



# **Report of the TAT mission to the Somali National Regional State: Familiarization Workshop of EU-DRR Project conducted in Somali Region, Jigjiga**

**Project Title: Decentralization of Disaster Risk Reduction Management Ethiopia**



**Project number:** T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-72

**Dated:** 28 – 29 September 2020

**Location:** Jigjiga, Somali National Regional State

**Participants:** TAT/NDRMC/ SNRS Bureau heads, Zone administrators:

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## 1. Introduction

Familiarization workshop is part of the inception phase of the EU-DRM Decentralization project. The workshop is mandatory and needs to be attended by high level officials from Federal and Regional DRM Commissions, Zone Administrators, Decision makers and Directors. During the workshop in Somali Region, the DRM policy is discussed and explained, overall objectives of the EU-DRM Decentralization is presented, disaster risk profiling and modalities of community participation in the project are discussed.

Accordingly, the familiarization workshop for Somali Region was held from 28-29 September 2020 with large number of participants. The workshop was started with introduction of the participants, and opened by welcoming remarks from Mr. Abdullahi Abdi Aden, the head of Somali Regional Disaster Risk Management Bureau. Mr. Aden has welcomed all participants from, NDRMC, EU Project members (TAT), Regional sector bureau, zonal and woreda administrators, UN & other nongovernmental agencies and gave the opening speech.

After highlighting the objectives and the importance of the familiarization workshop of the EU-DRM Decentralization project, Mr. Aden has welcomed to the stage the Regional Vice President Mr. Ibrahim Osman Farah and the Deputy Commissioner of the Federal NDRMC His Excellency Mr. Damene Darota, respectively to deliver their messages and opening remarks. First the vice president of Somali region has noted the importance of the workshop and stressed the significance of the EU funded DRR project in Somali region. He has appreciated the effort of EU and NDMRC towards the development and humanitarians support to the community of Somali Region to enhance their capacity and reduce their vulnerabilities resulted by nature and human induced hazards and climate change. The vice president highlighted the natural hazards and other hazards that are affecting the world and particularly Ethiopia and Somali region.

His Excellency Mr. Demene Darota, the Deputy Commissioner for NDRMC had expressed his pleasure to attend this very important event of familiarization workshop on EU funded DRR project in Somali region. He cited the strategic importance of EU Funded DRR project efforts of being focused on decentralizing DRR interventions into the lower level of government structure through partnership with local communities in building their resilience to frequent hazards they face. The commissioner noted that climate change behind occurrence and increase in frequency of hazards that are continuously destabilizing local communities' livelihoods in Somali region. He also stated that the current focus on Ethiopian DRM policy and paradigm shift to DRM where local people will be able to facilitate the process and will enable communities to plan and implement disaster risk reduction strategies. Multi- sectorial and multi-hazard approach is a key strength of new DRM approach justifying the need for capacity building of development agency and community facilitators on DRM process. He noted that after this workshop, the participants are expected to understand the objectives and expected result from this project.

The TA Team Leader Mr. Marco Lesukat has also presented his remarks on behalf of the European Commission. He thanked the federal and regional governments for their commitment

and partnership with European Union with regard EU funded programs and project. He has also explained how the EU DRM Project is going to be implemented in the five Regions of Ethiopia including Somali region in the coming four years. He highlighted the general and specific objectives of the project, the amount of budget that were allocated for each region, the expected outcomes and result of the project, the intervention areas and the woredas selected by the regions.

The Director of DRR and Rehabilitation Directorate from the National Disaster Risk Management Commission, Mr. Abraham Abebe has also made his remark on explaining the federal disaster risk management policy and the different stages and paradigm shifts that the Ethiopian country underwent. He has shared with participants the historical and perspectives of managing disaster risk through time and the contemporary approaches, the new directions of Ethiopian DRM policy and the ultimate importance of decentralization of DRR programs in the country. He has explained the direction of the policy and the role of sectors at all level. Following the successful start and implementation of the project “Strengthening **Decentralized Disaster Risk Reduction Management in Ethiopia**”, NDRMC and Somali National Regional State Disaster Risk Management Bureau jointly conduct monitoring of the project implementation process and review challenges and agree on the way forward.

## 2. Objectives of the familiarization workshop

The objectives of this workshop were:

- to sensitize and provide awareness to the regional sector bureau, zonal and woreda administrators on the DRM decentralization project,
- to familiarize with the concepts of DRM, objectives and expected outcomes and result of the project,
- to explain to the workshop participants on how to effectively and efficiently implement the activities of the project in their selected Woredas and Kebels.
- to promote regional programs including for technical cooperation, capacity building, development of methodologies and standards for hazard and vulnerability monitoring and assessment, sharing of information and effective mobilization of resources,
- to establish specialized regional collaborative centers related to disaster risk reduction/management at hot spot zones;

## 3. Expected Outcome of the workshop

The participants who were attending the familiarization workshop from the Regional as well as Zonal offices are new to the project. The orientation is meant to equip them with the necessary knowledge and understanding of the project activities. Hence, the workshop was mainly focused on familiarizing the concept of DRR/M and their components, international DRR framework and also to provide a general picture on disaster risk profile of the country, and specifically the Somali region, familiarize with Institutional/Policy, Evolution of DRM in Ethiopia and Strategic Program and Investment Framework (SPIF). At the end of the workshop zones

administrators and concerned sectors were told to take the lead for the project implementation and closely follow up the situation and output of the project by assigning focal persons and following the guideline of the project.

## 4. Presentations given by the Key Experts

### 4.1. Mr. Mark0 Lesukat (Technical Assistance Team Leader)

Mr. Mark has given a presentation entitled “Strengthening Decentralized Disaster Risk Reduction Management in Ethiopia” that was well received by the participants. He had explained the objectives of the EU Trust Fund. Accordingly, the overall objective of the EU-DRM Decentralization Project is to strengthen households, communities and local authorities to manage and adapt to disasters and other risks, thus reducing their vulnerability to crises. The specific objective is to enhance the capacities and systems of the NDRMC and the regions DRMCs to proactively and rapidly help communities cope and be protected in the event of climatic stress and disaster.

He indicated the key focus areas of the project as follow:

Result 1:

- Over 300 Woredas in the five regions will be supported under the project (directly or indirectly),
- Support to Woreda Contingency Planning, woreda Disaster Profiling and DRR Management action plans,
- Harmonize early warning systems,
- Trigger interventions for early response (including conflict assessment and resolution),
- Trainings on DRR (community, Woreda, zone and regions), and
- Facilitate community structures for inclusion of DRR plans in the Woreda Development Plans

Result-2:

- Strengthening Contingency planning and activation of funds for early action,
- Implementation of targeted DRR plans,
- Preparedness and early response actions during crises, and
- Developing policy and legal framework for establishment and use of DRR Contingency fund (SR, SNNPR & Sidama).

He also had explained about the Technical Assistance.

The Technical Assistance to Support Decentralization of Disaster Risk Management in Ethiopia, and has a well-defined four result areas. These are:

Result 1: Improved implementation capacity of the DRM institutions, especially on DRR interventions at Woreda level.

Result 2: Coordination and synergies: Improved coordination of all stakeholders involved in preparedness and early response.

Result 3: Policy dialogue and international DRM agenda: Improved capacity to maintain high-level policy dialogue on DRM within Ethiopia and internationally.

Result 4: Improve DRM knowledge management in Ethiopia; awareness, communication, research, databases, website, IT, IMS, innovation.

He outlined the key actions that will be implemented by the TAT as follow:

- Strengthen NDRMC/RDRMCs in Decentralization of DRM (Project Steering Committee and governance)
- Capacity building to NDRMC & Regions to enhance coordination and networking in DRM.
- Contextualization of Disaster Risk Management Policy to regions
- Support review and harmonization of Early Warning Systems
- Technical support to strengthen Contingency Planning and establishment of the Contingency Funds (Somali, SNNPR, Sidama)
- Review/Updating of the Methodology for Development of Woreda Disaster Risk Profiles
- Support in establishing of knowledge management system
- Technical support in establishment of Sidama DRM Commission

In addition to the presentation, the Team Leader was involved in a number of discussion and smaller group meetings.

#### 4.2. Dr. Tesfaye Korme (M&E, GIS and MIS Advisor)

The Key Expert 4 (M&E, MIS and GIS advisor) has given a presentation entitled “Application of GIS and Remote Sensing in DRM” to the workshop participant. He highlighted the major hazards that has been affecting Ethiopia in general and the Region in particular. He said that drought is the most frequent hazard in Somali region.

##### **Drought:**

Dr. Tesfaye indicated that using the existing technologies and skills, it is possible to predict drought with lead time from weeks to seasons that may last up to four months. The key variables that need to be indicated in the prediction of drought are:

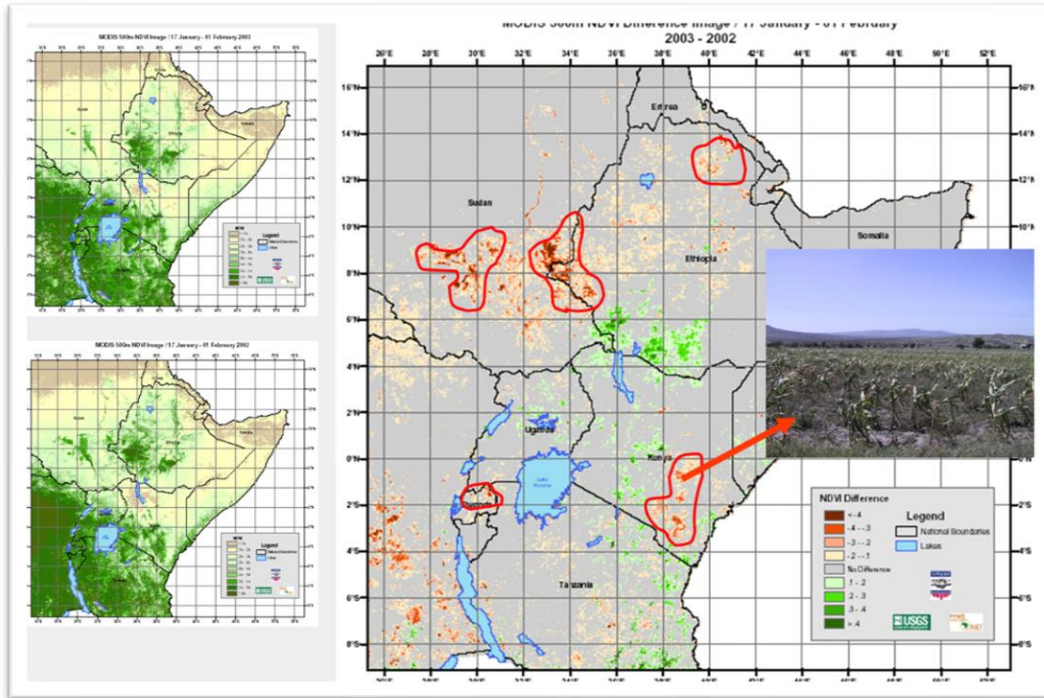
The timing (when),

- The geographical area (where) and
- Intensity and duration of the drought

The indicators to be monitored are:

- Precipitation,
- Groundwater and reservoir levels and
- Soil moisture.

He said that drought monitoring and prediction is done both from satellite and ground station observations.



Drought hotspot identification using NDVI Data

**Flooding:**

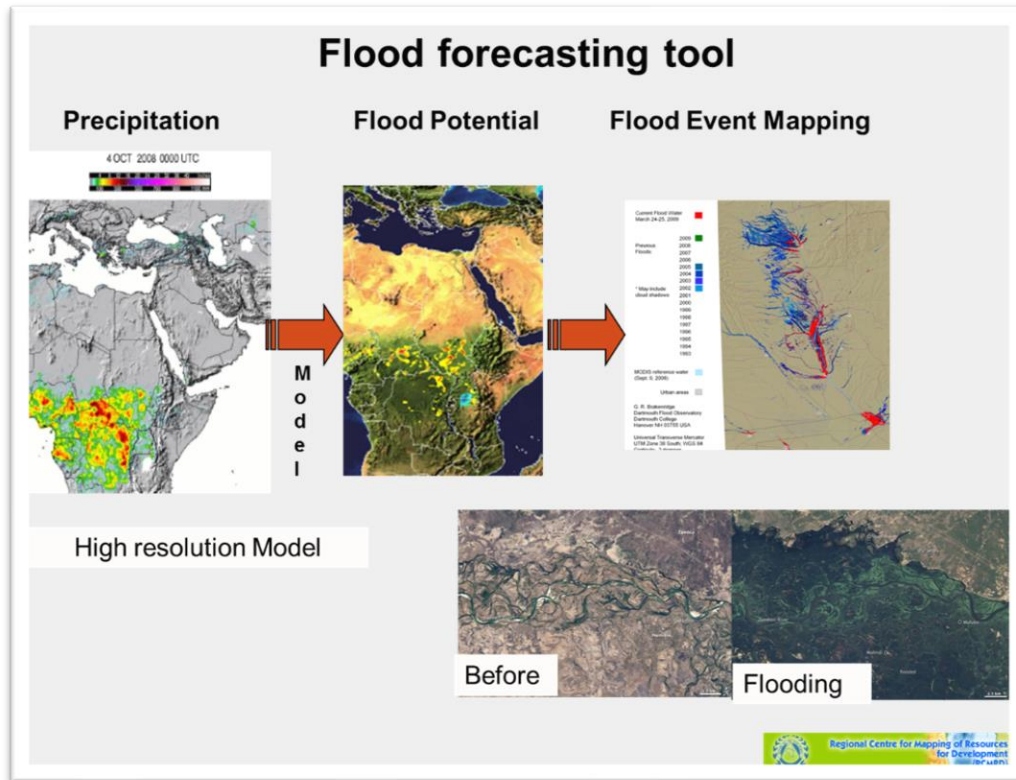
He said that flooding is the second major disaster in the region affecting the communities living along the flood plains. The predictability lead time of flooding varies from minutes (flash floods) to weeks (stream floods). The key variables that need to be indicated in the prediction of flooding are:

- The timing (when),
- The geographical area (where) and
- Water level, and velocity.

The indicators that are monitored for flood prediction are:

- Precipitation,
- Soil moisture,
- River gauge level

All of these indicators are monitored both from satellite and ground observations. He has presented the flood prediction models used in Kenya.



Flood forecasting using Models

A number of other types of hazards were presented. This includes Landslide, forest fire, land degradation and epidemic diseases.

### Challenges encountered in disaster early warning:

The following challenges were identified during the discussion on Early warning systems.

- Most of the EWS in the Region are project based, thus have a limited lifespan.
- Data that are used in Early warning are incomplete / inaccurate especially in-situ data (rainfall data, crop yield estimates, crop areas, etc) are not available. These data can be complemented / validated using high resolution Remote Sensing data.
- Lack of adequate human capacity (human, infrastructural, institutional) is a challenge.
- Lack of timely access to up-to-date data and information.
- Need for further promotion of Research and Development in EWS.
- Need for awareness creation among decision makers.
- Need to begin focusing more on long-term EWS

Dr. Tesfaye has highlighted the **current opportunities** in addressing disaster early warning. These opportunities are:

- Satellite data is increasingly made available e.g. the Space Charter
- New technologies are emerging that support early warning information dissemination e.g. internet, mobile phones



- Tertiary institutions are offering courses in geo-applications in disaster management (including e-learning)
- There are improvements in tools e.g. forecasting models
- Open source software is increasingly being available
- Governments are increasingly recognizing disaster management as national priorities

## 5. Summary of discussions

The key question and comments from participants, and the discussions made based on the questions were captured as follow:

The following key questions were raised by workshop participants from zones and woredas:

- Since the project was started late by one year, will there be an extensions for the duration of the project to compensate the lost time?
- Is there a possibility for allowing woreda to have specific staff assigned to the project at woreda level?
- The participants have noted that there are changes in the hydrologic characteristics of some of the rivers in the Region. Floods in riverine areas for example in Wabe Shebele River, changed their known characteristics through time. Therefore, the risk profile assessment that was prepared sometime back, does it have to be changed following the hydrologic property of the river?
- The participants from Shebelle zone have raised their concern on the delay of DRR plans and noted to have an impact on the operation of resettlement program in Mustahil woredas.

All of the questions were answered accordingly. Mr. Abraham & Mr. Ayatam from NDRMC, Mohamed Nur, Yusuf and Jamal from the Regional DRMB, Mr. Marco Lesukat and Dr. Tesfaye Korme from EU/ DT-Global responded to all of the questions raised by the participants. Specifically, questions related with the delay of the woreda risk profile and DRR plan were responded by Mr. Abraham.

## 6. Validation of workshop outcomes and Action Planning

One of the major expectation of the familiarization workshop was to validate the work plans for the selected woredas. Therefore, the work plans for the implementation of the project activities in the selected target woredas based on the project criteria were presented, discussed and approved. The plans were further validated by the zonal and woreda administrations and the other regional sectors participated in the workshop. Moreover, the participants were asked to develop their woreda action plans on the basis of their woreda DRR plans and what they have learnt in the workshop as soon as possible with the support of regional EU-DRR project manager and regional DRMB.

## 7. Conclusion

The EU-DRM Decentralization Project familiarization workshop was important because it brings onboard the participants from the various sector bureaus, zones and woredas and other humanitarian partners in addressing challenges brought by disasters. It also gives them an opportunity to understand the basic principles, practices and process of Ethiopian DRM policy and the new approaches of DRM/DRR. The workshop has improved their understanding and enhanced their skill in worda risk profiles and DRR plans in order to discover and appreciate the potentials they have to address the impact of hazards among them.

Mr. Mohamed Nur, the Deputy Bureau Head of DRMB has made the closing remarks by thanking the participants for their active participation and engagement, acknowledged the outcome of the workshop.

## 8. Photo of the participants of the workshop.

Opening remarks made by Ibrahim Osman Farah, Somali Regional Vice President, Demene Darota, Deputy Commissioner of NDRM & Abdullahi Abdi Aden, Head of Somali Regional DRM Bureau





Mr. Abraham Abebe, Director of DRR and Response



Mr. Marko Lesukat, Technical Assistance Team Leader

Dr. Tesfaye Korme

Mr. Ayatam



*END of Report*