



Mandera Triangle Border. Credit: Matteo Frontini/UNDP

## SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVES IN SOUTHWEST ETHIOPIA – NORTHWEST KENYA, MARSABIT – BORANA AND DAWA, AND KENYA – SOMALIA – ETHIOPIA

February 2018 – March 2019

**During the first 12 months, we have reviewed four policies and protocol documents, and organised forums at cluster level to raise awareness on the cross-border agreements, policies and protocols which have been developed by IGAD. Cluster coordination meetings and training courses on pastoralism and trans-boundary dryland development have been completed.**

### The Challenge

The lack of investment in human capital development and new technologies, poor infrastructure, and crop and livestock diseases negatively affect production and productivity of in

Project name	Support for Effective Cooperation and Coordination of Cross-border Initiatives in Southwest Ethiopia-Northwest Kenya, Marsabit-Borana and Dawa, and Kenya-Somalia-Ethiopia Project (SECCCI)
Commissioned by	European Union Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF)
Lead executing agency	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Implementing organisation	UNDP, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), UN Environment
Project region	IGAD Member States: Djibouti (HQ), Eritrea (currently suspended), Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda
Duration	February 22, 2018 – February 21, 2021
Budget	\$10,050,311, including \$358,940 and \$119,647 in co-financing from UNDP and UN Environment respectively



Peace Forum in Mandera Triangle. December 2018. Credit: Matteo Frontini/UNDP

IGAD's borderlands. Locally produced goods such as cereals, vegetables, fruits, etc., and livestock products make up the bulk of the informal cross-border trade in the region. If borderland economic activities are to reach their potential and benefit the predominantly small-scale cross-border traders, greater support is needed to improve related infrastructure, policy environment and institutions, inputs, marketing, and the availability of credit and insurance mechanisms.

The overall goal of this program is to address drivers of youth irregular migration and instability, prevent and mitigate the impact of local conflicts in borderland areas and to promote economic development and greater resilience.

This will include investments in conflict management and resolution capacities; enhancing and diversifying livelihoods (through income generating activities), including livestock, agriculture and fisheries; access to basic social services; access to natural resource management; and promoting cross-border trade and private sector development

## The Response

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 coordination and cooperation. The specific objectives are:

- To strengthen regional policy frameworks, structures and

protocols for cross-border cooperation between national and local governments, the private sector, civil society and international technical and financial partners in development;

- To build capacities of communities, local governments and civil society to fully engage in processes for development planning and results;
- To ensure effective cooperation and coordination, monitoring and evaluation of cross-border initiatives including involvement of relevant national and regional actors in these processes.

The project has 650,000 beneficiaries across the three countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia). The stakeholders involved include local and national government authorities, community leaders, young people, women, youth groups, women's associations, local communities, the private sector, and local business leadership in three cluster.

## Location

To deliver on the above-mentioned objectives, the SECCI project focuses on three cross-border clusters:

1. Southwest Ethiopia and Northwest Kenya, covering South Omo Zone in Ethiopia, and Turkana County in Kenya (Cluster I);
2. The Kenya-Somalia-Ethiopia border, covering Mandera County in Kenya, Gedo Region in Somalia and Doolow bay woreda Somali Region of Ethiopia (Cluster III);



Cross Border MoUs and Agreements review workshop (Moyale, Kenya). Credit: UNDP

### 3. Marsabit County, Kenya and Borana and Liben Zones, Ethiopia (Cluster IV).

#### Results

- Four policies and protocol documents were revised, and forums were organised at cluster level to raise awareness on the cross-border agreements, policies and protocols which have been developed by IGAD. The thematic areas include: cross-border trade, peace building and conflict prevention, animal health and disease control, livestock production, rangeland management policy and its implementation protocol, and the draft transhumance protocol. Existing community peace agreements were reviewed and discussed, and recommendations made with regard to intervention activities.
- Three cluster coordination meetings with the participation of ten different stakeholders represented by a total of 33 persons (4 women and 29 men), 57 participants that have been completed training courses on pastoralism

and trans-boundary dry land development. As a result the understanding of the community, local officials and implementing partners have developed trust in what the SECCCI project IGAD and other development partners are doing at the cluster level to benefit the most vulnerable communities.

- Lessons learnt workshop organised with each of the three consortia leads Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany (VSFG), PACT and Building Opportunities for Resilience in the Horn of Africa (Boresha) to understand existing cluster coordination mechanisms, exchange experiences, learn from the challenges faced and formulate recommendations for improved coordination of the cross-border pastoral livelihoods resilience programmes under implementation at the clusters level.
- Capacity gaps assessment of local partners was undertaken by UNDP and a participatory mapping workshop was successfully organised.
- The web-based knowledge management platform for



UNDSS evaluation of Kenya-Ethiopia Borders. Credit: UNDP



UNDSS evaluation of Kenya-Ethiopia Borders. Credit: UNDP

ensuring cross-border coordination and cooperation is under establishment. This kind of web portal will bring all actors to have common understanding about the cross-border initiatives, knowledge sharing of best experiences and minimise duplication of effort.

## Lessons Learnt

- This multi-agency, multi-lateral cross-border project has an important field presence approach, therefore the operationalisation and implementation at the field level is key to achieve effective results. However, the complexity of the project itself where multi-agencies in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia borders implement projects also has its own challenges, which sometimes resulted in delays in project implementation.
- Constant monitoring and evaluation of the security and stability of the project areas has been necessary and project implementation was occasionally halted due to security challenges. The project document did not take in consideration all the security compliances expected by the different agencies therefore a revision and additional funds needed to be mobilised.
- The current condition of drought and famine in Turkana County has been a challenge to project implementation. Depending on how the situation develops, tensions could rise in the region, making project implementation more challenging. More importantly, implementing a project with a focus on water management in a situation of drought and famine may require a different approach than originally planned in the project.
- Due to the instability and recent security concerns in the Mandera Cluster areas the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) team has temporary put on hold the deployment of SECCCI staff as well as the delivery of office equipment. The Mandera County officials have ensured that security will return and the SECCCI project staff will be able to deploy in the second reporting period.

## Next Steps

- Promote the existing MoUs, review policies and protocols that affect cross-border investment;
- Develop capacities at cluster level on the use of climate information for decision making and improve the rangeland resources use and monitoring;
- Establish the knowledge management system that captures and disseminates results and good practice, to facilitates cross-border coordination and cooperation;
- Ensure the operationalisation and full functionality of the cluster coordination offices.

## Partners

The stakeholders involved under this action are:

- The IGAD Secretariat, and its various specialised agencies;
- The national and local government authorities of IGAD Member States;
- Communities, the private sector and river basin organisations in the cross-border areas;
- EU institutions, especially the EU Delegation in Addis Ababa, which provides oversight on the progress and challenges of implementing the action;
- UNDP and its partners;
- GIZ and its partners;
- UNEP;
- Other development partners, who support cross-border and regional programmes such as IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), migration-related initiatives etc.

