



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING

# WORKING TOGETHER TO END DROUGHT EMERGENCIES IN KENYA BY 2022

## PILLAR 4: SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

The Ending Drought Emergencies (EDE) goal is:

*Communities in drought-prone areas are more resilient to drought and other effects of climate change, and the impacts of drought are contained.*

The focus of the Sustainable Livelihoods Pillar, or Pillar 4, is to promote secure and sustainable livelihoods that help families prone to drought spread risk and prevent asset loss. Livestock is given particular emphasis in this pillar given its importance in drought-prone areas and the substantial losses normally experienced by the livestock sector during emergencies (estimated at 72% of damages and losses during the 2008-11 drought period).

### Rationale

The ASALs have a comparative advantage in livestock production compared with other parts of the country, but face numerous challenges. High coefficients of variation in rainfall reinforce the importance of mobility, but this is increasingly being curtailed by settlements, boundaries,

resource-based conflict and a growing human population. Livestock production is further affected by a combination of recurrent drought, climate change, poor physical and marketing infrastructure, invasive species, and livestock diseases and pests; livestock health systems in the ASALs have been under-resourced since the 1980s.

The sustainable use and management of natural resources is an integral part of all ASAL development. Whilst the production of livestock remains the primary economic activity in the ASALs, particularly in the more arid counties, this is changing as people come to rely more on other resources such as charcoal and fuelwood, employment, petty trade and crop farming – with some of these alternative livelihoods being unsustainable, environmentally destructive, or of high risk or marginal economic return.

It has too often been assumed that the solution to the challenges facing the ASALs is more water. However, new water can create rather than solve problems,

particularly when it is poorly sited in critical grazing areas, leads to sedentarisation and localised degradation, or fails to take account of the needs of downstream users. The more pressing concern is better management of existing water sources and more efficient water use.

Land is a critical factor in sustaining ASAL livelihoods and has special cultural and aesthetic significance. To an outsider, the under-populated arid lands appear to be empty lands, ripe for alternative forms of production and investment. This is partly because the pastoral economy is undervalued. But for pastoralists, different areas of rangeland are important at different times: some are reserved for drought periods while others are of high ecological or cultural importance.

### Priorities

The strategic framework for this pillar has the following priorities.<sup>1</sup>

**Result 1: Increased income from, and consumption of, livestock and livestock products** through:

**1.1 Improved animal production and health** from enhanced disease surveillance, support to animal vaccination, the establishment of an effective and efficient animal health delivery system and provision of broad-scale training and extension on animal production and health.

**1.2 Improved market linkages and private sector investment in livestock** through livestock market management, improved mechanisms for livestock insurance and linkages to the private sector, and supply contracts for livestock and livestock products.

**1.3. Increased efficiency of value chains for emerging livestock (including fish, poultry and bees).**

**Result 2: Improved management of water, crops and rangeland resources** through:

**2.1 Improved governance of land tenure** through the roll-out of the Voluntary Guidelines on land tenure and the development of community by-laws and reciprocal agreements for communities to manage access to land and water resources.

**2.2 Improved natural resource management** by updating and developing watershed management plans, strengthening community-led management of water points and the sustainable use of wood and non-wood products.

**2.3 Increased water use efficiency in agricultural production** through water-efficient technologies such as drip irrigation, hydroponics, peri-urban agriculture, drought-tolerant crops, conservation agriculture, post-harvest management, market linkages and private sector investments.

### Structure

The pillar is led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and co-chaired by the FAO and draws membership from state, non-state actors and development partners who have interest in strengthening the livelihoods of communities in the ASALs. As agriculture is a devolved function, the primary responsibility for implementation rests with the county authorities. Implementation is coordinated through the existing agriculture sector structures at inter-governmental, national and county levels, as well as through county cluster groups which strengthen inter-county synergy.

<sup>1</sup> The pillar frameworks are available for download at <http://www.ndma.go.ke>