

Policy Brief

Climate adaptation, water and food security policies in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia

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Key policy messages

- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the Eastern African region demonstrate strong linkages to other policies at local and international level but will need international financial support to be fully implemented.
- Challenges in enforcing water sector policies must be tackled to address water insecurity in the region.
- Food security policies rate highly in terms of inclusivity but they need to include greater focus on livestock which is a main source of livelihood in 75% of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

Overview

The IPCC reports that by 2013 temperature increase in the region was up to 1°C above pre-industrial levels and is set to increase further as global warming persists. Livestock and crop farming practised by a majority of the population is heavily reliant on rainfall, which has become increasingly erratic. In fact, the region is in the middle of severe drought with a fifth consecutive failed rainy season.

This policy brief is a summary of an analysis of water, food security and climate adaptation policies in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, and aims to understand their strengths and gaps as well as efficacy. The Policy Triangle approach for policy analysis which comprises four key elements including actors, content, context and process and how these interact was used for the analysis. The horizontal and vertical interplay approach is also incorporated to include linkages and specific strategies set out in policy for the achievement of set objectives.

Findings will contribute to further studies on policy efficacy and the development of a robust policy framework that might be considered for enhanced climate adaptation to ensure food and water security in a changing climate.

Results

Results and recommendations in this brief stem from a detailed content analysis of policies covering eight areas of rating outlined in a rating matrix, context analysis, actors as well as a look at processes of developing the policies. The main insights are presented below:

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the Eastern African region will need international financial support for their full implementation.

Ten (10) NDCs from Eastern Africa (Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) were analysed. NDCs were developed by these

countries in fulfilment of their commitment to the international climate processes under the UNFCCC. These policies have an average score of 2.8. South Sudan's NDC has the highest score of 3.3, followed by Rwanda's and Burundi's with 3.1 while Djibouti's has the lowest score at 2.1. Linkages rate highly at 3.6 on average across NDCs since they have detailed linkages and have been integrated in other policies including national development blueprints, SDGs, Agenda 2063, regional policies and subnational policies. This is important as it ensures a holistic and more coordinated implementation of strategies.

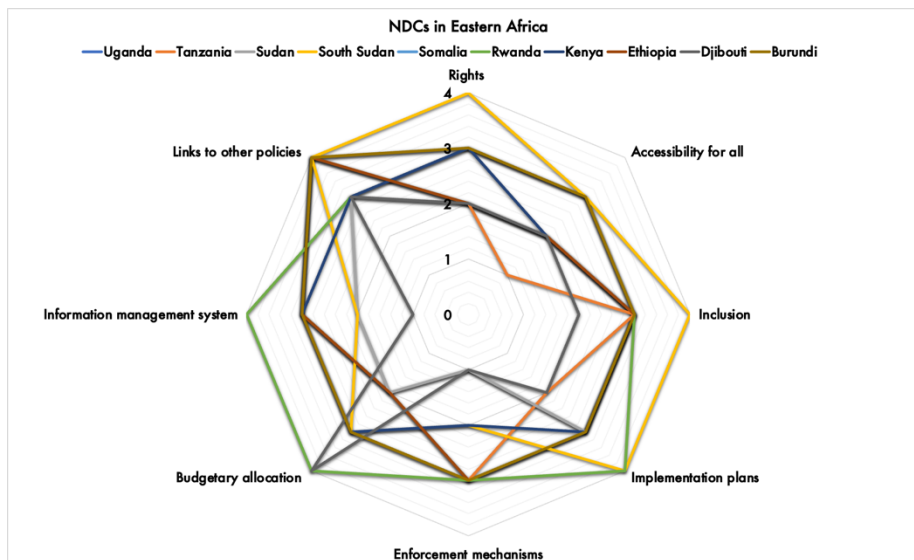


Figure 1: Rating for Eastern Africa Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Budgeting at 2.8 is an area of concern for these policies. While it is notable that the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) already have unconditional funding attached to them which is already significant in a region where countries have contributed very little to climate change. International finance is required to fill the

conditional aspect. Significant funding has to be allocated to adaptation which is a common element across the NDCs especially efforts to build resilience of communities to climate change. Increased finance is needed to support implementation of the policies.

Challenges in enforcing water sector policies must be tackled to address water insecurity in the region.

Water policies in the region were formulated mostly as a response to water scarcity and are aimed at addressing this challenge and ensuring provision of basic water to communities, their livestock and wildlife. Water policies average 2.6 for the three countries. It is notable that water policies are the most inclusive of all policies analysed. Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia all have provisions for the formation of water resources user associations which are envisaged as major sub-catchment actors engaged in management and use of water resources in their communities. Unlike food security policies, water policies in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia set up funds for financing water resource users, which is key to supporting implementation. Kenya's Water Act establishes a Water Sector Trust Fund charged with supporting water users in water management. In practice, as garnered from stakeholder engagement, such water user associations remain inadequately resourced to fulfil their mandate even though they have set up management plans and action plans to enhance water security. Water policies in Ethiopia and Somalia, however, will need to be better linked and aligned for a more coherent implementation.

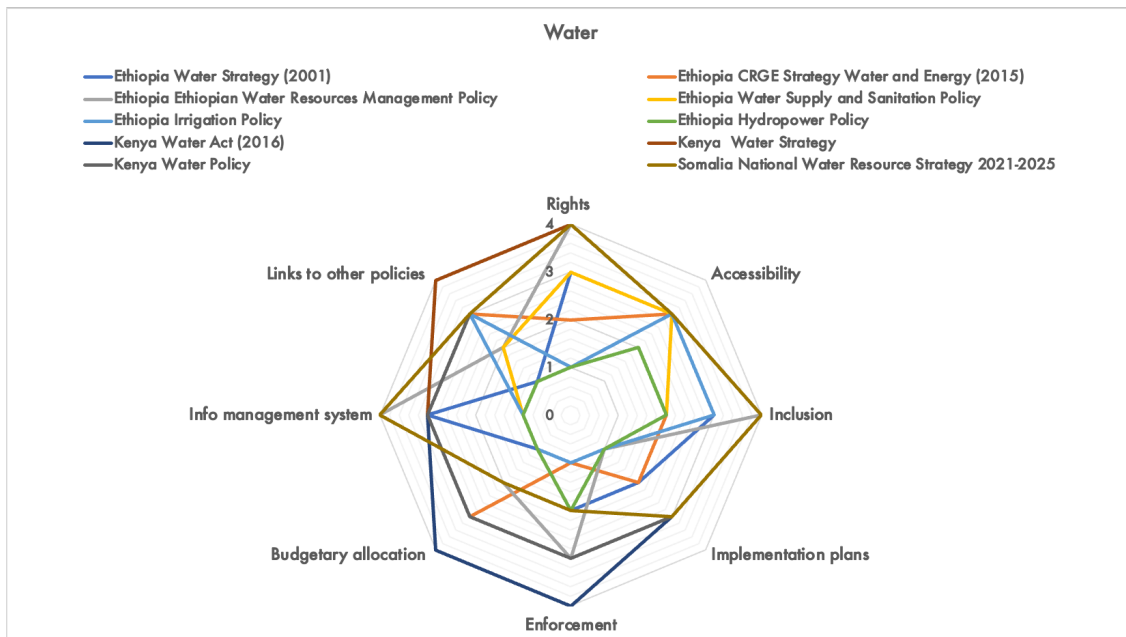


Figure 2: Rating for water policies

Food security policies rate highly in terms of inclusivity but they need to include greater focus on livestock which is a main source of livelihood in 75% of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

Food security policies in the region were formulated largely as a response to food insecurity in a region that regularly experiences drought. They are also in compliance with the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the call to allocate 10% of national budget to agriculture. Food security policies have an average score of 2.9. Food security policies rate highly on inclusivity, access as well as rights. They also provide a detailed implementation framework. Ethiopia's Policy and Investment Framework, for example, clearly sets out actions, targets, budgets and those responsible for implementation, and thus is one of the highest scoring food security policies.

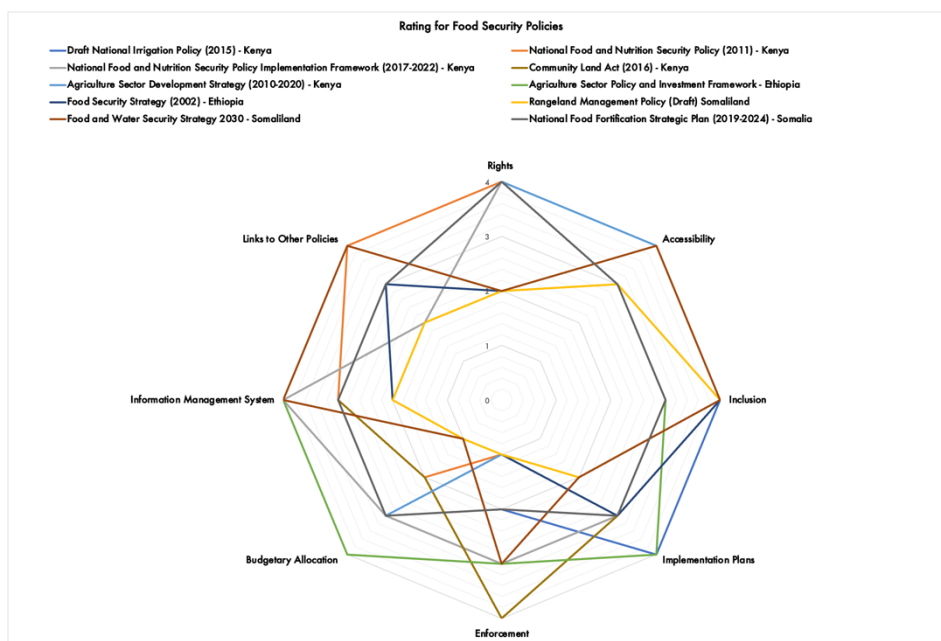


Figure 3: Rating for Food Security Policies

Enforcement and budgetary allocation are the main challenges in this sector. Food security policies should be subject to monitoring and evaluation, with detailed focus on strategies that relate to crop farming to address food insecurity. Another concern is the limited focus of these policies on livestock, which is one of the largest

sectors in 75% of land in the three countries that is arid and semi-arid (ASAL). Countries need to focus their efforts on implementation of the policies already in place to ensure food security is achieved.

Conclusion and recommendations

Overall, the analysis shows that policies in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia rate highly in terms of inclusivity and the recognition of rights to clean and healthy environment, water and food security. Weaknesses lie in the enforcement mechanisms of these policies; an area that consistently ranks low. This will need to be addressed to ensure policy efficacy at implementation. There are also gaps in budgetary allocation where sources of funding are not clearly delineated and/or there is no clarity about the sources of funding even where detailed budgets are included. This shortcoming may limit the extent to which policies are implemented. There is also the fact that water scarcity and food security are inextricably interlinked where one cannot be achieved without the other.

Policymakers have to work to ensure coherence across these two sectors to be successful. There is a need for increased international finance for Eastern African countries for the full implementation of their NDCs. Finally, greater focus on enforcement of set water policies and support of water resource users to enhance water security, as well as a focus on livestock are needed.

Further reading

[Policy Analysis Report](#)

Research team

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