

Guidance Notes for Preparing a Pastoralist Livelihood Zone Report

MAPS: Map showing general location of zone within the country, plus an enlarged map of the zone itself with an overlay of district boundaries

TABLE: LZ population broken down between the 5-6 main admin units within the zone.

Zone Description

Length: One Third Page

Sections Contents:

TEXT: A basic introduction to the LZ, including

- Basic LZ geography: physical features (rivers, relief, etc.), climate (rainfall and temperature by season, etc.), vegetation, natural resources, population density etc.
- Basic characterisation of each LZ, i.e. livelihood pattern (agricultural, pastoral, etc.), main food and cash crops, main livestock (listed or ranked where possible), other characteristics including overall poverty level.
- Brief description of local crop production methods, livestock rearing practices, livestock migration patterns.
- Brief description of market access
- Brief description of types of employment available locally and any labour migration to other areas.
- General description of other food and income options(e.g. wild foods, natural resources, hunting, fishing).

Questions that should be answered in the this section of the format:

- 1) How does the geography and agro-ecology of the zone influence local production and livelihood options? Is this a productive zone? Or an unproductive zone from which people must migrate seasonally? Is market access good or bad?

Livelihoods Assets

Length: Half page

TEXT: A brief bullet-point description of the status of livelihood assets in the LZ, including:

Human capital

Nutrition: usual range of malnutrition rates observed in the LZ

Health: Main human diseases and prevalence. Availability, type and access to health services

Education: Prevailing educational levels. Availability, type and access to education, by wealth group.

Social capital

Social support: Types and access to social support networks, by wealth group, i.e. zakat, sadaac,

Remittances: Level and access to remittances, by wealth group.

Physical capital

Infrastructure: Extent and quality of roads and accessibility to markets and urban centers

Communication: Extent and quality of communication structures i.e. radio operators, telephone, etc.

Financial capital

Loans and Credit: Availability and access to loans and credit by wealth group, i.e. money vendors, radio vendors, store/shop keepers, etc.

Natural capital

Pasture & Browse: Availability and access, general condition and overall trends

Water: Availability, Type and Access by wealth group

Markets

Length: One Third Page

Sections Contents:

MAPS: Map showing the main markets for the LZ (both inside and outside the LZ boundaries). These should include the main indicator markets for market price monitoring.

If the information is available, market maps for crops, livestock, labour and staple food, indicating source, final destination (i.e. where consumed) and market routes. It may make sense to have separate maps for good and bad years.

TEXT:

- Brief description of patterns of food crop, cash crop, livestock and labour sale within and outside the livelihood zone. Information on any importation of staple food into the zone.
- Description of any factors affecting marketing for the LZ (e.g. road conditions and transport costs, middle men buying cheaply, farmers paying off credit at disadvantageous prices, etc.).

Questions that should be answered in this section of the format:

- 1) What are the main commodities sold out of the LZ? And what are the main markets and market routes for these?
- 2) Is staple food imported into this LZ? If so, what are the markets and market routes for this?
- 3) Is market access good or bad in this zone? What are the constraints to marketing in the LZ, and how might marketing be improved?
- 4) Underlying questions are: how are changes in supply and demand (within or outside the LZ) likely to affect prices in this LZ? How might a change in access to markets (e.g. as a result of insecurity) affect this LZ?

Livestock Herd Dynamics

Complete the table. Describe how herd sizes changed during the reference year and explain why. If many animals died, where these mainly young or old animals? How did the number of mature females change during the year? How did the composition of the herd change during the year?

Seasonal Calendar

Length: Half Page

Sections Contents:

GRAPHIC: Calendar illustrating seasonal patterns to food and income acquisition strategies:

- rainfall by month
- seasons that different types of animals come into heat and give birth
- milk production
- livestock migration
- main cropping activities (for each season, e.g. main and winter crops): land preparation, planting, weeding
- harvest months: main food and cash crops individually
- labour
- fishing
- firewood/charcoal
- hunger season
- market prices

Questions that should be answered in the this section of the format:

- 1) What is the timing of the main livestock production activities during the year?

- 2) What is the timing of the main agricultural and other seasonal activities during the year?
- 3) At which times of year do households have access to different sources of food and income?
- 4) How does the market price of staple food vary seasonally?
- 5) At which time(s) of year is access to food and income relatively low (hungry season)?
- 6) How will the timing of a hazard (e.g. flooding, insecurity) affect seasonal food access?

Wealth Breakdown

Length: Half Page

Sections Contents:

GRAPHIC: Bar chart showing percentage of community households in each wealth group.

TABLE: 3 column table, giving household size and composition, area planted and type of cultivation, livestock holdings/other assets (ploughs, fishing boats, etc.).

TEXT:

- Brief description of the main differences between wealth groups (e.g. land ownership, crops grown, methods of crop production, livestock holding, capital and savings, education, skills, labour, etc.), with some explanation of the constraints faced by the poorer groups (i.e. why they remain poor).
- Anything else noteworthy about the breakdown, e.g. 'In this zone an unusually large number of households fall into the poor category. This is because...'

Questions that should be answered in the this section of the format:

- 1) What are the main differences between different wealth groups and how does this affect potential access to food and income?
- 2) Why are the poor poor? E.g. Because they do not have access to land? Because they do not have enough labour to cultivate their land? Because they lack capital to invest in production?
- 3) What percentage of community households fall into each of the wealth groups?

Sources of Food

Length: Quarter Page

Sections Contents:

GRAPHIC: Bar chart analysis of reference year food access for main wealth groups. Should include quantitative estimates of access to food from crops, livestock and other key food sources (e.g. purchase, wild foods, etc.).

Where quantitative data are available (rather than just a proportional breakdown), results should be expressed as a percentage of minimum requirements (2,100 kcals per person per day). Total access may be above 100% where estimated food access exceeds 2,100 kcals per person per day, e.g. for the middle and the rich.

TEXT:

Brief description of what the bar chart shows, with reasons for differences between wealth groups.

Questions that should be answered in the this section of the format:

- 1) How does the pattern of food access vary between groups?
- 2) How do differences between the wealth groups (described in the wealth breakdown) affect access to food (e.g. low levels of crop production -> low access to food crops and high dependence on the market, etc.)?

- 3) How does total food access vary between different wealth groups (e.g. total access for poor = 100% of minimum requirements, middle = 110%, rich = 120%)? Note: This is only possible if total food access is being calculated.

Sources of Cash

Length: Quarter Page

Sections Contents:

GRAPHIC: Bar chart analysis of reference year cash income for main wealth groups. Should include quantitative estimates of access to income from crops, livestock and other key income sources (e.g. remittances, etc.).

Where quantitative data are available (rather than just a proportional breakdown), results should be expressed in cash terms, illustrating the difference between wealth groups in absolute terms.

TEXT:

Brief description of what the bar chart shows, with reasons for differences between wealth groups.

Questions that should be answered in the this section of the format:

- 1) How does the pattern of cash income vary between groups?
- 2) How do differences between the wealth groups (described in the wealth breakdown) affect cash income (e.g. low levels of crop production -> low levels of crops sales)?
- 3) How does total cash income vary between different wealth groups. Note: This is only possible if total cash income is being calculated.

Hazards

Length: Quarter Page

Sections Contents:

TEXT:

A brief description of a maximum of three main hazards, e.g. the main chronic hazard, the main periodic hazard, and one potential hazard that would have very serious consequences.

- Description of main chronic hazard (e.g. frost, crop pests) and its effects on production and exchange (e.g. reduced production of specified crops).
- Description of main periodic hazard (e.g. drought, epidemic livestock disease), its frequency and its effects on production and exchange (e.g. reduced milk production, reduced livestock sales).

Questions that should be answered in the this section of the format:

- 1) What are the main chronic and periodic hazards affecting this LZ, and how do these hazards affect access to food and income for different wealth groups?
- 2) Are there any potential or new hazards that threaten this LZ, and that could have serious consequences for food security in the LZ? How?

Response Strategies

Length: Quarter Page

Sections Contents:

TEXT:

This section should focus on responses to the main periodic hazard, separated by wealth group.

- Descriptive analysis of which sources of food and income can be expanded in a crisis, with a judgement of the likely effectiveness of these strategies.
- Further information on key response strategies, e.g. systems of remittance, systems of credit.
- Assessment of capacity of households to respond to possible crisis in the future. Assessment of continued viability of strategies employed in the past.
- Analysis of potential negative effects of strategies likely to be adopted.

Note: The term response strategies is preferred to the term coping strategy for two reasons. People often use coping strategies to refer to regular components of everyday livelihoods (e.g. firewood sale), which strictly speaking are only a coping strategies when intensified in response to a hazard. Also, coping can imply that the strategy in question is cost-free, which is not always the case.

Questions that should be answered in the this section of the format:

- 1) For the main *periodic* hazard, what are the main response strategies for the different wealth groups?
- 2) How viable are strategies that have been employed in the past?
- 3) Do any of the strategies have potential negative effects (e.g. threaten future livelihoods, have negative environmental effects, could increase the likelihood of transmission of HIV/AIDS?)

Crisis Warning Indicators

Length: Half Page

Sections Contents:

The indicators should relate to the main periodic hazard and be ordered from early to late. (The corresponding graphic should cover a two year timeframe. Early indicators of crop failure can then be covered in the pre-harvest section of the graphic and response indicators in the post-harvest section.)

Note: The term 'crisis warning indicators' may be preferable to 'early warning indicators', since many important indicators are likely to be quite late (such as movement of whole households out of villages).

Questions that should be answered in the this section of the format:

- 1) For the main *periodic* hazard, what are the main indicators of a developing crisis? And in what order would these be observed?