



Forerunners in legislating climate change adaptation: The case of Isiolo County CC funds

Location:
Isiolo County
Kenya.

Partner:
MID-P

Author:
Ibrahim Kabelo



Various stakeholders attending one of the climate change sector meeting in Isiolo Town.
Photo credit:MID-P

Chief Officer Lucy Mwendwa addresses the media during CSO Network meeting to review and validate Climate Change Finance Regulation 2019.
Photo credit:MID-P

Funds will be allocated every year to support communities implement projects as a way of minimizing impacts of climate induced disasters.

Isiolo County is impacted by the frequent and severe disasters such as drought, floods, resource based conflicts, endemic livestock diseases among others.

In a County where 80percent of the population depends on livestock for livelihood, the pastoralists have borne the brunt to a point of accepting the hazards as part of life.

This is however set to change in the coming years following sustainable lobbying and advocacy by Cordaid in partnership with Civil Society Organizations to have the County Government initiate a mechanism to cushion the vulnerable communities against the adverse effects of climate change.

The County Climate Change Fund (CCCF) Act 2018 is now operational creating an avenue to allocate funds annually to the 10 Wards as a way of supporting the communities in implementing projects to reduce the impacts of climate induced disasters.

According to the CCCF Act 2018, the County Government of Isiolo is obliged to set aside two percent of its annual development budget to support community projects.

Ward Adaptation Planning Committees in consultation with their respective communities have been tasked with the responsibility of developing proposals on priority projects related to climate adaptation which are then forwarded to the County Planning Committee for vetting and funding.



www.partnersforresilience.nl | partnersforresilience@redcross.nl



The launch of Isiolo County Climate Change Fund Act 2018 by Deputy Governor Dr Abdi Issa. The Act means that the County Government will each year set aside funds from its annual development budget to support communities to come up with projects aimed at cushioning them against the adverse effects of climate change.

Photo credit: MID-P

The process towards CCCF Act commenced in 2013 and was spearheaded by Merti Integrated Development Programme (MID-P), one of the implementers of Partners for Resilience (PfR) Programme. However, owing to inadequate political goodwill by the previous administration, the process faced many challenges.

Through the PfR programme, an advocacy campaign commenced targeting several stakeholders including the members of the County Assembly, the executive, CSOs and the target communities to raise awareness and create critical mass for lobbying.

Some of the activities jointly executed by County Government and partners include; training of Ward Adaptation Planning Committee in seven rural Wards, development of a curriculum for the training and establishment of Ward Adaptation Planning Committees in three urban Wards. Public participation, a requirement in the legislation making process was also supported by PfR.

The CSOs and the County Government reviewed and validated Isiolo County Climate Change Finance Regulation 2019 that now makes the Act operational and tasking the County Government to disburse the funds to the community.

MID-P, through the Isiolo County CSO Network (ICCN) oversaw coordination for joint lobbying of the CCCF Act. Among the CSOs were Mercy Corps, Action Aid-Kenya, Woman Kind and IIED. Other stakeholders who later came on board were the United Nations World Food Programme and National Drought Management Authority (NDMA).

Communities across the ten wards have now been empowered to develop sustainable projects and benefit from the Ksh30million set aside during the 2020/2021 financial year.

Communities from across the ten wards in Isiolo County have now been empowered to develop sustainable projects to be funded by the County Government from the annual development budget.



"The County Government has also mainstreamed climate change into county planning process through the second generation of County Integrated Development Programme (CIDP 2018-2022) which is in tandem with my manifesto and will go a long way in addressing the Big Four Agenda of the National Government." Isiolo Deputy Governor Dr Abdi Issa.

The County Climate Change Fund was officially launched on January 31, 2019 by Isiolo Deputy Governor Abdi Issa on behalf of the Governor.

He announced that Ksh20million had been set aside for the 2019/2020 financial year for disbursement but challenges associated with Covid-19 saw the funds diverted to supporting vulnerable communities in the face of the pandemic.

"One of the projects we intend to initiate is building of earth dams and water pans to collect and store water from River Ewaso Ng'iro and utilize it for livestock and farming during drought. The floods have been causing havoc by displacing people, livestock and destroying properties," says Mr Kasim Gufu from Chari Ward.

The current Director of Environment and Climate Change Department at the Isiolo County Government Mr Osman Bagaja says each of the wards has opened a bank account where money will be channeled once a project proposal from Ward Adaptation Committee is approved.

Putting in place policies and laws are the long term safeguarding measures for cushioning the communities against disasters so as to support them to build back better.

The Fund shall be managed by the Fund Administrator with the Governance aspect guided by the Steering Committee headed by the Governor and Technical Committee. County Executive Committee Member (CECM) responsible for Climate Change will head this technical committee.

Kenya is a signatory to Sustainable Development Goals and in line with SDG 13, enacted Climate Change Act 2016. Isiolo now becomes the fifth county in Kenya to have the Climate Change Act in place.

