

PASSAGE Project

Newsletter - October 2024



Welcome to the first PASSAGE project Newsletter, we are excited to share with you the latest updates from across the PASSAGE team. Here is a summary of what is covered in this edition:

- CLARE Gender Equality and Inclusion Workshop, 16-20 September, Kigali
- Legal and Policy Frameworks and Mechanisms for Supporting Strengthening Pastoralist Livelihoods in the Greater Horn of Africa
- Work Package 2 Working Group Meeting
- Work Package 1 Progress
- The Official PASSAGE Logo ([click here](#))
- PASSAGE Social Media Channels
 - LinkedIn: [passage-strengthening-pastoral-livelihoods-through-effective-anticipatory-action](#)
 - Twitter: [@PASSAGEProject](#)
- PASSAGE Annual Meeting, 17- 20 September, Mombasa
- PASSAGE at the EADP, 1-3 October Mombasa, Kenya
- Global Dialogue Platform, 22-24 October, Berlin
- Stakeholders Meeting on Enhancing Climate Early Warning Systems and Response Capacities, 28 August, Somalia
- Review of Environmental and Other NDMA Socio-Economic Indicators, 7–15 October
- Link to the calendar of events ([click here](#))



CLARE Gender Equality and Inclusion Workshop was held in Kigali, Rwanda at the Park Inn Hotel from 16-20 September 2024

The five-day workshop brought together GEI champions who are members of the CLARE GEI Working Group with early career researchers from across the CLARE programme in an interactive peer learning format. Early career researchers deepened their knowledge of GEI as well as its application to their work and it included postdoctoral researchers, junior faculty, researchers and staff who come from diverse disciplines.

The workshop ensured knowledge sharing, creating an opportunity to learn and relearn as well as share experiences, tools and good practices for integrating GEI into project activities.

Objectives

- 1) Bring together GEI focal points and early career researchers to interact and learn from one another.
- 2) Share key GEI concepts and participatory methodologies that can inform CLARE projects over the next few years.
- 3) Create an opportunity for the GEI focal points to map out a shared understanding of their role as well as a collective journey for taking this work forward.

The PASSAGE team present consisted of PHD candidate Mohamed Abdirizak whose research includes gender and Milanoi KOIYIET, the GEI lead for PASSAGE. The colleagues were able to engage and from the peer-to-peer learning there are two collaborations ongoing with other organisations which includes youth and disability inclusion.

Legal and Policy Frameworks and Mechanisms for Supporting Strengthening Pastoralist Livelihoods in the Greater Horn of Africa

IFRC is currently undertaking a study on Legal and Policy Frameworks and Mechanisms for Supporting Strengthening Pastoralist Livelihoods in the Greater Horn of Africa. This study, which forms part of the Strengthening Pastoralist livelihoods in the Greater Horn of Africa through Effective Anticipatory Action (PASSAGE) project (funded by the Climate and Resilience Program of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)) aims to identify and assess the regional legal and regulatory framework and mechanisms applicable to pastoralism in the Greater Horn of Africa, and their implications for the practice of pastoralism and the livelihoods of pastoralists in the region.

The study focuses on the frameworks and mechanisms on pastoralism of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC), and specifically whether these mechanisms support cross-border anticipatory action for disasters. The conclusions of this study are aimed to inform the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's advocacy on the strengthening pastoralist livelihoods in the Greater Horn of Africa, as well as regional organisations' thinking with respect to the development of regulatory frameworks on pastoralism in the region, particularly with regards to the cross-border management of disasters likely to affect these communities.

A first draft of the research report has been developed. In order to strengthen the existing draft, key informant interviews with colleagues from the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) are being planned. In addition, IFRC has been exploring opportunities to expand the scope of the study to also include an overview of relevant domestic legal and policy frameworks of countries in the region with colleagues from the University of Sussex.

Work Package 2 Working Group Meeting

The work package 2 team comprising of the IFRC Africa region, Kenya Redcross, South Sudan Red Cross and Uganda Red Cross together with the World Food program colleagues from all the 5 countries (Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan, and Somalia) held a fruitful discussion on 30 October 2024, to determine the operational areas. The teams also discussed collaboration and synergies to enhance maximum utilisation of available resources to achieve worthwhile outcomes.

Work Package 1 Progress

As part of work package one's activities on groundwater monitoring and forecasting PASSAGE partners Virridy have been installing satellite connected sensors at groundwater boreholes in Turkana, Kenya. This data will enable the expansion of the machine learning approach used by DRIP(Fankhauser et al., 2022), which combines water usage data from such groundwater boreholes instrumented with satellite-connected sensors, with satellite data to estimate current and forecast groundwater demand and use. In the coming months Virridy will be installing sensors in Karamoja, Uganda to increase coverage across IGAD Cluster 1.



The Work Package 1 monthly meeting took place on 28th October, the minutes can be found [here](#).

The Official PASSAGE Logo

We have had to update the PASSAGE logo in order to ensure it is in keeping with the CLARE programme colour scheme. Please use the various file formats found [here](#).

PASSAGE Social Media Channels

We have launched PASSAGE pages on X/Twitter and LinkedIn, follow for project updates:

LinkedIn: [passage-strengthening-pastoral-livelihoods-through-effective-anticipatory-action](#)

Twitter: [@PASSAGEProject](#)

PASSAGE Annual Meeting 17- 20 September, Mombasa

The PASSAGE project annual meeting in Mombasa, Kenya was a great opportunity to bring together representatives from all of our partner institutions and hear about the exciting work they have done in the past year.

Highlights from the week include:

- Progress reports from each work package covering: risk modelling, anticipatory actions, risk communication, community engagement and capacity building.
- Interactive sessions exploring PASSAGE's impact strategy, data needs and mapping stakeholders.
- Generating revised work plans for the following year.



Link: [Annual report for PASSAGE Project July 2023-June 2024.docx](#)

PASSAGE at the EADP, 1-3 October Mombasa, Kenya

ICPAC, Anticipation Hub, WFP Africa, and partners successfully held the first East Africa Dialogue Platform in Mombasa, Kenya on 1 - 3 October 2024 which looked at the theme “From Policy to Practice: Strengthening Disaster Risk Management through Anticipatory Action”.



Participation in the Eastern Africa Dialogue Platform (EADP) provided a strategic opportunity for PASSAGE to engage with a diverse network of stakeholders and contribute to strengthening early warning and anticipatory action (AA) systems in the region. PASSAGE facilitated two workshop sessions 1) Addressing Climate Hazards at Scale: Extreme Heat in Cities and Drylands and 2) Strengthening Drought Anticipatory Action:

Harmonising Triggers and Thresholds for Multi-Season/Year Event. An initial outcome from the EADP was the [declaration on enhancing Anticipatory action in the region](#), which PASSAGE was delighted to have contributed to.

Global Dialogue Platform, 22-24 October, Berlin

The 12th Global Dialogue Platform, held in Berlin from October 22–24, 2024, convened a diverse group of actors in the Anticipatory Action (AA) space, including representatives from humanitarian, development, donor, government, and research organisations. This annual forum aims to advance AA for disaster risk reduction through shared experiences and collaborative learning. This year’s platform emphasised integrating AA into national disaster management systems and fostering cross-sector collaboration among all stakeholders.

The PASSAGE project team from Sussex University—Prof. Dominic Kniveton, Dr. Pedram Rowhani, and Emmah Mwangi—actively participated in critical discussions and sessions, including a CLARE-led discussion on who is left behind by AA initiatives and how to close the gap and an ICPAC-led session on progress towards implementing AA in the eastern Africa region.

As the event concluded, participants put forth recommendations to scale and sustain AA. These include strengthening AA through government support and leadership, fostering inclusive community engagement, and establishing adaptive funding mechanisms. They emphasised that creating supportive legal frameworks and increasing budget allocations are critical for achieving scalable, lasting anticipatory action across regions.

Stakeholders Meeting on Enhancing Climate Early Warning Systems and Response Capacities, 28 August in Somalia



Figure 3 Mama Anab presenting their findings and discussion on the role of communities and government in promotion of early warning system in the region.

CeRID in partnership with IGAD/ICPALD conducted a meeting with key stakeholders on Enhancing Climate Early Warning Systems and Response Capacities in Beled Hawo district, Gedo region, Somalia. The meeting was engaged with 25 participants derived from women groups, youth groups, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) committee members, government officials and business people engaging in pastoralism.

The meeting aimed to understand the early warning system and response that are in existence in the district, the region and also neighbouring towns along the border Mandera and Suftu, Kenya and Somalia respectively. The stakeholders involved have shared their voices on the ground regarding their knowledge on early warning systems, if there are mitigation measures in place to counter during disaster or shocks that affect the pastoral communities in these areas. The shocks addressed can be drought or floods and sources of early warnings that are legible in the setting of these communities.

They also discussed the effects of the prolonged just ended drought, the recent EL NINO floods on pastoralism. In the engagement meeting, if there were lessons learnt, mitigation measures/ suitable responses were put in place to minimize the mentioned disaster. The meeting also focused on identifying if there are existing DRR committees at community level in the district, challenges occurring and gaps that need to be addressed, and importance and availability of early warning systems for local use.

Review of Environmental and Other NDMA Socio-Economic Indicators, 7-15 October 2024 at KALRO Naivasha

NDMA in collaboration with ICPALD organized a workshop running for a period from October 6th to 15th, 2024 at KALRO's Dairy Research Institute in Naivasha. The workshop sought to validate DEW indicators through data mining from the Kenya Drought Early Warning System (KDEWS), running statistical analyses and correlations with Earth Observation indicators. The workshop was attended by a lean team of NDMA officers with relevant knowledge and skills to effectively mine and manage the relevant indicator data on VCI, NDVI, and PET, accompanied by a section of senior NDMA Management. The workshop was conducted with funding from PASSAGE through ICPALD that covered staff allowances and conference expenses.

Overall, the workshop aimed to help co-develop a set of drought indicators with defined triggers/thresholds to be monitored towards promoting anticipatory and early actions. The workshop also sought to enhance familiarization with the Enhanced Drought Early Warning System; allow discussion on prioritized key remote sensed indicators for monitoring; and carry out computation of statistics and construction of indicator correlations.