**Program-Level Early Warning (PLEW) Interest Group**

**Meeting Agenda:** **11 December 2014**

* **Welcome and introductions**
* Attendees: Patrick Coonan (TOPS), Laura Glaeser (FANTA), Amy Hillboe (CRS), Isaac Obai (ACTED)
* **Presentation and Q&A: *The Ins and Outs of the Karamoja Drought Early Warning System – Isaac Obai, ACTED***
* Isaac’s presentation and related Q&A can be accessed here: <https://www.fuzemeeting.com/replay_meeting/16bfac72/6927130>. The presentation, minus the dialog, is available here: <http://www.fsnnetwork.org/sites/default/files/ACTED%20-%20DEWS%20ADVANCEMENT%202014.pdf>.
  + ACTED’s Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) in Uganda’s Karamoja region regularly collects data across 5 sectors: weather and natural resources, livestock, crops, water, and coping strategies at the household, market, and kraal levels, and most closely monitors for agricultural and meteorological drought (meteorological drought focuses on the degree of dryness compared to a normal or average amount and the duration of the dry period; agricultural drought links characteristics of meteorological drought to agricultural impacts and focuses on precipitation shortages, soil water deficits, etc.), and considers both hazards and community and household vulnerabilities. Isaac noted that the DEWS collects information from the community and that that information than trickles back to the community, making community responses more relevant.
  + The DEWS has evolved from a pilot activity undertaken in 26 parishes in 1 district of Karamoja region in 2008; to a region-wide, multi-stakeholder system introduced in 2009 and refined in 2010 and 2011 to adjust indicators, improve timeliness and accuracy of the DEWS monthly Drought Bulletin, enhance community feedback, etc.; to an activity that is being transitioned to local and national Government of Uganda ownership from 2014-2016, with ACTED staff sitting in district offices across the region.
* **Other business: Future meeting topics, points of contact, timeframes**
* The PLEW Interest Group works to meet quarterly, on or about the second Thursday of the last quarter of the month (e.g., 12 March 2015, 11 June 2015, 10 September 2015, 10 December 2015). However, due to the FSN Network Knowledge Sharing Meeting in Bangladesh in March, the March PLEW meeting will be held on an alternative date. Laura and Patrick will follow up with a date for the rescheduled March meeting in early 2015.
* In an effort to ensure that PLEW meeting topics are useful to and capture the interest of as may meeting participants as possible, in early 2015 Laura and Patrick will circulate a meeting planning matrix to which interest group members are encouraged to add ideas and/or potential presenters for future PLEW meetings. Stay tuned!