

## Overview of the process and priorities for the IGAD ending drought emergencies initiative in the Horn of Africa: The need for 'Community Engagement for Transformational Change'

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Following the 2010/11 drought in the Horn of Africa, which affected over 13.5 million people mainly in the drylands, various organisations came together to collaborate on an initiative to '*End Drought Emergencies*' in these areas. A series of meetings was held with national governments, donors, IGAD and the AU to develop what is now being called the *IGAD Drought Disaster and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI)*. It was agreed that IGAD would lead the initiative and support member states to develop *Country Programming Papers (CPPs)* and investment plans to highlight national investment priorities, and a Regional Programme Framework (RPF), which will focus on regional interventions. To complement and coordinate this initiative and to link demand driven research to sustainable action for development, USAID funded the *Technical Consortium for Ending Drought Emergencies and Building Resilience to Drought in the Horn of Africa*, which is coordinated by ILRI on behalf of the CGIAR centres, in partnership with the FAO Investment Centre, which provides investment planning expertise.

The CPPs follow a *Common Architecture for Resilience* focusing on: Natural Resource Management, Disaster Risk Management, Access to Markets and Trade Issues, Livelihoods and Access to Basic Services, Knowledge Management and Research, and Conflict Resolution and Peace-building. A series of *Technical Briefs* was developed by the Technical Consortium on these issues to provide the technical rationale and evidence base to support the priority interventions emanating from the CPPs.

The CPPs for Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda among others, have now been developed and reviewed by experts, and are in the *process of being adopted by the respective Governments*. Although the plans show a new commitment by IGAD member states to promoting resilience in dryland areas (unlike parallel initiatives such as the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Initiative (CAADP) which are much broader), there are a number of *critical concerns that need to be urgently addressed*:

1. The plans are *insufficiently transformative* in their content and *do not address the underlying causes of vulnerability* or ensure time bound progress on the *fundamental building blocks for development* and resilience including: providing *access to appropriate education to all children* in the ASALs; *protection of community rights to land* and *adequate compensation* mechanisms; *economic empowerment of vulnerable groups* (including ICTs, business training and financial services) in order that they can take advantage of infrastructural development and new market opportunities; and *civic education* on rights, services, and resources devoted to the ASALs.
2. There are no guarantees that all investments will be *appraised for their socio-economic and environmental impact* to avoid *detrimental impacts on the resilience of vulnerable groups and the lack of compensation witnessed* recently in energy, mineral and crop agriculture investments in the region.
3. There are no mechanisms in place to ensure that *communities are engaged in determining their local development priorities and visions* for a resilient future.

<sup>1</sup> This policy brief was prepared by the REGLAP which is a consortium project of ECHO funded project partners with input from other partners. However this brief may not represent ECHO's views or those of all consortium member organisations. More information about REGLAP can be found on: <http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/east-central-africa/reglap>.

4. There are no public **transparency, accountability and monitoring mechanisms** outlined to ensure that **all funds** devoted to the IDDRSI are addressing the above issues **and benefiting vulnerable ASAL communities**.

Although IGAD held the first Non-State Actors (NSA) consultation meeting in Naivasha on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of October, at which NSAs were invited to review and provide input into the IDDRSI strategy, in general, the involvement of civil society in the plans for ending drought emergencies has to date been slight. At this meeting, the **NSAs present agreed in their declaration that:**

1. **NSAs at regional and national level should be involved in the design, implementation and monitoring** of the initiative in future.
2. IGAD should continue to consult with NSAs on the IDDRSI including a **more systematic and wider representation of relevant non state actors including community representatives**.
3. **All member states carry out national level consultations** on the country plans and that community input into defining resilience priorities is included as part of their implementation.
4. **Transparency and accountability mechanisms are put in place to monitor use of funds** devoted to the initiative and country plans.

REGLAP has been recently asked to carry out awareness-raising on the Initiative for CSOs and community representatives. Given the late timing of this request, it is essential that this initiative focuses on **ensuring that member states include communities in the design and implementation of the plans at local level and that adequate monitoring, accountability and complaints mechanisms are set up** for all funds that are devoted to the initiative.

To date, donors, including the World Bank, the AfDB, USAID and others have pledged over \$1.2 billion to the initiative to complement government resources for implementation of the plans. **A Global Alliance (GA) for Action for Drought Resilience and Growth** has been formed by development partners to co-ordinate support to resilience building in the HOA and Sahel regions while a **Regional Donor Sub-Group for Technical Assistance** has been established to coordinate capacity building support to IGAD. Under the auspices of the GA, donor visits will take place in the near future in Ethiopia and Kenya to review the CPPs with respect to investment opportunities. It is essential the **critical concerns are adequately raised and addressed** before these investment plans are finalised.

#### **What can you do?**

1. **Be informed** of the IGAD process. More information can be <http://webapps.co.ke/globalalliance>, [www.igad.int](http://www.igad.int), [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov), [www.disasterriskreduction.net](http://www.disasterriskreduction.net)
2. **Disseminate** this overview **to CSOs and communities** as widely as possible.
3. **Lobby your government, IGAD and donor** contacts for the **critical concerns to be adequately addressed**.

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