

As the global impacts of climate change become more clearly understood, so too does the need for people to effectively respond and adapt to these changes. Home to hundreds of millions of people, the semi-arid regions of Africa and Asia are particularly vulnerable to climate-related impacts and risks.

These climate change hot-spots already experience harsh climates, adverse environmental change, and a relative paucity of natural resources. People here may be further marginalised by socio-economic challenges, including high levels of poverty, government processes that prevent sufficient participation and low levels of development. Although many people in these regions already display remarkable resilience, these existing pressures are expected to amplify in the coming decades.

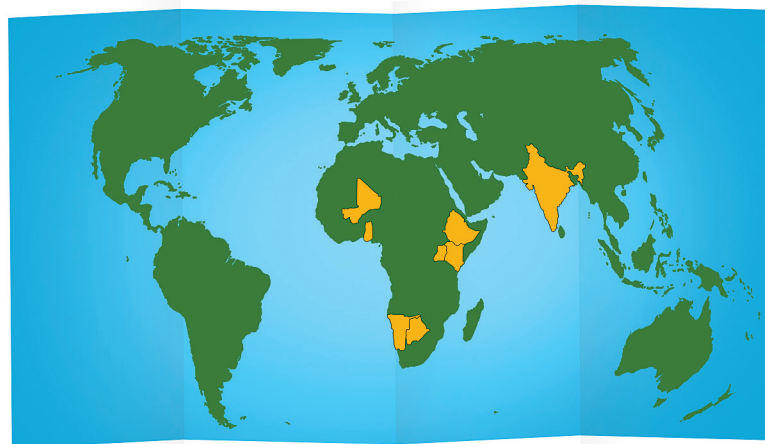
Therefore, it is essential to understand how to empower people, local organisations and government to adapt to climate change in a way that minimises their vulnerability and promotes their long-term resilience.

“ *it is essential to understand how to empower people ...to adapt to climate change* ”



HOW ASSAR WORKS

Working in a coordinated manner across 8 countries in **Southern Africa, East Africa, Western Africa, and South Asia**, ASSAR's research spans multiple levels of governance from local communities to national and regional institutions.



Within these contexts ASSAR examines vulnerability through an interdisciplinary and gender-sensitive lens that focuses on both climate and non-climatic stressors.

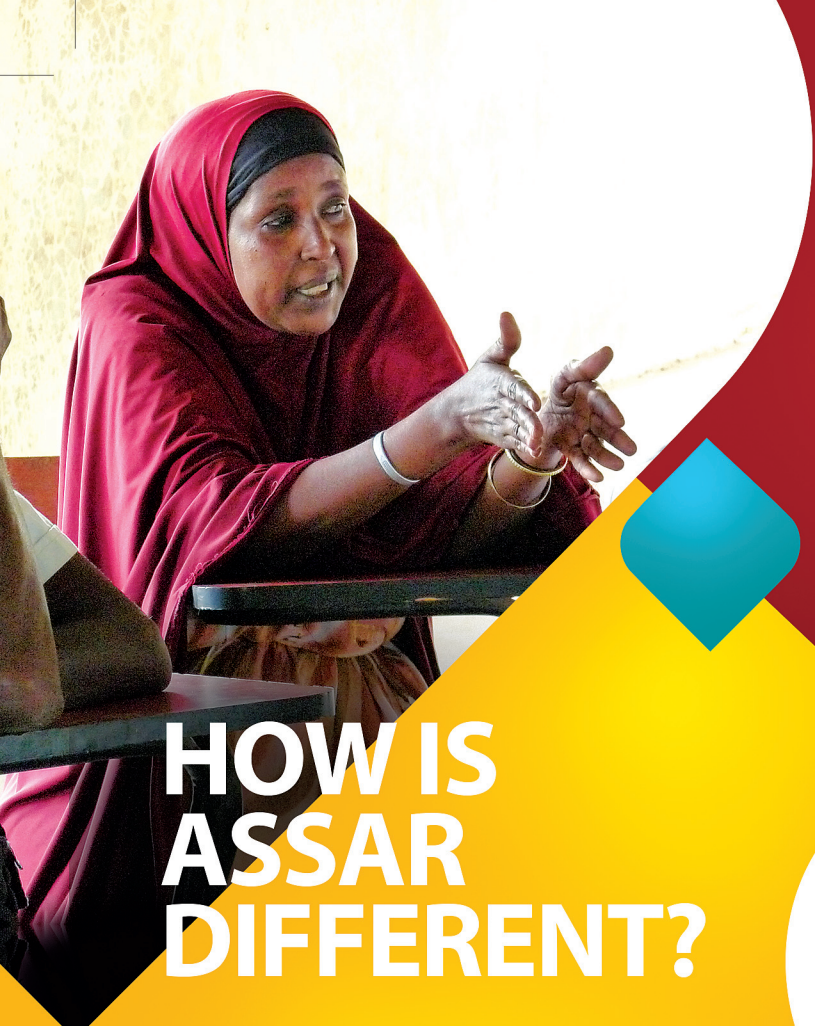
Over its 5-year lifespan, the cross-regional and cross-disciplinary comparison and integration of research findings will enable ASSAR to develop a unique and systemic understanding of the processes and factors that impede adaptation and cause vulnerability to persist.

To ensure this work is valuable, relevant and impactful, during every phase of research, ASSAR engages with a wide spectrum of stakeholders from communities, the private sector, civil society organisations, research institutions, governments and non-governmental organisations.

By guiding these stakeholders through participatory scenario planning processes, ASSAR will help to build a common understanding of current adaptation needs and past adaptation failings, while promoting the co-production of adaptation responses that can yield appropriate, tangible and lasting benefits.

ASSAR's regionally-rooted work will focus as much on processes as outcomes. While working to meet current stakeholder demands for knowledge and capacity, ASSAR is also committed to facilitating the development of a new cohort of local and international adaptation specialists whose expertise and experience will far outlive this project. Similarly, by promoting the integration of research, policy and practice domains, ASSAR aims to help develop networks that can facilitate ongoing adaptive decision making at all levels of governance.





HOW IS ASSAR DIFFERENT?

To date, most climate adaptation efforts have focused on reactive, short-term and site-specific solutions to climate-related vulnerabilities. Although important, these responses often fail to address the root causes of vulnerability, nor shed light on how to proactively spur widespread, effective and sustained adaptation that has positive effects on socio-economic development.

By addressing this knowledge shortfall, the Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions (ASSAR) project aims to transform climate adaptation policy and practice in ways that promote the long-term well-being of the most vulnerable and those with the least agency.

The international and interdisciplinary ASSAR team comprises a mix of research and practitioner organisations, and includes groups with global reach as well as those deeply embedded in their communities.



PROJECT LEADS



PROJECT PARTNERS



PROJECT FUNDERS



PROGRAMME LEAD



<http://www.assar.uct.ac.za/>

