



January– March 2011

Food Security and Drought



“First and foremost, the UN Millennium Declaration was recognition that we only have one earth. It is imperative that poverty be eradicated for the human family to co-exist peacefully. The industrialised nations and the rich in general are obliged to narrow the gap between rich and poor,”
Dr. Abuom.

Inside this issue:

Targets of MDGs	2
1,200 NGOs to be deregistered	2
TAABCO marks another milestone	3
Christian Unity Prayer Week	3
More NGOs needed in the rural areas	4
Food Security and climate change	6
18 countries and the ballot . South Sudan and its opportunities	7

Gaining momentum on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

By Dr. Agnes Abuom

When the UN General Assembly adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September 2000, the UN put the fight against poverty high on its agenda. This was a historic moment. The UN had, in the past, pronounced various goals and development decades, but such pledges were soon forgotten. The MDGs are different. Lively international debate on them continues, and has probably even gained momentum in the past 10 years.

The UN's recent MDG summit in New York revealed that progress remains uneven. There are serious challenges, and doubt is warranted about the MDGs all being achieved within the originally stated time span of 1990 to 2015.

– Asia and North Africa seem to be on track to meet MDG 1 of cutting poverty by half by 2015. In sub-Saharan Africa, however, progress remains slow. The global financial crisis means that economic growth has been thwarted in many world regions. The growing risk of food crises is even more frustrating.

– Concerning MDG 2, universal primary education, various assessments show that tremendous strides have been made. Many developing countries are on track. In sub-Saharan Africa, primary school enrollment has risen to about 71 %.

Men outnumber women

– Regarding MDG 3, gender equality, UNDP reports show that South Asia has made progress, while North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa are on the way but still lagging behind. While school enrollment seems to depend less and less on gender, however, in formal employment, men outnumber women, whereas women are over-represented in the informal sector. Men also outnumber women in legislative bodies and government bureaucracies.

– MDG 4 is about reducing child mortality. Once more, progress remains slow in sub-Saharan Africa. – Matters are even worse in regard to MDG 5, the reduction of maternal mortality. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia have hardly made any progress at all. Women continue to die of preventable as well as of treatable diseases and complications. Many women still do not use contraceptives

due to various reasons ranging from culture to lack of information. There can be absolutely no doubt that the world needs to do more to promote family planning.

– MDG 6 is to halt and reverse spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Inroads have been made. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has been stabilised, and the rates of new infections are going down even in sub-Saharan Africa, the region most affected. Infected people, moreover, tend to live longer thanks to better care and treatment. However, there is once again a gender issue: due to sexualised violence, women in conflict regions are particularly affected by HIV/AIDS. Moreover, WHO statistics prove that too many young people lack information on prevention. Trends are worrisome in Eastern Europe and Central Asia where prevalence rates are rising. While there is some progress on tuberculosis, the fight against malaria is not going well. Obviously, mosquito nets are still too expensive for many poor people.

– Targets for MDG 7, environmental sustainability, include reversing the loss of natural resources, halving the share of people with access to clean water. Woodlands continue to be destroyed in forest-rich nations like Brazil, Indonesia or the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In most of sub-Saharan Africa, deforestation is something that happened a long time ago. Climate change – a phenomenon the rich world is to blame for – is leading to people becoming newly vulnerable in developing countries. Their scope for adaptation is limited. As for safe water and sanitation, urbanisation is happening too fast in Africa for all people affected to be provided with adequate facilities. No doubt, humanity needs to fully embrace the Rio Declaration.

– MDG 8 is about international cooperation to create a world conducive to development. From the African perspective, this is the most frustrating field. Yes, it is true that official development assistance (ODA) has doubled to around \$ 100 billion in the past decade, but according to the Centre for Global Development, a lot of the increase was debt relief and humanitarian assistance. The least developed countries only get around one third of ODA. Only a handful of small coun-

tries live up to the rich nations' decades-old pledge to spending 0.7 % of their gross national income on ODA. In real terms, ODA has gone down, and the MDGs are seriously underfunded. The UN states it needs \$ 120 billion, and a mere 1.3 billion have been pledged.

All summed up, the successes registered in the early years of the MDGs are now at risk of erosion. The impact of the global financial crisis and – even more important – of food shortages have yet become fully evident. Disasters are increasingly eating up ODA funds, exacerbating the lack of long-term investments. Unmitigated climate change will only make matters worse.

First and foremost, the UN Millennium Declaration was recognition that we only have one earth. It is imperative that poverty be eradicated for the human family to co-exist peacefully. The industrialised nations and the rich in general are obliged to narrow the gap between rich and poor. The world has adequate resources to ensure that MDGs are realised, but that requires serious commitment and equitable redistribution. Political commitment is best measured in funding, of course.

Asian countries

In past decades, development policies have been guided by the paradigm of free markets. This paradigm needs to be revisited. The global financial crisis has shown that markets do not always know best. Moreover, Asian countries that have made fast progress – most of all China, of course – are known for only gradual liberalisation and massive state intervention in economic activities.

At the same time, civil-society organisations need to engage more than before in the MDG debate. They need to take part in policy making to ensure social fairness, and their role in fighting corruption is essential. The MDG agenda is fine – but its targets will not be achieved unless policymakers all over the world gear their action towards them.

(This article was first published in the D+C (Development and Cooperation) magazine, a monthly journal funded by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)

Environmental sustainability. MDG number 7, with targets include safe drinking water, reversing the loss of environmental resources and improving the lives of slum-dwellers

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target 1 A: Halve the share of world population living on less than one dollar a day.

Target 1 B: Full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Target 1 C: Halve the share of people suffering hunger.

2. Achieve universal primary education
Target 2 A: Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary school.

3. Promote gender equality/empower women

Target 3 A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.

4. Fight child mortality

Target 4 A: Reduce the mortality rate of children under five by 66.6 %.

5. Improve maternal health

Target 5 A: Reduce the maternal mortality rate by 75 %.

Target 5 B: Achieve universal access to

reproductive healthcare.

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Target 6 A: Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Target 6 B: Provide all in need with access to HIV/AIDS treatment.

Target 6 C: Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other diseases.

7. Environmental sustainability

Target 7 A: Gear government action towards sustainable development and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

Target 7 B: Halve the proportion of world population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Target 7 C: Achieve (by 2020) a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

8. Global partnership for development

Target 8 A: Develop further an open, rules-based, predictable and non-

discriminatory trading and financial system.

Target 8 B: Address the needs of the least developed countries.

Target 8 C: Address the needs of the landlocked countries and small island states.

Target 8 D: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries.

Target 8 E: Provide affordable access to essential drugs (in cooperation with pharma companies).

Target 8 F: Make available the benefits of new technologies (in cooperation with the private sector).

More than 1,200 NGOs threatened with deregistration

On December 3, 2010 the NGOs Council Co-ordination Board published a Notice in the Kenya Gazette, threatening to deregister more than 1,000 Non-Governmental Organisations. In the Notice, the Board's executive director P.O. ole Nkuraiah accused the 1,252 NGOs of failing to adhere to the provisions of the NGO Act of 1990. The biggest crime committed by these NGOs was the failure to file their annual returns, which is expected by May 31 of every year.

What is common in most of these civil society organizations is that they are faith-based NGOs, some of which are said to be guilty of failing to declare their bank details. Kenya currently has between 4,000 and 5,000 registered NGOs driven by young leaders. And unlike the civil society organizations of the yesteryears, the current crop of NGOs is characterized by a spirit of entrepreneurship. Fairly young and with ability to multitask, most of these NGOs clearly lacks that spirit of servant-hood, a trait that drove the second generation NGO leaders.

It is sad to concede that many of these NGOs were registered, managed to secure funding but have since remained dormant. In the early 1990s, as Kenya pushed for multiparty democracy, the civil societies then, was mostly comprised of volunteers. In their push for change, these leaders worked on behalf of many Kenyans. Many then, could be described as selfless as they volunteered by using

their own skills, held meetings (some at night), made contacts and risked their lives for the good of the country. But that spirit is no more, as we encounter new faces everyday. The sector has also become dynamic as people compete for resources. Other than losing the important ingredient of voluntarism, the current NGOs also appear to lack information. Most of them are not up-to-date with the current affairs. At the moment, about five million people in Kenya risk starving due to the hunger biting parts of the country. Astonishingly, there are NGOs that were registered to agitate for best farming practices, food security, climate change and adaptation and poverty alleviation.

But where are these NGOs as Kenyans suffer? Speaking during a special annual general meeting, former chairman of the NGO Council Simeon Kanani identified a number of problems, he said plagued the council. According to Mr Kanani, the NGO Act, which was enacted in 1990 is outdated and needs to be repealed to conform to the changing world. When it was enacted, there were only about 500 NGOs but the number has grown tremendously.

Another problem identified by Mr Kanani was that the rules and regulations governing the NGO world in the country is also outdated. Further, said Mr Kanani, although officials from the Ministry of National Heritage assisted in drafting the rules, they were never

gazetted. As such, whenever a member flouts the rules and taken to court, the rules and regulations have no legal backing and the case dismissed. The NGO code of conduct also needs to be reviewed and updated, according to Mr Kanani. One hopes that with the new leadership, which is also headed by a youngster, will do an overhaul at the NGO council and bring some sanity at the helm to win the back the confidence of Kenyans.

Vibrant

The new constitutional dispensation has brought in many opportunities and the NGO Council should make its presence felt in all corners of the country. If they are vibrant enough, the council will also play a role in the implementation of the new Constitution together with the Charles Nya-chae-led Commission of the Implementation of the Constitution. The increasing integration and interdependence process spearheaded by the East African Community should also offer opportunities and potential for the NGOs in the country. In order to attract the international attention and tap in to the EAC market, the NGO Council must re-brand itself to promote a positive image as opposed to the chaotic leadership and court battles that have become its identity.

1,252

The number of NGOs threatened with deregistration.

“The increasing integration and interdependence process spearheaded by the East African Community should also offer opportunities and potential for the NGOs in the country,”

On the move; TAABCO moving to new office as it marks another milestone

On January 21, Taabco Research and Development Consultants marked another milestone in its illustrious development. This was the day set aside for the blessing of our new office at SAACHI plaza.

St. Agnes

Besides, it was St Agnes Day, a day celebrated in remembrance of Agnes, a young girl who was martyred in the last half of the third century. Was it by sheer coincidence that TAABCO's Executive Director Agnes Abuom chose "her" day for this auspicious occasion?

According to American Catholic.org, almost nothing is known of Saint Agnes except that she was very young, probably 12 or 13, when she was martyred. It is said that she met her death after rejecting proposals for marriage from many young men.

"Among those she refused, one reported her to the authorities for being a Christian. She was arrested and confined to a house of prostitution," reads American Catholic.org in part.

The legend continues that a man who looked upon her lustfully lost his sight but the sight was restored by her prayer.

Sadly, Agnes was condemned, executed and buried near Rome in a catacomb that eventually was named after her. The daughter of Constantine built a basilica in her honor according to American Catholic.org. The dedication of TAABCO's new office was led by Rev. Joyce Kariuki, the Vicar of ACK St Luke and in her powerful message, the Rev Kariuki reminded the staff present the importance of acknowledging God.

Established on a Christian foundation, TAABCO staff cannot afford to forget what God has done for the organization over the years. This is despite the fact that some years have been bumpy for TAABCO and many organizations as well as NGOs in Kenya and the wider region.

In Kenya, the 2007-08 post election violence dealt a major blow to TAABCO, its partners and clients. The confusion that came with the post-election violence cannot be overemphasized; it was indeed a sad moment for Kenya.

Remember

Other than the post election violence, there is the threat of climate change and severe weather conditions. Currently, drought is ravaging some parts of Rift Valley, Eastern and Coast provinces and its wake, affecting the activities of TAABCO, its clients and partners.

Similarly, the effects of economic crunch are still being felt to date and as an organization, TAABCO has suffered in one way or another.

Despite all these, the Rev. Kariuki reminded the staff of TAABCO the power and security derived from acknowledging God. The message read, from the book of Deuteronomy 8:1-19, has several warnings; "Be careful", "Remember", "Observe", "Do not forget".

According to Rev. Kariuki there are several things that hinder us from acknowledging God, which include pride, forgetfulness, disobedience, anger, bitterness, selfishness, hopelessness and lack of contentment.

Over the years, TAABCO has grown in terms of clients base and personnel with wide experience. Since inception, TAABCO has endured itself to providing quality services to its clients and

in doing so, the organization has carved a niche in consultancy services by pioneering and specializing in fields of deepening dialogue and partnerships, Integrating Financial Management and Organizational Development, Knowledge management and policy analysis among others products. Further, the organization has a committed strategic leadership and governance to success but above all, TAABCO will always acknowledge God.

"Things that hinder us from acknowledging God, include pride, forgetfulness, disobedience, anger, bitterness, selfishness, hopelessness and lack of contentment," Rev. Kariuki.



Above and left. Christians take part in the annual Christian Unity prayer week. The event, marked every year on the last week of January all over the World from different Traditions pray for Christian Unity. Since 1908 the week of prayer for Christian Unity is reality bringing together Catholic and Protestant. Every year the Vatican and the WCC organize the program and distribute around the world. The topic for 2011 is "*One in the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer.*

Acts 2 : 42 - 47" The AACC community was invited to be part of this special Worship Service that took place on Monday January 24. guest preacher was Rev. Father James Kabata from the Catholic Church in Kenya.

Needed; More NGOs in the rural areas

A recent press article detailing how NGOs in Nairobi and those based in rural areas, especially in the North Rift, were embroiled in a tussle of words on who had greater mandate to assist the International Criminal Court (ICC) in collecting and developing evidence against the masterminds of the post-election violence brings into sharp focus the differences between civil societies in the city and their counterparts in rural areas.

It is an open secret that NGOs based in Nairobi have the greatest access to the donor community. This is in part because of the concentration of representatives of donor organizations in the capital city.

The growth and expansion of NGOs into rural areas has been a boon for communities living under marginalization but also a dilemma for the State, with some government functionaries insisting on their sovereign political right to act as gatekeepers between organizations within their borders and agencies from the outside world.

Grassroots

In recent times, the government has partially accepted to let NGOs take the lead on controversial development issues but still some government ministries are suspicious about NGOs and their self-appointed role as agents of change.

Independent evaluations confirm that grassroots NGOs have been effective in their ability to work at the grassroots level and to operate in remote areas, or those sectors that did not have efficient development activity.

Their role in sensitizing governments and development organizations to the environmental considerations of projects is well documented. But there are limitations in the area of management, local staff training, and the ability to replicate projects and collaborate at appropriate levels with government services.

The North Rift shares more international borders than any other province in Kenya. Uganda, Sudan, and Ethiopia have all had or are currently having volatile civil wars, leading to easily accessible arms.

Pastoralists

For a long-time now, pastoralist communities, including the Marakwet, Pokot, Samburu and Turkana have been involved in a never-ending war that has involved cattle rustling and intra-community warfare that has left many villages razed to the ground and hundreds of families displaced from their homes.

Although the government has contributed towards the ending of the conflict, most of the donkey work in developing the peace process, redeveloping the infrastructure, encouraging cross-border brotherhood has been undertaken by civil societies.

In the Kakuma refugee camp in Turkana, there is fierce competition between refugees and local Turkana people. The war in Southern Sudan has been raging since the early 1980's.

Refugees from that conflict have been living in camps

in Kakuma on the Kenyan side of the border for years with no immediate alternatives for the future. At the UN camp, over 70,000 stateless people wait for something to change while food rations get smaller, children are born, and marriages arranged.

The Kenya Turkana people living in the semi-desert area where the camp is located do not have 25 free primary schools, as those in the camp do. They do not have piped water, vocational schools, or relief food rations. The conflict over resources between the refugees and local people is the biggest challenge facing the UN-headed aid mission.

The refugee situation and the after-effect of the ravaging wars in neighbouring countries has been minimized by a huge part by the participation of grassroots-based non-profit organizations that have continued to empower local communities through peace-building, disarmament, food distribution and construction of educational facilities.

Meanwhile, the Kenyan government has failed to reverse the lack of development by the colonial authority in Turkana, and has little incentive to prioritize this area of the country. The UN and other large NGOs have provided jobs and development simply by paving the road to the refugee camp and hiring some locals in the management of operations there.

The 2007 General elections post-election violence resounded heavily with communities living in the North Rift region. Hundreds of people were brutally killed, millions' worth of property destroyed while thousands of families were displaced and are currently living in tent camps.

For a while, the government tried to resettle such families, providing short-term food rations and erecting tent schools. But these efforts have fizzled out, leaving community-based organizations operating in the broad region to provide trauma counseling, medical services, income-generating opportunities and general development.

IDPs

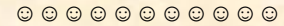
Families in IDP camps have undergone both psychological and physical challenges, including violation of security rights, violation of right to education (In North Rift, 35 primary schools closed as people moved due to the violence and the schools in South Rift refused to take the children of IDPs), violation of right to adequate housing (People were forced to move out of their habitual residence due to the violence and this led to the encampment of large numbers of people into small structures causing congestions, overcrowding etc with the potential danger of outbreaks of and spread of diseases), violation of the right to own property, and discrimination because of their political affiliation of their communities.

The contribution of NGOs and CBOs has also been felt in the broad sectors of health. HIV/Aids awareness, testing, PMTCT and psychosocial integration have become a part of how grassroots organizations mitigate the pangs of the disease.

Jokes corner

Presidential Humour.

Former US President Woodrow Wilson once observed that; "People never remain the same after they come to Washington. They either grow or swell, usually the latter."

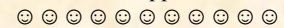


Self assured Jimmy Carter ran for President as a born-again Christian. In the course of his campaign, the former Georgia governor made quite a production of selecting a running mate on his party ticket, the Democrats.

As the selection proceeded, one wag commented: "I can't see why Jimmy Carter is both-ering to select the vice-presidential candidate. Way down deep he probably feels he doesn't need one. Hell, man, if Jimmy dies in office, he will simply Rise Again."

Humorist Will Rogers once visited President Warren G. Harding in the White House. After they had passed time of the day, Rogers said: "I'd like to tell you some of my latest jokes, Mr. President."

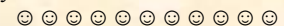
The President answered back; "Oh, you won't have to do that, Will, I appointed them,"



During the inauguration of President Kennedy, a massive crowd jammed into the area in front of the capital. A senator was caught in the crush and was unable to break through to his place on the platform. While the tagging and hauling were going on, a man with a big Western hat turned to the senator and said: "Would you mind holding my hat for a minute?"

"What?" the senator retorted. "Me hold your hat? I want you to know mister, that I am a United States senator!"

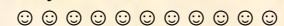
"What of it?" said the Westerner. "Despite that I'll trust you."



Shortly after John F. Kennedy had taken over the presidency, Ted Sorensen, JFK's brilliant speech-writer, had lunch with Richard Nixon, the defeated candidate. I certainly wish I had said some of those things Jack said in his inaugural speech," said Nixon.

Sorensen felt rather proud. "What part," he asked, "is it the part about not asking what your country can do for you?"

"Heavens no," said Nixon, "the part that starts, "I do solemnly swear..."



President Theodore Roosevelt loved theatrics. One of his sons put it this way: "Dad always had to be the center of attraction. When he went to a wedding, he wanted to be the bridegroom; and when he went to a funeral, he wanted to be the corpse."

Editorial

A Step in the right direction

We laud President Mwai Kibaki for marching Kenya towards the attainment of Millennium Development Goals. Indeed, Kenya has made some progress towards the goal.

In February, President Kibaki launched pneumococcal vaccine, a countrywide vaccination aimed at immunizing 970,000 children against pneumonia by the end of this year. This is not a mean feat given that an estimated 35,000 children, under the age of five die of pneumonia every year. Pneumonia is the second killer of children after malaria going by statistics and with the launch, President Kibaki and Kenya made another leap as the fight against child mortality is stepped up.

In 2003, President Kibaki scored another of the MDGs by the launch of free primary education (FPE). Although the plan has suffered a number of setbacks, it was a step in the right direction.

HIV and AIDS

In the fight against HIV and AIDS, Kenya has also made strides. AIDS prevalence has drastically reduced from 15 per cent in 2003 to 6.70 per cent by December last year. The number of people accessing HIV/AIDS treatment has also increased over the years.

In 2009, President Kibaki launched the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief committed \$15 billion to addressing HIV in resource-poor settings.

The Plan for AIDS Relief funding allowed Academic Model for the Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS and significantly increased the number of individuals receiving HIV care. The funds also enabled the expansion of services allowing for identification of patients earlier in their disease process.

However, many areas still lag behind and these include MDG number 7 on Environmental Sustainability, the fight against hunger (Goal number 1), Gender Equality and Empowering Women (Goal Number 3) and Improvement of Meternal Health (Goal number 5) to mention but a few.

Five Million

Currently, about five million Kenyans are suffering from the pangs of hunger yet in other areas, farmers registered a bumper harvest. It is ironical that people should starve to death yet a neighbour's store is packed to the brim while complaining of lack of market.

Such setbacks paint Kenya in a bad light. We call on the civil society to engage the policy makers in the MDG debate since only four years remain after the 1990 pledge.

Sam Kiplagat

Mitigating the consequences of the drought

By Reuben Inganji

Periods of drought can have significant environmental, agricultural, health, economic and social consequences. Its effects vary according to vulnerability as subsistence farmers, for example, are more likely to migrate during dry seasons. Areas with populations that depend on [subsistence farming](#) as a major food source are more vulnerable to drought-triggered famine. Drought can also reduce water quality, because lower water flows reduce dilution of pollutants and increase [contamination](#) of remaining water sources. Common consequences of drought include; diminished crop growth or yield and carrying capacity for livestock, dust bowls and dust storms which further erode the landscape. Other effects are habitat damage, affecting both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, malnutrition, dehydration and related diseases, power shortages, shortage of water for industrial use, snakes migration and increases in snakebites and wild fires. Among the strategies of mitigation include rainwater harvesting -- from roofs or other suitable catchments, drought monitoring, proper land use such as planned crop rotation which can help to minimize erosion and allow farmers to plant less water – dependent crops in drier years. Water can also be recycled after treatment and purified for reuse; building canals or redirecting rivers as massive attempts at irrigation in drought-prone areas



South Sudanese celebrate the results of the January 9, referendum as they voted for secession. The country has many untapped potential in livestock, forestry, fishery and arable land. It also receives adequate rainfall. Story on page 7.

18 presidents and the ballot; will the will of the people prevail?

Eighteen countries in Africa will be going to the polls this year.

A worrying trend has, however, been witnessed in Africa in the recent past as incumbents cling to power even after losing the election. Another is the eruption of violence immediately after the polls.

It was sad scene in Kenya in 2008 following the hotly contested elections, although no one would ever know who won the elections according to Justice Johan Kriegler who chaired the Independent Review Commission.

A deal brokered by former UN chief Kofi Annan saw President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga share power.

Similar incident occurred in Zimbabwe in 2008 between President Robert Mugabe and his bitter rival Morgan Tsvangirai. Again the two were forced into a power-sharing pact.

Last year, Laurent Gbagbo of Ivory Coast refused to hand over power to Alassane Oattara, who has been recognized internationally, as having won the elections.

The November 28 election was intended to reunify the country which has been divided since a 2002 conflict. Among the coun-

-tries that would be going to the polls include Uganda on February 18, Benin in March, Central African Republic in March and Nigeria in April.

Watched

Nigeria will be watched by the international community due to its economic importance and potential divisions between various candidates.

Chad will also be going to polls as well as Zambia in October, Zimbabwe, Cape Verde, Cameroon (October), Democratic Republic of Congo (November) and Seychelles (July).

Egypt will be going to the polls in September but without its strongest and longest serving ruler Hosni Sayyid Mubarak who resigned in February after 18 days of riots. Voters will also be facing the ballot in Madagascar, Sao Tome and Principe, Niger, Liberia and Gambia.

With all these countries going to the polls, our prayer is that they will be peaceful and that the populace will not be divided along religious or other backgrounds.

By Dr. Wilfred Ongaro
and Seith Abeka

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to enough, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy lifestyle.

Needless to say, to be food secure implies its availability, accessibility and affordability. Exactly how we address issues of agriculture, attaining food security and maintaining environmental sustainability in the event of world's changing climates remains our major challenge.

Climate change can impact negatively to agricultural sustainability in two interrelated ways: firstly, by diminishing the long-term ability of agro-ecosystems to provide food and fiber for the world's population; and secondly, by inducing shifts in agricultural regions that may encroach upon natural habitats, at the expense of floral and faunal diversity.

Global warming encourages agricultural activities expansion into regions now occupied by natural ecosystems such as forests, particularly at mid- and high-latitudes. Forced encroachments of this sort may thwart the processes of natural selection of climatically-adapted native crops and other species.

Today, agriculture is at crossroads. It has to find ways to feed the world while being environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

Sustainable Agriculture

Whilst overall, global impact of climate change on agricultural production may be small, regional vulnerabilities to food deficits may increase depending on group of people in question. For subsistence farmers, for instance, lower yields may result not only in measurable economic losses, but also in malnutrition and even famine.

A thriving and sustainable agricultural sector requires both integrated action by farmers and communities, and integrated action by policy makers and planners. It is also vital for farmer-to-farmer learning and sharing of experiences to be encouraged and facilitated.

There is need for mainstreaming of sustainable agriculture both at national and international level.

Until recently, most assessments of the impact of climate change on the food and agriculture sector have focused on the implications for production and global supply of food, with less consideration of other components of the food chain.

Food security is the outcome of food system processes all along the food chain. Climate change will affect food security through its impacts on all components of global, national and local food sys-

tems. Climate change is real, and its first impacts are already being felt world wide.

The process of global warming shows no signs of abating and is expected to bring about long term changes in weather conditions. These changes will have serious impacts on the four dimensions of food security: food availability, food accessibility, food utilization and food system stability. It will have an impact on human health, livelihood assets, food production and distribution channels, as well as changing purchasing power and market flows.

Climate change

The effects of climate change are already being felt in global food markets, and are likely to be particularly significant in specific rural locations where crops fail and yields decline. Impacts are being felt in both rural and urban locations where supply chains are disrupted, market prices increase, assets and livelihood opportunities are lost, purchasing power falls, human health is endangered, and affected people are unable to cope.

Until about 200 years ago, climate was a critical determinant for food security. Since the advent of the industrial revolution, however, humanity's ability to control the forces of nature and manage its own environment has grown enormously. As long as the economic returns justify the costs, people can now create artificial microclimates, breed plants and animals with desired characteristics, enhance soil quality, and control the flow of water.

The consumer demand that has driven the commercialization and integration of the global food chain derives from the mass conversion of farmers into wage-earning workers and middle-level managers, which is another consequence of the industrial revolution.

Today, food insecurity persists primarily in those parts of the world where industrial agriculture, long-distance marketing chains and diversified non-agricultural livelihood opportunities are not economically significant.

Rising sea levels and increasing incidence of extreme events pose new risks for the assets of people living in affected zones, threatening livelihoods and increasing vulnerability to future food insecurity in all parts of the globe.

The potential impacts of climate change on food security must therefore be viewed within the larger framework of changing earth system dynamics and observable changes in multiple socio-economic and environmental variables.

Crop failure

Agriculture-based livelihood systems that are already vulnerable to food insecurity face immediate risk of in-

creased crop failure, new patterns of pests and diseases, lack of appropriate seeds and planting material, and loss of livestock.

Food systems will also be affected through possible internal and international migration, resource-based conflicts and civil unrest triggered by climate change and its impacts.

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries will not only be affected by climate change, but also contribute to it through emitting greenhouse gases. They also hold part of the remedy, however; they can contribute to climate change mitigation through reducing greenhouse gas emissions by changing agricultural practices.

At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen the resilience of rural people and to help them cope with this additional threat to food security. Particularly in the agriculture sector, climate change adaptation can go hand-in-hand with mitigation. Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures need to be integrated into the overall development approaches and agenda.

Climate change creates risks on food security. Risk exists when there is uncertainty about the future outcomes of ongoing processes or about the occurrence of future events. Adaptation is about reducing and responding to the risks climate change poses to people's lives and livelihoods.

Changing consumption patterns

Strengthening resilience involves adopting practices that enable vulnerable people to protect existing livelihood systems, diversify their sources of income, change their livelihood strategies or migrate, if this is the best option.

Changing consumption patterns and food preparation practices may be sufficient to protect food security in many circumstances. Both market forces and voluntary choices influence individual decisions about what food to eat and how to maintain good health under a changing climate.

Sustainable livestock management practices for adaptation and associated mitigation should also be given high priority. Conservation agriculture can make a significant difference to efficiency of water use, soil quality, capacity to withstand extreme events, and carbon sequestration. Promoting agro biodiversity is particularly important for local adaptation and resilience. Meeting the growing demand for energy is a prerequisite for continued growth and development. Bioenergy is likely to play an increasingly important role, but its use should not undermine food security.

Mitigating climate change means reducing greenhouse gas emissions and

sequestering or storing carbon in the short term, and _ of even greater importance _ making development choices that will reduce risk by curbing emissions over the long term.

Incentives are needed to persuade crop and livestock producers, agro industries and ecosystem managers to adopt good practices for mitigating climate change.

In the food and agriculture sector, adaptation and mitigation often go hand in hand, so adopting an integrated strategic approach represents the best way forward.

If agricultural production in the low-income developing countries of Asia and Africa is adversely affected by climate change, the livelihoods of large numbers of the rural poor will be put at risk and their vulnerability to food insecurity increased. Several funds within the United Nations system finance specific activities aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience to the negative impacts of climate change.

The ultimate goal of realizing food security through adaption and adaptation to climate change is to inform policy development and promote local dialogue about what the impacts of climate change are likely to be and what options exist for reducing vulnerability, and to provide local communities with site-specific solutions.

This document is part of an abstract that was presented for a joint conference by Bondo University College, Bondo, (Kenya) and Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Cape Town, (South Africa).

“Impacts of climate change on food security must therefore be viewed within the larger framework of changing earth system dynamics and observable changes in multiple socio-economic and environmental variables.”



Left; Part of the Mt. Kenya East Christian Community Services (CCSMKE) Board members deliberating during the recently concluded Board Training at St. Julian's Centre in Limuru which was facilitated by Dr. Agnes Abuom.

Behold, Africa's newest State

Six years after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Nairobi, the people of Southern Sudanese made a decision. It was a decisive vote of as the populace voted for secession. In a landmark independence vote, almost 99 per cent of southerners voted for the split, ushering in Africa's 54th State.

South Sudan, it seems, will be the name of the new state when it achieves international recognition in July. This is according to the SPLM leadership.

The vote, viewed by southerners as the ultimate way to freedom, a struggle they have been agitating for since the British and Egyptians abruptly handed power to the mainly Muslim Arab rulers in Khartoum in 1956.

Africa's longest civil war

The Southern Sudan, who are mainly Christian and animist assert their distinct culture from the Northern population. And in their quest for independence, an estimated two million people lost their lives in one of Africa's longest civil-wars.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), touted as the most important achievement for both the Government of the Sudan and Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM), ended the conflict which lasted for 21 years.

The National Congress Party and SPLM bore the brunt of the conflict as they suffered loss of lives, destruction, displacement and other tragedies associated with war.

Much is yet to be done as sensitive matters such the sharing of oil revenues are yet to be addressed now that the country has split. The country's oil reserves, responsible for up to 45 percent of state revenues, lie in the south.

It remains to be seen whether the transition will be managed peacefully. But with hopes and prayers, the southerners will achieve. The distance they have traveled is longer and the route treacherous.

Mr Abel Alier writes in his book entitled; *Too many agreements dishonoured* "With a long history of socio-economic imbalance; another of heaps of dishonoured pledges and agreements; yet more history of quiet, long-standing but sometimes ferocious fratricidal killing; a new emerging agenda of elements of race and religious fundamentalism; what prospects are there for the Sudan to sustain itself as viable nation-state?"

Abyei

A separate vote, which had been planned for the oil-rich and fertile Abyei area, was shelved indefinitely. Abyei area cuts across the two regions.

A huge percentage of the current oil production comes from fields located in the South. It is exported through a 1610 Km-long pipeline to the export ports on the Red Sea. The South, which is land locked, will need to use these oil infrastructure until it finds another option if it decides so.

The government in Khartoum currently gets 60 percent of its annual budget from oil revenue, while, for the southern government, gets 98 percent. And nearly 80 percent of this lucrative oil comes from here in Unity state, part of South Sudan.

Bountiful of Natural Resources

The simmering war between rebels and southern army has so far claimed the lives of about 200 people. It should not be left to escalate since peace has eluded the Horn for a long time.

Another positive thing to note is that Southern Sudan has bountiful natural resources and the potential to be a major producer of a wide range of agricultural commodities.

According to USAID Sudan, other than its fertile land, South Sudan's livestock, fishery and forestry resources largely remain untapped.

The area receives adequate rainfall and water is available throughout the year, a pointer to the agricultural potential of southern Sudan.

"However, development of this sector has been stifled by the long and ongoing civil war and resulting economic isolation of the region. Constraints to agricultural production and marketing include poor infra-

structure, lack of access to capital and low-level agricultural technical efficiency and skills in production, marketing, and business management," reads part of an article posted on USAID website. The challenge remains whether Africa's newest kid will exploit these potential and become the continent's net exporter of food.

Other challenge facing the new State is the literacy levels as a large number of the populace are illiterate and poor infrastructure.

"The vote, viewed by southerners as the ultimate way to freedom, a struggle they have been agitating for since the British and Egyptians abruptly handed power to the mainly Muslim Arab rulers in Khartoum in 1956."

Millions facing starvation despite early warning

By Sam Kiplagat

In September last year, the Kenya Meteorological Department issued a warning of an impending drought.

In its seasonal review, the weathermen warned that the country was likely to experience poor rainfall in the months of October-November and December. The weatherman classified the La Nina experience as weak, but warned that it was expected to strengthen with time.

But during the festive season, this warning was shoved aside as all the attention was shifted to merrymaking and little attention to road accidents- another tragedy which has been plaguing the country every December.

Then came January and the effects of the drought started being felt. At first, the government ignored the pleas of the suffering masses until leaders from affected areas sounded the alarm bells.

By mid-January, media reports indicated that some five people had died- four in Tana River area and one in Marsabit- as a result of the drought. Worst hit by the drought and famine are pastoralists who not only lost lives but livestock to the biting drought. In January 12, an emergency security meeting chaired by President Mwai Kibaki announced a contingency plan as the government sought to address the situation.

Immediately thereafter, a technical team dubbed the National Drought Response Steering Committee under the chairmanship of Special Programmes Permanent Secretary Andrew Mondoh was unveiled.

Statement

In a statement, the Ministry in whose docket disaster preparedness falls, said that two-thirds of the country recorded 70 per cent of normal rainfall during the October-December 2010 short rains season.

As a result, there was deteriorating pastures for livestock and poor crop performance in central highlands areas, Nairobi area and South Eastern lowlands.

"The most depressed seasonal rainfall of below 40 per cent was recorded in Malindi, Marsabit, Turkana and Wajir counties," said Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Special Programmes Andrew Mondoh. Although pastoralism in Kenya makes a significant contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the sector has largely been ignored. It is worth noting that pastoralism provides livelihood to some 3.5 million people in arid and semi areas in Kenya.

Besides, pastoralists are custodians of dryland environments; they provide services through good range-land management including biodiversity conservation and wildlife tourism. However, pastoralists have the highest incidence of poverty and lack basic services compared to other areas in the country.

With the highest poverty levels recorded in the pastoralists' districts, the famine and drought ravaging the northern parts of the country could not have come at a worse time.

The intervention announced was made a little too late because the government ought to have known and put up measures, to mitigate the drought's effects.

In January, some herders had migrated to the neighbouring Uganda in search of pasture and water. Those left behind, mainly children and the elderly, bore the brunt of the drought.

There were also reports of school drop-outs among boys as they migrate with their herds in search of pasture.

And in moving, fears were being raised that the herders might stir up conflict with other pastoral groups over the diminishing pastures and water. The contingency plan announced by the Ministry of Special Programmes showed that the government had already distributed some 142,500 bags of maize, 64,000 bags of beans, 36,000 bags of rice and 25,900 cartons of cooking oil to the needy districts in three months. The government also announced that it had released some Kshs 75 million to the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) for ranchers and traders for livestock off-take.

Further, 160 boreholes had been sunk in some of the affected areas and water trucking was also being undertaken in some sites in Northern Kenya.

Areas worst hit by the drought

Upper Eastern

Masarbit, Moyale, Isiolo, Samburu and Tharaka,

North Rift

Turkana and West Pokot,

South Rift

Baringo, Mogotio, Kajiado and Narok,

North Eastern

Garrisa, Wajir and Mandera,

Coast Region

Kwale, Lamu, Malindi, Kilifi and Tana River,

Lower Eastern

Kitui South

The Kenya Red Cross Society also sent out an appeal to raise Sh1.4 billion saying that at least 1.8 million people were at risk of starvation.

According to the Ministry of Livestock development, some 150,000 camels, 6 million cattle and 16 million goats were at risk.

Some churches including the Anglican Church of Kenya, Nakuru Diocese have appealed for food relief supplies and water to be distributed in some of the affected areas including parts of Naivasha, East Pokot, Baringo and Baringo.

Through Rt. Rev. Stephen Mwangi, the church said that worst affected were the elderly and children.

The Redeemed Gospel Church Development Programme also called for intervention as the biting drought affected some of its work. The church, which has its programmes in slum areas of Korogocho, Mathare and Huruma in Nairobi also sent out appeal as the ripples of drought started affecting its programmes.



Livestock dying in hundreds are a common feature in arid and semi-arid areas; picture courtesy of BBC.

TAABCO News is produced by
TAABCO Research and
Development Consultants

Sino House, Rose Avenue,
Off Argwings Kodhek Road
P.O BOX 10488-00100.
Editorial Director;
Dr. Agnes Abuom
Editor; Sam Kiplagat
Contributors; Dr Wilfred Ongaro
Mr Seith Abeka, Ms Alice Mbaye,
Mr Reuben Inganji

Contacts:

Phone: +254-20-2712698/2712980

Mobile: +254-721948813/ 254-726

164625 Fax: +254-20-2712980

E-mail: taabco@taabco.org

**Strengthening organisations to
manage change through
Consultancies, Training, Research
and Policy analysis**

**The views expressed here do not
necessarily reflect those of TAABCO
Research and Development
Consultants or its partners.**

**TAABCO Research and Development Consultants
Transforming organizations and people for
21st Century Tasks and Responsibilities.**

**TAABCO's Vision is a peaceful, just and pov-
erty free society that affirms human dignity,
has participatory leadership and a strong vi-
able civil society.**

**TAABCO's Mission is to strengthen Civil Society Or-
ganisations (CSOs) by providing strategy and capacity
enhancement on Leadership and management Systems;
Knowledge Management practices and deepening dia-
logue and building partnerships among others.**

www.taabco.org

IDCCS changes name but remains committed to serving the community

By Alice Mbaye

The Inter-Diocesan Christian Community Services (IDCCS) is a non-profit joint development arm of four Anglican Church of Kenya dioceses of Maseno South, Maseno West, Southern Nyanza and Bondo.

The establishment of IDCCS in 1997 was preceded by three critical milestones in the Anglican Church's engagement in development in the independent Kenya.

The first was the launch of the Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP) in 1975 by the then greater Diocese of Maseno South currently consisting of the four dioceses.

Standards of living

The IRDP sought to raise the standards of living of the rural communities; increase the per capita income of rural communities; initiate development projects and services; improve and satisfy physical and spiritual needs of communities; and integrate proclamation of the Gospel of Christ into development programs.

To realize these objectives, the IRDP focused on the promotion of community health, food production, appropriate technology and education programs.

The second milestone saw the launch of the Christian Community Services in 1983 to address issues of poverty and sustainable livelihoods, human rights, public policy and service delivery by the Anglican Church in Kenya. The CCS became the development arm of the Dioceses focusing on program development and delivery of services.

The CCS activities mainly revolved around agricultural development, primary health care, micro-credit schemes, fish processing, water development, women' development and stewardship. The third milestone was the merger of various Diocesan Christian Community Services into large units by regions. With changing environment of development, the major CCS donors recommended that the various Diocesan Christian Community Services be merged into regional development platforms.

It is this that led to the formation of the Inter-Diocesan Christian Community Services (IDCCS) in 1995 among other similar organizations formed within the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK).

IDCCS derives its mandate from the four pillars in theology and philosophy of development of the Anglican Church of Kenya. These are: Development as an act of worship, which means good work and actions to fellow humanity and creation, in order to glorify God;

.Full realization of each person's potential in life, recognizing that each person has a role and purpose accompanied by certain responsibilities and rights;

.Stewardship of resources for sustainability and glory of God; and
.Proclaiming salvation to the total person, and hence, addressing all needs - spiritual, physical, social, economic and intellectual through holistic ministry.

On the basis of the above four pillars, IDCCS has a mandate to function and hold in trust, facilitate, manage, run and develop holistic community development programs within the four ACK Dioceses in Nyanza.

On February 8, 2011 another milestone was achieved where IDCCS changed its name to Anglican Development service (ADS) -Nyanza carrying on with the same mandate.

ADS Nyanza is one of the 23 Bread for the World Partners, which has been closely working with TAABCO.