



Regional Learning &  
Advocacy Programme  
for Vulnerable Dryland  
Communities

# REGIONAL LEARNING AND ADVOCACY PROGRAMME (REGLAP)

## MEDIA BRIEFING MEETING

### OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EFFECTIVE DROUGHT MANAGEMENT IN KENYA

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## OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

Presentation divided into 2 parts:

- Part I will...
  - Explain the phenomenon of drought
  - Discuss the current drought outlook for Kenya
  - Highlight major impacts responses, and what more needs to be done
- Part II will
  - Explain causes of vulnerability to drought
  - Critique government policy and practice, and the role of agencies
  - Make suggestions on the way forward



## DROUGHT....

- Drought defined differently by different communities and livelihood systems
  - Per pastoralists of Northern Kenya - ***failure of rainfall for about three successive sessions***
- Drought is a slow onset natural hazard, effects experienced gradually.
- It can be easily predicted and its impact managed through appropriate and timely interventions
- One of the key hazards affecting especially ASAL populations
- Its frequency and intensity increased by climate change



## 2011 DROUGHT OUTLOOK

- Short rains (Oct- Dec 2010) were below average in the ASALs
- La Nina expected to worsen already bad situation
- Drought showing worsening trend
- Pasture and browse deteriorating
- Most surface water dried up - use boreholes.
- Enrolment in Schools in ASALs dropping as children migrate with livestock and/or help in search of water esp. girls.



## 2011 DROUGHT – IMMEDIATE IMPACTS

- Worsening of livestock body condition, reported deaths in Marsabit, Mandera, Turkana, lower prices, fears of livestock diseases outbreak
- Resource based conflicts, as competition for pastures and water escalates - Marsabit
- High malnutrition – Marsabit - North Horr- 52.1% by Dec. 2010 – increased susceptibility to diseases, famine
- Migration – between districts and cross border into Uganda and Ethiopia



## ONGOING RESPONSES

### At national level

- Presidential order to relevant ministries - act to mitigate impacts and alleviate suffering

### At community level

- Migration to other areas
- Culling of young animals so that the mothers survive
- Reduction in number meals
- Livestock off-take/destocking
- Resource use negotiation btw communities



## **ADDITIONAL INTERVENTIONS REQUIRED**

- Repair of boreholes, adequate supply of spares and fuel;
- Human and animal health interventions;
- Supplementary feeding of animals;
- Destocking
- Peace-building and conflict mitigation;
- Water trucking
- Scaling up of cash transfer programs and food distribution where appropriate;



# PART II



## **DROUGHT IS NATURAL, VULNERABILITY ISN'T!**

- Drought is natural and periodic – *we know it will come, often we know when it will come*
- Investment in appropriate interventions would reduce vulnerability, saving lives & economies
  - ***livestock sector contributes about 12% of Kenya's GDP and 40% to the agricultural GDP***
  - ***60% of national herd in ASAL region***
  - ***Yet budget allocation to the sector in 2008/09 FY was a mere 0.6% of national budget***
    - ***and that for the entire sector!***
- Why can't the right investments/interventions be made to the ASALs? – role of negative perceptions about drylands and the people



## VULNERABILITY IS CAUSED ...FIGURES DON'T LIE

<b>Social services</b>	<b>NorthEastern (%)</b>	<b>National Average (%)</b>
Access to safe drinking water	9.9	56.3
Electricity at home	3.2	16.0
Antenatal care for women	31.7	89.9
Vaccinated children (12-23 months)	54.3	92.6
Primary school attendance	36.3	78.7



## **POLICY FAILURE INCREASES VULNERABILITY**

- Policies either inappropriate, or good and not implemented
- What needs to be done is known, what lacks is political will to do it
  - ASAL policy has been in draft for over 10 years
- Absence of policy and institutional framework restricts the allocation of funds, resources
- Lately, some progress has been made, but a lot more remains to be done



## UNENDING EMERGENCY CYLCE

- Every 2 or 3 years we have a drought related emergency
  - President or Ministerial appeals for emergency assistance
  - Focus on response rather than preparedness
  - Saving lives rather than livelihoods (role of media!)
- Response virtually the same every time
  - slow release of funds, inappropriate interventions e.g. commercial destocking when animals too weak to travel
  - ***Government arrives when the vultures arrive***



## **EVEN GOOD INTERVENTIONS CAN BE DONE BADLY**

- Government interventions re drought often marked by:
  - Poor co-ordination, leading to duplication
  - Poor information sharing on situation leading to contradictory responses
  - Limited sharing of good practice and building on preparedness activities, e.g. free drugs versus voucher schemes
- Non State Actors interventions are often marked by:
  - Competition and duplication
  - Lack of consensus on strategies
  - Lack of interest in long-term policy action
  - Emergency vs. development discourse



## LOOKING AHEAD: WAY FORWARD...I

- All actors - Government, donors, humanitarian agencies, etc must:
  - Tackle the underlying causes of vulnerability.
  - Increase investment in livestock sector, incl. improving infrastructure and disease control
  - Redress the unequal provision of basic services and utilities in the ASALs
  - Promote a more positive perspective on the ASALs as integral parts of the national economy



## LOOKING AHEAD: WAY FORWARD... II

- On the policy front
  - Finalise key draft policies – ASAL, Disaster Management
  - Establish appropriate institutional and funding frameworks for drylands development – Drought Management Authority (DMA), Livestock Authority, National Drought Contingency Fund (NDCF)
  - Promote co-ordination and address long-term development needs
- Employ DRR approaches, e.g. DCM prioritizing drought and disaster preparedness and building communities' ability to cope
- Provide long-term flexible funding and provide easily accessible contingency funds
- Include communities and their institutions in planning and implementation of strategies



## HOW THE MEDIA CAN HELP....

- Improve understanding of drylands in terms of their potential to the national economy
  - Emphasize the lost opportunities to all of us in failing to manage drylands sustainably
- Improve awareness of drought and drylands ecology
- Feature voices of pastoralists and their institutions regarding management of drought
- Visit the drylands to understand their realities



## **HOW REGLAP CAN ASSIST THE MEDIA IN THIS**

- Provide materials, videos on drylands
- Organize media visits to the drylands
- Provide linkage to community groups
- Provide resource people for talk shows and interviews
- Share good practice and experiences on drylands management
- Provide empirical data on drylands economies



## TO CONCLUDE

*Drought and failed rains are inevitable in Kenya. With climate change they have become more frequent in their occurrence and severe in their impact. However, droughts and failed rains do not have to result in the death of thousands of animals and starvation of the drylands population. When they do, it is because Government, donors and humanitarian agencies have failed to do the right thing.*

*The underlying causes of vulnerability must be tackled comprehensively while mitigating and responding to drought to reduce impacts, save lives and livelihoods and enhance resilience of the people. This is not a favour to be done to drylands population, it is a duty to be fulfilled as each individual have the right to life and secure livelihoods.*



ASANTENI SANA!