

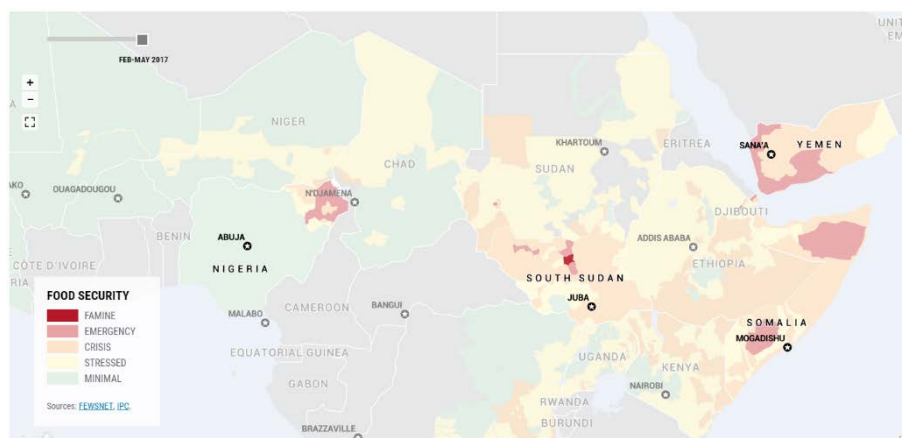


# Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network Newsletter

May 2017 Issue

## Special Topic

### Address and Prevent Famine in Four Countries



More than 20 million people in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen are currently experiencing famine or the risk of famine. In all four countries, the numbers of people, and especially children facing famine, are expected to increase rapidly due to prolonged drought and conflict.

Among the four countries, risk of famine persisting in Somalia is largely due to consecutive and severe droughts. According to UNICEF, the projected number of children who are or will be acutely malnourished in Somalia has shot up by 50 per cent since the beginning of the year to 1.4 million, including over 275,000 who have or will suffer life-threatening severe acute malnutrition in 2017.

The United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien, stated that the UN is facing the largest humanitarian crisis since its creation and that collective and coordinated global efforts are necessary to prevent people from starving to death or dying from disease and avoiding the reversal of development gains in the affected countries. The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, called for US\$4.4 billion by the end of July 2017 to prevent this catastrophe, especially to address four priority clusters, namely health, food security, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in each of the four countries. As of April 2017, 29% of the required fund, or US\$1.3 billion, as been provided by various donors.

Please visit the dedicated pages on this hunger crises in four countries established by the UN family of organizations, including [FAO](#), [UNDP](#), [UNICEF](#), [UNOCHA](#) and [WFP](#), among others, for more information.

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## 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

### Regional Drought Management System for the Middle East and North Africa



Periodic drought is a threat to food and water security in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The Regional Drought Management System for MENA, or MENA RDMS, was set up by the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), together with other partners, with the focus on drought risk management through the development

of monitoring and early warning systems, preparedness, and mitigation measures with special focus on Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia and Morocco. It aims to establish state-of-the-art systems to monitor regional drought conditions, assist with drought planning and coordination activities, and assist officials who are tasked with relief efforts by providing “value-added” information during drought events.

The Monitoring Agriculture and Water Resources during Droughts (MAWRED) knowledge hub is part of the MENA RDMS, which seeks to empower decision-makers across the MENA region managing droughts and their impacts on water and food security today and under climate change. The drought maps, and supporting water, climate and agricultural data are made available through the MAWRED Knowledge in English, Arabic and French so that they can be used by as many users as possible in their work.

Please visit [http://www.biosaline.org/sites/default/files/project\\_brief\\_menardms\\_print.pdf](http://www.biosaline.org/sites/default/files/project_brief_menardms_print.pdf) for more information concerning the MENA RDMS. For more details on the MAWRED knowledge hub and its various drought related data/resources, please visit <http://www.mawredh2o.org/>.

### Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research



The Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) is an inter-governmental network established in 1996. APN's mission is to enable investigations of changes in the Earth's life support systems and their implications for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region through support for research and science-based response strategies and measures, effective linkages between science and policy, and scientific capacity development.

Activities of APN promote research that improves understanding of the physical, biological and human dimensions of change in the Earth system and advances science that informs decision-making regarding adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development in the following specific areas: 1) climate change and climate variability; 2) biodiversity and ecosystems; 3) changes in the atmospheric, terrestrial and marine domains; 4) resources utilisation and pathways for sustainable development; and 5) risk reduction and resilience. In recent years, APN has particularly supported various multi-country research and assessments aiming to increase resilience to global change by enhancing the knowledge base for better decision making, particularly in areas of low carbon development, climate change adaptation, and the conservation and use of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Please visit <http://www.apn-gcr.org/> for further details regarding APN and its activities.



## Thirsting for a Future: Water and Children in a Changing Climate



No one suffers more from a change in climate than a child. Droughts, for example, pose a variety of disastrous risks to children. As temperatures rise, more moisture evaporates from land and water, leaving less water behind for human consumption. Most droughts are slow-onset in nature, but they can be more acute when they occur in arid zones or happen in combination with heatwaves. For children, dehydration occurs quickly and can be deadly. With less water available, children will eat less nutritious foods and will often have to walk long distances to collect water, missing out on school and other important childhood activities. Without water, many families are forced to migrate in search of it.

A lack of water also inhibits good sanitation and hygiene practices, as supplies are rationed to meet a family's immediate survival needs – drinking and food preparation. This means that practices such as hand washing and toilet cleaning are often minimized in order to conserve water.

This report is the third in a series that explores different ways that climate change endangers the lives and futures of our children, and shows how we can and must take collective action to address these threats. It shares a series of solutions, policy responses and case studies from UNICEF's work around the world.

The full report is available for download at

[https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF\\_Thirsting\\_for\\_a\\_Future\\_REPORT.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_Thirsting_for_a_Future_REPORT.pdf).

## Measuring Resilience Capability of Drought-prone Desert Communities: A Case Study of Tharparkar, Pakistan



The purpose of this paper is to propose a mathematical index to measure the resilient capability of drought-prone desert communities in Tharparkar, Pakistan. The paper analyses the constructs and definitions of the term resilience, describes the concept and practical applications of the integrated programming approach, present key findings of the integrated vulnerability and capacity assessment at the community level and provides a unique method for measuring disaster resilient communities following the process and output indicators. Ten process and eight outcome standards with 50 and 94 resilience indicators respectively were applied to measure the resilience capability of the community. The overall resilience index of the community was 51%.

This method of resilience measurement can be used for comparing the resilience status of the communities, progress monitoring and impact evaluation of any disaster risk reduction and resilience building interventions. The research findings provide a unique method for measuring community resilience capability in any hazard prone areas. The overall resilience index is site and context specific and should not be loosely used. However, the overall method and the mathematical index can be widely applicable.

The full report is available for download at <https://www.omicsgroup.org/journals/measuring-resilience-capability-of-drought-prone-desert-communities-a-case-study-of-tharparkar-pakistan-2167-0587-1000193.pdf>.



## Event and Training Opportunities

### Desertif'actions (27-28 June 2017; Strasbourg, France)



Desertif'actions is the non-State actors International Summit dedicated to land degradation and climate change. The consequences of land degradation are worldwide: loss of soil fertility, reduction of animal and vegetal biodiversity, decrease of agriculture productions, negative impacts on the climate, including drought.

The Desertif'actions 2017 Summit is expected to bring together over 300 stakeholders from NGOs, scientific entities, local government, farmer organizations, private and public institutions from over 50 countries. The two-day event shares concerns about land degradation under a changing climate and its consequences in northern and southern countries. It aims to build common positions on the issue, which will be consolidated in a Declaration at the end of the event. With the slogan of "Land and Climate: Time to Act!", the summit will be articulated around plenary sessions and thematic workshops, intended to assist non-state actors in putting forth its contribution towards the - now unavoidable - articulation between desertification, land degradation and climate change issues.

Please visit <http://www.desertif-actions.fr/en/> for further details concerning the Desertif'actions 2017 Summit.

### Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa's Disaster Risk Reduction Conference 2017 (27-28 September 2017; Nelson Mandela Bay, South Africa)



The Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa's (DMISA) annual conference is one of the largest annual disaster risk management (DRR) conference in Africa and routinely attracts more than 350 delegates. It provides a diverse range of stakeholders working on the management of disasters, including drought, from across Africa with an opportunity to gather and share skills, knowledge and experience.

In 2017, the DMISA DRR conference focuses on the fundamental purpose of disaster management and action rather than rhetoric towards that purpose. Importantly, the conference seeks to emphasise that getting the basics right does not curtail but rather expands the need for innovation and that all facets of DRR and disaster resilience must be actively and thoughtfully designed for implementation. It will provide an opportunity for considering past and future manifestations of disaster risk in Southern Africa and internationally, and to build enlightened consensus towards active disaster risk reduction, resilience and risk governance in both urban and rural settings.

More information concerning the DMISA DRR conference 2017 is available at <http://disaster.co.za/conferences/>.





## Positions and Grant Opportunities

### Humanitarian Programme Coordinator – Oxfam GB (Closing date: 8 May 2017)



Oxfam has been working in Ethiopia since 1974, devoted to empowering people against poverty. The current humanitarian programme primarily includes two CAT 2 responses as follows: (i) 14 Million GBP drought response with a target of benefitting 700,000 people (Programme Focus WASH and EFSVL with gender and cross protection as cross cutting) in Somali, Oromia and Afar region both direct and through partners; (ii) 8 Million GBP response to South Sudan Refugee Crisis in Gambella with a target of benefitting 70,000 people (Programme Focus WASH and EFSVL with gender and cross protection as cross cutting). Oxfam is currently in process of winding up its AWD response in both Addis Ababa and Somali region. In addition, Oxfam has multiple emergency preparedness programme focusing on self and partners' capacity building.

The Humanitarian Programme Coordinator is expected to be responsible for, among others, participating as a member of the Country Management Team in the overall planning and strategic management of Oxfam – Ethiopia; and developing and maintaining a network for Humanitarian actors and issues Within and beyond Ethiopia. He/she is also expected to represent Oxfam to donors and diplomatic missions and communicate Oxfam public policy and advocacy positions as and when appropriate to institutions, government, international, UN national and local organizations as required.

For further details on the position, please visit <https://jobs.oxfam.org.uk/vacancy/humanitarian-programme-coordinator-hpc-int3444/6004/description/>.

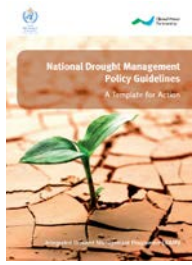
### Regional Drought Information Systems Coordinator – CIRES/NIDIS (Closing date: Not specified)



The Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) and the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) are seeking a full-time Regional Drought Information Systems Coordinator to work as part of an interdisciplinary team as the coordinator for selected regional NIDIS drought early warning information systems. NIDIS is a federal interagency and interstate effort to establish a national drought early warning information system in the U.S. The successful applicant will work as part of a team to advance NIDIS through a number of strategies, which include:

- Developing the leadership and networks to implement an integrated drought monitoring, forecasting, and planning and preparedness system at federal, state, and local levels;
- Fostering and supporting a research environment focusing on risk assessment, planning, forecasting, monitoring, impact collection and analysis, and mitigation;
- Contributing to a drought early warning information system to provide accurate, timely, and integrated information specific to regional needs and economic sectors; and

Please visit <http://cires.colorado.edu/jobs/regional-drought-information-systems-coordinator> for more information on the position as well as the application procedures.



### 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/>