



IOM International Organization for Migration

**KENYA**

## ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT AND CLIMATE CHANGE ON LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT MECHANISM AMONG PASTORALISTS

### IOM IN ACTION

- Assessment of the growing rural to urban migration phenomenon among pastoralist communities.
- Assessment of livelihood options, viability and marketability.
- Identification of response systems and gaps.
- Policy recommendations and proposals for a response strategy.
- Identification of collaborative partners and donors.

**“THE PROJECT AIMED AT CONTRIBUTING TO A WELL INFORMED UNDERSTANDING OF INTERNAL AND CROSS BORDER MIGRATION OF PASTORALIST COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTH EASTERN AND NORTH RIFT VALLEY PROVINCES OF KENYA”.**

Increasingly scarce resources have led to increased pastoralist movements to insecure and more environmentally fragile places in search of resources. Whilst these communities have had long-standing, ‘historical’ tensions and conflict over resources, chronic drought has significantly increased the frequency of pastoral movements and the duration of time spent in ‘foreign’ territory.

In addition, new migration trends such as movements to urban areas, by nomadic youths, mainly slums in city outskirts, have been registered,

which put a severe strain on limited urban resources. Such migration trends may increase their vulnerability to abuse and human trafficking especially among youth and children and may have direct and indirect health implications such as psycho-social trauma, HIV/AIDS and STDs to name a few.

With limited education and training, many of the youths migrating to the urban areas are unable to find gainful employment or sustainable livelihood options. This further increases their vulnerability.

In light of such prevailing conditions, the need to promote pastoralists’ internal mobility needs, climate change adaptation strategies as well as to promote conflict reduction mechanisms, have to be reconciled with pastoralists’ livelihood needs including cross-border mobility for

access for access to water and pasture.

The Government of Kenya (GOK) and the international donor community have reacted to the urgent needs affecting the pastoralists’ livelihood systems in drought affected areas with a variety of interventions.

## PROJECT COMPONENTS

### 1. Situation Assessment:

- Development of an analytical framework encompassing pastoralist mobility.
- Elaboration on impacts of droughts, climate change and decreasing natural resources for the affected pastoralists and mobile communities in the target areas.
- Assessment of the growing rural to urban migration phenomenon among pastoralist communities.
- Assessment of livelihood options, viability and marketability.
- Identification of response systems and gaps.
- Policy recommendations and proposals for a response strategy.
- Identification of collaborative partners and donors.

2. Stakeholders' workshops to consolidate information and bring together relevant stakeholders, to share and validate the findings of the assessment, discuss the recommendations and prioritize intervention strategies according to needs.

3. Programmes developed based on assessment recommendations and agreed upon intervention strategies.

## ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Drought and Climate Change Situation: Many of the adverse effects seem to be on the increase both in terms of the frequency and severity.
- Livelihood Activities: less than half of the respondents reported animal husbandry as their main source of livelihood, as well as other diversification options e.g. casual employment, charcoal burning, sale of house-construction materials and dependency on relief from the Government and/or development agencies.
- Internal & Cross Border Livestock Mobility- 85 per cent in the North Eastern, 68 per cent in Turkana and 73 per cent in the Maasai clusters, reported that the frequency of movement in search of pastures had increased.
- Livestock Movement Across Borders: About two thirds of all the respondents moved across the border in search of pasture and water in the preceding 10 years.
- Future Cross-Border Movements: Most pastoralists expressed their wish to be allowed to move into the neighbouring country during future droughts (87 per cent in North Eastern, 64 per cent for Turkana and 79 per cent for Maasai).
- Rural –Urban Migration And The Congregation Around Shopping Centres: The loss of livestock was the greatest push for settlement around shopping centres in both the North Eastern and Turkana regions (69 and 85 per cent, respectively) followed by the search for employment (19.4 per cent) in North Eastern and insecurity (11 percent) in the Turkana regions.
- Government And NGOs Service Provision To Pastoralists: 82 per cent in North Eastern, 91 per cent in Turkana, and 90 per cent in the Maasai areas of the respondents mentioned the provision of veterinary and advisory services as the key support they received from the government.

*“The project aimed at contributing to a well informed understanding of internal and cross border migration of pastoralist communities in the North Eastern and North Rift Valley provinces of Kenya; as a result of recurrent drought, climate change, decreasing natural resources; and a suggest appropriate policy and programmatic responses.”*

## WE ASSIST:

- Irregular migrants
- Trafficked persons



## MANAGING MIGRATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

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## WITH THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS:

