

PASSAGE PROJECT NEWSLETTER QUARTER 3 2026 July – September



Q3 2026 highlights

- Postgraduate Progress Review, Knowledge Product Development & Research for Impact (R4I) Workshop
- The 74th Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF74)
- PASSAGE Annual Strategic Review Meeting
- Sub-Regional Climate Outlook Forum (Sub-COF6) for IGAD Cluster I

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Item 1: Postgraduate Progress Review, Knowledge Product Development & Research for Impact (R4I) Workshop



July 13-15, 2026 (MACHAKOS, Kenya) A key component of the PASSAGE project is strengthening regional capacity through postgraduate research, collaborative learning, and the co-production of knowledge products. To this end, PASSAGE supports postgraduate students PhD and Masters level with partner universities, the University of Nairobi, Makerere University, and Jigjiga University, on undertaking research to contribute advancing understanding of climate risk, pastoral livelihoods, early warning and resilience-building in dryland systems.

The post graduate progress review, knowledge product development and Research for Impact (R4I) learning workshop provided a platform for postgraduate students, supervisors, project partners and technical experts to jointly review research progress, identify opportunities for knowledge generation and dissemination, and strengthen approaches for documenting and communicating R4I.

In attendance were 3 students and an Associate Professor from Makerere University, Uganda, 2 PhD students and an Associate Professor from University of Nairobi, Kenya and 1 student and lecturer from Jigjiga University, Ethiopia. Other partners in attendance were IFRC, RCMRD, WFP, University of Sussex and ICPALD.

Item 2: The 74th Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF74)



ICPAC, in collaboration with IGAD Member States and partners, hosted the 74th Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF74) on 17-18 August 2026 in Kigali, Rwanda. The forum focused on the theme “Harnessing Climate Services for Early Action and Resilience in the Greater Horn of Africa Region in the Face of a Strong El Niño.”

The hybrid forum brought together National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the region, climate experts, policymakers, development partners, and sector stakeholders to release the October-December (OND) 2026 regional climate outlook, sectoral advisories, and

advocate for the use of climate information for informed decision-making and preparedness across the Greater Horn of Africa.

The event culminated in the Official release of the 74th Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF 74) Seasonal outlook. The [Technical Statement](#) is linked here.

Item 3: PASSAGE Annual Strategic Review Meeting



September 1-3, 2026 (ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia) ICPALD, through the PASSAGE Project convened collaborating project partners, including academic institutions, for the project's final annual strategic review meeting during which the co-implementers harvested outcomes.

During the three-day meeting, participants strategically planned the way forward for the remaining 3 months of the project, by specifically assessing gaps in the change the project expects to see; reflecting on the value collaboration has had, including what could have been done differently; reflecting on sustaining the actualized change by scaling and institutionalizing the PASSAGE legacy; developing pathways to influence and sustain the change by packaging evidence for influence.

Since 2023, ICPALD has been partnering with Horn of Africa communities on anticipatory action, co-learning, and co-producing risk knowledge. As the project wraps up this year, the interdisciplinary team met to address three critical questions to transform research evidence into lasting action, namely:

1. What has significantly changed?
2. Why does it matter?
3. How do we sustain this impact?

Suggestions from the session interactions included holding a knowledge harvesting event /knowledge share fair, leveraging on the represented institutions' strengths, capitalizing on existing online platforms such as CLARE platform, creating a research dissemination /advocacy plan.

The meeting consolidated a clear and combined direction for the final lap of PASSAGE, strengthened coherence across work packages and sharpened the focus on harvesting outcomes. The partners refined their evidence and narrative approaches, building on the previously agreed knowledge products plan, and assigned teams for each deliverable.

Item 4: Sub-Regional Climate Outlook Forum (Sub-COF6) for IGAD Cluster I



September 8-10, 2026 (LODWAR, Kenya) The 6th Sub-Regional Climate Outlook Forum (Sub-COF6) - Strengthening Climate Early Warning Uptake & Early Response in Pastoral Communities of the Karamoja Cluster (IGAD Cluster 1), drew participants from the cross-border areas of Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda, including media representatives from the four countries.

With a strong El Niño developing and wetter-than-usual rains expected, participants focused on downscaling the October-December (OND) regional forecast to sub-regional forecasts, co-producing advisories that meet the needs of individuals and institutions and translating advisories into achievable actions.

The forum also engaged in dialogue on the traditionally and scientifically forecasted October-December (OND) season, forage and pasture outlook for OND, gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) continuum for climate services, and livestock and rangeland sector advisory formulation.

In his presentation, Dr. Wamalwa Kinyanjui, Animal Health Expert said, “The anticipated favorable rainfall conditions present significant opportunities for recovery of livestock production systems following previous dry conditions. Improved rainfall is expected to enhance pasture, browse, fodder and water availability, resulting in improved livestock body condition, milk and meat production and overall pastoral livelihoods.”

Based on the forecast and the livestock-sector identified implications, the linked [advisories](#) were recommended.

Prior to this, a comprehensive review of the JJAS 2026 season provided context for the forward planning. Sector presentations examined impacts of the previous season on agriculture and food security, livestock and pastoralism, water resources, climate-induced migration and displacement, disaster risk management, peace and security and health.