

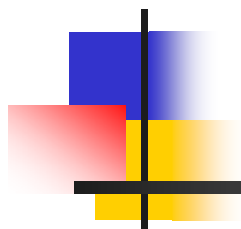
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Drought Preparedness



**WATSAN in Karamoja –
“The Way Forward” (or how to
avoid opening a Pandora's box)**

ECHO Regional Drought Preparedness Programme

- 10 MEUR for drought preparedness in 6 countries: *Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti & Somalia.*
- Principle objective: reduce vulnerability and strengthen community capacity to withstand drought in GHA
- Karamoja region: 1.3 MEUR.
- Pilot programme formulated in close consultation with implementing partners.

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Rationale

- Community focus to ensure benefits and services reach beneficiaries.
- Water for Life – and livestock.
- Community involvement in planning and implementation to enhance ownership & sustainability.



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Karamoja Needs

- Despite past Emergency as well as Development efforts – needs are pervasive.
- Recurrent droughts → failing crop production → WFP emergency life-saving intervention every 2-3 years.
- Poor options for livestock maintenance.
- Structural socio-economic under-development
- Emergence of destitute Karamojong – excluded from pastoralisms without skills to assimilate into urban economy.

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ECHO's Approach

- Mitigate loss of livelihoods through preparing and supporting pastoral communities in Karamoja to monitor and increasingly cope with the different stages of the drought cycle - thereby reducing their vulnerability.
- Constructing, rehabilitating & protecting water infrastructure to increase its capacity to collect and retain water - e.g. de-silt dams and ponds, so water is available between rainy seasons.

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- **Regional Drought Preparedness Partners:**
 - **FAO:** coordination, technical backstopping on livestock health & establishing EWS.
 - **DanChurchAid** with KADP and C&D: livestock health & management and food security through goat husbandry for women. **Water: rehab 2 water springs, 10 ponds / catchments, constructing 35 water troughs, & 120 hand pumps in Moroto and Nakapiripirit & user committees.**

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- **Medair** (co-financed w/ UNICEFF - technical backstopping by Oxfam): **water quality testing, user committees 200 latrines & hygiene promotion. Pilot bio-sand filter w/ womens group in Kaabong.**
- **Practical Action:** cross border community capacity building (water & livestock health) activities in the Loima – Moroto (Kenya-Uganda border). **User committees, rehab 20 shallow wells, 4 boreholes with water tanks, and 26 water troughs for livestock.**

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Way Forward...

- ECHO external “real time” evaluation in Jun-07 to assess appropriateness of approach.
- Continued Community Focus as local governments in Karamoja are overwhelmed & lack capacity.
- Pastoralism to be acknowledged as a viable way of life → corresponding actions translated in to programming.
- Increasingly rely on traditional water systems (shallow wells, ponds, dams, etc.) maintainable by communities
- Reserve borehole technology for the most critical periods & locations.

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