

# KENYA DROUGHT 2019-2024



**Ezgi Sıla Bölükbaşı 21802855**  
**Elanur Gökçe Dağkılç 22002958**  
**Müge Dedeoğlu 21902375**  
**Defne Özdemir 22003950**

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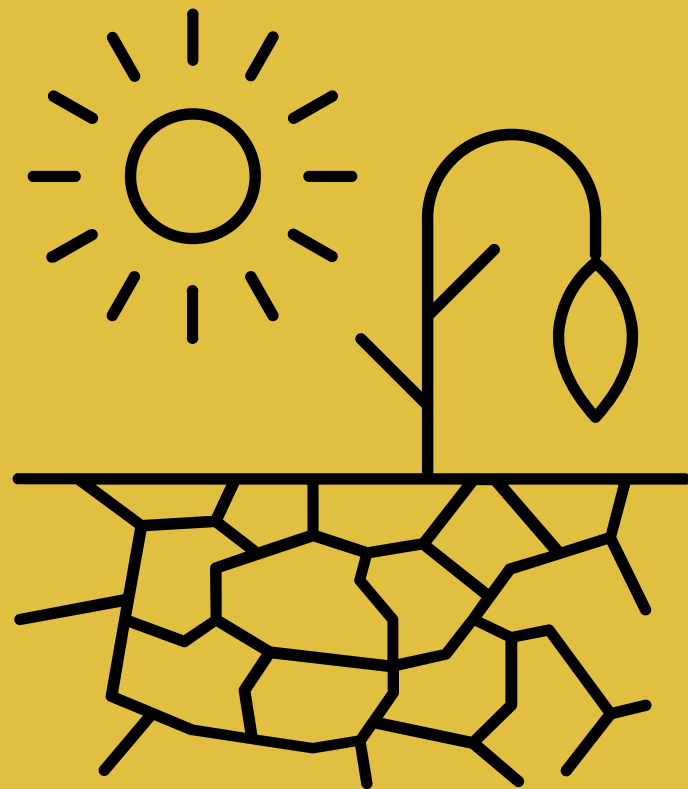
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# OVERVIEW

Kenya experiences **periodic droughts** due to its geographical location and climate patterns. Drought in Kenya typically results from a combination of factors including irregular rainfall, deforestation, land degradation, and climate change.



# OVERVIEW

*Reasons for Drought*

- Geographical factors like Kenya's proximity to the equator and Irregularities in these rainfall patterns.
- Climate change causes extended dry spells and water scarcity is caused by rising temperatures, changing precipitation levels, and shifting weather patterns.



# OVERVIEW

## *Reasons for Drought*

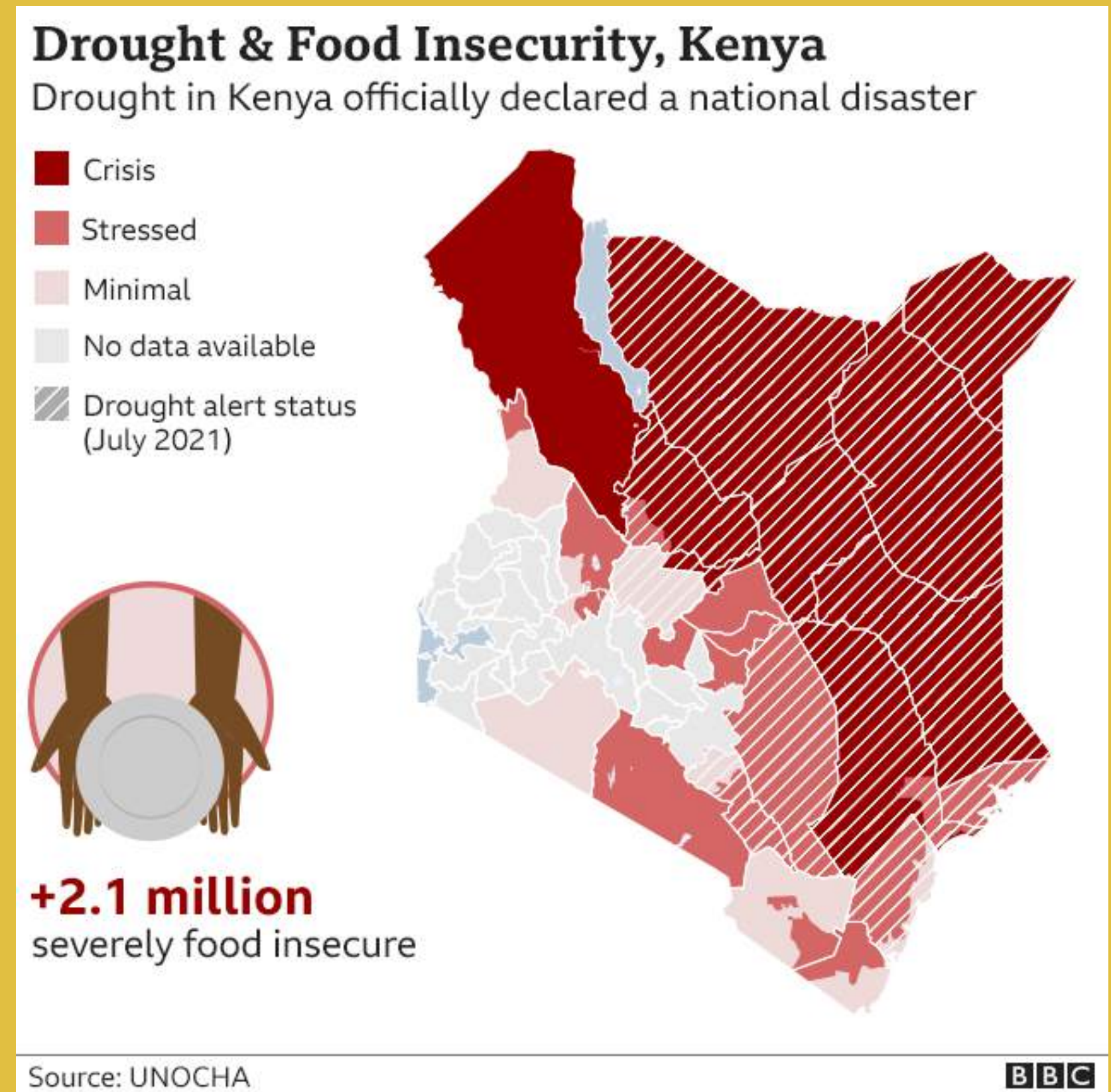
- Deforestation reduces the capacity of forests to retain moisture, contributing to arid conditions.
- Unsustainable land management practices exacerbate soil erosion and reduce the land's ability to retain water.
- Rapid population growth strains water resources and increases demand for agricultural land, leading to overexploitation.



# OVERVIEW

## *What Happened?*

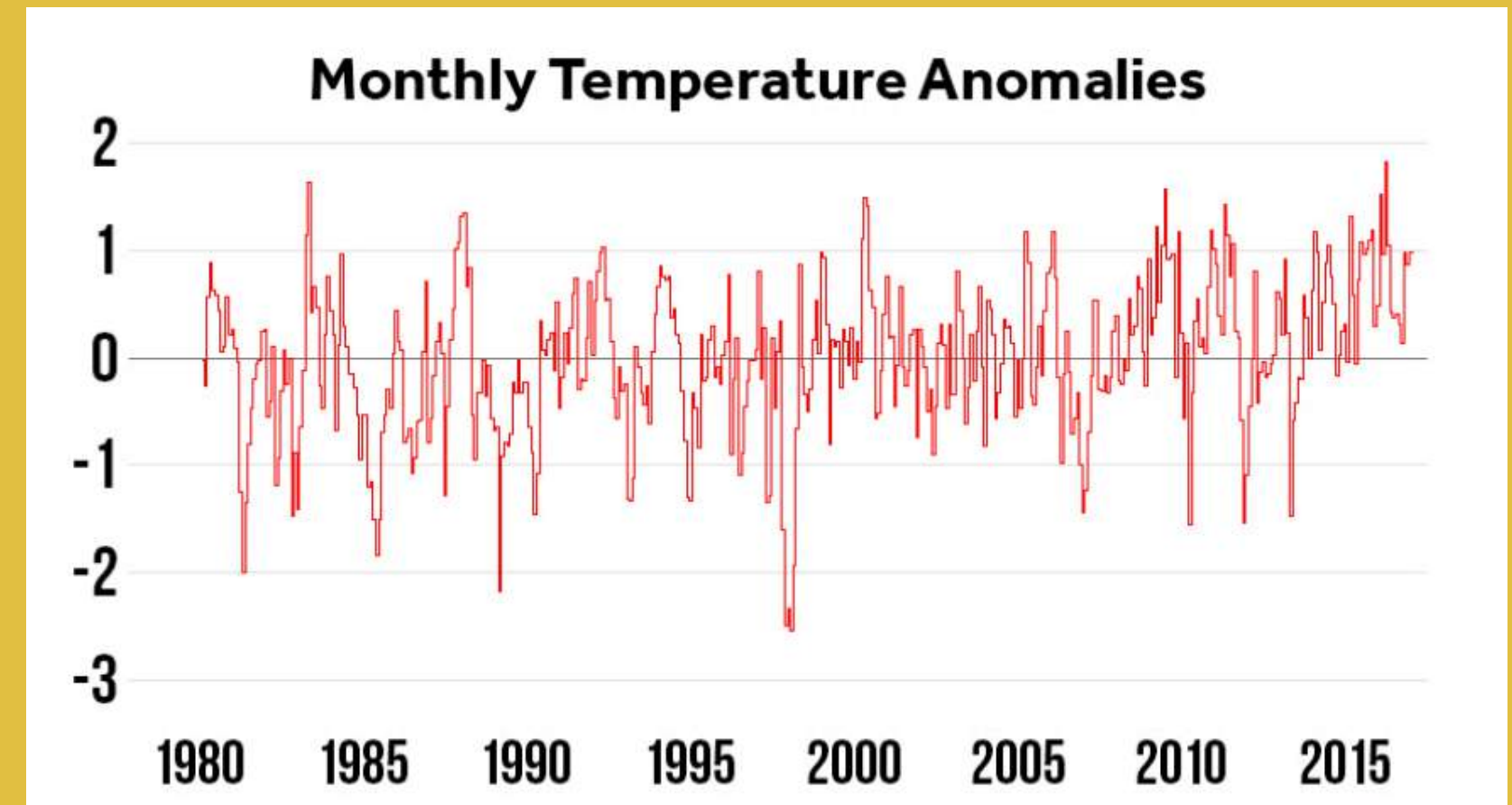
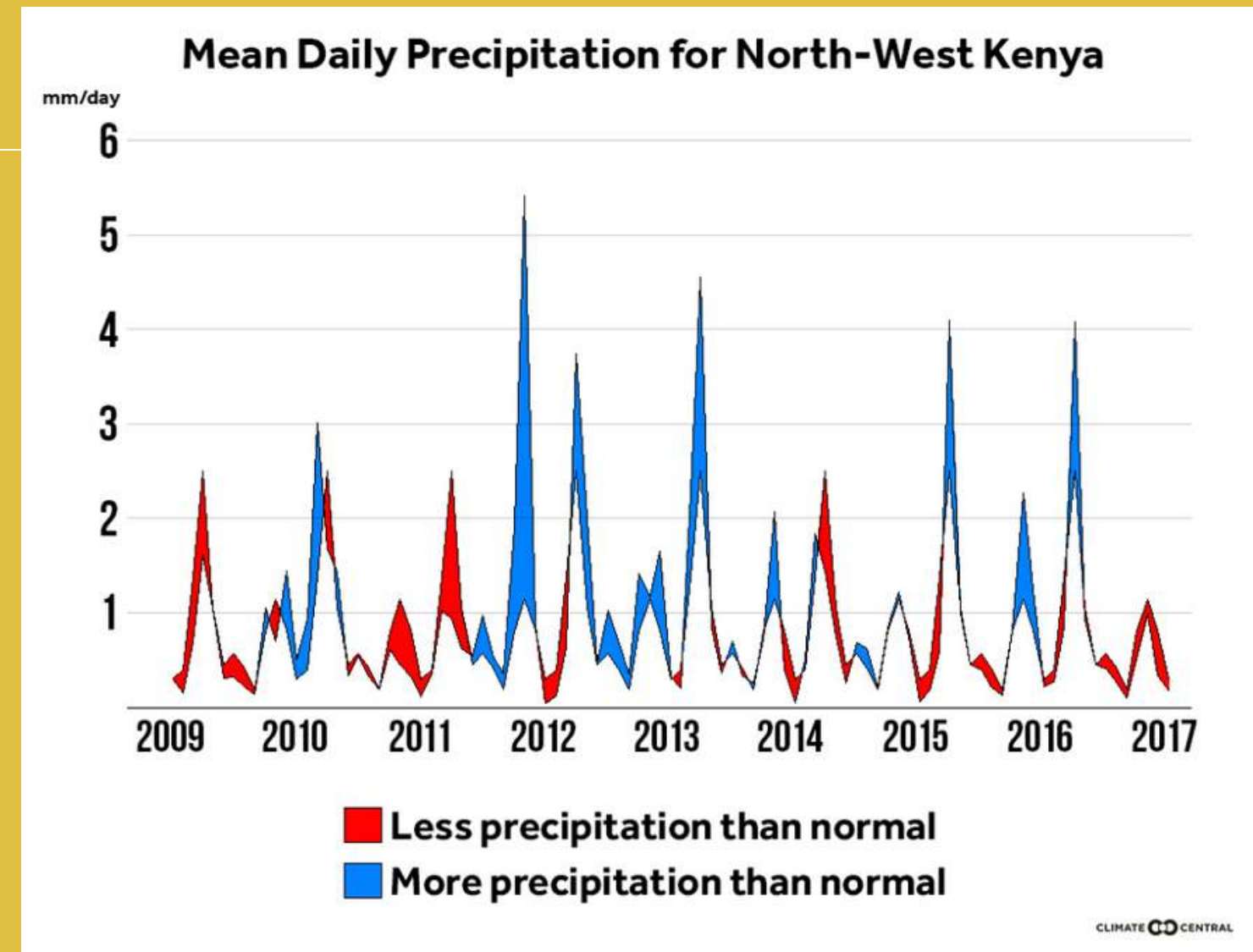
- Drought putting 3 million Kenyans in Northern Kenya at risk of hunger.
- Lack of rain on the grass creates food shortages for the cattle, resulting in starving populations.



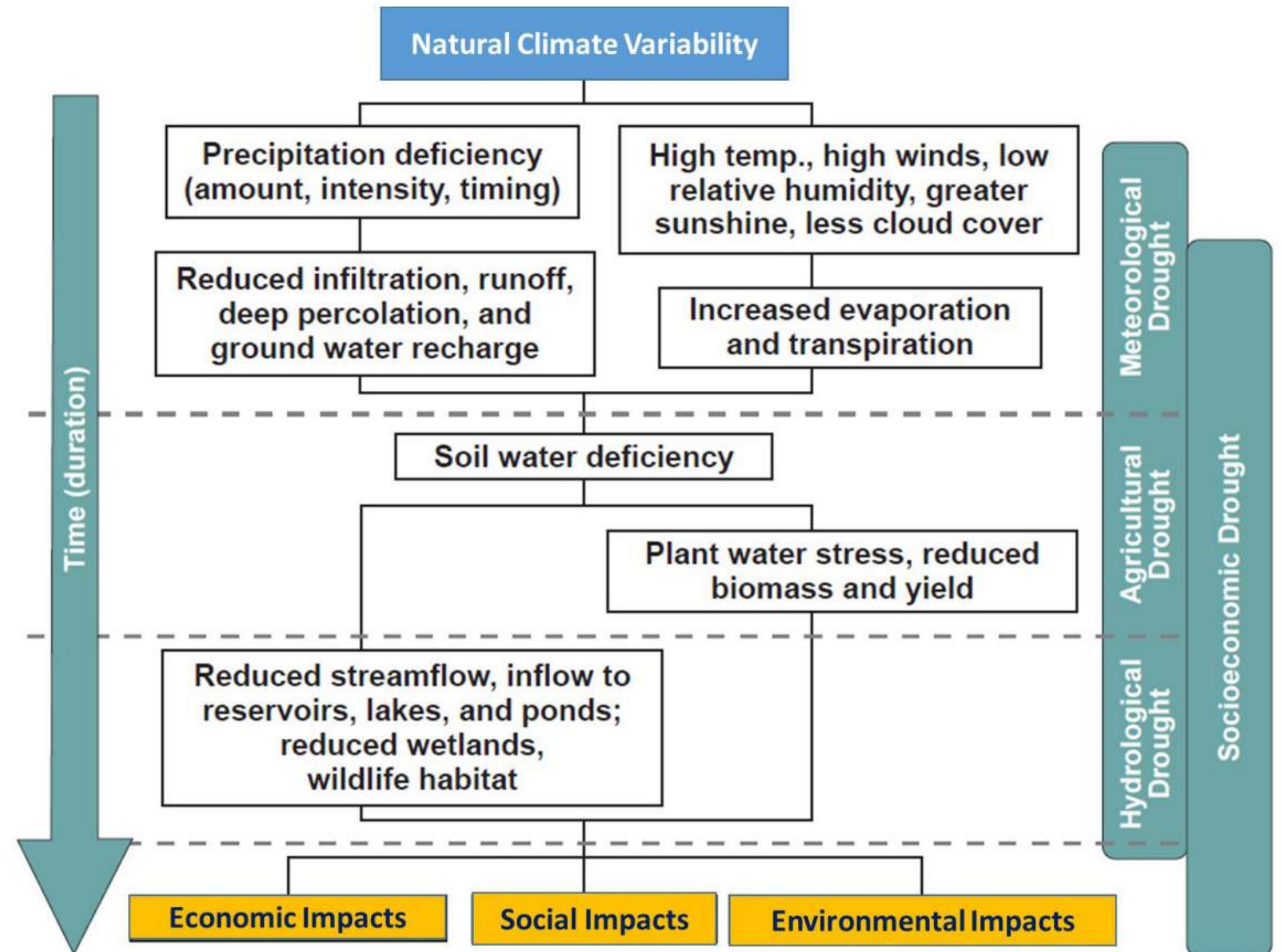
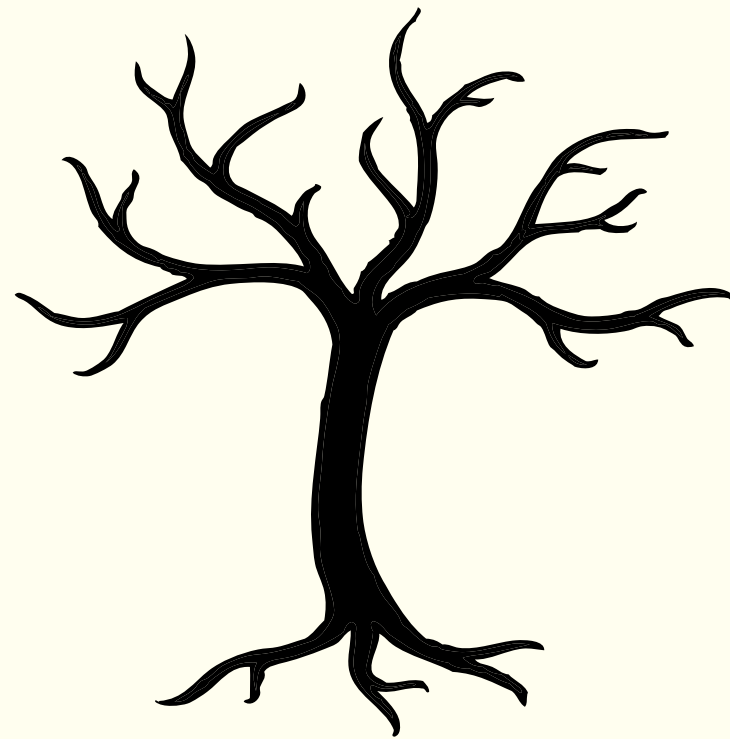
# OVERVIEW

## *What Happened?*

- Decreasing surface water basins, causes drinking water shortages mostly in rural places.
- The cost of drinking water has increased five to 10 times.



# OVERVIEW



Source: National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA



# PRECAUTIONS



- In 1986, Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGAD) was formed by Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda to reduce impacts of droughts and other natural disasters.
- In 1989, 24 countries from southern and Eastern Africa joined forces and established the **IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC)** in response to devastating droughts

# PRECAUTIONS



- In 2014, ICPAC became a Regional Climate Centre (RCC) for the provision of climate services to national and regional users in Eastern Africa.
- **ICPAC** puts together seasonal, monthly and weekly forecasts, seasonal outlooks and early warning systems for the region, providing climate services to 11 countries in East Africa.

# PRECAUTIONS



## **KMD - The Kenya Meteorological Department:**

KMD is responsible for downscaling the regional forecasts from ICPAC at the national and county level to make them relevant to Kenya and its counties.

# PRECAUTIONS



- **In early 2019**, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development's (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) initiated a project to boost the resilience of communities vulnerable to extreme weather in Kenya and the neighboring countries.

# DISASTER MANAGEMENT



## *RESPONSE STRATEGY AND COORDINATION*

### **Short-term Emergency Response:**

Food Aid Distribution

Water Supply

Livestock Support

Healthcare Services

### **Long-term Resilience Building:**

Water Resource Management

Drought-resistant Crops

Rangeland Management

Climate Information Services

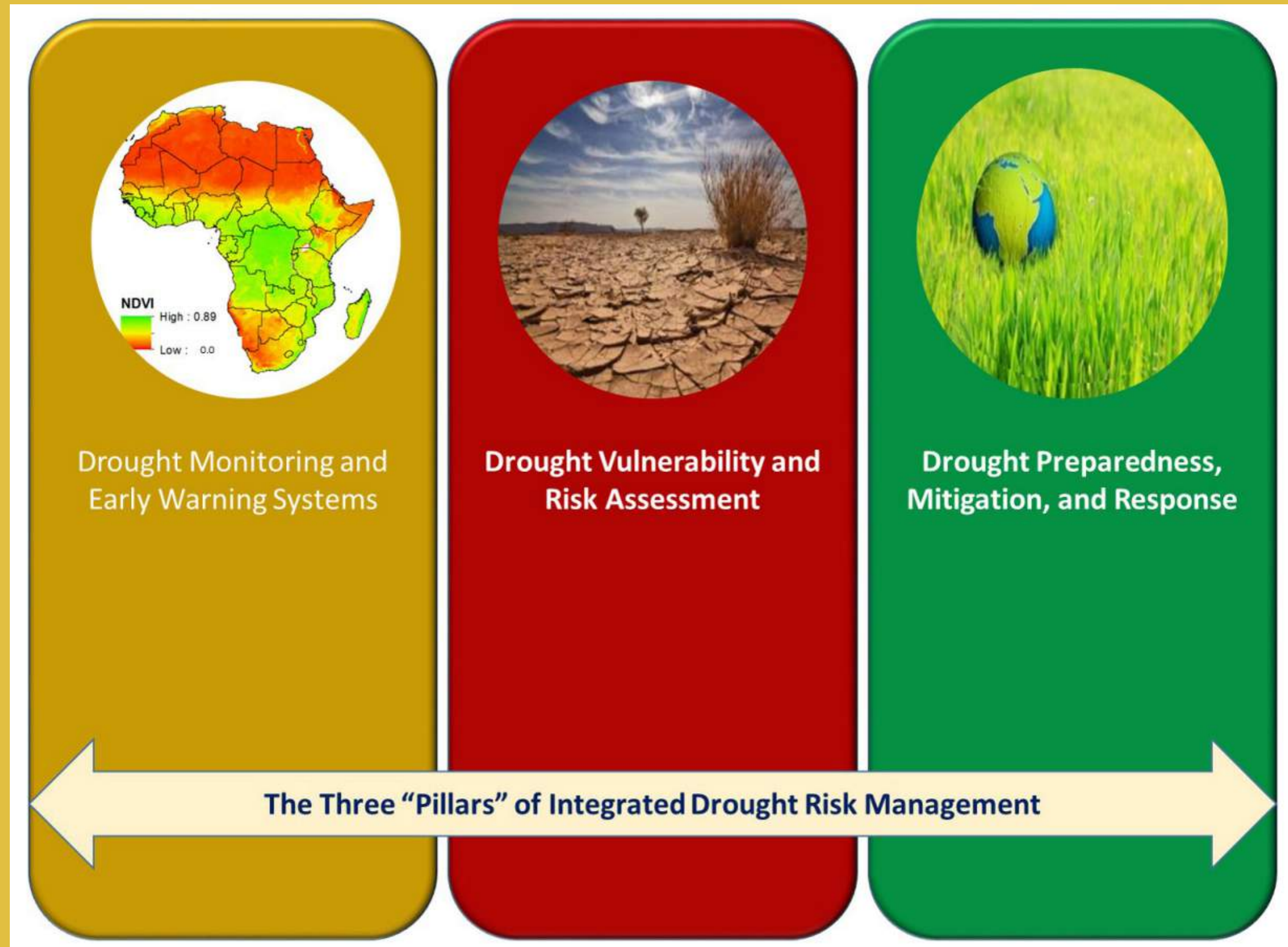
# DISASTER MANAGEMENT

## *SECTORAL OBJECTIVES AND RESPONSE*

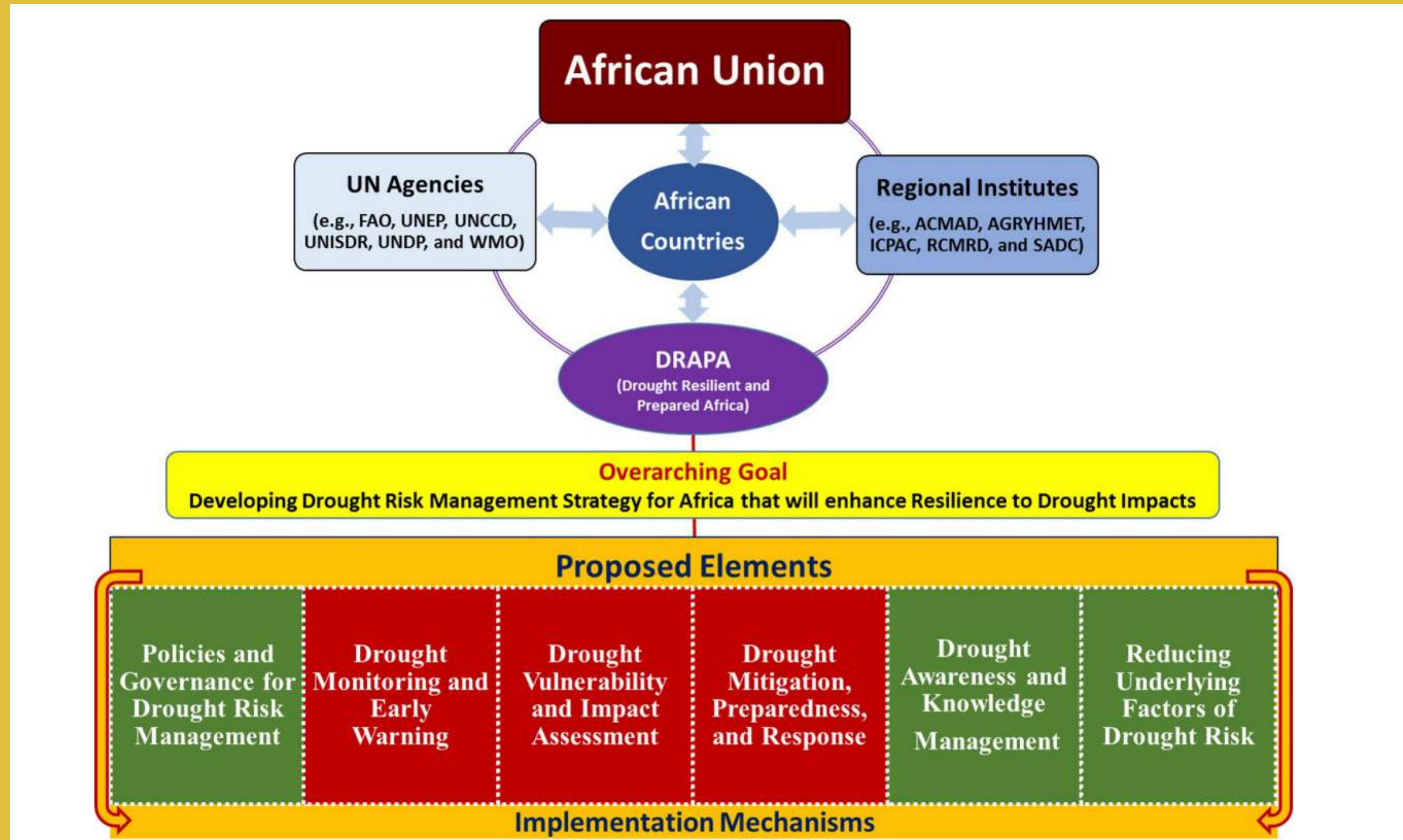
- Education
- Food Security
- Health
- Nutrition
- Protection
- Shelter & Non-Food Items
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
- Refugee Response Plan



# DISASTER MANAGEMENT

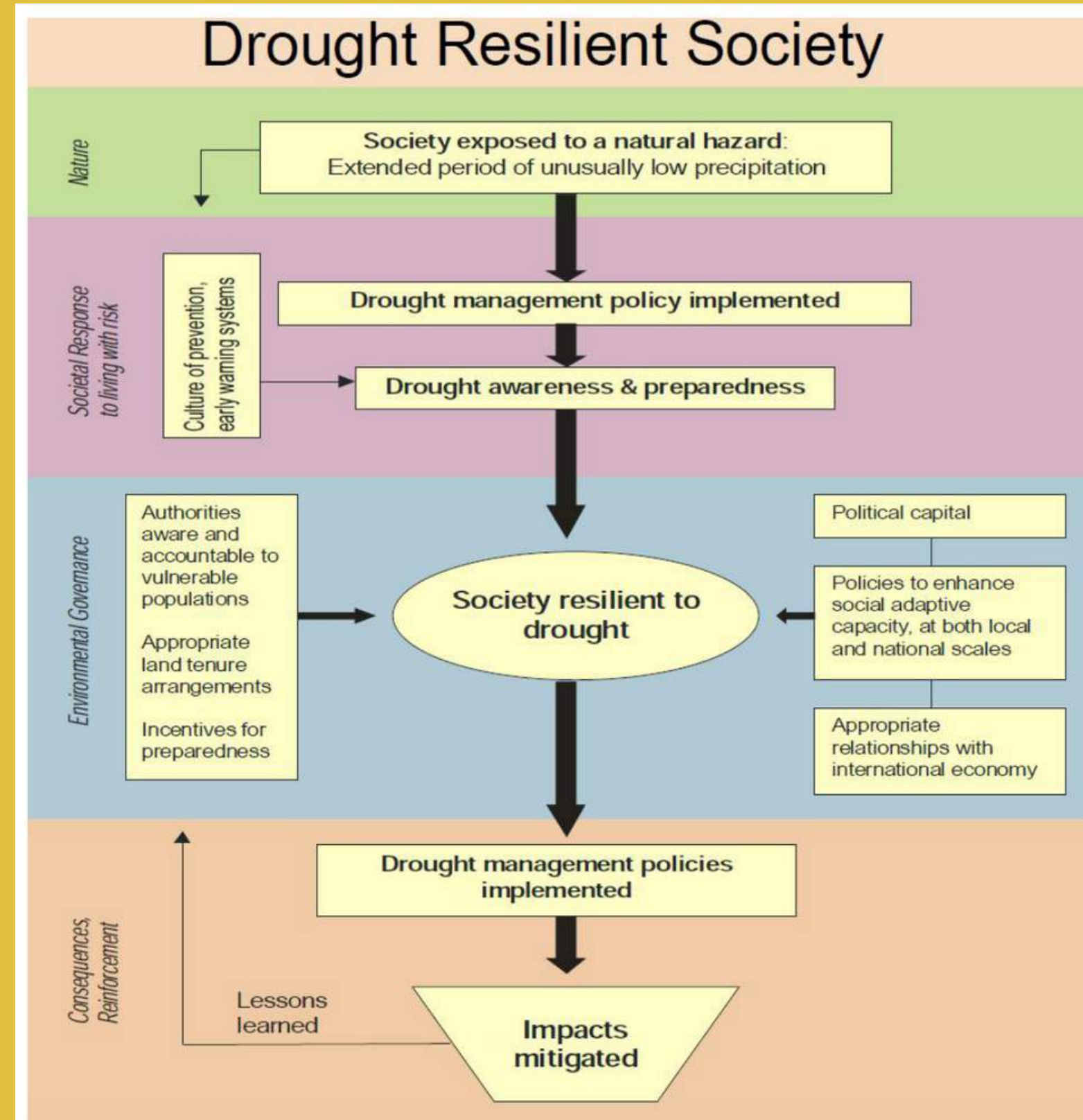


# DISASTER MANAGEMENT





# DISASTER MANAGEMENT



Source: UNISDR, 2009a

# WHAT WAS RIGHT/ WRONG?



*SOME MISTAKES:*

*LACK OF ANTICIPATORY  
ACTIONS*

*POOR COORDINATION AMONG  
AGENCIES*

*DELAYED & INADEQUATE  
FUNDING*

## ***1. LACK OF ANTICIPATORY ACTIONS***



World Food Programme (WFP) launched its Regional Drought Response Plan for the Horn of Africa, calling for \$327 million to respond to the immediate needs of 4.5 million people.

“We need to continue to build on the anticipatory actions – early warning systems, access to financing when triggers are heard, access to different types of crop or livestock insurance...” [6]

More than 890,000 people in the worst affected counties needed urgent food assistance as well as scale up malnutrition treatment and prevention programmes for women and children.

## ***2. POOR COORDINATION AMONG AGENCIES***

The policies being developed were poorly aligned to the national and Sendai framework while the disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) responsible institutions operate asymmetrically.

“A number of challenges noted in the implementation of DRR include inadequate funds, weak coordination mechanisms, few and poorly trained personnel, insufficient engagement of the vulnerable persons and low commitment from county policy makers.”

[4]



### ***3. DELAYED & INADEQUATE FUNDING***

“Delayed and inadequate funding caused major challenges for the response, which fell far short of needs. Less than 56 per cent of the amount required under the Flash Appeal in 2022 was received by the end of December (US\$188 million out of \$359 million), and nearly 70 per cent of this came from a single donor.” [5]

In October 2022, the average stockout rate of essential medicines was about 61% in Garissa, Marsabit and Wajir Counties of 12 tracer drugs for children and women was. The main reasons for stock outs included poor fill rates, delayed supply, delayed payments and some counties fail to submit 100% order requested by facilities.





## WHAT WAS DONE CORRECTLY?

Developing tools for better weather forecasts and engaging locals to follow weather forecasts

“They are developing tools for hazard monitoring, helping journalists to better report weather and climate information and facilitating co-production of climate services. The latter involves collaborating with farmers and other end-users in the production process to ensure that the services are tailored to their unique needs and circumstances.” [8]

Key aim is to equip farmers with weather and climate information to help them better cope with and adapt to extreme weather conditions. The project was supported since its inception, experts were assigned in a range of areas, including climate services, information technology and communication.

# LESSONS LEARNED

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- ***The importance of flexible funding:***

In 2022, donor support enabled UNICEF to provide services for the prevention of malnutrition to over 30 million children.

- ***Investing in more resilient and sustainable systems in the region:***

UNICEF Regional Director stated that “Further funding will not just help children recover from a crisis of this magnitude, but also go towards developing more resilient systems for the region that will withstand future climate impacts.”

- ***Facilitating climate-sensitive resilience:***

UNICEF estimates that an additional 690 million USD is needed to establish resilience in addition to the 759 million USD in relief funds geared towards life-saving support

# LESSONS LEARNED

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- ***Information sharing and coordination:***

Tools for hazard monitoring, helping journalists to better report weather and climate information as well as collaborative production of climate services.

- ***Drought-resilient agriculture:***

While some farmers have started to plant more resilient crops and noticed some positive changes, others continue to grow crops that are not drought-tolerant

- ***Community outreach:***

Until 2023, climate experts rarely involved end-users, which caused farmers to doubt the accuracy of the information they received. It is critical that experts collaborate and have open discussions about challenges with local communities to help locals adjust to changing circumstances



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**THANK YOU  
FOR LISTENING**