

RESILIENCE FOCUS

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Cross-border Cooperation Framework to facilitate the development of the Karamoja ecological zone

Raising borderland voices in support of cross-border cooperation

From hard beginnings, a youth initiative in Kenya thrives



Strengthening cross-border cooperation



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RESILIENCE FOCUS MAGAZINE

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FOREWORD

The issue of borders has recently been brought into focus and made newsworthy by the on-going debate on the controversy of the proposed border wall between the USA and Mexico. While this debate has highlighted the border as a dividing or defensive line, fortified and equipped to function as an obstacle to people and products, a view that is gathering traction in the Horn of Africa region is one where the border is perceived as an opportunity for cooperation, development and progress.

I am pleased to present to you this edition of the Resilience Focus Magazine, which features articles from a wide range of stakeholders; and covers many sectors and perspectives that promote cross-border cooperation.

The ecosystems, livelihoods and identities of the pastoral communities in the drylands of the Horn of Africa are regional in nature – and are, therefore, significantly influenced by cross-border dynamics. While there is increasing recognition of the need for a cross-border approach in addressing the wider implications of the vulnerability of dryland inhabitants, there is still inadequate understanding of the nature and magnitude of cross-border interactions and cooperation in livelihoods activities in the region. The important contribution of cross-border dynamics to local, national and regional economies are often hampered by negative perceptions and adverse national policies.

The theme of this edition of the *Resilience Focus Magazine* seeks to increase the understanding of cross-border cooperation as one of the foundations for the successful enhancement of resilience, including improved livelihoods and increased food security for communities in the IGAD region. Since 2013, the region has been in the process of implementing the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), aimed at ending drought emergencies by building resilience through investing in sustainable development. The resilience-enhancing projects being executed within the framework of IDDRSI are holistic, multi-sectoral and regional, requiring a cross-border approach.

In addition to updates from different projects, in-depth feature articles and stories of change and impact, I would like to draw your attention to three articles in the magazine. The first one, titled '*promoting cross-border cooperation to enhance resilience and sustainable development in the IGAD region*' presents global, continental and regional aspects of frameworks for cross-border cooperation. The second article, titled '*the cross-border cooperation framework to facilitate the development of the Karamoja ecological zone*' describes the rationale and process of developing a framework for a specific ecological zone; and discusses the lessons learnt from that process. The third article titled '*cross-border dialogue: a pathway to reversal of the periphery to the centre*', describes how cross-border dialogues improve participation in development planning and policy processes.

I would like to thank all the individuals and institutions that have contributed to this edition, as well as the editorial team for their hard work. It is my hope that this edition will contribute to increased awareness of the need for cross-border cooperation to facilitate development.

John P. Kabayo
Regional Coordinator,
Drought Resilience Initiative

9TH IDDRSI PLATFORM STEERING COMMITTEE TAKES PLACE

The IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) conducted its 9th Platform Steering Committee meeting on 17-18 December 2018 in Djibouti.

by **CHRISTINE BUKANIA**

Representatives from IDDRSI focal ministries and institutions in the Member States, directors and technical experts from the IGAD Secretariat, as well as Development Partners, UN agencies, Civil Society Organisations and the private sector, all committed to continue efforts aimed at ending drought emergencies in the Horn of Africa.

The meeting was officially opened by Hon. Mahamed Ahmed Awaleh, Minister of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries, Livestock and Marine Resources of the Republic of Djibouti. In attendance was H.E. Ambassador Adam Kulach, the Head of the European Union (EU) Delegation to Djibouti.

The meeting was financially supported by the European Union (EU) and the Federal German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) within the framework of the “Strengthening the ability of IGAD to promote resilience in the Horn of Africa project”. The project is implemented by GIZ.

The IGAD Secretariat, Member States and selected cross-border projects presented their progress reports. Plenary discussions were held to discuss objectives for the implementation of the second phase of IDDRSI (2018-2022); review of the platform governance structure; strengthening links between IDDRSI and regional and continental frameworks, particularly, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the African Union Agenda 2063; as well as evidence-based reporting through strengthening of statistics capacity in the region. Participants also had opportunities for side meetings, informal interaction and networking.



Group photo of participants of the 9th Platform Steering Committee Meeting held in Djibouti on 17-18 December 2018. Photo: Issa Ahmed/IGAD.

Following presentations of progress reports by the IGAD Secretariat and Member States, the Platform Steering Committee (PSC) held discussions and adopted eight recommendations.

The PSC called for a cross-border development framework that elaborates the roles and rules of engagement of stakeholders and the strengthening of national coordination mechanisms for better coordination and reporting. The IGAD Secretariat was requested to lead in efforts to improve reporting.

They expressed their expectation that the first edition of the State of Resilience Report, due to be produced in 2019, include a comparative analysis of key resilience indicators to compare the impact of the drought events since 2011 to the most recent drought of 2016/2017.

Other issues recommendations that were made include the operationalization of the Gender and Resilience Working Group and related Communities of Practice, revision of the PSC structure, improving donor coordination and increasing efforts to hold the third Drought Resilience Summit in 2019.

Christine Bukania works for IGAD’s Planning, Coordination and Partnerships Division, as Knowledge Management Coordinator.

CROSS-BORDER HEALTH INITIATIVES PROMOTED IN THE IGAD REGION

IGAD's cross-border health programme focuses particularly on marginalized populations and pastoralists in arid and semi-arid lands.

by SHADRACK OIYE

Supported by IGAD's Health and Social Development Division IGAD Member States collaborated to undertake the following activities:

Launch of joint and synchronized polio immunization in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya: In September 14, 2018, IGAD, in collaboration with the Government of Kenya and in consultation with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners, launched a synchronized polio vaccination for the IGAD region in Garissa (KENYA). The event, which was presided over by H. E. Amb (Eng.) Mahboub Maalim, culminated in the signing of a communiqué between the Ministers of Health from Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia.

Synchronized vaccination is a follow-up to the declaration of the Horn of Africa poliomyelitis outbreak in Kenya and Somalia during the 17th WHA in May 2018. Consequent commitments, as a matter of public health urgency, were to lead to the implementation of coordinated outbreak responses in order to prevent international spread and to quickly interrupt the outbreak before the end of 2018.

Strengthening of cross-border post market surveillance of medicines in the region: In December 2018, the IGAD secretariat in collaboration with USAID and IGAD Member States medicines regulatory authorities conducted an assessment to establish the quality of medicines in the IGAD cross-border areas. This involved sampling of Oxytocin, a first line prophylactic and



Medicines samples for quality analysis in process in one of the health facilities in Uganda-Kenya border. Photo: Shadrack OIYE/IGAD.

therapy for postpartum haemorrhage, which is estimated to cause approximately 20% of pregnancy-related deaths globally; and Amoxicillin dispersible tablet/suspension, a first line medicine for the treatment of paediatric pneumonia, which is implicated for 1.2 million under-fives deaths annually. The survey sites were pre-selected cross-border facilities of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The samples are being analyzed at the Ethiopian Food, Medicines and Healthcare Administration and Control Authority and the implications of the findings will be shared among partners for actions aimed at improving the quality of these medicines in the cross-border areas.

Tuberculosis (TB) assessment and drugs donations: In July and August 2018, IGAD secretariat in collaboration with the Challenge TB conducted a rapid assessment of the challenges in the diagnosis, treatment and referral of TB patients for cross-border mobile populations. This exercise hoped to control regional TB transmission and Multi-drug-resistant TB within the region. During the assessment, IGAD with support from USAID was able to facilitate donation of second line TB medicines to support the Federal Government of Somalia TB program through the Kenya National TB Leprosy and Lung Disease Program. This was done through the TB Global Fund recipient for Somalia, World Vision. This donation averted cross-border transmission of MDR-TB within the region.

Shadrack OIYE is a Nutrition Specialist and Program Officer for IGAD's Health and Social Development Division.

TURKANA, KARIMOJONG PASTORALISTS APPEAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The Karimojong and Turkana pastoralist communities, long known for conflicts over livestock and access to natural resources. But with sustained peace, they are turning their attention to long-term development investments.

by **DOMINIC KATHIYA**

On 8 June 2018, a cross-border peace meeting was held in Namorupusi in Loima Sub-county of Turkana County to build unity among the Turkana of Kenya, Tepeth, Matheniko and Pokot of Uganda. During the meeting, the Karimojong, Turkana and Pokot appealed to the Governments of Kenya and Uganda to establish a technical institute along the border of Turkana and Karamoja to train the pastoralists' children.

Mr. Mark Sagal, one of the elders and a resident of Rupa Sub-county in Moroto District said this would help to cement the prevailing peaceful coexistence, because children from both communities would interact more closely when they attended the school. Mr. Peter Lopuke, another elder from Loima in Turkana added that the school would raise the level of education in the region.

On 27 October 2018, during a cross-border peace evaluation meeting between the Karimojong and Turkana in Lokiriama in Kenya, elders urged the two governments to consider establishing a regional beef factory to add value to their livestock products and improve their livelihoods. Mr. Timothy Maruk, a Karimojong pastoralist, said that the factory would open up opportunities for the Karimojong, Turkana, Teso and Nyangatom to benefit from the East African regional markets. Mr. Moses Lokuruka, from Turkana, added that such a factory could also be a symbol of peace.

The peace meetings were supported by the Karamoja Cluster project and organizations that have been working to unite the pastoralist communities of Kenya and



A young girl herding cattle alongside her mother in Loima Sub-county, Turkana County, Kenya. Photo: Ariong Stephen.

Uganda. The aim of the meetings was to jointly identify challenges and priorities for development, through what is now commonly referred to as the cross-border approach to development programming.

This cross-border approach has started to yield positive results. Lokuruka says: "We are very excited by the current peace and unity between us, the Turkana and the Karimojong. We are now jointly demanding for services from our governments."

The Karimojong handed over their guns to the Ugandan government and are living in relative peace alongside the Turkana. The Turkana pastoralists seasonally migrate to Karamoja with their livestock; cattle, donkeys, camels, and goats in search for pasture and water. However, sporadic conflict still affects the pastoralist communities on the Kenyan side.

"If the Kenya Government could disarm communities like Uganda did, we will live in absolute peace", says Lokupe.

Dr. Dominic Kathiya Lokeris is a veterinarian and the coordinator of the Karamoja Cluster Cross Border Development Facilitation Unit.

EU-UN-IGAD PROJECT TO ACCELERATE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION BETWEEN ETHIOPIA, KENYA AND SOMALIA

The European Union and UNDP organized a joint action workshop to develop a joint action plan to boost cross-border cooperation between Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

by ANNA MOGHILDA

The 2-day workshop that was held on 16-17 January 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia was organized by the Support for Effective Cooperation and Coordination of Cross-border Initiatives in Southwest Ethiopia-Northwest Kenya, Marsabit-Borana and Dawa, and Kenya-Somalia-Ethiopia (SECCCI) project.

The participants were drawn from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) who are the implementing partners, as well as UNDP Country Offices from Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, the implementing agency UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa (RSCA) and the key donor, the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Ethiopia.

The EU Representative, Sabrina Bazzanella, Team Leader Migration, welcomed the participants. She said that the main objective of the meeting was to come up with a concrete coordination and cooperation action plan to guide the implementing partners' transboundary interventions and to enhance their commitment to the project's success to the benefit of the people who live in transboundary areas.

Through a joint cross-border action plan, the workshop will accelerate cooperation between the Governments of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia in order to address the drivers of conflict and instability, irregular migration and forced displacement in the cross-border areas of the Horn of Africa.



Fisseha Mekonnen and Dereje Zewdu working on the Joint Cross Border Action Plan.
Photo: Anna Moghilda/UNDP

“UNDP and the UN system as a whole are enhancing their political engagement in recognition of the Horn of Africa’s Governments’ efforts towards prosperity, stability and peace. Under the cross-border initiative, we look forward to an enhanced stakeholders capacities in support of cross-border cooperation. Much can also be done by all of us to accompany an enhanced political engagement by a stronger programmatic approach across the development, humanitarian and peacebuilding nexus to build the institutional capacity for closer cooperation,” said Lamin Momodou Manneh, director of the UNDP RSCA.

The SECCCI Project is funded by the EU, with co-financing contributions from UNDP and UNEP and has a budget of US\$10 million. The project is implemented by the UNDP RSCA in partnership with UNEP and IGAD. The implementation is closely coordinated with the national and local Governments of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. The overall objective of the project is to address the drivers of conflict and instability, irregular migration and displacement in the cross-border areas of the Horn of Africa through improved cross-border cooperation and coordination.

Anna Moghilda is the Communications Specialist for the SECCCI Project.

WITH THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION ADOPTED, WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA?

As a precursor to the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration held on 10-11 December 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) held a side event to discuss the regional mechanisms that support safe and orderly migration.

by **KOKEBE HAILEGABRIEL DAGNE AND BRAZILLE SIMARO MUSUMBA**

In the run up to its adoption on the 10 December 2018, the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) had been high on the agenda of both sceptics and supporters of a multi-lateral approach to address the transboundary phenomenon of migration. The GCM seeks to foster safe, orderly and regular migration in a comprehensive manner and was negotiated among Member States of the UN for the past two years. The GCM was finally adopted by the 162 UN Member States that participated in the intergovernmental conference to adopt the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration held on 10-11 December 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco. Despite the early hours, the side event organized by the IGAD on 9 December 2018, as a precursor to the intergovernmental conference, attracted more than fifty participants drawn from the high-level representation of delegations from governments, international organizations, academia and the civil society.



Jamal and Ahmed, two Ethiopian migrants travelling across the border into Djibouti. Photo: Muse Mohammed/UN Migration Agency (IOM) 2017.

WHO FOLLOWS-UP ON ITS IMPLEMENTATION?

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) will coordinate UN Agencies and other stakeholders working on migration and act as the secretariat of the UN Network on Migration for the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM. The IOM Director for International Cooperation and Partnerships Ms. Jill Helke stated that the UN Network on Migration would build on IGAD's experiences on migration governance in the Horn of Africa. She also reiterated the importance of partnerships to engage in the capacity building mechanisms for migration governance called for under

the GCM, like the Global Compact Fund. The fund intends to include a 'connection hub' that will process Member State requests for tailored solutions to migration-related challenges; a start-up fund for initial financing to realize those solutions; and a 'global knowledge platform', to encourage the exchange of information and mutual learning on a continuous basis.

LESSONS FROM THE HORN OF AFRICA

The whole of government approach is at the core of migration governance in Kenya. Dr. Dan Opon, Kenya's Senior Assistant Director of Immigration Services, explains why Kenya established a national coordination mechanism for migration: "Migration is a phenomenon that transcends the purview of ministries, departments and agencies, and therefore requires a broader coordination platform." Besides bringing relevant stakeholders together to consult and coordinate their respective mandates, the mechanism has also fostered common understanding of migration trends.

Uganda on the other hand, has put labour migration at the center of attention. Realizing the opportunities and potentials of labour migration, Mr. Lawrence Egulu, the Commissioner for Employment Service of the Government of Uganda, elaborated on Uganda's national policy on labor migration. The legislation puts private employment agencies in the forefront to ensure safe, orderly and productive labour mobility to the Middle Eastern and Gulf States. At the same time the Government of Uganda has realized the importance of bilateral labour agreements to ascertain protection needs of migrant workers. In Mr. Egulu's opinion, offering regular pathways has contributed a great deal to reducing smuggling and trafficking in persons.

Ethiopia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG), Ambassador Negash Kibret Botor, put three fundamental principles to support the implementation of the compact forward: ownership; leadership and global, regional and bilateral partnerships. In his statement, he urged IGAD to support Member States to comprehensively capture and properly include migration in their national development policies and plans. Only then would a sense of ownership and leadership towards the efficient and effective implementation of the GCM grow.

IGAD'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Prof. Walter Kealin of the Platform on Disaster and Displacement (PDD) outlined how forced displacements have occurred in the Horn of Africa due to natural and man-made disasters. He added that adverse effects of climate change, especially drought continue to influence human mobility in the IGAD region. Prof. Kealin emphasized that the GCM provides practical tools for climate change adaptation, disaster risks reduction, including coping mechanisms and integration of migration issues into national development plans. He commended IGAD for the regional drought resilience initiative; the regional consultative process on migration that developed a regional policy framework in 2012; and the progress made towards the regional protocol for free movement of persons. He said that PDD would continue to advocate for full implementation of GCM, protection of the displaced both internally and across borders, and integration of durable solutions for returnees and stressed the platform's continued partnership with IGAD to foster protection of those affected by disaster displacement.

Germany has partnered and cooperated with IGAD on various development issues including migration for many years, through the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), as well as the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ). Dr. Elke Löbel, the Commissioner for Refugee Policy at BMZ, stated that Germany remained committed to migration. This was demonstrated by the attendance of the German Chancellor, Ms. Angela Merkel. She called for trust and professionalism in the implementation of all projects and programs to ensure continued support for the GCM. She said that most migration is happening within Africa, contrary to the common perception; therefore, IGAD and other regional organizations will play an important role in the implementation of the GCM.

HOW CAN GCM IMPLEMENTATION BUILD ON CONTINENTAL AND REGIONAL MECHANISMS AND FRAMEWORKS?

The African Union (AU) Commissioner for Social Affairs, Mrs. Amira El Fadil, underlined the need to counter negative narratives of African migration and recognize development gains of migration, such as remittances and knowledge transfer by the Diaspora. As the compact

calls for facilitating dignified and sustainable return, re-admission and reintegration, the commissioner put special emphasis on the need for partnerships, particularly with the private sector and civil society, to improve conditions for the reintegration of returned migrants. Furthermore, the AU Agenda 2063 actively promotes regular pathways for migration through the continental free trade area, the free movement protocol and the joint labour migration programme, all of which heavily rely on partnerships across the board.

“We want to work very closely with the RECs to make sure the Member State’s national instruments are aligned with the continental instruments and Member States will go for the implementation. We want more coordination between us to avoid duplication and we will be working towards the same objectives, we will be working towards building the capacity of our African Member States,” said the commissioner. She appealed to development partners to continue supporting the effective implementation of the GCM through regional frameworks and national policies

The commissioner’s statement resonates well with the regional approach to migration governance as described by Mr. Charles Obila, the Migration Officer at the IGAD Secretariat. IGAD Member States have adopted the Regional Migration Policy Framework as a guiding instrument based on the AU Migration Policy Framework and customized it to the context of the IGAD region, such as nomadic pastoral livelihoods and displacements

caused by natural disasters. The Regional Migration Policy Framework is being complemented by migration governance architecture with coordination structures at regional and national levels through the regional consultative process and the national coordination mechanisms. IGAD is therefore ready to support the implementation of the GCM objectives through its migration governance architecture that is aligned to continental frameworks.

IGAD, through its Regional Migration Policy Framework, the IGAD Social Development Policy and derived actions, embraces the positive impacts of migration and seeks to support safe and orderly migration decisions, discourage distress, irregular migration and forced displacement. This is supported through IGAD’s efforts to build resilient communities in the region under the IGAD Drought Disaster and Resilience Initiative, as resilient communities are more likely to make safe and regular migration decisions.

Kokebe Hailegabriel Dagne is the GIZ Component Leader for the Implementation of Regional Migration Policies and Advisor at the IGAD Secretariat in Djibouti. **Brazille Simaro Musumba** is a Media and Communications Consultant with Afrika Trek Incorporated based in Nairobi and working extensively in the Horn of Africa.



A large informal settlement is home to several Ethiopians who have travelled to Djibouti searching for work. Photo: Muse Mohammed/UN Migration Agency (IOM) 2017.

IGAD HOLDS RESILIENCE SHARE FAIR ON STRENGTHENING CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Around sixty participants from the IGAD Secretariat and Member States were in Isiolo, Kenya from 6-8 August 2018 to take part in a knowledge share fair, whose theme was “Strengthening Cross-border Cooperation in the IGAD Clusters.”

by **CHRISTINE BUKANIA**

The aim of the share fair was to contribute to an increased understanding of the operational context in IGAD clusters and enhance the integrated cluster approach in the implementation of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI). The event was expected to highlight the dynamics of cross-border cooperation and consolidate the principles and methodologies for successful cross-border development within the IGAD region.

The share fair was opened by Dr. Solomon Munyua, the director of the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) and Mr. Mahamoud Haji, the Isiolo County Executive Committee member in charge of livestock.

In his key note address, Dr. Munyua underlined the importance of actively involving communities in cross-border activities, and supporting them to benefit from emerging investments, such as wildlife conservation, artisanal minerals, fisheries and non-wood forest products. He highlighted the challenge associated with mining rights, which are allocated in the capitals, without due consideration of the cross-border populations who inhabit those areas.

The share fair responded to the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee recommendations of May 2018 related to knowledge exchange: (i) conduct regional learning events on best practices for effective coordination of IDDRSI; (ii) promote knowledge management for informed decision making and investment; and (iii) liaise with other partners to organise drought resilience learning events to review and share knowledge on lessons learnt and good practices in resilience programming.



Participants hold discussions to identify ways of strengthening collaboration in cross-border areas. Photo: Christine Bukania/IGAD.

The event was a culmination of a collaborative effort by the IGAD Secretariat and Member States. It was made possible through the financial contributions of ICPALD through the IGAD-FAO Partnership Programme, which is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, as well as the World Bank funded Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (RPLRP). Additional contributions were made by the German Development Corporation (GIZ).

Christine Bukania works for IGAD’s Planning, Coordination and Partnerships Division, as Knowledge Management Coordinator.

ENHANCING CROSS-BORDER COORDINATION IN ANIMAL HEALTH AND LIVESTOCK TRADE IN THE IGAD REGION

The IGAD Center for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) has been working to strengthen the regional approach to controlling of transboundary animal diseases.

by ICPALD LIVESTOCK TEAM

The Greater Horn of Africa is endowed with abundant livestock resources that contribute significantly to the national economies, food security, livelihoods and poverty reduction. However, several constraints hinder the full exploitation of the livestock resources, among which are; animal diseases, poor policy environment, unregulated livestock movement and lack of harmonisation and coordination of disease control programmes. It was also documented that cross-border coordination among clusters /ecosystems played a big role in the eradication of Rinderpest.

Cognizant of the long porous border among most of IGAD member states and movement of animals from one country to the other for pasture, water and trade, the chance of animals carrying transboundary animal

diseases from one border to the other is high. Hence, investing on animal disease control in one country without collaboration with neighboring countries is like a waste of resources as diseases know no borders. The IGAD Center for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) has been working to strengthen the regional approach; and facilitating and supporting coordination and collaboration among bordering member states.

Bilateral cross border MOUs signed and implementation framework developed: With facilitation of ICPALD, two bilateral MOUs (Ethiopia and Kenya; and Djibouti and Ethiopia) were signed by the ministers of Agriculture in 2016 and 2018 respectively. Considering the major bottlenecks across the borders, the countries agreed on the following areas of collaboration in the MOU: Control of trans-boundary animal diseases (TADs) through surveillance, vaccination, reporting, information sharing, livestock movement control, awareness creation for communities; mapping of stock routes and natural resources (water and pasture), including control of invasive weeds; enforcement of regulations on veterinary drug use; facilitation of livestock trade through quality control and certification; access to Livestock related infrastructure including diagnostic laboratories, cold



Participants of Ethiopian and Kenya; developed the IF to operationalize the signed MOU. Photo: ICPALD

chain, and holding grounds (quarantines); joint promotion of livestock identification and traceability; cross-border networking among communities; and joint capacity building of stakeholders.

The countries were also supported to develop the implementation framework (IF) to operationalize the MoU that was signed between the respective countries. The IF has four strategic objectives and key activities such as disease surveillance (active and passive), vaccination, capacity development and awareness creation at different levels of stakeholders from federal/national governments, regional states, development partners and NGOs working along the borders. There is also a governance structure (joint steering committee and multi-disciplinary task force) established for each bilateral MOU to coordinate, follow up and monitor the implementation of the IF along the borders and closely work with the countries, ICPALD and other partners to mobilize additional resource for implementation.

CROSS BORDER MOUS AND IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK DRAFTED

With the support of ICPALD; the following cross border MOUs were developed and an IF drafted: Somalia - Ethiopia; Sudan - South Sudan; Multilateral (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan – Karamoja Cluster).The countries provided No objection letters for the ministers to sign the MoUs, which paved way for ICPALD to start organizing a ministerial meeting for the MoU to be signed and to advocate for increased resource allocation and implementation.

Other bilateral cross border MOUs drafted are between Sudan and Ethiopia and Djibouti and Somalia. There is also a request to develop a draft MOU between Kenya and Somalia; we are soliciting fund for these three clusters. Interested partners, NGOs and projects are welcome to collaborate with the countries and ICPALD for the development and finalization of these cross border MOUs and IF and subsequent implementation.

GOOD PRACTICE

ICPALD shared the IF and MOU of Ethiopia-Kenya with EU cross border projects along the Omo-Turkana and Marsabit-Borana cross-borders. They were received well and the projects agreed to use the IF and MoU in their project implementation. Such harmonized tools are expected to prevent fragmented efforts being conducted along the borders.

NEXT STEPS

ICPALD in collaboration with the Member States will work closely with partners, NGOs and projects along the borders to create awareness on the signed MOUs and IF; finalize the MOUs and IF that is in the pipeline, mobilize resources to complement ongoing interventions and monitor implementation.

The development of MOUs and IF was made possible through the USAID funded SMP-AH project and regional development objectives grant agreement implemented by the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and ICPALD respectively.

For more information, contact Dr. Ameha Sebsibe: ameha.sebsibe@igad.int



Livestock herds of the Karimojong of Uganda and the Turkana of Kenya converge for watering at Kobebe Dam in Moroto, Karamoja-Uganda. Photo: Ariong Stephen.

PROMOTING CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION TO ENHANCE RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE IGAD REGION

Cross-border cooperation is a collaborative partnership between neighbouring states for the mutual benefit of communities residing on both sides of a shared international border to address common challenges.

by **DEBALKEW BERHE**

Cross-border cooperation is a collaborative partnership between neighbouring states for the mutual benefit of communities residing on both sides of a shared international border to address common challenges. Such challenges may relate to building peace and security, promoting regional integration and economic cooperation, achieving food security and attaining social and environmental security.

Peace and security challenges might be due to competition for access to natural resources such as pasture and water. In addition, inadequate cooperation in agricultural development and sustainable management of natural resources and conservation and use of biodiversity could pose great challenges in achieving food security. Similarly, inadequate infrastructure such as roads, railways, telecommunication, energy connectivity and

air transport are major challenges hindering regional integration. The aforementioned challenges, among many others, inhibit resilience building and sustainable development efforts, which in turn affects social equity and peace and stability in the region.

Prior to the establishment of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) in 1986, there was some bilateral collaboration between Ethiopia and Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti and Kenya and Uganda. However, the use of cross-border cooperation to address regional challenges and complement national efforts was lacking. As a result, the region continued to face environmental, economic and social challenges such as the severe drought outbreaks and famines in the seventies, eighties and nineties. It shall be recalled that the famine that hit the region in 1984, particularly Ethiopia, led to the creation of IGAD in 1986, following a series of United Nations General Assembly Resolutions.¹ The creation of IGAD was therefore the beginning of formal cross-border cooperation to fight the scourge and impact of drought, desertification and climate change in the Horn of Africa region. This cooperation was further strengthened with the revitalization of IGAD in 1996.²

GLOBAL AND LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Legal and institutional frameworks to enhance cross-border cooperation exist at different levels. Before the emergence of statehood, this approach was guided by customary laws of the time. Community elders and religious leaders settled conflicts, and provided guidance on issues related to community development and relations between neighbouring communities. With the emergence of statehood, legal frameworks were initiated to govern borders, and they continue to be practiced in one form or the other.

Environment and ecosystem degradation, climate change and climate variability are posing a threat to all economic sectors globally, with serious impacts on agricultural productivity, peace and security, health and food security, in particular in developing countries. Addressing all these challenges requires multilateral cooperation globally, and cross-border cooperation regionally.

The United Nations (UN), with its different UN Agencies and Systems, is mandated to coordinate the multilateral cooperation needed to achieve sustainable development globally by addressing existing and emerging developmental challenges.³

At the continental level, the African Union (AU), supported by its Regional Economic Communities (RECs), is mandated to lead the political, social, economic and environmental integration process of the African continent.⁴ To this end, the AU has formulated a number of continental policies and strategies such as the AU Border Programme⁵, the AU Convention on Cross-border Cooperation⁶ and the AU Agenda 2063.⁷ The AU Border Programme and the AU Cross-border Cooperation provide guidance on how Member States and RECs interact and cooperate in addressing economic, social, environmental, political challenges at cross-border levels.

The implementation of such continental development frameworks requires cooperation among all AU Member States and RECs.

All RECs, including IGAD, have to domesticate these global, continental economic, social and environmental agreements and conventions into their regional development frameworks. They also have to assist their Member States to domesticate the frameworks into their national development frameworks.

REGIONAL LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

In the IGAD region, bilateral agreements and commissions exist between Member States, and have, to a certain extent, contributed to the promotion of cross-border cooperation. Limitations exist: some commissions are not active, regular meetings are not held and the implementation of their decisions is inadequate. Such challenges can be addressed by establishing linkage between the bilateral commissions and the IGAD Secretariat, so that it can integrate decisions of these bilateral commissions into its regional programmes and strategies. It is further anticipated that in future, the transformation of IGAD's role from a participatory into a facilitative role will integrate the aims and objectives of the bilateral commissions and

IGAD, which enhance resilience building and sustainable development in the region.

The creation of IGADD in 1986 and its revitalization in 1996 provided the legal framework for cross-border cooperation as enshrined in Article 13A of the latter. Originally, IGAD's cross-border cooperation focused on achieving food security and addressing the scourge of drought and desertification in the region. The transformation of IGAD in 1996 from an organization dealing with drought and desertification to a sustainable development organization, expanded the scope of cross-border interventions in different sectors, and contributed to higher resilience capacity of the region against climate change and economic crises.

However, the IGAD region continued to face severe challenges related to frequent droughts and floods. In 2011, the region was hit by severe drought which affected 13 million people. Subsequently, an IGAD/EAC Summit was held in September 2011, which directed IGAD to develop the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) to enhance resilience of communities against climatic and economic shocks. Consequently, IGAD Secretariat formulated IDDRSI Regional and Country Programming Papers (RPP and CPPs) encompassing seven priority intervention areas.⁸ This enabled IGAD to strengthen and expand its cross-border cooperation efforts to practically all economic, social and environment sectors that are necessary for building resilience and achieving sustainable development in an integrated, multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary manner.

Appropriate national and regional institutional and coordination mechanisms have been put in place to monitor and guide the implementation of IDDRSI at cross-border/cluster areas. In addition, local level coordination mechanisms/units are being established. These units are guided and supervised by local level steering committees on both sides of the border. The local and transboundary steering committees enable the communities on both sides of the border to identify common challenges and priorities and undertake joint planning and programming to address these challenges and implement their priorities.

These community level challenges and priorities are linked to the national and regional challenges and priorities as

identified in the RPP and CPPs. This approach reduces horizontal (inter-sectoral) and vertical (local national and regional) development conflicts, thereby ensuring the efficient use of financial and natural resources, which are the basis for the economic growth of the region. As a result, the resilience of the communities against climatic disasters and economic shocks is enhanced.

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION TO ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Cross-border cooperation would enable peripheral areas to share benefits from the economic development of countries and regions, ensuring access to better socio-economic benefits and facilities and creating employment. It would further enable borderland communities to participate in the political decision making processes, thereby reducing conflicts. The involvement of borderland communities at the economic, social and political development of the countries in the region would not only promote the resilience of the communities, but also ensure the stability and resilience of the countries and the region as a whole. This will close the political and economic gaps between the political capitals and the peripheral areas in the region.

CONCLUSION

AU continental policies and strategies have to be implemented at regional and national levels. Similarly, IGAD regional policies, protocols and strategies need to be realized and implemented, including its initiatives and programmes such as IDDRSI and the IGAD Comprehensive African Agriculture Programme (IGAD CAADP), which aim to promote regional economic cooperation and integration, and sustainable development in the region.

The cross-border cooperation approach provides IGAD an opportunity to realize AU policies and strategies as well as its policies and strategies on the ground, in particular in and around border areas. This approach, followed by IGAD through IDDRSI, is to benefit marginalized communities, thereby creating cohesion between peripheral areas and the capitals in the region. IGAD has to reinforce its capacity and build stronger partnerships to mobilize the resources required to cover more border areas and all Member States.



A trader transports donkeys bought from Nadunget livestock market in Moroto in Uganda destined for better market through Moroto town. Photo: Ariong Stephen.

Footnotes

- ¹General Assembly_ thirty fifth Session, 84th plenary meeting, 5 December 1980'35/90: Assistance to the drought stricken areas in Djibouti, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda
- ² The Agreement Establishing the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), 5 April 1996
- ³ UN Charter, 1945, in particular Chapter IX
- ⁴ Article 2 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, 11 July 2000, Lome, Togo
- ⁵ 8th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, January 2007 and Declaration of the African Union Border Programme and its Implementation Modalities, June 2007 by Ministers in charge of Borders.
- ⁶ The AU Niamey Convention on Cross-border Cooperation, 27 June 2014
- ⁷ 24th Ordinary Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the AU, 30-31 January 2015
- ⁸ The IDDRSI Strategy, January 2013

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A CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION FRAMEWORK TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE KARAMOJA ECOLOGICAL ZONE

In the pastoral context of the drylands of the Horn of Africa region, borders have little relevance and meaning to the populations living in cross-border areas, as international borders do not follow ethnic or ecosystem lines.

by **JOHN P. KABAYO**

Cross-border areas are usually located far from national capitals, at the periphery of the countries. In the pastoral context of the drylands of the Horn of Africa region, where there are high levels of human and livestock mobility, borders have little significance and meaning to the populations living in cross-border areas, as international borders do not follow ethnic or ecosystem lines. The inhabitant populations move (or would prefer to move) freely across the borders; and, therefore, it is essential to take these cross-border movements and dynamics into consideration when planning or implementing development programs in cross-border areas.

While cross-border programming may also be required across intra-country borders, ecosystem borders or ethnic boundaries, the discussion in this paper is focused on international borders. Unless stated otherwise, 'border' is defined as a boundary which is geographically located between nations; and a 'cross-border area' is an area that stretches across a boundary and is under the jurisdiction of two or more nations.

THE IMPERATIVE OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Whereas each individual country may have its own specific national priorities and programs, the development of cross-border areas cannot be tackled through national programs alone, as it demands cross-border collaboration and involves coordinated interventions. Thus while decisions and actions by national governments are usually based on national priorities and outlook,



these decisions often affect counterparts beyond the national borders. If one country has better facilities or resources (e.g. water and pasture) and services (schools, hospitals, security, etc), it will most likely lead to people in neighbouring countries and their livestock flocking in to seek safe havens and better-served locations from which problems of overgrazing, transmission of trans-boundary animal diseases, conflicts, etc, may occur. There is need to jointly consider the implications of proposed actions and how these can be leveraged by all concerned stakeholders to ensure mutual benefits and cost effectiveness, particularly for communities living on either side of a common border.

Cross-border cooperation recognizes that changes on one side of the border can have spill over effects, positive or negative on the other sides of the border. It facilitates the possibility of ecosystem-based management, which is an effective approach that recognizes the full array of interactions within an ecological zone, in a collective and holistic manner, based on considerations of the requirements, available resources and development

possibilities of the cross-border area in question. By working together, communities in cross-border areas can jointly identify and address the specific challenges that they share while exploiting opportunities presented by the cross-border area that they share. Cross-border cooperation facilitates the generation of social capital, trust and mutual understanding among the communities on all sides of the borders. Such cooperation contributes to the stability and prosperity for all involved parties.

CHALLENGES OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Development of border areas is often complicated by the cross-border interactions and situations that require special arrangements to be made between the authorities in the respective host countries. First of all, most cross-border areas are composed of either geographically- or geologically-dynamic features such as mountains, rivers or lakes, which form a physical means of separation between communities, but can also provide rich natural and environmental resources in these cross-border areas for mutual exploitation. Rational utilization of shared natural and environmental resources usually becomes more difficult in cross-border areas than in areas under the jurisdiction of a single authority. Management of cross-border resources becomes increasingly difficult and inefficient with respect to the number of independent stakeholders involved. This is because of the uneven distribution of production factors within each cross-border area as well as the non-cooperative mechanism resulting from two or more political, economic and cultural stakeholders within each cross-border area.

The important link between natural resources management and social relations between clans and ethnic groups has often been downplayed. Pastoralist groups must move, and in doing so they inevitably move into each other's territory, sometimes in competition for resources. Natural resources management is thus intimately linked with the management of the relationships among pastoralist clans and ethnic groups. These relationships do not take place in an institutional vacuum, but depend on rules, behavioural norms and principles to maintain and restore collaboration within competition and to provide a framework for managing conflict over pastoralists' divided-but-shared resource base.

In particular, normative principles of reciprocity and mutual cooperation have customarily guided and informed sharing mechanisms among clans and ethnic groups, both within and across the international border. Granting access to water and pasture to needy members of another clan or ethnic group is ultimately viewed as an ethical obligation and is seen as insurance against the future, since it is expected that the same support will be returned during times of stress: it is the pastoral tradition of sharing.

THE KARAMOJA REGION

The Karamoja region refers to an area of land that straddles the borders between South-Western Ethiopia, North-Western Kenya, South-Eastern South Sudan and North-Eastern Uganda. The region is composed of semi-arid savannah, grading into wooded grassland to the north and northwest and semi-desert to the south and southeast. Rainfall is generally unpredictable and localized, making agriculture an unreliable subsistence strategy. The region has, in the past, experienced a host of challenges, including persistent drought that has been closely associated with food insecurity, chronic poverty, protracted competition and conflicts over cattle and access to pasture and water resources and unwarranted loss of human life, as well as cross-border incursions.

The Karamoja region is populated by at least 13 pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities (including Bokora, Dessenitch, Didinga, Dodoth, Jie, Matheniko, Nyangatom, Thur, Pian, Pokot, Tepeth, Topotha and Turkana) who share a common language, culture and way of life. These communities face common challenges and are often interconnected through, inter alia, natural resource sharing, livestock movement, regional trade and trans-boundary human and animal diseases. The development of the Karamoja region is complicated by one of its defining features - the fact that it is a cross-border area: a geographic location that is shared between 4 countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda), inhabited by communities that are characterized by their interaction and interconnectedness through various unifying factors (e.g. social, ethnic and linguistic unity; sharing complementary natural resources, livestock movement, infrastructure and trade). The communities of the Karamoja region are affected by the challenges

of occupying the same space, especially as all of them are vulnerable to various shocks and stresses, such as conflicts, drought, trans-boundary human and animal diseases. These unifying factors, including challenges in water and pasture availability, poor markets and inadequate infrastructure underscore the inextricable linkage of communities with a common destiny whose development cannot be tackled through national programs alone. Such a cross-border situation demands that special arrangements and considerations are made by the authorities in the respective host countries. Addressing issues of cross-border development calls for well-coordinated responses at the local and regional levels.

For example, the livelihoods of communities that inhabit Karamoja depend on pastoralism. They frequently move their livestock across the common border in search of pasture and water; and livestock from both sides of the border frequently make contact. Despite being treated and regularly tested on the Ugandan side of the border, herders observed that animals were increasingly contracting illnesses and dying after making contact with untreated and untested livestock, mostly from across the border in Kenya. In light of these challenges, a meeting was organized in 2011 by veterinary officers from Uganda and Kenya along the border. However, it became evident that they were not allowed to work together without the accord of their respective Ministries. With support from the European Union and FAO, a cross-border animal health memorandum was agreed, providing a platform for governments and technicians to meet and synchronize activities in the two countries, such as vaccination campaigns, surveillance and disease control.

This example highlights the need for special arrangements to facilitate cross-border cooperation. While each individual country may have its own specific national priorities and programs, it is evident that cross-border collaboration and coordination, guided by appropriate institutional arrangements is imperative when considering cross-border development. A ministerial meeting on peace, security and development in the Karamoja region attended by ministers in charge of security from Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda, which was convened under the auspices of IGAD and

held in Entebbe, Uganda, in October 2013, highlighted the importance of international cooperation as a prerequisite for successful development in cross-border areas and called for the introduction of innovative cooperation frameworks and mechanisms to facilitate cross-border development. In the Ministerial Communiqué released by the meeting in Entebbe, the IGAD Secretariat was tasked to address the challenges of cross-border implementation of projects aimed at building resilience within the framework of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI). To this end it was agreed that there would be need for the establishment of an IGAD Coordination Office to coordinate and facilitate the activities undertaken in the development of cross-border areas, such as the Karamoja Region.

A regional workshop held in Nairobi on 25th April 2016 provided an opportunity to build a common understanding on how to plan and implement resilience-enhancing investments in cross-border areas of the IGAD – region; reviewed aspects of cross-border cooperation and discussed the modalities of cooperation in the management of interventions in cross-border areas. The workshop identified the challenges and opportunities that affect development; and examined proposals for the establishment of a cross-border development facilitation unit.

ESTABLISHING THE KARAMOJA CROSS-BORDER DEVELOPMENT FACILITATION UNIT (CBDFU)

The IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee and General Assembly meetings held in Nairobi, 27 – 29 April 2016, recommended that IGAD should establish a Cross-border Development Facilitation Unit in Moroto, Uganda to serve the Karamoja region (shared by Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda). The Nairobi IDDRSI Platform meetings urged IGAD to approach Member States and Development Partners with the request to put in place the necessary resources required for the functioning and sustainability of the Unit at Moroto; and called upon IGAD, in consultation with the affected countries, to identify cross-border areas targeted for the implementation of IDDRSI, where other CBDFUs would be established.



The Karamoja region is populated by at least 13 pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities

In view of the widely acknowledged necessity for cross-border cooperation in the implementation of IDDRSI; and within the framework of the recommendations and collective decision made by IGAD Member States and development partners, IGAD, with the support of BMZ/GIZ, established a Cross-border Development Facilitation Unit in Moroto to facilitate cooperation in the implementation of IDDRSI, among the 4 countries (Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and South Sudan) that share boundaries in the Karamoja Region. The Cross-border Development Facilitation Unit (CBDFU) established in Moroto, Uganda in February 2017, becoming the first of several other such units that, in due course, will be established in other cross-border areas (locations to be decided by IGAD in consultation with the affected countries and development partners), with each unit having the functions listed below.



Building housing the offices of the First IGAD Cross-border Development Facilitation Unit recently established in Moroto, Karamoja, Uganda

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESILIENCE-ENHANCING PROJECTS IN THE KARAMOJA REGION

Functions of the CBDFU

- Liaise with the affected national and local governments in the planning and execution of activities related to the implementation of IDDRSI;
- Coordinate the formulation of cross-border integrated development plans;
- Provide harmonized and coordinated support in knowledge management, programming and capacity building activities and other technical support to local and national governments and non-state actors, as may be required in the implementation of IDDRSI;
- Provide the coordination and linkage between the regional, national and cross-border area coordination centres, through the IDDRSI Platform Coordination Unit, reporting to the affected countries and the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee and General Assembly.

IDDRSI is an example of a programme that embraces and enhances the cross-border development approach. IDDRSI projects comprise harmonized, multi-sectoral, holistic interventions in seven Priority Intervention Areas that require cross-border cooperation among neighbouring countries for effective implementation. IDDRSI is thus a framework of national action backed by regional thinking and an essential element of cross-border engagement. For the implementation of IDDRSI, the IGAD Member States developed programming frameworks in the form of Country Programming Papers and Regional Programming Paper with a special focus on national projects and regional or cross-border interventions respectively.

Cross-border cooperation in the implementation of IDDRSI is made imperative by the recognition that the development of entire cross-border areas, as single ecological zones, is more preferable and cost-effective than independent, often uncoordinated actions executed under multiple jurisdictions on parts of the cross-border area. IGAD coordinates regional interventions to build drought resilience in the Horn of Africa. Under this mandate, IGAD convenes a series of high-level and technical consultation meetings to prepare comprehensive investment programs for the inhabitant vulnerable communities of the region. These consultations have involved governments, regional economic communities, civil society organizations, development partners, research institutions and academia.

Against the background described above, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda are implementing cross-border resilience-enhancing projects within the framework of IDDRSI including the Regional Pastoral Livelihoods and Resilience Programme. The projects are funded by the World Bank and are being executed in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

Another regional effort is the Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Program, which is financed by the African Development Bank and is being implemented in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan.

Looking beyond the Karamoja ecological zone, there are plans aimed at building the resilience of communities inhabiting cross-border areas, which will be implemented with the support of different partners, including the German Development Bank KfW, European Union Commission, African Development Bank, World Bank, USAID, Sweden and under the general coordination of IGAD.

Dr. John P. Kabayo is the Regional Coordinator of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI).

Every end has a beginning

by **JOHN P. KABAYO**

Climate change, a reality check,
Telling a tale of impending doom;
Whisper screams in a landscape wreck.
Melting ice in a boiling rage;
Vengeful winds raise a storm,
And hurricane gales batter the seas.

Choking dust of dunes exhume;
Tenacious droughts scorch the nest,
Torrents nude the hillside chest;
Gaping gullies swallow the rest,
Invasive plants graze the void;
Endangered species abound.

Alarms galore, in unanimous gloom;
Climactic scenes of climate sin;
Boomerang of greed turned regret
Pinnacle of contested wealth;
To offend multitudes with less,
And mock the inconvenient truth.

This folly of ecosystem wrath;
A caution in vain too late to refrain,
As impunity subdues disdain,
Dented reality pleads for humanity;
To learn and change with climate change;
Every end has a beginning.

CROSS-BORDER DIALOGUE: A PATHWAY TO REVERSAL OF THE PERIPHERY TO THE CENTRE



Women's group – Dikhil Cluster. Photo: Tesfaye Beshah/IGAD.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has adopted a 'cluster approach' to strengthen cross-border cooperation among its Member States, which it is implementing in collaboration with its development partners. In order to address the needs of the people in the cross-border areas, a cross-border dialogue was initiated in the Karamoja and Dikhil Clusters.¹

by **TESFAYE BESHAH**

The Karamoja cross-border dialogue was held on 24-25 July 2018 in Moroto, Uganda. The dialogue was facilitated by a team of IGAD experts from the Planning, Coordination and Partnerships Division (PCPD); the IGAD Center for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD); and the Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN). The Dikhil Cluster dialogue took place on 28-29 November, 2018 in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, and was jointly facilitated by PCPD and ICPALD. Participants of

the cross-border dialogues were drawn from districts or sub-counties in the cluster. The funds to undertake the dialogues was provided by the European Union Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) that is managed by GIZ.

The subsequent sections of this article addresses a conceptual framework adopted to guide a series of dialogues, and highlights the processes and priority project ideas identified in Karamoja and Dikhil Clusters.

METHODOLOGY

Cross-border cooperation is a multi-stakeholder initiative that involves actors with different experience, opportunities and objectives. These include, grassroots communities, NGOs, CBOs, local and provincial government, and national government departments, as well as international and bi-lateral agencies that support the national and regional platforms such as IDDRSI.

The cross-border dialogues, therefore, should ensure that the voice of grassroots communities is heard and harmonized with the views and opinions of actors in the formal systems. They should be guided by multi-stakeholders' platforms principles that promote participatory approaches and accommodate diversity to achieve collective goals.

Countries in a cluster may have 4-7 districts that may bring a number of participants of one community level dialogue to 50-70 persons. Representation from each district of sub-county should include at least one elder, women representative, youth representative, peace committee chairperson, local administrator and agricultural expert.

In order to ensure adequate participation of the community representatives, methods like rich-picture, brainstorming, group and plenary sessions are used to facilitate the dialogue. Multiple language translation and arrangement of groups according to language mix ensures that everyone communicates freely. In addition, a women only group is established to ensure their participation and observe variation in issues and priorities addressed.

A conceptual framework that guides various steps of the cross-border dialogue is highlighted below (Figure 1).²

Cross-border dialogue: A community level cross-border dialogue is organized with the leadership of IGAD and contribution of development partners. This dialogue involves mainly communities in the cross-border areas and some technical experts from the IGAD Secretariat and Member States.

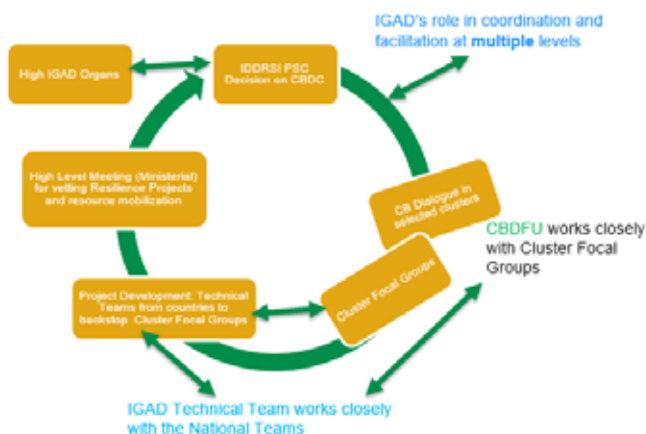
Cluster focal groups: At the end of each dialogue, every country is requested to select three representatives who will work with a multi-disciplinary team from IGAD and a national technical team to prepare project documents based on the priorities identified by the community representatives. These representatives are designated as cluster focal groups.

Technical team in Member States: Cross-border cooperation is for IGAD Member States, and more specifically for cross-border communities. Therefore, the national technical team, drawn from national, regional/provincial or zonal levels who play a key role in the countries' resilience agenda should be on board at the earliest. The national technical team is instrumental in informing the ministers and other key stakeholders at the national levels, and also backstopping the grassroots communities through their representatives during implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the initiatives that have been vetted by the ministerial level for implementation.

High level meetings: High level meetings involve resilience ministers from cluster countries. The IDDRSI focal persons and IDDRSI platform representatives seek guidance from the resilience ministers in the Member States on the cross-border cooperation based on information from the grassroots. In addition, technical experts, who will work with IGAD multi-disciplinary team and cluster focal groups play a key role in advising other stakeholders in the Member States on the development of projects in respective clusters before IGAD convenes a meeting for discussion in the presence of wider stakeholders.

After the decision by the resilience ministers, IGAD will present finalized projects at the IDDRSI Steering Committee for endorsement and subsequent resource mobilization. Once sufficient funds are allocated, project implementation will commence with the involvement of

Figure 1: A conceptual framework to facilitate cross-border development cooperation in the IGAD region³



the communities that originated the project ideas during the initial dialogues.

High-level IGAD policy organs: IGAD will periodically report the progress of development initiatives in the Member States to its high-level policy organs.

PRIORITY SETTING ON CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION⁴

During a two-day meeting, participants shared their understanding of the contexts through a facilitated process (see Figure 2). The rich pictures focused on the socio-economic and agro-ecological changes that participants would like to see within the next 20 years. Following the context analysis, participants shared their experiences on cross-border cooperation.

In the final exercise, participants identified the top five to seven issues that are relevant for cross-border cooperation in the near future. Subsequently, they prioritized the top three issues for cooperation with countries in the cluster. Among the top three priorities, each group was required to select one project idea. Table 1 below, provides a summary of the top issues identified out of the three.

Table 1: Priority issues for cross-border cooperation in Karamoja and Dikhil Clusters

CLUSTERS	PRIORITY ISSUES	REMARKS
Karamoja	Peace and security, resource sharing (forage, water, social services), water and pasture, education.	This is the view of 50 participants who discussed a range of issues in four groups.
Dikhil	Rainwater harvesting, access to water, community based management of natural resources, clean water.	This is the view of 70 participants who discussed a range of issues in four groups. The women's group specifically identified clean water as a top priority.

CONCLUSION

Cross-border dialogues organized for the Karamoja and Dikhil Clusters created a common platform to discuss development issues in the clusters, and create joint understanding of contexts in the clusters. They facilitated experience sharing on past areas of cooperation,



Group work on priority issues for cross-border cooperation in Dikhil Cluster. Photo: Tesfaye Beshah/IGAD.

challenges and opportunities and finally provided an opportunity for step-by step priority setting by communities.

Priority setting of community groups in both Karamoja and Dikhil Clusters reflected their contexts. Even though peace and security was not among the top three priority items in the Dikhil Cluster, natural resources issues, such as water and pasture are the top priorities in both clusters. Therefore, subsequent steps of the dialogue (project development) should address these priorities to ensure relevance of resilience interventions.

Footnotes

¹ The fund to undertake community dialogues was provided by the EUTF that is managed by the GIZ

² Brouwer, Herman and Woodhill, Jim, with Hemmati, Minu, Verhoosel, Karèn and van Vugt, Simone (2016). The MSP Guide, How to design and facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships. Based on IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee Reports and EUTF/GIZ Project PPTs.

³ Based on IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee Reports and Strengthening the ability of IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) to promote resilience in the Horn of Africa (EUTF/GIZ Project PPTs).

⁴ Meeting Note Cross Border Dialogue in Karamoja (July 24-25, 2018) and Meeting Note in Dikhil Cluster (November 28-29, 2018).

Dr. Tesfaye Beshah is the Regional Programming Coordinator IGAD Planning, Coordination and Partnerships Division.

COMBATTING DROUGHT IN KENYA THROUGH AGRO-PASTORALIST FIELD SCHOOLS

Pastoralists in Mandera County, in North Eastern Kenya, are learning how to increase pasture production and improve pasture conservation and utilization through the Agro Pastoral Field School (APFS) approach.

by PAUL MUTUNGI, SVEN SIMONSEN AND MOHAMED MOHAMUD

Climate change can cause long-lasting, more frequent dry spells – a particular problem for pastoralists in the Horn of Africa that often leads to livestock losses, increased food insecurity and spiraling poverty.

In Mandera County in northeastern Kenya, FAO is supporting pastoralists to grow pasture for livestock to strengthen households' resilience to drought.

“Like any other crop, pasture can be grown, nurtured and stored for use in times of need, allowing for a great rate of recovery of degraded land when rested,” says FAO Livestock and Pastoralism Officer Paul Opio.

Composed of arid and semi-arid areas, Mandera County forms part of a cross-border region between Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. On all three cross-border sides pastoralist communities are faced with severe livestock feed shortages and are highly vulnerable to recurrent droughts, which degrade rangelands and reduce access to traditional grazing areas.

HANDS-ON LEARNING

In Mandera, hands-on learning methods for producing, managing and utilizing fodder are taught through an APFS – a ‘school without walls’, where groups of 20-30 agro-pastoralists engage in experiential and participatory learning sessions.

A total of ten APFS groups have been formed across five project sites. The activities are part of a Partnership

What is APFS?

It is a “school without walls” where a group of 15-25 farmers/pastoralists engage in a process of hands-on experiential and participatory learning over a season/production cycle to improve a specific enterprise (e.g. cattle/small stock production, fodder/pasture production and management, and beekeeping). Needs and opportunities for livelihood improvement are identified through a consultative process with the community before and during APFS implementation. The APFS group meets regularly and frequently (weekly in most APFS) to learn, test and adapt new concepts and promising interventions for local use.

The group actively learns through comparative experimentation of local practices with new ideas through trials, observation, critical analysis and discussion. In the process, the APFS group members acquire technical skills, improve their understanding of value chains and define opportunities for business and enterprise development. They also develop and design strategies for improving livelihoods through improved cohesion. This strengthens group community action plans, establish new linkages with service providers and private sector actors to strengthen their preferred enterprises and improve their livelihoods.



We have successfully replicated fodder production in our farms, improving our output and enhancing our living standards.



Men women and youth participate in the whole learning process from sowing to storage. Photo: Mohamed Mohamud/Mandera County Government.

Programme on drought resilience between FAO and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), implemented since 2016 together with the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) in Kenya, the Mandera County Government, and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The programme is implemented along the Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia borders including selected cross-border locations of Liben-Ethiopia, Mandera-Kenya and Gedo-Somalia among ethnic Somalis. The target areas also encompass the watershed of the Dauwa River which forms part of the Ethiopia-Somalia and Ethiopia-Kenya border. It addresses the broad thematic areas of transboundary animal diseases, cross-border marketing and trade, natural resources management, conflict, gender and nutrition.

INVOLVING WOMEN

Men, women and youth all take part equally during APFS learning sessions. Shanqaray Hassan Mohamed, Vice Chair of one of the Girissa APFS groups in Mandera, said this has helped overcome traditional barriers: “Women and youth have benefited from experimenting as well as from the learning process. Initially, they were not part of decision-making in the community. With the APFS, women are able to produce, store and sell hay bales and are therefore no longer dependent on men for most of their upkeep. We have successfully replicated fodder production in our farms, improving our output and enhancing our living standards.”

PRODUCTION PHASES

At the field school, participants study each stage of feed production and preservation: from preparing the land to planting seeds, whether to water by rain or irrigation, observing growth through agro-ecosystem analysis, up to harvesting, preserving and storing pasture seeds and hay bales. The learning cycle takes four months to complete and can be undertaken twice a year, matching the rainy seasons. Farmers are also taught the best ways to remove invasive weeds, notably *Prosopis spp.* which is accelerating the rate of degradation of rangeland ecosystems.

LEARNING BY EXPERIMENTING

APFS use comparative experimentation as a key learning method. For example, two similar planted plots can be treated in different ways – one with manure and one without, but both receiving the same amount of water. Participants observe how adding manure results in greater production over the various stages of development, while analyzing and discussing innovative and problem-solving techniques. New methods to improve breeding and animal husbandry practices are also introduced and explored.

A LOT MORE RESILIENT

Khalif Ibrahim Barrow, focal point for the Mandera County FAO/IGAD Partnership Programme, summed up the benefits of field schools: “As a result of the APFS, we are seeing improved pasture availability and restoration of degraded lands, while livestock body conditions have improved and mortality has been reduced. For pastoralist families, food security is improved and incomes are higher. In short, communities have become a lot more resilient.”

Paul Mutungi is a member of the FAO Resilience Team for Eastern Africa, where he works as the Regional Field School Support Officer. **Sven Simonsen** is the Communications Officer for the team. **Mohamed Mohamud** is the Field School Master Trainer with the Mandera County Government.

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Harvesting of fodder at Girissa Manderu. Photo: Mohamed Mohamud/Mandera County Government.



Atok Areng, a fish trader, dries her fish at old Ghana village, along the shores of Lake Turkana. Photo: Denis Koech/Mercy Corps, PEACE III Program.

‘PEACE HAS BROUGHT BACK OUR INCOME’: A PACT PARTNER BUILDS STABILITY IN A VOLATILE AFRICAN BORDER REGION

The peacebuilding approaches used by St. Peter’s Community Network (SAPCONE) with the support of PEACE III have since helped decrease insecurity between the Turkana and their neighbours, leading to increased trade and wellbeing.

by **MARTIN NAMASAKA**

There was a time when the Turkana people of South Omo, in northern Kenya, lived in so much fear and conflict that the region was essentially a no-go zone.

“In the past, people did not stay in the place we are standing right now because of the rampant killings and stealing,” recalls Atok Areng, a widow who lost her husband to the violence. “Life was very hard.”



If not for the dialogues and agreements to stop the violence of the past, we could not have come back here.

Today, though, Atok and her children are thriving. Much of the progress is the result of the work of the St. Peter's Community Network, also known as SAPCONE, a Kenyan organization that promotes coexistence and access to education through peacebuilding, community partnership, and sustainable livelihoods.

Pact began supporting SAPCONE in 2014 through the PEACE III project. PEACE III is a five-year, USAID-funded regional conflict transformation program implemented

by Pact and Mercy Corps. The program is building stability in the Horn of Africa by strengthening the horizontal and vertical linkages within and between local, national and regional conflict management actors. PEACE III strengthens local cross-border conflict management systems and improves the responsiveness of regional and national institutions.



Moses Ekidor, a Turkana fisherfolk peace committee member. Photo: Denis Koech/Mercy Corps, PEACE III Program.

In addition to providing funding to carry out its work, Pact has provided SAPCONE with training, mentoring, strategic organizational strengthening, and more. Armed with improved resources, innovative approaches to peacebuilding, and a strong understanding of the region's conflict dynamics, SAPCONE has become a leading peacebuilder along the Kenya-Ethiopia border, helping to transform lives here.

With strengthened institutional capacity, SAPCONE has successfully facilitated inter-community cross-border peace dialogues to encourage peaceful coexistence and sharing of grazing pastures, as well as forums to educate youth against engaging in conflict and behaviour that can drive it. This has transitioned youth, including some who used to stoke conflict, into agents of change and peacebuilders in their communities.

“The challenges that we have encountered since inception have largely strengthened and enabled us to continue making a positive impact in our communities through our peacebuilding initiatives in one of the most volatile corridors. With the help of baseline information that SAPCONE got from PEACE III, we got a clearer picture

that enabled us to move with more determination. We started to implement both intra- and inter-community peacebuilding activities between Kenya and Ethiopia,” says Amfry Amoni, SAPCONE's executive director.

SAPCONE's peace dialogues have led to the development of social contracts in the form of informal cross-border, inter-community resource sharing agreements. One example is the sharing of Lake Turkana between the Dassenach and Turkana communities, whose conflict over the years destroyed local livelihoods. SAPCONE helped establish a fishing committee of 30 people between the Dassenach and Turkana that quickly resolves any conflicts that erupt. As a result, fishing revenues have stabilized and some fisherfolk now sell to the World Food Program to help feed the Kakuma refugee camp in Turkana.

Pastoralists are diversifying their incomes through fishing, increasing their resilience to drought, and fishing communities have launched village savings and loan associations that have boosted their incomes, helping members to pay their children's school fees.



Davis Wafula (left) greeting Dassenach Administrator Kebede Sahile during handover of stolen and recovered fish. Photo: Denis Koech/Mercy Corps, PEACE III Program.

“If not for the dialogues and agreements to stop the violence of the past, we could not have come back here,” says Atok, the widowed mother. She is a member of a SAPCONE-established Turkana grassroots women’s forum, which is engaging women from the Dassenach community in Ethiopia in promoting peaceful coexistence and sharing of the lake resources.

“Because I could not do fish business, I started selling firewood. It was a tedious job that gave me little money that was not enough to take care of my family. But now my children go fishing as I dry and sort the fish for sale. Peace has brought back our income.”

With support from PEACE III, SAPCONE is also working to eradicate clannism as a cause of internal conflict among the Turkanas. The network’s early warning systems, driven by local peace monitors who track and report insecurity incidents, helps to mitigate internal conflicts between the Kwatella and Ngissiger clans that are driven by petty theft of livestock, rivalry over grazing zones and watering points, migration patterns, and climate change effects. This has helped to reduce violence because most planned attacks are forestalled before they happen.

“We use mobile phones that SAPCONE gave us to report theft cases, and this ensures fast response leading to recovery,” says Moses Ekidor, a Turkana fisherfolk peace committee member. “When our Dassenach colleagues call us about a stolen boat or nets, we start tracking it using our boats and after recovering, we hand them over to Kenya marine police who connect with Ethiopian authorities for handover.”

SAPCONE’s growth has also contributed to strengthened conflict management capabilities for women, youth, kraal elders, and chiefs. All are now taking a more active part in peacebuilding, especially women. Inter-community women leaders’ forums between Turkana and Dassenach women, for example, have helped reduce border tensions after armed raids, with members stepping in and encouraging their husbands and youth to reconcile.

SAPCONE has also helped facilitate reunification of families. Last year, for example, a 9-year old Dassenach boy got lost while herding and strayed into Todonyang, in Turkana. He was found by a Turkana kraal elder who took him to a SAPCONE peace monitor, who helped get

him home. His family thanked the Turkana elder with a gift of two cows.

Although challenges remain and progress can sometimes feel slow, SAPCONE with the support of PEACE III is making a difference. The network’s peacebuilding approaches have helped decrease insecurity between the Turkana and their neighbours, including the Dassenach, the Nyangatom, and the Toposa of South Sudan.

Davis Wafula, SAPCONE’s Head of Programs, recalls a time when cattle thefts were rampant – a part of the local culture. Today, Davis says, they are far less common, carried out only by the most determined ‘peace spoilers’ looking for profit.

“Through PEACE III, space for the spoilers has been greatly minimized,” he says.

“It’s only a matter of time before their activities are completely neutralized.”

Martin Namasaka is a Manager, Strategic Communications & Knowledge Management at Pact.

This article was first published by Pact: https://www.pactworld.org/features/peace-has-brought-back-our-income-pact-partner-builds-stability-volatile-african-border#.W_INuQbJh5E.email

NEW FARMING METHODS HELP ALI BECOME SELF-RELIANT AND SAVE HIS LIVELIHOOD ASSETS

In Barabay village in Somalia's Dollow District, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) supports landless community members to improve their agricultural practices and earn better incomes through the sharecropping model. The intervention has turned Ali Ibrahim Issack's life around.

by **FATUMA ABDISALAM**

Ali Ibrahim Issack is a 47-year-old resident of Barabaray village – Dollow district- Somalia. He lives with his wife and eight children aged between two and 14 years. He is among the first farmers who received training on good agricultural practice as well as farming inputs from the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

Ali's family became a beneficiary to our resilience program because he had poor livelihood assets and had a big family to feed.

"I grow tomatoes, maize, onion, sorghum, beans, cow peas and grass in rotation in the ten hectare farm as a share cropper," says Ali who is an agro-pastoralist.

Ali and his fellow farmers do not own the land. They are tenant farmers who rent the land and give the landowner part of their farm produce as rent. The DRC project supports poor landless community members through the sharecropping model.

Ali, at his farm in Barabaray village – Somalia. Photo: DRC



I do not worry about providing for my family anymore.

Ali irrigates his farm from the river and makes about US\$ 2,800 annually from rotating his crops. He saves some of the money for his family's use, re-invests in the farm and invests some on his livestock.

When our team met Ali, he had been farming for twenty years, amid numerous obstacles. The maize did not grow well, the tomatoes attracted worms and the onions didn't produce promising yields. Our team found out that Ali was facing these obstacles because of poor agricultural practices, such as poor spacing and improper land preparation.

The team trained Ali and other Barabaray community members to improve their agricultural practices. Because they are agro-pastoralists who have experience farming, they easily added the newly introduced methods of farming to their traditional knowledge and practices. For example, they immediately adopted manure application, a product that is easily available in their environment.

In Barabay, displaced communities, who have participated in sharecropping, have secured enough earning and some have even bought farms together and are now engaged in resilient farming.

Ali has already seen the benefit. "Before the training, I spent close to US\$ 300 on DAP and UREA (chemical fertilizers). It's expensive and not easily accessible. Now, I put animal manure in sacks; carry it on my donkey carts from nearby homesteads at no cost. I apply it between the ridges where we grow onions. Unlike tomatoes, onions attract fewer insects so it's best if we use this organic manure," he explains.

Ali's last harvest gained him US\$ 2,800. He invested US\$ 400 in his 2 Ha onion farm and saved US\$ 2,400 for other family expenses, such as buying other types of food, health, and education. He used part of the income to increase his livestock herd.

"I do not worry about providing for my family anymore, I plan to increase production and continue to raise the living standards of my children."

Crop diversification and good farming mechanisms have helped Ali increase the probability of getting a good market and saving his livelihoods assets. We continue to help the communities become self-reliant in Somalia.

Village Livelihoods and resilience programme (VLRP) is a multi-sectoral, context specific and community driven intervention implemented by DRC, World Vision and COOPI in Luuq, Baidoa, Dollow and Belet Hawa districts in Somalia. The objective of the project is to increase the resilience of chronically vulnerable people, households, communities and systems in targeted pastoral, agro-pastoral and peri-urban livelihood zones in Somalia and to build economic growth from the bottom up, in local areas where movement from crisis to sustained development is possible.

The project, which is funded by DANIDA, has reached 3,524 households (approximately 23,250 individuals) in the four districts. The project has four components:

- Creation of an economic buffer at village level through establishment of Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA)
- Support to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to improve their business management practices
- Support to farmers to adopt good agricultural practices
- Support to communities so that they are well prepared to deal with disasters prior to them happening

Fatuma Abdisalam is the Communications Specialist, DRC, Somalia Program

FROM HARD BEGINNINGS, A YOUTH PEACE INITIATIVE IN KENYA THRIVES

Unemployment, poverty and illiteracy make young people vulnerable to radicalization and a life of crime. Noor Daher Ali was saved from going down this path by a youth group. Today, he heads an initiative that is fostering peace and development on the Kenya-Somalia border.

by **MARTIN NAMASAKA**

Noor Daher Ali, an ethnic Kenyan Somali, knows well the lure of Al-Shabaab. He grew up poor in this coastal town, where unemployment, poverty and illiteracy make young people vulnerable to radicalization and a life of crime. When Al-Shabaab makes false promises of financial rewards and leadership opportunities, youth in Kiunga often believe the violent fundamentalist group.

Noor's options were slim once he finished secondary school. He hadn't achieved the prerequisites to attend university, which he wouldn't have been able to afford anyway. Disillusioned and unemployed, he borrowed some commodities from a distant relative to start a business, but it didn't go how he planned. In debt and hearing that he'd been reported to police for his dealings, he went into hiding. He felt intense pressure to turn to extremism, crime and drugs as an exit strategy. The only thing that saved him, he says, was a youth group he joined.

The youth group changed the course of Noor's life. In 2007, he decided he wanted to help other young people reject violence and crime by starting a youth group of his own, which he called Kiunga Self-Help Group. Pact soon began supporting Noor's work through the PEACE II project, in which Noor had been a participant. PEACE II provided the group with a small grant as well as training.

Funded by USAID and implemented by Pact, PEACE II followed USAID's original Peace in East and Central Africa, or PEACE, project. Now in its third phase, PEACE III is implemented by Pact and Mercy Corps. The project aims to strengthen conflict-management systems and build the capacity of regional and national institutions to stem cross-border conflict in Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda.

The Kiunga Self-Help Group eventually hit a major stumbling block. In 2011, Kenya's incursion into southern Somalia devastated communities along the countries' shared border. Military operations increased in Lamu County, where Kiunga is located, leading to young people, especially those of Somali descent, being arrested, killed or kidnapped by security officers who assumed they were involved in extremist activities. Many of Noor's friends had to flee to Mombasa or nearby areas to avoid arrest. The government instituted curfews and banned night fishing, a key local livelihood. Intense distrust grew between community members and security forces. Youth began turning against their own country and people to join Al-Shabaab.

Around the same time, USAID through PEACE II rolled out a youth empowerment program called Yes Youth Can, which aimed to empower youth through clusters called Youth Bunge Initiatives. Noor saw PEACE II's support as a critical opportunity to restart his work. He gathered former members of his self-help group who were still living nearby and, with support from Yes Youth Can, transitioned his group into a the Kiunga Youth Bunge Initiative (KYBI).

KYBI became one of PEACE II's key beneficiaries and ultimate successes. With support from Pact, Noor and his KYBI colleagues learned effective peacebuilding strategies and approaches. Soon, KYBI transformed and positioned itself as a specialist peacebuilding institution in Lamu at a time when the region, ravaged by Al-Shabaab, needed it most.

With this progress, KYBI won grants from Pact's complementary, UK government-funded BORDERS I and BORDERS II peace and security programs from 2013 to 2015. This helped the youth initiative grow and improve in its work, and in mid-2015, KYBI received a grant from PEACE III.

PEACE III's support was critical for KYBI. In addition to the grant, PEACE III helped the youth initiative carry out an Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA), a Pact capacity development tool that helps organizations assess their strengths and weaknesses, clarify their vision, plan for success, and ultimately take greater ownership over their future. Then PEACE III helped KYBI undergo significant institutional strengthening, including restructuring its programming approaches and resource mobilization strategies and improving its project management, finance, strategic communications and monitoring and evaluation processes.

Through this support, KYBI has become one of the most credible organizations operating along the Kenya-Somalia border. Now strong and stable, the youth initiative took on one of the biggest challenges affecting the area: a lack of coordination among cross-border security actors. KYBI began bringing them together, building trust and finding solutions to cross-border issues.

In the years since, KYBI has had many other successes. It has received numerous grants from international donors to continue its peacebuilding and youth work, built trust and collaboration among key community stakeholders to prevent radicalization and violent extremism in Lamu, improved socio-economic opportunities for youth, increased literacy among elementary students, supported cross-border peace structures, carried out community environmental awareness and sea turtle conservation activities in Kiunga, and conducted trauma healing and capacity building initiatives for the local government in Raskiamboni, Somalia.

Under PEACE III, KYBI also established a cross-border security committee to address cross-border challenges in health, trade and education. So far, more than 50 people from Raskiamboni, in Somalia, are now able to access medical care in Kiunga on a monthly basis. One young mother, Maria Ali, who gave birth in a maternity ward in Kiunga, explained her gratitude, saying, "If it were not for KYBI, I don't know if I would be a mother today."

In addition to health care, people in Raskiamboni are better able to access food since KYBI has been helping to resolve issues along the border. Abdullahi Diriye, the District Officer in Raskiamboni, confirms this, sharing that his office and security agents now communicate smoothly.



Noor Daher Ali. Photo: Mathenge/KYBIKiunga. Photo: Mathenge/ KYBI.

For Noor, who remains at the helm of KYBI, the difference he has made in his neighbors' lives is the only reward he ever wanted. But he has received other recognition, too.

Earlier this year in New York, he was honored with an award from the Search for Common Ground for his contribution to peacebuilding along the border.

Martin Namasaka is a Manager, Strategic Communications & Knowledge Management at Pact.

This article was first published at: <https://www.pactworld.org/features/hard-beginnings-youth-peace-initiative-kenya-thrives-pact-and-usaid-support>



Market in Busia, Kenya at its height. Photo: Sabrina Ensenbach/Life & Peace Institute.

RAISING BORDERLAND VOICES IN SUPPORT OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Mariam Babu, an informal cross-border trader on the border between Uganda and Kenya, was once considered a 'smuggler' by the authorities. She has gone on to become a successful activist and peace builder at the local and continental levels.

by SHIMLJASH BRAHA



Mariam and the CBC Coalition meeting with Ambassador Frederic Ngoga Gateretse, Head of the AU Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Division. Photo: Life & Peace Institute.



Given the situation I went through, it is through God's grace I am still breathing.

Mariam Babu was an informal cross-border trader and in the eyes of some a prominent 'smuggler' on the border between Uganda and Kenya. For eight years, she was known as such by immigration officials and law enforcement along this porous border.

During her time as a 'smuggler', Mariam recognized the vulnerability inherent in her work. Not only was she unable to accumulate capital because of the barriers to cross-border trade, but the work also exposed her and her peers to physical risks and harassment as well.

From a small-scale informal trader, Mariam has gone on to become a successful activist and peacebuilder at both the local and continental levels. Her eyes were opened when she was exposed to the work of Life & Peace Institute's (LPI) partner organization, the Eastern African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI) who worked in the border areas advocating for and building capacity of women informal cross-border traders in Busia. They supported a project that was unique in Uganda: sensitizing traders on trade regulations and integration, linking traders to trade fairs and exposing them to bigger markets – activities that Mariam attests led to real impacts that were felt on the ground.

Joining EASSI's work in 2013, Mariam was trained and realized she was eligible to formalize her business. She subsequently joined the local group of traders: the Busia Cross-Border Trade Association. As a formal trader, she became an example and an advocate, especially for women traders in the region. Through her leadership and continued capacity enhancement from EASSI, the organization's membership swelled from 46 in 2013 to 1200 in 2018.



Cross-border traders moving from Busia, Uganda to the Kenya side through the One Stop Border Post. Photo: Shimljash Braha/Life & Peace Institute.

At the beginning of her tenure, the Busia District Office had a resource center where women could go to get information regarding prices of goods, markets, restrictions, bans, etc. but the office was a distance from where the traders actually frequented – the customs offices or border crossings.

During the same period, LPI and the 'Quartet', made up of the Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism of IGAD (CEWARN), InterAfrica Group (IAG), the Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA) along with LPI's Horn of Africa Regional Programme (HARP), had launched the Collaborative Policy Analysis and Engagement (CPAE) pilot, a joint model of policymaking seeking to identify regional policy dilemmas and develop policy options in response to these dilemmas. The Quartet had identified the Informal Cross-Border Trade - Cross-Border Security Governance (ICBT-CBSG) nexus as a critical policy dilemma in the IGAD region and was working to build support for a regional policy framework that would leverage ICBT to improve cross-border security in the Horn.

In January 2016, LPI and the Quartet invited Mariam to Addis Ababa along with representatives of civil society organizations from the IGAD region's borderlands to gather evidence for the policy framework on the ICBT-CBSG nexus. Mariam represented the Busia borderland and women cross-border traders. The testimonies of Mariam and her peers were incorporated into the policy framework document on the ICBT-CBSG nexus which IGAD adopted in June 2018.

Once back in Busia, Mariam was encouraged to continue her advocacy for women traders. The Busia Cross-Border Trade Association (serving both men and women) was offered a desk at the One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) but Mariam knew that this would not be enough. She continued to push for the women-only desk by approaching the Customs Manager on the Uganda side of the border and succeeded in convincing him of its worth, even though follow-up was delayed.

LPI encouraged Mariam to join the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa), which convened its first General Assembly in Algeria in December 2017. With the official launch of Busia's OSBP in 2017, Mariam and her colleagues had continued to lobby for a women's desk within the OSBP compound, albeit encountering roadblocks all the way.



Women need special care. Men cannot understand our feeling

In March 2017, LPI launched the Cross-border Cooperation (CBC) Project, formally entitled Improving policies for conflict prevention: Civil society engagement to transform borderlands in Africa, a major civil society-led initiative which builds on the successes and lessons of the CPAE. In this project, LPI and three regional co-implementing civil society partners engaged with 26 local CSOs in four countries and five border areas (Moyale, Ethiopia; Moyale, Kenya; Busia, Uganda; Busia, Kenya;



We are all here for the same cause: creating peace at the borderlands

and Kassala, Sudan) to increase the participation and contribution of civil society on regional and continental cross-border policies. The Busia Women Cross-Border Traders were selected as one of the project's borderland CSO partners.

During the FemWise-Africa meeting in Algeria, Mariam was awed by the great women of Africa including former President of the Central African Republic, Catherine Samba-Panza, and former Vice-President of Uganda, Specioza Naigaga Wandira Kazibwe. Meeting other women peacebuilders and realizing their common mission re-invigorated Mariam's efforts at home. Her confidence was at an all-time high. She went back to Busia and immediately made an appointment with the Office of the District Commissioner.

She shared her story with the Commissioner and he finally agreed to her request. But this was not the end of the road. Upon submitting her formal request, delays ensued. Mariam and her colleagues' repeated follow-up still yielded no results. This is when EASSI invited the Busia Women Cross-Border Traders to a dialogue platform with the Ministry of Trade in Kampala where Mariam delivered her message about the need for the women-only desk at the OSBP more passionately and confidently than ever. Her request was approved by the ministry.

Mariam's story is one of persistence. Her case is a true demonstration of how capacity building of community level actors can yield tremendous results in resilience and sustainability. Once the Women Cross-Border Traders were given a key to an office within the OSBP, the organization worked to sensitize the community about the women's desk, share information, grow its membership and now even works as a cooperative to buy and sell goods collectively to take advantage of economies



Cross-border traders moving from Busia, Uganda to the Kenya side through the One Stop Border Point. Photo: Shimljash Braha/Life & Peace Institute.



Before the meeting was over, they had called Busia to say, “Give Mariam a key!”

of scale and help its members to build capital and reduce vulnerability. As one of the most prominent civil society actors in Busia, they are now able to reach more women and families and work effectively with customs officials in their shared space.

Mariam’s is a story of borderland voices raised to advocate for their own needs – linking communities to policymaking institutions. Her deep understanding of the issues was an invaluable resource for her advocacy efforts, having lived the experience of being a ‘smuggler’. Mariam’s membership in FemWise-Africa has enabled her to share her wisdom and experience with new audiences. In October 2018, she was invited by the African Union to mediate a border dispute between Malawi and Tanzania,

meaning that her expertise from the borderlands has been injected into a continental peace process. This is a testament to the wealth of knowledge and understanding that has yet to be tapped across the continent in terms of policy engagement and input into policy. Mariam’s trajectory also attests to the utility of civil society actors such as LPI lifting local voices and connecting the grassroots to policy actors.

Shimljash Braha is the Monitoring & Evaluation Advisor in Life & Peace Institute’s Horn of Africa Regional Programme, based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In this role, she also supports LPI’s Cross-border Cooperation project which aims to increase the participation and contribution of civil society on regional and continental cross-border policies.

IBRAHIM OMAR AND GEDO DRIED LEMONS

In Western Gedo in Somalia, farming is considered an activity for the less prosperous, merely a means of surviving the dry season. A small-scale farmer with big ambition, Ibrahim Omar has systematically broken this perception and motivated many Gedo residents to invest in commercial lemon farming.

by OMAR OSMAN

Western Gedo is a region in Somalia with great potential for agricultural production, but for now, it is limited for the most part to pastoralism and subsistence farming. Bushy, poorly maintained small farms dot the area along Rivers Dawa and Juba. Farmers persist in traditional practices and regard farming as merely a means of feeding the family and livestock during the dry season. The Somali adage “*beertuu galay*” which translates to “he entered the farm” and its implication that he is a ‘loser’ captures the age-old aversion to farming among the locals here well.

In spite of this, one man saw the potential of farms and maximised on it. It is individuals such as Ibrahim Omar that the Building Opportunities for Resilience in the Horn of Africa (BORESHA) project’s grant facility will be looking for – small farmers with big ambition.



Lemons dry under the sun. Photo: Omar Osman/BORESHA project.

The prevailing negative view of farming did not deter the enterprising Gedo farmer from venturing into ‘serious’ farming. Ibrahim grew maize on his small farm until he realized that lemons had a good market. In 2006, he started farming lemons commercially. After four years of trial and error, he became adept at growing quality lemons and started supplying fresh lemons to the local markets of Dolow and Belet-Hawa. He then expanded his operations to markets in Dollo Ado and Mandera in neighbouring Ethiopia and Kenya. Other farmers were impressed with his growing business. Encouraged by Ibrahim, these farmers set aside portions of their land to grow lemons. Ibrahim not only supplied them with lemon seedlings from his nursery, but he also became their mentor.

By 2010, Ibrahim had gained a reputation in the community as the top lemon grower in the region. For the next four years, his fresh lemon produce from two farms and from those of his extended family dominated the local markets. Other farmers, enticed by the readily available market and good profit margins, followed suit.

A new challenge presented itself; though farmers were making good profits, the market was becoming saturated. As the supply of fresh lemons exceeded demand, Ibrahim started to explore other options. In early 2014, he came up with the idea of extending the shelf-life of the surplus lemons by drying them in the sun and transporting them to Mogadishu for export. He used a very simple method to do this: collect the surplus in the market and dry it up in the sun and then weigh and pack until there was a sufficient quantity to transport to Mogadishu. From there, these dried lemons would be exported to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Whether they are exported from the UAE or used in local diets is not known.

When Ibrahim’s first couple of containers from Mogadishu to the UAE made a good profit, he shared his experience with other farmers and encouraged them to expand their lemon production too. As an incentive, he offered them advance payments on expected produce. This covered their fuel costs for transportation. He also agreed to share his tractor for a small fee and set a minimum price guarantee.



Ibrahim Omar (right) inspects drying lemons with a fellow farmer. Photo: Omar Osman/BORESHA project.



Women selecting and sorting lemons. Photo: Omar Osman/BORESHA project.

As a result of Ibrahim's initiative, more than 100 farmers in the local area have transformed their farms from subsistence farming to economically viable enterprises. Hundreds are now employed in the dried lemon industry value chain; many of these are women. It is women who dry the lemons – spreading them out and turning them over to get even exposure to sunshine - and then do the selection for local and export markets. Dried lemon is the biggest employer and the sole export earner in the region.

Ibrahim has been successful but he still has challenges. "I need to protect my produce from animals and fences are expensive. Storage is a challenge and I wish I knew how to include new technologies in my business. I hope the BORESHA grant can help me," he says.

Ibrahim is gradually moving from being the trend setting farmer to becoming a buyer and exporter. He is aware that he can apply for a multi-purpose grant under BORESHA project's grant facility, and is eagerly awaiting the application date.

BORESHA is a 14 million Euros project funded by the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF). The project's overall objective is to promote economic development and greater resilience, particularly among vulnerable groups in the Cross-border area between Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. It is planned to run from

December 2017 to November 2018. The project adopts a community-driven approach to address the shared nature of the risks and opportunities in this border area. It is implemented by a consortium of agencies: the Danish Refugee Council, WYG, World Vision International and CARE International.

Omar Osman is the Business Development Support Center (BDSC) coordinator of the BORESHA project. He is a private sector engagement specialist with extensive regional experience.

FROM LIVESTOCK HERDER TO VETERINARIAN: AN ACADEMIC JOURNEY ACROSS THE IGAD REGION

Abdirahim Garuun Mohamed's boyhood dream of becoming a veterinarian was realized when he joined the IGAD Sheikh Technical Veterinary School and Reference Centre (ISTVS). Now, with a post-graduate qualification under his belt, he is helping to develop the capacity of animal health service providers in the region.

by **CHRISTINE BUKANIA**

Abdirahim Garuun Mohamed spent his childhood in Gebele, a small town north west of Hargeisa. He still has fond memories of herding his family's 20 sheep and goats in the communal grazing areas, where the animals were guaranteed to get the quality feed that would maintain their healthy body condition.

"I loved livestock, being close to them, and taking care of them. Whenever they fell sick, I felt so sorry for them. I think in later years, this is what influenced my decision to become a veterinarian," Garuun reflects.

In 2006, he heard that ISTVS was receiving applications from candidates interested in pursuing a Diploma in Livestock Health.

"At the time, we knew nothing about it, but we heard rumours that ISTVS employed expatriate teachers and that they were highly experienced. Some of us even felt that joining the school would help us improve our English proficiency," Garuun recalls.

SUPPORTING THE LIVESTOCK EXPORT SECTOR

Garuun was motivated by the need to pursue an education that matched his passion, while ISTVS was interested in building a cohort of animal health workers to support the livestock export sector. This sector plays an important role in the economy and is the main source of livelihood for 75% of the population in the Somali ecosystem.



Garuun attends his MSc. Graduation at the University of Nairobi. Photo courtesy of Abdirahim Garuun Mohamed.



Garuun during a field activity in Uganda. Photo courtesy of Abdirahim Garuun Mohamed.

The institute's history dates back to the 1990s, when Terra Nuova, an Italian NGO, ran a mobile training programme on the Somali ecosystem. In 2002, the Sheikh Technical Veterinary School was created using grants from the European Commission, the Italian Government and the Danish Government. It progressively gained recognition by universities in the neighbouring countries, and in July 2012, became a regional institution when it was formally adopted by IGAD and renamed as ISTVS.

To maintain the education standards that it is known for, the entry requirements to join ISTVS are high. Applicants come from the Somali ecosystem, encompassing Somaliland, South and Central Somalia, Puntland, Ethiopia and North-eastern Kenya. Shortlisted candidates are required to sit for a competitive entry examination. Garuun recalls that in 2006, only fifteen students made it to the programme.

Fred Wesonga has been the principal of ISTVS for the last five years. He explains that the three-year Diploma in Livestock Health, accredited by Makerere University was

the first programme. Garuun was part of the third cohort, while the thirteenth cohort graduated in 2018. Today, students also have the option of taking the Diploma in Livestock Product Development and Entrepreneurship, which is also accredited by Makerere University.

ISTVS also introduced a degree programme. "I came to Sheikh at a time of great transition and we started the process of diversification. We introduced a four-year Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in Dryland Agriculture and Agro-ecosystem Management which is accredited by the University of Nairobi," Wesonga says.

The students are equipped with skills on how to grow crops that are suitable for the drylands, watershed management, as well as environmental management. The programme is taught independently with supervision and monitoring by the University of Nairobi, to ensure that the quality standards of both practical and theory content are maintained.

In 2018, ISTVS students were awarded BSc. degrees by the University of Nairobi for the first time. There were 16 graduates out of whom four got first-class honours. Wesonga sees this as an achievement that confirms the quality of education offered by the institution.

However only two students were able to attend the graduation due to delays in communication that made it impossible for them to apply for visas in good time. Challenges such as inadequate communication and cooperation between ISTVS and relevant departments at the University of Nairobi are being addressed through the recruitment of a dedicated liaison person.

REGIONAL COOPERATION OPENS DOORS FOR ACADEMIC GROWTH

Diploma graduates who would like to upgrade to degree level have two options: They can proceed to Mekelle University in Ethiopia for an additional two years of study or to Makerere University for three years. Those with a BSc. Degree can join the post-graduate programmes to Mekelle University or the University of Nairobi. All these courses are in line with IGAD's mandate of supporting the development of manpower that will address issues of the drylands.

Compared to other institutions in the region, ISTVS is still small. The school has a capacity of 160 students, the student hostel can only accommodate 20 girls and up to 140 boys. About 40 students graduate every year. To date, 262 students have graduated out of which around 40 are women.

According to Wesonga, the benefits of the collaboration with regional universities are well worth the efforts they have to make to improve the management of their courses.

"We have people who have trained in the environment in which they are going to work. This is a big resource base that will drive development," he says.

Graduates of ISTVS programmes are well placed in the industry, and get employed in the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, private sector or NGOs. Some of them, like Garuun, return to join the ISTVS faculty.

Garuun was employed at ISTVS as a tutorial assistant as soon as he got his Diploma in Livestock Health. Later, he went to Makerere University to upgrade to degree level, before returning to continue his work at ISTVS in 2015 as a junior tutor. He then joined the University of Nairobi where he graduated with a Masters in Veterinary Public Health in 2018.

Garuun's academic pursuits have given him regional exposure beyond his imagination. His interaction with the academic community at the University of Nairobi, an 11-month fellowship at the Biosciences eastern and central Africa - International Livestock Research Institute (BecA-ILRI) Hub, and regular travel to communities in Kenya's north-eastern drylands all left a lasting impression on him.

"The socialization, interaction and experiences during this time were intense," he says.

He is not done yet. "I am one of the most academically successful people and I am a resource for my country. I would like to get a PhD from a reputable university so that I may diversify my area of expertise and expand my background. After I finish my studies, I would like to continue contributing to improving the livestock sector in the region," he says.

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CALL FOR ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF THE RESILIENCE FOCUS MAGAZINE

The theme for the next edition covering will be: **MARKET ACCESS, TRADE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Background

Priority Intervention Area (PIA) 2 of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) is market access, trade and financial services.

The strategic objective of this PIA is to enhance access to markets, financial services and trade as a precursor to IGAD free trade area (FTA) and common market.

In the coming edition, we invite articles that demonstrate lessons, good practices, innovations and results in the following areas:

- Enhanced access to markets, financial services and trans-boundary trade
- Secure and equitable access to basic social services
- Promotion of transport communication network, infrastructure and market development
- Enhanced pro-poor women market access and financial services, and access to relevant information on business and related issues
- Secure pastoral mobility for robust trade
- Trans-boundary diseases control, bio-

security, bio-safety and SPS measures and standards

- Bio-security and bio-safety of trade, value chains, products, production and livelihood systems
- Research, outreach and human capital development in markets access, financial services and trade

We will accept submission of:

- Updates of key events and occurrences with relevance to the theme
- Feature articles about approaches, processes, good practices, lessons etc, or human interest stories
- In-depth analysis of topical issues related to the theme
- Opinion

Important Dates

- Submit the idea for your article (about 100 words or less) by April 15
- Send your draft article and photographs by May 15
- Edited articles submitted by May 30
- Publication date: June 30

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For more information on the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) please visit <https://resilience.igad.int/>