



CIS Case Studies

Climate Information Services (CIS) Intermediary Network : Lessons from Kenya



Summary

From 2014 KMD has been piloting a two-tiered Climate Information Services [CIS] intermediary system in Kitui and Makueni counties. Following a series of trainings, KMD has been providing climate information via SMS and a system of intermediaries in the two counties. The CIS intermediary network aims to ensure that seasonal, monthly, weekly and daily forecasts and weather warnings support farming and livestock activities in the run up to and over the counties' two annual principal rains.

Background

In implementing its commitment to create user-led CIS, KMD with Adaptation [Ada] Consortium¹ partners undertook an assessment of user climate information needs to inform the development of its communication strategy. The assessment identified the importance of two principal channels for communicating climate information services – radio and SMS provided through a network of intermediaries. The process of developing a two-tiered network of CIS intermediaries was piloted in Kitui and Makueni Counties, two of the five Arid and Semi-Arid Lands [ASAL] counties where Ada is operational.



Training of Primary CIS intermediaries in Wote, Makueni County, July 2014

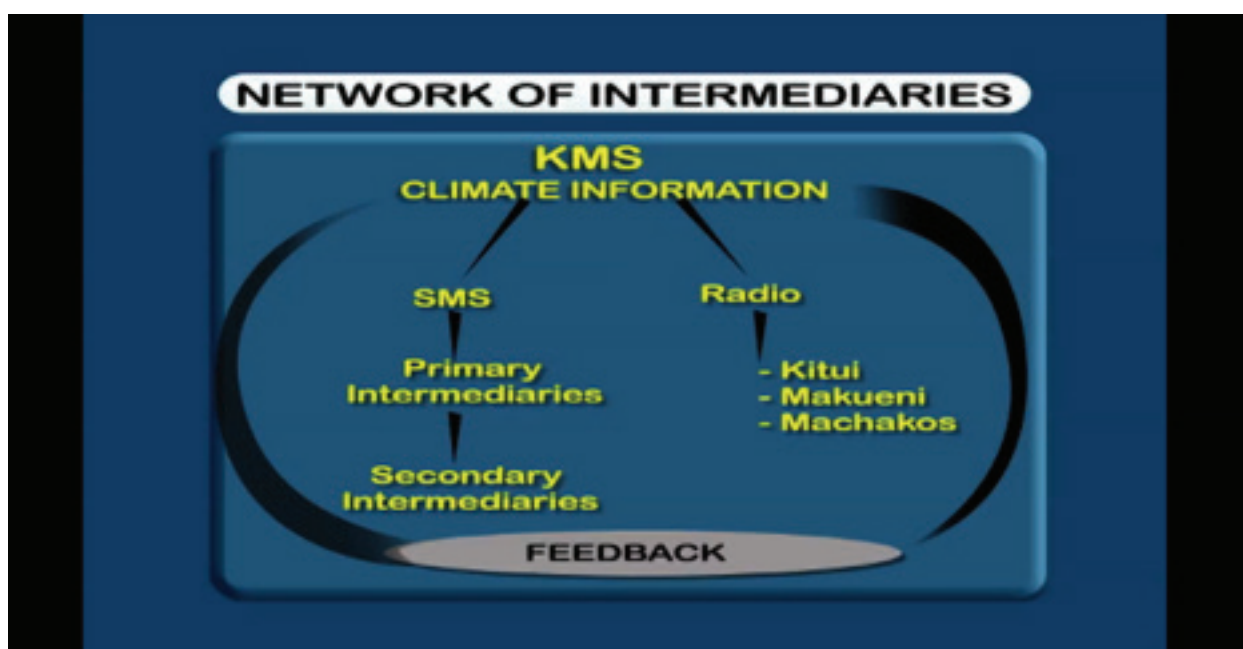
¹Financed by the UK Department for International Development [DFID], the Ada Consortium [Ada] aims to introduce a 'combined approach' to adaptation in the Arid and Semi-Arid counties of Isiolo, Wajir, Garissa, Kitui and Makueni. The 'combined approach' consists of establishing County Climate Change Funds; integration of weather and climate information and resilience assessment tools into county and community planning; establishment of adaptation planning committees and a robust monitoring, evaluation and learning framework. Ada is led by the International Institute of Environment and Development [IIED] working with Christian Aid, WomanKind, ALDEF and RAP, with the Met Office and KMS leading the Climate Information Services elements with the University of Sussex. The Ada Secretariat is based in the National Drought Management Authority [NDMA].

Methods and Management

As a key member of the Ada Consortium, KMD led coordination of the intermediary training together with partners. KMD's Institute for Meteorological Training and Research (IMTR) and Ada partners developed a 2.5-day Training of Trainers (TOT) course for primary CIS intermediaries designed to enable participants to:

- Receive, appreciate and effectively communicate climate information in a language and format that can be easily understood; and
- Support appropriate application of climate information and provide feedback on its use and benefits.

Primary Intermediaries use the training and a package of four tailored units to deliver a half-day training for 20-40 Secondary intermediaries. The system is two-tiered only as regards the training. Once trained, both primary and secondary intermediaries simultaneously receive climate information by SMS.



Training of Primary CIS intermediaries in Wote, Makueni County, July 2014

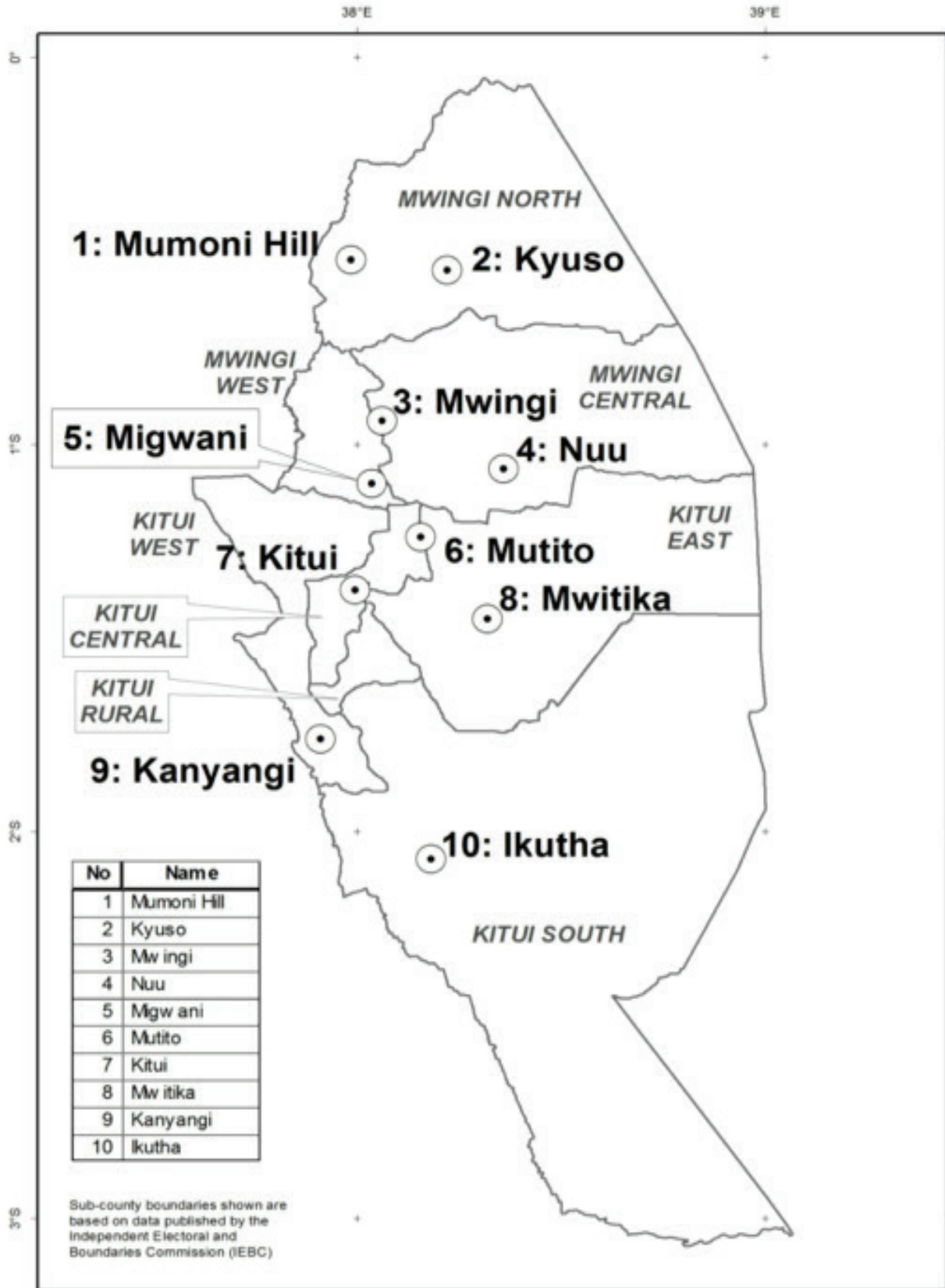
To support the sustainability of the system, intermediaries were selected from across institutions and agencies with existing extensive reach, prioritising respected individuals willing to communicate the information which they receive. Those identified were drawn from County Government Administration and the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperation, as well as religious and community leaders and NGOs, with the aim of establishing a network with at least one intermediary for every 500 people.

KMD produces SMS of daily, weekly, seasonal forecasts, monthly updates and weather warnings playing an agreed abbreviated format. Each intermediary receives a copy of a laminated, four page Quick Reference Guide, which provides a key to the abbreviations and definitions of meteorological terms as well as a numerical code tailored to indicate key towns in each County (see the map below).

Table 1: Channels and frequencies for KMD’s strengthened CIS

Climate products/Types of Climate Information	Channel through which climate information will be given out		
	SMS to CIS intermediaries	Radio	County Page on KMS website
	Geographic Focus		
	COUNTY	REGIONAL	COUNTY
Daily forecast	Daily	Every evening / repeat following morning	Daily
Weekly forecast	All year at weekend	All year at weekend	Rolling 5 day forecast
Weekly rainfall report	Rainy season only	Rainy season only	Weekly on a map
Seasonal forecast	Summary 4 weeks before the start of the rainy season	4 weeks before the start of each rainy season. Discussion programmes with phone-in sections	Full seasonal forecast 4 weeks before the start of the rainy season with maps and materials
Seasonal Livelihood advisories			
Monthly updates on the seasonal forecast	Two updates	Two updates	Two updates
Early warning alert	At any time	At any time	At any time
Advisory messages on livelihood and health	At any time	At any time	At any time

Map from the Kitui County Quick Reference Guide with a numerical key referring to principal locations used in SMS messages to CIS intermediaries



Implementation

Forty two primary CIS intermediaries were trained in Kitui and 37 in Makueni in July 2014. Between June and December 2015, the County Directors of Meteorology [CDMs] in Kitui and Makueni have coordinated training of over 1,800 secondary intermediaries.



Training of Primary CIS intermediaries in Makueni County in July 2014

Monitoring and Evaluation

In evaluation of the training, over 95% of participants felt prepared to undertake their role as primary CIS intermediaries. Ward Adaptation Committees² and intermediary networks support the CDMs in monitoring the quality of the information provided via the intermediary system, the communication system and its reach to the most marginalised, as well as uptake, appropriate use and benefits of the strengthened system. Regular post-seasonal community-based and county-level reviews to assess the impact of the service and how it can be further strengthened are linked with partners' ongoing activities and the County Climate Outlook Forum³.

Resources

The pilot service cost just under KShs12/per person during the inception phase, with an annual recurrent cost of KShs6/per person. The initiative is currently under review as KMD plans to upscale the service to other counties and discussions on the potential for County Government contribution have been initiated. If the service proves successful, there are also proposals to establish a demand led [paid for] service.

Content of the intermediary training benefited from a 2013 CCAFS workshop⁴, Dialogues for Disaster Anticipation and Resilience online resource⁵, bringing in expertise in communications, local knowledge about weather and climate⁶ and climate risk management⁷.

Outcomes and Future Activities

The following materials in working draft form are available from KMD IMTR:

- The Training of Trainers course for Primary CIS Intermediaries, comprising 12 modules, with an accompanying handbook and PowerPoint presentations;
- A half-day training for secondary CIS intermediaries, comprising 4 core modules;
- A Quick Reference Guide covering abbreviations employed in the CIS SMS system and definitions of key meteorological terms;
- Translation of key meteorological terms into Kiswahili and Kikamba languages, and
- A number of short films including, 'Making Climate Informed Decisions', available at <http://youtu.be/yztjVGkLMRQ>

IMTR is interested in rolling out the training both nationally and within the region. It has been shared at a meeting of the WMO's Regional Severe Weather Project and informed elements of the WMO GFCS pilot intermediary training in Tanzania as well as a DFID BRACED-funded, Christian Aid-coordinated training in communicating weather and climate information in Burkina Faso. A poster on the initiative was presented at the 2014 American Geophysics Union conference.

Lessons Learnt

Training of secondary intermediaries is designed to take place as soon as possible after the initial training of primary intermediaries. Delays in this process meant that the CDMs had to play a larger than envisaged role in the secondary training.

CHALLENGE #1: Sustainability of intermediaries with a significant number of County Government officials regularly transferring across counties:

- there is a need to prioritise intermediaries likely to stay in position long-term and run regular refresher trainings for existing and new intermediaries.

CHALLENGE #2: Feedback mechanism which does not overburden the County and National Met Service

- consideration of a centralized SMS response system which can also support monitoring.

CHALLENGE #3: Comprehensive reach to the most marginalized

- Regularly updated mapping of intermediaries and their reach.

²Initiated within the development of County Climate Change Funds (CCCFs), Ward Adaptation Committees support the management of devolved county adaptation funding, supporting the development and implementation of community adaptation proposals.

³Initiated through the Participatory Scenario Planning meetings and now recognised as a key element of County CIS.

⁴S May, S., Hansen, J. and Tall, A. [2013] Developing a methodology for the communication of climate services at scale through intermediaries for farmer communities in Africa and South Asia, White paper for CCAFS Expert Workshop, 12-14 June 2013 <https://ccafs.cgiar.org/publications/workshop-report-developing-methodology-communicate-climate-services-farmers-scale#.VpeUj-iLTWI>

⁵<http://dialoguesforresilience.tumblr.com/>

⁶From South East Kenya University.

⁷From University of Sussex.

Fact Sheet of the Project/Activity

Name of case study or project	Developing a Climate Information Services (CIS) intermediary network, through the DFID-Kenya supported Adaptation (Ada) Consortium
Author organization	Emma Visman, King's College London and Independent Consultant
Contact person's name	Ayub Shaka, Kenya Meteorological Department
Contact person's email [+phone number]	ayubshaka@ymail.com , +254722747738
Providers of the service [including partners]	KMD, Institute of Meteorological Training and Research [IMTR], Kitui County Government ministries and extension services, Christian Aid, Anglican Development Services-Eastern [ADS-E]
Project timeframe [e.g. 2009-2011]	Piloted in 2014 and ongoing
Location [region/country/village etc.]	Piloted in Kitui and Makueni, to be upscaled in a revised format
Primary target audience	County Government ministries and extension services, decentralized agencies, religious networks, teachers, sub-county administration and community leaders, Ward Adaptation Committees, livelihood associations and livestock/agricultural suppliers
Funding mechanism[s]	UK Department for International Development [DFID] Strengthening Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change in Kenya [Plus] [STARK+] support for the NDMA and IIED-coordinated Adaptation Consortium [Ada]

The Adaptation [ADA] consortium is a core component of the National Drought Management Authority strategy and funded within the Strengthening Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change in Kenya plus [STARCK+] programme. The aim of the Adaptation Consortium is to pilot climate change adaptation planning approaches to enhance climate resilience in five Arid and Semi-Arid Lands [ASALs] counties [Garissa, Isiolo, Kitui, Makueni and Wajir] that, if successful, will be replicated in other ASAL counties and beyond. The consortium consist of Christian Aid working with ADS-Eastern in Kitui and Makueni, International Institute of Environment and Development [IIED] working with Resource Advocacy Programme [RAP] in Isiolo, WomanKind Kenya in Garissa, and Arid Lands Development Focus [ALDEF] in Wajir, Met Office [UK] and the Kenya Meteorological Services [KMS].



Adaptation Consortium

email: info@adaconsortium.org

www.adaconsortium.org

@adaconsortium

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Adaptation-Consortium/365373970267118?ref=hl>

Download more publications at <http://adaconsortium.org/index.php/ada-publications.html>

Funded by:



This research was funded by UK aid from the UK Government, however the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the UK Government.