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SEEDS OF RESILIENCE

In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of IDDRSI

UPDATES • FEATURE • LESSONS • IGAD MEDIA AWARDS • SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

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To submit articles for the next edition,
please contact: Jemal.mensur@igad.int

Planning, Coordination and Partnerships Division (PCPD)
IGAD Avenue Georges Clemenceau P.O. Box 2653
Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti www.resilience.igad.int

Editor in Chief: Tesfaye Beshah (Ph.D), Mr. Jemal Mensur
Design & Layout: Mr. Amos Ochieng

Contributors
Tesfaye Beshah, Mohamed A. Omar, Dr.Ahmed Amdihun, Abokor Abdi and Kokebe Hailegebriel, Timo Schimt, Roberto Rudari, Elenora Panizza, Naphtal Habiyaremye, Ahmed Amdihun, Paulino Omoj Omay , Nzioka J. Muthama , Christopher Oludhe , Josiah M. Kinama , Guleid Artan, Zachary Atheru, Mohamud Abdi, Dr.Mohamed Elduma, Tony Mwaniki, Kathryn Langat, Wamalwa K, Opio P, Dereje W, Harinder M

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FOREWARD

Workneh Gebeyehu (PhD),
IGAD Executive Secretary

The prudent decision of the Heads of State of the IGAD region and Development Partners in September 2011 to establish the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IGAD) not only came a long way but also prepared the region for an inevitable climate change era that even requires much more partnership and coordination at multiple levels. As a Chairperson of the IDDRSI Platform, I witnessed the central role of the regional platform in mobilising resources for the region, joint planning and monitoring the progress of resilience projects and programmes.

The IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) has celebrated its Tenth Anniversary. The Resilience Focus Magazine (RFM), which was initiated during the first Phase of IDDRSI, dedicated Issue No. 8 to the Tenth Anniversary of IDDRSI.

As we mark ten years of implementation of resilience projects within the framework of IDDRSI, I would like to take this opportunity to strongly appeal to the Member States and Development Partners to intensify investments in resilience projects, with special emphasis on the arid and semi-arid community who are more often than not affected by multiple hazards.

In the Special Issue of the RFM, project-level communications, journalistic accounts on drought, and scientific articles are presented. Articles of the issue address most of the IDDRSI of the eight Priority Intervention Areas (PIAs) directly, while the exhibit evidence related to Priority Intervention Area 5: Research, Knowledge Management & Technology Transfer, indirectly, as there are a number of knowledge products.

Priority Intervention Area 1: Natural Resources & Environment Management is addressed by two articles in this issue. These are: i) The Transhumance Corridor Development Plan (TCDP) provides a drought resilience roadmap for the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. ii) Drylands Transform Project in the IGAD Region. This article highlights the project's work investigating

the links between land health, livestock-based livelihoods, human well-being, land management and governance. The project will contribute new knowledge for transformative change and sustainable development of rangelands in the drylands of East Africa.

Market Access, Trade & Financial Services (PIA 2) is addressed by Building Resilient Market Systems in the cross-border drylands of the IGAD Region. This article highlights innovations and technologies aiming to boost production and productivity in the selected cross-border areas and build resilient markets through transboundary actions.

An article contributed by the SCIDA III Project Team addressed PIA 3: Enhanced Production and Livelihood Diversification. Their article "The Remarkable Resilience of the Galla Goat Breed amidst Drought in Turkana County, Kenya", demonstrates the multi-faced nature of resilience building where improved income through increased adaptation to the changing environment. The article by ICPALD and UNFAO, "Strengthening Animal Feed and Fodder Production for Resilient and Sustainable Livestock Production and Food Security in the IGAD Region." Provided further insight into the strategic objectives of PIA 3. The article focuses on strengthening member States' animal feed and fodder data with specific recommendations.

Disaster Risk Management (PIA 4) aims to address risks to the livelihoods of people and landscapes. The article by the ICPAC Team - Diversification of livelihoods: Experiences of Climate-smart Agriculture Pilot in Drylands Regions of Kenya is related to PIA 4. It highlights the results of a pilot project carried through three approaches aimed at enhancing the resilience of livelihoods and ecosystems and improving the productivity and incomes of smallholder pastoralists. The ICPAC Team also contributed another article: "Observed Changes in Wet Days and Dry Spells over the IGAD Region of Eastern Africa." The article provides evidence that changes in wet and dry patterns impact rain-fed agriculture, crop productivity, and food security in Eastern Africa.

The article by CEWARN on:" Navigating the Nexus: Understanding the Complex Relationship Between Youth Unemployment, Climate Change, and Violent Extremism in the IGAD Region" covers Peace Building, Conflict Prevention and Resolution (PIA 6). The article demonstrates the interconnected causes of violent extremism and other forms of conflict in the borderlands. The study sought to unearth the potential links between youth unemployment, climate change, and violent extremism.

Human Capital, Gender and Social Development (PIA 8) of IDDRSI covers irregular migration and displacement. An article from the Health and Social Development Division addressed the displacement aspect of this PIA. Their article "Fostering Durable Solutions for Displacement in Somalia: Lessons from DRDIP II-Somali Grant addresses the impact of the Development Response to Displacement Impact Project II (DRDIP II) is a capacity-building program to foster the development of return and integration areas for displaced individuals in Somalia. The project successfully facilitated the development of the social cohesion policy for Somalia. The ICPAC and Partner Organizations experts contributed an article, "Addressing Climate-induced Displacement and Migration in the IGAD Region: Broadening Evidence for an Informed Policy and Decision Making." Building on the context of the region that is highly affected by climate change, this article has underlined the importance of various components of risks for policymakers and in the reduction of risks by humanitarian organisations in designing strategies to reduce displacements induced by disasters.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank experts who individually or jointly contributed to various articles that demonstrated the state of implementation of resilience projects and their impacts in various corners of the IGAD region that we need to intensify as we look forward to the third and the last phase of IDDRSI that will commence from 2025. In the same vein, I would like to also thank Member States and Development Partners for the financial and technical support provided to projects highlighted in this issue of the RFM.

Empowering Cross-Border Drylands:
Building Resilient Market Systems in the IGAD Region

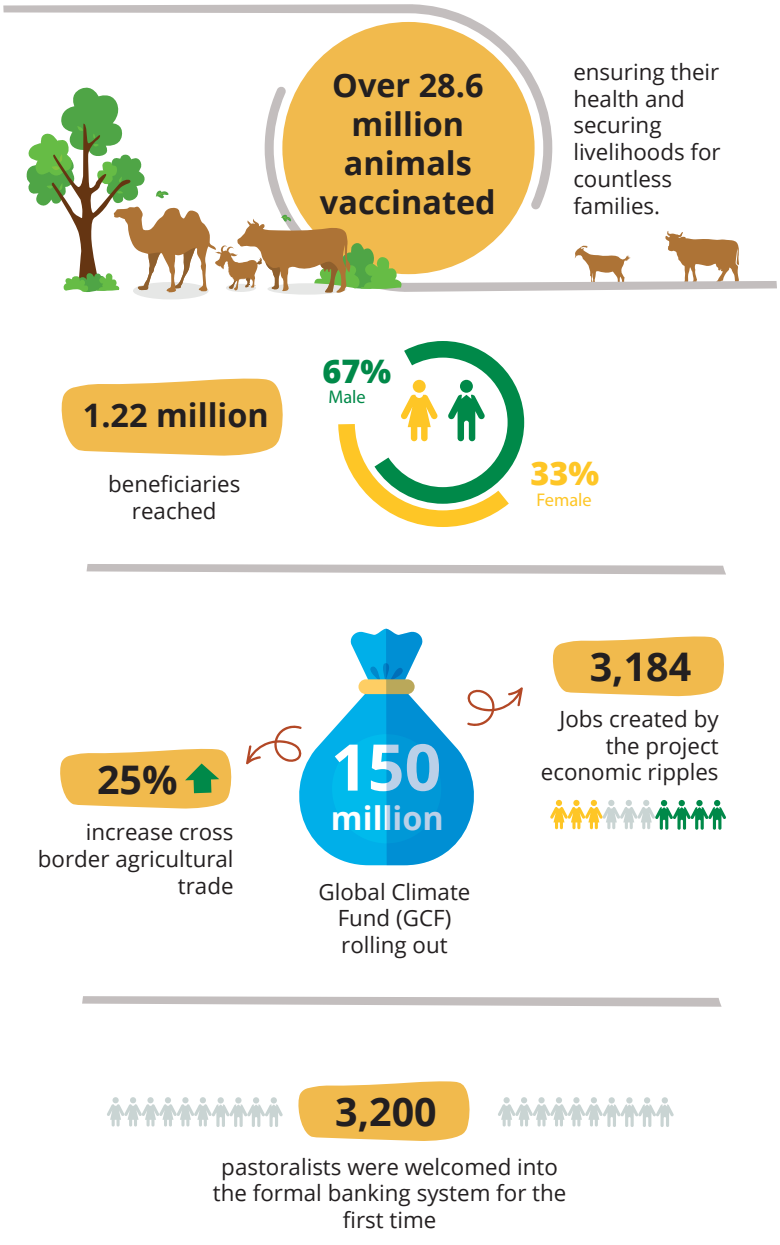
Wamalwa Kinyanjui - ICPALD, Abdi Fidar - ICPAC, Ayan Mahamoud - ICPALD,
Tesfaye Beshah - PCPD, IDDRSI PCU, Jemal Mensur - PCPD, IDDRSI PCU

In the heart of the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of the IGAD region known as Karamoja and Mandera Clusters, a remarkable project has quietly shaped the future. "Building Resilient Market Systems in the cross-border Drylands of the IGAD Region" is more than just a title; itis an example of hope for communities facing the harsh realities of drought. With a clear goal of achieving drought disaster-resilient communities, institutions, and ecosystems by 2027, the project has been making waves in the region, thanks to the unwavering support of development partners (USAID).

One of the standout achievements of this endeavor was the synchronized animal vaccination effort that spanned three countries—Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. Over 28.6 million animals received life-saving vaccinations, ensuring their health and securing livelihoods for countless families. Notably, this effort extended its reach to include 1.12 million beneficiaries, with a significant portion estimated at 33 % being women—a testament to the project's commitment to gender inclusivity.

Beyond vaccinations, the project fostered cross-border cooperation in the most tangible way possible. Key provisions of the agreements were disseminated among communities residing along Ethiopia's borders, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda. This outreach reached an impressive 180,000 people, breaking down barriers and strengthening bonds across borders. Communities that once faced isolation now stand united in their pursuit of resilience. A game-changing development was the establishment of the IGAD Technical Working Group (TWG) on risk transfer and microinsurance. This initiative revolutionized the way drought-prone regions prepare for adversity. More than 1.9 million

Perhaps the most transformative aspect of this initiative is the establishment of the Drylands Resilience Research Network.



livestock in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia are now insured against drought, safeguarding vulnerable pastoralists' assets.

In the dryads of Somalia, a groundbreaking financial inclusion campaign transformed lives. Approximately 3,200 pastoralists were welcomed into the formal banking system for the first time, thanks to the tireless efforts of the TWG. Financial literacy training further empowered 602 households, equipping them with the knowledge needed to navigate the financial landscape.

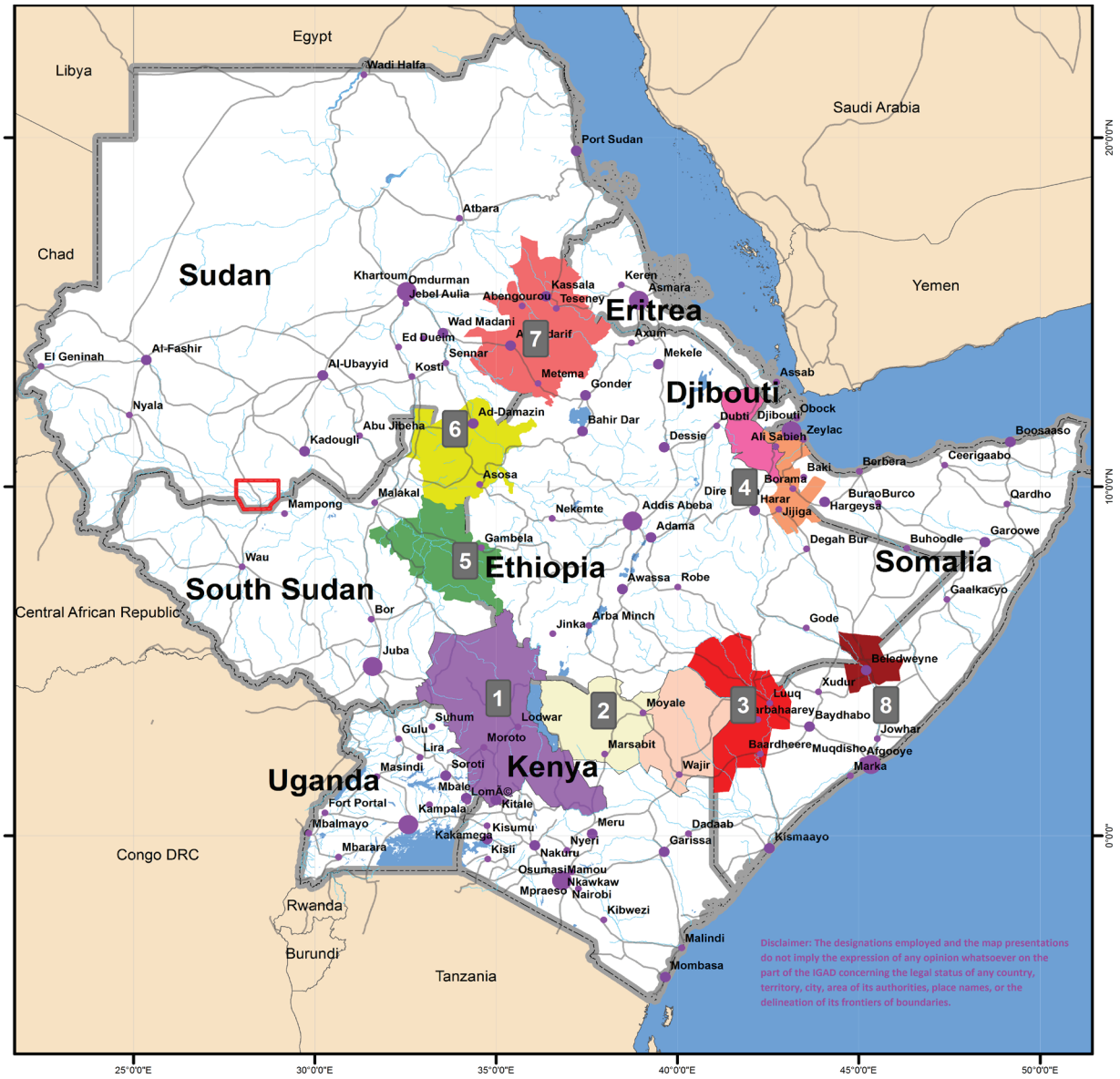
The project's impact extends far beyond individual beneficiaries. A 25% increase in cross-border agricultural trade has stimulated economic growth in the region. It is not just about trade numbers; it is about the livelihoods of thousands of people who depend on agriculture for survival. The project's economic ripples have created a total of 3,184 jobs (Direct, Investments totaling USD 743,284 have poured additional resources estimated USD 3.825 into these dryland regions). In addition, the Africa Development Bank (AFDB), resourcing from the Global Climate Fund (GCF) loan and grant, is rolling out USD 150M, funds that will be accessed by local financial institutions and insurance companies to foster risk transfer mechanisms in the region. In addition, the TWG is supporting member states to access and use the World Bank-supported DRIVE (De-risking, Inclusion, and Value Enhancement of Pastoral Economies in the Horn of Africa) project, thus creating a foundation for sustainable development.

Additionally, the resources allowed the formation of the Dryland Research Network in which senior researchers from eight prominent universities and eight research institutions collaborated with the region and established the Drylands Resilience Research Network in 2022.

Perhaps the most transformative aspect of this initiative is the establishment of the Drylands Resilience Research Network. Senior researchers from prestigious universities and research institutions across the region have come together to unite their expertise to drive progress. Furthermore, under this same project, the Resilience Measurement Technical Working Group (RM TWG) introduced the IGAD Protocol for Resilience

Measurement (IPRM), a groundbreaking tool to monitor the project's impact. Piloted in Ethiopia and Kenya, the IPRM has provided valuable insights into resilience capacities and vulnerabilities, guiding future efforts.

The "Building Resilient Market Systems in the IGAD Region" initiative is far more than just a narrative of development; it embodies a profound tale of resilience, cooperation, and empowerment. It stands as a powerful testament to the transformative change that unfolds when development partners, communities, and governments converge on a shared vision. In the arid and semiarid (ASAL) landscapes of the IGAD region, a promising horizon now gleams, illuminated by a remarkable journey.



List of IGAD Clusters:

IGAD Cluster n° 1: Karamoja Cluster, 4 Countries: Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan and Ethiopia
IGAD Cluster n° 2: Borena/Marsabit-Moyale Cluster, 2 Countries: Ethiopia and Kenya
IGAD Cluster n° 3: Mandera Cluster, 3 Countries: Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia
IGAD Cluster n° 4: Dikhil Cluster, 2 Countries: Ethiopia and Djibouti
IGAD Cluster n° 5: 2 Countries: Ethiopia and South Sudan
IGAD Cluster n° 6: 3 Countries: Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan
IGAD Cluster n° 7: 3 Countries: Eritrea, Sudan and Ethiopia
IGAD Cluster n° 8: Ethio-Somali Cluster, 2 Countries: Ethiopia and Somalia

The Pastoral Roadmap towards Drought Resilience

Tony Mwaniki - GIZ

The Transhumance Corridor Development Plan (TCDP) provides a drought resilience roadmap for pastoral and agro-pastoral communities focusing on cross-border administrative units/counties within the developed areas of North Western Kenya and North Eastern Uganda. The plan was developed in the year 2021 as a major output of GIZ-SCIDA II (TCF) of Kenya and Uganda with close collaboration between the national and county governments and their respective partners. Within Kenya, Ministries in Turkana and West Pokot Counties that are in charge of Agriculture, Pastoral Economy, and Fisheries were quite focal during the participatory development of the TCDP.

Owing to the relevance of the TCDP, GIZSCIDA III was commissioned to facilitate its upscaling. Some of the outcomes that emanate from the TCDP includethe development of County Integrated Development Plan generation three (CIDP3) within Turkana and West Pokot Counties, which have borrowed greatly from drought resilience interventions from the TCDP. This is due to the relevance of interventions and participatory approaches employed during its development.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is currently in the process of developing a cross-border program based on the Transhumance Corridor Development Plan, focusing on improving the resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. The project was tentatively planned to start in 2023.

Strengthening the Resilience of the Agro-Pastoralists Livelihood in Eastern Africa (SRAPLEA II) project, launched in September 2022. This project, which is cross-border in nature, has also borrowed greatly in the identification of implementation sites from the TCDP for improving the drought resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities.

The Drought Resilience Programme in Northern Kenya (DRPNK) has also used the TCDP to identify implementation sites. The Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihood Project has implemented some proposed interventions within Turkana County, such as the establishment of a pasture farm and pasture hay store.

The Kenya National Government has supported the construction of a Border Inspection Point (BIP) at Lomokori along the border of Turkana County, Kenya, and Uganda. Establishment of a GSU camp and subsequent construction of a water pan at Urum. The TCDP proposes interventions on alternative livelihoods and sustainable management of rangelands, which are the basis of the implementation of the SCIDA III project within Kenya and Uganda.

The remarkable resilience of the Galla goat breed amidst drought in Turkana County, Kenya.

Francis Ekaru - GIZ

SCIDA III Kenya supported Naremieto Community through the improvement of galla goat breed to upscale measures piloted by GIZ SCIDA II (TCF) Project. The aim of the breed improvement is to promote Naremieto as a Centre of excellence for breed improvement in Turkana County.

The breed is supposed to produce kids that will be sold in the neighbouring areas and within Turkana County at a fair price compared to the local East African goat breed. In addition, this will contribute to improved incomes and as alternative means of livelihood to Naremieto community groups. Initially, Turkana County has been procuring breeds of galla goats from Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit and other parts of the Country. The success from Naremieto will ease availability and accessibility of galla goats locally.

SCIDA III Kenya Project builds the capacity of the community on the management of the goat breed management, management of goat shed and the production of animal feed. Members of the group shared management roles on herding, feeding, watering and cleaning of the goat shed. SCIDA III further supported expansion of pasture site which are about 2.2 acres for the grazing of the galla goats. Out of the 10 female goats that GIZ SCIDA II (TCF) supported Naremieto community with, eight galla goats have so far given birth to kids within the month of September 2022. Eight members of the group were each assigned a goat to milk in the morning and in the evening. Community members, professionals and leaders from the area have started booking the kids from male galla goats to improve their local breeds.

On 18th Oct 2022, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) of Turkana County who is also the County Chief Officer for the Ministry of Agriculture, Pastoral Economy and Fisheries visited Naremieto. He was impressed with the combination of pasture production and in the concept of galla goat breed.

During the visit, the CECM who is also the acting CECM for the Ministry of Water Services and County Chief Officer for livestock production expressed his support for Naremieto Community. He allocated one borehole in 2022/23 financial year to support the transformation of pasture production in Naremieto from being depended on rainfed practices to production of pasture through irrigation. This is expected to increase the the production galla goatsand promote the commercialization of their value chain.

Development roadmap for pastoralists within the IGAD Cluster I (Karamoja region of Uganda and Kenya)

Tony Mwaniki - GIZ

Introduction

The Transhumance Corridor Development Plan (TCDP) for IGADCluster I (Karamoja Cluster) provides a drought resilience roadmap for pastoral and agro-pastoral communities focusing on cross-border administrative units/counties within North Western Kenya and North Eastern Uganda. The plan was developed in 2021 as a major output of the GIZ-SCIDA II project that was implemented in Turkana and West Pokot Counties of Kenya and Karamoja districts of Uganda with close collaboration with both national and county governments in respective countries and development partners.

The roadmap outlines the available resources within the migratory routes, the gaps in the infrastructure in those routes, and ways of addressing the infrastructure gaps. The plan was developed through community participatory mapping methods and the integration of information technologies such as Geographic Information Systems, Remote Sensing, and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

Stakeholder engagement toward the development of the plan was carried out in Loima and Turkana West Sub-Counties of Turkana County and North Pokot Sub-County in West Pokot County, Kenya, and the districts within the Karamoja sub-region of Uganda (Moroto, Amudat, Kotido and Kaabong). A series of planning meetings and validation workshops were conducted with district/county and national governments, development partners, and other stakeholders in the development of the Transhumance Corridor Development Plan.

The roadmap was developed at a time when the signing of the IGAD Protocol on Transhumance by the IGAD Member States had been concluded in November 2020, whose purpose was to exploit the full social and economic potential of the pastoral system. The information contained in the roadmap therefore guides member states in the borderland areas of Turkana and West Pokot Counties of Kenya and the Karamoja subregion of Uganda in the Karamoja Cluster on what and where to invest as it complements the implementation of the IGAD Protocol on Transhumance.

Background

Communities in the Karamoja Cluster (IGAD Cluster I) share a common socioeconomic and political history. The region is characterized by insecurity arising from competition over scarce natural resources and underdevelopment due to political marginalization. In addition, the mainstay of livelihoods in the region is pastoral and agro-pastoralism within an ASAL environment that is harsh and unpredictable, making the populace further vulnerable to the ASAL environment.

As a coping mechanism, the inhabitants have adopted nomadic pastoralism as a way of life, which is faced with various threats such as drought. One such drought hit the Horn of Africa region in 2010-2011 that wreaked havoc and devastated the lives and livelihoods of more than 13 million people in the IGAD region (IGAD, 2013). Responding to the drought of 2011 in the Horn of Africa, the member states of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) developed the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI).

In this regard, the GIZ-SCIDA II project was commissioned as part of support to IGAD's

IDDRSI strategy toward ending drought emergencies within the Horn of Africa following the devastating drought of 2010-2011. In this regard, the project known as; 'Strengthening the implementation Capacity toward enhanced Drought Resilience within the Horn of Africa' was commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with the support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) to implement the IDDRSI strategy.

Furthermore, the GIZ-SCIDA project is being implemented within IGAD Cluster I. Through the GIZ-SCIDA II project (Technical Cooperation Facility -TCF) of Kenya and Uganda, several resilience building measures were implemented with the objective of ensuring drought disaster resilience measures have been implemented within the Karamoja cluster. To ensure that the objective was met, the following indicators were used as a basis for assessing the achievement of results.

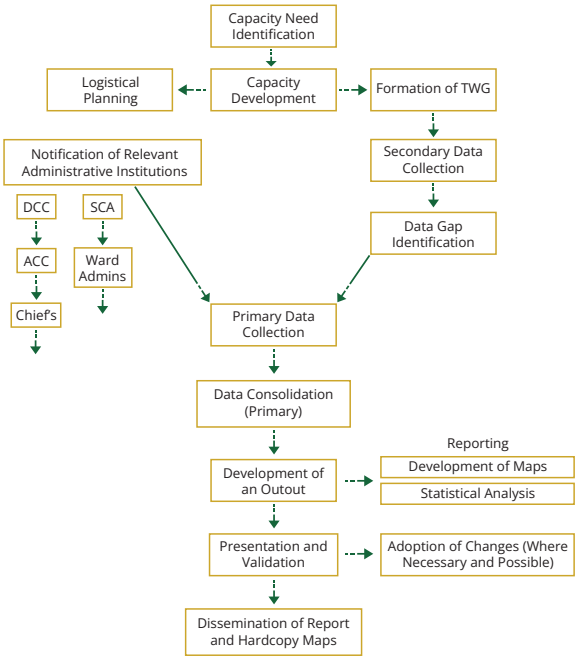
- Capacity development concept for local authorities developed.
- Implemented capacity development measures to plan and implement drought resilience measures.
- Development of a participatory corridor development plan within the Karamoja cluster of the Kenya– Uganda border region.

Methodological Approach

To facilitate the corridor development plan, several steps were carried out, with most of the measures revolving around stakeholder involvement and data and information analysis to ensure adequate situational analysis. To develop the corridor development plan, the GIZ-SCIDA II project used data that had been collected by the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) on transhumance corridors between the Karamoja region of Kenya and Uganda.

Resource Mapping

Resource mapping within the regions of Turkana and West Pokot Counties of Kenya and Karamoja districts was undertaken through GIZ-SCIDA II. The approach undertaken by the project was through capacity building for county and district officers on GIS, data collection, and spatial planning techniques to support decisions for local authorities. To ensure sustainability of the skills imparted, county and district officers from the local authorities were tasked with mapping the available county and district resources. The final products were validated using the mapping process, as illustrated in figure below.



The resources mapped included the following: water resources, agriculture and livestock facilities, trade and health facilities, learning institutions, energy centers, and social amenities, including youth, gender, and sports facilities. This culminated in the availability of digital datasets for decision support and digital resource maps, as illustrated in figure 2.

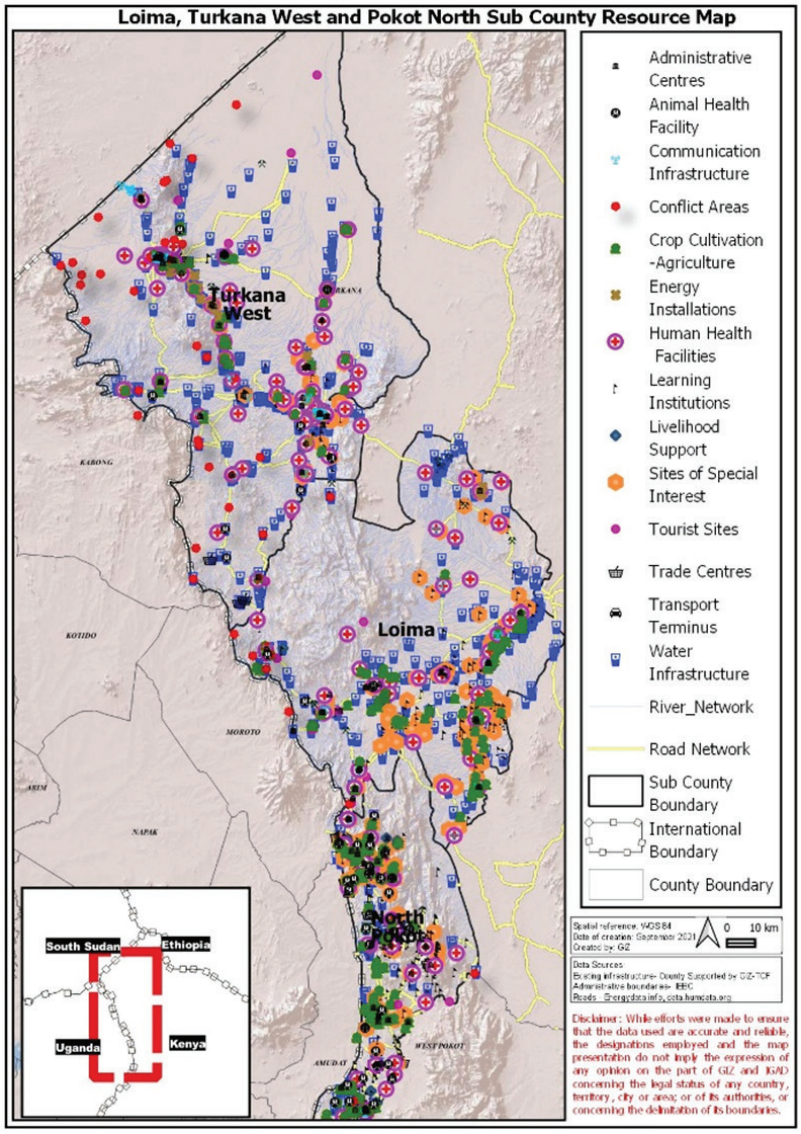


Figure 2 Sample resource map

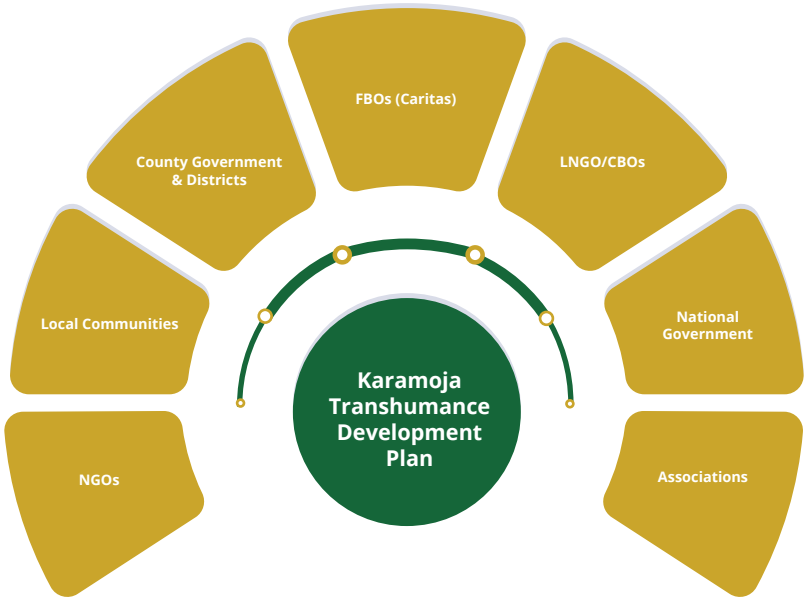


Figure 3 General stakeholder map

Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement was undertaken in various ways, including administration of data collection techniques such as focused group discussions, key informant and expert interviews, participatory mapping, and validation workshops at both community and technical forums within the county and district levels. In this regard, 939 stakeholders drawn from various stakeholder categories were engaged, as illustrated in Figure 3.

The entire process was based on a bottom-up approach for effective decision making, involving field missions dialogs consultations, and validations. Participation and inclusion involved kraal leaders, elders, women, youth, administrative authorities, political authorities, NGOs, CBOs, ICPALD, and other development partners, as illustrated in figure 4.

Prioritization of investment through Participatory mapping

Data collected on development needs for proposed investments, as obtained through the participatory approach, were put into a spatial context for better visualization. However, as human nature dictates, the proposed investments were too close to either existing infrastructure or similar to the proposed infrastructure. In this regard, prioritization of the proposed investments was necessary to serve the transhuman needs. Moreover, due to the nature of periodic migration and expansive and undefined administrative boundaries within the area, the utilization of population data as a

Figure 4 Transhumance corridor development plan process overview

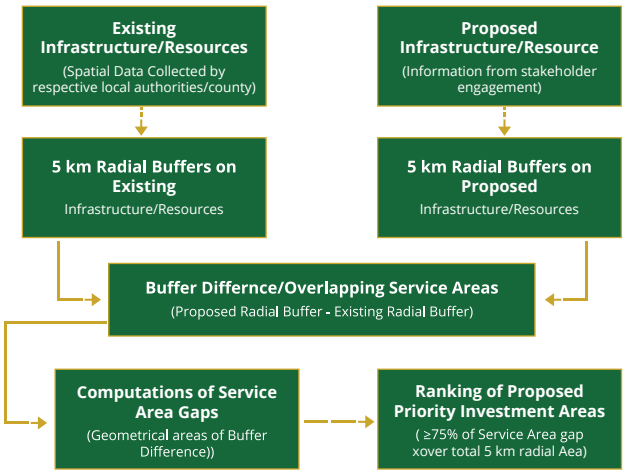


Figure 5 Spatial planning decision support approach

determinant of proposed infrastructure based on a certain population threshold was impossible.

Prioritization of the proposed investments was then undertaken by employing the use of radial spatial buffer distances. This was done to identify the optimal placement of the proposed investments within the service areas in line with the movement dynamics of the region, as illustrated in Figure 5.

The resultant priority areas for the establishment of thematic infrastructure and/or priority resources for rehabilitation were packaged through maps and tabular data to facilitate dissemination to stakeholders within the region. Figure 6 is a sample.

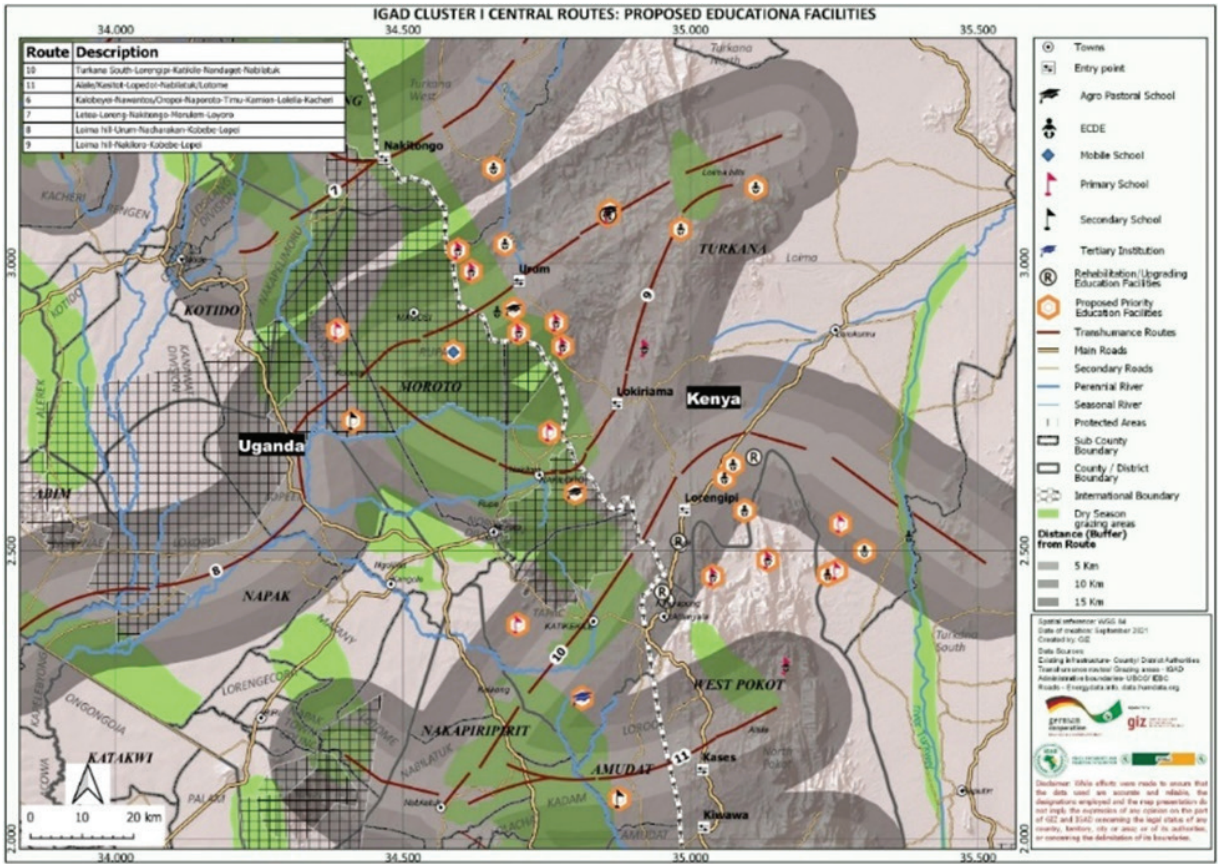


Figure 6 sample resource prioritization map

Challenges

- No specific Implementation partner for the transhumance corridor development plan. The Transhumance Corridor Development Plan does not have a specific development partner or organization that is mandated to implement it. Though the document has been done under the IGAD wing through the CBDFU office, there is no clear mandate regarding who should implement the proposed interventions.

- Inconsistent spatial data on boundaries coupled with the nomadic lifestyle of the populace made it difficult in developing geostatistical models that would have provided a better understanding of proposed investments.

Lessons Learnt

- Sensitization on the right technology for partners is key for project programming as this enabled buy-in from the county/local authorities to provide technical personnel for capacity development on skills such as spatial data collection, manipulation and analysis. This enabled the technical personnel to collect data which has been utilized both in chapters 3 and 4 of this plan.

- Harmonization of spatial data at the cross-border level is possible. However, proper coordination and dedication by the respective actors is key. This is evident from the maps developed on harmonized data both for Kenya and Uganda within this plan

- The development of the Transhumance Corridor Plan is a participatory process that requires adequate time, energy, financial resources and adequate time to ensure that the views of all the stakeholders have been captured.

Recommendation

- As a basis for monitoring, there is need to ensure frequent update of spatial data on investments, infrastructure, resources together with its respective characteristics and attributes. However, this is only possible with the partners having the right capacity, both in financial resources and technical capacity. Impacts of the Corridor Development plan owing to the relevance of the TCDP, GIZ- SCIDA III was commissioned to facilitate the upscaling of the TCDP. Some of the outcomes that are emanating from the TCDP include:

- The development of County Integrated Development Plan within Turkana and West Pokot Counties have borrowed heavily on drought resilience interventions from the TCDP. This is owed to the relevance of interventions as well as the participatory approach employed during its development.

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is currently in the process of developing a cross-border Programme based on Transhumance Corridor Development Plan. This plan is focused on improving the resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. The project was tentatively planned to commence in mid-2023.

- Strengthening the Resilience of the Agro-Pastoralists Livelihood in the Eastern Africa (SRAPLEA II) project that was launched in September 2022. This project which is cross-border in nature has also borrowed greatly in identification of implementation sites from the TCDP for improving drought resilience for the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities.

- The Drought Resilience Programme in Northern Kenya (DRPNK) has also utilized the TCDP in identification of implementation sites.

- The Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihood Project has implemented some of the proposed interventions within Turkana County such as establishment of pasture farm and pasture hay store.

- Kenya National Government has supported Construction of a Border Inspection Point (BIP) at Lomokori along the border of Turkana County, Kenya and Uganda.

- Establishment of a GSU camp and subsequent construction of a water pan at Urum.

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Fostering durable solutions for displacement in Somalia: Lessons from DRDIP II-Somali grant.

Mohamud Abdi, Dr.Mohamed Elduma - Health and Social Development Division

Introduction:

The achievement of durable solutions for displaced population hinges on a comprehensive "whole-of-government" and "whole-of-society" approach. This article discusses the impact of the Development Response to Displacement Impact Project II (DRDIP II), a capacity-building program aimed at fostering the development of return and integration areas for displaced individuals in Somalia. This article highlights how DRDIP II-Somali grant implementation has enhanced national and subnational capacities, enabling the Somali government to take the lead in addressing displacement issues. This includes improved data accessibility for development planning, policy, and legislative improvements, as well as enhanced and effective monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems. Overall, the article emphasizes the significant progress in leadership and coordination at both national and subnational levels, driving durable solutions for displacement.

Strengthening Durable Solution Coordination Forums at both national and subnational levels:

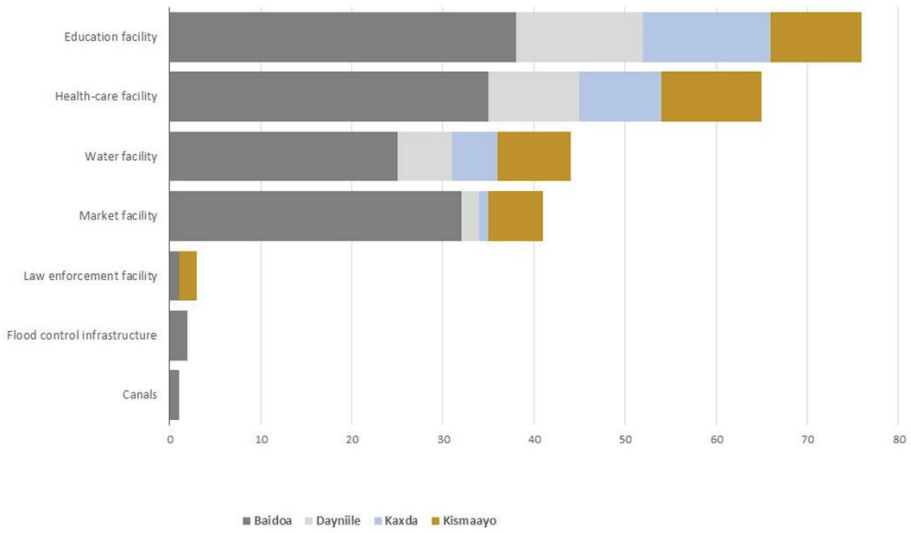
The IGAD regional secretariat on forced displacement and mixed migration, with a grant from the World Bank, supported the strengthening of the coordination capacity of area-based development and improved the capacity of the Durable Solutions Unit to coordinate and track progress in the implementation of durable solutions interventions at the national and subnational levels. Through this forum, the Durable Solutions Unit at the Ministry of Planning, Investment, and Economic Development, which has the task of coordinating durable solutions projects in key areas of return and reintegration to find a sustainable solution for these millions of displaced persons, was able to regularly engage the different government line ministries under the durable solutions secretariat to share

and track the progress of durable solutions efforts. Notably, consultation workshops were organized across five federal member states, namely Southwest, Galmudug, Jubbaland, Hirshabelle, and BRA, laying the foundation for the National Durable Solutions Strategy Action Plan for Somalia. These consultations not only familiarized local authorities with the durable strategy but also enabled the identification of the unique priorities of each state. The resulting implementation plan was tailor-made to address these priorities and meet the needs of local authorities within the Federal States of Somalia, with the overarching goal of achieving sustainable solutions to displacement. The core priorities of the Action Plan encompassed building resilience, providing essential services, supporting livelihoods, addressing housing and land issues, ensuring security, fostering peacebuilding, disaster mitigation, and advancing environmental and climate change solutions for IDPs, returnees, and host communities, ultimately guiding them toward self-reliance.

Policy development and legal frameworks to promote durable solutions

The journey toward durable solutions involves bridging gaps in policies and strategies. DRDIP II-Somali grant implementation has facilitated significant progress in this regard. IGAD Secretariat successfully facilitated the development of the social cohesion policy for Somalia, aiming to promote sustainable reintegration of IDPs, returnees, and host communities in return areas. This draft policy underwent discussions with stakeholders to refine language and meaning, with valuable input from government authorities and humanitarian/development partners. MoIFAR Somalia's leadership, in collaboration with IGAD Secretariat , facilitated a validation workshop in May 2023, solidifying the document's success through effective teamwork.

In parallel, IGAD Secretariat facilitated the development of the NCRI Strategic Plan (2023-2026) and organized a validation workshop in



March 2023 in Mogadishu. The plan, guided by a vision to reduce suffering, improve societal well-being, and achieve durable solutions, seeks strategic partnerships within and beyond government circles, including the Durable Solution Secretariat, local authorities, NGOs, I-NGOs, humanitarian, and development partners. This strategic blueprint serves as the foundation for effective operations aligned with its mandate, reflecting the essential role of robust policies and strategies in addressing displacement-related challenges.

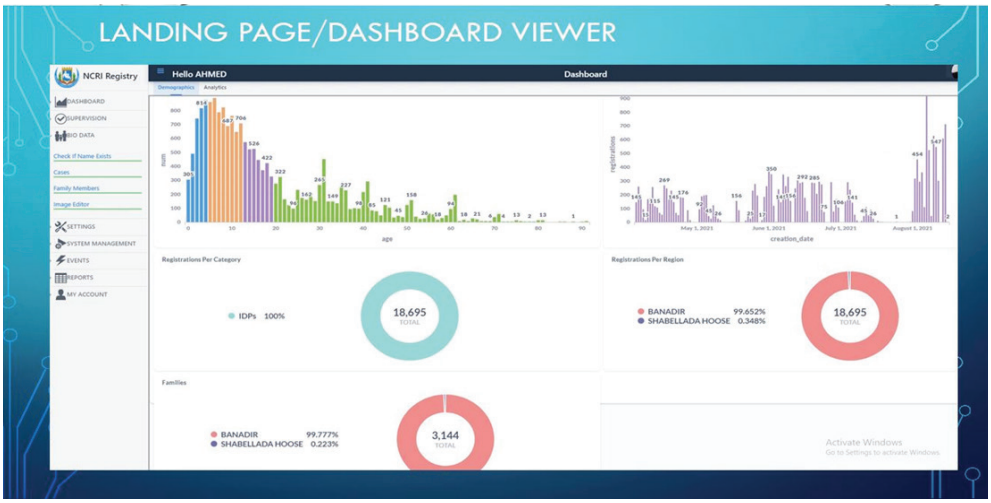
Strengthening Information System for Durable Solution to Forced Displacement

IGAD Secretariat supported upgrading and expanding the Refugee-returnees Registration System of NCRI by providing the necessary software so that the system can serve the set of activities. The upgraded system was handed over to NCRI, and currently trained NCRI staff fully manage the database credentials and administrative access to the system. This system upgrade allows for data exchange with other systems and reforms system reports by adding interactive options such as age, sex, etc., and shelter type. The system will generate timely, accurate, and regularly updated data for returnee refugees and IDPs in the country. Henceforth, the database will provide definite, authentic, and reliable statistics on forcibly displaced populations in all FMSs in Somalia.

In partnership with the Somalia Drought Management Authority (SODMA) and the Durable Solutions Unit, The IGAD Secretariat supported the implementation of an effective GIS system for key Federal Government of Somalia agencies. The Secretariat provided technical assistance to develop baseline indicator catalogs using optimal geospatial techniques, including primary geo-data collection, open-source GIS tools, and satellite imagery analysis for return and reintegration areas. This involved mapping essential socioeconomic services, security, livelihoods, housing, land tenure, and other criteria aligned with durable solutions standards. The survey report reflects the baseline conditions of displacement-affected communities in Mogadishu, Baidoa, and Kismayo, focusing on access to services, safety, employment, and housing as key indicators to guide future efforts.

Technical assistance to support Durable solutions and Resilience

IGAD provided technical support to the Durable Solutions Unit under the Ministry of Planning, Investments, and Economic Development (MOPIED). The Durable Solutions Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officer and Durable Solutions Program Officer were placed under the DSU, which enabled regular coordination of engagements with key stakeholders, including UN agencies, donors, and other international organizations.



Furthermore, the Secretariat provided short-term consultancy to the Support Resilience and Durable Solutions Directorate of the Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) under MoHADM to improve leadership. The consultant supported the strengthening of government leadership in programing planning, and coordination for area-based resilience and displacement solutions by promoting a more unified platform for strategic leadership, sustainable resilience, and durable solutions of integrated coordination mechanisms.

Enhanced and Effective Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning System

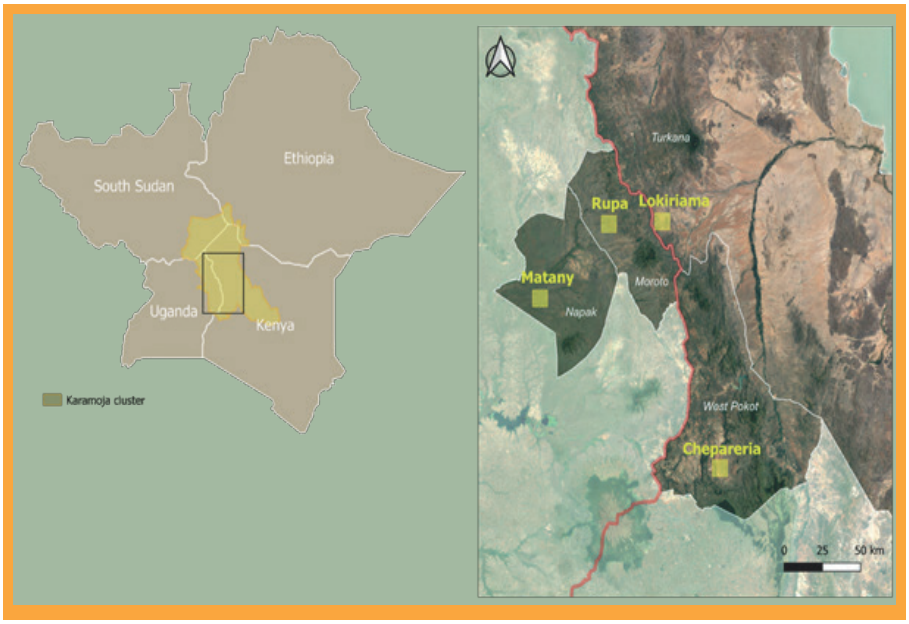
The IGAD Secretariat supported consultancy to review existing monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems, including monitoring, data collection, data analyses, and documentation of reports. Based on the review recommendations, the Secretariat supported a training on M&E for staff in the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States. It also supported the baseline for the Durable Solution Strategy's M&E and Learning Framework. This included training for enumerators, data quality control, and reporting. The overall purpose of the baseline study was to provide accurate baseline information as benchmarks against which the secretariat can measure the progress of achievement of outcomes and impact. Furthermore, the baseline findings will be the foundation for monitoring and evaluating the National Durable Solutions Strategy. The overall objective of this technical assistance was to improve existing monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems that include monitoring, data collection, analyses, and report documentation.

Conclusion:

In summary, the active support provided by the implementation of the DRDIP II-Somali grant has significantly strengthened the Federal Government of Somalia at both national and subnational levels. This empowerment positions the Somali government as a driving force in addressing displacement-related challenges. Key strategies include enhancing data availability for informed development planning, bridging gaps in policies and legislation related to durable solutions, fostering connections between community-level participatory processes and governmental institutions, and improving coordination among entities engaged in development programing with a particular emphasis on durable solutions in areas of return and integration. In conclusion, this article underscores the remarkable strides achieved in leadership and coordination at both the national and subnational levels, all of which contribute to the pursuit of enduring solutions for displacement. This commitment is clearly demonstrated by their dedication to spearheading policies, strategies, and solutions related to displacement issues. The creation of the national durable solutions strategy and its accompanying action plan is notable evidence of significant progress in improving coordination among these entities.

Drylands Transform Project in the IGAD Region

Project Summary - ICPALD



The research sites in the area provide a variation in livelihood strategy, land management and climate. The two southernmost sites – Chepararia, in West Pokot County (Kenya) and Matany, in Napak District (Uganda) – are dominated by agropastoralist communities, whereas the two northernmost, more arid, sites – Rupa, in Moroto District (Uganda), and Lokiriama-Lorengkipi, in Turkana County (Kenya) – are dominated by pastoralists.

Introduction:

Drylands Transform (DT) is a research project led by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in partnership with a multidisciplinary team from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Linnaeus University, Makerere University, Umeå University, University of Gothenburg, University of Nairobi, and World Agroforestry (ICRAF).

Drylands Transform investigates the links among land health, livestock-based livelihoods, human well-being, land management, and governance. The project will contribute new knowledge for transformative change and sustainable development of rangelands in the dryads of East Africa. Overall goal of Drylands Transform aims to contribute knowledge for implementing and achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the East African dryads while optimizing synergies and minimizing trade-offs between the SDGs. Through strong stakeholder engagement in interdisciplinary research, DT explores the challenges and pathways toward social ecological transformation in drylands. Drylands Transform uses innovative field research approaches focusing on livelihood improvement through rangeland restoration and governance interventions in the Karamoja border region between Kenya (West Pokot & Turkana Counties) and Uganda (Napak & Moroto Districts). The four-year research project commenced in late 2021 and is funded by the Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development (FORMAS).

The Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)'s Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) is the main project scaling partner and disseminates the project results at the Karamoja cluster, national and regional levels.

The project is structured into five areas corresponding to the main project objectives:

1. Assessment of soil and land health.
2. Co-developing rangeland restoration and sustainable management options in knowledge-sharing hubs (Livestock cafés).
3. Linking climate variability to human health, nutrition and well-being.
4. Exploring innovative land governance mechanisms and practices.
5. Alternative scenarios for sustainable dryland transformation.

LDSF survey proceedures implemented in the Karamoja region (Photos by B. Lokorwa).

Objective 1

This ICRAF & SLU-led objective investigates the interlinkages between land health and human health and well-being. An essential first step to being able to investigate these interlinkages is to collect data on the ground. Field data on soil and land health has been collected across the four project sites using the Land Degradation Surveillance Framework (LDSF) to provide a biophysical baseline at the landscape level. The LDSF is a comprehensive methodology for assessing soil and land health.

The LDSF was developed by ICRAF about 20 years ago in response to the need for indicator frameworks to measure and monitor soil and land health in a systematic, quantifiable, efficient and replicable way across landscapes. The framework provides a consistent set of indicators and field protocols to assess soil and land health. Indicators measured with the LDSF include vegetation cover and structure, tree, shrub and grass species diversity, current and historical land use, soil properties (soil organic carbon, total nitrogen, infiltration capacity, texture, etc.) and soil erosion prevalence. LDSF has been recently upgraded to include a rangeland module.

The data and evidence generated using the LDSF is valuable for farmers, pastoralists and extension workers, project managers and national and district-level decision makers.

This data will be used together with data from the project household surveys to understand the links between land health and human health across the four study sites.

Data collection activities

Preliminary results from the LDSF surveys show substantial differences among the four study sites regarding soil and land health indicators. For example, in the Kenyan sites, the prevalence of severe erosion was very high and soil infiltration capacity was low. In contrast, in the two Ugandan sites, herbaceous cover was high and erosion prevalence low. Chepareria site, in West Pokot county (Kenya), had the highest diversity of woody plants, while Matany, in Napak district (Uganda) had the lowest. Many of the identified trees and shrubs provide critical ecosystem services to local communities, as dryseason fodder, food and wood. The number of identified perennial grass species was highest in Chepareria and lowest in Lokiriama (Turkana, Kenya). LDSF-derived evidence is critical to guide and design sustainable land management practices and restoration interventions that benefit people, the environment and support holistic decision-making around land health. Stakeholders at local, regional and global scales will be able to interact with the LDSF data in platforms and engagement workshops, which will function as a tool for scientific synthesis and as a concrete method for translating empirical results into policy-relevant pathways toward asustainability transformation of drylands in East Africa.

Objective 2

The Livestock cafés are experimental sites to study and showcase various water harvesting, fodder production and conservation technologies, trees management, establish novel co-generation of knowledge and co-learning, act as knowledge exchange centres and create opportunities for fodder and livestock value chains, and kitchen garden establishment for food and nutritional resilience building.

These cafés function to:

i) Engage with local communities, extension workers, non-governmental practitioners to test novel land restoration and management options in grazing areas for enhanced forage, food and income. The experimental plots are managed for improved forage production and can be utilized for hay cutting or controlled grazing by the local communities. Restricted timing and intensity of grazing is key to their management. Kitchen gardens have been established together with the women in the nearby communities.

ii) Develop fodder and livestock value chains. The project is piloting value chain improvement activities and orienting the communities towards value addition. Groups of local women, men and youth are being trained and familiarized with growing improved forage intercropped with fodder legumes, hay baling and livestock fattening, livestock products, e.g. meat and milk, and their value chains. This is practically building their capacity for restoration-based businesses that has potential to catalyse landscape scale restoration.

Knowledge sharing interactions at the kitchen garden site (Photos by B. Lokorwa, S. Mureithi and M. Nyaga)


Hay harvesting in Rupa, Moroto District (left) and sunflower seeds harvested in Chepareria Livestock Café for oil production (Photo by Z. Angella & S Mureithi)


Gullies being rehabilitated at the Livestock Café sites in Chepareria Ward (Photo by M. Nyaga


Field experimentation plotS: Rangeland grasses intercropped with forage legumes planted along contour line and half-moons which harvest water, controls soil erosion and checks gullies (Photos by C. Norah & S. Mureithi)

Comparison of the fenced re-seeded experimental plot to the left and a neighbouring plot to the right (Photo by C. Norah)

Kitchen garden area with a high diversity of crops in a semi-arid area of Cheparria Ward, West Pokot County (Phoro by B. Lokorwa).


Farmer's field day engagements at the Livestock Café at Chepukat Village, Chepareria Ward (Photos by L. Tusiime)

Additionally, a farmer's field day was held on 14th September 2022 to showcase the various technologies and food crops that were planted in the kitchen garden area. Demonstration on the half-moon water harvesting structures, vertiver contour lines for gully control and rangeland grass reseeding, and intercropping with forage legumes for forage quality improvement, various regenerative kitchen gardening technologies were show-cased, accomplished from the severly formerly degraded land.

Dryland Transform achievements so far and conclusions:




Assessment of land health at the landscape scale using the robust Land Degradation Surveillance Framework (LDSF) in all the project sites. Data for this objective is being analyzed and we have preliminary results. This objective supports 1 Master student each at Makerere University and University of Nairobi and 1 post-doc at SLU.

2. Establishment of Livestock Cafés – knowledge sharing hubs for co-developing sustainable rangeland restoration and management options with local communities, extension workers, practitioners, policy makers and researchers. We are building the capacity of the agro-pastoralists and pastoralist communities in degraded rangeland and restoration for fodder production and conservation, gulley control and rehabilitation, kitchen gardening and regenerative agriculture for improved food and nutrition security of the households, value addition of fodder, livestock and marketing. This objective supports 1 PhD students each at Makerere University and the University of Nairobi.

3. Understand the impact of climate variability on livelihood strategies and resilience. We carried out an elaborate baseline survey in July 2022 and follow up survey in Feb-Mar 2023. These surveys have generated a lot of data that is being utilized by a number of junior and senior project members from the project objectives 1-4.

4. The project has also collected valuable data in identifying innovative land governance mechanisms and practices that effectively address pastoralist production systems dependence on both flexible and secure rights to land.

5. Under knowledge sharing in the co-learning hubs, the project has so far conducted one Farmer's Field Day in Chepareria, in West Pokot County in Kenya. More field days are planned in the other three sites to show case the various drylands transformative technologies in fodder and food production that has ability to transform the region into feed and food surplus producing areas. Going forward, we will also synthesize and scale-up key research findings to develop future scenarios in policy and practice, and disseminate widely in the IGAD region.

Lessons Learnt

1. Even the most severely degraded land can be restored through regenerative approaches involving water harvesting and increasing organic matter in the soil, while involving the local people.

2. Prevalence of malnutrition is very high in Karamoja region for both children under 5 years and women. Local and national governments, practioners and researchers need to work together and come up with ways of building sustainable food and nutiritional resilience through landscape scale land restoration approaches.

3. Promotion of high crop diversity kitchen gardens established through regernerative approaches is an appropriate approach for enhancing food and nutrition resilience in the drylands.

drylands transform

Seeds Of Resilience: A Decade Journey of IDDRSI

Tesfaye Beshah (Ph.D), Jemal Mensur - PCPD, IDDRSI PCU
Mahamed Abdillahi, Austine Opata - Communication Unit

In the arid and semi-arid landscapes of the Horn of Africa, where borders are mere lines on the ground, and challenges seem insurmountable, a decade-long journey of hope, unity, and resilience has been unfolding. This journey, known as the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), has been nothing short of remarkable. It all began with a vision from the leaders of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Member States and their dedicated Development Partners.

A Vision Transformed

Established in 1986 as IGADD, the organisation's transformation in 1996 marked a significant shift in its mandate. While it initially focused on addressing droughts, it expanded to encompass a broader array of socio-economic issues affecting the region.

However, it was the devastating drought of 2010-11 that prompted a paradigm shift in the organisation's mission. In September

One of the notable achievement of IDDRSI phase 1 was the establishment of the Global Alliance for Action for Drought Resilience, which brought together development partners to revitalise the region's capacity to withstand drought and its associated challenges.

2011, at the IGAD summit of heads of state and government convened in Nairobi, Kenya, the IDDRSI was born. This initiative aimed to engage with Member States, the African Union Commission, and numerous partners, including the African Development Bank, the World Bank, UN agencies, International Research Organizations, the European Union, and many countries. Together, they committed to proactive measures and resilience-building in a region plagued by multiple hazards.

One notable achievement was the establishment of the Global Alliance for Action for Drought Resilience, which brought together development partners to revitalise the region's capacity to withstand drought and its associated challenges. Following a collective effort that laid down strategic directions for drought resilience initiatives and mobilised vital resources, the implementation of IDDRSI officially began with the inaugural meeting of the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee on October 22, 2013.

Unity in Diversity

Through the IDDRSI platform, IGAD and its member states identified cross-cutting issues and channelled investments into joint projects to realise regional objectives. This approach embodied the spirit of unity in diversity, as diverse nations worked together to address common challenges.

To combat the impacts of drought in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands covering 70% of the region's landmass, IGAD introduced the Cluster Approach. Eight clusters were designated for piloting, and active projects began in five clusters targeted by IDDRSI Flagship projects. These included Karamoja, Moyale-Marsabit, Mandera, Dikhil, and Blue Nile-Benshangul. Through these efforts, IGAD tested approaches for cluster development, fostering community engagement and empowering local communities to actively participate in their own development.

A Decade of Transformation

IDDRSI's focus on synergy and innovative investments paid off. The initiative mobilised over 1.7 billion USD, enabling multi-year resilience projects that enhanced community-level changes. It secured access to water, pasture, and markets for more than 30 million pastoralists and agro-pastoralists across the vast 5.2 million square kilometers of the IGAD region.

The Regional Pastoral Livelihoods and Resilience Project (RPLRP) emerged as an inspiration of hope, offering a lifeline to the livestock and the people who depend on them.

One of the most profound impacts of the RPLRP has been its ability to significantly reduce the death rate of livestock, particularly cattle and goats. For cattle, the mortality rate decreased by a remarkable 35%, while for goats, it was reduced by 33.8%. This translates to countless animals spared from the perils of drought and disease and livelihoods preserved for agro-pastoral and pastoral households.

The project also facilitated an unprecedented surge in livestock trade within selected markets across the project area. The number of cattle and goats traded increased by an impressive 17%, bringing hope and prosperity to those who depend on this

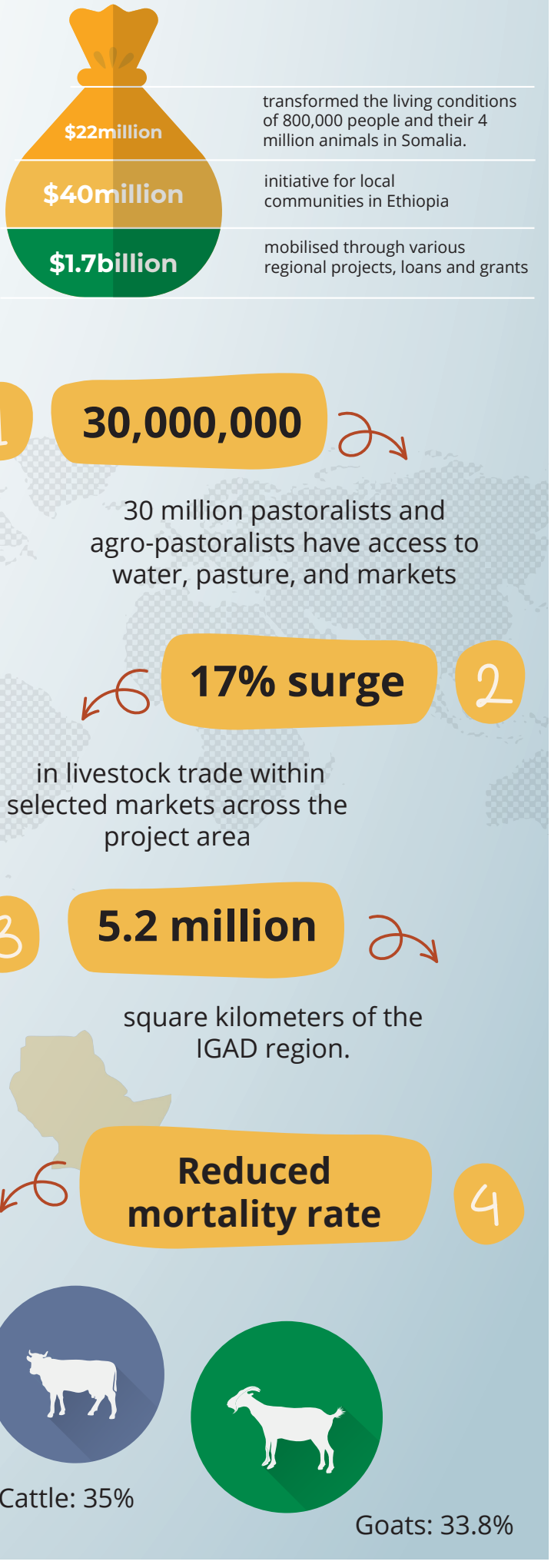
critical sector for their income. Even more striking was the 18% increase in the real value of livestock traded, a testament to the improved health and quality of the animals, which benefitted both sellers and buyers alike.

The Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Program (DRSLP), with a remarkable investment of USD 300 million from the Bank, is pioneering a brighter future for the people of the region. The significant impact of the program, which spans six countries—Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Sudan—and aims to alleviate poverty, ensure food security, and foster sustainable economic growth.

One of the key achievements of the DRSLP is the improved access for 30 million pastoralists and farmers to secured water, pasture, and markets. In a region where access to these essential resources can mean the difference between survival and hardship, this milestone represents a lifeline for communities that have long been on the edge of vulnerability. The program has provided the tools for resilience andalso provided the tools for resilience and empowered communities to take control of their economic destinies.

The DRSLP's impact extends far beyond its direct beneficiaries. It has played a pivotal role in supporting the operationalization of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI). This regional effort has mobilized 1.7 billion dollars through various regional projects, including loans and grants. The success of the IDDRSI affirms the effectiveness of coordinated, cross-border approaches to tackling one of the regions's most pressing challenges—droughts.

Moreover, the IDDRSI model of coordination, originally forged through the DRSLP, has demonstrated its adaptability by addressing other disasters. Despite desert locust invasion, the same principles of coordination have been applied, showcasing the long-lasting impact of the program as a catalyst for disaster resilience across the Horn of Africa.



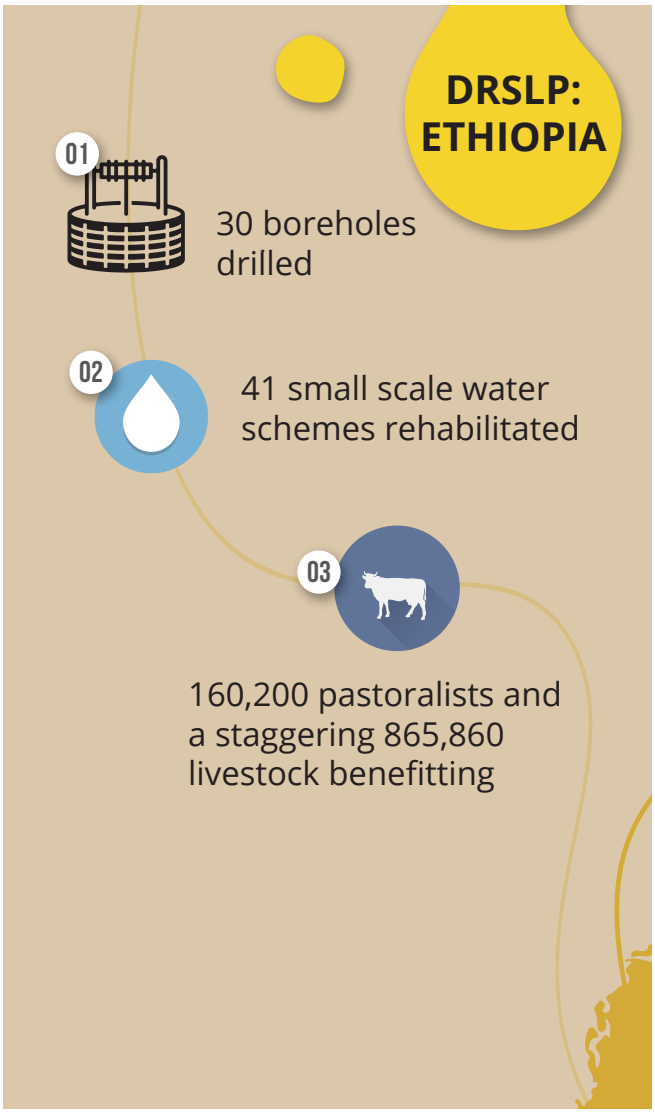
ETHIOPIA

In the harsh pastoral regions of Afar and Somali, Ethiopia, the Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Program (DRSLP) has ignited immense hope. This USD 40 million initiative has been a lifeline for the local communities, ensuring that they not only survive but thrive in the face of adversity.

The DRSLP implements vital components such as natural resource management, livestock infrastructure, and capacity building. The program has drilled 30 boreholes and rehabilitated 41 small-scale water schemes, benefitting 160,200 pastoralists and a staggering 865,860 livestock. This lifeline ensures that both people and animals have access to a precious resource, even in the most challenging drought conditions.

Livestock infrastructure has witnessed the sale of 263,320 livestock by 70,282 pastoralists in 13 completed livestock market centers. Improved road access has benefited 50,538 pastoral communities, while animal health services have reached 52,103 households, treating 154,405 livestock through 31 newly constructed animal health centers.

The program has also focused on rangeland rehabilitation and management, establishing community fodder banks and hay storage facilities, not only ensuring the survival of local pastoralists but also providing assistance to those affected by the current drought.



KENYA

In Kenya, the Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Program (DRSLP) has been a game-changer, revolutionising the agricultural landscape and uplifting the lives of thousands. The achievements of this program are nothing short of spectacular, impacting both agricultural practices and economic prosperity.

Through irrigation and water management, over 1,150 hectares of land have been brought under cultivation, resulting in a remarkable increase in crop yields, from 2.4 tons per hectare to an astonishing 8.8 tons per hectare during double seasons. More than 350,000 farmers have embraced improved agriculture thanks to expanded irrigated areas and the construction of water harvesting structures.

Rural access has been transformed with the rehabilitation of 200 kilometers of access roads, providing better market access and value addition for crop and livestock products. A substantial

More than 350,000 farmers have embraced improved agriculture thanks to expanded irrigated areas and the construction of water harvesting structures.

volume of water has been stored, reducing the trekking distance for livestock in search of water.

Moreover, the program has boosted the share of farmers' incomes from value-added livestock and crop products, increasing their financial stability and independence.

SOMALIA

In Somalia, the Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Program (DRSLP) has brought a much-needed support to the communities in Puntland and Somaliland. This USD 22 million grant from the Bank has transformed the living conditions of 800,000 people and their 4 million animals.

The program's impact is felt through improved access to water and pasture, as well as infrastructure for livestock health and market access for agro-pastoral products. This support ensures the well-being of the local population and fosters economic growth and resilience in regions often hit hard by drought.

Despite varying developmental stages and challenges associated with decreasing resource investments, IDDRSI has successfully integrated resilience programming into national plans and fostered harmonisation of policies across member states. This harmonisation has been a key factor in the initiative's longevity and success.

As we reflect on a decade of collaboration under the leadership of IGAD through the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative, we are inspired by the innovative approaches that have emerged. Online sharing of experiences and best practices has allowed for the dissemination of valuable knowledge across borders.

IDDRSI has been instrumental in promoting more people-centered projects and strategically expanding resilience intervention areas. It has served as a vehicle for connecting the people of arid and semi-arid lands with opportunities to strengthen their adaptive capacities and build resilience.

As we witness the unwavering spirit of communities and the relentless efforts of IDDRSI, the journey is far from over. The mission remains unwavering – to eradicate the shadows of drought from the IGAD region and to pen a narrative of triumph and resilience. The seeds of resilience sown a decade ago continue to grow, offering hope and unity to a region that has faced formidable challenges. The story of IDDRSI is a testament to the power of collaboration, determination, and the human spirit in the face of adversity.

The journey is far from over

As we witness the unwavering spirit of communities and the relentless efforts of IDDRSI, the journey is far from over. The mission remains unwavering – to eradicate the shadows of drought from the IGAD region and to pen a narrative of triumph and resilience.

Navigating the Nexus: Understanding the Complex Relationship Between Youth Unemployment, Climate Change, and Violent Extremism in the IGAD Region

Kathryn Langat (Ph.D) - Peace and Security Division

Background

In the sprawling and diverse landscape of the IGAD region, a confluence of challenges has emerged, weaving together the intricate threads of youth unemployment, climate change, and violent extremism. The origins of this study lie in the recognition that these issues are not isolated; they are profoundly interconnected and pose significant threats to the region's stability and development. In response to this recognition, IGAD's Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) embarked on an extensive thematic research study encompassing the seven member states of the IGAD region. The study sought to unearth the potential links between youth unemployment, climate change, and violent extremism. A central question was posed to the region's youths: Could the lack of employment opportunities drive them into the arms of extremist groups? The results were startling and shed light on the urgency of addressing this complex nexus.

1. Youths hailing from pastoralist communities presented a distinctive perspective, viewing themselves as fundamentally employed through cattle herding, a practice deeply embedded in their cultural heritage and vital to their communities.
2. In stark contrast, urban youths confronted a harsher reality, with unpredictable climate conditions disrupting urban and rural agriculture, resulting in job scarcity and economic downturns. This lack of formal employment opportunities contributed to their growing economic vulnerability, leading them to perceive themselves as unemployed despite sporadic informal work.
3. Alarmingly, the study revealed that even among those with jobs, underemployment and job dissatisfaction left them susceptible to the appeal of violent extremism.

Source: IGAD-CEWARN, 2021 Report on Country profiling and Scenario Building

This unsettling finding highlighted the intricate relationship between youth unemployment, climate change, and the underlying factors driving them toward extremist ideologies, emphasizing the need for nuanced strategies to address these multifaceted challenges effectively. The figure on page 29 serves as a crucial projection that highlights youth unemployment as a major leading cause of conflicts in the IGAD region. This projection was a significant catalyst for the comprehensive study conducted by IGAD CEWARN. In this context, the table provided a compelling rationale for further investigation into the relationship between youth unemployment, climate change, and violent extremism, on the complex dynamics at play in the IGAD region.

The Intricate Interplay of Climate Change, Youth Unemployment, and Violent Extremism

This interplay is marked by a web of drivers and interactions that require a nuanced approach for effective mitigation.

- Climate change plays a pivotal role in exacerbating conditions conducive to violent extremism, particularly through its impact on food and water security. Escalating competition for access to vital resources can create opportunities for the emergence or spread of extremist groups.
- Climate Change and Livelihood Insecurity: The direct impact of climate change on livelihoods, particularly regarding food and water security, renders youth more vulnerable to recruitment by extremist groups. Economic hardships stemming from climate-induced disruptions can lead to social unrest and conflict.
- Natural Resources as Weapons of Extremism: Extremist groups often exploit natural resources as tools of war. By controlling access to critical resources like food and water, they exert significant influence over local populations.
- Unintended Consequences of Climate Policies. Climate policies that fail to consider local contexts can lead to unintended consequences. For example, the expansion of biofuel agriculture may trigger social conflicts, particularly when it involves large-scale land acquisitions or the displacement of local communities from their ancestral lands. The disruption caused by biofuel projects can negatively impact young people, making them vulnerable to extremist recruitment.

The Early Warning Critical Risks and Concerns in the IGAD Region

While direct causal links between climate change and violent extremism may remain elusive, their potential interactions loom large and cast shadows over the region's stability and development. Thus, this early warning highlights critical concerns and areas of focus for policymakers, stakeholders, and communities in the IGAD region. These intertwined issues demand urgent attention to safeguard regional stability and development. One) Climate change threatens to intensify water scarcity, disrupt agriculture, and trigger natural disasters, potentially leading to conflicts. Two)Youth unemployment, exacerbated by economic vulnerability and underemployment, increases susceptibility to extremist ideologies, and; three) Violent extremist groups like Al Shabaab persistently exploit these vulnerabilities, recruiting new members and exerting control over critical resources, further complicating conflict dynamics. These intertwined issues demand immediate attention to safeguard the region's stability and development.

Recommendations for Navigating the Nexus

To mitigate these multifaceted challenges and foster stability, policymakers, stakeholders, and communities in the IGAD region should consider the following:

- Holistic Approach: Develop comprehensive strategies that address climate change, youth unemployment, and violent extremism together.
- Climate Adaptation: Ensure climate adaptation policies consider local contexts to minimize resource conflicts.
- Conflict Prevention: Prioritize conflict prevention strategies that actively engage youth/women as agents of positive change.
- Resource Management: Implement sustainable resource management policies to counter extremist control over critical resources.
- Early Warning Systems: Strengthen early warning systems for timely interventions.
- Community Resilience: Empower youth through education, skill development, finance access, and engagement in disaster preparedness and peacebuilding initiatives. Also, it is essential to shift from a top-down to a bottom-up and community-based strategy.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the IGAD region faces the challenge of untangling the complex relationship between climate change, youth unemployment, and violent extremism. Although definitive causal links may elude us, the potential interactions demand our attention. The region's intricate tapestry of challenges requires a collaborative and multifaceted approach. In the face of these multifaceted challenges, collaboration and nuanced policies are the keys to forging a brighter tomorrow.

Livelihood Diversification: The Climate Smart Agriculture pilot in drylands of Kenya

Naphtal Habiyaremye and Ahmed Amdihun - IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC)

Despite the progress made to control global environmental changes, reducing the risks from natural hazards is still a major challenge facing the world. According to the biennial report of the Africa Union Commission, the Horn of Africa region is one of the most vulnerable to impacts of climate change and is also the most vulnerable to risks of various disasters in Africa. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood to majority of people in the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region. The sector does not only contribute a big share of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of member states in IGAD region, it also employs most of the population in the member states, majority of them being youth and women. In spite of its importance, the agricultural sector has been heavily affected by frequent hazards such as flood, drought, and desert locusts. The 2020-2023 prolonged drought in the IGAD region has shattered the livelihoods of the predominantly pastoral and agro-pastoral communities, killing millions of heads of livestock and displaced over a million people in the region.

Designing and implementing climate smart agriculture (CSA) is a way of building disaster and climate resilience. It helps to diversify the livelihoods of pastoral communities by providing alternative income generating activities, contributes to soil and nutrient management, resilient ecosystems, and efficient use and conservation of water and energy.

Climate Smart agriculture Pilot in Kulan

The Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) pilot that was carried out in Kulan, about 50 km from Dadaab town in Garissa County of Kenya was aimed at improving the resilience of the community to natural disasters. The pilot was implemented in two phases between April 2017 and December 2019. The pilot was carried through three approaches aimed at enhancing the resilience of livelihoods and ecosystems and to improve productivity and incomes of smallholder pastoralists. The three approaches include:

1. **Soil and nutrient management:**
This approach introduced indigenous leguminous trees and leguminous grass into the farming system, a method that improves the soil structure and fertility while providing fodder for livestock. In addition, drought tolerant legumes and food crops such as cow peas, pigeon peas, beans, millet, spinach, and kales were distributed.

2. **Resilient ecosystems:**
This approach promoted agroforestry, reforestation, and rangelands management. Fruit trees were planted and farmers were sensitized on several rangelands conservation practices that would help them to cope with environmental hazards.

3. **Efficient and conservation of water and energy:**
This approach provided 100 cubic meters of water from an elevated water tank, initiated solarization of the borehole, and the installation of drip irrigation system.

Outcomes of the pilot project

The pilot project benefited about 352 pastoral households. Its key outcomes included capacity building of the farmers (mostly female headed households) and extension agents through trainings on effective practices of managing rangelands and efficient use of water and energy. In addition, 80 kits and accessories for use in drip irrigation were deployed for about 20 acres of land. An elevated water tank was also constructed to maximize use of the water from the borehole for irrigation. The project also introduced and distributed drought resistant crops and vegetable seeds which improved nutritional food and food security at the household level.

These outcomes confirm that pastoralists are willing to engage in crop farming and that CSA can play a vital role in diversifying their livelihoods and increased incomes in households. The use of underground water can bridge periods of drought and unreliable rainfalls while indigenous knowledge can be supplemented by use of modern technology. The integration of women into farming activities also led to the creation of more assets and and better accountability of their resources. While the outcomes support the role of CSA in the diversification of livelihoods for pastoralists, its adoption is still low in several drylands of Kenya.

Benefits of integrated farming system

While crop farming has been proved to immensely contribute to the diversification of livelihoods, pastoralists communities in the horn of Africa cannot solely depend on it. This is more so as they practice rain-fed farming which makes them more vulnerable to recurrent droughts and hazards from floods. Therefore, the integrated farming system such as the combination of crop farming and livestock is considered as an effective way of diversifying livelihoods for farmers. This is because, agricultural systems that adopt such integration enjoy numerous benefits mainly due to the fact that residue from crops are the main source of the feed for livestock. Animals also provide the required power for cultivation and manure which leads to a significant reduction in costs of production while preserving the ecological system(Herrero et al., 2010; Nath et al., 2016).

The integrated farming system has been proposed as a remedy to achieve sustainable agriculture. This is because it entails using available resources within the limitations of the earth's ability to replace them while safeguarding the biodiversity and decreasing negative effects in the environment(Baulcombe et al., 2009; Thornton & Herrero, 2015). The integrated farming system promotes the use of organic fertilizers which produce a range of ecological benefits such as the biological control of pests, preservation of natural capita and the improvement in the quality of soil (Holland et al., 1994; Martin et al., 2016; Moraine et al., 2017). Hence, the initiatives that support the integration of practices on climate smart agriculture and pastoralism are highly recommended not only in Kenya, but also in other drylands in the IGAD region that are affected by reccurrences of natural hazards. This can be done by scaling up projects of climate smart agriculture in similar ecological zones in the IGAD region. Furthermore, since women are the ones who are mainly involved into crop farming or vegetable farming while men are mainly involved into livestock farming, the approach on integrated farming will not only increase the involvement of women into effective but will also empower them in various levels of decision-making. On the whole, this will improve the diversification of livelihoods of the communities in drylands. In summary, the experiences of the climate-smart agriculture pilot project in Kulan underscores the significance of adopting integrated approaches to farming that enhance the resilience of agro-pastoral communities. This approach not only diversifies livelihoods but also ensuresconsistent supply of water, food, and animal feed. Moreover, the project highlights the importance of income diversification within households and the empowerment of women and youth through the creation of employment opportunities and initiatives in asset-building. To effectively address challenges of food security and to bolster resilience of communities, it is important to replicate and scale up successful pilot initiatives in the arid and semi-arid regions that are similar across the IGAD region. This way, we can collectively work towards a future that is more sustainable and secure for the most vulnerable communities in the region.

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Strengthening animal feed and fodder production for resilient and sustainable livestock production and food security in the IGAD region

Wamalwa K, Opio P - FAO, Dereje W, Harinder M - ICPALD

Introduction

Livestock is a significant contributor for household and national economy in the IGAD Region[1]. In Sub-Saharan Africa, it's a major contributor to economic growth, poverty reduction, and nutrition security, hence a major contributor to UN Sustainable Development, especially Goals 1 (No Poverty);, 2 (Zero Hunger), and 3 (Good Health and Well-Being)[2].

Among IGAD Member States, the primary economic driver is agriculture, with livestock contributing an estimated 57% of the region's Agricultural Gross Domestic Product (AGDP) with the highest contribution in Somalia (70% of AGDP and 40 % of GDP) and the lowest in Djibouti (87.4% of AGDP and 3.1% to NGDP)[3].

The countries in the IGAD region (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda) are endowed with large population of livestock, largely reared in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs). However, the livestock sector is threatened by effects of climate change that has contributed to increased frequency of drought and flash floods in most member States. The recurring and severe droughts and other natural disasters have contributed to widespread destitution, ecological degradation, poverty and economic hardships among pastoral and agro-pastoral communities who occupy about 60-70% ASAL in the region. For example, during the 2020-2022 drought, the region witnessed high mortality of livestock (13.2 million led by Ethiopia, Somalia

1 https://icpald.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/The-Contribution-of-Livestock-to-the-Economies-of-Kenya-Ethiopia-Uganda-and-Sudan.pdf
2 https://sdgs.un.org/goals
3 Strategy for Sustainable and Resilient Livestock Development in view of Climate Change in the IGAD Region (2022- 2037)

and Kenya in a descending manner. Kenya lost 2.6m with an estimated economic loss of USD 1.5 billion)[4], drop in animal prices due to deteriorated body condition, loss of reproduction/ productivity and increased burden of disease management. This is due to increased spread of transboundary animal diseases associated with livestock movement in search of dwindling natural resources, especially pasture and water across international borders in the face of increased frequency of drought cycles. The problem was aggravated by ill preparedness of the countries when it comes to animal feed production and storage matching to the livestock population. Hence, drought emergency response efforts to save livestock lives were not effective.

Strengthening member States' data on animal feed and fodder

Quantity of animal feed is expressed in dry matter (DM), crude protein (CP) and metabolizable energy (ME) in order to understand supply and demand[5]. Availability of data on desired type in terms of DM, CP and ME and quantity have been a challenge in the IGAD region due to lack of appropriate data collection tools. Therefore, countries could not measure the demand versus supply in their respective countries, both during normal time and drought emergency period. Hence, most countries could not put in place appropriate mitigation measures to forestall losses and address the gap in supply. The loss of livestock to drought and other disasters in the IGAD countries have far-reaching impacts on human nutrition, poverty, food prices, national economies and the building of resilience due to level of dependency.

Following the experience and pilot work of animal feed balance sheet by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in 2018 in Ethiopia, IGAD and FAO embarked to support Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda in 2020. Several capacity building trainings, coaching and mentoring were provided for professionals as part of support to enhance feed balance analysis in these countries. Thus, standard data collection tools were developed and implemented to collect data on available animal feed versus livestock demand. Understanding animal feed supply and demand helps to make informed decision during early warning and early action.

Major achievements - Animal feed balance and balance sheet for informed decision making

In Kenya, for 2022, the annual feed gap was estimated at 46.3% of the total feed requirement as DM. It means the national animal feed production (DM) in 2022 was only able to supply 53.7% of the demand. In the same year, the arid and semi-arid land (ASAL) recorded the highest feed gap contributing 67.6 percent of the National feed gap, and this is where the major livestock death was reported. The feed balance assessment showed that the total land carrying capacity on actual feed availability and use basis could support 44.5% of the livestock population, under business as usual scenario (no technological and other input to the vast

4 OCHA 2023

5 Eastern Africa Livestock Feed and Feeding Strategy (2023-2037)

rangeland). Therefore, livestock population exerted 2.4 times more land pressure on natural feed resources than the land could support on actual basis for sustainable livestock production. This gap calls for concerted effort to enhance feed productivity on available land (technology and inputs) among others.

In Sudan, data showed that roughages from grazing biomass contributed the highest proportion to the national animal feed basket with 62% followed by crop roughages and concentrates with 33% and 5% respectively. In 2022, the national feed balance indicated a positive balance of 68% and 40% on DM and CP bases respectively but a negative feed balance of 5% on ME basis. This is the reason why only few livestock deaths were reported in Sudan attributed to effects of drought during the same period.

In Uganda, the feed balance sheet in 2022 indicated positive for DM (24.512 million MT), ME (113.587 billion MJ) and CP (568.264 million MT). The country has substantial feed resources that can sustain the national herd and flock with a balance for export trade to other countries in deficit. However, strategic technological and enabling environment interventions are required for sustainable feed management, distribution and utilization to stimulate agro-industrialization, self-sufficiency and trade.

During same period in Somalia, annual livestock feed requirement on DM for South Central Somalia (SCS) was 21,600,638 tons against total actual feed availability of 13,791,625.3 tons. Thus, South-Central Somalia recorded a negative feed balance of 36%, 37% and 29% on DM, ME and CP respectively.

Recommendations for future

1. The countries in the IGAD region need to institutionalize Feed Inventory and Feed Balance in order to guide investment in sustainable livestock production bearing in mind the era of climate change where drought emergency is a norm.

2. The IGAD region occupies big tracks of land under rangeland which produces feed without any input. Such business as usual will not sustain livestock production in the region. Effort at all level (community to State) is required to enhance rangeland productivity through appropriate water management, over sowing and feed conservation.

3. Research and innovation are required in the area of feed processing, fortification, densification, packaging, storage and marketing. For example, making Total Mixed Ration (TMR) blocks to minimize wastage as well as ease of transportation.

Acknowledgement: IGAD expresses appreciation to:

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Texas A&M for working on Predictive Livestock Early Warning System (PLEWS) that generated data on grazing biomass as implementing partners.

Addressing Climate-induced Displacement and Migration in the IGAD Region: Broadening evidence for an Informed policy and decision making.

Mohamed A. Omar, Dr.Ahmed Amdihun - ICPAC
Abokor Abdi and Kokebe Hailegebriel - GIZ
Timo Schimt - Platform on Disaster Displacement
Roberto Rudari, Elenora Panizza - CIMA Foundation

Introduction

The IGAD region is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate variability and climate change, which poses a serious risk and severe consequences for the population. Climate and environmental changes threaten the subsistence livelihoods and well-being of communities, particularly by exacerbate climate migration and displacement. Accurate data is essential to addressing these challenges. The IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Centre (ICPAC) is progressing toward addressing the nexus between climate variability, specifically with regard to climate change, disasters, and human mobility. This nexus incorporates an additional layer for both seasonal and long-term perspectives, given both sudden-onset and slow-onset disasters.

This article underscores ICPAC's efforts to integrate human mobility data in the context of climate change into the East Africa Hazards Watch. ICPAC in collaboration with UN partners funded through the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Joint Programme and GIZ Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change Global program (GP HMCCC), are working toward addressing human mobility with regard to climate change. ICPAC has begun integrating displacement data and developed an action plan to incorporate human mobility into climate change, disaster,

and environmental change contexts, thereby facilitating data sharing with stakeholders.

Risks of displacement by disasters and effects of human mobility to enhance the generation and access of data on the risks of displacement by disasters and effects of human mobility, ICPAC, in collaboration with partners, has developed two risk profiles on regional displacements: one focusing on the regional risk profile on displacements by floods and the other a risk profile, specifically for Somalia, on displacements by cyclones. Regional risk profiles on displacements by floods provide a diagnosis of possible hazardous events and associated impacts. Regional risk profiles emphasize the importance of knowledge transfer and understanding the parameters that influence the levels of vulnerability that contribute to the risk of displacement by various disasters. The risk profiles of displacement by floods in the IGAD region highlight the need for effective policies and strategies to prevent and manage risk and displacement by disasters. Risk profiles also show the importance of scientific information in assessing vulnerability, hazards, exposure, and estimates of the impacts caused by disasters. The probabilistic risk assessment approach was used as a methodology for risk assessment because it helps to identify potential hazardous events and their impacts. In addition, it allows for more flexibility in practical uses and provides information of higher content. This method can also be used to evaluate the risk of displacement caused by disasters as it provides a clear vision for early warning and anticipatory actions on the risk to the population as a result of displacement by disasters.

The images below (figure 1) provide a summary of the occurrences in the IGAD region that have been obtained in connection with current and future climatic conditions. On average, under current climatic conditions, approximately 2 million people are affected each year by floods. Approximately 1.34 million people could be displaced, leading to massive loss of livelihoods and shelter.

To effectively reduce the risks of displacement by floods and other disasters, it is essential to better understand the impact of floods on local communities and to design effective policy instruments that are tailored to specific geographic and social contexts. This requires identifying the characteristics and lifestyles of the local people and their access and trust in information and early warning systems. This will also require

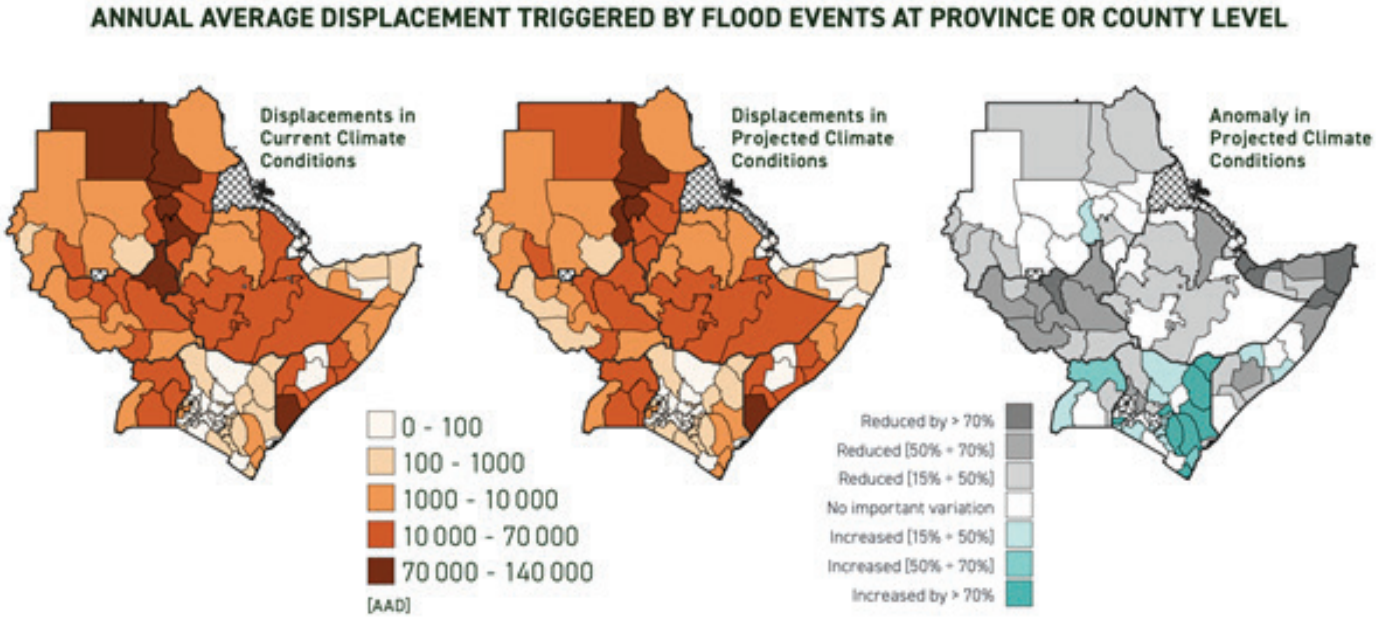
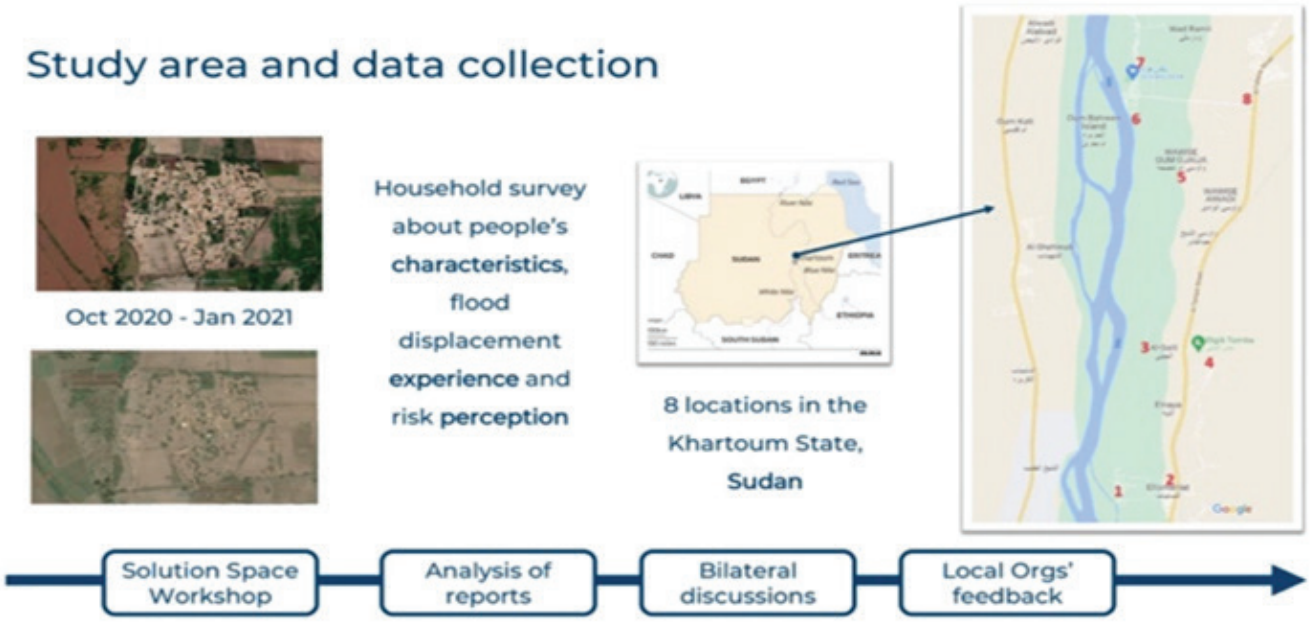


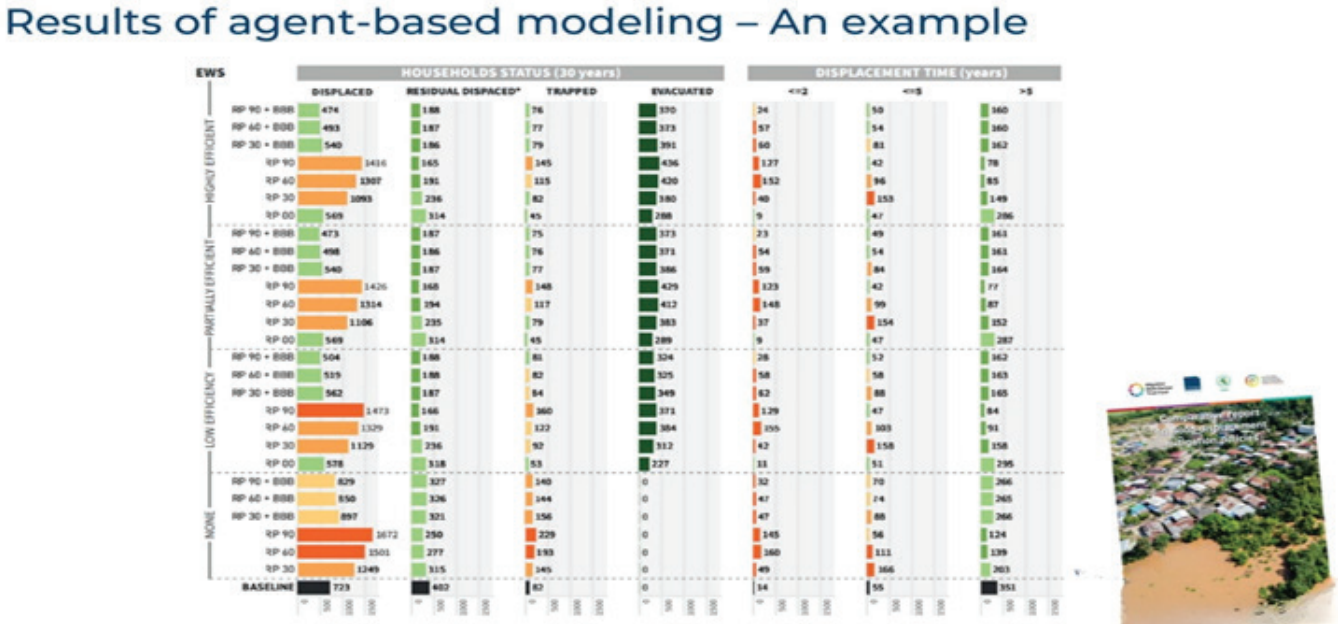
Figure 1

the design of infrastructure and codes of land use that are based on contextual experiences, perceptions, and the nature of interactions. This will help to comprehensively grasp the social dynamics in place and the linkage between floods and related patterns of displacement. To assess policy effectiveness, simulation models play a pivotal role in reducing uncertainty and identifying the most impactful strategies. In response to this research gap, an agent-based model was developed, focusing on the behaviors of agents in households in various displacements by floods and in risk reduction scenarios. For example, the pilot study in flood-prone Sudan (shown below) employs this model to compare policy outcomes, thereby providing valuable insights drawn from informed decision making to reduce the risks of displacement by floods.

An agent – based model has been developed to simulate human behaviors in various policy scenarios related to the reduction of risks from displacement by floods. This methodology offers insights into the potential impact of policies on



study area and data collection



reducing risks of displacement by floods in specific contexts, thus aiding informed policy decisions. Relevant data was gathered that was related to information on climate, socio-economic context and on historical displacements. This data was analysed to guide decision-making and policy development of national governments with a focus on focal points in ministries that are responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), climate change and human mobility, alongside relevant stakeholders. This model was developed in order to simulate the effectiveness of different policy options, investments, and programmatic interventions. The tool will provide evidence-based scenarios that identify entry – points of high-leverage to reduce risk of displacement by disasters and the duration of displacement by disasters if, and when they occur. ICPAC is planning for continuous data collection that would guarantee future recalibration of the model.

Similarly, as part of the collaboration between IGAD and the Global Project on Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change, an activity known as "Development of a Modelling Technique for Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change and Capacity Development in the IGAD Region" was initiated in August 2021. The project developed a modeling technique to forecast responses on mobility by pastoralists and agro-pastoralist communities to slow-onset environmental change. This was particularly for droughts in the context of future climate changes and variability in the IGAD region. Regarding drought modeling, the findings showed the connection between migration and climate, including different approaches to model drought-induced by displacement. The analysis showed that droughts experienced by pastoralists result in over 10% increase in the likelihood of displacement in sampled regions, with some areas experiencing displacements of over 20%. The findings also showed that populations that are relatively settled exhibit a significantly higher rate of displacement than those that are mobile, for example nomadic populations.

Conclusion:

This article has emphasized the importance of understanding the various components of risks for policymakers and in the reduction of risks

by humanitarian organizations in designing strategies to reduce displacements that are deduced by disasters. Additionally, reliable data on climate migration and displacement in relation to place of origin, transit and destination can frame the human mobility farming and help to broaden the base of evidence for policy and effective decision making. This inturn enhances resilience and adaptation to the impact of climate extremes and change in the IGAD Region. Understanding patterns of migration enables policymakers to address adverse effects, to ensure safe and orderly migrations and to implement optimal measures supporting the integration and livelihoods of displaced populations. This includes ensuring access to services, education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities, that promote inclusive development. The two modeling exercises provided important insights on the nexus between human mobility, disasters and climate change in the IGAD region.

Going forward, ICPAC is working to advance the integration of models on displacement through a two-tiered approach: First tier being to visualize climate-induced mobility and displacement within ICPAC portals and the second tier being the implementation of modeling and forecasting. This comprehensive modeling system will provide readily necessary information to make reliable decisions uon projected migrations and displacements, and in the enhancement of cross-border coordination and early response within the IGAD region. ICPAC will also provide readily information to enable making decisions on projected migrations and displacements based on impacts related to climate and non-climate causes in vulnerable populations to the member states in the IGAD region. This will enhance transnational coordination, early and anticipatory actions across borders in the IGAD region.

Further sources

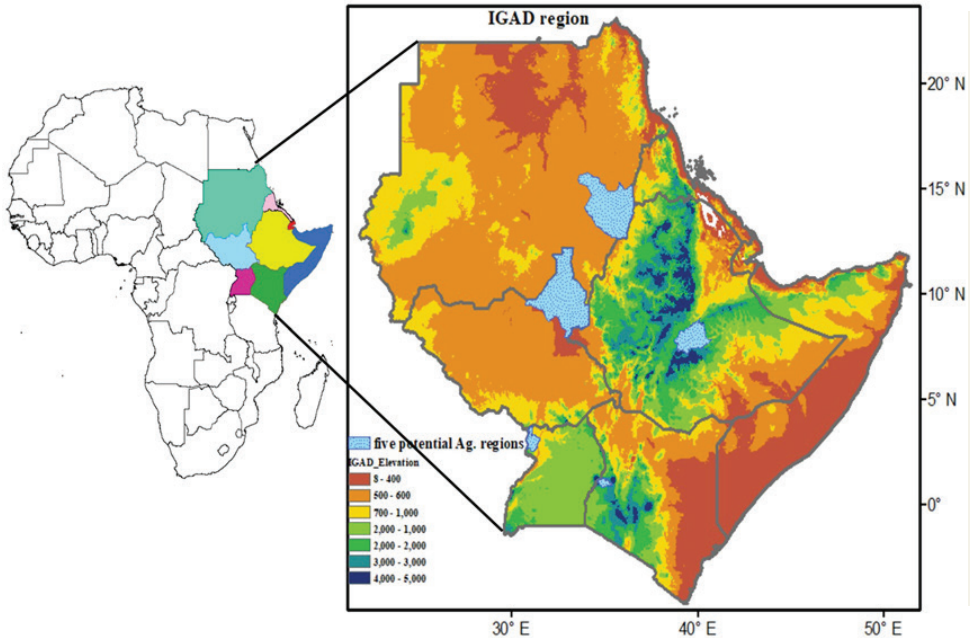
Flood Displacement Risk Profile - https://geoportal.icpac.net/documents/1755

Cyclone Displacement Risk Profile - https://geoportal.icpac.net/documents/1754

IOM Migration, Environment and Climate Change Portal -https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/addressing-drivers-and-facilitating-safe-orderly-and-regular-migration-contexts-disasters-and-climate-change-igad-region

Observed changes in wet days and dry spells over the IGAD region of eastern Africa

Paulino Omoj Omay , Nzioka J. Muthama , Christopher Oludhe ,
Josiah M. Kinama , Guleid Artan & Zachary Atheru - ICPAC



Elevation map of the IGAD region of Eastern Africa, the sky blue sub-regions are five potential agricultural areas (El Gadaref state in Sudan, Upper Nile state in South Sudan, Arsi zone in Ethiopia, Trans Nzoia county in Kenya, Arua district in Uganda) used in validation inter-annual variability of wet days and dry spells. The data used are NASA -Digital Elevation Model (DEM) from Space Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM).

Changes in wet and dry patterns have an impact on rain-fed agriculture, crop productivity, and food security in Eastern Africa. The purpose of this research is to look into the changes in wet days and dry periods within the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region. Climate Hazards Group Infrared Precipitation with Station Data (CHIRPS) and Multi Models Ensembles (MME) of 10 historical simulations and projections from Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP6) models were employed as the data source. Several statistical approaches, as well as wet and dry spell thresholds, were used to calculate patterns of change in wet and dry spells on a decadal (10-year), 20,30, and 41-year time scale. The results show the region exhibits decrease a decrease in the number of wet days and protracted dry spells in the 1980s, followed by an extraordinary (exceptional) increase in wet days in the subsequent decades (2011–2020) during March–May (MAM), June–September (JJAS), and October-December (OND). In Kenya, Somalia, southeastern Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti, the probability of surpassing 7, 14, 21, 28 days (1, 2, 3, 4 spells) was less than 5%. Furthermore, floods in 1997, 2018, 2019, and 2020, as well as droughts in 1983, 1984, 1985, and 2021, were triggered by an increase or decrease in the number of wet days and dry spells over most of the region. The number of wet days is projected to decrease by 10–20% during the MAM season across Sudan, South Sudan, and central and northern Ethiopia, JJAS is projected to increase by 30–50% across central and northern Sudan. However, during the OND season, increases are projected over Uganda, Ethiopia, and Kenya under three Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSP1-2.6, SSP2-4.5, and SSP5-8.5) scenarios. These findings contributed to the advancement of scientific knowledge in the IGAD region, as well as decision-making, food security, and the development of adaptation and mitigation strategies. We encourage rain-fed agriculture, crop variety planning, and irrigation supplement.

Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents to climate change due to dependability on climate sensitive livelihoods and low adaptive capacity. Rainfall is the most important meteorological variable for rain-fed agriculture production in East Africa. The Gross domestic product (GDP)

of most countries in Equatorial East Africa is sensitive to changes and variability in extreme events. Agriculture plays a vital role in the lives of the people of East Africa, with around 80% of the population being engaged in agricultural activities, especially smallholder farming. The observed trends in frequencies and intensities of dry spells pose a big threat to socio-economic sec- tors activities, countries development agenda, agriculture planning and main staple food production stability, crop growth and food security. Numerous studies around the world have noted an increase in dry season and dry spell lengths over North-Eastern North America, China during 1960–2013, Northern Tunisia, Western and Central Sahel, Sudanian zone and Guinea Coast. Thoithi reported an increase in wet days areas across Southern Africa between 1982–2019. Also, significant changes in the duration and timing of extreme dry and wet spells were reported over many parts of the United States, Europe and Australia.

Rainy season over East Africa is highly variable in both space and time, it begins in February over southern parts of Uganda to central and northern parts of Sudan in July and August. The long rains which occur between March and May (MAM) are crucial for sub-regions within equatorial East Africa. The JJAS season accounts for 65–95% over Ethiopia, 80–95% over South Sudan and 95–99% of total annual rainfall over Sudan. The features of total rainfall, intensity, and variability are defined by wet and dry events daily. Wet days are sequences of days with rain, conversely, dry spells are sequences of days without rain at 1 mm minimum threshold. The intensity and duration of droughts and floods, and extra-ordinary heavy rainfall is directly proportional to the number of days with/without rainfall. Wet and dry spells in West Africa appear to be closely linked to the spatio-temporal variability of the West African monsoon.

Researchers use Climdex indices such as Consecutive Wet Days (CWD) and Consecutive Dry Days (CDD) on annual and seasonal time scales to assess patterns of extreme rainfall and seasonal drought over East Africa and beyond. Furthermore, the potential impact of 1.5 °C and 2 °C Global Warming (GW) on CWD and CDD has been addressed widely. For example, the projected effects of 1.5 °C and 2 °C GW levels on the June–September season indicate an overwhelming likelihood of a reduction in CWD over most of GHA. Some areas in West Africa such as the Guinea Coast, are projected to experience a decrease in CWD at both 1.5 C and 2 C WG. The length of a maximum dry period has been observed to be decreasing in April and May, and the probability of 8 consecutive days of dry spell is high (38–69%) in March, April, and August within Lake Kyoga Basin in Uganda.

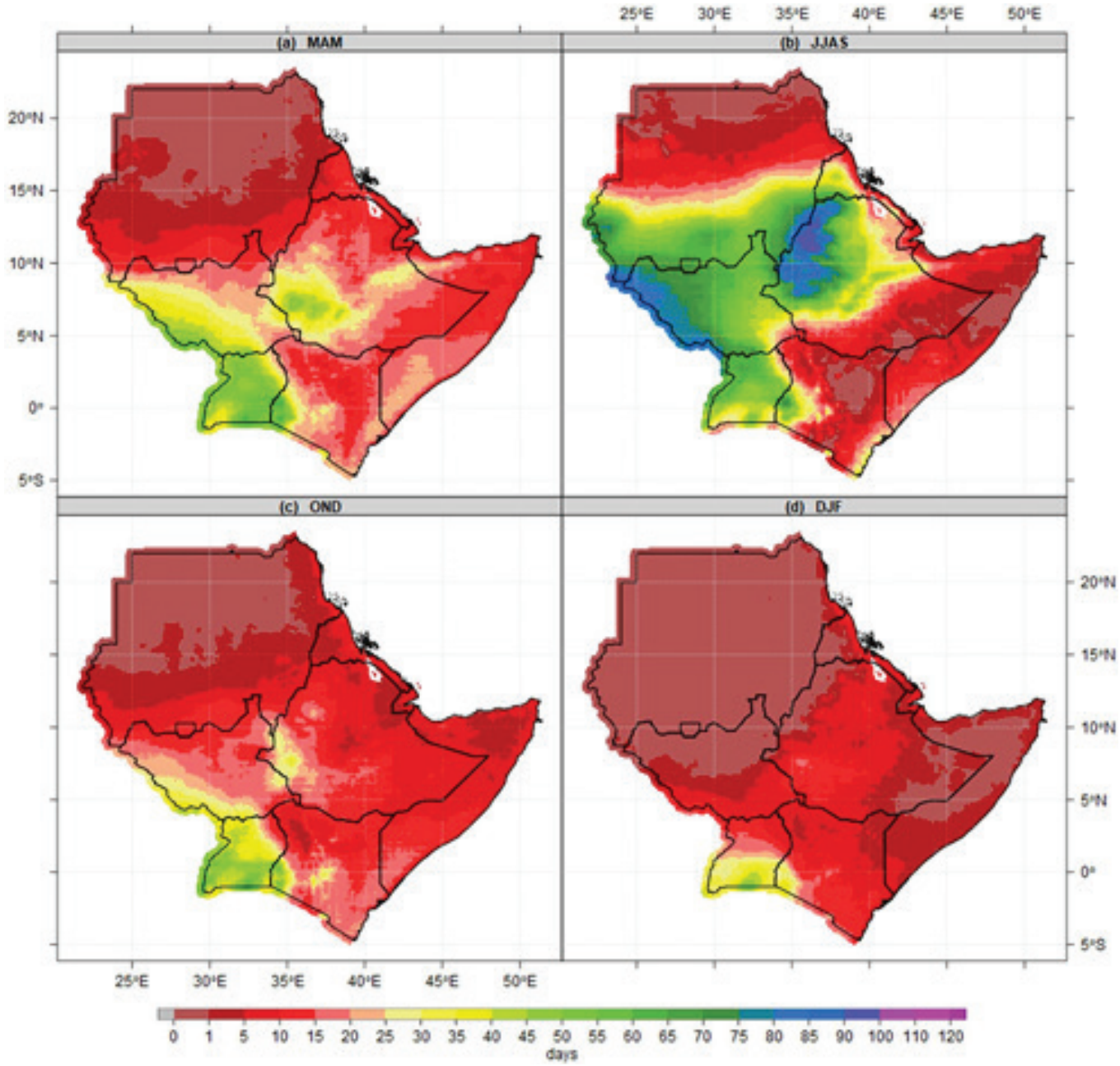
Excessive rainy days enhance the likelihood of floods, whereas excessive dry spells lead to droughts and their various impacts.

Observed change and variability in wet days and dry spells determined the types of cash and food crops. Also, the activities such as where and when to plan, how to best prepare the agricultural land, and suitability of soil for crops. The prolonged wet spells/dry spells could be referred to as floods and drought. Long wet days/ wet spells, and dry days/dry spells are of drought impacts indicators and pose severe risks to socioeconomic activities. Putting into account climatic conditions of any region, the extreme wet spells can lead to saturated soils and thus influence the flood hazard. Also, other related impacts on water- related vector-borne diseases, water quality, river flow and urban water management. Regional, national and local information on wet days and dry spells are critical for monitoring and managing the current and future impacts and developing sustain- able food security interventions.

Many studies in eastern Africa have highlighted the importance of evaluating observed changes in wet and dry spells, heatwaves, droughts, flood patterns, and other unexpected, extraordinary extreme weather occurrences throughout main rainy seasons. The prolonged wet days and dry spells combined with other socio-economic factors cause crop yield reduction, food insecurity, and water scarcity. These conditions normally force pastoralist communities to migrate to other regions in search of water and green pasture for their livestock. The informa- tion on the mean state of wet/dry days and wet/dry spell period is necessary in the determination of frequency, duration and intensity of the rainfall variability. The duration of wet/dry days or wet/dry spells determines the supply and demand levels of the water resources. Prolonged wet/dry days and wet/dry spells appear to be a significant factor for rain-fed food crops over Africa, Sahel, Eastern Africa. The characteristics of wet/ dry spells in terms of frequency, duration and magnitude over equatorial East Africa revealed more wet spells with precipitation of above 14 mm per day4.

research by found that 1-day wet and dry spells were dominant in western Kenya. The duration and magnitude of wet/dry spells varies with climatic zones and there was no clear monotonic trend in wet/dry spells over the Akobo Basin of Ethiopia.

To the best of our knowledge, there are still some limitations regarding the probability of wet days and dry spells to exceed well defined thresholds such as the probability of exceeding 7, 14, 21 and 28 consecutive wet days (1, 2, 3, 4 spell) at the regional level which are critical for regional rain-fed agriculture and irrigation plan- ning among others. Therefore, the main objective of this paper is to fill the information gaps on observed and projected changes in wet days and dry spells for three peak rainfall seasons (MAM, JJAS, OND) and DJF season over the IGAD region of Eastern Africa.



Climate wars: How desperate search for water lures families to death

Hellen Shikanda - Freelance Journalist,
Winner of the IGAD Media Awards 2023

On the day that Lorot Ekalale, 13, cheated death, he and his parents' goats never came back home. The last memory etched in his mind about that day is the sound of gunshots. "Mysterious gunshots," he says. "I thought I was alone at the river that day, I didn't see anyone, not even when the shots were fired." So hazy is his memory that he neither remembers what it felt like walking away from the river with a bullet lodged in his stomach nor seeing the people who shot him take the goats with them. The goat heist was done - a destitute boy was left fighting for his life. His mistake? To go out in search of water. Back home, his mother hoped the sun would go down and her son would come home with the 50 goats he left with in the morning. Lorot is among millions of Kenyans living in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) in the country who have had the longest drought spell in years –three years, and counting. Water and pasture scarcity is now fueling inter-community conflicts more than ever before. "I had gone down the river and ensured that the goats had taken enough water. When I heard the gunshots, I was relaxing, ready to go home. I then felt something strange pierce through my stomach. I became weak but I managed to start walking towards home. I blacked out a few steps from the river and I don't remember the events that followed after that," he says. When Healthy Nation team visited his homestead, he had been there for just a week. The attack happened in May this year he and stayed in hospital for three months, where he underwent two surgeries that saved his life. We find him outside one of his parents' manyatta in Zebra village, Isiolo County. Unlike other boys his age who have gone out to look for water and pasture for the animals, he has to stay back with women, children and the elderly.

His mother tells Healthy Nation how that morning his son was upbeat as he took his herding stick and led the goats out of the pen. His next destination was on the eastern side towards Ewaso Ng'iro River; the nearest source of water for the animals and the only major river in the county.

A graveyard of one of Peter Lokutoi's brothers who was shot dead by unknown people from a neighbouring community in Isiolo. Photo credit: HELLEN SHIKANDA | NATION MEDIA GROUP

"My son did not return home. I was told about the incident days after he had been taken to Isiolo County Hospital and later transferred to Kiirua Hospital. I was devastated, but I am happy that he is alive today," she says. While Lorot was lucky to have escaped the claws of death, his older brothers lost their lives while grazing. We meet his surviving older brother Peter Lotukoi. "About two years ago, one of my brothers had gone to look for water for our cows, he was shot at in the head and died on the spot. My other brother also went out with the remaining livestock, he was shot but survived for a few hours only to die at the hospital," he says.

Residents fetch water at a borehole drilled by the Kenya Red Cross in Sericho location, Isiolo County. The borehole is the only source of water in the area. Photo credit: HELLEN SHIKANDA | NATION MEDIA GROUP

While his youngest brother survived, the family was left with a debt burden since he stayed in hospital for three months. "It was shocking to learn that my younger brother had also been attacked. We learnt about it five hours after he had been shot. We did not have any money to pay the hospital bill as livestock is our only source of income. We were just lucky that it was the political season so one of the aspirants paid part of the bill, which had accumulated to about Sh300,000. We now owe some people about Sh50,000," he adds. A few metres from Zebra Village is Kona, where the Healthy Nation team meets Susan Amuria, a 23-year-old widow left with two children, all aged below five years.

"My husband woke up that morning to go and fend for us. He left with the cattle and I stayed behind to take care of our one-month old baby. At around 2pm, I heard from a neighbour that the man my husband went out with had come back home injured. They had not seen my husband. "That evening, some of them went out to look for him but they could not find him. The next morning, I accompanied them and we found my husband, lifeless and no cows in sight," she narrates. Susan is scared that she may not manage to raise her children alone. She has no form of employment and solely depends on well-wishers. "For how long will I be like this? I used to go to church to get food, but not anymore. Right now my sisters and neighbours share the little they have with me. I wonder why the enemies killed my husband..." she narrates, breaking down. Her neighbour, Bedicto Epeyon, also lost his father this year. "We just heard gunshots at around 12pm. We were so scared we couldn't leave the house. That night alone, we lost two people," says Napore. "Right now we are scared of stepping out when darkness falls. We do not have any form of security here. We are on our own," says Benedicto. Margaret Soiyo, the chairperson of Nyumba Kumi Zebra village, says climate change is exacerbating conflict and they need the government to intervene. "Our community used to have guns a long time ago but we surrendered them in 2000 because we love peace. The neighbouring community still have guns to date so they are empowered to attack us when we go out to look for water for our animals," she says.

"We need police reservists , we don't even have a police station around. We are already suffering from the worsening drought. But it is not fair that our people are dying when they go out to look for water," she says.

About 220 kilometres from Ngaremara is Sericho Ward located in Isiolo South and inhabited by the Borana Community. En route to Sericho is the Merti plateau, whose sand and bone dry vegetation is not kind to both animals and human beings.

There is a blinding sand storm and strong monsoon winds when we get to Sericho, the heat from the sun notwithstanding. Children are running from school to home since they do not have classes in the afternoon because the heat at that time is unbearable.

For these children, getting food is not a surety because inflation and drought has hit their families. Food, a necessity, has now become a luxury.

We meet area chief Mohamed Dabaso, who tells us that this year alone 10 people have been killed in water- related conflicts.

"We are fortunate to have a borehole that was sunk by the Kenya Red Cross but our neighbours don't have any source of water. Drought has affected all of us here and when the neighbouring communities don't have water, they come here and fight with the locals. We are not armed so we become powerless," he says.

Mohamed speaks of the reality of climate change in the region, saying the community has lost about 50 per cent of their animals in three years. Their main source of water was a tributary for the Ewaso Ng'iro River that has since dried up, five years and counting.

Mohamed Roba, secretary of the Water Management Committee of the only borehole in the area, says the dry spells have contributed to the drying up of the river, which had also changed its course. "We used to depend on Ewaso Ng'iro River and for about five years, we have not seen it flow here. The borehole is our only source of water and our population has grown to about 20,000 people. In town, we have to ration the water and get it at least three times a week. The cows get the remaining days because they take a lot of water," he explains. For a fortnight now, the water has become so salty and a number of locals who use it are suffering from diarrhoea-related complications. Rainfall patterns Previously, the county received rainfall twice a year, in October and November, but the patterns have since changed. In the last three years, for instance, the county has not received rainfall even on a single day, worsening the already dire water situation. This has in turn led to conflicts. Research from the Kenya Rapid Acid Data shows that more than 73 per cent of the villages in Isiolo County rely on water sources that are unsafe and beyond five kilometres reach. It also indicates that about 58 per cent of the water sources have saline water or excessive fluoride levels. Jemimah Maina, a climate scientist working with Kenya Red Cross, affirms that climate change can aggravate inter-community conflicts. She calls it cascading risks of climate change. "It is complex but it is true that climate variability and change leads to pressure on available natural resources, which increases tension within communities. This can lead to conflict, displacement and other impacts," she explains.

Jemimah adds that it is quite strange for a river or its tributary to dry up for that long, noting that climate scientists in the country should do an in-depth analysis of the root cause. "For a river to change its course or dry up, especially a tributary, it may be caused by subsequent drought. This is because there is no rain. We may need to check where the source of that tributary is. If its source is seasonal, then it could be affected by lack of rain from the upstream," she explains. Speaking on the state of planet peace in December last year, Antonio Gueterres, secretary -general of the United Nations, said human activities are at the root of our descent towards chaos. "The fallout of the assault on our planet is impeding our efforts to eliminate poverty and imperilling food security. And it is making our work for peace even more difficult as the disruptions drive instability, displacement and conflict," he said. "We must deliver a breakthrough on adaptation to protect the world – and especially the most vulnerable people and countries -- from climate impacts," he added. On the flipside, a summary of a report by the International Committee of the Red Cross released in 2020 shows that climate change may not be directly linked to armed conflict. Instead, it suggests that countries as well as communities that have conflict are not likely to cope with climate change. They however agree that it is likely to increase the risk of conflict. "It may indirectly increase the risk of conflict by exacerbating existing social, economic and environmental factors. For example, when cattle herders and agricultural farmers are pushed to share diminishing resources due to a changing climate, this can stir tensions in places that lack strong governance and inclusive institutions," said the ICRC report.

Climate scientists are also calling for adaptation in areas where climate has changed, just as it has in the country in regions experiencing longer spells of drought. "Adapting to climate change may require major social, cultural or economic changes. A whole agricultural system might need to change, or diseases new to a geographical area might need to be dealt with. Concerted efforts to adapt tend to be limited in times of war. In a conflict situation, authorities and institutions are not only weak, but also preoccupied with security priorities," said the report by ICRC. Jemimah explains that pastoralism is a form of adaptation, it is only that when there is drought, there is no 'greener' place to go to and should a community have some water and grass, then conflict is likely to arise. "From way back, when the herders realised that they have livestock and there is an area that has fodder and water, they used to move to that area, which helped in conservation and adaptation. In terms of agriculture, diversification of livelihoods is an aspect of adaptation. Pastoralists can learn to concentrate more on animals like goats which are browsers than and may not be grossly affected when the land dries up. This is why cows, which are grazers, are affected first in cases there is drought," she explained.

Hellen is a reporter for four years now specializing in producing multimedia content in Health and Science for the Nation Media Group in NAIROBI, Kenya.

How to farm during dry spell

Lominda Afedraru - Freelance Journalist, Winner of the IGAD Media Awards 2023

It is early morning and a team of East African science journalists set off on a four-hour drive from Nairobi, Kenya to Nyandarua County in central Kenya on a fact finding visit.

The team arrive at Sasumua Dam with its main water source flowing from Chania River originating from the mountain ranges. Here, the situation looks dire because the dry spell is serious as seen from the looks of the agricultural initiatives from farmer fields.

Background

A quick look at the farming communities practicing agriculture in arid and semi-arid areas in Sub Saharan Africa is a huge challenge with most of the interventions done by developmental partners such as Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in partnership with Ministries of Agriculture in various countries.

In most cases development partners implement solutions geared towards adoption of irrigation technology during prolonged drought periods but access water facility can be a challenge

The statistical data provided by the ministry of Agriculture in the National Irrigation Policy indicates that irrigated land produces 40 percent of global food (IFAD,2015).

Currently, Uganda's ratio of cultivated area under irrigation to the irrigation potential is only 0.5 percent.

This compares lowly to 3.6 percent for Tanzania and 2.0 percent for Kenya. The comfort of receiving rains to sustain two cropping seasons in a year has provided little incentive to Government to invest extensively in irrigation.

Little attention has been accorded to technological and human capacity development in irrigation. Despite the advantages the country holds in the ease of undertaking irrigation development, the potential has not been harnessed.

Uganda's rain-fed agriculture has progressively been constrained by frequent threats of actual occurrence of droughts and floods.

However Ugandan farmers are not worse off than their counterparts in Kenya because we have several sources of water which farmers can tap to practice farming even during dry season.

As such Seeds of Gold got the opportunity to interact with farmers in Nyandarua as to how they are able to practice farming despite the dire situation of lack of water for the communities living in the country and below are the details.

Source of water

In Sub Saharan Africa including Uganda typical sources of agricultural water include surface water which are categorised as rivers, streams and irrigation ditches including open canals impounded water such as ponds, reservoirs and lakes.

Others are groundwater from wells, harvested rainwater, locally collected water in containers, tanks and rain barrels.

There are four main areas of water use in agriculture which include for growing of crops, through irrigation, supplying drinking water to livestock, cleaning farm buildings and animals and supplying drinking water for those who work on the farm.

Farmer experience

Phillis Wanjiru is a seasoned mixed farmer practicing agriculture on her two and half acres of land located to the main water supply Sasumua dam in Nyandarua County which she is unable to access. She grows mainly vegetables which include cabbages and kales (sukumawiki), Hass avocado, strawberry and Irish potatoes. She is also keeping two dairy cattle for milk collection which is a practice for most farmers in the area. Wanjiru contends that farming in Kenya is not easy due to water scarcity.

Wanjiru and other farmers in the county manage to farm throughout the year having been able to collect resources as group to invest in irrigation.

“After several engagements with other farmers in this county, we realised we needed water to grow more especially during drought. To achieve our goals, we had to pull resources as a group. That is how most of us managed to finance the sinking of boreholes which gives us water to irrigate our vegetables,” says Wanjiru. With the resources, each group member can access money to invest in irrigation. Wanjiru has also managed to dig wells which she uses to store harvested water during rainy season.

“I borrowed some money from the farmer’s group and I was able to purchase a 50,000 litre tank where I keep the rain water I harvest during rainy season,” says Peter Mongi Njoroge who is a mixed farmer.

In most cases development partners implement solutions geared towards adoption of irrigation technology during prolonged drought periods but access water facility can be a challenge

Lominda is a freelance science journalist attached to Nation Media Group operating in East Africa. I write mainly for its sister newspaper the Daily Monitor based in Kampala in the features section.

Common cause, uneven burden

Sisay Sahlu - Freelance Journalist,
Winner of the IGAD Media Awards 2023

The injustice at the heart of the climate crisis

The drought has ruled this land for far too long.

Its barren grip tightens each year, squeezing what little life remains from parched fields and weary souls. Analysts point their fingers at corruption, negligence and a misplaced sense of apathy that allowed this drought to fester into a catastrophe.

Now tens of millions suffer. Livelihoods wither. Lives crumble to dust.

Five rainy seasons have failed in a row, each planting time bringing more hardship, more desperation. Scientists warn that a sixth consecutive drought looms – something not seen for decades. Crop failures plague Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda. Challenges mount while resilience weakens. Families are pushed to the breaking point.

Political maneuvering and fancy speeches don't fill empty stomachs or quench thirst. Corruption siphons away what little resources remain, like leeches sucking life from a once lush land. The people carry on, holding tight to what hope they have left. But each day they become a little thinner, a little weaker, a little less hopeful that this unrelenting drought will ever break. Scientists predict this could become the new normal. But the people of the Horn still believe rain will return, crops will thrive once more, and life will nourish this thirsty ground again.

The drought has taken an immense toll on livestock in the Horn of Africa, with at least eight million cattle reported killed. This has prompted many people to migrate in search of water, grazing for their animals or food for their families.

Nearly 20 million people in the region are suffering from food insecurity, according to the UN Refugee Agency.

A recent study by the World Weather Attribution Group found that the drought was caused by human-induced climate change, not just lack of rain. Higher temperatures from global warming have made the land and plants significantly drier through increased evaporation.

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission has called for immediate action in the Oromia and Somalia regions due to the devastating effects of the drought in Ethiopia. The Commission cited the absence of an early warning system, inadequate data and a delayed response.
The Ethiopian Institution of the Ombudsman criticized officials for failing to provide an early warning system during the climate-induced drought in affected areas, according to its findings released last month.

A report by the Institute for Security Studies found that the Horn of Africa contributes only 0.1 percent of global emissions. It calls for regional cooperation to recognize mitigation as an essential

adaptive mechanism that must be implemented carefully to foster growth.

Scholars and conservative groups point to one of the bigger issues: how money from donors for green projects in developing countries is transferred, while climate finance comes from larger, industrialized and wealthier nations that contribute more to climate change, despite the looming global threat.

At the 2009 climate talks in Copenhagen, rich countries pledged to spend USD 100 billion annually by 2020. This would be to assist developing countries in coping with the effects of climate change, facilitate their transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient economies and societies, and mitigate the disproportionate effects of climate change on these nations.

Unfortunately, the goal of providing climate finance from wealthy countries to developing nations has not been achieved. Rich countries have failed to meet their funding commitments.In the meantime, the most vulnerable communities continue to suffer the impacts of climate change. This includes people in the Horn of Africa, who have been disproportionately affected by the changing global climate.

According to leading climate change researcher and lecturer Beyene Tekelu at Hawassa University, while the effects of climate change are similar everywhere, the Horn of Africa region has limited adaptive capacity due to its geographical location.

Beyene says the region's location in terms of meteorological and climatic characteristics is relatively unstable compared to other regions for natural reasons. However, methane gas evaporation is relatively low in the region.

The researcher stressed the need for regional leaders to at least try to play a coordinated role in multiple international forums to push for and demand compensation for forestation efforts, carbon funds, lost revenues and any damages the region may face.

Beyene asserts that regional leaders must develop a comprehensive plan and strategy, push further and meet with wealthy, industrialized nations. Since carbon financing is both an economic and political issue, he believes assertive leadership is needed in forums with industrialized nations.

The researcher cited the bold visibility of the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's regime in climate conferences and its impact in uniting the continent for climate politics. However, he said while Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's tree planting efforts appear successful, global warming in Ethiopia will not be mitigated by tree planting alone unless regional leaders make a political commitment.

Beyene said "The injustice will be resolved if the Eastern African bloc Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the continental bloc, the African Union (AU), unite on the issue of the promised but unfulfilled funds."

He explained the need to involve climate experts and researchers as political advisors to secure funding for carbon monitoring efforts.

Senior climate change expert Meseret Abdisa said the impacts of climate change are "borderless," though wealthy nations are also affected, the shock is greatest in poorer nations like the Horn of Africa. He stressed the importance of united action and abandoning the current passive leadership.

Meseret said the fact that 8 million people die annually due to climate change indicates an alarming issue requiring immediate action. Though the "polluter pays" principle exists, lack of coordinated political leadership has left the region vulnerable.

"In short, unless developing nations, particularly climate shock regions, continue to speak out, the impact could become unmanageable," Mesret said. He believes leaders should avoid inaction and stop claiming food shortages are the only public problem while ignoring the climate change threat.

In an interview with The Reporter, Belgian climate scientist Jean Pascal – a candidate for IPCC chairperson – said the IPCC has repeatedly noted that developed countries are primarily responsible for past greenhouse gas emissions, while the severe impacts of climate change are mostly felt by vulnerable populations and countries in the developing world.

The professor said this fundamentally unjust situation has been discussed in prior IPCC reports, including from an ethical standpoint. Climate change is a global issue requiring international cooperation, he noted.

"As we are talking about the habitability of the only inhabitable planet in the solar system, caring for it is a common responsibility. But we also know these responsibilities are differentiated, as rich countries have more resources, money and tech-

nology than poorer countries," Pascal added.

Ultimately, achieving meaningful progress on climate change will require cooperation between developed and developing countries based on shared responsibility for caring for the planet. But it will also require recognizing that responsibilities are differentiated given wealth disparities, as many climate justice advocates maintain.

Sisay is a recognized journalist in Ethiopia through his reporting and editing work, winning the respect and admiration of officials, readers, and other journalists alike.

The AWARDING CEREMONY for the IGAD Media Awards 2023 will be held in Djibouti on 26 November 2023

Congratulations to the winners in the Print Category for the IGAD region:

1. Hellen Shikanda	Kenyan	Nairobi	Nation Africa
2. Lominda Afedraru	Ugandan	Kampala	The Monitor
3. Sisay Sahlu Nigatu	Ethiopian	Addis Ababa	The Ethiopia Reporter Newspaper

ABOUT THE IGAD MEDIA AWARD

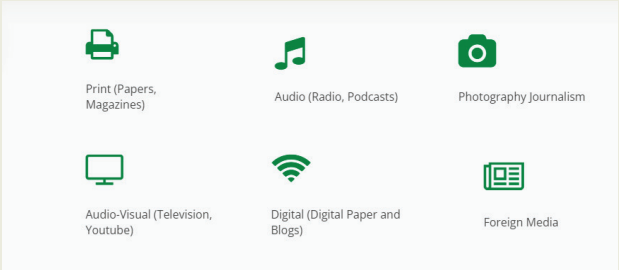
Building strategic partnerships with the media is deemed critical to the successful attainment of the IGAD Vision – "A resilient, peaceful, prosperous and integrated region where citizens enjoy high quality of life". The media in the member states plays a critical role in raising awareness of the opportunities and benefits of multilateralism and regional approach to address the shared challenges, risks, and threats.

Through the IGAD Media Awards, the Secretariat and partners intend to:

- Recognise and reward excellence in reporting on issues related to resilience to drought in the region;
- Inspire journalists in the region to report more on issues surrounding drought in the region;
- Promote investigative journalism and accuracy as well as creativity and innovation in presenting information about drought, resilience, and food security; and
- Encourage journalists to involve centres of excellence in science, technology and innovation from inside and outside the region to shed light on the persistent and frequent drought and associated food insecurity in the region.

The Awards are open to all practicing journalists as well as freelancers in the mainstream media and multi-media outlets from the 8 IGAD countries and are citizens of one of the IGAD member countries: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The Awards are also open to foreign media practitioners operating from the IGAD region.

Categories



Competition Theme for 2023

Journalists were invited to submit original pieces of their work, published recently, that highlighted the benefits of 'Cooperation for resilience against drought effects', which can come in many shapes and forms.

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