



## **KIPPRA ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

# **BUILDING RESILIENCE TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF DROUGHT AND FLOODS**

**5-7 June 2018  
Nairobi, Kenya**

# 1. BACKGROUND

Kenya, like several other countries in sub-Saharan Africa, is prone to extreme weather conditions. The occurrences of drought and floods have increased in intensity and frequency with significant impact on livelihoods of those who are dependent on agriculture.

Kenya has suffered several droughts including in 1983/84, 1991/92, 1995/96, 1999/2000, 2004, 2005/2006, 2009, 2011 and the latest in 2016/2017. The 1999-2001 drought is estimated to have affected 4.4 million people, killed nearly 60-70 percent of livestock in the Arid and Semi-Arid areas, and caused crop failure in most parts of the Rift Valley, Coast, Eastern and Central regions of the country. Similarly, the 2011 drought and its related shocks led to severe food shortages, which affected about 3.75 million Kenyans and 598,218 refugees, and had a combined economic impact of approximately 0.7-1.0 percent of GDP (World Bank, 2011). In 2017, the Kenya Red Cross estimated that 2.7 million people in 23 counties out of the 47 counties required food assistance. Furthermore, the severe drought situation in 2017 saw sporadic conflicts in Laikipia County as armed cattle herders invaded private ranches, wildlife reserves and private farms to seek pasture for their livestock.

At the same time, Kenya has had a long history of floods with most severe floods recorded in 1982, 1985, 1997/98, 2002, 2006 and 2017. Currently, Kenya is experiencing floods with the onset of the long rain season. It is also evident that prolonged dry weather spells are occasionally followed by episodes of floods either immediately or few years later. For instance, hardly had the country recovered from 1995/96 drought, then the *El Nino* related floods in 1997/98 struck with widespread devastating effect on infrastructure and an epidemic of Rift Valley Fever that adversely affected Kenya's livestock (AFDB, 2008). The Kenya Red Cross estimates that the 1997/98 *El Nino* floods resulted in 300 deaths and damages worth \$670 million and \$236 million to infrastructure and the agricultural sector respectively. During the 2003 floods, part of the earth embankments (dykes) constructed in 1970s to control water flows were destroyed and 25,000 people were displaced. In 2017, Kenya experienced heavy floods in Kwale, Mombasa, Taita Taveta and Garissa counties.

The coverage and impacts of these droughts and floods have persisted, raising concerns over the effectiveness of the resilience measures put in place to mitigate them over the years. That said, many sub-Saharan Africa countries are signatories to global agreements and frameworks towards building resilience to risks posed by droughts and floods. These include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Regional Economic Communities are also in the process of updating their disaster plans to align to the Sendai Framework that sets targets for disaster reduction. Further, the Africa Union's Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction seeks to integrate disaster risk management into development.

Kenya has also put in place legislations and relevant institutions to deal with disasters and emergencies. The National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) coordinates all activities related to drought management while the National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC) coordinates the national effort in reducing the impact of the rains and widespread

infrastructural and environmental destructions across the country. Despite the existing policy and legislative measures, occurrences of drought and floods results in emergency situations.

As such, all stakeholders need to have a conversation on how to end the emergencies of drought and floods. This conference themed “*Building Resilience to mitigate the impact of Drought and Floods*” provides that platform for stakeholders to deliberate on impactful strategies.

The conference is hosted by KIPPRA in collaboration with other stakeholders including the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Agriculture Finance Corporation (AFC). It is envisaged that key policymakers at local and regional level will grace the conference.

## 2. OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The conference provides a forum for discussion of various issues that need to be considered in a policy framework to ensure there is an end to emergencies of drought and floods. In this regard, the following aspects form the agenda of the conference.

- 1) Emergencies of drought and floods, the role of the government, domestic agencies and regional agencies
- 2) Socio-economic costs of drought and floods, including, at fiscal, household and firm levels
- 3) Gender dynamics, changing roles and the community
- 4) Impact on children, elderly and other vulnerable groups, including schooling, health services, and social protection
- 5) Food security, agriculture systems and climate change
- 6) Coping mechanisms and the role of culture
- 7) Coordination and institutional framework for disaster risk management at sub-national, national and regional levels
- 8) Adaptation and mitigation strategies, both formal and informal

The conference is expected to generate the following outcomes:

- Lessons from good practices across the region
- Dissemination of research results and successful interventions
- Meet and network with relevant stakeholders in the area
- Be part of a key regional policy development that can inform robust recommendations for action

## 3. PROPOSED TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

The themes selected for panel discussions capture critical aspects to consider while addressing emergencies of drought and floods. Important to note that the occurrences of drought and floods impact significantly on livelihoods especially for those dependent on agricultural sector. Not only do they impact on food security and health, they also have implications on agro-processing which is a key factor in growing the manufacturing sector. As such, building resilience to mitigate the impacts of drought and floods is a priority in achieving the objectives of the *Big Four* agenda.

***Theme 1: The role of the government, private sector, domestic and international agencies in ending emergencies of drought and floods.***

The management of emergencies arising from drought and floods can characteristically be organized into five stages. These includes; prevention, protection, preparedness, response and recovery. The response to these emergencies will typically require effective coordination among several institutional and non-institutional actors.

According to Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, while the state has the overall responsibility for reducing disaster risk, managing risks is a shared responsibility between government and relevant stakeholders. Non-State actors play very important role as enablers in providing support to states, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the risk reduction framework at local, national and regional levels. Their commitment, goodwill, knowledge, experience and resources will be required.

This theme focuses on the country's drought and flood emergency management systems, their ineffectiveness, actors involved; government, private sector, domestic agencies such as the Red Cross, International Rescue Committee and the international agencies such as the World Food Programme etc., their roles, enabling frameworks to facilitate multi-agency response to emergencies and the preparedness of the actors and their capacity to respond to drought and flood emergencies.

***Theme 2: Socio-economic costs at household, firms and national level and programmes (schooling, health services, and social protection) with occurrences of drought and floods emergencies.***

Natural disasters such as flooding and droughts typically set in motion a complex chain of events that can disrupt family livelihoods, local economy and in severe cases, the national economy. Floods can cause widespread destruction, resulting in the loss of both animal and human life. It also causes damage to personal property and critical public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, health, electricity and water infrastructures costing billions of Kenya shillings in economic losses.

This theme discusses the costs of drought and flood emergencies and the losses that stem from such emergencies. Ideally, these are two separate entities because, losses occur predominantly through destruction of an economy's wealth (physical assets) that help generate income (buildings, roads, farmland, bridges, utilities, industries, forests and other natural resources). On the other hand, costs arise when the reconstruction is undertaken to replace, repair or reinforce those tangible assets that are destroyed by flood.

***Theme 3: The impact of drought and floods emergencies on gender, dynamics and changing roles in the community***

Women are more vulnerable to natural disasters such as droughts and flood emergencies due to the asymmetrical power relations based on their gender. Women and girls are particularly exposed to climate-related disaster risk such as droughts and floods emergencies and are more likely to suffer higher rates of mortality, morbidity and economic damage.

This theme will discuss the barriers that women face in restoring their livelihoods after drought and flood emergencies. Given that they bear the burden of ensuring family gets food, water and other supplies and are engaged in low-wage activities, further disadvantages them from coping with impact of natural disasters. The discussions will focus on the role of the community in helping women to cope with impacts of natural disasters. Answers will be sought for the following questions of interest in relation to gender and flood and drought emergencies:

***Theme 4: The impact of drought and floods emergencies on vulnerable groups (Poor, children, elderly, physically challenged)***

Natural disasters tend to hit the poorest and the most marginalized demographics the hardest. While everyone living in disaster-prone areas is vulnerable to the impacts of droughts and flood emergencies, some groups, such as the poor, the children, the elderly, and the persons living with disabilities, are more vulnerable. They are also more at risk of death during flood and drought disasters. This theme will discuss the mechanism that makes the elderly, the disabled and the children the most vulnerable to drought and flood mortality. It will also discuss the relationship between economic powerlessness and vulnerability to disaster for these groups.

***Theme 5: The implications of climate change, and drought and floods emergencies on food security, agriculture systems and trade***

Climatic hazards such as floods and droughts have always been a matter of concern to the human population. Even with significant achievements in science and technology, people continue to suffer the consequences of severe floods and droughts. Floods endanger human life, and cause damage to settlements, roads and transport networks. Devastating droughts are harmful for agriculture and may create problems in water supply. Shifting rainfall patterns also reduce yields because lower rainfall reduces soil moisture or increased rainfall waterlogs soils. In rainfed agricultural systems, erratic rainfall can have devastating impacts on affected livelihoods and local economies. Droughts or floods can have catastrophic localized consequences in regions where food insecurity is already high and markets do not function well. This theme will discuss the immediate impact of climate change on agricultural systems and food security. The focus of discussion will be on how erratic rainfall affects crop production and livelihoods and how droughts and floods undermine farm yields and the national harvest.

***Theme 6: Drought and floods emergencies; Coping mechanisms by households and the role of culture***

There are many ways families use to cope with flood and drought situations. Apart from mitigation and transfer strategies, that are undertaken before the onset of drought or floods, coping with drought or flood risks entails those activities undertaken by households after an agriculture drought/flood has occurred as losses arise. In this case, coping is aimed at assisting families and communities in dealing with the adverse effects of drought/floods. The coping strategies could be economic, social, cultural or technological in nature. Households threatened by drought and famine deploy a variety of coping strategies progressively as the crisis worsens. The discussions under this

theme, will focus on exploring various mechanisms households use to cope with emergencies of droughts and floods.

***Theme 7: Coordination and Institutional framework for disaster risk management at sub-national, national and regional levels***

The institutional, policy and legal framework in the context of drought and flood emergencies have the essential role of planning, implementation and monitoring the processes of disaster coordination among all stakeholders and integrates DRM efforts into the development of policies and programmes that aims at reducing the level of vulnerability of its people.

This theme focuses discussions on institutional arrangements and national policies for flood and drought emergency management in Kenya and how effective they have been in managing disaster risks. It will also seek to bring out the preparedness plans for drought and flood by various agencies at different levels of government; national and county.

***Theme 8: Drought and floods emergencies; Adaptation and mitigation strategies, both formal and informal***

Improving community resilience to flood and droughts requires proactive adaptation and mitigation measures to counter the impacts of climate hazards. Many communities are dynamic and respond to changes in environmental factors. Resilient communities can withstand hazards and continue to operate under stress, adapt, and recover after a crisis while others may not. Building and maintaining disaster resilience depends on adaptation strategies the community integrates in their mitigation plans.

This theme focuses the discussions on adaptation and mitigation strategies for drought and flood disaster preparedness to improve community resilience to natural disasters.

## **4. VENUE, DATE, AND FORMAT**

The conference will be held in Nairobi, Kenya 5-7 June 2018. Participation is planned for 500 participants with representation from the region, development partners, government officials, researchers, and key personalities. The conference will bring together key actors from across the continent responsible for policy, response, funding of drought and floods incidences in Sub Sahara Africa. They will present illustrative practices as well as new developments in strengthening the region's preparedness and response to emergencies of droughts and floods

The format for the conference will follow the standard format for conferences globally with an opening panel, to set the tone of the conference. This will be followed by panels, breakaway sessions, interactive sessions, side-events, roundtables, and keynote address. The format is aimed to maximize the interaction between participants to allow for networking, in depth understanding with cases, experiences.

**Plenary sessions:** All panels have presentation to guide the discussion and then a plenary panel discussion. The thematic areas to form the plenary follow the objectives set for the conference. At the end of each plenary, key issues will be drawn to feed into the discussions during the breakaway sessions.

**Break away groups (BAGS):** Breakaway sessions enable direct interactions among participants. The main aim of the debate is to identify common challenges and major barriers, share examples of interesting practice and agree on practical solutions in managing and mitigating drought and floods occurrences. Within each workshop, there will be an opportunity to explore technical assistance needed in overcoming the challenges and barriers, linked to the theme of each group.

**Side events and Industry Expo:** There are Expos as self-financing side events aimed at attracting relevant stakeholder providers and users from all over the world to network, provide advice, educate, and showcase products and technologies relevant to the theme of the conference.

*'Summing up'* sessions will bring delegates together to summarize the outcomes of the debate in thematic working forums. Rapporteurs from each group will briefly summarize the workshop discussions and highlight the key issues and potential solutions as well as examples of transferable practice.

*'Key lessons and way forward'* session will offer a facilitated debate and reflections on the key messages emerging from the conference. A conference communique will be drafted for adoption at the close of the conference.

## 5. PARTNERSHIP

The conference is organized in partnership with various players including:

- National Drought Management Authority
- Agriculture Finance Corporation

## 6. TARGET AUDIENCE

General public, national and county governments, policymakers, development partners, institutions mandated to deal with disasters and emergencies, think tanks, and academia.