

PROJECT TITLE	Strengthening Drought Resilience for Smallholder Farmers and Pastoralists in the IGAD Region
COUNTRIES	Djibouti, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda
THEMATIC FOCAL AREAS	Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems
IMPLEMENTING ENTITY	Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)
EXECUTING ENTITIES	<p>Regional coordination: Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa (GWPEA)</p> <p>National Executing Entities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Djibouti: Ministry of Agriculture Water Fisheries and Livestock/ Directorate of Rural Hydraulics - Kenya: Ministry of Environment and Forestry / Directorate of Climate Change - Sudan: Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources - Uganda: Ministry of Water and Environment / Directorate of Water Resources Management
START DURATION	October 2020 4 years
BUDGET	USD\$ 13,079,540
CONTEXT	<p>Drought is one of the major natural hazards affecting people's livelihoods and socio-economic development. In the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region, the farmers (particularly small-scale holders) and pastoralists are subjected to the adverse effects of drought. The frequency of rainfall deficit periods characterizing the IGAD region since the 1980s has increased. This has negatively affected the local populations whose livelihoods rely mainly on agriculture, livestock, forest resources, water, wetlands, etc.</p> <p>In view of the adverse drought effects and with the aim of strengthening the resilience of the smallholder farmers and pastoralists in the IGAD region, the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) in collaboration with Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa (GWPEA) and the four riparian countries (Djibouti, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda), are implementing a regional project entitled "Strengthening Drought Resilience of Smallholder Farmers and Pastoralists in the IGAD region". The project was approved by the Adaptation Fund Board at its thirty-fourth meeting in Bonn in October 2019.</p>
OBJECTIVE	<p>The overall objective of the project is to increase the resilience of smallholder farmers and pastoralists to climate change risks mainly those related to drought, through the establishment of appropriate early warning systems and implementation of drought adaptation actions in the IGAD region. Specific objectives of the project are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and promote regional investments in drought early warning systems (EWS) and improving the existing ones - Strengthen and improve the capacity of key stakeholders in drought risk management at regional, national and local levels - Facilitate smallholder farmers and pastoralists with inputs to undertake innovative adaptation actions that reinforce their resilience to drought - Enhance knowledge management and information sharing on drought resilience.
COMPONENTS	To achieve these specific objectives, the project is structured around four main components that were elaborated considering drought dimension from the regional, national and local contexts.

Component 1: Promoting investments in Early Warning Systems (EWS)

With an ultimate objective to have efficient and effective EWS in place, this component focuses on establishment of institutional linkages to generate, share and disseminate as well as develop feedback mechanism to early warning information. In each member country, the project will identify investment areas in EWS, review existing drought management plans and create awareness and capacity building.

Component 2: Strengthening capacities of key stakeholders at regional, national and local levels

The component involves undertaking capacity building programs in drought risk management. Capacity gaps and priorities will be identified and supported. Also, the project will identify key capacity building tools at national and regional levels, including innovative drought adaptation actions and strengthen capacities of key stakeholders at regional, national and local levels. Approaches to integrating drought risk management interventions into existing development plans will be supported.

Component 3: Supporting innovative drought adaptation actions

Concrete and innovative drought adaptation actions will be identified and supported for adoption by stakeholders. A scale-up strategy will be developed and replicated. The concrete adaptation actions will focus on the innovative scalable aspects. These include: modified rainwater harvesting structures and water storage systems e.g. simplified water jars, rock water harvesting techniques; construction of sunken sand dams, water ponds and mini irrigation systems to support crops during water stress as well as restoration of degraded water catchments. Other adaptation actions include: supporting innovations in the groundwater management structures, e.g. construction of boreholes and water wells and roadside water harvesting.

The project will promote the installation of solar pumps and alternative energy sources e.g. solar and energy saving stoves. Innovations to be promoted in energy saving space are: interlocking blocks, charcoal bricks- manufactured from household waste. There will be improved water and soil conservation techniques to enhance food security. Other adaptation actions include: pasture management, which will involve growing fast-growing pasture varieties and their storage as silage or hay for longer term use by domestic animals, supporting improved livestock breeds (cattle and goats) and growing drought-resistant crops.

Component 4: Knowledge management and information sharing

This component is dedicated to awareness-raising, communication and capacity building, including knowledge generation and dissemination. This will be achieved by generating knowledge on drought risk management and sharing it through both electronic and print media. The project will document, compile and package good practices, for the benefit of different targeted groups (farmers, pastoralist and others) and focusing on the major challenges facing the project area to turn them into opportunities. Besides, a communication and awareness-raising action plan will be elaborated to serve as a decision-support tool for the stakeholders and concerned authorities.

For further information, contact:

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DRESS-EA Project coverage and sites

