Regional pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project

REFRESHER TRAINING REPORT ON DIMONITORING FOR RPLRP (ETHIOPIA, KENYA & UGANDA)

29th Feb – 1st Mar 2016

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Table of Contents

1.1 Background to the training

The call to provide a harmonised web-based project monitoring solution was reached at the 1st IDDRSI M&E Working group meeting in September 2014 – where IGAD was requested to lead and coordinate this activity. The guiding principle IGAD used in identifying a result-based monitoring tool to achieve the objectives of the IDDRSI regional M&E system was based on the following criteria:

- Real-time results monitoring for key indicators

- Global, Regional, National and Sub-national level monitoring

- Improve coordination among partners

- Joint approach to harmonize development indicators

- Aggregations at all geographic levels

- Implement multi-dimensional nature of programmatic interventions

After extensive consultations with various stakeholders, di-monitoring tool was selected as the most viable option to serve this purpose and IGAD since then has been working with the MSs through the regional projects within the framework of the regional programming paper to operationalize the application of the tool for tracking projects. The first phase of the process involved supporting 2 regional projects (RPLRP & DRLSP) covering Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya in May 2015 while Uganda was brought on board in September 2015.

After over 6 months of implementing di-monitoring tool, IGAD organized a 2-day refresher training to review progress, resolve challenges and discuss the next-steps in achieving the full benefits of the tool including setting the stage for the 2nd phase of the process (enhancing the visualization and reporting). The training was attended by the RPLRP Country M&E & IGAD Experts.

2.1 Objective of the training

The main objective of the refresher training was to review progress of the 1st phase of the implementation of di-monitoring tool and refresh the knowledge and skills sets provided for the application of di-monitoring tool. In addition, the training will:

- Resolve user-specific challenges encountered by the MSs
- Provide an update on finalization of the RPLRP National M&E plans and also
- Discuss the next steps leading to the 2nd phase of enhancing the functionality of the tool (visualization and reporting).

The training is part of IGAD's long-term sustainability strategy to build and consolidate the capacity of a core team of national experts who would then lead and coordinate the training & deployment of the tool at the national and sub-national level.

3.1 Training Methodology

Although the training was very prescriptive and focused to addressing the challenges associated with the implementation of the tool, an overview of the tool through a series of demonstrations was conducted. Through this training approach, participants were able to update their respective M&E frameworks and ask specific questions related to their situation.

4.1 Expected Outcome

1- Country specific challenges identified, discussed and resolved including the updating of M&E frameworks
2- Participants refreshed & able to use the basic functionalities of the tool including some advanced features such as importing framework elements, vertical and horizontal aggregation and creating child/parent relationship of frameworks
3- A time-based road-map developed for the 2nd phase of di-monitoring tool to include but not limited to an advanced training and the development of a dash-board to enhance visualization and reporting

5.1 Feed-back from MSs on the implementation of di-monitoring

Items	Ethiopia	Kenya	Uganda	IGAD
Completed Actions	-Creating of framework levels & description completed up to outcome level -Creating of framework content (IUS) partially completed -Entering of baseline, targets and planned values partially completed for available indicators (Awaiting completion of baseline assessment) -Creation of national level users (framework administrator) completed -Data entry partly on-going for completed activities	-Creating of framework levels & description completed up to outcome level -Creating of framework content (IUS) partially completed -Creation of national level users (framework administrator) completed		-Creation of framework levels & descriptions has been completed -Creation of framework content for the IUS is completed -Entering of planned & budget values completed for all activities -Data entry on-going for completed activities
Pending Actions	-Creation of an additional framework level (outputs) for sub-	-Entering of baseline, targets and planned values not completed for available indicators (Awaiting	-Creating of framework levels & description up to output level	

	national data entry -Creation of child-frameworks for each implementing region -Creating of data entry-users at the sub-national level (Region) -Entering of meta-data & additional information for each indicator	completion of baseline assessment) -Creation of an additional framework level (outputs) for sub-national data entry -Creation of child-frameworks for each implementing County -Creating of data entry-users at the sub-national level (County) -Entering of meta-data & additional information for each indicator	-Creating of framework content (IUS) -Entering of baseline, targets and planned values for available indicators (Awaiting completion of baseline assessment) -Creation of national level users (framework administrator) -Creation of child-frameworks for each implementing district -Creating of data entry-users at the sub-national level (district) -Data entry for completed activities	
Key challenges	-Difficulties in creating reporting agencies -More clarity is needed for the kind of meta data information required -Aggregation of data both horizontal and vertical -With the separation of the coordination unit for RPLRP & DRSLP, a decision needs to be made for National M&E focal person, IDDRSI focal person and PSC	-Export & import functions are still not clear -Difficulties experienced with the web-browser which affects editing -Aggregation function within and across different frameworks especially when data entry will be done at the County level -linking results to finances/budgets	-translating result framework into di-monitoring tool -Need to include activity level tracking linked to budget values -Transfer result framework to Uganda portal www.dimonitoring.org/v4/Ugnada	-Difficulty changing time-frame from one year to multiple years -Difficulty associating specific activities to a given reporting period -How to handle additional sub-activities which are continuous

member	-Need to enhance visualization and reporting -Support required to prepare di-monitoring training for Counties		

6.1 Analysis of the training

The refresher training brought together National M&E Experts from Ethiopia, Kenya & Uganda who are working on the RPLRP project to review progress, resolve challenges and discuss the next-steps in achieving the full benefits of the tool. The exercise was conducted in a manner that is consistent with the objectives & expected outcome of training. The progress towards the expected outcome is summarized in tables 1 below

Table 1: Progress towards expected outcome:

Expected Outcome	Status
1.1 Country specific challenges identified, discussed and resolved including the updating of M&E frameworks	- MS specific challenges presented, discussed and summarized in section 5.1 -Case by case trouble shooting conducted
1.2 Participants refreshed & able to use the basic functionalities of the tool including some advanced features such as importing framework elements, vertical and horizontal aggregation and creating child/parent relationship of frameworks	- Conducted session on the overview of di-monitoring tool -Discussed advanced features of the application - Hands-on session on creating new framework structures, importing framework elements and content was conducted -Presented the how-do video to participants to help refresh their knowledge and skill sets as part of the continuous capacity building strategy
1.3 A time-based road-map developed for the 2nd phase of di-monitoring tool to include but not limited to an advanced training and the development of a dash-board to enhance visualization and reporting	- Action-plan discussed and developed and summarized in table 2

Table 2: Follow-up Actions to fully achieve the objective of the training

#	Task	Ethiopia	Kenya	Uganda	IGAD
1	Finalize and Create Framework Levels and Descriptions	End of Mar 16	End of Apr 16	End of May 16	
2	Finalize and Create IUS list	End of Mar 16	End of Apr 16	End of May 16	
3	Enter data (Baseline, Target & planned)	End of Apr 16	End of Apr 16	End of May 16	

4	Training at sub-national level & Create Users	1st week Apr 16	End of Apr 16	End of May 16	
5	Creation of framework at sub-national level (child framework)	1st week Apr 16	End of Apr 16	End of May 16	
6	Advance Di-Monitoring training				May 2016
7	Creation of dash board				May 2016
8	Implementation review of di-monitoring tool				August 2016
9	Finalization of M&E Plans	End of April 16	End of April	End of April 16	Done

7.1 List of Participants

Name	Country	Institution	Project
Zelalem Terfa	Ethiopia	Ministry of Livestock & Fisheries	RPLRP
Rajab Obama	Kenya	Ministry of Agriculture	RPLRP
Kiwolu James	Uganda	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries	RPLRP
Anthony Awira	IGAD	PCU/IDDRSI	Djibouti
Jemal Mensur	IGAD	PCU/IDDRSI	Djibouti
Ahmed Mohamoud	IGAD	PCU/RPLRP	Kenya
Obhai George	IGAD	ICPALD	Kenya
Wangari Nancy	IGAD	ISTVS	Kenya