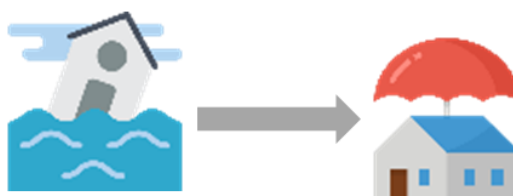
Understanding of resilience in Ottoshoop

! Sources of natural shocks and stressors in Ottoshoop are **droughts, fires and heavy rainfall**.

➔ These shocks and stressors negatively impact households involved in mining, agriculture and other water-based livelihoods; and result in there being **limited water for the community**.

★ In Ottoshoop, resilience is seen as **social protection from the government as well as increased employment opportunities**.

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?



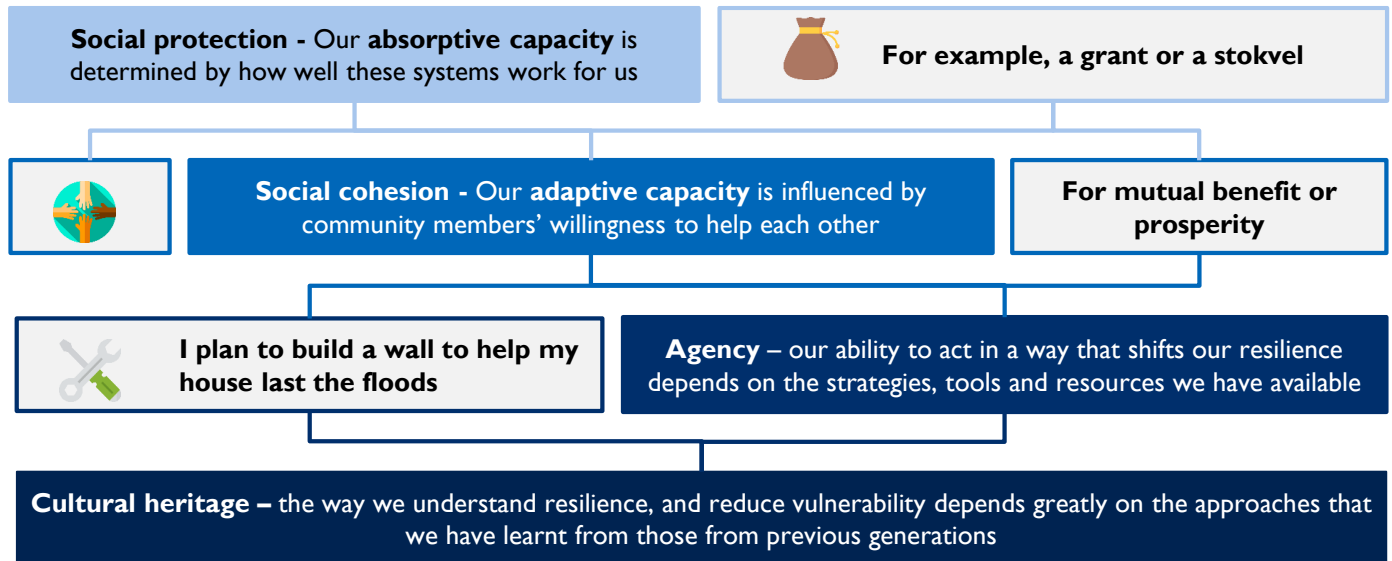
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BASELINE STUDY

We did a baseline study in 13 communities in seven countries in the Limpopo and Okavango river basins between July and August 2019. We did this to find out how households understand resilience, how communities are building resilience, and what this means for our work. One of the areas that we surveyed was Ottoshoop, South Africa. Ottoshoop falls into Limpopo river basin. The Limpopo Basin covers Southern Botswana, Northern South Africa, Southern Zimbabwe and Southern Mozambique.

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.**



WHAT DID WE FIND OUT IN OTTOSHOOP?

The community of Ottoshoop does have access to a number of natural resources but from our research it does not appear that the households are directly reliant on these as a primary means to meet their needs. Instead the Ottoshoop residents appear to be dependent on government allocated resources. Ottoshoop is currently experiencing a drought which is affecting those residents who rely on natural resources for supplementary income. The drought, and subsequent shortage of water, is of great concern to residents as this has affected the reliability of the piped water they rely on. As such, the greatest shock and stressor related to natural resources is the concern about the availability and quality of water.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN OTTOSHOOP



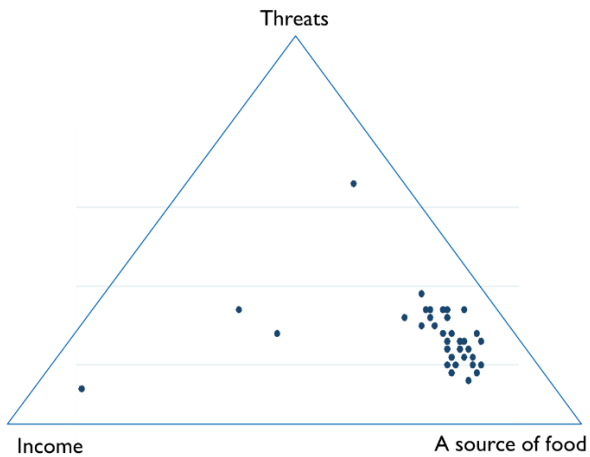
Unemployment is the biggest challenge to households in Ottoshoop. There are few employment opportunities and the opportunities that do exist do not pay well.

From a natural resource perspective, limited access to water is a source of stress in Ottoshoop. Taps are often dry and residents have to fetch water from unprotected sources.

OTTOSHOOP AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resources are primarily seen as a source of food and income, but animals are largely considered a threat for households in Ottoshoop.

The heatmap below shows that water is a source of food / livelihood in Ottoshoop. The community relies on piped water. There are however often disruptions in service and the community then relies on unprotected water sources. In these instances, water can be a threat.

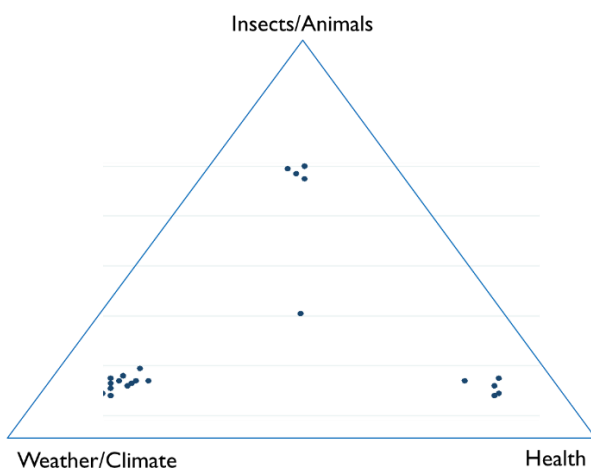


- Plants are largely seen as both a source of income and a source of food.
- Animals are largely seen as a threat because of human-wildlife conflict in the area.

THE CAUSES OF SHOCKS AND STRESSORS

Weather and climate, as well as health, are key sources of shocks and stressors.

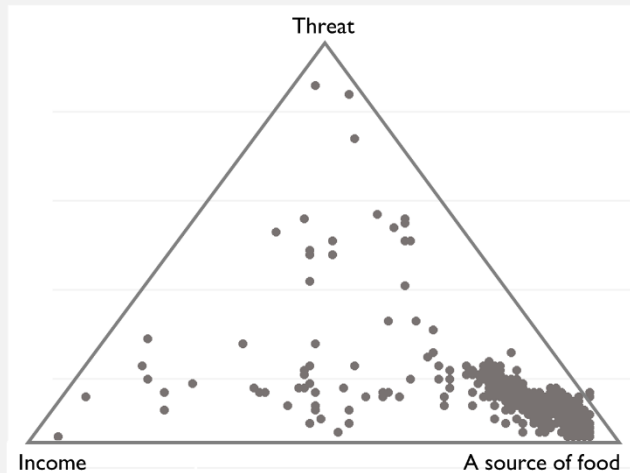
Ottoshoop has experienced lower-than-usual rainfall. The community expects a further delay in rains which is affecting water supply to residents.



OTTOSHOOP COMPARED TO THE LIMPOPO RIVER BASIN

As with Ottoshoop, natural resources in the Limpopo River Basin are a key source of livelihood, but can be threats.

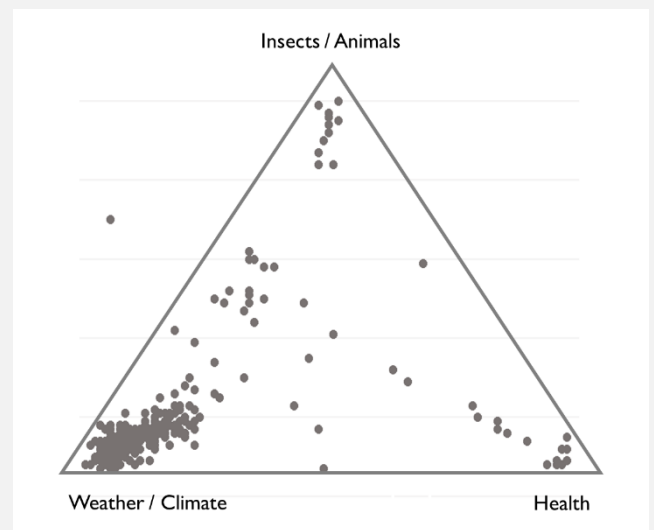
As in Ottoshoop, the heatmap below shows that water is a source of food / livelihood, as well as (but to a less extent) a threat in the Limpopo River Basin. The Basin has a whole has been subject to extreme weather events.



- As in Ottoshoop, plants are largely seen as the source of income and food.
- As in Ottoshoop, animals are largely seen as a source of food, and a threat.

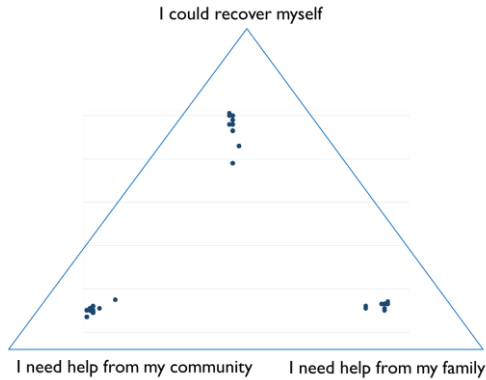
THE CAUSES OF SHOCKS AND STRESSORS

As with Ottoshoop, weather and climate are the main forms of shocks and stressors in the Limpopo River Basin. Ottoshoop however, faces more health-related shocks and stressors when compared to the Limpopo River Basin.



RECOVERY FROM SHOCKS AND STRESSORS

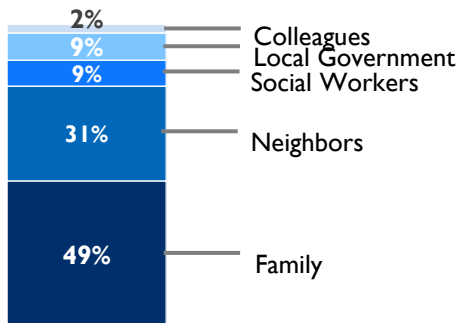
Households in Ottoshoop were either able to recover themselves, or needed help from both their community and their family



SUPPORT AND PLANNING FOR SHOCKS AND STRESSORS IN OTTOSHOOP

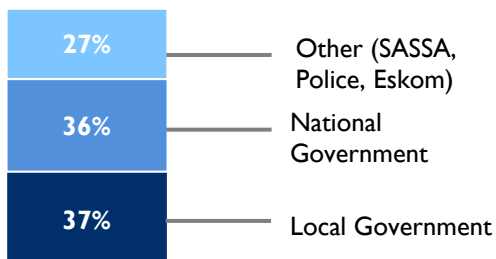
43% of households have people that they can turn to for support

There are therefore relatively low levels of support in Ottoshoop. Of those that **do have people to turn to**, most could turn to family or a neighbour.



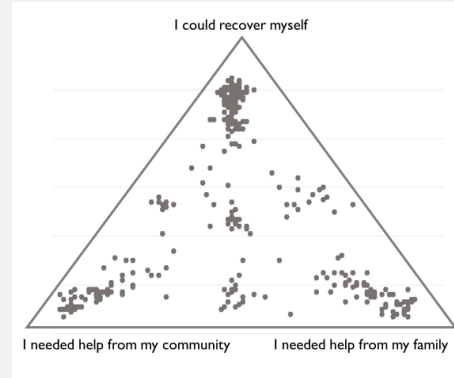
28% of households have organizations that they can turn to for support

Of the 28% who have organizations to turn to, the majority identified local government and various national government departments. Residents identified the South African Social Security Agency, the police and Eskom as examples of sources of support.



OTTOSHOOP COMPARED TO THE LIMPOPO RIVER BASIN

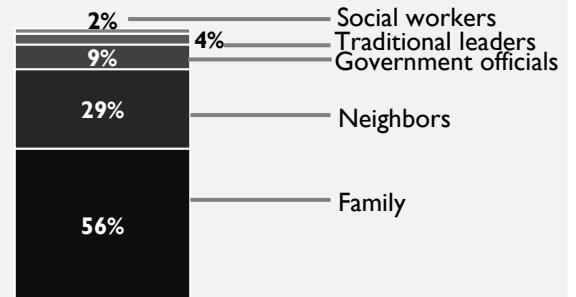
When compared to households in Ottoshoop, households in the Limpopo River Basin seem slightly more able to recover from shocks and stressors themselves.



SUPPORT AND PLANNING FOR SHOCKS AND STRESSORS THE LIMPOPO RIVER BASINS

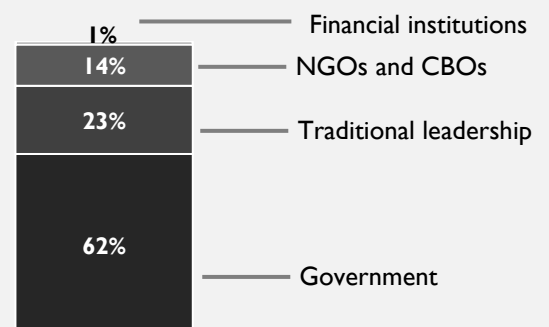
56% of households have people that they can turn to for support in the Limpopo River Basin.

This is slightly higher than the 38% in Ottoshoop. Similar to Ottoshoop, of those that **do have people to turn to**, most could turn to their family and community.



42% of households in the Limpopo River Basin have organizations that they can turn to for support. This is substantially higher than the 28% in Ottoshoop.

Of the 42% who have organizations to turn to, the majority (as in Ottoshoop) rely on various government departments.

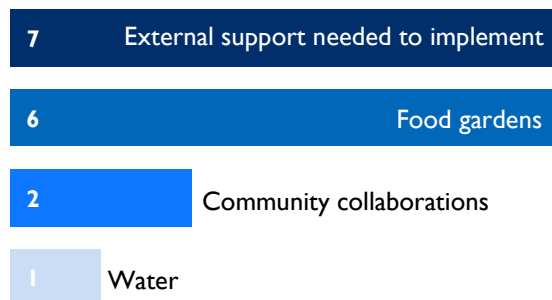


PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE IN OTTOSHOOP

Overall, households in Ottoshoop felt that **more resources** would help them respond better to shocks and stressors in the future. Household planning in Ottoshoop is greatly influenced by **information received, personal beliefs and what others in the community do**.

40% of households in Ottoshoop **have a plan** to alleviate future natural shocks and stressors. However, 78% of these plans require additional intervention to implement or realise. These plans are intended to help Ottoshoop residents become more resilient given the area's current climate challenges.: Examples of the plans that people reported include needing external assistance, food gardens, community collaborations and water.

Types of plans that households in Ottoshoop have



Number of people

Specific examples of plans include:

- **External support needed:** Plans which require intervention to implement; increased income, improved access to machinery, land and social services.
- **Food gardens:** Create or expand food gardens to improve access to food.
- **Community collaborations:** Contributing to village seed purchases or to a stokvel.
- **Water:** Install new water points.

A lack of resources and government support prevents people in Ottoshoop from implementing their plans.

HOW COULD OTTOSHOOP 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

In Ottoshoop, residents cited concerns about the lack of resources and government support which limited their ability to plan appropriately and thus weakens the community's resilience given the harsh climate conditions in that community. To improve their resilience, residents in Ottoshoop may benefit from the following actions which have been developed understanding the context of the community, its climate and initiative feasibility:

- **Collective purchasing:** A collaborative approach to purchasing of goods required by the community, especially agricultural inputs like seeds, may provide additional opportunities for funding through government or non-profit organisations. Such an approach also allows for a wide variety of seeds to be shared between residents thus broadening the types of crops grown, and nutrients available from which all residents can benefit. This type of approach reduces individual risk, and can also be a step towards building community.
- **Collecting rain water:** Given the increasingly dry climate, it is extremely important to maximise water use whenever the region has rainfall. One of the challenges cited by residents in Ottoshoop was flash floods resulting from heavy rains. As such, storage tanks provide a safe and relatively low-cost solution for storing this rain water to be used at a later stage. Runoff can also be channelled to minimize flooding risk.
- **Community building activities:** Residents in Ottoshoop cited the lack of information received as one of the reasons preventing them from planning for shocks and stressors, and many residents indicated that they turned to government sources for help. Channels for government and communities to speak to each other are critical for resilient communities.

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.