

ADDRESSING THE NEXUS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE, MOBILITY, PASTORAL CONFLICT, AND RESILIENCE



SUMMARY

Pastoral communities in the Horn of Africa face intricate challenges at the intersection of mobility, governance, conflict, and climate change. This policy brief examines the pressing issues within the pastoral security nexus and proposes strategic recommendations to enhance pastoral resilience. Recognizing the symbiotic relationship between these factors is crucial for sustainable development and the well-being of pastoralists. Additionally, lessons from engaging with pastoralist communities in Kenya underscore the importance of conflict-sensitive climate action as a neutral entry point for building peace in fragile contexts.

BACKGROUND

IGAD region hosts a significant transhumant population moving across borders for water, pasture, and markets. Approximately 70% of land mass is arid and semi-arid, characterized by isolation, marginalization and underdevelopment. Livestock keeping, the main livelihood in these areas contributes significantly to national and regional economies. However, the highly vulnerable pastoral communities face climate change impacts leading to transhumance and conflicts. These resources are governed by traditional governance mechanisms which may be inconsistent with existing national and regional legal frameworks or policies. To provide a mechanism to guarantee protection for the transhumant populations, IGAD developed Transhumance Protocol for safe, free and orderly movement across national boundaries. Conflict-sensitive climate action can be a neutral entry point for building peace in fragile contexts.

ISSUES / CHALLENGES

- Climate change impacts food and nutrition security and nutrition of pastoral communities.
- Potential in pastoral areas is largely untapped.
- There is lack of/limited utilization of technologies and innovations in pastoral

areas, including early warning systems for climate events.

- Existing policy and legal frameworks at national and regional levels are unresponsive to current challenges in pastoral areas.
- Conflict, mobility, governance, and climate change should not be examined in isolation, but rather holistically due to their interconnection.
- Lack of a compendium of pastoralists' knowledge/practices and innovations that can be harnessed and shared in IGAD and AU pastoralist innovation hubs.
- There are limited/no resources devoted to develop pastoral areas.
- There are no pastoral policies in nearly all IGAD countries (except Ethiopia).
- Domestic international or regional obligations in legal instruments within borders.
- There is a lack of climate security considerations into actual policy and practice.
- Conflict and resource management governance structures are not always aligned with national laws.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Diversification:** Encourage pastoral communities to diversify their livelihoods for economic sustainability.
- **Sustainability:** Promote co-creation, co-financing, co-implementing, and co-learning with pastoral communities for sustainable actions.
- **Rangelands and water management:** Implement sustainable water and rangelands management with technologies and innovations, including early warning and monitoring systems.
- **Climate action fund:** Explore local sustainable solutions to fund climate action and tap into climate action funding streams with regional outlook.
- **Modernize pastoralism:** Modernize pastoralism with technology and innovations and build capacities of pastoral communities.
- **Regional challenges:** IGAD to coordinate the development of innovative approaches and solutions to regional challenges like disarmament models for peace and stability in the region.
- **Transhumance Protocol implementation:** Enact comprehensive laws aligned with the Protocol and develop bilateral agreements between neighboring states for Protocol implementation.
- **Pastoral Advocacy:** Allocate adequate

resources to advocate for pastoral policies in the IGAD region.

- **Collaboration Framework:** Establish a framework with relevant stakeholders to transform pastoralism.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- **Comprehensive laws:** Member States should establish comprehensive laws addressing pastoral communities in alignment with the IGAD Transhumance Protocol and entrench pastoral mobility in their legislation.
- **Legalization/equalization fund:** Member States need to establish legalization/equalization fund to implement the IGAD Transhumance Protocol in pastoral areas.
- **Pastoralism and AfCTA:** IGAD should spearhead the inclusion of pastoral-friendly policies in the AfCTA framework to promote economic development in pastoral areas.
- **Climate action funding:** IGAD should support the development of a regional climate action resource mobilization and delivery strategy, mobilize resources for pastoral areas through the Loss and Damages Fund established at COP28 and position pastoral areas strategically to tap into climate action funding streams with a regional outlook.

CONCLUSION

Addressing the nexus of mobility, governance, conflict, and climate change necessitates collaborative efforts, involving governments, regional bodies, and pastoral communities. Embracing diversified livelihoods, modernizing pastoralism with technology, and domesticating the IGAD Transhumance Protocol are crucial steps toward building pastoral resilience. IGAD must collaborate with all relevant stakeholders and implement sustainable solutions to transform pastoralism and contribute to regional development.

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