

Terji Livelihoods Activities

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ABSTRACT

This Study was conducted on 20-29 Dec. 2011 in Darussalam and Gouz Gurab area, Triej subunit, locality of Zalingei, West Darfur State, Sudan. The study aimed to create community profiling. PAR Technique was applied in data collection through group discussion mechanism, however, quantitative approach was also considered for collecting data on population, women household head; education of household heads, etc. Descriptive method was applied in revealing results and findings. The main pressing problems of the area are lack of sanitary water, Illiteracy, and lack of health services.

Keywords: Terje livelihoods, Activities, Community Profile Technique.

Introduction

Triej is a locality with eight Koliyat. Each Koliya consist of around 3-7 Villages which in total reaches 38 village before the Darfur conflict in 2003 But now it is considered as a sub unit of Zalingei Locality since 2007. Geographically, it is located at the south side of Zalingei; basically it has 2 higher levels of Native Administrative members called Shirrtayi and many Oumdas among the multi-tribal groups. At the Grassroots level the community is ruled by multi Sheiks either in villages or Damras. The area has one natural forest reserved called Saraf Boyah which is rich with pastures. The land for rain fed agriculture is concentrated in narrow spaces near the big valleys called Wadi Areboo and Saraf Boyah. Most of the Community do not practice winter season crops, either for their low skills or low financial ability to obtain essential inputs and tools for cultivation. Most villages are displaced except Triej and Arkom which are semi settlement. The Damras in the area are occupied by multi tribal groups of Arab raising mainly Cows, goats, shapes and local poultries. In the area there is a weekly Market day that holds on Saturday which gives the community opportunities to buy and purchase commodities. Women activities are mainly collection of firewood, Grasses, and charcoal.

The study is conducted in Darussalam and Gouz Gurab area (Triej sub unit). Most of the population are semi settled, but some of the inhabitant move in and out of the area by means of their animals depending on the season. Historically the people of Darussalam Damra and other surrounding community have inhabited the area since 1984/85 during Darfur famine and drought period.

During Field survey, researchers met with some representatives from (Triej countryside community). They have gathered from different areas creating this surrounding community, most of them from Misaria and Salamat tribe at Triej. They were driven from areas such as (East Delaj, Fujola, Tourkolmi, Salingei, Kabar, Dabanairah,). But not considered

during our study, and as they said; their population number above 500 Households without explaining very clearly the reasons of leaving their origin areas.

Darfour Resources Community (DRC), is seeking the promotion of living standards through Base Line Surveys, using efforts and collaboration of institutions besides community effective participation to tackle issues that challenges community in order to realize community goals and develop their living standards.

Objectives of this study

1. To assess livelihood in the area.
2. To evaluate natural resources.
3. To identify most pressing problems and suggest solution for them.

Methodology

Field survey was conducted by the researchers in the period 20-29 Dec 2011. Community mobilization checklist was used effectively to guide the process. The areas which were covered in the study include Darussalam; and Gouz Gurab. In mobilization days, the researcher's explained the objectives of the survey and encouraged representatives of the people to participate in group discussions. In addition to that PAR technique (Participatory Rural Appraisal) was applied for data collection and problems analysis, the survey was divided into two groups (Darussalam and Gouz Gurab). However quantitative approach was applied for data collection on population number, households' heads, education of households, etc. using structured form, and SPSS software was used to analysis quantitative data. Also observation and notes were considered. Descriptive approach and estimation are used to show the results.

Result/Findings

Livelihood Activities

The results revealed that agriculture and rearing of animal are practiced by community in the area, but agriculture activity is weak comparatively with their neighbouring community in Terij, may be due to: Lack of agricultural skills, type of soil around their Damras during rain fed agriculture and looting of animals due to the last tribal conflict of 2010.

Agriculture

Rain fed agriculture is a major activity for Darussalam and Gouz Gorab people. The majority of them practice rain fed agriculture, while a very few people in Darussalam practice both rain fed and irrigated winter season agriculture. In rainy season, people in the area grow mainly (Millet, Sorghum, Groundnut), while in winter season, they grow basically (Potatoes, Onion). The survey showed that the majority of people in the area owned lands.

Livestock

The Study showed that rearing of animal is the second major livelihood activity for both Darussalam and Gouz Gurab. Less than 50% of the populace breed livestock (Cows, Sheep, and Goat). Animal mobility is due to seasonal change, livestock move according to availability of pasture and water. Animal breeders complain of different diseases attacking their animals such as (*Umdridmat, Abulisan* for cows).

Secondary livelihood activities

Findings showed that people in the area struggle to survive, the women concentrate on fire wood, grasses, and charcoal collection as secondary activities, while men mainly depend on animal commerce either on local markets or transfer of animals (Cows and Camel) out of the state for sale. Some of the youth join the military, and others are into gold mining; however some of them are hired as cow boys. Livelihood in the area is highly vulnerable to income and climatic shocks. Table (1) shows Sources of income.

Table 1: Sources of income

No.	Name of village /Damra	Main Sources of income	Secondary sources of income	Agricultural seasons	Type of Crop grown	Type of Animal rear
1	Darussalam	Agriculture, Animal Raising	Gold Mining (Youth), Firewood, Grass, Charcoal Trading (Women), Poles, Wooden Holders, Driving Cattle to Main Markets, Animals Trading	Rain fed and very few in winter season	Dura, Millet, Groundnuts, Sesame, Okra, Melon, and Tomato in some places in rainy season. Very a few Potato, Onion, in winter season.	Cow, Sheep, Goat
2	Gouz Gurab	Agriculture, Animal raising		Rain fed	Dura, Millet, Groundnuts, Sesame, Tomato in some places in rainy season.	Cow, Sheep, Goat

Source: Field Survey

Discussion

Local market survey

The study covered Trierj weekly market which is considered as the main market in the area. The prices of main crops and commodities were investigated. Women market activities

concentrate mainly on selling of crops, handicraft, and tea makers, while some of the men are animal traders and intermediaries, and others, commodities traders. The youth concentrate on mobile selling, battery charging, shaving, animal trading, commodity trading. Table 2 and 3 illustrates commodities and animals prices.

Table 2: Trierj Market survey

No.	Commodity	Unit	Average unit price SDG
1	Millet	Malwa	11
2	Sorghum	Malwa	7
3	Onion	Malwa	20
4	Groundnuts	Malwa	6
5	Okra	Pound	5
6	Dry Tomato	Pound	4
7	Pepper	Pound	8
8	meat (cow, goat, sheep, and camel)	Kg	20

Source: Field Survey, Nov. 2011

Table 3: Triej Animal Market survey

No.	Animals	price range per head SDG
1	Camel	1500 to 5000
2	Sheep	200 to 450
3	Goat	150 to 300
4	Cows	1200 to 2500
5	Normal Donkey	60 to 450
6	Quick Donkey	800 to 1700

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Environment and natural resources

The field survey showed that, the whole area is poorly vegetated. The finding also revealed that there is a protected forest reserve called (Boya forest) which is historically, a sanctuary for elephant and other wild life in Triej. Discussion with community representatives shows that there are few wild lives in the area such as foxes, wolves, monkeys, chimpanzee, aardvark, rabbits, wild chicken, etc. Regarding water resources, there are a few valleys and streams crossing the area. Ground water is somehow far deep, but on the west side of Darussalam damra, ground water can be found around two to three meters deep.

Problem Identification

The study depends on the PAR technique to identify the problems which the community in the area face. After full discussion and well committed in both gender, effective awareness creation has been done among the participants. The researchers' facilitates for them to come out with their most pressing problems and priorities. Also the researchers' encourages them to identify the areas of their contribution in resolving the mentioned problems; Table 4 shows the three main problems facing the community in general, while table 5 shows problems that the women are facing.

Table 4: Community Problems Analysis

No.	Name of village /Damra	First problem (P1)	Second problem (P2)	Third problem (3)
1	Darussalam	Lack of Water for Human and Animals	Lack of Health Services	Lack of Education (Young and Elders)
2	Gouz Gurab	Lack of Education	Lack of Health Services	Mosque as Community Center not Constructed

Source: Field Survey, 2011

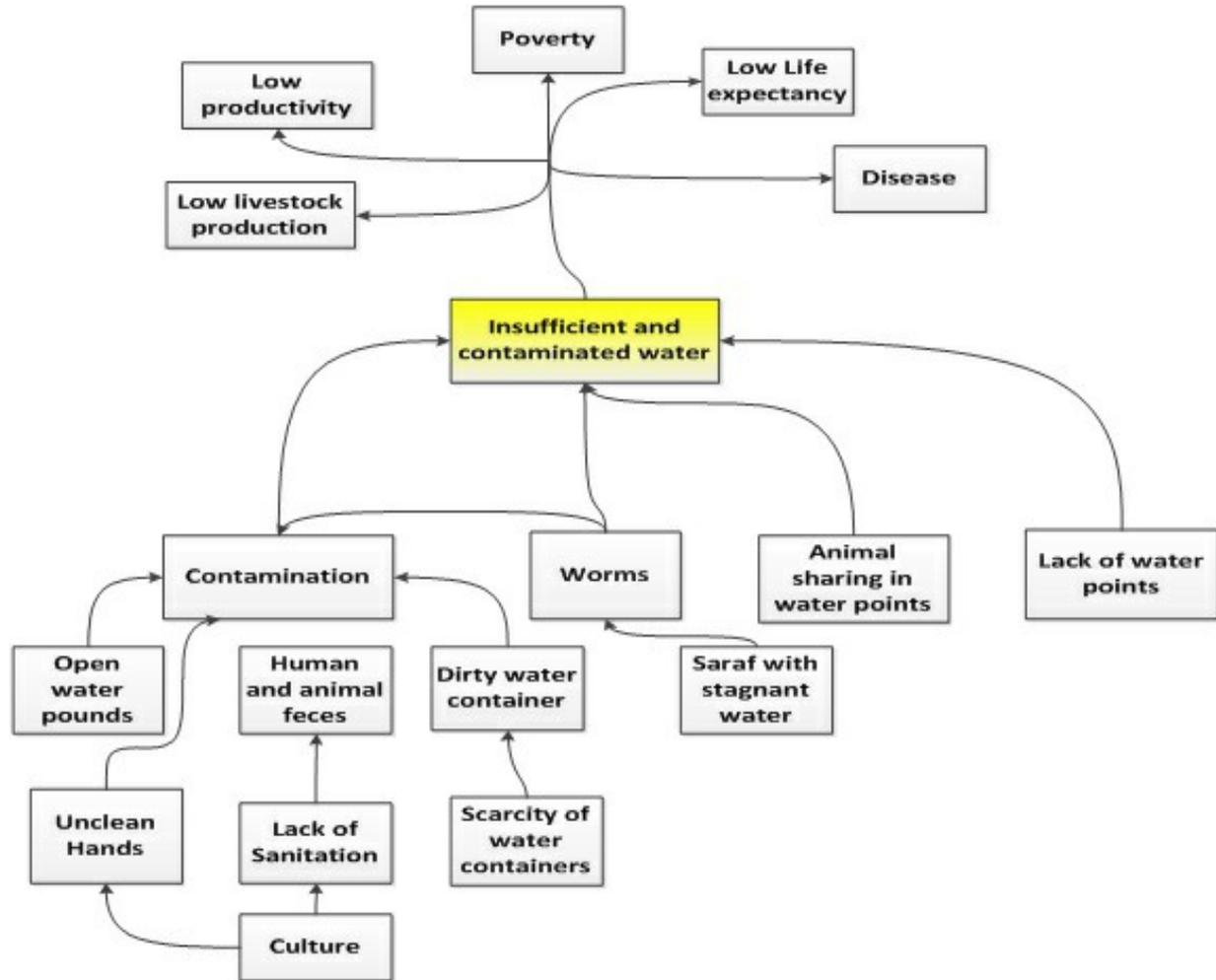
Table 5: Women Problems Analysis

No.	Name of village /Damra	First problem (P1)	Second problem (P2)	Third problem (3)
1	Darussalam	Lack of Flour mill	Lack of Trained midwife	Lack of Handcraft Training
2	Gouz Gurab	Lack of Flour mill	Lack of Agricultural Inputs	Lack of Plastic covering for house protection in rainy season

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Problems Trees

The main pressing problems are insufficient and contaminated water, Illiteracy, and lack of health services are well, the problems were considered and analyzed according to their root causes, effects, and impacts, figure 1 show problems trees for insufficient & contaminated water and Illiteracy.

Figure 1: insufficient and contaminated water problem

References

Primary data collected by the authors on 20-29 Dec. 2011 in Darussalam and Gouz Gurab Area, Triej subunit, Locality of Zalingei, West Darfur State, Sudan.