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CONFLICT EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE MECHANISM

## **CONFLICT DYNAMICS IN IGAD REGION: DROUGHT AND OTHER HAZARDS**

**IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI)**

**SKYLIHGT HOTEL | ADDIS ABABA | ETHIOPIA | 20<sup>TH</sup> – 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2022**

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## Structure of Presentation

- ❑ CEWARN's Mandate
- ❑ The Pastoralism: Conflicts and Drought
- ❑ Conflict Dynamics in IGAD Region with focus to Drought and other Hazards
- ❑ Some basic facts
- ❑ Violent conflict and drought in the IGAD region
- ❑ Conclusions and Recommendations



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**CEWARN Mandate :** “To receive and share early warning **information** concerning violent and potentially violent conflicts as well as their outbreak and escalation in the IGAD region, **undertake analysis of the information** and **develop case scenarios** and **formulate options for response**”



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## **Pastoralism: Conflicts and Drought and other Hazards in the IGAD Region**

### **The Focus:**

**Pastoralism including agro-pastoralists:** Pastoralism is a way of life of trans-human activity characterized in the region by livestock herding and movement in the arid and semi-arid lands.

- In the IGAD region pastoralism involves trans-human movements with livestock in search of resources. Pastoralists move with their livestock and in most cases raids, livestock theft, abduction, droughts, presence of illegal arms, inaccessibility of pasture/water, epidemics, degradation, negative cultural practices, overpopulation of livestock, intermarriage, cultural CPMR mechanisms, joint cultural festivities are experienced.
- It also involves migration of people across a specified boundary for the purpose of establishing a new or semi-permanent residence. Migration can be voluntary, legal or illegal, internal or external that may not include refugees or displaced persons. Pastoralists sometimes migrate and inhabit in transit mobility with currently having an increase in temporary squatters, presence of migrant cartels(trucks, brokers)



## **Conflict Dynamics in IGAD Region with focus to Drought and other Hazards**

- Currently, the IGAD Region faces drought – the worst in 40 years and the raising tensions are triggering conflicts
- More than 18 million people are food insecure due to drought, and more than 7 million children face acute malnutrition. This is happening in conflict prone areas – about 70% of IGAD land mass;
- Since the start of the Ukraine crisis, increased global fuel prices, depreciation of the local currency and obstacles to trade, combined with seasonal factors, have led to an increase in fuel and food prices in all IGAD Member States;
- Desert locust invasion caused destructions of crop productions and resulted in food insecurity;
- COVID-19 restrictions had immense impacts on closure of amongst other mobilities, livestock markets that in turn resulted in scarcity of food.

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## Conflict Dynamics in IGAD Region with focus to Drought and other Hazards

- **Djibouti:** The ongoing drought and compounding regional and international shocks resulting in high price volatility are affecting the food security and nutrition situation in Djibouti. The current March to June 2022 analysis highlight that approximately 132,000 people, representing 11% of the analysed population (of nearly 1.2 million people), are estimated to be acutely food insecure.
- More precisely, an estimated 5,000 people (less than one percent of the population analysed) are estimated to already be in Emergency and approximately 127,000 people (11% of the population analysed) are in crisis. The July to December 2022 projections indicate an increase in the number of acutely food insecure people, likely reaching 192,168 people, representing 16% of analysed population (1.2 million people, which is about the entire country). The number of people in emergency will likely increase by 12,390 people, a 250% rise from the current numbers, while the 179,778 people could be in crisis.
- Projections indicate an increase in food insecurity to 16% of the population by December 2022 with possibilities of communities fighting one another.



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## **Conflict dynamics in Sudan and Uganda with focus to drought, food insecurity, resource scarcity, etc.**

- **In Sudan**, 9.8 Million people are currently severely food-insecure; and of the 1.1 Million refugees caused primarily by war, 58,604 are Ethiopians who are in the East and Blue Nile region. A record 11.7 million people, almost a quarter of Sudan's population, are estimated to be facing acute hunger currently, especially during the lean season from June through to September 2022.
- Sudan has been relying on imports from Russia and Ukraine for its wheat and wheat flour consumption over the past few years. Since there has been prolonged drought, floods and conflicts in many regions, coupled with the short supply of wheat flour, community unrest is affecting the economy and governance issues.
- **Uganda** is currently hosting over 1.4 million refugees and it is predicted this number could grow up to 1.8 million by the end of 2018. Approximately 74 per cent of all refugees are from South Sudan. However, there has been a sharp increase in new arrivals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
- In Karamoja, conflict has been increasing due to climate hardships, disarmament and food insecurity, etc

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## **Conflict dynamics in Ethiopia with focus to drought, food insecurity, resource scarcity, etc.**

### **Ethiopia:**

- The conflict dynamics in Ethiopia is widespread community clashes in parts of Oromia, Amhara, Wolega, parts of Konso, Gambella and Somali regions. Some of these regions are currently experiencing one of the most severe La Niña-induced droughts in recent decades, with more than 8 million people acutely food insecure, and the death of 1.5 million livestock due to drought destroying people's livelihoods. Nearly 300,000 drought-affected people have migrated in search of water, pasture, or assistance.
- The more than 8 million people are currently affected across southern and south-eastern parts of the country, including Somali (more than 3.5 million people), Oromia (more than 3.4 million), SNNP (more than 1.1 million), and South West1 (more than 200,000 people) regions. The drought is expanding to more areas affecting an increasing number of woredas as the weather conditions evolve and further impact the drought scale and intensity. The situation is not expected to improve rapidly due to the high probability of a fourth consecutive failed rains forecasted for this year.

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## **Conflict dynamics in South Sudan and Somalia with focus to drought, food insecurity, resource scarcity, etc.**

**South Sudan:** 7.74 million people facing severe food insecurity. Of this, 87,000 people are projected to be in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IFSPC)-5, 2.8 million people in IFSPC-4, and 4.7 million people in IFSPC-3. 2 million acutely malnourished women and children; 2 million internally displaced people; 2.3 million South Sudanese refugees.

**Somalia:** Drought conditions have deteriorated in Somalia following an unprecedented fourth consecutive failed rainy season. More than 7 million people are affected, up from 6.1 million in May, and over 805,000 are displaced. Disease outbreaks have spiked with over 5,830 suspected cholera cases reported from 24 drought-affected districts since January. Migration by pastoralists and their livestock continues to increase as people compete for limited resources, potentially stoking social tensions and violent conflicts.



## **Conflict dynamics in Kenya with focus to drought and food insecurity, resource scarcity, etc**

### **Kenya:**

- Three consecutive poor rainy seasons in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) of Kenya have exhausted families' coping capacities and left more than 2.9 million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.
- Livestock deaths due to the drought are reported to have surpassed 5 million, including due to long trekking distances and depleted pastures. In pastoral areas, people are having to trek longer distances in search of water for themselves and water and forage for their livestock. As pastoralists travel further from their usual zones, several counties—including Baringo, Isiolo, Laikipia, Lamu, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana and Wajir—have been affected by resource-based conflicts. In some areas, over 90 per cent of open water sources have dried up and the remaining are expected to last between 1 – 2 months only.



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## Violent Conflicts and Drought in IGAD Region

- Resource competition
- Cattle rustling turned cattle raids
- Disarmament and proliferation of arms
- Food and nutrition security
- Livelihoods



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## Violent Conflicts and Drought in IGAD Region

**Drought is a catalyst for conflict in different areas of the IGAD region. There are increased armed conflict and violence because of drought:**

### **Conflict and Climate Change:**

- There is a symbiotic relationship between conflict and climate change, each exacerbating the other. Conflict exacerbates the impacts of climate change in the manner that restricts mobility, which is one of the main coping strategies for managing climate variability in the drylands.
- Restrictions that conflict places on pastoralist mobility force concentration of livestock in specific locations resulting in over-use and degradation, which exacerbate the impacts of climate change, manifested in increased droughts and floods.



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## Violent Conflicts and Drought in IGAD Region

**Climate Change resulting in drought is a catalyst for conflict in different areas of the IGAD region. There are increased armed conflict and violence because of drought:**

### **Resource competition:**

- The competition for access to pasture and water that has been endemic in pastoral and agro-pastoral societies are heightened during droughts. Especially, when different communities move long distances to locations of strategic dry season searching for grazing land and water sources, within or across national borders. With the prolonged drought, there are widespread intergroup, intra/inter-communal, intra-state, inter-state, cross-border; fighting, war, etc.
- The search for pasture and water during the dry season also pits pastoralists against wildlife conservation authorities in Ethiopia and Uganda. The Karimojong and Toposa come into conflict with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) for encroaching into Kidepo National Park and other reserves, while in South Omo, Mago National Park is a major site of conflict between pastoralists and the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA).

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# Violent Conflicts and Drought in IGAD Region

## **Cattle rustling turned cattle raids :**

- The traditionally known practice of cattle rustling has morphed into cattle raids, impeded by the loss of crops and livestock due to drought thus degenerating into more conflict. The strain is felt on pressurised needs to earn livelihood, survival and to be able to feed the family. Moreover, the youth (herders) conceived sometimes as raiders have to move long distances in need of pasture. However, they also want to replace dead livestock and disease outbreaks to serve a redistributive function to enable restocking of livestock lost. These raids are characterized by violence resulting in substantial risks to life.
- The transformation of cattle rustling denotes the way in which the widespread availability of guns has impacted on the social organization of communities. The ready availability of guns has contributed to the commercialization of cattle raids across the region. Gangs of armed youth conduct raids to service a flourishing cross-border market in livestock that is linked to international markets in the Middle East.



# Violent Conflicts and Drought in IGAD Region

## Livelihoods

- Ongoing conflict in IGAD clusters is undermining the security of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist livelihoods by constraining communities from making productive use of the rangelands and farmlands.. It should also be noted most IGAD region are arid, and therefore, aridity and climate variability define livelihood opportunities, challenges in the context of drought These have been engaging individuals, groups/communities, some state machineries, institutions, etc. Levels of hostility, aggression, harassment, and devaluation by members of communities or individuals or groups coupled with serious victimization is ranging high in, especially Karamoja cluster – the Karamoja region of Uganda to be specific.





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# Violent Conflicts and Drought in IGAD Region

## **Disarmament in Karamoja region of Uganda:**

- In Karamoja where disarmament is taking place, the Ugandan government is hunting down individuals who have illegal possessions of arms and curtailing behavior of raids and revenge against communities, government officials and army. There are widespread targeted killings, destruction of property, continued animal thefts, small arms sales and trafficking, abductions, looting, felony, misdemeanors etc.
- The disarmament is causing both physical and mental stress of which the locals perceive it as cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment aimed at collective punishments. Elders have expressed that it is intentionally designed to inflict pain on the community. Communities are even asking for compensations from government officials and castigating that, they will never return guns if not compensated with 50 M UGX each adults?
- The Turkana from Kenya were told to leave Uganda and they returned to drought ridden low encampment areas to face the wrath and destiny of their lives and livestock.



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# Violent Conflicts and Drought in IGAD Region

## **Food and nutrition security**

- Food insecurity is by far the most far-reaching impact of conflict in the region. It is not only the ongoing conflict that caused food insecurity but also displacement and drought. Conflict has been limiting opportunities for production, such as herding of livestock and cultivation. In a context where timing is critical for taking advantage of the limited opportunities for productive use of land according to the variations in weather, conflict limits timely access to areas of production.
- Pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods under pressure, due to, among others,
  - Population growth, urbanization and spread of incompatible land-uses that restrict mobility and drive rangelands degradation;
  - The impacts of climate change exacerbate the situation Factors have implications for rangelands productivity and food security, drive conflict and migration and displacement



## Conclusions

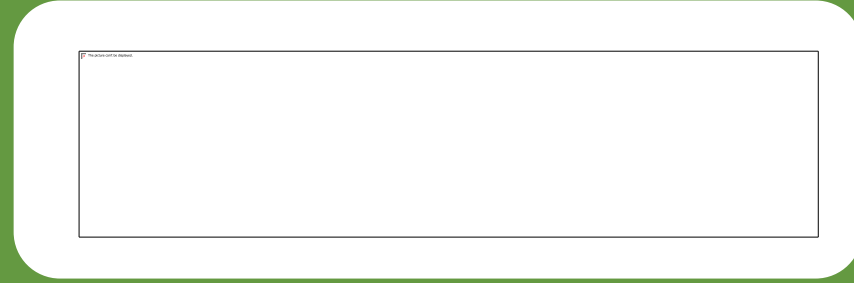
- The general context of conflict in the IGAD region is defined largely by the challenges of practicing pastoralism and agro-pastoralism in an arid and semi-arid landscape that extends across national borders so much affected by drought;
- There are correlations between conflict and food security, climate change (drought), displacement and migration. Conflict shapes the opportunities and challenges of food security, climate change, displacement and migration. At the same time, food security, climate change, displacement and migration drive conflict.
- Communities living in the IGAD region have over time identified resilience factors such as diversification of livelihoods, negotiating peace agreements, and migration, that enable them to survive and get on with their lives in the midst of the conflict situation. Such resilience factors constitute important entry points for programming to address conflict in the region.
- National policy and institutional contexts prevailing in the IGAD region play a critical role in shaping both opportunities and challenges to cross-border conflict management and peacebuilding. The need for effective regional coordination of policies, actors and interventions cannot be overstated.



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## Recommendations

- **Strengthen coordination of policies, programmes, and actors** on cross-border conflict management and peace building for more efficient prioritization and scaling of interventions. In this connection;
- **Support and facilitate traditional cross-border resource sharing and peace building initiatives** in the IGAD region;
- **Support updated mapping of cross-border conflict hotspots, lines of conflict and alliances** to provide a basis for programming of interventions for conflict management and peace building.
- **Support effective implementation of IGAD Protocol on Transhumance** as a means of regulating cross-border pastoralist mobility to avoid conflict.



**THANK YOU VERY MUCH**

**END**