

Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network



December 2017 Issue

Special Topic

Ground Truth Solutions



GROUND TRUTH SOLUTIONS

Ground Truth Solutions is a non-governmental organization (NGO) which provides agencies working in humanitarian operations with direct feedback from people affected by crises including drought related crises.

It amplifies the voices of refugees, internally displaced people, asylum seekers, and victims of natural disasters – allowing organisations to systematically integrate this vital information into relief programmes around the world. It also captures the often-overlooked perspective of field workers and local partners, eliciting their views as a counterpoint to the views of those caught up in humanitarian crises. Accurate, unbiased information, collected on the ground and in real time, allows aid agencies to take better decisions and to provide the right support.

Ground Truth Solutions offers humanitarian teams practical tools that help them discover whether the services they provide are appropriate and relevant, if affected populations trust them, and whether they feel enabled to stand on their own feet. The surveys of field staff and local partners provide additional insight. UN agencies, NGOs, as well as the Red Cross movement can use this feedback as a tool to manage and shape projects as they are being rolled out and to maximise their effectiveness. Donors can use the information to track how and where their support is making a difference. And those in need of assistance and protection are better served, where their views are fully taken into account.

Recently published field survey and analysis report from Somalia looks at the delivery of humanitarian aid in the country through the eyes of people affected by armed conflict, violations of human rights, food shortages, flood, and/or drought, as well as field staff working for those people.

Please visit <http://groundtruthsolutions.org/> for more information on Ground Truth Solutions. The full survey and analysis report from Somalia is downloadable at <http://groundtruthsolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/OECD-Somalia-Affected-people-and-staff-survey-December-2017.pdf>.

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About AADP

[Africa-Asia Drought Risk Peer Assistance Network \(AADP\)](#) is a network established by [UNDP Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification \(GC-RED\)](#) 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 African Drought Risk and Development Network initiative (ADDN).

Click [here](#) to view past issues of AADP newsletter.



Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

REACH



REACH is an initiative which was created in 2010 to facilitate the development of information tools and products that enhance the humanitarian community's decision-making and planning capacity.

REACH aims to respond to two critical gaps in the humanitarian system:

- 1) *Gaps between the supply and demand of humanitarian information in emergencies:* In conflict and natural disaster contexts, including drought-induced conflict and other disasters, aid actors face serious challenges in collecting data in a systematic and comprehensive way, often resulting in significant gaps in the information required for designing, planning and evaluating aid. REACH was created to fill these gaps in order to promote evidence-based humanitarian action; and
- 2) Limited understanding of crisis-affected communities and their settlements: Humanitarian action is typically structured around the linear relationship between household needs and sector specific response. Conversely, crisis affected populations have multiple needs and often turn first to community support networks in their settlement. REACH promotes a better understanding of crisis-affected communities within their settlements.

For more details on REACH and its latest news, please visit <http://www.reach-initiative.org/>.

Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response



Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK
for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response
CCOUC 災害與人道救援研究所

Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response (CCOUC) has been established as a non-profit research centre to carry out

research, training and community knowledge transfer in the area of disaster and medical humanitarian response, including drought-related disasters and medical responses, in Greater China and the Asia-Pacific Region since April 2011. CCOUC aims to minimise the negative health impact of disasters experienced by vulnerable populations in the region by serving as a platform for research, education, and community knowledge transfer in the areas of disaster and medical humanitarian crisis policy development, planning, and response.

The goal of CCOUC is to be the leading research and academic training centre of the Asia-Pacific Region in these areas. Towards this goal, CCOUC establishes academic internship and fellowship programmes to support and enhance technical and research capacity in region; delivers technical seminars to enhance understanding and knowledge transfer of disaster and medical humanitarian response experiences; and publishes materials for teaching, research and historical reference.

Please visit <http://ccouc.org/home> for further details regarding CCOUC and its activities.



Reality of Resilience: 2016–17 Drought in East Africa



The 2016–2017 drought across the Horn of Africa (HoA) has contributed to failed harvests, extensive livestock deaths and food insecurity. Based on the key informant interviews conducted with humanitarian and development actors, donors and forecasters in Ethiopia and Kenya, the report reveals lessons on using forecasts to trigger early action for humanitarian and development practitioners.

Some of the key lessons learnt from the process include, among others: the need for organisations to act early based on observations of changes in pasture or vegetation before widespread impacts are felt; importance of flexible funding and crisis modifiers, making efficient use of existing NGO infrastructure and relationships; and need for NGOs to engage with technical experts to ensure forecasts delivered as a climate service are genuinely useful, delivered to people who can take appropriate action and communicated in a way that triggers such action. Further work should focus on scalable climate service models that use existing government structures and enable government leadership to strengthen resilience.

The full report is available for download at <http://www.braced.org/contentAsset/raw-data/38847678-c393-44b5-a12b-afa66ec58c91/attachmentFile>.

Shock-Responsive Social Protection Systems Research: Synthesis Report



The Shock-Responsive Social Protection Systems study is a research programme led by Oxford Policy Management (OPM). It aims to strengthen the evidence base as to when and how social protection systems can better respond to shocks in low-income countries and fragile and conflict-affected states, thus minimising negative shock impacts and reducing the need for separate humanitarian responses. Types of shocks addressed by the study include:

- natural—e.g. drought, floods, typhoons and earthquakes;
- political—e.g. political crises and armed conflict; or
- economic—e.g. economic downturns or high food prices.

This synthesis report consolidates the evidence and lessons learned from the research, drawing on all the six case studies from Mozambique, Mali, Pakistan, the Philippines and Lesotho and the Sahel region and other outputs, including the literature review as well as policy briefs on systems development and monitoring and evaluation. It highlights the key ways in which social protection systems may contribute to mitigate the effect of, or respond to, large-scale shocks, and the opportunities and challenges therein; presents the features of programme design and implementation that determine the efficiency and effectiveness of the response; and summarises lessons on achieving a successful collaboration between the humanitarian, DRM and social protection systems. The individual case study reports are available separately.

The full report is available for download at

http://www.opml.co.uk/sites/default/files/OPM_Synthesis_Report_Shock_Responsive_SP.pdf. Country specific case study reports are also available on the OPI programme website at <http://www.opml.co.uk/projects/shock-responsive-social-protection-systems>



Event and Training Opportunities

International Conference on Water, Environment, Energy and Society (08-11 May 2018; Djerba Island, Tunisia)



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
WATER, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND SOCIETY
ICWEES'2018

The objective of the International Conference on Water, Environment, Energy and Society (ICWEES-2018) is to integrate research, technology and practice, in the fields of Water, Environment, Energy, Sustainability, Health, Management and Society; and bring together Scientists, Academicians, Researchers, Practicing Engineers, Consultants, Planners, Policy Makers,

Economists and Social Scientists, Managers, and Leaders from around the world to share their knowledge, skills, experience, and expertise through research papers, case studies, and keynote addresses on, but not limited to, water resources, climate change, ecosystems implications for human health, sustainable land use and eco-cities, integrated resources management, green economy, green energy, cleaner production, planning, disaster management, environmental management, etc.

The proposed major themes of the conference will be discussed in parallel sessions to provide opportunities for the delegates from around the world to share their knowledge, skills, experiences, and expertise with focus on water, environmental, energy, and societal challenges facing our planet and the future of our generation. Environmental problems, such as desertification processes, land degradation and rehabilitation, land cover and land use change, climate change, droughts, early warning, and more, are of utmost importance in arid environments where natural resources are scarce and vulnerable.

For more information regarding ICWEES-2018, please visit <http://icwees2018.tn/>.

Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Congress 2018 (15-16 May 2018; Nairobi, Kenya)



**AFRICA CLIMATE SMART
AGRICULTURE CONGRESS**

The inaugural Africa Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Congress will take place on 6-7 March 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. Organised by the Aid & International Development Forum, the Congress brings together senior representatives from ministries of

agriculture, heads of key Agri-related public institutions, UN agencies, agricultural firms, NGOs, farm associations, agriculture research and development institutes, investors, donors and the private sector.

The agenda will cover technological innovations, capacity building, innovative financing, partnerships and the use of big data to advance climate-smart agriculture practices across East Africa. The participants will discover how to secure financial investment for CSA initiatives, improve agricultural productivity and scale adoption of technological innovations in agricultural systems. During the event, participants are expected to discuss practical solutions to the prominent climate change challenges, especially around drought management and irrigation best practice.

More information on the Africa CSA Congress 2018 is available at <http://www.csa-africa.aidforum.org/>.



Positions and Grant Opportunities

Resilience Strategy Consultant – World Food Programme (Closing date: 15 January 2018)



wfp.org

The Southern Africa region is exposed to multiple and compound frequently repeating shocks and stressors which prevent communities from fully recovering and achieving sustainability. This was worsened as witnessed during the El Niño-induced drought in the 2015-2016 season - the worst in thirty-five years. The drought severely impacted food production and availability of water for the majority of the region's population which resides in rural areas and dependent on rainfed agriculture for their livelihoods.

The main objective of the consultancy is to support the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat in developing a Regional Resilience Strategy that:

- Complements and integrates existing multi-sectoral resilience policies and strategies;
- Will strengthen the preparedness of Member States for early action, response and protect development gains from impacts of drought and other disasters;
- Will be used to review and harmonize existing national resilience strategy and/or frameworks; and
- Supports the development, wherever still needed, of a national resilience strategy and/or frameworks.

Further details on the position is available at:

https://career5.successfactors.eu/career?career_ns=job_listing&company=C0000168410P&navBarLevel=JOB_SEARCH&rcm_site_locale=en_GB&career_job_req_id=72421.

Humanitarian Policy & Advocacy Advisor – Save the Children (Closing date: 31 January 2018)



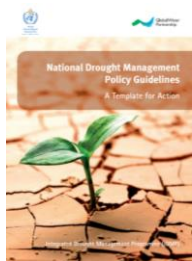
Save the Children

Save the Children has huge ambitions to change the world for children - including the millions caught up in disasters and conflicts. To influence this change, we need to leverage our programs on the ground, our policy acumen, and research skills to convince decision-makers to act

quickly, decisively, and appropriately. We are currently seeking a Humanitarian Policy & Advocacy Advisor to deliver on this ambition and help ensure Australia steps up to protect children's lives and to ensure no child misses out in the face of disaster or conflict. Save the Children is no ordinary not-for-profit. We're ambitious, creative and outspoken. We stand up for children's rights. We want all children to be educated, healthy and live a life free from violence. We run programs in Australia and overseas and, if there's an emergency - like an earthquake, drought or conflict - we are there on the ground.

In this full-time permanent position, based in Melbourne or Canberra; the Humanitarian Policy & Advocacy Advisor will be responsible for leading our policy analysis and advocacy on humanitarian affairs. With a focus on Asia and the Pacific, he/she will enhance Save the Children's reputation among key stakeholders as a primary source of policy analysis on children in, or at risk of humanitarian emergencies. He/she will be part of our dynamic Public Affairs team and report to our Head of Advocacy and Policy.

For more information concerning the position, please visit Save the Children's [careers page](#) and [position description site](#).



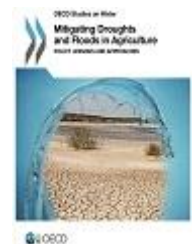
National Drought Management Policy Guidelines: A Template for Action (2014)

The National Drought Management Policy Guidelines provide a template for action that countries can use in the development of a national drought management policy and drought preparedness/mitigation plans. The process is structured in 10 steps that can be adapted by countries to reflect their institutional, infrastructure, legal, socio-economic and environmental context. It includes case studies from Brazil, Mexico, Morocco and the USA and will be continuously updated based on the experiences gained in the guidelines' application. The guidelines respond to a need for action oriented drought policies, which Governments articulated at the [High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policies](#). The document is available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#).



Guidelines for preparation of the Drought Management Plans (2015)

The recommendations for the development of a drought management system described in these Guidelines provide a set of basic steps that many drought-affected countries can use to develop national drought policy aimed at risk reduction. The Guidelines are intended for those countries that are trying to move from crisis management to drought risk reduction policy. The step-by-step planning process is based on the National Drought Management Policy Guidelines (2014) and was harmonized especially for the European Union and/or accession countries in compliance with the key principles of integrated water management and within the context of the Water Framework Directive.



Mitigating Droughts and Floods in Agriculture: Policy Lessons and Approaches (2016)

The agriculture sector is particularly exposed to risks of floods and droughts, which may become more frequent and severe due to climate change in the context of increased demand for food and urban space. This report proposes a comprehensive analysis of, and a set of key recommendations on policy approaches to the sustainable management of droughts and floods in agriculture. It builds on recent trends, experiences and research from OECD countries in this area, in particular Australia, Canada, France, Spain and the United Kingdom. It also provides a general policy framework that could be useful for countries to analyze their own drought and flood policies, as well as to identify ways forward.

Useful Links on Drought Status Updates

Africa

African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development: <http://acmad.net/new/>
 African Flood and Drought Monitor: <http://stream.princeton.edu/AWCM/WEBPAGE/interface.php?locale=en>
 Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Africa: <https://www.fews.net/>
 IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC): <http://www.icpac.net/>
 Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) Africa: <http://www.irinnews.org/africa>
 Prevention Web Africa: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/africa/>
 Relief Web Africa: <http://reliefweb.int/countries>
 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Climate Service Centre: <http://www.sadc.int/sadc-secretariat/services-centres/climate-services-centre/>

Asia

Asian Disaster Reduction Center: <http://www.adrc.asia/latest/index.php>
 FEWS NET Central Asia: <https://www.fews.net/>
 IRIN Asia: <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Asia.aspx>
 Pacific Disaster Center/World Natural Hazards Website: <http://www.pdc.org/>
 Prevention Web Asia: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/asia/>
 Relief Web Asia: <http://reliefweb.int/countries>
 South Asia Drought Monitoring System: <http://dms.iwmi.org/>