

In Gaborone, a crisis is defined as a situation that requires perseverance, resilience, and unwavering determination to stand firm against all odds. It is perceived as an experience that demands internal strength and consistency, emphasising the ability to confront and endure adversity without giving up.

The definition of crisis across the regions of Gaborone, Livingstone, Lusaka, Gwembe Valley, Lilongwe, Mangochi, Zanzibar, Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Nairobi, Jinja, Sekiwunga, Bufundi, and Kigali shares several core themes, though some unique regional characteristics emerge. Below is a comparison of the similarities and differences:

## Similarities

- 1. Emotional and Psychological Strain:** Crises are commonly associated with emotional challenges such as fear, hopelessness, confusion, and frustration. For instance, in Gaborone, Livingstone, Lusaka, Mangochi, Lilongwe, and Nairobi, crises are described with emotional terms like "pain," "stress," and "fear."
- 2. Economic Hardship:** Economic struggles, such as unemployment, poverty, and financial instability, are central to the understanding of crises across regions. In Nairobi, Gaborone, Livingstone, Lusaka, Mangochi, and Zanzibar, crises are defined by economic hardship, such as financial loss, debts, and the inability to meet basic needs like paying school fees.
- 3. Relational and Social Challenges:** Many regions highlight social and relational breakdowns during crises. Family division, societal rejection, betrayal, and community fragmentation are consistently mentioned in regions like Livingstone, Lusaka, Lilongwe, and Jinja.
- 4. Spiritual and Faith-Based Struggles:** Across regions such as Mangochi, Zanzibar, Lusaka, and Lilongwe, spiritual struggles form part of the definition of crisis. These struggles may involve doubts in faith, challenges with church leadership, or conflicts between faith and cultural practices.

## Differences

- 1. Cultural Specificity:** Certain regions, like Mangochi and Zanzibar, integrate unique cultural elements such as witchcraft and faith-based discrimination into their definitions of crisis. These spiritual dimensions are less prominent in regions like Lusaka and Livingstone, where the focus tends to be on broader social or economic issues.
- 2. Systemic Issues and Governance:** Nairobi stands out for its focus on governance failures, corruption, and mismanagement as significant causes of crises. This contrasts with regions like Livingstone and Lusaka, where crises are more emotionally and socially focused, rather than on systemic governance failures.
- 3. Spiritual Warfare and Witchcraft:** Witchcraft is a prominent feature in the definitions of crises in Mangochi, Zanzibar, and Jinja. This is not as common in other regions like Gaborone and Lusaka, where crises tend to focus more on social, economic, and political challenges.



- 4. Regional Specificity in Family Dynamics:** Regions like Nairobi and Sekiwunga highlight familial issues such as strained marriages, domestic violence, and child abuse, which are seen as key elements of crises. In contrast, Lusaka and Livingstone focus more broadly on social fragmentation and relational stress without the same level of cultural or familial specificity.

## Conclusion

While there is a shared understanding of crises as moments of intense emotional, economic, and social disruption across these regions, each area adapts this definition to its unique cultural, spiritual, and systemic context. For instance, Nairobi's emphasis on governance contrasts with Mangochi's focus on witchcraft, reflecting how local challenges shape the meaning of crisis in these diverse settings.

