



PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE

Amplifying grassroots voices on

# Resilience

Working together on disasters, climate, ecosystems

REDUCING  
DISASTER EFFECTS  
IN ISIOLO

EMPOWERING  
WRUAS TO SOLVE  
WATER CONFLICTS

BUILDING  
RESILIENCE  
THROUGH MUSIC



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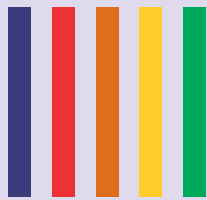
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# PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE

Working together on disasters, climate, ecosystems

**P**artners for resilience (PfR) is a consortium of four Netherlands –based humanitarian, development and environmental civil society organisation (CSOs) with the support of Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The consortium members are Cordaid, the Netherlands Red Cross (Kenya Red Cross), the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and Wetlands International.

The local Partners are Merti Integrated Development program (MID-P) in Isiolo and Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation (IMPACT) in Laikipia and Samburu counties. PfR through Cordaid has signed a partnership agreement with University of Nairobi (African Drylands Institute for Sustainability (ADIS), Kenya Law Reform Commission (KLRC) and Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF).

The alliance promotes the application of Integrated Risk Management (IRM) to strengthen and protect livelihoods of vulnerable communities. PfR focuses primarily on climate-related natural hazards, whose underlying causes and potential for disasters result to large extent from human-induced processes.

Partners for Resilience has been working together since 2011, applying the IRM approach in strengthening community resilience in Kenya. In the second phase of the programme (2016-2020), the alliance aims at strengthening IRM in policies, investments and practices at national and county level.

## *Three domains for dialogue on Integrated Risk Management*

**1. Policy domain:** Mainstream IRM/DRM (and related) in policies at national and county level. For instance DRM policies, climate change bill, livestock strategy and other policies.

**2. Investments domain:** Effective engagement with private sectors/investors on mainstreaming IRM in their policies and businesses. Additionally to promote public private partnerships for resilience strengthening; for instance in mega government projects like LAPSET. We also build capacity of CSO on how to access and utilize the global climate funds.

**3. Practice domain:** Promote IRM practices and approaches in development plans and programmes through linking and learning and also leverage dialogue agendas on other running DRR programmes. PfR also promote good practices documentation on IRM from PfR programme and relevant stakeholders programmes in the county as well as building linkages between national and county governments for evidence based policy influence at all the levels.

## **Our Vision**

Partners for Resilience foresee resilient families and communities by integrating ecosystems and climate change in disaster risk reduction. This integrated approach enables communities to withstand shocks from natural hazards and sustain development by securing or transforming their livelihoods.

## **Our Mission**

PfR contributes to the resilience of communities by integrating Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Ecosystem Management and Restoration (EMR) into Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Community approach will be strengthened if the institutional environment can be made more conducive to climate and ecosystem DRR, and they engage with civil society and government actors to apply a combined approach.

PfR has presence in Guatemala, Haiti, Mali, South Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, India, Indonesia and Philippines.





# Confronting poverty and exclusion in Fragile society

**C**atholic Organization for Relief and Development (Cordaid) is a global development organisation, headquartered in the Netherlands.

It has been in the forefront in confronting poverty, inequality and exclusion in the world's most fragile societies and conflict-affected areas and contexts since its inception 100 years ago. Cordaid focusses on facilitating security and justice, economic opportunity of the most deprived and excluded people on governance and services.

Inspired by its values of compassion and solidarity, Cordaid pursues its vision of a world rich with flourishing communities in order to bring about positive transformation within societies around the world to become more resilient, more inclusive and more sustainable.

Cordaid's mission is to build flourishing communities in fragile and conflict-affected areas. To join multi-stakeholders to bring about transformation in societies globally to become more just, more inclusive and more sustainable.

**Cordaid aims to contribute towards resilient communities in all programmes in the disaster cycle: emergency response, recovery, mitigation and prevention, preparedness, to include risk awareness and resilience strengthening into development programming. Cordaid therefore works in emergency response programmes, focusing on short term needs and priorities, and recovery programs which integrate mid and long-term needs and objectives.**

The basis of Cordaid's approach is Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR). We work together with communities to assess disaster risk and increase capacities of local people and their organisations to reduce those risks. It includes training in CMDRR approach which constitutes resource and risk mapping, risk reduction and contingency and capacity strengthening of community organisations to implement, monitor and evaluate their resilience building journey.



This is a multi-stakeholder process that brings on board government as a key player. Communities face specific (potential) hazards, have knowledge and adaptive strategies to increase their survivability and readiness, are situated in specific eco-systems and are part of a larger governance system that either increases or reduces their susceptibility. This approach is about bringing multiple actors and approaches together in a holistic manner to provide climate compatible development solutions. As a pioneer of this approach, Cordaid has a global pool of CMDRR expert facilitators.

Cordaid is also the lead coordinator of Partners for Resilience programme in Kenya (PfR). PfR programme is currently implemented in 10 countries worldwide and involves a strategic partnership with the Dutch Embassy in Kenya (<http://www.partnersforresilience.nl>) to work on resilience through integrated risk management approach (IRM- which is the integration of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and ecosystem management and restoration) through capacity building and fostering policy dialogues at national and county level.

**Zeituna Roba**  
**Country Coordinator**  
**PfR Programme**

# BUILDING Resilience on Vulnerable communities



Other areas of focus have been on Gender, HIV/Aid environment and conflict management.

The strong partnership we have cultivated with the Isiolo County Government has seen some legislations put in place which include Persons with Disability Policy, Disaster Risk Management Policy, Climate Change Bill, Natural Resource Management Bill among others.

MID-P is a member of a number of county level development groups/forums among them County Steering Group, County Peace Forum, County Climate Adaptation & Planning Committee and others concerned with decision making and development initiative at sub county level.

Another notable achievement is the appointment of MID-P as the coordinator of more than 30 CSOs working in Isiolo County to avoid duplication of activities and to build synergy among the various non-state actors.

On policy, we celebrate our input towards the adoption of the Disaster Management Policy by the Isiolo County Government, paving way to the enactment of an Act. We salute all those who have worked tirelessly to make this goal a reality led by Deputy Governor Dr Abdi Issa and the

Isiolo County Assembly Speaker Hon Hussein Roba.

MID-P in collaboration with Water Resources Authority, Isiolo sub regional office built the capacity for 10 Water Resource Users Association to bridge the organizational gaps identified- leadership, resource mobilisation and conflict resolution. The Crocodile Jaw is one of the Mega Projects Proposed in Isiolo County by the National Government under Vision 2030. Our stand is that it has been designed without involving pastoralist communities who live along Ewaso Nyiro River and the project will undoubtedly make pastoralists living in semi arid part of Kenya vulnerable to different hazards.

**Vision:** MID-P Envisions an Empowered, Just, Equitable and Resilient society in Northern Kenya.

**Mission:** MIDP exists to facilitate and coordinate development initiatives through policy influencing and resource mobilization that promote good governance.

**Core Values:** Impartiality, Integrity and Professionalism, Accountability and Transparency

**Abdullahi Shandey,**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MID-P**

Since we were registered as a NGO to operate in Isiolo County 15 years ago, we have made milestone in our areas of focus, building resilience among the mainly pastoralist community.

The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) was the first international NGO to enter into partnership with MID-P in 2005 to implement pastoralist education programme using mobile school model.

Cordaid later came on board to support drought emergency interventions the same year. The Cordaid partnership has since grown into long term multi-year funding with institutional strengthening components.

In the past, we have implemented programmes on water and sanitation, livelihood support and diversification, lobby and advocacy and institutional strengthening.





# Serving humanity in times of disasters

## WHO WE ARE?

The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) was established on 21 December 1965 through the Kenya Red Cross Society Act (CAP 256 Laws of Kenya). The National Society was officially recognized by the Government in the Kenya Red Cross Society Act (Chapter 256 Laws of Kenya) as a voluntary aid Society auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. As auxiliary to the national and county governments, the National Society works with communities, volunteers and partners to ensure preparedness for and response to humanitarian and development needs. The Society focuses its collective capabilities and resources to alleviate human suffering and save lives.

## WHERE WE'VE BEEN

KRCS has been instrumental in service to humanity while supporting undergoing different stress and shocks. In its role of being auxiliary to national and county governments in humanitarian assistance, KRCS has been involved in preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery to many disasters.

The most recent disasters KRCS has been involved in include the 2016-2018 drought, the 2018 floods across 25 counties in the country. KRCS also supported the government in response to Mpeketoni attack, Garissa attack, Westgate attack and Dusit2D attack where terrorists caused severe damage to property and loss of life. KRCS also intervened during flood response to the tragedy of Solai Dam in Nakuru. The Kenya Red Cross also runs camps within the Daadab and Kalobeyei refugee camps.

KRCS is a strategic partner to the Partners for Resilience phase 2 (2016-2020) project together

with Wetlands International and Cordaid. The second phase of PfR centres on support for effective dialogue with stakeholders at all levels. It aims to ensure that community resilience is scaled up in a sustainable way by strengthening systems i.e. policies, practice and investments all moulded around Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Eco-System Management and Restoration.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND WORK

As a partner in the PfR programme, KRCS has among other partners supported the National government in the development of the now adopted National Disaster Risk Management Policy and is still supporting the finalisation of the National Disaster Risk Management Bill. KRCS has also supported the PfR partners by hosting capacity building workshops on communications and public policy for the PfR team.

PfR project works in Kilifi, Tana River, Samburu, Laikipia and Isiolo counties

## CHALLENGES AND LESSON LEARNT

The biggest challenge faced by KRCS within the Partners for Resilience project is the occurrence of the 2016-2018 drought followed by floods in 2018 within some of the target counties. The continuous exposure to multiple risks for the target communities has made them very vulnerable and has directed efforts towards response as opposed to policy formulation. The key lesson learnt is to ensure sustainable livelihood support for the target communities in order to build their resilience and ensure sustainable development within the area.

**Sarah Nduku,**  
**Policy and Advocacy Officer,**  
**International Center for Humanitarian Affairs,**  
**Kenya Red Cross Society**

# Policy



In the month of April 2018, four people succumbed to cholera in Isiolo County while tens of others were admitted to the local hospital following an outbreak of the killer disease.

Among the deceased were a ten-year-old girl and a 60-year-old man.

This development came only days after more than 2,000 people were displaced by raging floods that affected residential areas within Isiolo Town and in the outskirts with Ngaremara Ward bearing the brunt.

It was not the first time this scenario was being experienced in this major urban centre, with experts pointing to the floods as a contributing factor to rising cases of waterborne diseases and other illnesses like malaria.

The torrential rains experienced in the highlands of the neighbouring Meru County with the flood waters

flowing downstream left a trail of death for both human and livestock and destruction of property with the entire loss amounting to millions of shillings.

At the height of this catastrophe, one of the residents affected by the displacement Ms Pricilla Ekiro, 70, echoed the concern of many who have continued to experience ugly scenarios every year but have opted to remain silent; having resigned to fate.

"The ravaging floods have swept away our belongings including sheep and goats and we are now helpless. Our appeal is to the government to seek a lasting solution to this recurring problem," said Ms Ekiro as she waded with her weak legs through the floods, searching for any valuables.

Human epidemics, flash and river floods, droughts, resource based conflict and cattle rustling, emerging disease such as kalaazar,

urban fires, drug and substance abuse are some of the hazards that continue to inflict residents of Isiolo County both in urban and in rural areas.

***National drought agency ranks drought and floods as the two leading hazards experienced in Isiolo County. The irony is that during the dry season, animals succumb to effects of drought and when the rains comes, they continue to die either through being swept away or outbreak of animal diseases such as the Rift Valley Fever.***

Mr Lordman Lekalkuli, the county coordinator for the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) says the areas worst hit by drought and floods include Ngaremara and Cherab wards. Most of these areas lie on an altitude of 200 metres above sea level.







# LIMITS ON INTERVENTIONS

Interventions by NDMA mainly focus on drought while other hazards like floods, fire, human epidemics are left to government departments and other non state actors.

While disaster management is a function of the national and county governments, there lacks a policy guidelines on how each of the 47 devolved units can handle some of the hazards which are either man made or natural.

It is out of this functional gap that four years ago, various stakeholders came together through support of Non Governmental organisations-Cordaid and MID-P initiated a process that would see legislative and constitutional framework put in place to reduce and manage disasters. Issues of disasters would be incorporated in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).

The end result will see a roadmap spelt out on disaster management, define and establish an all inclusive structure and make allocation of funds during the county budget and constituted with a task of mitigating on the various hazards.

"The two arms at the current Isiolo County government-the executive and the legislative have shown political good will and I am certain it is a matter

of months before we have an all inclusive body to address disaster related issues," said Mr Lekalkuli while hailing the new development.

***Facts and figures on disasters in Kenya according to the United Nations International Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).***

- ***1.43 million people affected owing to disasters every year in the last 15 years.***
- ***12.1 billion US dollars lost due to the 2008-2011 drought.***
- ***3 percent of GDP lost due to droughts and floods alone in 2011.***
- ***A total of 2,760 dwellings were destroyed by floods in Isiolo County in 2018, affecting a population of 12,500 (source: Isiolo County emergency steering group).***
- ***Isiolo Water and Sewerage Company (IWASCO) spent Ksh2.4million to repair infrastructure destroyed by the 2018 floods according to data released by Isiolo County emergency steering group.***
- ***A total of 103,000 people in Isiolo County were hard hit by drought in 2017 but the figure decreased to 43,000 in 2018 (figures from NDMA)***



**Mr Lordman Lekalkuli**  
NDMA coordinator Isiolo

# Sendai FRAMEWORK

The Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction (2015-2030) was adopted on March 18, 2015 by representatives from 187 UN Member States gathered at the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), in Sendai, Japan.

- *It builds on 10 years of work with the Hyogo Framework for Action and nearly three years of consultations. Shift from disaster management to disaster risk management and focuses on people-centred preventive approach to Disaster Risk Reduction.*

## The road map to disaster risk management policy

**R**ecurrent disasters which come with fatal consequences has been a thorn in the flesh for Isiolo County leaders as well as affected residents for long.

The promulgation of the 2010 Constitution opened a window on how the devolved units would address various hazards in that most of the key functions under the national government were devolved.

The devolved governance system provides opportunity for counties to develop plans and strategies to overcome unique challenges which undermine human development, including challenges related to climate and disaster risk.

Isiolo County is prone to both natural and manmade hazards

which cause disasters. In the year 2015, The Partners for Resilience (PfR) through Cordaid agreed with the County Government of Isiolo on a technical support in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) with the objective being to develop a Disaster Risk Management policy.

The process was largely an all-inclusive and participatory with consultative meeting happening in the community, county government, civil society organisations and other stakeholders. Public participation was a key aspect in the process since the Constitution empowers the citizens to be involved and have a voice on how they are governed.

Political will paved the way for establishment of DRM to guide necessary interventions during

the three phases of disasters.

**Before hazard:** Proactively integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures as part of normal development process to prevent hazard occurrence or disasters as appropriate, ensure adequate preparedness at individual, community and different administrative levels.

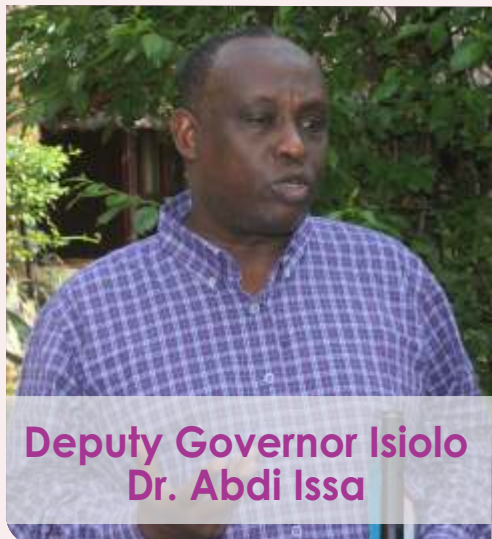
**During hazard:** Early response based on early warnings systems to mitigate hazard impact and avoid emergency situations. Relief response shall be delivered in coordinated and targeted manner with primary aim of saving lives, minimizing basis service disruption, protecting livelihood and enhancing community coping and adaptive capacities.

**After hazards:** Reconstruction and recovery using 'building back better' approach to enhance capacity to predict, prepare for and withstand future events and thus contribute to reduction of future risk and vulnerabilities

To meet this objective, Cordaid through their implementing partner MID-P have taken a lead role towards establishment of DRM policy. It has been four years of an all inclusive process which has seen several workshops take place to sensitize key players to meet this goal. It began in 2014 and the process is on its final stages.



# Key Players on disaster risk Management Policy



**Deputy Governor Isiolo  
Dr. Abdi Issa**

**O**n October 16, 2018, Isiolo Deputy Governor Abdi Issa announced the approval by the cabinet of the long awaited Disaster Risk Management Policy.

The announcement came as a big relief to the various stakeholders who four years earlier had come together to begin a process whose end result would see establishment of structures to minimize recurring hazards that lead to loss of life and property.

The policy spearheaded by steering group members mainly non-governmental organisations led by Cordaid, MID-P, Caritas-Isiolo, Action-Aid and Kenya Livestock Marketing Council (KLMC) had teamed up with the county government under the coordination of the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA).

"Now that the policy has been adopted by the cabinet, there is need to disseminate it to the public through civic education, public barazas, churches and mosques congregations to ensure residents are aware of the strategy" said Dr Issa while speaking at a stakeholders meeting at Pastoral Centre in Isiolo Town.

The approved policy will guide in coming up with a legislation by the County Assembly towards establishing structures with funding by the county government to address disaster related issues.

Once the County Assembly passes the DRM Bill and it becomes an Act, Isiolo County would be a pioneer county to have a policy in place to mitigate disasters.

The Deputy Governor who takes credit for his role in levelling the hitherto bumpy road towards attaining a DRM Act where a common approach involving CSOs, humanitarian organisations, private sector players, National and County

*Now that the policy has been adopted by the cabinet, there is need to disseminate it to the public through civic education, public barazas, churches and mosques congregations to ensure residents are of the strategy.*

**Dr Issa**

humanitarian organisations, private sector players, National and County Governments among other stakeholders would be employed.

"Every year, we are hit by various hazards that lead to loss of lives and destruction of property. In the last one year, my office has been supportive to Non Governmental Organisations and particularly MID-P in spearheading disaster mitigation and building resilience among the community," said Dr Issa in his office.

His office has been instrumental in bringing together Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) to sensitize them on why the Disaster Management Bill should sail through the County Assembly.

Another area that the Deputy Governor has successfully streamlined is on the working relations between various non state actors, County and National Government agencies.

# Key Players o Managem

being established and taking up the role of disaster management since emergency mobilization comes with hefty allowances.

The MP took to the media to push her agenda and soon she received support from a cross section of her colleagues at the National Assembly. Her efforts have borne fruits now that a national policy on disasters is in place and the Senate has passed a bill on disaster.

"What remains now is for the Ministry of Interior to sponsor a Bill in the National Assembly and have it presented by the leader of majority. I am optimistic that we shall have an Act to that effect before end of 2019," she says.

Now a member of Governor Mohamed Kuti's cabinet, Ms Galgalo has played a major role in pushing for a policy that would see various hazards affecting the county addressed in a structured manner.

"I have been engaging my colleagues at the cabinet as well as MCAs on the need to have a legislation to address disasters. Now that the cabinet has approved the policy, it's a matter of time before a bill is tabled before the Assembly," says Ms Galgalo.

She adds that even before a bill is tabled before the assembly, she is encouraging anyone with divergent views on the policy to raise the matter.

**We have done public participation in the wards and brought various professionals during the drafting of the policy. But anyone who is not yet satisfied with the outcome is free to come over and offer his or her inputs since our intention is to have a 100 percent acceptance on the Act once it comes into place'**

## CEC Tiya Galgalo

The former legislator envisages a future where management of disasters would be coordinated right from the village level with the structure taking the bottom up approach. She says for instance funds would be set up to establish fire stations at every urban centre and rescue workers such as those working for Red Cross would be stationed in the villages.



**Hon Tiya Galgalo,  
CEC Tourism and Trade**

**F**ormer Isiolo County MP Tiya Galgalo has earned a title as a champion on disaster reduction both at national and county level.

Having been born, grown and worked in Isiolo County for the better part of her life, she has witnessed disasters first hand since childhood.

"I have seen many times military aircraft drop food in flooded areas of Merti Sub-County. My question has always been-must we sit back wait and watch these hazards ruin our lives year in year out without doing anything?" poses the former Principal of Isiolo Girls High School.

These are the concerns that saw the legislator start pushing for a national policy on disaster management only eight months after being elected as Isiolo Woman Rep in 2013.

"I did a research and established that a draft policy on disaster reduction and management was done two decades ago and had been gathering dusts at a government office. I took it upon myself to put this agenda a priority but there were opposition from some interested parties," she recalls.

Ms Galgalo points out that some leaders and top officials at the then National Security ministry were uncomfortable with an authority



# n disaster risk ent Policy



**Hon Hussein Roba, Speaker  
of County Assembly**

Isiolo County Assembly Speaker Hussein Roba has pledged to prioritize the Disaster Risk Management Bill once the House resumes in mid February 2019.

"Once we resume in the New Year, we shall put this matter top on the agenda of the Assembly," said the Speaker who chairs the House Business Committee. Mr Roba together with MCAs have been engaged throughout the process of coming up with the policy and in crafting of the bill.

"We have held joint workshops bringing together county assembly members and the executives plus the legal experts. Matters disasters are concern of every leader since we have all been affected," he said.

Mr Roba predicts that once the bill is finally tabled in the Assembly, it will receive unanimous support.

"Local residents have suffered for long owing to a number of hazards such as conflict over resources, drought, floods, outbreak of diseases, urban fires among others. As leaders, it is our role to come up with mitigation measures and that is why we have joined hands to work as a team to achieve a goal," he said during an interview in his office.



**Hon Jillo Mumina-MCA**

Nominate d MCA Jillo Mumina is upbeat about the prospect of a bill to manage disasters being tabled before the Assembly.

*Its something  
that we have been  
waiting for long.  
The sooner it is  
brought to the floor of  
the House he better  
for us and for  
every ones else'*

**MCA Mumina**

The MCA notes that she and her colleagues understand well the importance of the policy having attended several sensitization workshops organized by various stakeholders under the support of Cordaid and MID-P.

"As people's representatives, we have played our role by passing motions to address some of the hazards common in this place. For instance a motion was passed urging the executive to purchase a fire engine and put up a fire station but no action has been taken yet," noted the MCA.

Ms Mumina avers that once the bill is passed, it will effectively address some of the recurring hazards such as floods, urban fires and conflicts between pastoral communities over resources.

# INVESTMENT

**W**etlands International is dedicated to safeguarding and restoring wetlands for people and nature. We are driven by the knowledge that safeguarding and restoring wetlands is urgent and vital for water security, biodiversity, climate regulation, sustainable development and human health. In our disaster risk reduction work, we work from the principles that environmental degradation can lead to disasters and aggravation of hazards, and that the sustenance and restoration of healthy ecosystems are key to reducing disaster risk and improving community resilience.

Wetlands International Kenya in Strategic Partnership (SP) with Cordaid, Kenya Red Cross and Red Cross Climate Centre is implementing a five year (2016-2020) Partners for Resilience (PfR) Programme to build and strengthen community resilience in Kenya by integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), and Ecosystem Management and Restoration (EMR) – referred to as Integrated Risk Management (IRM).

The strategic partnership aims at strengthening civil society organisations to lobby, advocate and promote the application of Integrated Risk Management (IRM) to enhance and protect livelihoods of vulnerable communities in Kenya through the so-called 'IRM Dialogue trajectories' in three 'Domains of Change' - Policy, Investments, and Practice

The geographical area of implementation is Ewaso Ng'iro River Basin covering Isiolo, Laikipia and Samburu Counties and also at national level. The local Partners are MID-P) and Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation (IMPACT). This is done through community capacity building in partnership with

Water Resources Users Associations (WRUAs) and lobbying for adoption of IRM relevant policies and risk sensitive investments.

PfR II focuses primarily on climate-related natural hazards, whose underlying causes and potential for disasters result to a large extent from human-induced processes.

So far PfR has supported more than 20 WRUAs through capacity building interventions with great positive impact. WRUAs are community-based associations of water resource users at the sub-basin level established under the Water Act, 2016. WRUAs that benefitted from Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) carried out in October and November 2016 include Merti, Dhukes, Kuro Bisan Owo, Gafarsa, Gotu, Sericho, Oldonyiro, Kipsing, Yamicha kom and Galan gofo WRUAs.



**Titus Wamae, HSC**  
**Policy & Advocacy Officer**  
**Wetlands International**





# Tenable solution for conflicts along major rivers

**S**ometimes in May 2011, top Water Resources Management Authority (WRMA) officials led by then board chairman Francis Nyenze and CEO Philip Olum were forced to flee after they were attacked by irate farmers at Maili Saba in Meru County.

The meeting which had been called at the Chief's Camp located 11Km from Isiolo Town turned chaotic when WRMA officials read a resolution requiring farmers to forthwith stop extracting water from River Isiolo for purposes of irrigation..

But the farmers were not ready to abide by this directive having invested heavily on various

agribusiness projects. To show their defiance, they pelted WRMA officials with stones prompting police officers to fire in the air. The meeting ended prematurely as government officials scampered to the safety of their vehicles and sped off.

The meeting which had come up with the resolutions was a culmination of three days inspection tour to establish why water levels at River Isiolo had reduced to alarming levels with Isiolo town going without the precious commodities for days. Pastoralists living downstream could only stare at dry riverbeds, a situation blamed on farmers living upstream who were abstracting water illegally.

>>>>>>>>>> continues



This ugly incident led to a change of tact by the water resource management agency. It was becoming obvious that use of force would not adequately address occasional conflicts over water witnessed during drought. A week earlier, 23 Administration Police officers from Isiolo were forced to flee after angry farmers threatened to set their vehicle ablaze using petrol.

A new approach was adopted where water users would be mandated to regulate water resources through coming together as community associations.

Isiolo Water Resource Users Association would be accorded the necessary support to ensure that residents utilizing the river stretching 97Km from Kibirichia in Meru County to Buffalo Springs in Samburu County are not denied the precious

commodity through unregulated abstraction of water.

Formation of this WRUA and others has greatly reduced water related conflicts in this Ewaso Nyiro catchment area.

"We had lived with conflicts pitting users living downstream against those in the upstream from year 2000. But our WRUA has effectively resolved that problem in the past seven years after we adopted a water rationing procedure," explains Mr David Mwitwi, the secretary of Isiolo River WRUA.

He adds that there are five zones with a total of 53 projects. Each of them is allocated days to extract water including the two major water projects-Isiolo Water and Sanitation Company (IWASCO) and Motonyi Water Project with about 1,000 members.





# Establishment and operations of WRUAs

**W**ater River Users Association (WRUA) is formed around a lake water resource, a defined ground water aquifer, a spring or a river. Membership is based on voluntary agreement between members.

Mr Robinson Kimari, the officer in charge of Water Resources Authority (WRA) Middle Ewaso Nyiro Catchment area says the decision by the national government to come up with a policy to establish WRUAs countrywide was informed by realization that water resources are extremely difficult to control as they are viewed as natural resources.

He adds that to have a legal mandate, WRUAs have to be registered at the Attorney General's office under the society's Act. The process involves a properly formulated constitution and minutes of meeting detailing the election of the office bearers.

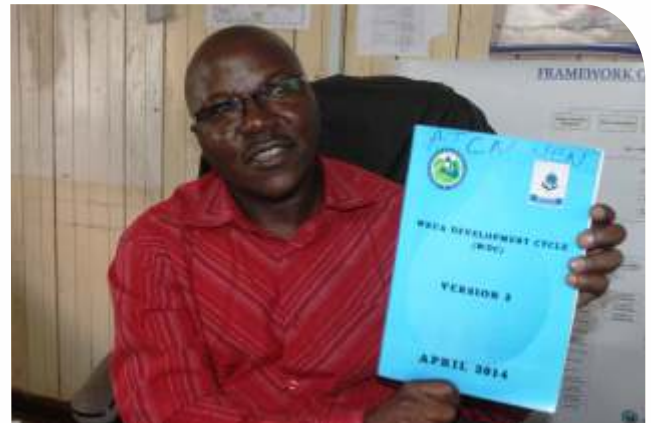


The WRUA Development Cycle (WDC) is based on five principles, key among them the Catchment Management Strategy (CMS) and the Sub-Catchment Management Plan (SCMP). The latter is a plan developed by stakeholders (WRA, WRUA and others) which sets up a plan of activities to address the water resource management problems faced in a particular sub-catchment.

Formation of WRUA is not guided by administration boundaries but by the five catchment areas in the country namely Tana, Athi, Rift Valley, Lake Victoria and Ewaso Nyiro North.

“Middle Ewaso Nyiro Catchment area covers 52,246 kilometre square, including the entire Isiolo County, parts of Meru, Laikipia, Samburu, Marsabit, Wajir and Garissa counties. We target to have a total of 94 fully compliant RWUAs but presently we have 26 of them that have developed Sub-Catchment Management Plans (SCMP),” says Mr Kimari.

Some of the challenges faced in the formation of WRUAs include ethnicity since some of the waters sources like boreholes and springs are owned by clans or a particular community and are hesitant to accommodate outsiders. Cultural beliefs and high level of illiteracy has also been an obstacle in formation of WRUAs.



**Mr Robinson Kimari, officer in charge of Water Resources Authority (WRA) Middle Ewaso Nyiro Catchment area**

“We also face a hurdle when it comes to funding since WRA can only finance a single WRUA and county governments are not willing to extend financial support to associations since normally the membership transcends county boundaries,” explains Mr Kimari.

According to the revised Act (2014), a properly constituted WRUA must have six committees namely management, finance, procurement, livelihood, floods and monitoring and evaluation

# Path towards resolving water-related conflict

## GAFARSA WRUA



Until four years ago, water was a priceless commodity in Gafarsa and Malkadaka locations in Isiolo South Constituency.

Women could trek for eight kilometres each day to fetch a 20-litre jerrican which was hardly enough for domestic use.

Wanton destruction of indigenous hardwoods went on unabated, threatening environment and crucial water sources including springs, sand dams and the main source of river in this region-River Ewaso Nyiro.

A visit today to the villages reveals a contended society, with water readily available from natural and manmade sources.

**"At the moment we have adequate water for every household and our livestock no longer go for long distances to quench their thirst. Boreholes that had been sunk by non-governmental organisations but broke down are now operational,"** says Mr Somo Jirmo,

the chairman of Gafarsa WRUA.

Mr Jirmo explains that they received funding from Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF) totalling Ksh10 Million which has been utilized in putting up rain water harvesting projects for five primary schools and three dispensaries and bought storage tanks for the institutions.

The turnaround from a needy situation to self sustainability was realized in 2014 when the community came together to form the water users association.

**"It was only after a local Non-Governmental organisation-Merti Integrated Development Programme (MID-P) organised trainings for community members that majority of us came to comprehend this new concept of managing water sources,"** says Mr Daudi Golicha, chairman of the procurement committee of the WRUA.

He adds that they were taken through a capacity building programme by MID-P and later assisted on the registration process of the WRUA at the Attorney General's office in Nairobi.

## KURO BISAN OWO

Kuro Bisan Owo in Cherab Ward, Meri-sub-county is basking in the glory of success only two years after it was formed.

Water scarcity has now been minimized and residents of Dimaadho, Biliko and Malala have easy access to the precious commodity and no longer travel for longer distances as before.

**"We received funding from Water Services Trust Fund and we put up a sand dam at Dimaadho at a cost of Sh2.3million. Plans are underway for another sand dam at Kurobisan in early 2019 as we enter the second phase of utilizing Sh4.9million advanced to us,"** explains Mr Yusuf Dika a member of the management committee.

Kura Bisan Owo WRUA prefers constructing sand dams on lagas (dry river beds).

This partnership has also seen the water users association come with strategies to conserve River Ewaso Nyiro.



Other WRUAs that have received support in form of capacity building/registration or review of SCMP includes: Sericho, Galan Gofo, Omara Quri, Dhukes, Yamicha Kom, Oldonyiro, Kipsing and Merti WRUA.





# Building resilience through camel caravan

**T**he camel, also referred to as the ship of the desert is one of the resilient animals on earth.

Symbolically in recent years, it has come in handy when spreading the message of resilience among communities living in hardship region of northern Kenya.

Now in its fourth year, the camel peace caravan which takes place annually around August has brought together various communities and other stakeholders to dialogue and take practical steps towards addressing various challenges on the Ewaso River basin.

**“The overall purpose of this caravan is to promote and facilitate shared understanding of the human-induced and climate threats facing the Ewaso Ngi’ro River, and cooperation and collaboration between upstream, middle and downstream users to mitigate these threats and sensitize the communities on the importance of peaceful co-existence,”** explains Mr Abdullahi Shandey, Executive Director, MID-P, one of the implementing partners in the PfR programme.

He adds: “While the Ewaso Ngi’ro River can both unify and divide the communities; the Camel Caravan is an avenue for strengthening bond amongst them.”

Between September 11 and 15, 2017, MID-P teamed up with IMPACT Trust and other stakeholders and supporters to organize the event which saw tens of volunteers, both young and the elderly trek for more than 200Km as a means of bonding between the various communities living in the Ewaso Ng'iro River ecosystem.

The event was undertaken again in August 2018 where participants from the other side of the river commenced the walk from Malkadaka in Isiolo South while those from Laikipia County assembled at Ewaso with both parties converging at Archers Post in Samburu County five days later.

As the event came to a climax, national government officials, representatives from respective governors' office, elected leaders, development partners as well as community opinion leaders came together to pass a declaration that Ewaso Nyiro ecosystem has to be conserved at all costs.

# Community demands inclusivity in Isiolo mega project



Communities from Isiolo, Laikipia and Samburu counties have called for the suspension of implementation of one of the key flagship project of the national government's Vision 2030.

In a memorandum delivered to National Environment Management and the LAPSET Development Authority (LCDA), the community cites lack of public participation as the main reason they are opposed to the construction of a mega dam called Crocodile Jaw (Nolkinyang) on the Laikipia/Isiolo border.

Their protest came after a report commissioned by an organisation- Conservation Strategy Fund (SCF) established that construction of the mega dam on Ewaso Ng'iro River would adversely affect the flow of this crucial source of water for thousands of people living downstream.

Diversion of the waters from the river to the dam would prevent the flow from reaching water points at the lower part of the Ewaso Nyiro catchment or reach them at much reduced volumes. These include the Lorian Swamp which is used as an alternative important water source during dry seasons and drought.

National Water Conservation and Pipeline

Corporation (NWCP) identified the dam extending 14.5Km and 83 metres high as a necessary reservoir to supply water to the proposed Isiolo Resort City and to regulate the flow of River Ewaso Nyiro.

But according to CSF report, construction of this dam would drastically reduce water flow on this crucial river and herders would suffer estimated loss of 13 million US dollars annually due to livestock mortality and price changes.

Livestock, wildlife and the tourism sector would suffer as water flows would decline by 38 percent, the report shows in its preliminary findings.

"Downstream construction of the proposed dam will change the river flow dramatically not only by eliminating seasonal flood pulses but also by reducing the amount of water available," reads part of the report which in its findings relied heavily on information provided by Centre for Training and Integrated Research In ASAL Development (CETRAD).

The signed memorandum notes that the entire project is not in the interest of the pastoral communities but meant to actualize one of the components of the LAPSET corridor programme.

"Community participation is a constitutional requirement, but in this case, communities living along the Ewaso Nyiro ecosystem have not been consulted nor involved and there exists an information gap," reads part of the memorandum.

The action by the community to petition LCDA followed a community sensitization programme by PfR partners on how this proposed mega project would affect their livelihoods.

The community's demand is that the project must be suspended for the next three years to enable communities understand and appreciate the effects and consequences to be created by the project as provided for under the LAPSET SEA report.





## PRACTICE

# Telling it through music

It is the last day of the annual camel caravan and participants, local community and leaders have converged at the banks of River Ewaso Nyiro near Archers Post to celebrate successful completion of the four day event.

Suddenly, renown musician Abdi Gure takes to the podium with one of his popular tune that carries a weighty message-all of us have a duty to protect the Ewaso Nyiro eco system lest we perish.

Even before the first stanza is over, everybody is on his feet dancing, inspired by the melodious tune and the attention capturing beats in the song, a composition in Borana language.

Gure has taken the status of an ambassador in the campaign for policy development on disaster management, conservation of the Ewaso Nyiro ecosystem and peaceful coexistence among the various communities in the catchment area.

"We have partnered with the musician to deliver the message of resilience to the local community especially to those in the villages who cannot understand English or Kiswahili language," explains Mr Ibrahim Kabelo, MID-P the programme

officer.

Mr Kabelo says through music, the Borana community has now embraced the second phase of the programmes initiated by Partners for Resilience (PfR).

"Every person in the village now clearly understands the importance of having a policy to address disaster related issues. Message delivered through music has a great effect on the listener," the officer points out.

And to reach a wide audience, his songs are played on the two community radio stations-ANGAF FM and Baliti FM based in Isiolo Town and which are heard as far as Marsabit County.



Mr. Ibrahim Kabelo



# Reaching Out To The Masses Through Media



**F**requency Modulation (FM) radio has been identified as an effective communication tool for rural communities while print and television are popular with the elite.

MID-P has partnered with two local radio stations based in Isiolo Town to disseminate information on resilience, touching on disaster management and on sensitizing communities on proper management of water resources.

**“As MID-P, we have been engaging radio reporters to cover our function for wider dissemination to the intended audience. At times we do a follow up with the radio stations, requesting them to engage the listeners through call in programmes,”** says

Other times MID-P Executive Director Abudullahi Shadey is invited to the studios as talk show guest to speak on PfR programmes. Towards the end of

the talk show, listeners are invited to seek any clarification.

Mr Ibrahim Kabelo, MID-P programme officer says besides engaging community radios, MID-P has been reaching out to mainstream media including daily newspapers and nation TV stations.





# Social Media, An Apt Platform For Convergence

Social media is emerging as the modern day platform for easy interaction with the audience with a prompt feedback.

With this in mind, partners working under PfR utilize this medium of communication to reach the community and other stakeholders in its campaign to promote resilience.

Face book, twitter and You Tube have come in handy when seeking to indulge the audience or to pass information to supplement information shared with the mainstream media.

On Facebook, PfR has a page

 <https://www.facebook.com/partnersforresilience/>  
while the twitter handle

 [@pfrglobal](https://twitter.com/pfrglobal)

In order to obtain more information about the Partners for Resilience programme, please contact the alliance coordination team at:

 [partnersforresilience@redcross.nl](mailto:partnersforresilience@redcross.nl)

 <https://partnersforresilience.nl/en/>

Through these social media forums, posts are updated on field activities to inform the audience and also to trigger online conversations. Website is also an important tool which offers a glimpse of the previous and current programmes in form of news, photos, videos and upcoming events. The websites or contacts are:

[Wetlands International](http://Wetlands International)  
[marie-jose.vervest@wetlands.org](mailto:marie-jose.vervest@wetlands.org)

[Cordaid](http://Cordaid)  
[Margot.Loof@cordaid.org](mailto:Margot.Loof@cordaid.org)

[CARE NL](http://CARE NL)  
[weijjs@carenederland.org](mailto:weijjs@carenederland.org)

[Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre](http://Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre)  
[hogesteeger@climatecentre.org](mailto:hogesteeger@climatecentre.org)

[Netherlands Red Cross](http://Netherlands Red Cross)  
[SCats@redcross.nl](mailto:SCats@redcross.nl)

Media practitioners have been contracted to produce video documentaries which are later posted on You Tube and the audience can watch them at their convenient.

One of the videos that can be accessed through You Tube channel is a nine minute documentary on the Ewaso Nyiro Peace Caravan.



# PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE

Working together on disasters, climate, ecosystems

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