More information?

Please visit www.acted.org/en/uganda

Or contact ACTED in Uganda:

ACTED, Plot 100
Lutaya Drive, Bukoto
Kampala

Email: uganda@acted.org
Phone: +256 (0) 414340489
Introduction to DEWS

The Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) aims to provide a timely alert to the communities, relevant district departments and development partners, whenever the risk of drought is rising. This allows stakeholders to initiate the implementation of preparedness measures before an emergency unfolds.

The sub-region of Karamoja has been affected by several years of consecutive drought or delayed rains. There is a need to develop a more adapted way of life and strengthen their resilience to these hazards. The vital first step to building resilience is by accessing timely information on the risk of a coming drought. The population can then plan accordingly and adapt their lifestyle to prepare and withstand droughts.

The DEWS system consists of collecting and analyzing the information relevant to predicting drought. Through the systematic monitoring of a pre-selected list of indicators, the Drought Early Warning System provides timely information of incoming climate shocks. Moreover, the DEWS assesses the vulnerability of communities to drought. The information is disseminated at community, district and national level, to facilitate cohesive early action planning.

How it works

Data Collection
Data is collected through questionnaires. It encompasses: hazards, crops, livestock, water and livelihoods. The data is then entered into the mobile software, and collected at a central server.

Data Analysis
The software then analyses the data, and produces a selection of graphs depicting the situation of the areas mentioned above, for each region.

Data Review
The data received from the software is then analyzed monthly during a meeting of district heads of departments. Recommendations are made and a situational analysis is conducted. The Office of the Prime Minister then reviews the information, and approves it for dissemination.

Data Dissemination
Once the data has been approved for dissemination, the district inform their communities of recommendations. Dissemination is also achieved through drama skits and radio spots.

Response/Early Action
The information contained in the Drought Bulletins is then used to inform responses by national government, NGOs and regional organizations.

What is the impact?

The Drought Early Warning System impacts stakeholders and communities in different ways.

Government of Uganda—The DEWS information allows the Government to effectively plan and coordinate for responses to drought in the Karamoja region. Timely information allows responses to be coordinated before an emergency situation.

NGOs—The DEWS information also informs national and international NGOs, allowing them to adjust their programmes and plan responses as necessary.

The Community—Most importantly, the dissemination of the DEWS recommendations allows vulnerable communities to prepare for drought and other environmental shocks. ACTED assists in the planning and implementation of contingency operations, as well as supporting positive coping mechanisms.