




# USAID Kenya/East Africa Resilience Learning Activity

## DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

### BACKGROUND

The Kenya National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) produced monthly Early Warning Bulletins for the all the Counties in ASALs<sup>1</sup> in Kenya. These bulletins are meant to guide the government (both central and county) and development partners to make timely decisions to mitigate the effects of drought and other calamities that afflict resident communities.

| National Drought Management Authority<br>TAITA TAVETA COUNTY<br>DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MAY 2022  |   |                                    |               |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---------------|
| MAY 2022 EW PHASE  |   | Early Warning Phase Classification |               |
| <b>Drought Status: ALERT</b><br><br><br><br><b>Maandalizi ya mapema</b> | Livelihood Zone   | Phase                              | Trend         |
|  | Mixed Farming: Food Crops/ Livestock                    | Alert                              | Deteriorating |
|  | Mixed Farming: Food Crops/ Horticulture/Dairy           | Alert                              | Deteriorating |
|  | Mixed Farming: Irrigated Cropping/ Livestock/Food Crops | Alert                              | Deteriorating |
|  | National Park   | Alert                              | Deteriorating |
|  | County  | Alert                              | Deteriorating |

Nevertheless, these bulletins, although well intended, do not address the concerns of the community and are not shared with them. Worse still, they are presented in English, a language that is used by a minority of the community members due to their low levels of educations.<sup>2</sup> As such, the bulletins do offer the community an opportunity to make informed resilience-centric decisions as they do not have access to this vital resource.

To address this gap, USAID Kenya/East Africa Resilience Learning Activity (RLA) facilitated the Centre for Strategic Development to pilot a process through which Early Warning Bulletins produced by NDMA are translated from English to Swahili, validated and disseminated to the community in Taita Taveta County.

### PARTNERSHIP

To achieve the intended outcome, a partnership between the NDMA and Taita Taveta University (TTU)



was necessary. As such, CSD engaged the Research Department of TTU and NDMA’s County Officials to develop a framework that was used to translate the bulletins. Through this framework, it was established that Kiswahili being the most applicable language in Kenya, it was advisable to translate the April and May Early Warning Bulletins to Swahili.

### TRANSLATION & VALIDATION

To offer TTU a learning opportunity and to ensure that they fully interact with Early Warning Bulletin, they fully translated the NDMA’s Taita Taveta County Early Warning Bulletins for April and May. The two months

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ndma.go.ke/index.php/resource-center/early-warning-reports>.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.academia.edu/28376216/Analysing\\_the\\_Kenya\\_Esse](https://www.academia.edu/28376216/Analysing_the_Kenya_Esse)

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were chosen for they enabled TTU to gain experience of two varying drought stages. The April bulletin indicated Normal Stage while the May bulletin indicated the Alert Stage scenario. The two bulletins were translated from English to Swahili.



## DISEMINATION

Communities in ASALs' degree of believability of information is largely based on its source and medium. The most trusted source of information remains the Chief's office and baraza. As such, CSD engaged and was granted approval to hold two baraza sessions presided over by the local Chiefs. The barazas were held in Voi Sub-County in Kaloleni and Mwololo wards. In Kaloleni, the baraza mobilised both men and women between the age of 18-35. In Mwololo, those in attendance were aged 35+.

| Mamlaka ya Kitaifa ya Kudhibiti Ukame<br>KAUNTI YA TAITA TAVETA<br>ONYO LA MAPEMA LA UKAME TOLEO LA MWEZI MEI 2022  |   |  |            |
|---|---|--|------------|
| ONYO LA MAPEMA AWAMU YA MWEZI WA MEI 2022   |   | Uainishaji wa Awamu ya Mwezi wa Mei Onyo la Mapema |            |
| <b>Drought Status: ALERT</b><br> | Eneo la Maisha  | Awamu  | Mwenendo   |
|   | Kilimo Mchanganyiko: Mazao ya chakula /mifugo   | Tahadhari  | Kudhoofika |
|   | Kilimo Mchanganyiko: Mazao ya chakula/Kilimo cha bustani/ Ufugaji wa Mifugo wa Maziwa | Tahadhari  | Kudhoofika |
|   | Kilimo Mchanganyiko: Kilimo cha Umwagilaji maji/ Mifugo /Mazao ya Chakula             | Tahadhari  | Kudhoofika |
|   | Mbuga ya wanyama wa Pori  | Tahadhari  | Kudhoofika |
| <b>Maandalizi ya mapema</b>   | Kaunti  | Tahadhari  | Kudhoofika |

The translated versions of the April and May Early Warning Bulletins were presented.



### EW BULLETIN TRANSLATION VALIDATION WORKSHOP NDMA AND TAITA TAVETA UNIVERSITY

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022  
Venue: Vacani Resort Voi

Time: 09:00 am – 4:30 pm





## LESSONS LEARNED

### CONSISTENCY.

Community members acknowledged that they have often heard from Implementing partners that NDMA issues alerts for purposes informing the community through them consistently.

### COMMUNITY.

The EW bulletins are not shared with the community but development stakeholders leaving out the community, yet they are the most important.

### RELEVANCE.

The community is sidelined by not only the accessibility of the EW bulletin, but also the way it is structured. The bulletin is designed in a manner that guides those seeking to intervene at a technical and professional level but is too technical for the community members who are required to take mitigating actions.

## NEXT STEPS

1. Mainstream the translation of EW Bulletins in ASALs for ease of consumption by the community.
2. Develop a customized Early Warning Bulletins specifically for the communities in ASALS using simple terminologies with clear and actionable messages.
3. Establish consistent drought mitigation actions for the various drought cycle stages. A community member should know exactly what actions to take in each of the four drought stages.
4. Rollout the use of Drought Flags in the entire ASAL region.