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Journey to Resilience

**Disaster Risk Reduction projects in Turkana,
Kitale, Eldoret and Garissa**





Natural hazards, political instability and violent conflicts cause human suffering, exacerbate poverty and prevent sustainable human development and equitable human growth.





Disaster risk reduction is the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and reduce the causal factors of disasters. Reducing exposure to hazards, lessening vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improving preparedness and early warning for adverse events are all examples of disaster risk reduction.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery aims to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards like conflicts, earthquakes, floods, droughts and cyclones, by emphasizing that one dollar invested in prevention saves seven dollars invested in crisis response.

In Kenya, UNDP works with the Government and other stakeholders to find and facilitate implementation of sustainable solutions to minimize disaster impacts in the country.

Some of the areas that UNDP support the Government and People of Kenya are as follows:

1. Supporting the country in developing a legal, policy and institutional framework that guides the country in Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery
2. Supporting mainstreaming of DRR into long term development plans at both national and county level
3. Supporting implementation of projects that stabilize livelihoods supports recovery and build resilience of communities impacted by disasters.

These projects were supported by:



The Government of Japan



The Government of Kenya



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Cover: A Turkana woman uses a home-made shaker to chase away Quelea birds in her sorghum farm on the outskirts of Lokichoggio, Turkana County. UNDP has trained farmers in the area on water catchment and conservation techniques that have resulted in improved yields from their farms.

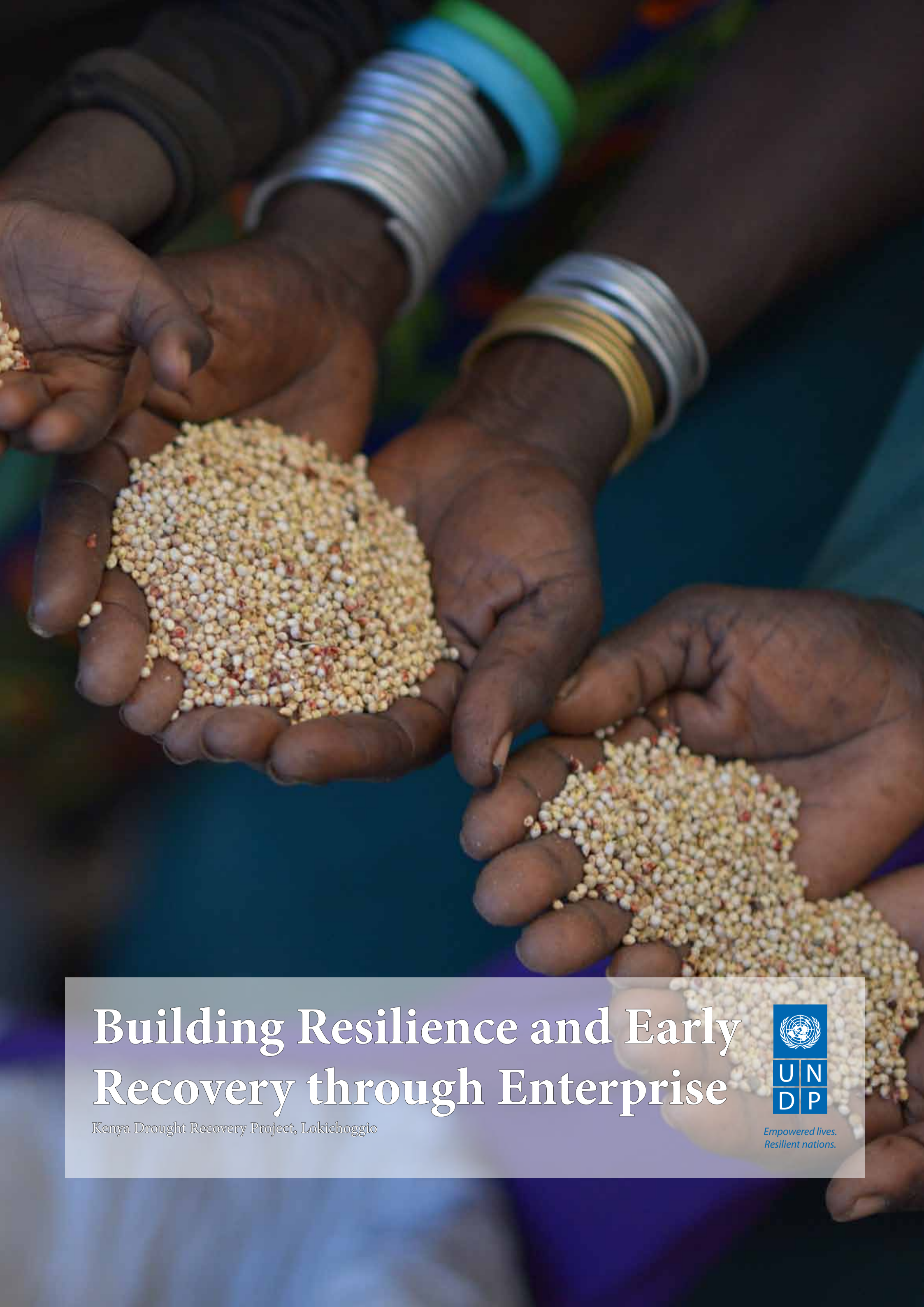
Inside Cover: The sun rises over the Lodwar-Kakuma road in Lokori, Turkana County.

Facing Page: (clockwise from top) A pupil at Nakururum Primary school tends to a tomato crop in a green house. A community worker tests out a pump erected next to a water pan on the outskirts of Lokichoggio. One of the water pans in Lokichoggio constructed by UNDP through NDMA.

Top: A farmer hard at work weeding her farm in the outskirts of Lokichoggio.







Building Resilience and Early Recovery through Enterprise

Kenya Drought Recovery Project, Lokichoggio



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The sound of a posho mill signifies life in most parts of sub-Saharan Africa. The byproduct of these turning and crushing wheels is flour derived from ground maize or corn. In Kenya, the staple food consists of this very important flour commonly known as 'Ugali' and it is also used for making porridge. Lack of this basic commodity spells doom when shortages are experienced, in fact regions that produce the maize crop are branded as the country's bread basket.

A community based group in Turkana County in Northern Kenya, has identified maize milling as a business opportunity and economic venture through UNDP funding. Aroot Business Group started in 2011 as a self-help group making and selling necklaces, belts, beads and embroidery. It is now a commercially viable registered business enterprise with 25 members.

Turkana communities are often faced with a complex humanitarian emergency due to years of under development, frequent exposure to natural and man-made disasters, influx of refugees and proliferation of small arms due to their proximity to unstable neighbors such as Somalia and South Sudan. In the past, interventions have often taken a reactive and short term approach aimed at saving lives, but this in most cases leaves communities vulnerable to subsequent disasters.

Aroot Business Group is one of the beneficiaries of the UNDP's Kenya Drought Recovery Project that aims to rapidly restore assets and incomes of affected populations to immediately protect their livelihoods and reduce the risk of falling destitute and severely food insecure.

The group, through the maize milling business, serves an average of 10 – 15 families a day. Each family mills approximately 22kg of flour at Ksh.160 bring in income of Ksh. 2400 per day when fully operational. This is supplemented with the sale of dried maize per kilogram and gunny bags for storage, which are stocked within the premises.

To equip the group members with the right skills, routine trainings on entrepreneurship is given and they have managed to keep books of accounting and opened up a bank account.

Under this model, emphasis is placed on promoting market based income generation activities, promotion of value chains for goods and services, as well as micro and small enterprise recapitalization targeting youth and women's groups.

Aroot Business Group members want to diversify into production of ballast by saving and buying a stone grinding machine in order to tap into the emerging construction industry in Turkana.

Facing Page: (clockwise from top) Maize is fed into the posho mill run by Aroot Business Group, a small enterprise supported by UNDP Kenya. A customer at the posho mill checks to see how fine his maize flour is. The finished product, fine milled maize flour. A happy customer wheels his bag of maize flour away on his bicycle.

Top: The members of Aroot Business Group Posho Mill in Turkana County.







Empowering the Girl Child through Education

Restoration and Stabilization of Livelihoods Project, Lokichoggio



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In efforts to empower the girl child and provide for the restoration and stabilization of livelihoods in drought affected areas like Turkana, UNDP has supported Lopiding Girls High School which is one of only two girl's school in Turkana West sub county, by funding the construction of 4 classrooms, 2 dormitories, extension of the kitchen and provision of a water reservoir.

The Head Teacher Mrs. Anne Matumbai, narrates how the school was started from humble beginnings with just 19 students enrolled in the first year to the current student population of 218 in 2013.

"Many girls in this region don't attend school because of the stalwart cultural influence and practices, educating girls is not a priority for the community as they marry early or work as casual labourers," describes Mrs. Anne Matumbai.

Girls' education in Turkana County and the extensive Northern Kenya region is still very inadequate characterized by low enrolment and high dropout rates. Despite the fact that the Kenyan government introduced Free Primary Education in 2003 and started meeting the tuition costs for secondary education in 2008, enrolment ratio in Turkana is still alarmingly low. While fundamental strides have been made to achieve gender parity at the national level, sharp regional disparities remain with about 80 per cent of girls in Northern Kenya not attending school.

Turkana communities are predominantly pastoralist and the region has experienced adverse drought in the recent past. These conditions have enormous impact on education particularly in Arid and Semi Arid lands where school enrolment rates show huge disparities in comparison with other low disaster risk areas.

Drought therefore poses long term challenges to attaining MDG number 2 - achieving universal primary education and hence undermines sustainable development. Limited access to education also means less participation of women and girls in the development of their communities.

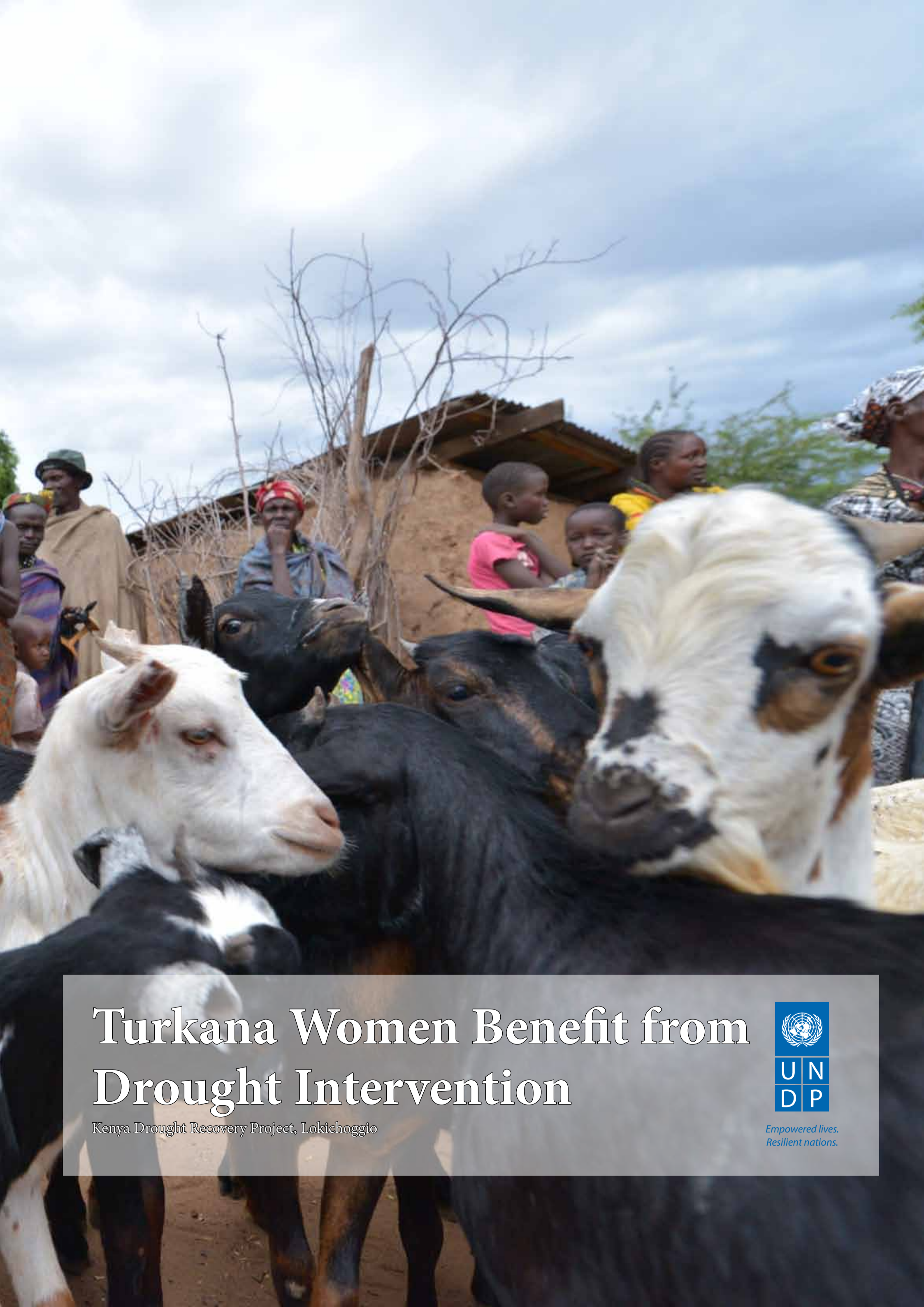
Lopiding Girls High School has over the years provided proximity to education to hundreds of girls in Turkana including bringing together girls from the warring communities like the Toposa from Sudan and Karamajong from Uganda.

This year, the school has registered the first lot of Form 4 students to sit the Kenya Certificate of Secondary School examinations after which they will transition to University and college level.

Facing Page: (clockwise from Top) Girls at their new dormitory during their tea break. The Government of Japan through UNDP Kenya and NDMA facilitated the construction of the dormitory to enhance the capacity at the school. Girls in a form two class reading keenly. A Chemistry teacher goes about his lesson in a Form Two class at Lopiding Girls High School.

Top: A cross section of girls from Lopiding Girls High School pose for a photo with their HeadMistress (centre)





Turkana Women Benefit from Drought Intervention

Kenya Drought Recovery Project, Lokichoggio



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Due to lack of water and pasture occasioned by the hostile climatic conditions, the people of Turkana have faced starvation leading to loss of life for both humans and animals. In such circumstances, relief food, water and medicine has been regularly supplied by multi agency support operations leading to a dependency syndrome over the years.

UNDP, through the drought response programme, funds interventions as a medium term measure to support urgent recovery of communities affected by the drought and to strengthen institutions responsible for recovery and disaster risk reduction work. In partnership with the government of Kenya under the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), they have targeted some of the worst hit areas in the recent drought and also some of the most under developed.

This initiative targets protection of the remaining livelihoods, assets and mitigation of the impact of continued dry conditions from a gender perspective. Several women groups were given goats as part of an initiative to restock livestock after the effects of drought that left most livestock herds seriously depleted. One such group is Koroirok women group who benefited from restocking of 20 indigenous goats and also received business management training to equip them with the necessary skills to handle finances and source for markets.

Mary Lokwakol, the treasure of the group, describes how they have been able to empower themselves economically by transforming the group into a business venture. “We have a bank account that we use to save money which we look to invest with”, Mary explains.

Each member of the group, as a way of raising more capital, bought each of the goats for Kshs. 2,000 (about \$ 24) and the group then reinvested the money on buying more stock. The women decide to trade in goats because they are more resistant to drought. Goats are browsers so they feed on shrubs and leaves unlike cows which are normally the first casualties to drought because of lack of pasture.

In just three months, the women were able to save Kshs. 25,000 in profits made from the sale of goats. The treasurer, Mary Lokwakol however states that this will definitely rise as the group seeks to invest more. “The greatest challenge we have is that Turkana cultural set up does not allow women to look after animals, we are forced hire a herdsman to look after the goats”, she says.

The group aims to increase their stock and also embrace rearing of cattle and camel. In the long run, Koroirok women group are looking at the possibility of diversifying into more hands-on business ventures like tailoring to encourage more women to actively participate.

The programme targets direct beneficiaries include communities hosting refugees from Somalia, Internally Displaced Persons, vulnerable youth (female and male) and women, key local government officials from technical departments, NGOs, CBO and relevant humanitarian actors engaged in early recovery work. In total, approximately 300,000 affected communities will benefit directly from the project.

*Facing Page: Some of the livestock that the women's group were given. Members of the group looking over their livestock as they put them back into the kraal in the evening.
Top: Members of the Koroirok Women's group pose for a photo with some of their livestock.*





The people who are most vulnerable to the impact of disasters and conflict live in the most underdeveloped parts of the country



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Recovering from Effects of Post Election Violence

Post Election Violence Livelihoods Recovery Project, Kitale



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After losing what they considered their only source of livelihood during the 2007/2008 post-election violence that displaced hundreds of thousands in Kenya, a group of youthful men in Kitale, one of the affected regions, started what would become their lifeline out of poverty. Lumino Youth Group was established to build cohesion amongst communities affected by the post-election violence and encourage peaceful coexistence especially among the youth.

The group of ten all worked in “Jua Kali” or makeshift sheds as mechanics, but their sources of livelihood and equipment were burnt down during the chaos that ensued after the 2007 elections. Philip Wanyonyi, 26, narrates how he almost lost his life trying to protect his sole source of income from being destroyed. “These are scars I got when I was cut by machetes and left for dead”, described Phillip who is one of the founding members of the group.

UNDP, through the livelihoods recovery project, provided the group with tools of trade that include a welding machine, grinder and a drilling machine to enable them get back on their feet and be economically empowered.

With intensive entrepreneurship trainings to equip the youth with necessary business skills, the group has been able to turn around their fortune and build a profit making enterprise within a short period of time.

The chairman of Lumino Youth Group - Julius Omenda 29, explains that they have so much work that they had to hire an extra hand to manage the equipment in the yard. “We managed to make just over Khs 50,000 in three months since we were given the machines”, says Julius.

The group is now encouraging individual members to venture into personal investment activities by engaging in table banking. This self-help financing model requires members to contribute 3 percent of their weekly earnings into a consolidated account that is used to facilitate low interest loans to members and requires no collateral.

Currently all the member are self-sufficient and economically stable and have been able to successfully establish personal investments through the loan facility offered by the group. The group also does youth mentorship and training to help and also transfer skills as well as continue with efforts of building peaceful coexistence amongst different communities.

As part of their future aspiration, Lumino Youth Group are looking at diversify into the real estate business by building housing units from the savings they have accrued.

*Facing page: (clockwise from left) Some of the tools the youth group got as part of the support. A member of the youth group grinding metal. A member of the youth group using the welding unit.
Top: A rear view of one of the garages the youth group operates out of.*



Recovering from Effects of Post Election Violence

Post Election Violence Livelihoods Recovery Project, Kitale



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Women in Kenya played a significant role after the disputed 2007 general elections in the management of Post-Election Violence (PEV) in Kenya which impacted the national healing and reconciliation. They also carried the most burden during and after the violence that ensued after elections and subsequent inter-tribal conflicts that resulted in loss of life, property and displacement of masses.

The Government through the Ministry of State for Special Programmes with support from UNDP, rolled out livelihood recovery activities with the aim of restoring livelihoods in Kisumu, Nakuru, Uasin Gishu & Trans Nzoia counties.

One of the beneficiaries was Unity Group, a women's group who are trying to rebuild their lives after they lost the only sources of income they had as a result of the post-election violence that rocked Kitale town in Trans Nzoia.

They could not protect their property and had to run away to seek refuge in police stations and churches to save their lives. They lost both their homes and sources of income and some had to stay in internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps before peace was restored.

The Chair lady of the group, Claire Akhonya shows off some of the scars she bears as evidence of what she went through during those dreadful days. 'We don't want to dwell so much on the past because we want to look forward to a better future especially for our children,' she says.

The group members numbering 15, came together and put in whatever little resources they had to start a Unity saloon at the center of Kitale town. Since their previous business premises were burnt down, they had to look for alternative space and rent. This proved to be a challenge especially with the heavy investment still needed for purchasing equipment.

UNDP through the Livelihoods recovery project assisted the group by providing them with tools of trade that included hair driers, shaving machine, blow drier and in addition to provision of the tools, they were also trained on intensive entrepreneurship trainings to equip them with necessary business skills.

So far, the group has not only managed to turn around the business in to a profit making venture but also given skills training to many women in the community to assist them be self-reliant.

*Facing page:(clockwise from left) A client gets her hair done at the Unity group's salon in Kitale Town. Some of the equipment that UNDP acquired for the group.
Top: Some of the members of the Unity Women's Group pose for a photo.*





UNDP helps governments prevent conflicts and disasters, enabling them to achieve their own national development priorities. Empowering people in the face of disasters and conflicts is no easy task for any nation. Through the Disaster Risk Reduction activities UNDP helps build resilience, reduce the impact of disasters and accelerate recovery from shock.



Integrating Farming into Pastoral Lives for Improved Livelihoods

Kenya Drought Recovery Programme, Garissa



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The expansive Fafi Constituency in Garissa County, North Eastern Kenya is mainly arid land dotted with shrubs and sand and sparsely populated villages. However, travelling about 100 kilometers out of the main administrative center, it opens up to an oasis of green plantations of a variety of food crops including bananas, maize, tomatoes, water melon and most recently rice, that is set to become the bread basket of the entire county. This is made possible by a group of young men who have gave up pastoralism to venture into a more sedentary lifestyle of farming.

Musa Ketsene is a member of newly converted group of pastoralists who, after losing most of their livestock to severe drought and trying other businesses such as charcoal burning and failed, came together and acquired land at the banks of River Tana and planted food crops. They were amazed at the transformation of not only the land, but their lives and that of their dependents in a short period of time. “We used to move our families every time we experienced drought spells. Our children would miss out of school and even after moving for so long, our animals would still die. We are now happy that we can settle with our families and see them get educated as well as maintain good nutrition. Our animals are also healthier” explained Ketsene, who has been a farmer for 6 years now.

“Many of our people have died of hunger and malnutrition. But now we want to supply food to all parts of this region, and we ask other pastoralists to join us in this endeavor” added Ibrahim Sheikh Abdi Rahman, the chairman of the Galbet Farmers Association. The group has been producing bumper harvests after they got a boost from UNDP, in collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), who facilitated them in getting a generator to pump water from the river to their farms, and build canals to help the water flow closer to the far end farms and even provided a tractor to help them clear the virgin land for planting. The results have been rich food crops that the farmers have been able to supply to the Garissa market and as a result, make enough profits to sustain themselves.

The farmers have a great vision of seeing the county transformed from being a drought prone region, to one which can tap into the rich water resource of River Tana in order to become a food secure and economically empowered county.

Facing page: (clockwise from left) Musa tends to his banana crop. Ibrahim Sheikh smiles as he weeds his dryland rice crop. Some of the implements the farmers use in the farms. Top: One of the irrigation pumps facilitated by UNDP and NDMA that the group uses to get water from the Tana river into their farms.



Enterprising Youth for Economic Empowerment

Kenya Drought Recovery Project, Garissa



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With growing unemployment and high risk of young people, especially those in the Somali border town of Garissa, being recruited into terrorist networks (Al-shabaab), efforts are being made to reach out to the youth, by the youth to establish entrepreneurial businesses that will enable them generate income and become self-reliant.

In Bura Constituency, Garissa County, several young men and women came together and registered themselves into associations, then approached micro finance institutions to advance them loans to start their businesses. “We acted as security for each other, and therefore we had to ensure that none of us was defaulting on our loans, and subsequently we have established thriving businesses” says Hathan Abdi, the chairlady of Hormar youth Group. Their businesses range from butcheries and maize mills to juice producers and tailors.

Hathan’s Juice shop has become a popular soft drink outlet after UNDP Kenya boosted her business and that of other members by supplying them with better business structures, solar panels that powers their refrigerator to supply cold drinks and store milk and meat. The strategically located shop along the Garissa-Malindi murrum road, has become a favorite stopover point for bus travelers, residents, workers from different government and aid agencies where they can quench their thirst with a cold drink, in the heat that can sometimes rise to 40 degrees Celsius. “We are making good profits and are able to contribute Ksh. 500 every day to the association’s kitty, which has made it easier for us to access more funds whenever we need to expand the business.

Also recording good returns on investment is Yusuf Mohamed’s maize mill, which has employed four more young people to effectively run the business. Apart from receiving a generator from UNDP, Yusuf along with other young entrepreneurs were also trained on business management, accounting skills, marketing and value addition for their products.

The young people are now looking towards expanding their businesses and producing branded products that will give them better identity and more competitive edge to penetrate the bigger markets in the country.

*Facing page: (clockwise from left) The chairlady of Hormar Youth Group reaches into their refrigerator to pick out cold drinks for clients. The refrigerator is solar powered and preserves cold drinks, milk and meat at low temperatures. An exterior view of the youth group’s kiosk.
Top: Yusuf Mohamed’s posho mill has generated jobs for the young people in the area.*



Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Unit

The Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Unit works with government and other stakeholders to find sustainable solutions to disaster impacts.

The specific focus of the unit is to:

- Support the country in developing a legal, policy and institutional framework that guides the country in Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery;
- Support mainstreaming of DRR into long term development plans;
- Implement projects that strengthen livelihoods, the recovery and resiliency in communities impacted by disasters, addressing the needs of vulnerable groups such as Internally Displaced Persons and Communities hosting refugees in Kenya.

Some of our projects include:

- **Refugee Host Community Project:** The main purpose of this project is to reduce violent conflict and improve the living conditions of the targeted affected population, mitigate the severe effects of the cyclical droughts common in the host community areas through provision of basic social services and security, peace building and community skills in resource management, sustainable livelihoods and support to income generating activities. This will ensure diffusion of tension between the refugees and the host communities and prevent possible escalation of violent conflicts. This project is jointly implemented by government, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR and UNDP with funding from Japan government through Human Security Trust Fund (HSTF).
- **Post-Election Violence Livelihoods Recovery Project:** The Post-Election Violence Livelihoods Recovery Project was developed to restore and expand livelihoods opportunities for communities that were intensely affected by the post-election violence in 2007/2008. The violence led to displacement of over 663,000 people, loss of life estimated at 1300, destroyed community livelihoods, infrastructure, agricultural and fishing activities. This disrupted various economic activities and led to loss of jobs and incomes. The Post-Election Violence Livelihoods Recovery project is Funded by the UNDP Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery, and implemented by the Ministry of State for Special Programmes and drawing into the vast technical capacity of line ministries' of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Trade, Public Works, Gender Children and social development, youth affairs and Finance.
- **Restoration and Stabilisation of Livelihoods:** This project supports recovery and stabilisation of livelihoods and assets of drought affected communities targeting communities hosting refugees, displaced population, women and men. It also aims at enhancing governance for Early Recovery and Disaster Risk Reduction including Climate Change awareness. The target Beneficiaries are Communities hosting refugees, vulnerable youths and women groups, local government officials and technical departments. The project covers Turkana and Garissa counties and is implemented by the National Drought Management Authority
- **Drought Recovery Project:** The Drought Recovery Project aims to support recovery and stabilization of livelihoods of host communities in Turkana and Garissa counties which are some of the worst hit areas by 2011 drought. Activities of this project center around improved access to water, support to alternative livelihoods as well as livestock production, and strengthening of both local communities and local authorities' capacity to plan, implement and coordinate the recovery and development process. Assistance combines social protection and productivity enhancing initiative so as to rebuild livelihoods as well as improve household food security. The project is funded by UNDP Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery, and implemented by the Ministry of State for Development of Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands in collaboration with various technical ministries
- **Disaster Management Project for Kenya:** The project aims to contribute to the substantial reduction of disaster losses in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of community. The project supports national plans and policies for disaster management operationalization and capacity development at national and county levels. The project is implemented by the Ministry of State for Special Programmes.

Facing page: A primary school student holding some of the tomato crop harvested from a greenhouse established in her school by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) under the Kenya Drought Recovery Project.

Back cover: A Turkana man walks on the beach at Kalokol on the shores of Lake Turkana. UNDP working through NDMA is supporting local fishermen to improve their fishing practices to increase fishing yields and thus boost their gains.

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