

ADOPTING A FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROGRAMMING IN SOMALIA

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ABSTRACT

Drought related disasters in Somalia have a long history of causing armed conflicts, leading to loss of life, and exposing communities to cyclic poverty. Though these communities have lived here for many years, there is strong evidence that climate change and variability is directly impacting on the hydrological cycle, eroded the coping capacity and aggravated the risk for weather induced hazards like drought and floods. The consequences of prolonged drought have had both macro and micro economic level impacts including severe water shortages in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas, inadequate pasture leading to worsening body conditions of livestock and consequently reduced market prospects and incomes for pastoralist and agro-pastoralists, crop failure, malnutrition amongst children and women, migration and disease outbreaks among others. Again, there has not been a systematic analysis of the root causes which has led to lack of a sustainable solution. This is because there has been little focus on adaptation to climate change and other drivers, particularly in a context of drought induced disasters. There is also need to understand people's responses and coping mechanisms to encourage responses that can develop into sustainable adaptation and improved community resilience. This study proposes integration of a DPSIR (Driving force, Pressure, State, Impact and Response) framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in WASH interventions. Linking DPSIR to DRR (DPSIR-DRR framework) will aid in the integration of physical, socio-economic and governance issues when analysing drivers of disasters and help formulate responses to reduce vulnerability due to the hazards. The framework allows for inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups as well as gender dimensions into the picture leading into substantive contribution to the development of disaster management policy. It is applicable to the entire WASH cycle including emergency, recovery and development.