

Abstract

This study examined the impact of floods on the socio-economic status of livelihoods for the people of Sikaunzwe Community in Kazungula District of Zambia.

The study employed both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The study had discussions with key Stakeholders at district and Community levels as well as randomly sampled households.

Quantitative Household Questionnaires and Qualitative Key Informant Interviews were used to collect the data.

The study established that floods impacted on people's socio-economic livelihoods and critical aspects such as agriculture, health, education, housing, water and sanitation and property and assets.

The following are the key recommendations:-

- ☐ Government and key Stakeholders should engage communities in order for them to move permanently to higher grounds as they have expressed willingness to relocate. The relocating should go with the provision of all the necessary social amenities such as schools, hospitals, infrastructure, water and agriculture support for a period of three (3) years to enable the households settle. Consideration should also be made to introduce alternative livelihood strategies in the new area of settlement.
- ☐ There should be a deliberate policy to compel communities especially in rural areas to build houses using durable materials and away from the flood prone areas.
- ☐ Communities should be encouraged to increase area cultivated on the upland in order to enhance food security and household level.
- ☐ The relevant authorities should delineate both the non-flood areas and flood areas. The non-flood areas can serve as a temporary shelter for the settlements during floods.
- ☐ Construction of dams should be considered to trap the excess water. This could be used for irrigation.
- ☐ Construction of canals into the main Zambezi river should be considered.

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- ☐ Government and key Stakeholders should engage the communities and local authorities in making them aware of the flood risk in view of climate variability.
- ☐ Community initiated mitigation measures should be promoted so as to build community resilience and in the long term, community based floods early warning system should be developed. Multi-sectoral approach to flood mitigation as opposed to single sector should be promoted as there are inter-linkages in terms of flood impact on various aspect of society.