HORN OF AFRICA TWO YEARS ON REPORT

RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE IN EAST AFRICA

Save the Children

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organisation for children. We work in around 120 countries. We save children's lives; we fight for their rights; we help them fulfil their potential.

Our vision is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

Our mission is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives by improving health, education and economic opportunities. In times of acute crisis, we mobilize rapid assistance to help children recover from the effects of war, conflict and natural disasters.

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Cover photo: Noorah sits with 7 month old Abdi at the Save the Children in Somaliland SCORE Project inauguration.

FOREWORD

In July 2011, two years ago, Save the Children launched our largest ever multi-country humanitarian response across three countries in the Horn of Africa. Across the Horn of Africa children and their families faced devastating drought conditions, the worst in recent decades that was most felt in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. Thousands of women, men, boys and girls were pushed to the brink of starvation and tens of thousands died[1]. Despite early warnings, the humanitarian system as a whole did not react fast enough and the result was catastrophic[2]. The Horn of Africa drought remains one of the world's largest and most severe humanitarian emergencies.

In the two years following, Save the Children reached a total of 4.5 million people and raised US$220m. We delivered immediate, life-saving assistance and helped to rebuild and strengthen livelihoods and basic services across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. We also invested in research, pilot programmes and advocacy to strengthen our understanding and call for longer-term commitment to build resilience and make sure that the continuing risk of drought never becomes a catastrophe again. The humanitarian response team worked tirelessly in very challenging circumstances and colleagues across the organisation sustained these efforts with fundraising, campaigns, media and advocacy to mobilise resources and support from governments, donors and UN agencies.

We extend our gratitude to all staff, country offices, donors and stakeholders that supported the Horn of Africa response and our teams across the Country and Regional Offices in responding to this crisis. With your support we were able to respond to the immediate needs across the region and strengthen our work in building longer-term resilience in East Africa.

NEXT STEPS

Our vision is to support children to reach their full potential through quality, evidence-based programmes that both reduce their vulnerability to risks and expand their opportunities in the context of a rapidly changing environment. To achieve this, Save the Children is moving away from 'start-stop' emergency response towards a contextualised and risk-proofed approach to sustainable development in East Africa. This vision of change for the region is informed by the work undertaken, research and learning, from the past two years of the Horn of Africa regional response.

On behalf of Save the Children, East Africa Regional Office

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October 2013

1 World Health Organisation (2011), 'Drought and Food Crisis in the Horn of Africa'
2 Oxfam International Secretariat, Save the Children International (2013),'A Dangerous Delay: The cost of late response to early warnings in the 2011 drought in the Horn of Africa'

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Muxajdin and family

Muxajdin lives in the Daami, Internally Displaced Person (IDP) Camp in Hargeisa, Somaliland. Twenty years ago, he came to the camp as a returnee from Ethiopia. He has four children aged between 1 and 12 years old. Until recently he had no job. Every day he and his wife would leave the children alone and search for work. Often they would come back with nothing, all would go hungry. Now he has a thriving business, thanks to Save the Children's Strengthening community based responses for improving vulnerable children in Somaliland (SCORE) project. Muxajdin was given a cash grant with which to start up his own business. Now his barbershop is making money and his family's lives have changed for the better.

"The money we received from Save the Children has improved my family's life a lot. We want to move from the IDP Camp to somewhere that is closer to my barbershop. Now the children are never hungry and my wife is able to stay at home and make sure that they are looked after. Before I couldn't afford to buy them uniforms or materials. Thanks to my new business I can send them to school and I am very proud."

TOTAL REACH

Save the Children was already on the ground when the first warning signs were seen. We rapidly scaled up our life-saving programs, delivering health, nutrition, water, crucial life-saving support, protection and education to children and their families, and with your help we've reached over 4.5 million people (2.9 million in Ethiopia alone, over 650,000 in Kenya and over 950,000 in Somalia), surpassing our target to help 2.5 million people across the three countries with food, water, healthcare, and nutritional support, as well as education and child protection.

Across East Africa in 2013 there is slow recovery from the unprecedented scale of the 2011/12 drought and associated loss of life, extreme hunger, malnutrition, impact on health, and loss of livelihoods. This recovery remains fragile. In Somalia, due to ongoing conflict and an unstable political environment, more than 1 million people remain in a state of crisis and extreme vulnerability. Building resilience is a priority for Save the Children and implies a substantial shift in both ways of working and in strategic priorities, from crisis to risk management. Over the last two years Save the Children has continually improved the humanitarian system to better prepare for, mitigate against the impact of, and respond to crisis.

	Ethiopia	Kenya	Somalia	Total
Total Population	82,900,000	41,000,000	9,330,000	33,230,000
Population affected*	3,700,000	4,800,000	3,700,000	12,200,000
Save the Children's Target Population	1,636,356	304,500	487,229	2,428,085
TOTAL BENEFICIARY REACH**				
Children	1,288,698	405,025	568,373	2,262,096
Adults	1,634,051	248,204	389,005	2,271,260
Cumulative reach (April 2011 to 30th June 2013)***	2,922,749	653,229	957,378	4,533,356

*Source OCHA July 2011 (at the height of the response)
**Our beneficiaries frequently receive different types of aid simultaneously. The totals are adjusted for this to reflect an accurate number of beneficiaries overall
*** Cumulative reach for Kenya is for the period April 2011 to 31st March 2013

FUNDING

Save the Children's East Africa Appeal target was almost **US$190m**. Against this, we secured over **US$220m**, with over **US$64m** for the response in Kenya, over **US$72m** for the response in Ethiopia and over **US$84m** for the response in Somalia.

OUR STORY - SOMALIA COUNTRY OFFICE

Famine conditions no longer exist in Somalia but any recovery is extremely fragile and as of September 2013, there were 870,000 people in need of humanitarian support, with a further 2.3 million, one third of Somalia's population, classified as 'stressed'. Consequently, the need to maintain a significant humanitarian effort is essential.

Poor harvest, rising prices, a continued critical nutrition situation in some areas, recurrent flooding and ongoing conflict continue to threaten the gains made so far. Additionally, decreased funding, insecurity and decreasing humanitarian space remain constant challenges in our efforts to reach the most vulnerable populations. 1.1 million people remain displaced across Somalia and a further 997, 463 are living in refugee camps in Kenya, Yemen, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Tanzania and Uganda.

The Somalia Country Office in 2013 continued to work towards transitioning from the massive humanitarian response that was ongoing through 2012 to a more stable situation. Although the objective of the programme was to maintain a high level of humanitarian work in 2013, the reality was that the levels of funding available from donors were not the same as in 2011/2012. Many families were made destitute through the crisis and entirely dependent on external assistance. Our commitment to provide support and build resilience is unwavering and with support from our donors we believe this will build resilient communities. We have achieved much and our hope is that we can continue to support children affected by the crisis and their families to recover from the impact of the emergency.

PROGRAMMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS:

•Over the 2 years, the food security and livelihoods (FSL) programme in Somalia directly reached a total of 519,302 beneficiaries with different types of humanitarian support. This support includes food vouchers, unconditional cash transfers and livelihood support and training.

•Save the Children International partnered with Africa Development Solutions (ADESO), Action Contre la Faim (ACF), and Danish Refugee Council (DRC) to pilot the first large scale, cash-based response in Somalia and it was to become the first and largest unconditional cash transfer programme run by non-governmental agencies at a global level. The programme collected significant evidence on the impact, relevance and appropriateness of cash based interventions. Of the total number reached through Save the Children's response over the two years, about 50% benefited from cash-based interventions comprising of unconditional cash, cash for work and food vouchers. From the beginning of 2013 the programme has adopted an approach of moving away from unconditional cash transfers towards cash for work/food voucher approaches. During the 2011/12 humanitarian crisis, we supported 11,000 households and during the first half of 2013, an additional 9,375 households have participated in their own recovery efforts through cash for work.

•During the response we also participated in the development of monitoring frameworks for large scale cash transfer programming. This was through the common monitoring approach undertaken through partnership with other INGOs, UN agencies, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), and local partners.

•In the last two years, our nutrition programme has treated 38,851 children under five suffering from severe acute malnutrition. An additional 54,308 children under five and 15,376 pregnant and lactating women were treated for moderate acute malnutrition. In both instances we surpassed SPHERE targets. Our nutrition intervention in conjunction with other partners has helped to reduce acute malnutrition levels in South and Central Somalia, which were at 40% in our areas of operation, to just above 20%.

•Another area of significant assistance provided over the period of crisis was in increasing access to safe water and to sanitation for vulnerable, and in particular, though not exclusively, to displaced communities. To date we have reached and continue to support over 300,000 people across Somalia. We have also constructed or rehabilitated over 1,000 latrines and constructed over 800 bath showers. These have been segregated for men and women. The water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme has played a major role in supporting the health and nutrition programmes by ensuring health centres and nutrition sites have access to water. It has also been key in ensuring that schools supported by our programme and their environs have access to clean water for drinking and sanitation.

•Our health response since the crisis started has reached (and continues to reach) some of the most vulnerable IDP (and host populations) living in severely overcrowded conditions with limited access to health services and at a high risk of contracting communicable diseases.

We also operated outreach programmes for isolated and drought affected communities with no access to health care to supplement existing health activities in Puntland. Overall we have directly reached a total of 249,111 people including 191,091 children and 58,020 women of child bearing age with our health services. We have treated close to 20,000 children suffering from acute watery diarrhea. Additionally we have immunized close to 30,000 children against measles and 10,747 pregnant women against tetanus toxoid. Our integrated health and hygiene messaging programme has reached over 614,000 people as part of the overall objective to promote good health practices.

•Education is critical for all children but is especially vital for those living through emergency situations. Quality education provides physical, psychosocial and cognitive protection, which is both life-sustaining and life-saving. Education during times of conflict or displacement provides a sense of normalcy, stability, structure and hope. Our education programme has supported over 13,000 children to access education in some of the worst affected areas of Central Somalia. We have trained 168 Community Education Committee members in school management to facilitate sustainability of our interventions long after Save the Children hands over these programmes to the community.

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Klaraabe Salan Primary School Somaliland - Supported by Save the Children's Accelerated Primary Education Support (APES) project.

CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES GIVE CHILDREN A VOICE FOR CHANGE

Fardus, member of the Child Protection Committee

In Fardus' community in the Toghdeer region of Somaliland, children have traditionally remained silent on issues impacting their lives. However, since Save the Children started working in her community, Fardus and other young people like her are making positive changes in their village.

The region Fardus, 16, calls home is very flat with dusty open plains and few trees. In the rainy season, the soft soil quickly becomes saturated and her village is often at risk from sudden floods.

Save the Children's Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation program, funded by AusAID, aims to increase the ability of communities, particularly children, to identify the risks in their environment and develop plans to address and overcome these risks.

As part of the program, Save the Children has set up Child Protection Committees to empower young people to make positive changes for their future. Fardus is part of the Committee in her community and is proud of what they have already achieved. "We had a three day workshop last September…where we talked about the risks and dangers in our community and drew maps of our village and identified where we thought there were hazards," she explains.

"The top risks we identified were drought, deforestation, flooding and fire. We discussed how to overcome these risks and agreed we needed to see a reduction in charcoal production, more water berkads [underground reservoirs] and building another dam."

Following the workshop, the committee raised their concerns with the community about the need to decrease deforestation, dispose of garbage and divert water to reduce flooding.

Fardus said the community reacted positively to the Committee's recommendations.

"Since then, some of our damaged berkads have been repaired and have more water in them, [and] water diversion measures taken mean water is no longer going away but to areas where plants are now growing," she says with a smile.

"I feel I have a good role by being on the Child Protection Committee and that my ideas are incorporated. I can't think of any of my ideas which have not been accepted by my community and I feel able to voice my opinion freely."

As well as establishing the Child Protection Committees, Save the Children's Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation program also assists communities in north-eastern Somalia with managing pastures for their animals, equipping them with kits to help sick animals and providing training on alternative livelihoods for pastoralists, such as bee keeping and sustainable farming.

OUR STORY - ETHIOPIA COUNTRY OFFICE

Save the Children exceeded targets in Ethiopia reaching 2,922,749 people (including 1,288,698 children) against the 1,636,356 that we had set out to help as part of our response to the humanitarian crisis. We implemented both refugee and non-refugee humanitarian responses in Amhara, Somali, Afar, Bensghangul, Gambella, Southern Nations & Nationalities People's Region (SNNPR), and Oromiya regional states. This included child protection, early childhood care and development (ECCD), education, food security & livelihoods (FSL), water, sanitation & hygiene (WASH), and health and nutrition activities in response to drought, as well as Disaster Risk Reduction projects in Amhara, and SNNPR (North Wollo), in partnership with local development organizations.

PROGRAMMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS:

•When the Ethiopian government and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) requested emergency assistance to Somali refugees in Dolo Ado, in July 2011, Save the Children was designated as the lead agency in child protection issues in all of the refugee camps. We were also asked to implement Child Protection and Early Childhood Care and Development and Emergency Education activities in Boramino camp by the Ethiopian Government's Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) on December 2011.

•As part of our Child Protection and Education response, Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) were established, securely fenced and equipped with hand washing basins, sex segregated latrines, water storage facilities and outdoor play areas. Permanent and semi-permanent classrooms were constructed to facilitate the education and child protection programs, and school materials were provided. In total 227,792 children and adults (195,926 of which were children) benefited from the program across Ethiopia.

•Save the Children implemented a range of life-saving interventions including large scale water trucking operations, distribution of water purification chemicals, rehabilitation/ maintenance of non-functional WASH schemes and hygiene promotion. The implementation of these interventions halted the displacement, mortality and morbidity risks associated with the lack of WASH services. As result of this, a total of 873,154 beneficiaries in the affected region benefited from safe and potable water services in 2011, 2012 and 2013, of which 443,989 (51%) were children.

•The emergency nutrition response focused on community management of acute malnutrition and stabilization centres, Outpatient Therapeutic Programs (OTP) and Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP) sites in all the affected regions. A total of 238,495 cases were treated in the nutrition program. Essential drugs and supplies to treat children with acute malnutrition were provided to the targeted health facilities.

•In July 2011 the refugee population increased to more than 190,000. The worsening situation compelled ARRA and the UNHCR to get support from the international community. Save the Children established a blanket wet feeding program in transit and reception sites and a supplementary feeding program in Boqolomayo camp. The goal of the response was to contribute to prevention of morbidity and mortality related to nutritional deterioration among refugee children 6- 59 months and pregnant and lactating women.

•Food security and livelihood (FSL) projects in Somali, Afar, Oromia, and Benshangul-Gumuz regions focused on protecting the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable households, supporting alternative incomes and economic opportunities, as well as strengthening early warning and other information systems for timely and appropriate responses. 1,775,597 beneficiaries, including 593,902 children, benefited from this program.

•The Pastoral Livelihoods Initiative (PLI) focused on strengthening livelihoods of pastoralists and ex-pastoralists through creating economic opportunities, improving animal health services, and strengthening early warning systems. The Preparedness Improves Livelihoods and Resilience (PILLAR) program focused on enhancing community capacities to reduce vulnerability, protecting assets and supporting recovery from drought induced risks.

CHILDREN CLUBS SHAPE COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS IN RISK REDUCTION

ADINA 9

Adina is in grade 7 and lives in Kobbo Woreda. She actively participates in the Children Disaster Risk Reduction clubs.

"Our families usually come to school to visit DRR school activities like the drip irrigation system and they have an interest to replicate this in their homesteads if they can get the materials at reasonable costs. We got training on Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) through a project supported by Save the Children. This helped us to understand the major disasters in our community, vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms to tackle the impacts of disasters. After the training we produced resources, hazards and risk maps for our area.

"When trees are cut down, droughts come about and eventually people are displaced. We are the future of this country, which is why we should prevent and minimize the burden. Young people can easily understand what they are being taught, and they actively spread the word to their families. Disaster risk reduction can be achieved through preserving forests and vegetation instead of cutting down trees and destroying vegetation. Through our DRR clubs, we always tell our community not to destroy trees. When I grow up I want to be an agronomist. To achieve this I know I have to work hard in school and get better grades. I mostly like to participate in school DRR activities like school gardening, tree plantation and looking after planted trees."

School drip irrigation activity in Mehago Primary School of Kobbo Woreda,

OUR STORY - KENYA COUNTRY OFFICE

We transitioned large-scale emergency response projects in nutrition, health, food security, child protection and education programmes in Wajir East, Wajir South, Mandera West, Mandera Central and in the Dadaab refugee camps to longer term development programmes that ensured basic services were delivered for children. With a target of 304,500, Save the Children Kenya helped 653,229 people (including 405,025 children) to the cope with the crisis and ultimately build a better future for themselves.

PROGRAMMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS:

In Kenya, we successfully piloted the use of a 'Finger on the Pulse approach' that employs the use of a multi risk monitoring calendar to monitor climatic changes, vulnerabilities and identify seasonal opportunities to prevent drought and other risks from becoming crises. This multi risk approach shifts the focus from hazards to managing existing capacities and vulnerabilities. These measures lead to improved community and country office preparedness, early action interventions and contingency plans intended to contribute to resilience against identified shocks and stresses.

WASH

•10 tanks were procured and distributed to health facilities and outreach sites; guttering systems were constructed in Takaba and Elwak facilities.
•2 water trucking trips undertaken for 180 IDP households camping at Kanjara in Habaswein
•4,889 hygiene kits were distributed; kits included blankets, jerry cans, soap and purification tablets to use for purifying drinking water.

In addition to these hygiene kits, 270 purification tablets boxes were distributed amongst 1810 households in Wajir South and Habaswein.
•986 children including 654 boys and 332 girls, benefited from hygiene messages
•31,802 households (5 persons/household) accessed clean water through water trucking to schools, communities and outreach sites.

CHILD PROTECTION

•Save the Children in Kenya worked closely with Functional District Area Advisory Councils in Fafi and Lagdera districts to support and strengthen them in preventing, identifying and responding to child protection cases, specifically relating to cases of child abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.
•150 children accessed child friendly spaces in a host community of Dadaab. An additional 4,290 children were involved in recreation activities such as sports competitions and arts and crafts.

HEALTH

•11,559 long-lasting insecticide treated nets were procured, 1,132 of these distributed to households whom we haven't previously reached with our interventions.
•In total, 23 people were referred for specialised treatment during the reporting period; 3 children for cleft palate and lip corrective surgery and the rest for different medical conditions including malaria, pneumonia, and obstetric complications. The patients were referred to Garissa and Kenyatta National hospitals.

EDUCATION

•Support was provided for administrative costs incurred by partners implementing the education project in Wajir – Arid Lands Development Focus (ALDEF) and Wajir South Development Agency (WASDA).

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

•Emergency preparedness planning workshops were held and Emergency Preparedness Plans produced in Mandera, Wajir East, Daadab and Habaswein field offices.

•To enhance communication and information management, the capacity on GIS mapping was increased through training and the purchase of software.

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Children in Habaswein and Wajir, North-Eastern Kenya, play a leading role in their communities to minimise negative impacts of disasters

CHILDREN AT THE HEART OF COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

During droughts children are the most vulnerable and exposed to life-threatening diseases such as cholera and chronic diarrhea, as a result of worsened sanitation conditions. In Habaswein and Wajir South Districts of North-Eastern Kenya, a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) project through the support of the Japan Platform Fund, helped communities build resilience against the impacts of droughts.

DRR clubs were established in 13 schools (six secondary, seven primary) to enhance children's understanding of risk reduction and to improve their preparedness against natural disasters by learning about community-disaster histories, and developing community risk and resource maps. This project also helped children understand the importance of maintaining personal hygiene to prevent the spread of water borne diseases.

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Children in Habaswein, North Eastern Kenya learn coping mechanisms during a disaster

OUR STORY - EAST AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

The resilience debate at global, regional and national levels is partly driven by the widespread acknowledgement that the 2011 Horn of Africa crisis (and the 2012 Sahel crisis) exposed the weaknesses of current approaches to manage and respond to slow-onset crises. The debate is also fuelled by the growing recognition that the complex interaction between climate change and livelihoods will likely increase the magnitude and frequency of hazards. It is clear that climate change, urbanization and population dynamics will play a critical role in shaping future opportunities for children in East Africa.

One of the three strategic objectives of Save the Children's regional Horn of Africa drought response strategy aimed at reducing risk, focusing on underlying causes, building resilience and accelerating adaptation through research, advocacy and practical action to transform how our assistance is delivered. In order to achieve this, the team focused on building on Save the Children's existing tools, processes and strengths and adjusting and transforming them with an equal focus on how as well as what we program.

PROGRAMMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS:

THE CHANGING HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT CONTINUUM

Supporting children and their duty bearers in sustainable development pathways is core to our mandate. The programme conducted regional research on community aspirations with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Oxfam in Kenya, Somaliland and Ethiopia.

This stimulated regional discussions within the East Africa aid sector on changing livelihoods and risk profiles throughout the arid lands. As East Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change in the world, a shift from historical to forward-looking risk analysis is crucial. To this end regional research on downscaling climate projections was conducted, to identify the future trends that could become key risk drivers whilst also giving guidance on the programmatic shifts necessary to adapt to these changes. Measuring adaptation to changes and resilience is still a challenging goal globally: through collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), M&E tools were tested in the Somaliland community based DRR & CCA regional pilot and the existing Pastoralist Livelihoods Initiative II project in Ethiopia

UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT: SPATIAL ANALYSIS, ASPIRATIONS AND PUTTING COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE DRIVING SEAT

For communities in East Africa experiencing recurrent risks, the underlying causes of vulnerabilities are often linked to socio-ecological and political systems outside of the community. The inter-linkages and inter-dependencies between people, markets and natural resources in the arid lands are changing and need to be understood. Participatory analysis of watersheds in Sanaag (Somaliland) and Wajir (Kenya) provided a key to improved programming and is becoming the basis of resilience work for Somalia's country office. Engagement with the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) in Kenya, and the Woredas in Ethiopia strengthened our commitment to support and build capacity of local authorities to risk proof their development processes.

SHIFTING OUR APPROACH: FROM CRISIS MANAGEMENT TO RISK MANAGEMENT FOR RESILIENCE

Slow onset hazards like drought are seasonal and slow onset risks (like disease outbreaks) are mostly cyclical. The strategy incorporated developing an innovative multi-risk monitoring tool "Finger on the Pulse" for internal and community based continuous monitoring and management of risks and piloted it in Wajir. A shift in programming also requires leadership and support. A final regional write-shop evaluating the regional pilots and research projects, and building on the experiences of the country technical advisors, developed the SCI East Africa Resilience Approach – approved and incorporated as part of the 2013 SCI Regional Strategy. A 10 step Capacity Building Package for supporting this approach whilst engaging with children has been developed, translated into the 3 national languages, and published. In addition the creation of a Risk Reduction and Adaptation Regional Working Group, with dedicated focal points, provides avenues for reaching the 8 country offices and responding to country needs, through a website, monthly teleconferences, face to face meetings, technical advice and capacity building.

REACHING OUT THROUGH COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

Save the Children has been key in drawing attention to the need for a different framework for recurrent drought-related food crises at regional level, through chairing the Regional Evidence Based Learning Group on Resilience; actively promoting a shift in systems through global publications (Dangerous Delay, UNISDR 2013 Global Assessment Report for DRR); and consistently advocating for "children as drivers of change" in international DRR and community based adaptation platforms. We have also shared lessons learned and short films from child-centred DRR pilot projects in Kenya (Kenya Climate Challenge Project), Somaliland and North Wollo in Ethiopia, in our commitment to ensuring children's voices are heard.

A visible impact of the regional programme has been the uptake of the tools developed and principles promoted in SCI countries throughout the region but also across the continent. In West Africa the "Finger on the Pulse" tool and 10 step Capacity Building Package for slow onset risks is being replicated and adapted; countries in the region are programming with a geographical or watershed scope; whilst understanding of aspirations, changing livelihoods, and engaging with change is being taken up regionally by donors, governments and partner organizations.

School gardening in North Wollo, Ethiopia. Children, with support from communities, have been implementing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) measures like tree planting, school gardening, awareness raising through DRR clubs, soil and water conservation activities within their schools.

RESILIENCE VOICES IN EAST AFRICA

"Our committee works on both school and environmental issues in Oodweyne. We organise clean-up campaigns in and around the school. We also conduct child awareness campaigns and advocate for children's rights, which include the right to education and healthcare, and the right not to be beaten in school. We do this by performing short dramas in the school and community."

"We like our committee because it allows us to support our school and community. We also learn about our rights, and that's important. We've learned how to influence decisions on things that affect our lives and survival. Parents and teachers are happy to see us involved in environmental and community issues."

Mohamed, 15, chair of the of the Harag-waafi Committee for School and Environment Development, set up by Save the Children as part of its Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRR/CCA) programme in Somaliland

"I feel much more confident that we will be able to minimise the impacts of drought in the future. You have given us new knowledge on proper water storage and fodder production, and taught us how to manage the risks that we face by making us understand how to get the signs of a forthcoming drought season and communicate this amongst our community."

Nimco, 15, feels Save the Children is supporting her community to be better prepared to cope with recurring drought.

"Disasters don't have to happen; we can all do something to reduce our risk!"

Mohammed, DRR club member at the El-Adow primary School, part of Save the Children's Children-led Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives in North Eastern Kenya

Nimco's papaya tree is a welcome patch of green in a sea of grey, cracked earth. After years of failed rainy seasons, Nimco, 15, feels proud she is nurturing new life in her community. She comes from a village in the Toghdeer region of Somaliland where many families have left in search of food and water for their animals. The aim of the one year AusAID funded Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation program was to ensure children are better protected from disasters and have a better understanding about current and future climate related risks; enhance community management of grazing land to protect it from further deterioration; and ensure communities have access to other livelihood opportunities. Nimco feels Save the Children is supporting her community to be better prepared to cope with recurring drought

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