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INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON DROUGHT AND AGRICULTURE  
PREDICT, PLAN, PREPARE: STOP DROUGHT BECOMING A FAMINE  
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SESSION 4: MAINSTREAMING DROUGHT MANAGEMENT IN THE  
CONTEXT OF THE 2030 AGENDA

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MANAGING DROUGHT IN KENYA THROUGH INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

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**Interagency collaboration**

Rain failure in two successive rainy seasons in 2016 resulted in severe drought situation in Horn of Africa (Kenya, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia). The situation deteriorated into complex emergency inflicting suffering to the lives and livelihoods, security, health, water and sanitation for the affected communities. Urgent humanitarian action to alleviate the suffering was expected as the situation was predicted to worsen by April 2017.

The Government of Kenya declared drought a national disaster on 10 February 2017, with 23 Arid and Semi-arid lands (ASAL) Counties affected. The number of people affected by drought in ASAL counties rose to 2.7 million in Jan 2017, an increase from 1.4 million since August of 2016.

Against this background, a collaborative action by Kenya INGOs ASAL subgroup sought to map out the needs in the ASAL counties, identify additional efforts required to save lives and alleviate the suffering of individuals and communities. An interagency initiative supported by the START Network (START Drawdown Fund) and under the leadership of CAFOD attempted to understand: 1) the most pressing needs and where, 2) response gaps and 3) where the NGOs are working and capacity to respond.

Interagency cooperation entailed consultative meetings, drought profiling with the Kenya Humanitarian Partners Team (KHPT – Government, Civil Society and donors), data collection and analysis, scenario building, collection and publication of media stories, prioritization of needs, and development of a joint response plan; with a view to developing joint interventions. A team of 12 humanitarian technical staff from 23 participating INGOs was constituted (Plan International, Action Aid, Christian Aid, Trocaire, ACTED, Action Against Hunger, IRC, Terre Des Hommes, Save the Children, CAFOD, CRS, Welthungerhilfe).

Inter-agency cooperation in addressing drought concerns raised alert of the worsening drought in Kenya. Collaboration improved coordination leading to less duplication, information sharing, increased investment and wider geographical coverage. Funding several INGOS with one single contract reduced transaction costs. More localised and faster decision-making process with strong - actions and responses designed and executed at field level based on context and technical expertise.

The current context demanded a collective response to the drought. Interagency collaboration is the best single mechanism at this point to advocate for a collective response.