

Drought: Strengthening Local Institutions and Global Relationships

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Context

- Chronic poverty;
- Cyclic droughts with increasing severity;
- Recurrent conflicts;
- Population increases: Fertility/Immigration;
- Reliance on livestock production, with crises in marketing & other services;
- Decreasing land capacity.

Civic and Political Rights:

- Overwhelming power of formal institutions
- Marginalized local institutions;
- Erosion of indigenous copying mechanisms;
- Dependence on external support in food security;
- Drought EWS well developed yet the population has no control on actions.

Generating a credible Drought Early Warning System:

- Data and information collected by community volunteers;
- Analysis generated is fed back to the community for action;
- However, always gaps between findings and response actions, including accountability on who does what;
- Decentralized decision becoming a threat to National interests;
- Respect of the drought management cycle as a rights issue.

Lessons learnt from DM at community level:

- Key role of coordination and planning at all stages;
- Invest in preparedness capacity;
- Advocacy with National Govt. to shift policy from interventionist/mitigation to growth focus;
- Respect of Humanitarian Principles
- Observance of the Principles of Good Donorship.

Land Policy and Conflict:

- Policies on predictability of land Access, Control and Use, on which reciprocity depends;
- Legal regimes governing land impede efficient production and long term investment;
- Wild life a victim of current policy yet a resource for today & tomorrow;
- Recurrent conflicts;
- Correlation between Drought EWS and Conflict EWS;
- Conflict a symptom not a disease.

What is running through my mind?

- Strong political will, with policies that are implemented;
- Accountable public institutions at local and national level, in order to achieve long-term results;
- Strong District level inclusive committees that are recognized and empowered;
- Donor resources supplementary, not driving force;
- Strong global relationships, focused on advocacy on rights, through pioneering investments.

Thank You,

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