

## Speaker Summary Note

**Session:** Building Resilience to Drought in the Horn of Africa

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Droughts are not new to the Horn of Africa (HoA); major droughts happened in 1984, 1995, 1998, 2000, 2005/6 and more recently 2011.

The number of people who are affected keeps on increasing due to the increasing levels of vulnerabilities.

My former colleague, John Graham, now Save the Children, Ethiopia told me *“never waste a crisis-take advantage of it”*.

Each and every drought response left behind something; for example, in Ethiopia, in response to the 2000, the PSNP was born and later on the early warning systems were created and improved; and in 2005/2006, for the first time, the commercial destocking was undertaken in Southern Ethiopia.

The legacy of the 2011 drought will be the birth of word “resilience”; and increased co-ordination and integration of humanitarian and development.

I also hope the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance will be fewer and more people resilient to shocks.

The history of HoA interventions is not on our side; past efforts seems to show little impact and results; we must do things different. The jury is still out!

However, for resilience to be effective, there are “resilience ingredients” that need to be integrated and working in harmony and hand in hand.

**There are five key resilience ingredients: (the five big “P”)**

1. **Political will** at the HoA Regional and National levels both by Governments and Development; be accompanied by sustained funding and budgets;
2. **Policy:** policies that supports and promotes sustainable livelihoods in the dry lands such as pastoralist mobility and access to rangelands;
3. **Past failures and best practices:** we must learn from past failures and build upon and scale up evidence-base best practices being undertaken by Government, NGOs, and research institution;
4. **Private-sector engagement** in productive sectors such as value addition, financial services, and service delivery amongst others;
5. **People:** building pastoralists capacities and greater voice in decision making in all the above 1–4 process.

Our collective efforts will be tested in the next big droughts ... it may be soon rather than later.