

Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network



March 2017 Issue

Special Topic

Start Network



Start Network is made up of 42 national and international aid agencies from five continents and their 7,000 partner

organizations, employing more than a quarter million people across 200 countries and territories. The aim of Start Network is to deliver effective aid, harnessing the power and knowledge of the network to make faster and better decisions to help people affected by crises.

The network seeks to challenge the system of humanitarian aid that has operated for the past 70 years and to help to bring about change. Start Network calls what it is aiming for a “new humanitarian economy” – a system that reduces the power of centralised institutions and bureaucrats and gives more control to communities and individuals on the front line of every crisis. It is developing more effective ways to work together, and new approaches that will reduce the scale of human suffering.

Start Network’s areas of work include:

- **Start Fund:** The world’s first pooled rapid response fund managed solely by NGOs which enables NGOs to make collective decisions on the basis of need alone and respond early and fast to ‘under the radar’ emergencies.
- **Start Engage:** A new approach, or ‘decentralised capacity building’, to supporting the development of skills, behaviours, competencies and ways of working in people, organisations and systems closest to where disasters happen.
- **Start Labs:** A collectively-owned incubator that aims to foster innovation in the humanitarian sector. It provides funding for experimentation, research and development of ideas and improved ways of working, which will enable earlier, faster and more efficient response to humanitarian crises.
- **Start Response:** A mechanism to tackle larger scale emergencies by taking collaboration in design and delivery to a new level.

Please visit <https://startnetwork.org/> for further details on Start Network.

Contents

Special Topic: Start Network	1
Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities	2
Event and Training Opportunities	4
Positions and Grant Opportunities	5
Drought Publications Information	6
Useful Links on Drought Status Updates	6

About AADP

[Africa-Asia Drought Risk Peer Assistance Network \(AADP\)](#) is a network established by [the 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 ongoing [African Drought Risk and Development Network initiative \(ADDN\)](#).

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



Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

Connecting Business initiative



Connecting Business Initiative (CBI) is a private sector driven and UN-supported multi-stakeholder initiative transforming the way the private sector engages before, during and after crises to create more resilient communities, increase local capacity and alleviate human suffering. The initiative aims to coordinate and facilitate access to the tools, resources and mechanisms that will enable businesses to undertake effective disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery through networks that are connected via a global coordination architecture to each other and to other actors.

CBI rests on the notion that while Governments maintain overall responsibility for responding to humanitarian emergencies, local communities and private sector networks also play a critical role in ensuring preparedness for, response to and recovery after emergencies. Strong networks play a vital role in ensuring that individuals and communities are resilient enough to return to normalcy as soon as possible and regain access to goods and services. Against this backdrop, the initiative assists businesses and business associations to utilize existing networks to create platforms for disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery, while at the same time operating a global coordination architecture and a clear entry point for the private sector.

For more information concerning CBI, please visit <http://connectingbusinessinitiative.org/>.

Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS)



Better information is critical to delivering effective and appropriate humanitarian action to crisis-affected people. Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS) was established in 2009 with the aim of supporting the humanitarian community with all aspects of humanitarian needs assessments. At the time there was no commonly accepted coordinated multi-sector assessment methodology and a capacity gap of experts to carry them out. ACAPS's mission is to contribute towards a shared situation awareness within the humanitarian community, thereby enabling effective, evidence-based humanitarian decision-making.

As specialists in needs assessment and analysis, ACAPS provides:

- Independent analysis to support evidence-based decision making for humanitarian operations.
- Deployment of experts to support assessment and analysis in crises.
- Capacity development of humanitarian actors so they can use our methods to carry out analysis and assessment.
- Innovative approaches to collect more reliable and timely data and conduct rigorous analysis.

As part of its work, ACAPS regularly updates [global emergency overview](#) with weekly picks on the the most severe humanitarian crisis. ACAPS also recently launched the free [CrisisAlert app](#), through which to deliver most reliable data on world humanitarian emergencies directly to the users' mobile phones.

Please visit <https://www.acaps.org/> for more information on ACAPS and its various resources.



Enhancing Resilience to Severe Drought: What Works?



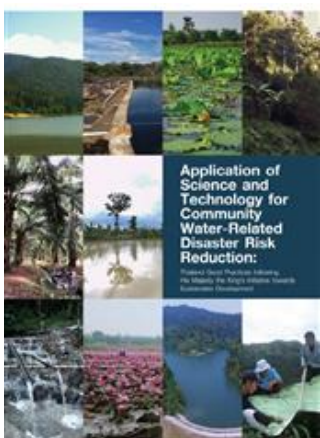
In 2015/2016, one of the worst droughts on record gripped Ethiopia, with an estimated 15 million people requiring food assistance for a prolonged hunger season. This document evaluates the effects of the Mercy Corps-implemented Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement through Market Expansion (PRIME) project in the Somali region of Ethiopia in the face of a severe shock. The research focuses on answering whether core PRIME interventions implemented since 2013 have effectively enabled households to quickly recover, maintain, or improve key food security and wellbeing measures in the face of 2015/2016 drought – i.e. to be more resilient – when compared with statistically similar households in nearby areas not targeted with PRIME interventions. The results provide compelling evidence that supports the efficacy of multi-year, flexibly funded, integrated approaches to building resilience to severe shocks.

Specifically, households that had benefitted from the project fared better than others in the face of drought through the following resilience-based indicators: 1) food security; 2) assets and vulnerability to poverty; 3) animal health and livestock deaths; 4) impacts on coping strategies; and 5) impacts on 'downstream' shocks. This study demonstrated that investing in innovative, long-term resilience interventions can help mitigate the worst effects of humanitarian emergencies and protect development gains in vulnerable communities. The results lend support to the efficacy of multi-year, multi-sectoral approaches aimed at strengthening systems (markets, ecological, livelihood) that enable households and communities to respond and adapt to the major shocks and stressors they face.

The full report is available for download at

https://www.mercycorps.org/sites/default/files/Mercy%20Corps_PRIMEandDroughtResilience_2017_FullReport.pdf.

Application of Science and Technology for Community Water-Related Disaster Risk Reduction



This document describes ten best practices for communities in Thailand on how to use science and technology to address water-related hazards such as flood and landslide, drought and saltwater intrusion. Adaptation of science and technology and information systems helped communities to collect important data, identify the root causes for local problems and develop local planning that best suited their circumstances. The innovative solutions identified by communities lead to reduced flood and drought risks, increased water security and restoration of forest and other natural resources.

The practices and case studies present an integrated approach that builds resilience and sustainable livelihoods. The case studies also demonstrate how the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (or Sustainable Development Goals) and Climate Change Agreement can be implemented coherently at a local level.

The full report is available for download at http://www.preventionweb.net/files/51880_wdrbook1.pdf.



Event and Training Opportunities

Fourth InterMET Asia International Exhibition & Conference for Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Services (21-22 March 2017; Suntec, Singapore)



Annual total damages from disasters, extreme weather-related incidents in particular, have been increasing for decades. The problems are especially acute in Asia, where urbanisation is fastest and the impact of extreme weather events such as flooding, subsidence, landslip and drought mean governments must increase investment in resilient and adaptable infrastructure to provide protection. InterMET Asia is a unique marketplace bringing together the global weather and climate

industry with all those in the public and private sectors seeking to mitigate and manage the risks of extreme weather and climate change, and to understand the opportunities.

Focused on Asia, Africa and the Pacific Island regions, InterMET Asia has taken place annually in Singapore since 2014. In 2017, the Fourth InterMET Asia is expanding the scope and focus of its conference programme to build a greater understanding of the rapidly growing importance of weather and climate change across the whole of our society.

Please visit <http://www.intermet.asia/> for more details on the Fourth InterMET Asia International Exhibition & Conference for Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Services.

2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (22-26 May 2017; Cancun, Mexico)



22-26 MAY, 2017 | CANCUN, MEXICO
2017 GLOBAL PLATFORM
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Global Platform) is the main forum at the global level for strategic advice, coordination, partnership development and the

review of progress in the implementation of international instruments on disaster risk reduction. It was established in 2006 and is now the world's foremost gathering of stakeholders committed to reducing disaster risk and building the resilience of communities and nations. The Global Platform is characterized by a format that facilitates dialogue and exchanges among all stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental. It features a high-level dialogue which brings together senior government officials, including heads of state and government, ministers, mayors and parliamentarians and leaders from the private sector, science and civil society.

The 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will be held in Cancun, Mexico on 22-26 May. It will be the first time the most important international forum dedicated to the disaster risk reduction agenda has been staged outside Geneva. The Global Platform will mark the first opportunity for the international community to review global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which was adopted in Japan in 2015. More than 5,000 participants are expected, including policy makers and disaster risk managers.

For more information regarding 2017 Global Platform, including its programme and registration procedure, please visit <http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/en/>.



Positions and Grant Opportunities

Consultant to Develop a Measurement Framework for the Start Network's Drought Financing Facility – Start Network (Closing date: 19 March 2017)



The Start Network Drought Financing Facility is being designed as a NGO-led, network of national facilities, which aim to enable faster and more coordinated response in major emerging drought situations. The drought financing facility is a form of disaster risk finance. This facility aims to realign decision-making so that donors, governments and responders use risk analysis as the basis of their decision-making.

The objective of the consultancy is to clarify conceptual approaches, develop tools, a measurement framework and processes to demonstrate the value in using the drought financing facility as a financing mechanism for humanitarian action. In developing this set of deliverables, the Start Network also aims to explore a definition of the term value and establish some criteria for what it means by robust/quality evidence. These outputs are listed as an initial checklist and the consultant will also offer their expertise and recommend additional focus areas that will help the network to evidence the overall value of this particular financing facility.

For more information concerning the position, please visit <http://www.alnap.org/pool/vacancies/tor-droughtfinancingfacility-startnetwork.pdf>.

Regional Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) Advisor for Horn, East & Central Africa – Oxfam (Closing date: 20 March 2017)

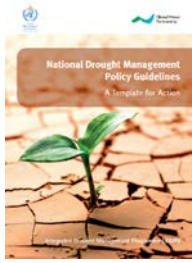


Oxfam currently works in 10 countries in the Horn, East and Central Africa (HECA) Region. Humanitarian programmes make up over 50% of spend in the region. There are more than 10 million IDPs and refugees in the region, and millions of people are living in food insecure state. Food insecurity occurs in both conflict and non-conflict areas. Food crises

occur regularly in the region and are usually triggered by drought or flood. Pastoral communities and populations whose coping mechanisms already weakened by declining livelihood opportunities and conflict are particularly vulnerable. Climate change is increasing the number of severe droughts and floods in the region and, combined with high levels of chronic vulnerability, threatens to increase the incidence of food crises.

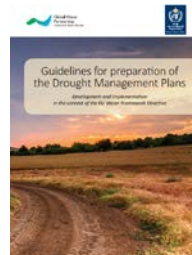
The purpose of the position is to consolidate Oxfam's position as a leading public health agency by promoting innovation and learning across the region, building the technical capacity of country teams and partners to design and implement quality public health programmes, and ensuring that HECA country programmes and the region are prepared to meet public health needs in new category 2 and 3 disasters in a timely and effective way.

Further details on the position is available at <https://jobs.oxfam.org.uk/vacancy/oi-regional-water-sanitation--hygiene-wash-advisor---horn-east--central-africa-int3296/5742/description/>.



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/>
 Experimental African Drought Monitor: <http://drought.icpac.net/>
 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/english/regional-integration/is/csc/>

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>
 South Asia Drought Monitoring System: <http://dms.iwmi.org/>