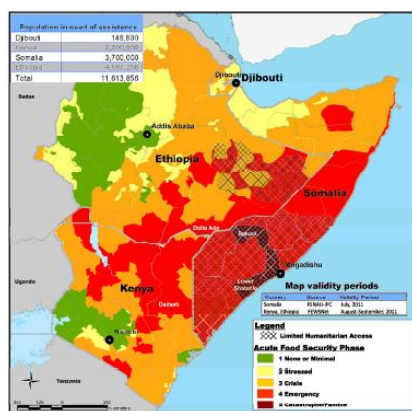


August 2011 Issue

Special Topic

Horn of Africa Drought Crisis



Source: Monthly FSNWG update for July 2011

The acute food insecurity conditions have been prevailing in the Horn of Africa (HOA) region, which consists of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, as a result of prolonged drought. The region experienced one of the driest Oct-Dec short rainy seasons ever in 2010, which was the second consecutive poor season in some pastoral and cropping areas, followed by late start of rains and erratic distribution over the 2011 Mar-May main rainy

season (rainfall less than 30% of the 1995-2010 average in some areas). According to the Food Security & Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG), some 11.6 million people in the HOA are in need of immediate life-saving aid and these numbers are expected to increase over the coming months.

In particular, on 20 July, the United Nations has declared a state of famine in the southern Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions of southern Somalia, which may also spread to other southern regions in the coming two months, if urgent interventions are not undertaken. The famine conditions were caused by a combination of severe drought, crop failure, rising food prices and conflict affecting already vulnerable communities. Refugee influxes from Somalia into Kenya and Ethiopia continue, with approximately 3,500 people arriving each day. In one refugee complex, under-five mortality rates have increased up to four-fold compared to last year, with proportional mortality due to acute malnutrition being approximately 27 percent.

An estimated US\$2 billion in aid is required for the humanitarian response to the drought emergency out of which US\$1 billion has been committed. For further information on the HOA drought situation, please visit:

- [FSNWG Drought Website](#)
- [UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Website](#)
- [FEWSNET Food Security Outlook for East Africa](#)
- [IRIN Humanitarian News and Analysis for HOA](#)
- [ReliefWeb HOA Profiles, Updates and Reports](#)

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About AADP

Africa-Asia Drought Risk Peer Assistance Network (AADP) is a network established under the *Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Project*. The project is designed to mitigate the risks of drought and improve human livelihoods in Africa and Asia by creating an enabling environment for inter-regional knowledge sharing among drought-prone countries and facilitating the up-scaling of proven drought risk management (DRM) practices.

AADP provides the DRM practitioners and policymakers with a variety of peer learning and capacity development support to, based on their priorities, operational gaps and capacity needs, building on the pool of experiences and expertise of the ongoing [African Drought Risk and Development Network initiative \(ADDN\)](#).

The project is funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by the UNDP Drylands Development Centre.

For more information, please visit <http://www.undp.org/drylands/aadp.html>.

Resources and Networking Opportunities

East and Central Africa Disaster Risk Reduction Website



Communities in East and Central Africa are regularly confronted by a combination of complex disasters. Each year more and more people are adversely affected by natural hazards, such as drought and flood, as well as crop and livestock disease, civil conflict, unstable markets and/or volatile food prices, gender inequalities and HIV. These natural and human-induced disasters often result in loss of lives, assets and livelihoods, weaken the social support systems and substantially erode development

gains. Climate change and the rapid increase in populations living in marginal areas are certainly some of the greatest challenges facing the region, and of which lead to conflict, land degradation, deforestation, and unsustainable use of the natural resources. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is seen as critical in supporting initiatives by communities and governments efforts in the region to reduce vulnerability and build resilience of the populations at risk.

The European Commission has been instrumental in supporting the East and Central Africa DRR website as a key player in disaster risk reduction in the region. It is estimated that over 14 million nomadic, semi-nomadic pastoralists and agro-pastoralists are at risk from drought in the Greater HOA. The European Commission is working with partners across the HOA in support of strategies, pilot DRR actions and community-based operations to bring solutions to the communities. The good practices and lessons learnt are intended to contribute to the critical mass and voice requisite in influencing policy and development agenda in the region. This website serves as a platform to promote the DRR agenda in the region, providing insights and linkages to national, regional, continental and global frameworks and actions on DRR, and in particular drought. It also seeks to provide technical and policy guidance, standards and information in order to enhance coordination and learning for better programming and increased community resilience in the region.

Please visit <http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/eastern-africa> for more information on the East and Central Africa DRR website. The website is also currently hosting the Drought in the HOA page for the Food Security & Nutrition Working Group, which is accessible at <http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/east-central-africa/fsnwg/drought>.

South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network / South Asian Drought Network



The South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network (SADKN) is a gateway to knowledge and information on disaster risk management in South Asia. Designed and developed by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Disaster Management Centre, New Delhi, the SADKN web portal will act as the common platform for sharing knowledge and information among the multiple stakeholders of the member countries of the SAARC on the multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral issues of disaster risk assessment, risk prevention, mitigation and preparedness and disaster response, relief, recovery and reconstruction.

The SADKN portal provides ready access to clear, understandable and user-friendly information about real time, impending and historical disasters, details of hazards, vulnerabilities and risks of disasters in structured layers of digitized maps in WebGIS platform, and wealth of resources, references, images and videos on practically every aspect of disaster management that the users would be interested to know. It also provides decision makers with the instant

geospatial support for assessing risks and communicating about hazards and the exposure that vulnerable people and infrastructure have to these hazards and assist them in locating disaster occurrences and probable fall outs, and taking important decisions regarding evacuation, damage and loss assessment, recovery and risk reduction.

The SADKN contains a South Asian Drought Network page, which not only provides the information on the experts, scientific and government organizations and universities engaged in drought issue in the region and other knowledge resources, but also enables the users to meet and interact with each other to share their experiences and find solutions to their drought related problems and issues. For further information, please visit <http://www.saarc-sadkn.org/index.aspx> (SADKN) and http://www.saarc-sadkn.org/network_drought.aspx?network=Drought (South Asian Drought Network).

INTERDROUGHT



INTERDROUGHT is a global network of scientists working on drought tolerance. The objective of INTERDROUGHT is to serve as a platform for presenting and debating key issues and strategies relevant for increasing the yield and stability of crops under drought conditions by genetic and crop management approaches. Great advances have been made in recent years in understanding the molecular basis of plant responses and plant tolerance to drought stress. Hundreds of drought responsive genes have been identified and the function of some of these has been resolved at

the cellular level. However, there is a huge gap between the molecular level science and the interpretation and application of this knowledge at the whole plant level in the field. There is an increasing demand in both public and private research sectors for crosstalk between disciplines involved with the molecular science and those involved with whole plant problems aimed at solving issues at the farm and field level in order to advance practical solutions to drought prone farming.

INTERDROUGHT has convened three International Conferences on Integrated Approaches to Sustain and Improve Plant Production under Drought Stress to date in France (1995), Italy (2005) and China (2009). The fourth conference, INTERDROUGHT-IV, is scheduled for September 9-13 in 2013 in Australia. The main mission of INTERDROUGHT-IV will be to explore the possibilities of scientific and technological applications to crop improvement and crop management under drought-prone farming by linking progress made at the molecular level to that at the whole plant and crop levels in the field. This conference will provide recommendations on the most effective approaches to achieve better crop productivity under drought conditions as well as the research needed to move forward in this direction.

For more information on INTERDROUGHT and INTERDROUGHT-IV, please visit <http://www.interdrought4.com/>.

Climate Change Adaptation: Engaging Business in Asia



It is expected that South and Southeast Asia will be one of the areas of the world most affected by climate change and most vulnerable to its effects. In some parts of the region, impacts are already being felt as climate variability and natural hazards such as floods and droughts threaten local economies and the livelihoods of entire communities.

Climate Change Adaptation: Engaging Business in Asia is a report developed by the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Asia, which examines the current state of business engagement on climate change adaptation and identifies key barriers to greater private sector involvement. It aims to initiate a discussion on the business case for adapting to short-term climate variability, including drought, and long-term climate change impacts and the need to improve incentives for action. The report links climate change adaptation to development and outlines ways that businesses can build on existing CSR practices to address adaptation needs in the region's most vulnerable communities. The report is based on a series of business and multi-stakeholder dialogues on the role of the private sector in climate change adaptation. These dialogues were designed to initiate and facilitate an engagement process that would produce a better understanding of the barriers and opportunities to harnessing the innovative capacity of businesses to tackle the risks of climate change, both along their value chains and within their sphere of influence.

The report is aimed at a diverse audience. Business in particular will find this report useful in gaining a better understanding of adaptation needs in South and Southeast Asia as well as opportunities for engagement that make good business sense and meets adaptation needs. The report also considers direct business risks from climate change and how to best address these. Public and civil society actors will gain insights on the key barriers impeding business engagement on adaptation and develop a better understanding of why business engagement on climate change adaptation has been limited. The report discusses why the business case for engaging in adaptation is perceived as weak, and identifies potential paths to promoting and incentivising more business engagement. Awareness, education, dialogue, engagement, and better approaches to strategic partnerships are some of the recommendations to overcome barriers to business involvement.

The full document is available for download at http://www.preventionweb.net/files/20777_sida21.pdf.

Livestock Drought Management Tool



In August 2010, the Food and Agriculture Organization sub-Regional Emergency Office for Eastern and Central Africa (REOA) contracted the International Livestock Research Institute to develop a proto-type “Livestock Drought Management” (LDM) decision support tool for use by a range of emergency and relief planners and practitioners throughout the region. The tool, which is still conceptual rather than operational, links the concepts of Drought Cycle Management (DCM) with the best practice in livestock-related interventions throughout all phases of a drought, from normal through the alert and emergency stages to recovery.

The LDM tool uses data to indicate the severity of the drought (Hazard) and the ability of livestock to survive the drought (sensitivity). The hazard information in the LDM tool is based on Normalized Differential Vegetation Index captured by the NOAA AVHRR system. The tool suggests that the best indicator for sensitivity is livestock body condition. It combines these two indicators, using expert opinion, to define the phase of the Drought Cycle. The hazard data has currently been parameterized for Kenya, but can be used in any of the REOA countries. At the moment, the missing item is good quality data for sensitivity. Additionally, experts did not agree on how to define the phase of the drought cycle. The tool requires pilot testing in a few local areas before it can be rolled out everywhere.

The LDM Tool final report is available for download at http://www.preventionweb.net/files/20595_droughtilrifinalreportosroraf915rff.pdf.

UNCCD E-Survey on International Interdisciplinary Scientific Advice on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought



The Committee on Science and Technology (CST) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification invites the stakeholders to the convention to participate in the e-survey and provide input on how to organize international interdisciplinary scientific advice on desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD). In this survey, the respondents are invited to consider 4 identified options for the organization of international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to the UNCCD. An opportunity for you to suggest an additional option, if you so wish, is included at the end of the survey.

- Option 1: Use of existing scientific networks - Official UNCCD bodies, governmental representatives and other stakeholders would use the outputs of existing scientific networks as a basis for international, interdisciplinary scientific advice.
- Option 2: Establishment of a new scientific network focused on specific topics - A new network could be created to provide international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to the UNCCD, taking into account the existing networks, but focusing on specific topics related to DLDD not effectively covered by existing networks.
- Option 3: Use of existing intergovernmental scientific advisory mechanisms - Existing intergovernmental scientific panels/ platforms are formal processes that serve as a science-policy interface. Their findings could add to support international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to the UNCCD as they are related to DLDD.
- Option 4: Establishment of a new intergovernmental scientific panel on land and soil - A new intergovernmental panel on land and soil could be established to cover the full range of interdisciplinary activities needed to provide international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to the UNCCD, taking into account the particularity of the UNCCD with its regional annexes.

This questionnaire is anonymous and is expected to take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Survey results will be presented at the tenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology during UNCCD 10th Conference of the Parties in October 2011. For more information on the e-survey, please visit <http://www.unccd.int/science/announce/e-survey.php>.

Event and Training Opportunities

International Workshop on Drought Dynamics in an Arid, Cold Region (Tottori, Japan; August 2, 2011)



The drought dynamics in an arid, cold climate are unique in that the large amplitude of seasonal cycle in climate/vegetation and the soil freezing/snowpack during a cold winter profoundly affect the persistence of drought. The workshop aims at bringing leading researchers to identify issues in understanding drought processes in an arid, cold climate such as seen in central Asia and North America. A series of drought processes (from meteorological to agricultural and hydrological processes) of how a drought starts, continues with a varying spatial

pattern, and terminates have been intensively investigated for tropical arid regions without a cold winter, while little systematic research on this topic has been done for the coupled cold and arid climate. This issue deserves particular attention, because regions with such climate form extreme environmental conditions (in aridity and coldness) for lives and societies, neighboring upon “An?kumene”. These regions reveal dramatic seasonal and interannual changes in climate and land-surface conditions, influencing drought dynamics. Human activities, such as animal husbandry or cultivation, also may lead to land degradation and enhanced vulnerability to drought, if they are excessive. In this workshop, focus is placed on an interseasonal drought memory mechanism mediated by the land surface that is manifested in the temperature zones of central Asia and North America.

In this workshop, we summarize the understanding of drought processes in an arid, cold climate and identify the uncertainties and research needs. The topics include (1) recognizing drought in an arid, cold climate as a series of processes that climate anomalies are transferred to and maintained as land-surface anomalies (identified as agricultural and hydrological aspects), (2) a deeper understanding of uniqueness of the drought processes compared with those in tropical arid regions, (3) proposing an early warning system of drought and its related disasters (such as dzud and dust storms), which can be used as a tool for the strategic disaster management, and (4) assessing future drought processes based on most updated climate predictions.

For more information on the workshop, please visit <http://www.alrc.tottori-u.ac.jp/coe/en/report/20110801.html>.

International Symposium on Integrated Drought Information Systems (Casablanca, Morocco; November 9-11, 2011)



The World Meteorological Organization, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the National Meteorological Service of Morocco are organizing the International Workshop on Integrated Drought Information System in Casablanca, Morocco from 9 to 11 November 2011. Because of its long-term socio-economic and environmental impacts, drought is by far the most damaging of all natural hazards. In some countries and regions, such as in Australia and the Mediterranean region, severe droughts have triggered water sector reforms in order to build greater water security, manage water demand, and safeguard livelihoods. It is essential to develop an

integrated drought information system involving stakeholders from the communities and sectors affected by drought to better manage drought risks. Such a system would offer a sound basis for longer-term adaptation to climate change. The specific objectives of the symposium are:

- To provide a better scientific understanding and inputs such as indicators and thresholds for drought management in different regions of the world;
- To discuss and develop informed decisions drought risk assessment and management, and implementing early warning systems across climate timescales;
- To discuss and suggest the appropriate ways to promote policy and planning for drought preparedness and mitigation across sectors; and
- To develop appropriate mechanisms for drought risk reduction and response.

Senior experts in the field of drought preparedness, drought monitoring and integrated drought risk management will be invited to prepare state-of-the-art discussion papers to address the above objectives. The programme for the meeting will be designed to engage all the participants in discussions and develop appropriate recommendations for all

organizations involved in drought preparedness and management. The workshop should result in enhanced capacity to: understand, anticipate and respond to droughts and their impacts in different sectors. Emphases will be placed on adaptation; drought mitigation and the different aspects of integrated drought management.

Please visit <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/agm/meetings/isidis11/index.php> for more information on the symposium.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Project Manager Supporting Agricultural Development Project – Mission d’Aide au Développement des Economies Rurales-Afghanistan (Closing Date: August 15, 2011)



Mission d’Aide au Développement des Economies Rurales – Afghanistan (MADERA) is a French non-profit, non-governmental organization, founded in 1988 with the purpose of improving the quality of life of the people of Afghanistan and fostering the conditions necessary for peace. Its actions are oriented towards empowering rural communities by building their capacities and supporting their initiatives, with the aim of giving them greater control over their own development.

Farmers, herders and orchard owners in Behsud I district and northern parts of Behsud II district of Wardak province have received support over the previous four years under rural rehabilitation and development projects but are still recovering from the impact of severe drought over the past decade and many require further support to improve their quality of life. In order to secure successful community development in future, it is necessary for these communities to become empowered and actively involved in local development. The supporting agricultural development project started in August 2010. The project has two specific objectives: 1) to assist community members to identify their development needs and how they can address those needs; and 2) to gain the knowledge required to assist communities to protect their natural resource base, on which their agricultural development depends.

Objectives and responsibilities of the Project Manager (PM) include the following dimensions: project implementation, monitoring of activities, partnership and coordination, training, and reporting. Based in Wardak province with regular visits to Kabul, the PM oversees the implementation of all components of the project in the targeted areas. He/she plans and leads the project, ensuring that activities are consistent with MADERA’s overall objectives and specific objectives for the region and that they are carried out in an efficient and timely manner. The PM is also responsible for preparing reports, addressing any issues, and adjusting activities accordingly.

Applications, in English, should include a CV, picture, cover letter and three references, and should be submitted to: recrutement@madera.asso.fr Marion Léonetti MADERA, 3, rue Roubo, 75011 Paris, France. For more information on the post, please visit <http://reliefweb.int/node/437946>.

Project Director, Drought-Affected Kenya – CHF International (Closing Date: August 28, 2011)



CHF International's mission is to be a catalyst for long-lasting positive change in low- and moderate-income communities around the world, helping them to improve their social, economic, and environmental conditions.

CHF International is seeking a mid-level Program Director with strong skills in managing emergency humanitarian food security and livelihoods programs in a protracted emergency setting to oversee an anticipated six-month agriculture, food security and livelihoods program in the Eastern Province of Kenya. This program will seek to respond to the needs of drought-affected families and communities.

The Program Director will be responsible for overall management of project strategy/implementation and administration, ensuring that all project deliverables are met on time and within budget. The Program Director will supervise project staff, including operations and support staff.

For more information or to apply, please visit The CHF International website at <http://chfinternational.devhire.devex.com/jobs/323674>.

Drought Emergency in Horn of Africa-Human Resources – Action Contre la Faim (Closing Date: September 11, 2011)



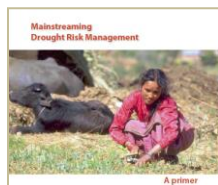
The serious food crisis currently hitting the HoA is affecting millions of people while malnutrition rates are exploding. Nearly 10 million people are suffering directly from the consequences of the serious food crisis currently hitting the region of Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia and Kenya: lack of food, decimated livestock and difficult living conditions because of the prolonged drought. A significant number of the local population has still not recovered from the previous years of draught. These are the driest years the region

has known since 1950. In this humanitarian emergency context, Action Contre la Faim is looking for project managers and program coordinators (M/F) having already worked on the ground in the following areas with specific skills and experiences qualifications:

- Nutrition (Ref: 07 URG NUT): diplomatic and people skills - analytic and concise qualities - logistics skills (stocking, transporting, quality controlling) - experience of issues linked with humanitarian situations
- Mental health (Ref: 07 URG PSY): clinical psychology degree - experience in sensitive and unstable environments - knowledge of psychology in humanitarian context - analytic and proposal writing skills
- Logistics (Ref: 07 URG LOG): logistician, logisitc coordinator, knowledge in humanitarian logistics, field experience needed
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (Ref: 07 URG WASH): hydrolic engeneer, hydrologist, hydrogeologist, advanced knowledge in water and sanitation
- Food security (Ref: 07 URG FS)
- Monitoring and Evaluation / Proposal Writing (Ref: 07 URG CSE)

For all positions, the knowledge and practice of English is necessary, as well as computer skills and humanitarian experience. For further information, please visit

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/07%20GB%20Urgence%20Corne%20de%20l%27Afrique.doc>.



We are pleased to announce the release of the UNDP-DDC's new publication: *Mainstreaming Drought Risk Management: A Primer* (English) and *Intégration de la Gestion du Risqué de Sécheresse: Manuel introductif* (French). The overall purpose of this Primer is to provide a basic roadmap for mainstreaming DRM into development planning and programming at different levels. It suggests and outlines a stepwise approach to define the drought risks within a given context. It also presents a methodology for translating the risk assessments and metrics into specific policy measures, planning instruments and measurable interventions.

The full publication is available for download at:

<http://www.undp.org/drylands/docs/Mainstreaming%20DRM-English.pdf> (English)

<http://www.undp.org/drylands/docs/Mainstreaming%20DRM-French.pdf> (French)

Useful Links on Drought Status Updates

Africa

African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development: <http://www.acmad.ne/index.htm>

Experimental African Drought Monitor: http://hydrology.princeton.edu/~justin/research/project_global_monitor/

Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Africa: <http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx>

Food Security & Nutrition Working Group Update: <http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/east-central-africa/fsnwg/drought>

IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC): <http://www.icpac.net/Forecasts/forecasts.html>

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) Africa: <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Africa.aspx>

Prevention Web Africa: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/africa/>

Relief Web Africa: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc115?OpenForm&rc=1>

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Climate Service Centre: <http://www.sadc.int/dmc/>

UNOCHA (Southern & East Africa): <http://ochaonline.un.org/rosea/LatestUpdates/tabid/6652/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

UNOCHA (West & Central Africa): <http://ochaonline.un.org/Bulletinshumanitaires/tabid/3099/language/fr-FR/Default.aspx>

Asia

Asian Disaster Reduction Center: <http://www.adrc.asia/latest/index.php>

East Asian Drought Monitoring System: <http://atmos.pknu.ac.kr/~intra2>

FEWS NET Central Asia: <http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx>

IRIN Asia: <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Asia.aspx>

Pacific Disaster Center/World Natural Hazards Website: <http://www.pdc.org/iweb/pdchome.html>

Prevention Web Asia: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/asia/>

Relief Web Asia: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc115?OpenForm&rc=3>

SAARC South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network Weekly Disaster News: <http://www.saarc-sadkn.org/about.aspx>