

Food Security –Horn of Africa

Better equipped for droughts

The Horn of Africa is regularly blighted by extreme drought periods. People living a pastoral life suffer most from this. In general, their life-style is well adapted to the extreme climatic conditions, but it is coming under increasing pressure due to climatic changes. The states of the Horn of Africa have therefore decided to strengthen the resistance of particularly pastoral groups of the population to extreme weather and climate events. KfW Development Bank is supporting this.

Context

Drought catastrophes are threatening the lives of up to 14 million people in arid regions in the Horn of Africa. The last great drought in 2011 destroyed the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of families. Thousands died, especially in Southern Somalia and Northern Kenya. Tens of thousands of people had to flee from the famine-hit areas. The partially cross-border influx of refugees contributed to destabilising the already precarious political situation in the region even further.

The majority of the families concerned live a pastoral life. This economic form is generally very well adapted to the conditions of nature, since mobility enables them to use grazing grounds and water resources flexibly. Due to political conflicts, unclarified land rights, climate change and other current events, the resilience of poor and socially disadvantaged groups of the population against extended droughts (drought resilience) is increasingly under pressure.

In response to this, the states of the Horn of Africa decided to adopt “The Nairobi Strategy: Enhanced Partnership to Eradicate Drought Emergencies” in Septem-

ber 2011. The regional organisation *Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)* was appointed to coordinate the regional initiatives to strengthen drought resilience at political level. In response to the drought catastrophe in 2011, the German federal government pledged substantial financial support to the IGAD for a “regional fund to strengthen drought resilience in the Horn of Africa”.

Project approach

Having an integrated and mostly cross-border approach, the project strengthens the resistance of the rural, mainly nomadic, pastoral population in the arid and semi-arid areas in the Horn of Africa. For the time

Project name	Regional fund to strengthen drought resilience in the Horn of Africa
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/Region	Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Uganda, Somaliland
Lead executing agency	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)





Irrigation plays a significant role when it comes to securing the food supply for the population. Source: KfW photo archive / photothek.net.

being, the project is concentrating on two cross-border regions: the Dikhil Cluster in the border region between Djibouti, Somaliland and Ethiopia, as well as the Karamoya Cluster in the border region between Kenya and Uganda.

With a budget currently totalling EUR 50 million, the regional fund supports infrastructure measures in the fields of drinking water supply for people and livestock, irrigation, road construction and market access as well as education and health. The specific measures will be selected under the leadership of the local population. The specific content following transparent, clearly defined and mutually agreed criteria is designed by the national partners. While the implementation of the individual measures falls under the responsibility of the national executing agencies, IGAD assumes the political and strategic coordination of the project with other donors and programmes at regional level.

The needs of the people living in regions affected by the programme are at the forefront of planning and implementing the individual measures, taking them into account during the planning, construction, control and operation of infrastructure.

The project makes it possible for the people concerned to receive additional income whilst improving their socio-economic living conditions. It also guarantees that the specific measures improve resistance to climate and weather risks in the best possible way, and that the human and civil rights of those involved are observed. To take the risk of resource conflicts and the fragile statehood, at least locally, into account, special attention is paid to the conflict sensitivity of the programme design and its implementation.

Impact

The project contributes to preserving pastoral life as the livelihood of the rural population. The additional sources of income created in adequate fields and the resultant diversification of incomes diminish the risk of income loss due to drought periods.

Furthermore, the project opens up ways for communities marginalised so far to participate in political issues.



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