

Drought conditions and management strategies in Ethiopia

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August, 2014**

Background

- **Disaster includes:**
 - **Drought**, flood, human and livestock epidemics, crop pests and conflict
 - 30 major drought events over the past nine centuries of which 13 covered the entire nation
- **Drought**
 - **debilitated the economy and made the most food insecure countries in the world.**
- **Drought induced famine caused the worst disaster**
 - **Disaster event causing immense anguish**
 - **Remains national policy agenda**



Drought monitoring and early warning systems:

- Ethiopia has recognized the need for early warning systems
 - Recurring drought hazard
- Until 1973, there was no organized disaster management institution
 - RRC established in 1973- **alerted UN agencies and donor communities**
 - The 1973/74 and 1983/84 famines in Ethiopia
 - attributed to failures of the government administrations to recognize the need for an early warning system



Drought monitoring and early warning systems:

- DPPC- EWS, NCEW
- EWS- is composed of network of various institutions
- NCEW-a multiagency structure
 - MoA, MoH, CSA, EMA, NMSA, ENI and NGOs
- The multiple institutions inform DPPA
- MoA ← DRMFSS ← EWRD
- Well defined org. structure
 - Monthly information in **Amharic** and **English**
 - LEAP (livelihoods, early assessment and protection) index
 - converts agro-meteorological data into crop or rangeland estimates.

Vulnerability assessment

- Drought causes significant impact in the agr. Sector-Oxfam \$1.1 billion per year
- Moisture deficit-failure in crop production
- Pastoralists are the most vulnerable group
 - the drying up of **water sources** and **declining forage** resources for livestock
 - during the 2002-2003 droughts, Ethiopia lost more than **1.4 million animals**
- Causes gender specific impacts
 - about **62%** of water collection in Ethiopia is the responsibility of adult women (queue & violence)
- Less hygiene- illness that reduce productive time
- Size of children at school reduces
- The poor and women are most vulnerable



Emergency relief and drought response:

- Catastrophic proportions of drought
- Emergency interventions such as:
 - extensive water tankering operations,
 - therapeutic feeding,
 - human health,
 - livestock supplementary feeding,
 - veterinary support services,
 - livestock diversification,
 - slaughter destocking,
 - commercial destocking using market approaches
- Response effectiveness has improved
 - government's commitment to integrate **disaster prevention** and **preparedness plans** with **long-term development policies**
 - **Identification of beneficiaries is conducted transparently**



Preventive measures and knowledge need:

- Over the years (2007-2010), 66% of the total budget of MoARD went to the DRMFSS.
- Preventive measures
 - PSNP-transferred 7 mill from humanitarian food aid to predictable safety net program-engages the community in packages of preventive measures
 - Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (SDPRP) and its sequel a Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP)
- Humanitarian interventions save lives but not able to build capacity
- Efforts in improving knowledge should target:
 - Building capacity to absorb shocks
 - Capacity in terms of networking national and international institutions
 - Database and information management to improve EWS

**Your attention is highly
acknowledged!!**