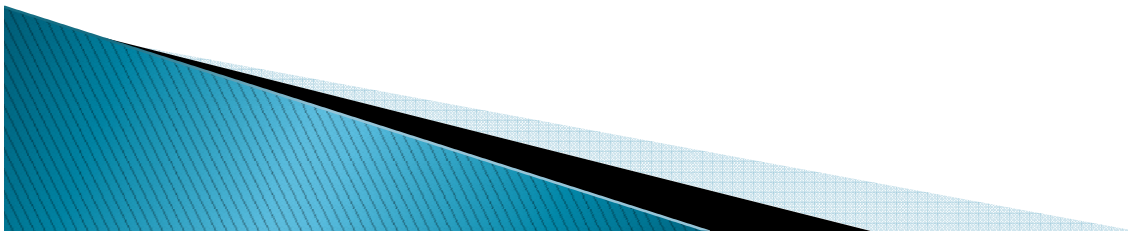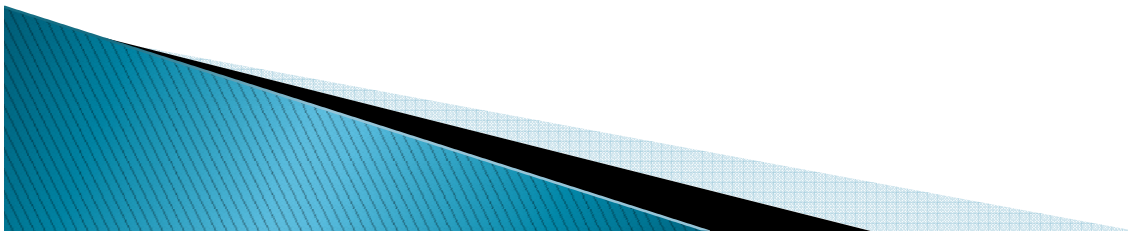# ASSESSING COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES ON DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT: A CASE STUDY OF NAKURU COUNTY

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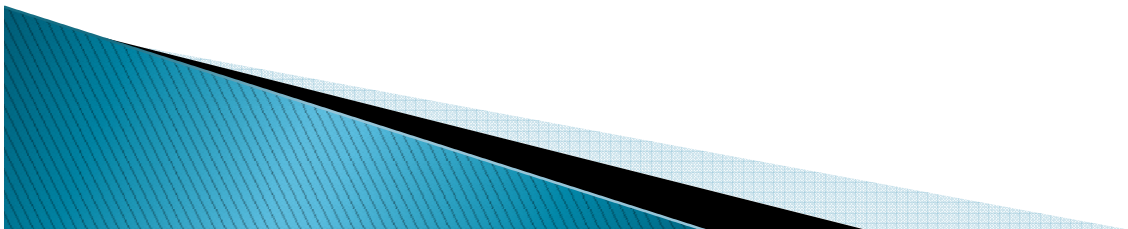nyakwarogara@gmail.com

Background of the Study

➢ Mitigation is the application of measures that will either prevent the onset of a disaster or reduce the impacts should one occur.

➢ Preparedness activities prepare the community to respond when a disaster occurs.
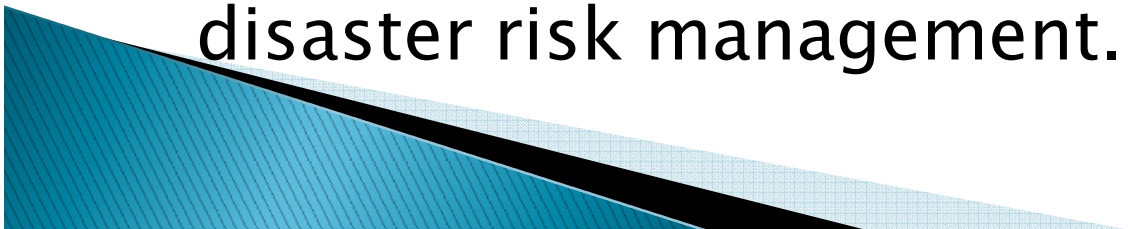
Background of the Study

➤ Response is the employment of resources and emergency procedures as guided by plans to preserve life, property, the environment, and the social, economic, and political structure of the community.

➤ Recovery involves the actions taken in the long term after the immediate impact of the disaster has passed to stabilize the community and to restore some semblance of normalcy.

Statement of the Problem

- This research aimed at assessing how and what strategies Nakuru County government have put in place for any eventualities which may occur as a result of disaster.

- Further, when disaster strikes in developing countries, relief organization may face additional challenges. These have prompted to undertake to understand the strategies used by the Nakuru County to cope with the disaster risk management.

Objectives of the Study

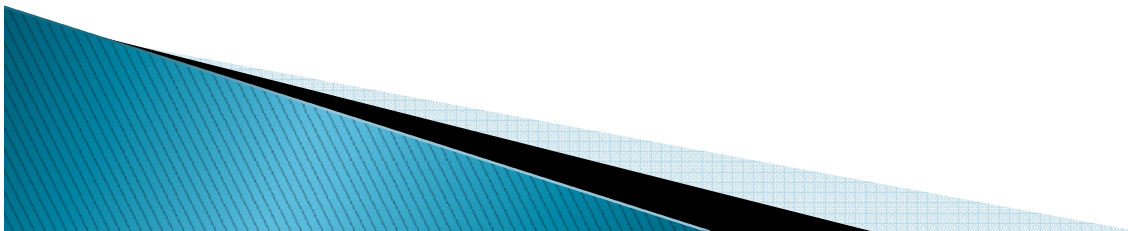- To establish the extent to which disaster risk management strategies have been deployed in Nakuru County.
- To investigate the possible impact of disaster and how to mitigate the same in Nakuru County.
- To evaluate disaster strategies on preparedness, response and recovery in Nakuru County.
- To analyze strategies to bring about community resilience in Nakuru County in event a disaster occur.

Research Questions

- To what extent do the structure of the county government and type of information systems installed account for the strategies in the perceived disaster risk management.
- What are the effects of disaster in the county and how do we mitigate them?
- Which strategies has Nakuru County put in place towards disaster preparedness, response and recovery?
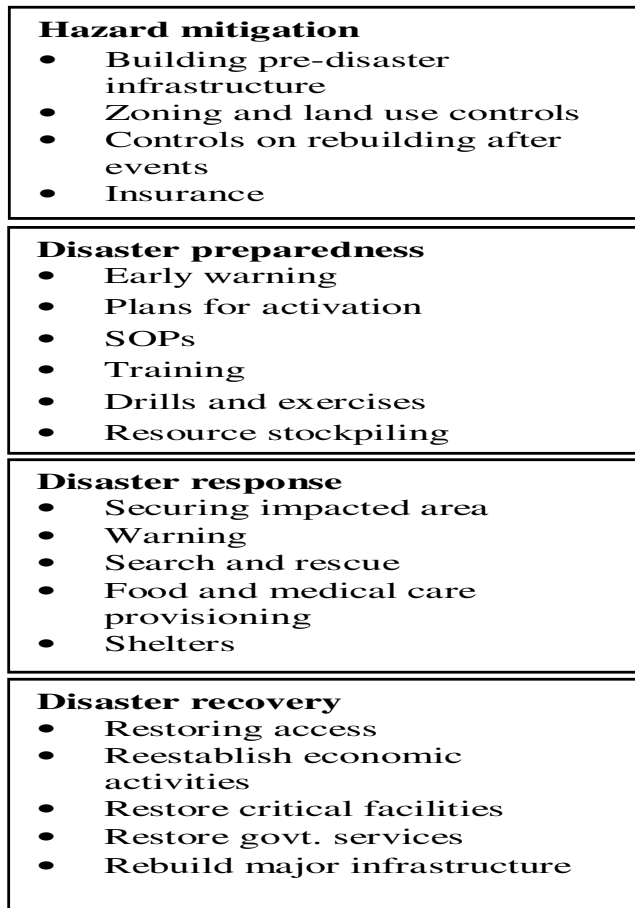- What are the strategies put forward to bring about community resilience?

Significance of the study

- Academics, stakeholders and members of the public will benefit from the present study in the sense that it will inform theory and practice of strategies on disaster risk management, thus it will ensure increased financial stability and efficient economic functioning in the governance of the county. It will also provide a basis for further research in disaster risk management, focusing on developing countries.
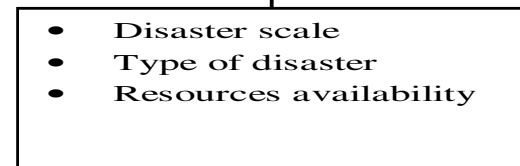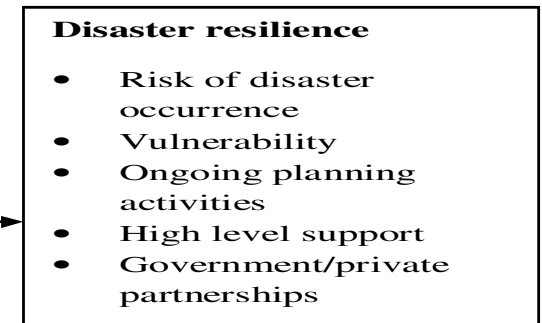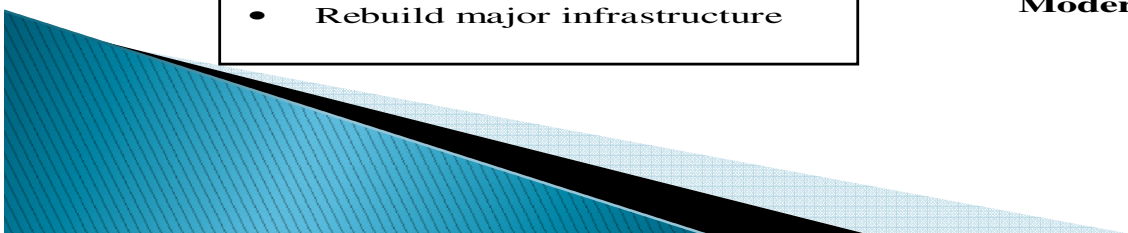
Conceptual Framework

Independent variable

Hazard mitigation
- Building pre-disaster infrastructure
- Zoning and land use controls
- Controls on rebuilding after events
- Insurance

Disaster preparedness
- Early warning
- Plans for activation
- SOPs
- Training
- Drills and exercises
- Resource stockpiling

Disaster response
- Securing impacted area
- Warning
- Search and rescue
- Food and medical care provisioning
- Shelters

Disaster recovery
- Restoring access
- Reestablish economic activities
- Restore critical facilities
- Restore govt. services
- Rebuild major infrastructure

Dependent variable

Disaster resilience
- Risk of disaster occurrence
- Vulnerability
- Ongoing planning activities
- High level support
- Government/private partnerships

- Disaster scale
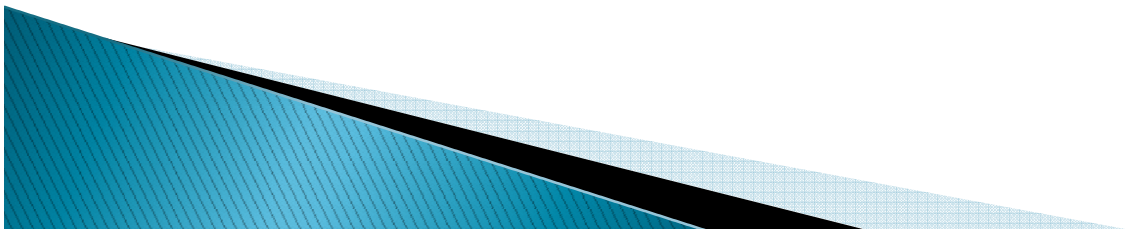- Type of disaster
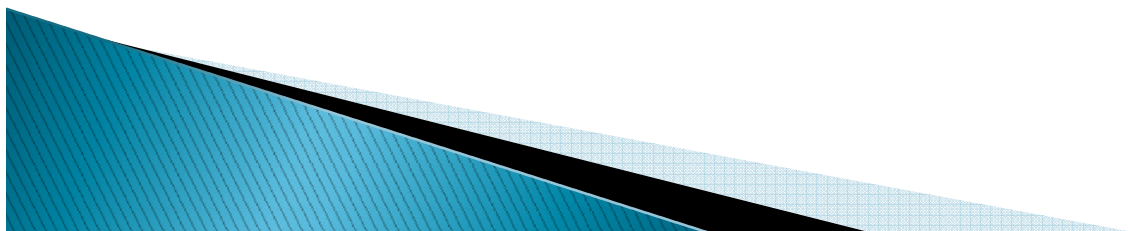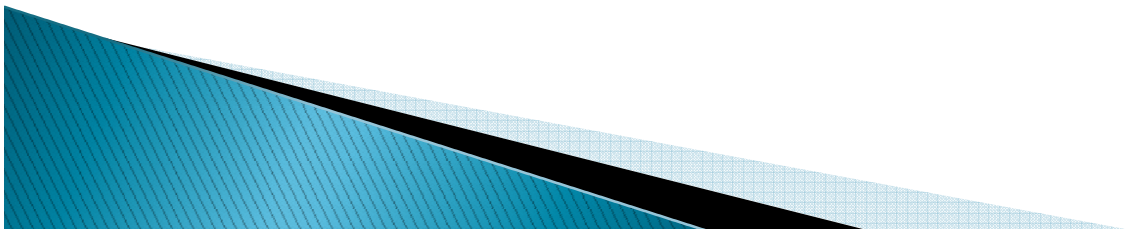- Resources availability

Moderating variables

Discussions

- Disaster risk management strategies especially preparedness, response and recovery is differently understood by different categories of participants.

- Regression analysis indicated a negative coefficient for hazard mitigation unlike Disaster preparedness that posted a positive beta coefficient.

- It is then surprising that even disaster risk management staff from Government agencies largely construe their major role as mainly involving immediate post disasters actions such as disaster response.
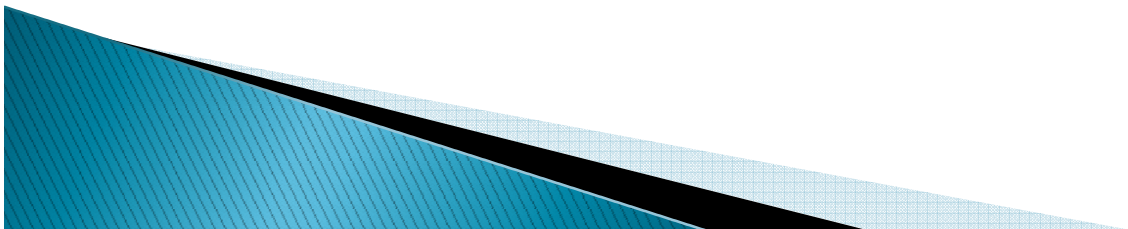
- Disaster risk management programs involve a complex web of institutional linkages.
- These include: the participation of national and county government agencies, businesses and private sector associations, non-government organizations, volunteer groups, the academia, media, and foreign funding agencies. Some local communities affected by or vulnerable to disaster risks natural hazards have also formed associations for disaster preparedness.
- Coordination among these organizations, therefore, remains a serious challenge for stakeholders involved according to Quero, R (2012) the same is supported by the outcome of the study.

- The study further found out the following; emergency management capacity is built from the ground up, neighborhood and community programs have to stand on their own because assistance may not arrive immediately. Major incidents are addressed by mutual assistance arrangements among community police, fire, and emergency medical service providers.

- Prevention is generally a local responsibility as well.

- Further to the foregoing, mitigation is the application of measures that will either prevent the onset of a disaster or reduce the impacts should one occur.
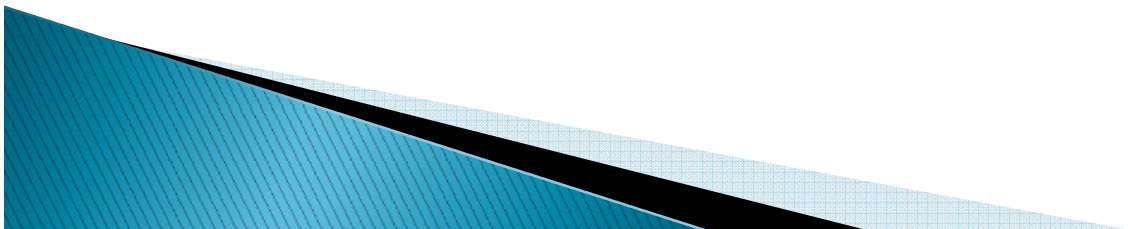
- Preparedness activities prepare the community to respond when a disaster occurs.
- Response is the employment of resources and emergency procedures as guided by plans to preserve life, property, the environment, and the social, economic, and political structure of the community.
- Recovery involves the actions taken in the long term after the immediate impact of the disaster has passed to stabilize the community and to restore some semblance of normalcy.
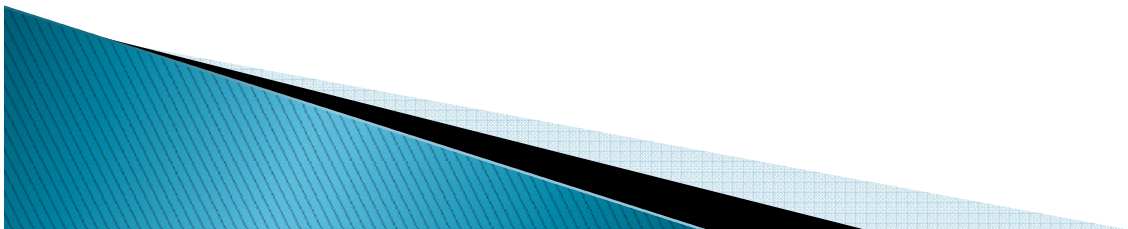
Conclusions

- The significance of developing a comprehensive disaster management model is emphasized more comprehensively and measures should be taken both for pre and post disaster phases and these measures should be supported by a strategic plan which is developed according to specific local hazard maps.

- There is need to account for the strategies in the perceived disaster risk management in respect to the structure of the county government and type of information system installed therein.

Recommendations

- The study notes that it is not enough for departments to be established and functions as outlined for the personnel.

- However, continuous training, increased communication and coordination on a continuous basis with all the key stakeholders

- Awareness is necessary to enable appreciation of the state of the science and artificial changes in the disaster risk management theory as well as practice so that increased collaboration and effectiveness can be attained.

Recommendations

▸ The study suggests future research to include the participation of national and county government agencies, business and private sector associations, non-government organizations, volunteer groups, the academia, media, and foreign funding agencies.

▸ This is because coordination among these organizations remains a serious challenge for stakeholders involved, thus further research is needed to highlight how that coordination can be carried out.