



PRESS RELEASE

LAUNCH OF THE PASSAGE PROJECT

For Immediate Release

September 5, 2023 (NAIROBI, Kenya) - The UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) today jointly launched the Strengthening Pastoralist Livelihoods Through Effective Anticipatory Action (PASSAGE) among the new climate finance and resilience projects worth £49 million that will be delivered across Africa by the UK Government. The UK Envoy, H.E. Ambassador Neil Wigan, was a keynote speaker during the IGAD climate security meeting, at the Africa Climate Week, where he announced PASSAGE project as part of UK support to climate adaptation. Present were H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, IGAD Executive Secretary, and IGAD staff members.

Background

The Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) has witnessed a staggering toll on its pastoral communities, with the relentless scourge of drought claiming the lives of 3.6 million livestock and leaving 28 million people teetering on the brink of severe food insecurity and water shortages. Urgent humanitarian aid has become a lifeline for these vulnerable populations. Despite extensive monitoring and forecasts, the impact of early actions has proved inadequate in saving lives and preserving livelihoods, exposing flaws in drought monitoring, preparedness, and implementation, from transboundary to local scales.

In response to this critical situation, the Strengthening Pastoralist Livelihoods Through Effective Anticipatory Action (PASSAGE), funded under the Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE) programme is determined to enhance the management of extreme climate events, safeguarding pastoral livelihoods and the communities that depend on them. The project aims to achieve this by improving modeling, forecasting, and anticipatory action plans. It focuses particularly on the transboundary areas within the GHA region, which host some of the most vulnerable and disaster prone pastoral communities, grappling with acute malnutrition levels and water related challenges.

Challenges in Drought Management and Preparedness

The recurring drought crisis in the GHA, although well-monitored and forecasted, has exposed the inadequacy of early actions triggered by climate and food security indicators. This experience has illuminated deficiencies in drought monitoring,

actionable forecasts, preparedness plans, and their execution. These shortcomings span from transboundary to national levels and down to local communities. The current and recent food security crises underscore the potential of anticipatory action to mitigate and prevent drought impacts, as well as the challenges in effectively implementing such action amid slow-evolving crises in complex contexts.

PASSAGE's Vision

The PASSAGE project aims to enhance operational Early Warning Systems (EWS) and anticipatory action for drought risk in pastoralist livelihood systems across the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA). The primary goal is to enhance climate-resilient and sustainable livelihoods, with a specific focus on the most vulnerable communities.

PASSAGE adopts a holistic approach, emphasizing the co-production of knowledge and transdisciplinary understanding of socio-ecological dynamics in pastoralist areas across the GHA. Expected results include improved scientific understanding of climate change effects on pasture conditions, novel socio-ecological models, enhanced drought forecasting, and recommendations for impactful anticipatory actions.

Project Team and Partners

The project is led by the Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the University of Sussex. Collaborating institutions include Kenya's National Drought Management Agency, University of Nairobi, Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), Jigjiga University, Centre for Research and Integrated Development, Makerere University, World Food Program, and Virridy Research Inc.

The PASSAGE project signifies a collective commitment to mitigating the impact of drought on pastoralist communities in the Greater Horn of Africa. It aims to empower these communities, enhance climate resilience, and foster sustainable livelihoods, particularly for the most vulnerable. Through innovative modeling, forecasting, and anticipatory actions, PASSAGE aspires to be a beacon of hope for those confronting the harsh realities of climate change.

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About PASSAGE:

The PASSAGE project will run between July 2023 and December 2026 and is dedicated to enhancing the resilience of pastoral communities in the Greater Horn of

Africa. By co-developing risk narratives and anticipatory action plans based on predictive multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (EWS), PASSAGE seeks to address the knowledge gaps in operational EWS and anticipatory action for drought risk in pastoralist livelihood systems across the region. This project is supported by IDRC and FCDO under the CLARE initiative and implemented by ICPALD, IFRC, and the University of Sussex. Collaborating institutions include the National Drought Management Agency, University of Nairobi, Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), Jigjiga University, Centre for Research and Integrated Development, Makerere University, World Food Program, and Virridy Research Inc.



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