



## CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION PROGRAMME IN WESTERN ETHIOPIA AND EASTERN SUDAN (CBCES)

1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019

The Programme supports the establishment of Community Saving Groups in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region in Ethiopia so women become more resilient and can accumulate funds for investments in agricultural development including cross-border trade. Credit: GIZ/Maike van Ueuem

The Programme's assessments and stakeholder dialogues have shown that there is a high potential for economic development and creation of diversified income generation opportunities for the population in the border area

### The Challenge

Populations across the Horn of Africa face frequent challenges related to environmental shocks as well as violent conflicts, particularly those in borderland areas. These remote populations often lack access to basic social services and infrastructure and must contend with limited employment and education opportunities. In these areas, cross-border trade offers an important opportunity for economic development, as do the strong historical ties between populations on either side of borders. Increased trade and cooperation across the border has the potential to simultaneously achieve both national and regional development goals.

The border area between Benishangul-Gumuz in western Ethiopia and the Blue Nile State in eastern Sudan is home to over 1.6 million people, the majority of whom live in rural and semi-urban areas. Though relations between populations have generally been peaceful, a recent

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Commissioned by	European Union (EU), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Partner organisation	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); Government of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia; Government of the Republic of the Sudan
Duration	April 2018 - March 2021
Budget	EUR 23.8 million

influx of migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people has increased pressure on the use of communal resources, such as land, and led to increased tensions between communities. Proactive efforts to resolve these issues are urgently needed to strengthen the resilience of border communities and to ensure the stability and sustainable economic development of the region.

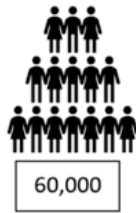
## The Response

The Cross-Border Collaboration Programme in Western Ethiopia and Eastern Sudan (CBCES) aims to develop and enhance economic opportunities in the Benishangul-Gumuz-Blue Nile State border area to reduce conflicts and improve overall living conditions. This includes helping communities to better withstand shocks (such as harvest failures) and peacefully resolve conflicts. The goal is to strengthen the population's resilience to instability and displacement. As one of its main focuses, the programme targets the economic needs of young people and women.



## Number of direct beneficiaries

### Benishangul-Gumuz, Ethiopia



### Gender rate

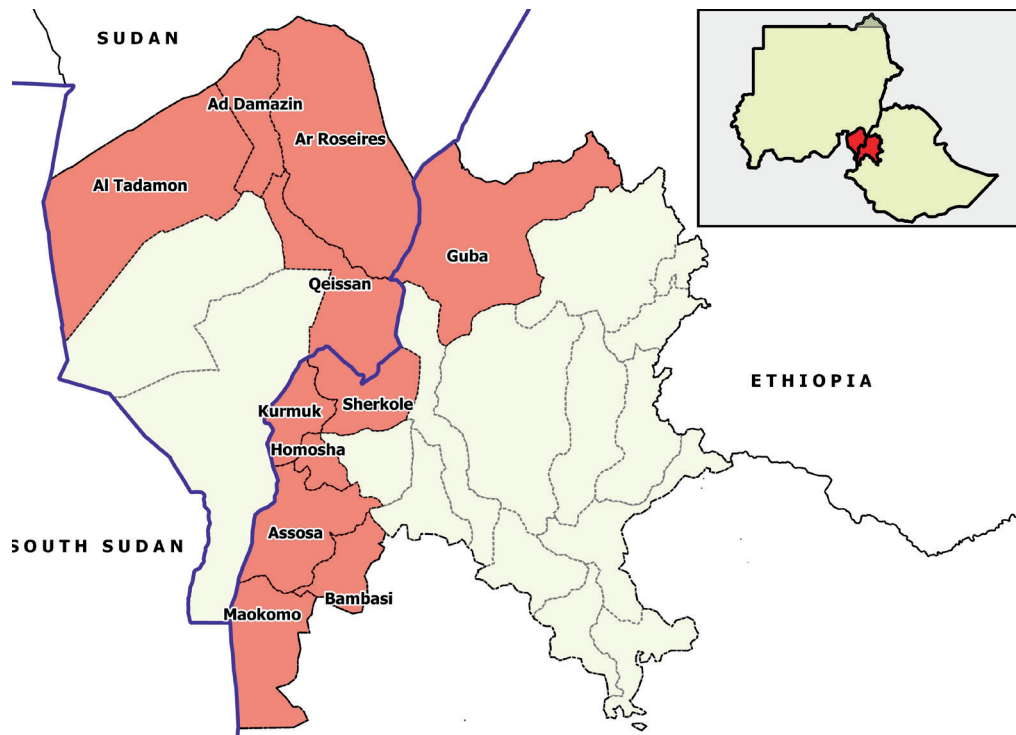
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### Blue Nile State, Sudan



## Location

Based on the findings of assessments and dialogues with partners and stakeholders, CBCES defined the geographic implementation areas and specified corridors and localities along the joint border of the two regional states. In the Blue Nile State (BNS), CBCES is going to intervene in the localities of Al Tadamon, Ad Damazin, Ar Roseires, and Qeissan. In the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, the Woredas of Guba, Sherkole, Kurmuk, Homosha, Assosa, Bambasi, and Maokomo have been selected for the implementation of activities (see map below).



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

CBCES is implementing activities in the border area between Ethiopia (Benishangul-Gumuz) and Sudan (Blue Nile State). The map depicts the woreda/ localities in which CBCES is active.

## Results

The programme has been tasked to conduct further analysis and stakeholder dialogues in the first year. It conducted the following missions and produced various assessments:

Date	Objective of the mission	Results
<b>Missions to Benishangul-Gumuz, Ethiopia</b>		
9-19 June 2018	Identifying implementing partners and implementation areas	Localities determined Capacities of potential implementing partners assessed
22-25 July 2018	Identification of stakeholders and target groups Specification of thematic areas	Stakeholder analysis produced Interventions agreed with partners and stakeholders
17-21 Sep 2018	Need assessment of health facilities Cost estimation for interventions	Health facilities for support measures identified
21-26 Oct 2018	Field visit with selected implementing partners Conducting baseline research	Implementing partners selected Preliminary baseline results presented
7-15 Nov 2018	Capacity gap and needs assessment on existing or potential formal and non-formal local peace structures	Findings and recommendations presented to government of BGR and other stakeholders
5-7 Dec 2018	Assess water harvesting and supply systems at health centres in Kurmuk, Sherkole and Homosha	Presentation of findings and their inclusion in the health centre rehabilitation concept
18-20 Feb 2019	Briefing of President on conflict mapping results	Agreement in a validation workshop with stakeholders
<b>Missions to Blue Nile State, Sudan</b>		
13-22 May 2018	Assessment of Vocational Training Centre (VTC) Ed Damanzin Rapid labour market analysis	Findings of assessment compiled Report of rapid labour market assessment presented
29 Aug 8 Sep 2018	Dialogue with partners and stakeholders Identification of potential implementing partners	Geographical and thematic implementation areas agreed upon Implementing partners selected

Next to setting up office infrastructure and a security and risk management system as well as recruitment of personnel, CBCES conducted stakeholder and institutional landscape analyses and developed a work plan and a monitoring system for the programme. Implementation started with procurement of equipment and machineries for vocational training centres and activities of implementing partner organisations in agriculture development.

## Lessons Learned

Assessments and stakeholder dialogues indicate that there is a high potential for economic development and the creation of diversified income generation opportunities for the population in the border area through increase of cross-border trade and market access, as well as temporary labour migration. In addition, better access to social infrastructure such as health, water and educational facilities can contribute to improving livelihoods of the communities in the border area.

## Next Steps

The coming year, the programme aims to speed up the implementation process with various partners in the following areas:

### **Increasing income by increasing the value of products**

Diversifying the means through which populations earn income is one way to increase resilience. CBCES aims to promote and expand the opportunities in agriculture, the dominant industry in the area, as well as the potential of other sectors, focusing on processing and marketing of horticulture, fishery, and non-timber products.



Cross-border initiatives supported by the Cross-Border Collaboration Programme in Western Ethiopia and Eastern Sudan bring together communities and responsible people on both sides of the border to formalise and expand trade across the border and therefore promote sustainable economic development in the border region. Credit: GIZ/Maïke van Ueuem

For example, the programme will train community members to harvest the gum of the prevalent *Boswellia* tree in a sustainable way, creating opportunities to engage in the production of incense, a product in high demand in Ethiopia and many other countries. Harvesting *Boswellia* gum can also address deforestation in the area by reducing the number of farmers clearing trees for crop cultivation and increasing the monetary value of the forests by promoting participatory forest management.

### **Job and business opportunities for young people**

To be more economically active, young people in the borderland need access to professional education and jobs. CBCES will therefore promote vocational training on both sides of the border. In the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, and in the Blue Nile State, the programme will support vocational training centers in training on bamboo processing, cabinetry and furniture-making marketing, and entrepreneurship will help young people develop marketable skills that increase their ability to find employment and start their own businesses. Bamboo is a durable and fast-growing plant that also helps to regenerate degraded land. Bamboo furniture is robust and attractive and is in high demand in the local market.

In the Blue Nile State, the programme will support a newly established vocational training centre by providing equipment, machinery, and tools in addition to developing training curricula. At the centre, young people can learn the necessary skills to work as motor mechanics, electricians, food processors, or metal workers.

### **Better service delivery through improved basic infrastructure**

Economic activity cannot be sustained without more effective delivery of basic social services and infrastructure, particularly in health. The Benishangul-Gumuz Region has some of the highest



Credit: GIZ/ Maria Cassens-Sasse

maternal and child mortality rates in Ethiopia, and health facilities struggle to provide quality services due to lack of equipment and poor infrastructure. The programme will assist local actors to rehabilitate selected health centres through renovation measures and improving electricity and water supply systems. To address water shortages in the Blue Nile State, the programme will rehabilitate water supply systems for communities and their cattle.

### **Making peace, reducing conflict**

Despite increased tension in the area, formal and informal peace building structures do exist at the Benishangul-Gumuz/Blue Nile State border. The programme will support them to be better equipped to resolve conflicts in their communities, working with the Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) of IGAD. CEWARN has the mandate to improve communities' response to conflict in border regions across the Horn of Africa.

For example, the programme will work with the local peace council in the Blue Nile State to revive cattle corridors and improve cattle keeping. Unregulated cattle movement in the Blue Nile State as well as into the Benishangul-Gumuz Region has led to property destruction, which in turn has fuelled violent conflicts between pastoralists and farmers. The programme will support local conflict resolution mechanisms to address these issues and promote peaceful co-existence of pastoralists and farmers and contribute to improved access to water, pastures, and medical treatment for the cattle.

### **Effective trading across the border**

Existing cross-border trade remains largely informal, and illicit trading is highly prevalent. To address common regulatory challenges and restrictions in the border area, the cross-border cooperation initiatives of the programme seek to bring together representatives of communities and decision-makers on both sides of the border to adapt existing legal policies and protocols to



Credit: GIZ/ Maike van Ueuem

the local context and to improve sustainable economic development of the border region. The overall goal is to increase coordination, improve trade and labour opportunities, and ease cross-border exchange. The programme will support the Joint Border Development Commissions of both regional states and strengthen their capacity for joint planning, effective implementation, and close monitoring of new cross-border initiatives in trade, labour, and natural resource management. In cooperation with IGAD, the programme will also facilitate experience and knowledge exchange with actors in other cross-border regions in the Horn of Africa.

## Partners

The programme is being delivered on behalf of the German Government and the EU through its Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. It is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) in partnership with the Ministry of Peace of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of the Sudan as well as the Intergovernmental Agency on Development (IGAD).

Further partners are the Governor of the Blue Nile State and the President of the Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State as well as the bureaus in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region and the line ministries in Blue Nile State, for example, those in charge of agriculture, natural resources and environment, livestock, pastoralism, conflict management, water, health, labour, vocational education, trade and customs.

The partner system for implementing measures to strengthen resilience consists of governmental authorities and non-governmental actors (INGOs, NGOs) in BNS and BGR alike. The table below shows the NGOs that were selected, their geographic and thematic areas of operation.

<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Implementation Area</b>	<b>Thematic Area</b>
Sudan, BNS	Vétérinaires Sans Frontières - Germany (VSF-G)	Wad-Almahi, Roseires, Damazine, Tadamon, Gissan	Strengthening the resilience of communities through support for agricultural development including livestock, fishery and horticulture and through promotion of conflict prevention and transformation of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities
Ethiopia, BGR	Farm Africa (FA)	Assosa, Kurmuk, Sherkole, Mao Komo	Strengthening the resilience of communities by establishing local saving groups and through support for agricultural development as well as for participatory forest management with harvesting, processing and marketing of timber and non-timber products.
Ethiopia, BGR	World Vision Ethiopia (WVE)	Homosha, Assosa, Bambassi	Strengthening resilience of communities through support of agricultural development with a focus on value chain development and improved market access as well as promoting saving groups.
Ethiopia, BGR	Assosa Environment Protection Association (AEPA)	Assosa Zone and Metekel Zone	Promoting community development with a focus on women and youth.
Ethiopia/Sudan	Intergovernment Authority on Development (IGAD)	Border area BNS/ BGR	Promoting cross-border collaboration through experience and knowledge exchange, capacity development and facilitation of cross-border dialogues. Support by IGAD/CEWARN for conflict analysis and strengthening capacities for conflict prevention, early warning and response.