

# **Drought conditions and management strategies in Ethiopia**

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# 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!!**