



PRESS RELEASE

Knowledge Share Fair: IGAD Cross-Border Resilience Programing

Nairobi, 27 May 2024 – The IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development is set to host a Horn of Africa Regional Knowledge Share Fair, an event dedicated to disseminating results of resilience programming focusing on IGAD's Karamoja, Moyale and Mandera clusters in the cross-border areas of Uganda, Ethiopia and Kenya.

With support from the USAID funded Cross-Border Community Resilience (CBCR) activity, we have generated master plans highlighting key priorities for each of the three clusters. These masterplans are the result of co-creation activities which brought together key stakeholders and community members in various corridors within the clusters.

The two-day event organised by the Center will be held from 27th–28th May, 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. It will feature several panel sessions covering different thematic areas in line with IGAD's regional mandate.

Bringing together diverse key stakeholders, the Knowledge Share Fair aims to promote sustainable development, peace, and prosperity by strengthening the capacity of stakeholders, facilitating information sharing and collaboration, influencing policy processes, and raising awareness about key cross-border issues.

The participants consist of stakeholders involved in cross-border resilience-building efforts, including representatives from IGAD, *Cross-Border Community Resilience (CBCR)* team, members of the *IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI)* Platform, national and local governments, international NGOs, and local development organizations working in the three clusters, representatives of other IGAD projects, community members, private sector, and members of the IGAD Partners Forum e.g. USAID, Germany, Sweden, *Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)*, Switzerland, the European Union, Denmark, Finland, Italy, *African Development Bank (AFDB)*, *French Development Agency (AFD)*, World Bank and UN agencies.

There is a growing understanding of the potential of cross-border cooperation both at global and continental levels, including political commitments. Resilience programming and investment in these areas are based on the understanding that communities are



homogenous, share common resources, livelihoods, and cultures and interact freely, irrespective of international boundaries.

This view has gained momentum due to economic opportunities created by cross-border markets and trade, as well as bilateral and multi-lateral agreements among regional states. Growing population in borderlands, improved infrastructure due to regional integration and state intervention, trans-Africa Transport facility, access to mobile telephones, revitalised local institutions, decentralisation, and democratisation processes among IGAD Member States are gradually addressing the root causes of marginalisation and extreme poverty.

Consequently, the thematic panel discussions at the Knowledge Share Fair will be:

- ✓ Cross-Border Programming Initiatives: Process, Results and Lessons
- ✓ Fostering Sustainable Development and Peaceful Co-existence in Cross-Border Areas
- ✓ Climate Change, Conflict and Pastoral Mobility Governance Nexus: Promoting Pastoral Resilience
- ✓ Reviewing Challenges Regarding Animal Feed Security and Potential Opportunities in the IGAD Region for Sustainable Livestock Production in the Region
- ✓ Transforming the Livestock Sector in Pastoral Areas: Exploring Economic Growth through Market Access of Livestock and Livestock Products
- ✓ One Health Opportunities & Challenges in Human Diseases Prevention, Control and Management in the IGAD Cross-Border Areas, in the Midst of Climate Change

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Background of IGAD's Cluster Approach

In September 2021, the Heads of State and Governments of countries in the HOA region met in Nairobi, Kenya, and resolved the objective of ending drought emergencies through the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI). The Summit mandated the IGAD Secretariat to lead and coordinate the implementation of IDDRSI through enhanced partnerships and increased long-term investments in sustainable development strategies, policies and programs aimed at building resilience to future climatic and economic shocks. For the initiative to achieve its goals, it was agreed that IDDRSI would be implemented simultaneously in all IGAD member countries, ensuring that no country or community is left behind.

As a regional undertaking, IDDRSI is underpinned by the fact that most of the IGAD region is drought-prone, and most of the inhabitants of the region are rain-dependent pastoralists and Agro-Pastoral communities that occupy cross-border areas that traverse political boundaries. These communities face common challenges and are often interconnected through, inter alia, natural resource sharing, livestock movement, regional trade and transboundary human and animal diseases, providing opportunities to initiate local dialogues that may lead to more collaborative development agenda in the cross-border areas.

Through the “cluster” approach, IGAD facilitates the possibility of ecosystem-based management that recognizes the full array of interactions within a socio-ecological zone, collectively and holistically, based on the requirements, resources, and development possibilities of the cross-border area in question. Accordingly, IGAD has identified 8 clusters that cover important political, social, economic, and agroecological zones (see Figure 1). A strong political momentum resulted in greater commitment by countries and their development partners, promoting increased investments and stimulating resource mobilization. Some programmes are implemented at Member States’ levels, while others are regional in nature, being either executed across borders or affecting more than one country at a time. Although each government is responsible for implementing IDDRSI and related interventions in its country, ensuring the goal of ending drought emergencies is expeditiously achieved is the shared obligation of all stakeholders in the region.



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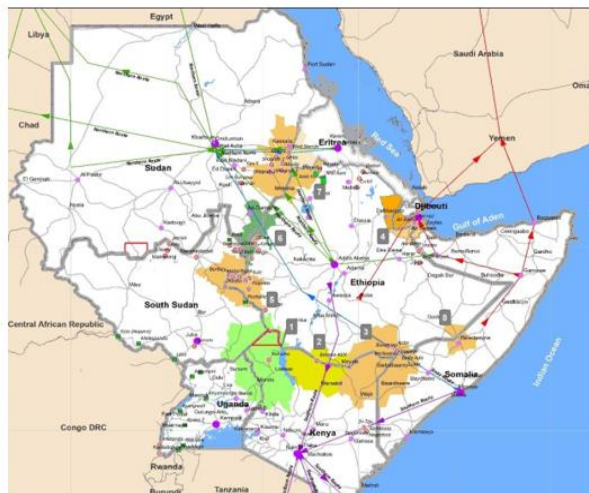


Figure 1: Map of IGAD region with eight countries and eight transboundary clusters. Source: IGAD/GIZ (no date)

List of IGAD Clusters:

- IGAD Cluster n° 1. Karamoja Cluster, 4 Countries: Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan and Ethiopia.
- IGAD Cluster n° 2. Borena/ Marsabit-Moyale Cluster; 2 Countries: Ethiopia and Kenya.
- IGAD Cluster n° 3. Mendera Cluster; 3 Countries: Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.
- IGAD Cluster n° 4. Dikhil Cluster; 2 Countries: Ethiopia and Djibouti.
- IGAD Cluster n° 5. Two Countries: Ethiopia and South Sudan.
- IGAD Cluster n° 6. 3 Countries: Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan.
- IGAD Cluster n° 7. Three (3) countries: Eritrea, Sudan and Ethiopia.
- IGAD Cluster n° 8. Ethio-Somali cluster; 2 Countries: Ethiopia and Somalia.

Dozens of resilience projects have been designed and implemented in Clusters 1 (Karamoja), 2 (Mendera), and 3 (Moyale) by IGAD and Member States, in collaboration with a range of development partners. Some of these projects and programmes include: Build Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security (BREFONS), Building Resilient Market Systems in the Cross-border Drylands of the IGAD Region (USAID), Strengthening the Capacity of IGAD towards Enhanced Drought Resilience in the Horn of Africa (SCIDA III), Strengthening Coordination and Implementation of IDDRSI (SCII) project, USAID Cross-Border Community Resilience activity (CBCR), Regional Livestock Program (RLP), Sustainable Ecosystem Management (SEM) project to mention a few. These projects ease the economic and social problems of the communities in the region's 70% arid and semi-arid lands.

Disclaimer: The designations employed, and the map presentations do not imply the expressions of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the IGAD concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city, area of its authorities, place names, or the delineation of its frontiers or boundaries.