



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION



POLICY BRIEF

Priority Intervention Area 3: Expanding Livelihood Support and Essential Social Services for Women in the IGAD Region

Introduction

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)'s Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) has since 2013 inspired and guided regional and national priorities to counter drought emergencies in East and Horn of Africa countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The IDDRSI Strategy (2019-2024) acknowledges that gender issues impact the **livelihood support and basic social services** priority intervention area (PIA 3). A gender analysis was undertaken for the IDDRSI Strategy, Regional Programming Paper and the Country Programming Papers (CPPs) (IGAD, 2016).¹ This brief examines the critical gender issues relating to livelihood support and essential social services and the implications for drought resilience-building efforts in the region. It based on the review of the gender analysis report.

Gender inequalities in delivering livelihood support

Men and women living in the East and Horn of Africa (HoA) region perform different livelihood activities with differential impacts on triggering drought. Livelihood strategies are rooted in specific gender-based use of environmental resources (UNEP, 2012).² For instance, due to pre-existing gender inequalities, the utilisation and management of natural resources constrain women's influence and control over decisions governing their lives and their access to production resources such as finances, agricultural inputs, land, property, and technologies. Livelihoods programmes in emergencies can provide essential opportunities to promote gender equality in economic life by affirming women's role as economic change agents and promoting equal access to productive resources and decision-making mechanisms.

Gender inequalities concerning livelihood support make women highly vulnerable to livelihood insecurity in times of disaster, negatively impacting the region's economic and social development due to the underutilisation of available human resources (UN Report Version 2). Men often own and control the assets of production, including land and livestock. Consequently, men determine women's access to land, which forms the basis of their livelihood. Limited access to land means less collateral for obtaining credit. Differential access to and control of livelihood assets also results in a differential impact of livelihood vulnerabilities between men and women. Policies, institutions, and processes - both formal and informal - reinforce these gender inequalities. As earlier noted, pastoralism and agro-pastoralism are the primary sources of livelihood in the HoA region. Thus, the specific livelihood approach is vital in promoting early recovery and greater gender equality in the post-crisis social context.

Entrenched cultural norms dictate the gender division of labour, which in turn leads to differential treatment of men and women on development interventions. The gender division of labour eventually impacts women's and men's lives and, consequently, the community and the nation. Gender division of labour often changes in crisis and post-crisis situations. This is an important observation noted by the Somalia CPP, which appreciates that many men's out-migration because of the war has left women as the heads of households, a traditionally male role (Somalia CPP, 2012)³.

1. IGAD (2016): Gender Analysis of the Country Programming Papers (CPPs): To End Drought Emergencies in the Horn of Africa.Vol 2.

2. UNEP (2012).Review of Gender Mainstreaming in UNEP.

3. Somalia Country Programming Paper to End Drought Emergencies in the Horn of Africa. Document prepared with the support of the Technical Consortium (CGIAR & FAO), 26 September 2012.

Women account for the bulk of agricultural producers. For example in Kenya, women, who are the majority small-scale farmers, providing 80% of the rural agricultural labour, could benefit significantly from the country's long experience in collective actions through cooperatives and producer associations as witnessed in the dairy and horticulture sub-sectors (Republic of Kenya, 2018)⁴.

Despite providing most of the agricultural labour, women's agricultural knowledge is rarely utilised. Indeed, due to the social and gender roles derived from the gender division of labour, women have a lot of experience and expertise. However, due to their marginalisation in decision-making institutions and processes, this knowledge remains outside the mainstream public policy and development interventions (Ethiopia CPP, 2012).⁵ There is an urgent need to analyse, document, and share with policymakers women's experiences. For example, there is a specific need to document women's knowledge of drought-tolerant crops and share this information with policymakers. Therefore, attention needs to focus on collating, packaging, and disseminating information to policymakers and other stakeholders.

Arid and Semi-arid Lands (ASALs) have limited access to essential social services such as education, and women are most disadvantaged. For example, there is a near-absence of quality education and training institutions in Kenya, leading to ASALs chronic dependence on skills from the rest of the country (Republic of Kenya, 2018). Whereas nationally, Kenyan counties have attained gender parity in primary school enrolment, this is not the case in the ASALs counties. Beyond enrolment, the overall performance of most ASAL counties in national examinations has been inferior. Providing women with education and health will equip them with marketable skills to open opportunities for alternative sustainable livelihoods. Education, skills, and experience are essential in mainstreaming gender and promoting women's empowerment. The lack of essential social services in drought-prone communities is one of the reasons for young women and men's out-migration.

Recommendations

To address the reoccurring droughts experienced by pastoral communities, there is a need to:

1. Provide productive safety nets like drought-tolerant seeds while improving pastoral techniques, irrigation, and soil conservation. Also, Member States could establish seed voucher schemes in exchange for labour. Furthermore, the introduction and upscaling agriculture/livestock insurance, such as index-based livestock insurance, could mitigate droughts' adverse impacts. Insurance schemes can be complemented with public works social protection programmes targeting drought-affected areas.
2. Ensure that agricultural extension and technology transfer packages on appropriate field practices are suitable for women. Interventions are also required to support and initiate proper women entrepreneurial networks, women's cooperatives, and financial resources access.
3. Put in place an incentive mechanism to encourage women's engagement in resilience-building interventions.
4. Make available labour and time saving appropriate technologies for household use.
5. Document women's experiences with survival strategies, access, and control of production resources to enhance the effectiveness of IDDRSI implementation.
6. Provide affirmative actions for women to enable access to domestic water harvesting and reduce the time and effort that women spend in search of water for household consumption. Reducing distances for fetching water for women and addressing the question of time use for women will give women more time to invest in strategic gender needs, such as participation in decision-making institutions and processes.
7. Increase the participation rates in all sectors of education and training in the ASALs as a long-term measure to address human capital challenges and support livelihood diversification. This can be attained by expanding existing school infrastructure, supporting alternative models for education provision to nomadic families, including adult education, and promoting an education system adapted to pastoralist needs. This calls for ensuring affirmative action for women and

4. Republic of Kenya (2018): Sector Plan for Drought Risk Management and Ending Drought Emergencies: Third Medium Term Plan 2018-2022.

5. Ethiopia Country Programming Paper to End Drought Emergencies in the Horn of Africa. Document prepared with the support of the Technical Consortium (CGIAR & FAO), 26 September 2012.

girls' education in pastoral communities. This could take the form of guaranteeing allocations for bursaries, government scholarships, conditional cash transfers, construction of middle-level colleges and the recruitment of qualified school-leavers into middle-level technical and teacher training institutions.

8. Support the development of basic roads network and other social services in drought-prone areas to ensure higher school participation. Improved infrastructure can be complemented by the development and scaling-up of mobile health care and education facilities. Beyond infrastructure, there is a need to train and enhance technical staff and community facilitators' skills to deliver the various essential services and develop community capacity to ensure sustainable services.
9. Promote local public and traditional institutions to govern and monitor the quality and accountability for mobile school service to cater to basic primary and secondary education in pastoralist communities.



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