Briefing

Tracking subnational government investments in disaster risk reduction in Kenya

Counties in Kenya invest in disaster risk reduction (DRR) on two levels – DRR-principal spending (where DRR is a primary objective of that spending) and DRR-significant (where DRR is a secondary objective). This briefing note extracts the major findings and recommendations from Development Initiative's report *Tracking subnational government investments in disaster risk reduction in Kenya*[1]. The report assessed DRR county budgets of **Baringo**, **Laikipia**, **Kisumu** and **West Pokot** for the financial years 2016/17–2018/19. The analysis determined the level of investment in DRR and the mainstreaming of that investment in county departments in Kenya. The budget tracking exercise also included the categorisation of budget items by risk categories, the disaster risk management cycle, as well as alignment to the four priorities of the UN's Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[2].

Recommendations

- By recognising DRR as a development priority, the county governments of arid and semi-arid lands need to make deliberate efforts to allocate more funds to DRR-principal investment; and mainstream it across more departments.
- Counties need to carry out comprehensive assessments of disaster risk (Priority 1 of the Sendai Framework), including periodic assessment and data collection to inform planning and budgeting of programmes.
- Budget documents should contain breakdowns of sub-programmes to projects and activities as well as sources of funding. Such information will provide strong evidence for future tracking of DRR budget analysis.

Key findings

Our findings show:

- Of the four counties analysed, West Pokot has the highest marked DRR budget while Kisumu has the least in aggregate county budget. It is also evident that Kisumu spends more on DRR-principal sub-programmes than any other county (Figure 1).
- The share of allocations to DRR-principal investment in respective total county budgets is less or equal to 2% (Figure 1.a). Such programmes also take less than a quarter of total marked DRR budget (except in Kisumu); while the rest goes to programmatic activities that are DRR-significant (Figure 1.b).

1. http://devinit.org/post/county-drr-budget-tracking-kenya/
2. https://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework

Figure 1

Share of DRR components in total DRR vs Share of DRR-principal and DRR-significant investments in county budget

Figure 1.a Share of DRR components in total DRR budget

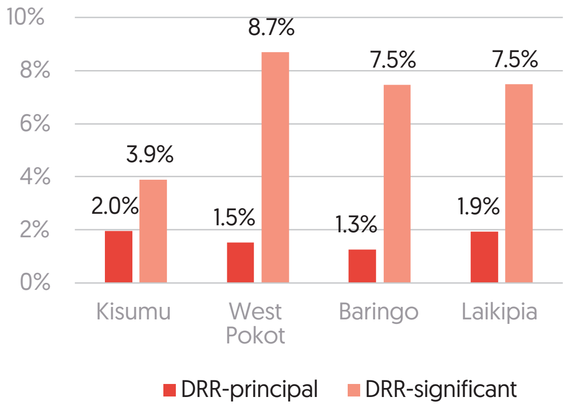
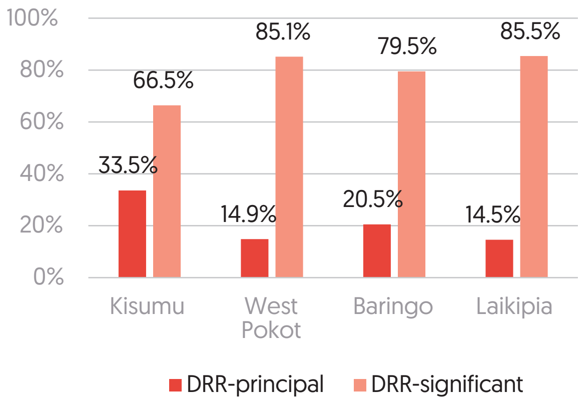


Figure 1.b Share of DRR components in total county budget



Source: DI based on county budgets

- Total DRR budget is skewed towards disaster risk prevention and mitigation risk category (78.4%). When considering DRR-principal programmes only, the analysis shows counties' focus is on prevention and mitigation (58%) followed by preparedness and response (Figure 2). The study has not traced any allocation to disaster recovery.

Figure 2

Share of marked DRR-principal sub-programmes by risk category

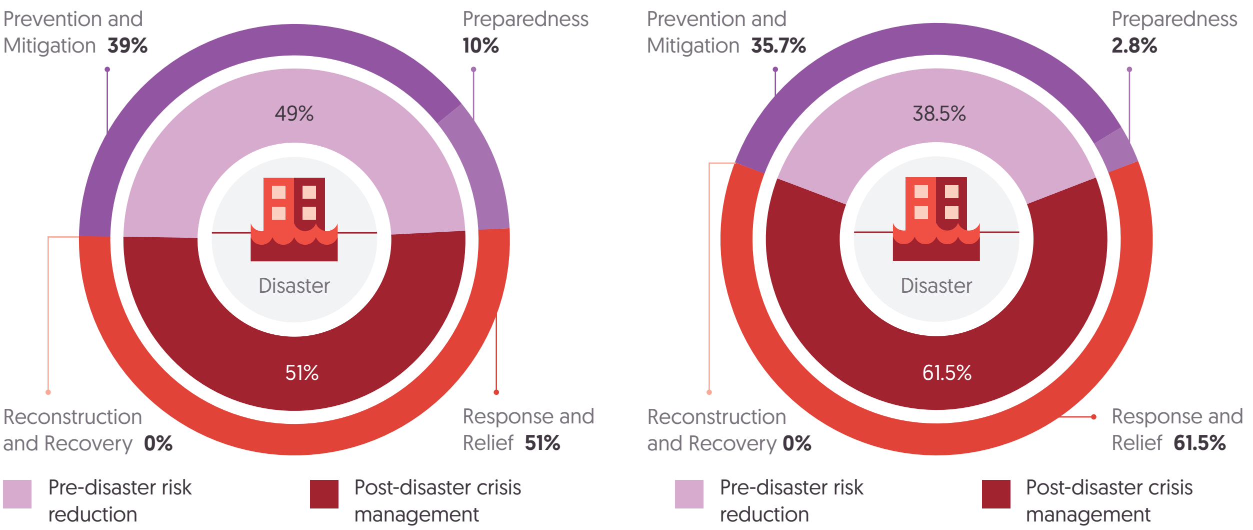
Source: DI based on the county budget.

- Risk category by DRR-principal and DRR-significant investment components in each county indicates that Baringo and Kisumu focus their DRR-principal budgets on response and relief and thereby on post-disaster crisis management (Figure 3). Laikipia and West Pokot's DRR investment focus is on pre-disaster risk reduction. In terms of risk categories, Laikipia prioritises prevention and mitigation (Figure 4.a) and West Pokot disaster preparedness (Figure 4.b). All counties' DRR-significant investment was found to heavily prioritise prevention and mitigation.

Figure 3

Baringo and Kisumu counties' DRR-principal spending by disaster risk category and risk management cycles

Figure 3.a Baringo county | **Figure 3.b Kisumu county budget**

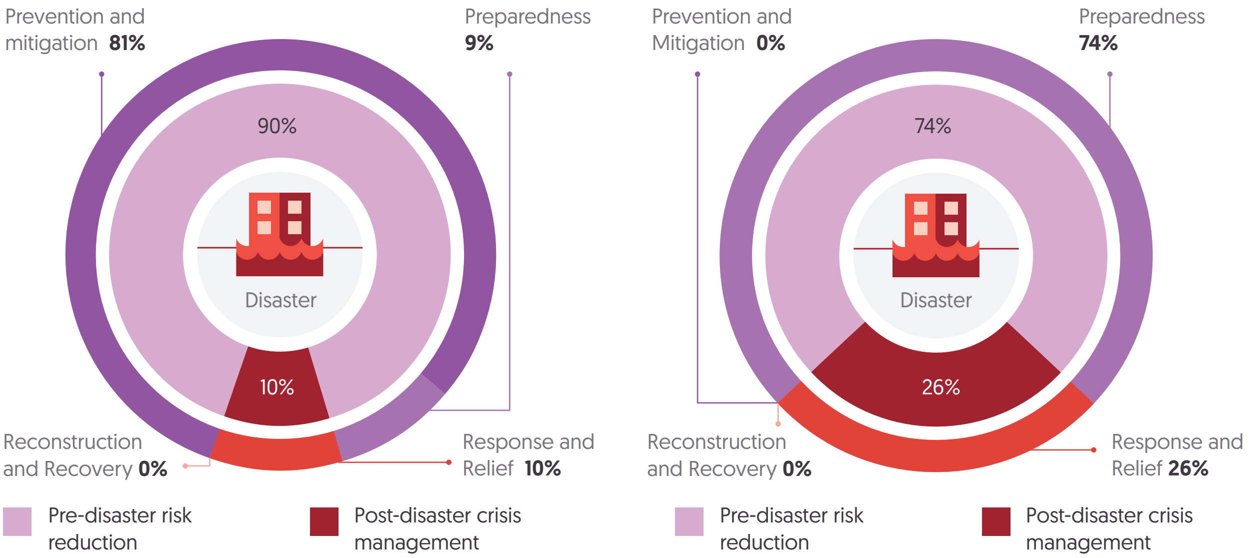


Source: DI based on the county budget

Figure 4

Laikipia and West Pokot counties' DRR-principal spending by disaster risk category and risk management cycles

Figure 3.a Laikipia county | **Figure 3.b West Pokot county budget**



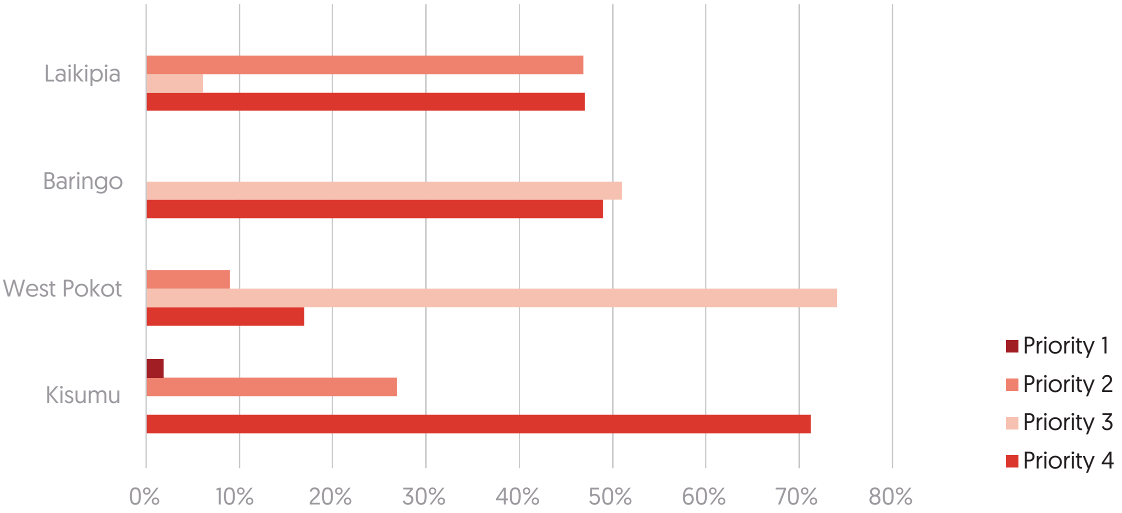
Source: DI based on county budget data for various years

- Alignment to Sendai Framework's four priorities at county level shows that marked DRR-principal budget allocation is aligned to disaster response (Priority 4) in Laikipia and Kisumu while West Pokot and Baringo's focus is on building resilience (Priority 3). Only a small portion of spending on building disaster risk knowledge was found in Kisumu county (Figure 5).

  West Pokot and Baringo's DRR-principal investments prioritise building resilience (Priority 3). Kisumu's spending has clear preference towards effective response (Priority 4). Laikipia's DRR-principal spending aligns towards both Priority 4 and Priority 2 with a share of 47% of total Laikipia's DRR-principal budget.

Figure 5

Share of Sendai Framework priorities in DRR-principal budget by county



Source: DI based on county budget data for various years

- The four counties largely give little attention to understanding disaster risk (Priority 1) and strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk (Priority 2). This has implications to appropriate and effective planning and interventions; as well as spreading DRR investment across county departments.