

## **Capacity Development Programme for Drought Resilience in the IGAD region**

The increasing frequency and severity of droughts in the IGAD region is having a great impact on the economy of IGAD countries and people's livelihoods. Key sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, energy, water and transport, are highly affected. A big population, mainly rural communities in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) are the most vulnerable with low resilience capacity. There are also other challenges like degradation of environmental and natural resources, poor information dissemination in drought early warning, policy gaps and inadequate institutional capacities to manage droughts. The resilience of the countries, communities and ecosystems need to be enhanced.

The Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa (GWPEA) through the Integrated Drought Management Program in the Horn of Africa (IDMP HOA) is developing a 5-year (2016-2020) capacity development program to address some of the identified drought challenges in the region. This is a follow-up to the pilot regional training on applying Integrated Water Resources Management Tools for Drought Risk management that was held in June in Addis Ababa. The pilot training was organized by IDMP HOA in partnership with CAP-NET and the Water and Land Resource Centre (WLRC), Ethiopia.

The aim of the 5-year capacity development training is to strengthen the capacity of water and climate professionals in the IGAD region on drought disaster risk management, IWRM approach and the need for timely responses to forecasted climate-related risks. This capacity program is in line with IGAD priority intervention areas and will specifically contribute to the attainment of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience Initiative (IDDRSI) framework.

The capacity building training is one of IDMP HOA activities focused at promoting drought resilience and contributing to on-going efforts in drought management in the IGAD region. And is a follow-up to the regional workshops that were organized in August 2014 through UN-Water, WMO, FAO, and UNCCD as part of the UN-Water Initiative on "Capacity Development to Support National Drought Management Policies".

The targeted countries for the capacity programme are Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, and Somalia. Also, other countries from the Nile region, such as Burundi, Congo, Egypt, and Rwanda, will be included. The target audiences for the training are participants from the water/climate change/disaster-related ministries, agencies, academia, civil society and private sector, among others.

The capacity development initiative is attracting partners to support the programme. Partners who have expressed interest include GWPEA, Cap-Net, IGAD, IGAD Climate and Prediction Application Centre (ICPAC), Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC). More partners are welcome to join the initiative!

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