



Enhancing livestock dependent community preparedness to challenges of climate change

Dr Samantha Opere

A Life Worth Living

We are Brooke

Our mission is to achieve immediate and lasting positive change to the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules and the communities that depend on them





Where we are



Natural Disasters in Africa

- Drought in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia ~ 2020 - 2023
- Floods and landslides in DR Congo ~ May 2023
- Earthquake in Morocco ~ September 2023
- Locust plague ~ 2020

Frequency of disasters is increasing



Animal Welfare in Disasters

- Livestock dependent communities suffer great losses due to inadequate preparedness and support to sustain their livestock during the disasters
- Impact on animals:
 - Starvation, thirst
 - Overworking (esp. working equines)
 - Lack of veterinary care
 - Displacement/ lack of shelter
 - Distress especially when abandoned
 - Death



Photo courtesy

Drought in Horn of Africa worse than in 2011 famine

Below-normal rainfall is expected during the rainy season over the next three months in parts of Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia, a climate research centre says.



Crisis in the Horn of Africa

More than 43 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia in 2023, 32 million of whom are acutely food insecure.

Press Release

IRC: Severe drought is projected to leave about 5.4 million people in Kenya without adequate access to food and water between March and June 2023.

Nairobi, Kenya, February 21, 2023 — Catastrophic consequences of the recurrent drought in Kenya continues to get worse, leaving communities in dire need of humanitarian aid. About 5.4 million people are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity between March and June this year of which 1.2 million people will likely be in the emergency phase. This latest projection highlights a 43% increase of people facing high levels of food insecurity compared to the same period last year.

ICPAC: El Niño likely to bring heavy rain to Horn of Africa

Africa

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24 August 2023

By the Climate Centre

The Nairobi-based IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications yesterday that its October to December forecast shows “highly wetter-than-usual conditions across most parts of the Great Africa” with the current El Niño.

The forecast includes a greater-than 80 per cent chance of a rainfall in southern Ethiopia, eastern Kenya and southern Sudan, with also probable dry conditions for parts of Uganda and South Sudan according to the ICPAC scientists, who provide climate services to African nations.

After 3 years of drought, Greater Horn of Africa to get early, heavy rains, courtesy El Niño

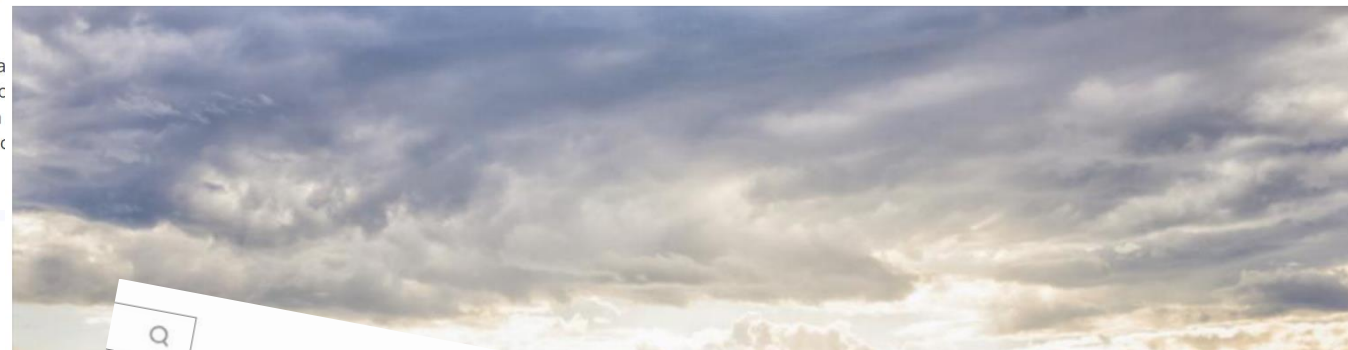
The forecast is reason for both cheer and concern in the region



NEXT NEWS >

By Kiran Pandey

Published: Monday 28 August 2023



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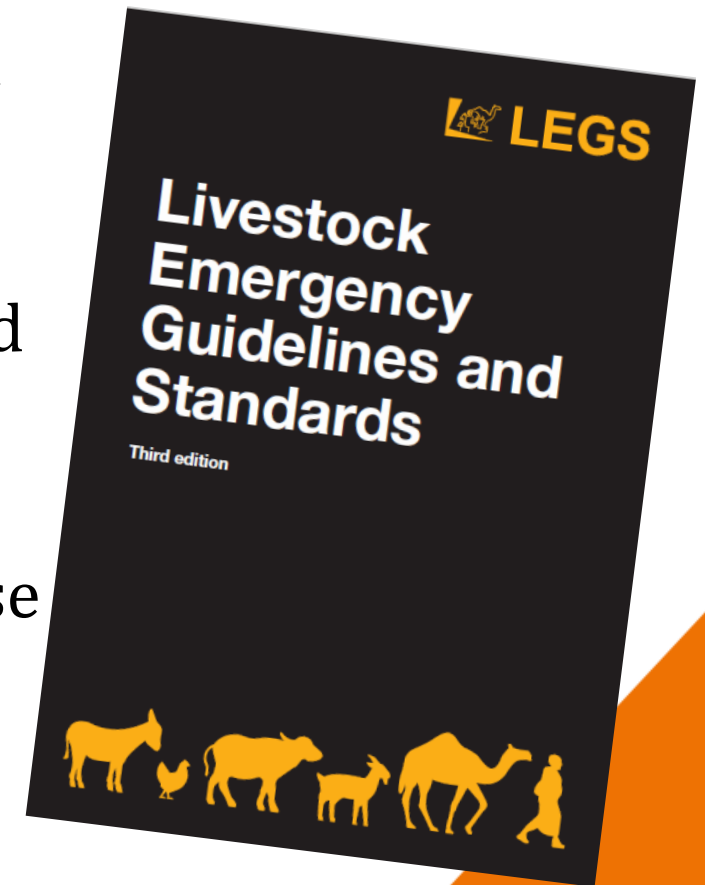
Act now before El Niño rains to make the crisis an opportunity

By Isaac Kalua Green | 8h ago



Livestock Emergency Standards and Guidelines (LEGS)

- It provides the minimum standards for humanitarian emergencies that impact livestock
- Guidelines provide communities, governments and NGOs with key principles which should be considered during humanitarian interventions to ensure livestock-based livelihoods are not lost
- Interventions ensure good animal welfare through use of animal-based indicators which align with the five animal welfare domains;
 - nutrition, health, environment, behaviour, and mental state



Livestock Emergency Standards and Guidelines (LEGS)

LEGS Principles:

1. Supporting livelihoods-based programming
2. Ensuring community participation
3. Responding to climate change and protecting the environment
4. Supporting preparedness and early action
5. Ensuring coordinated responses
6. Supporting gender-sensitive programming
7. Supporting local ownership
8. Committing to monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL)

Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR)

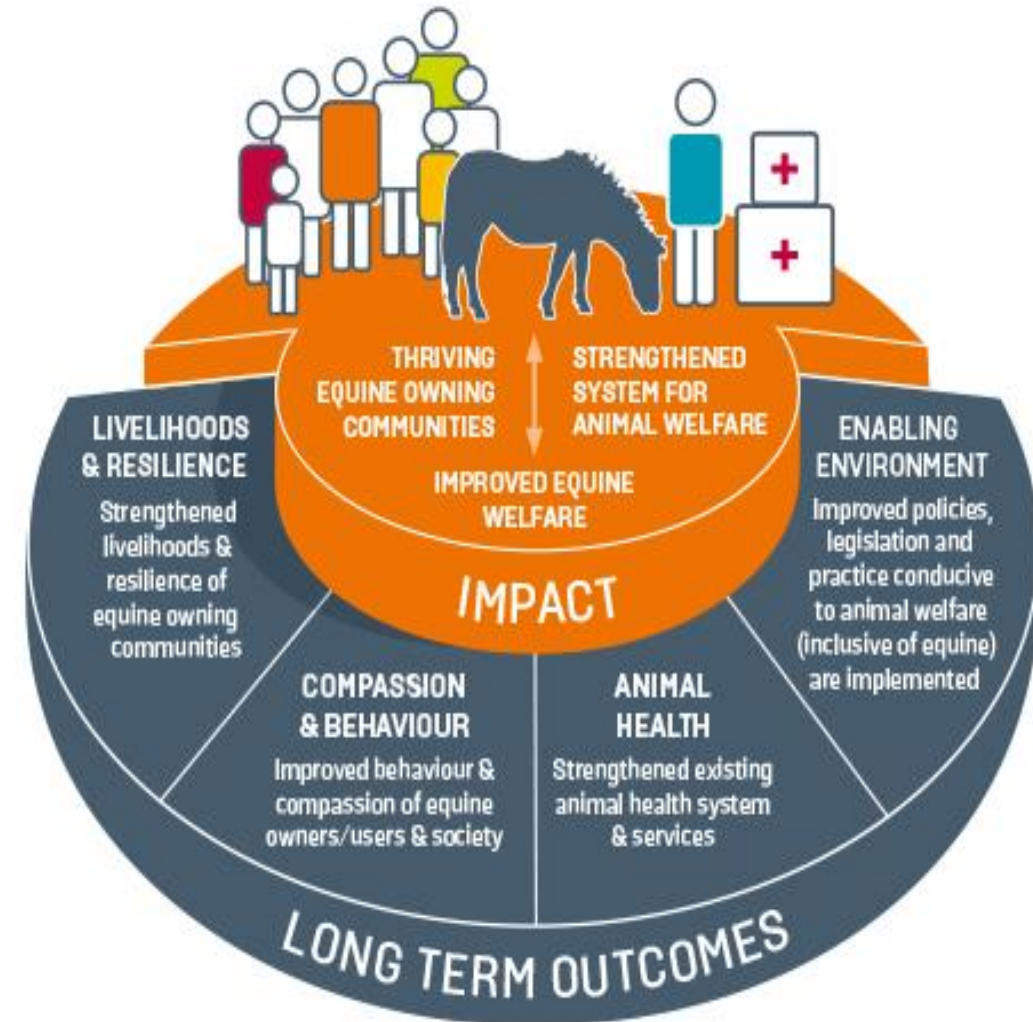
Supporting communities to:

- Identify and analyze potential disasters in their locality
- Conduct risk analysis and assess impact of disasters
- Develop action plans for disaster risk reduction



Brooke's Theory of Change

- One of the 4 pillars focuses on '*Livelihoods & Resilience*'
 - ✓ Strengthened livelihoods and resilience of equine owning communities
- Communities are capacity built on:
 - ✓ Fodder production and preservation
 - ✓ Improving water access through rehabilitation of natural springs, earth pans
 - ✓ Environmental conservation – tree planting initiatives



Brooke's Emergency Support

- Working donkeys play a significant role during disasters and emergencies - delivery of supplies (*relief food and medicine*)
- Donkeys tend to be overworked, walking long distances with limited access to feed and water
- Brooke interventions ensure donkeys and other livestock access feed, water and veterinary services



Donkeys transporting emergency feed provision during an intervention in Somaliland in July 2023 – 3000 donkeys and 1000 households benefited

Brooke's Resilience Support

- Change in community perception
 - Communities in ASALs tend to believe their land cannot be productive
- Capacity building on fodder production in collaboration with Departments of Agriculture and Livestock Production at County Level
 - Appropriate grass for area and sourcing of seeds
 - Land preparation
 - Harvesting, baling and storage of fodder
- Support to communities to preserve fodder
 - Construction of hay barns under cost sharing arrangement with community
- Financial management and other income generating activities
 - Especially on income generated from sale of excess hay

Brooke's Resilience Support - Achievements

- Community groups have been supported at different levels across Kenya
 - Group membership ratio of women to men is 7:3
- Groups have fodder production projects:
 - Access to feed:
 - Donkeys benefit directly and other livestock benefit indirectly
 - Households benefit ~ *no loss of livestock, savings from use of preserved fodder*
 - Groups savings improved from income from fodder sale and other resulting IGAs
 - Bales sold at between \$ 2 – 4 depending on demand
 - Group savings range from Ksh 70,000 – 500,000 (\$ 480 – 3,5000)



Fodder project at Lokore in Turkana County



Fodder storage facilities in Tharaka Nithi (left) and Turkana (right) counties

