



Role of social networks in coping with climate change-induced shocks in eastern Ethiopia

U N I K A S S E L
V E R S I T Ä T

Fuad Shuker¹ Wesagn Berhane² Andreas Thiel³ Hakim Sadik²

¹ Exchange student, University of Kassel, Germany

² Rural Development and Agricultural Innovation Haramaya University, Ethiopia

³ International Agricultural Policy and Environmental Governance University of Kassel, Germany

Introduction

Ethiopia has been experiencing climatic shocks such as droughts and floods, increased temperatures, and erratic rainfall.

The need for urgent and effective steps to build resilience is unquestionable.

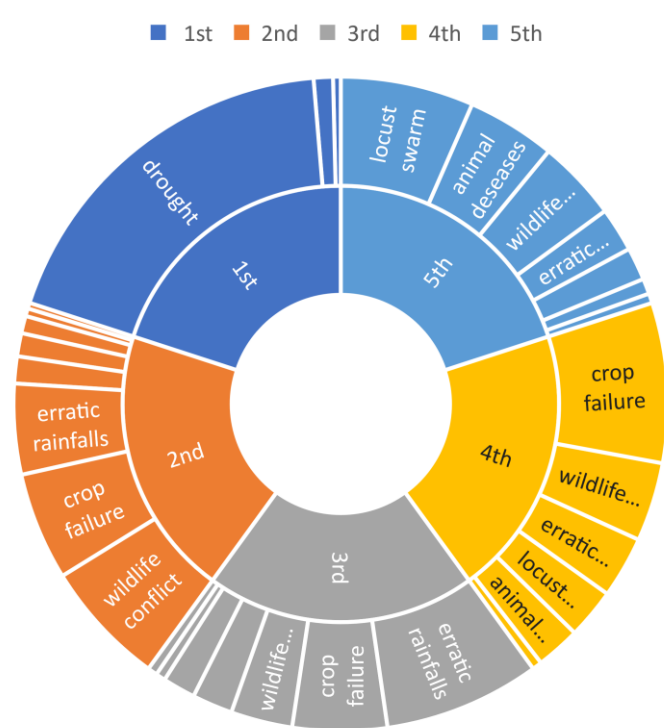
To recover from climate-induced shocks, socio-cultural networks are conventional approaches that promote collective action and mutual support of various communities.

This study assessed the experienced climate change-induced shocks and role of social networks in coping with incurred shock.

Results

The study findings found that various climatic shocks such as droughts, erratic rainfall, human-wildlife conflict, crop failure, locust invasion, animals dead due to lack of water and postures, wind, water resources-based conflict, and floods were experienced by the community over the last five years.

Fig. 2: Most severe climate change-induced shocks



Climate change-induced shocks	Ranking based on frequency occurrences
Drought	1
Erratic Rainfall	2
Human-wildlife conflict	3
Crop failure	4
Locust swarms	5
Animal Diseases	6
Wind	7
Natural Resources based conflict	8
Floods	9
Other shocks (such as food price inflation and Covid-19)	10



Fig. 3: House damaged by wind shock

Sources: (Field data, 2023)

Conclusion

Social networks and indigenous mutual support systems should be considered for collective action to recover from climate-induced shocks locally. But when a climatic shock is covariate and lasts longer, social-network-based coping strategies often fail.

To solve these climatic shocks sustainably from the bottleneck, both social capital practice and nature-based mitigation should be taken together.

Methodology

The study employed a mixed research approach along with a cross-sectional study design.

Data were collected from 210 HHs with 4 FGDs and 4 KIIs. Analyzed through descriptive statistics while qualitative data were analyzed through thematic analysis.



Fig.1: Focus group discussion and interview at field

The finding reveals that in response to these shocks' various social network-based community support practices were played a significant role in coping with climate-induced shocks.

Fig.5: Social Network-Based Community Support Practices

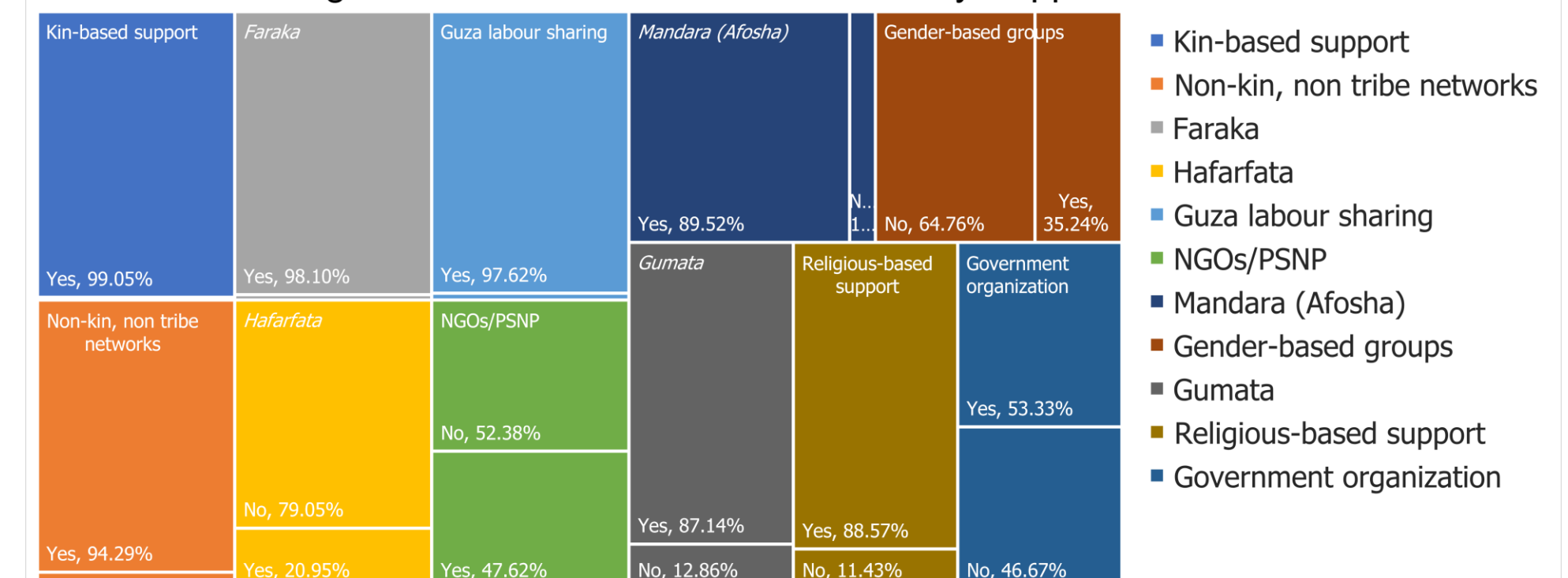


Fig. 6: Community-based support (provision of food in kind)