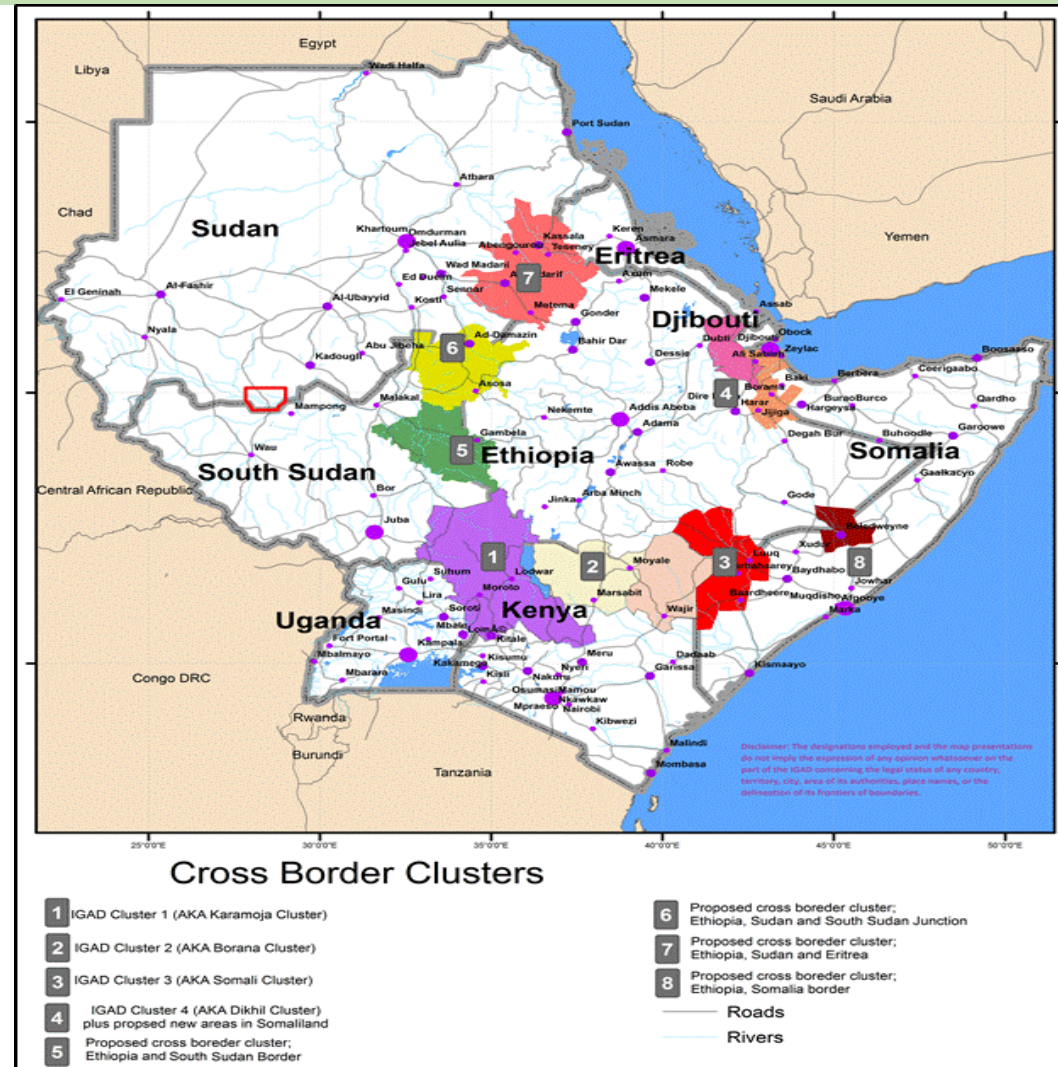SECCCI project Lessons learnt presented for IGAD GERNDER AND RESILIENC SHARE FAIR
Good Practices in Mainstreaming Gender in Cross Border Resilience interventions

Bishoftu, Ethiopia,

16-18 September 2021

IGAD cross-border areas (Clusters)

Cross Border Clusters

1 IGAD Cluster 1 (AKA Karamoja Cluster)

2 IGAD Cluster 2 (AKA Borana Cluster)

3 IGAD Cluster 3 (AKA Somali Cluster)

4 IGAD Cluster 4 (AKA Dikhil Cluster) plus propsed new areas in Somaliland

5 Proposed cross boreder cluster; Ethiopia and South Sudan Border

6 Proposed cross boreder cluster; Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan Junction

7 Proposed cross boreder cluster; Ethiopia, Sudan and Eritrea

8 Proposed cross boreder cluster; Ethiopia, Somalia border

—— Roads

—— Rivers

Project areas and location of field offices

Goal

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

Objectives

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;

Build Capacities of communities, local governments and civil society to fully engage in processes for development planning and results;

Ensure effective cooperation and coordination, monitoring and evaluation of cross-border initiatives including involvement of relevant national and regional actors in these processes

Outputs

Output 1: Policy development and mechanisms for cross-border cooperation enhanced

Output 2: Coordination mechanisms in support of improved cross-border cooperation in place at all levels.

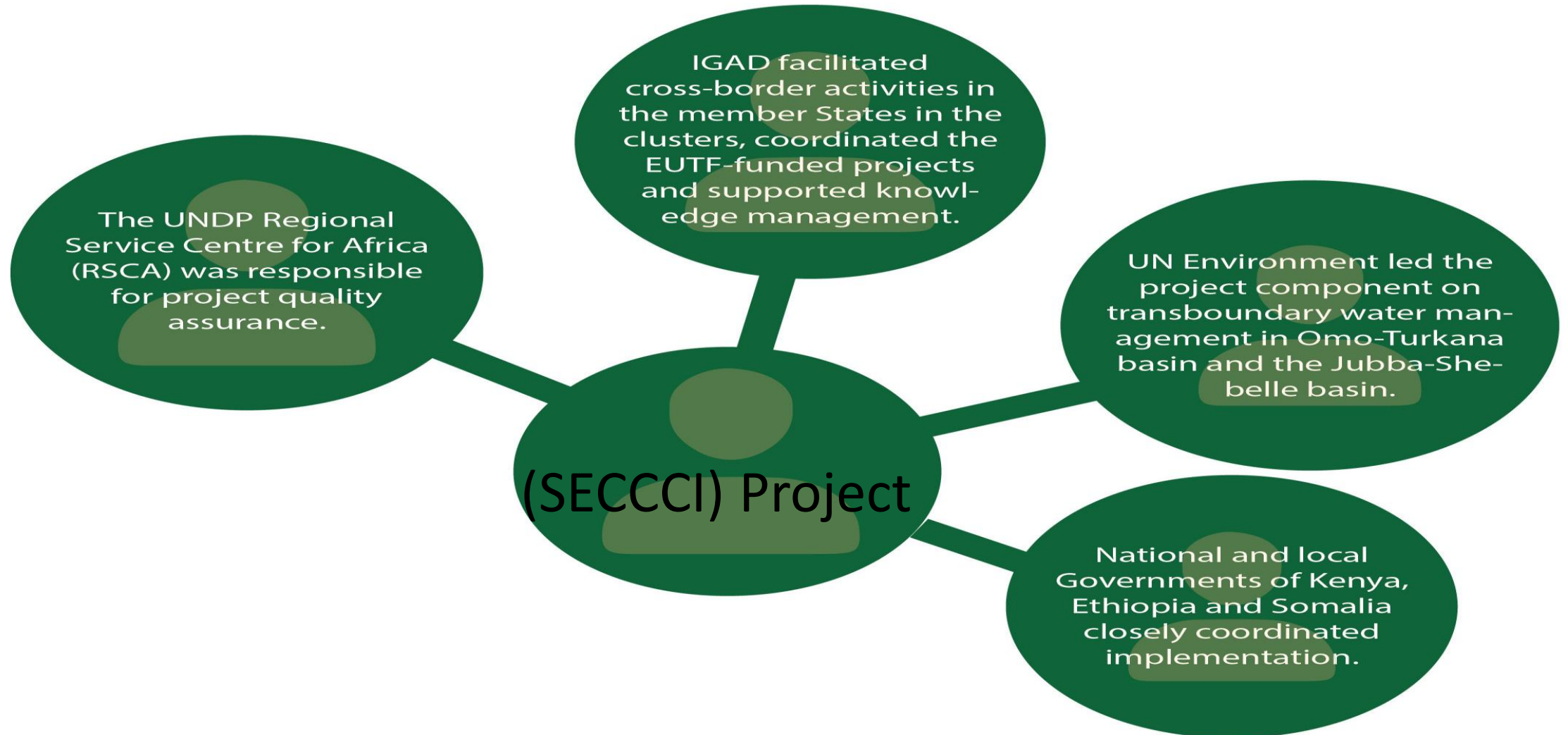Output 3: Stakeholder capacities developed in support of cross-border cooperation

Output 4: Development planning processes at the cross-border level are better understood, more evidence-based, participatory, and accountable

Output 5: Knowledge Management system captures and disseminates results and good practice facilitates cross-border coordination and cooperation.

Implementing agencies

IGAD facilitated cross-border activities in the member States in the clusters, coordinated the EUTF-funded projects and supported knowledge management.

The UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA) was responsible for project quality assurance.

UN Environment led the project component on transboundary water management in Omo-Turkana basin and the Jubba-Shebelle basin.

(SECCCI) Project

National and local Governments of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia closely coordinated implementation.

Lesson 1: Cross-border dialogues were effective in creating awareness about existing MoUs, policies, agreements, and protocols and bringing together cross-border authorities and communities to jointly identify policy gaps.

- The project conducted 28 public community events for over 700 participants to raise awareness on four policies and protocols, six MoUs and one declaration for cross-border cooperation, peace building and conflict prevention, livelihood resilience, rangeland and natural resource management, livestock production, mobility and cross-border trade

- IGAD translated the English versions of five of the main MoUs into 14 local languages: Boran, Ngaturkan, Burj, Swahili and in Ethiopia, into Amharic and 9 other local languages. The information was broadcast through local FM radios in the three clusters.

- The approach adopted by the project successfully brought communities together and utilised their perspective in tackling cross-border challenges.

Lesson 2: In a multi-stakeholder, multi-geographic project arrangement, the existence of cooperation arrangements must be accompanied by formal and deliberate coordination mechanisms that are implemented by all involved stakeholders and are fully supported by management.

- The SECCCI project had several layers: the three partners IGAD, UNDP and UNEP. SECCCI who were direct implementers of the project; five EU-funded projects, which to a large extent were consortia of various organisations; government institutions

- It required the establishment of a robust system of cooperation and coordination, which was partly achieved through regular coordination meetings at different levels.

- Different organisations got to understand each other and their work much better, discussed issues of mutual concern and how to create synergies.

Lesson 3: The inclusion of a knowledge management component into the project enabled the SECCCI primary and secondary stakeholders to share and preserve their knowledge assets.

- The project directly funded the launch of an online Knowledge Management Platform (hosted at https://resilience.igad.int/).

- This site was designed to disseminate good practices and lessons learned on cross-border cooperation and resilience interventions in the Horn of Africa.

- As a strategy for sustainability, the portal was managed by IGAD as part of its IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI),
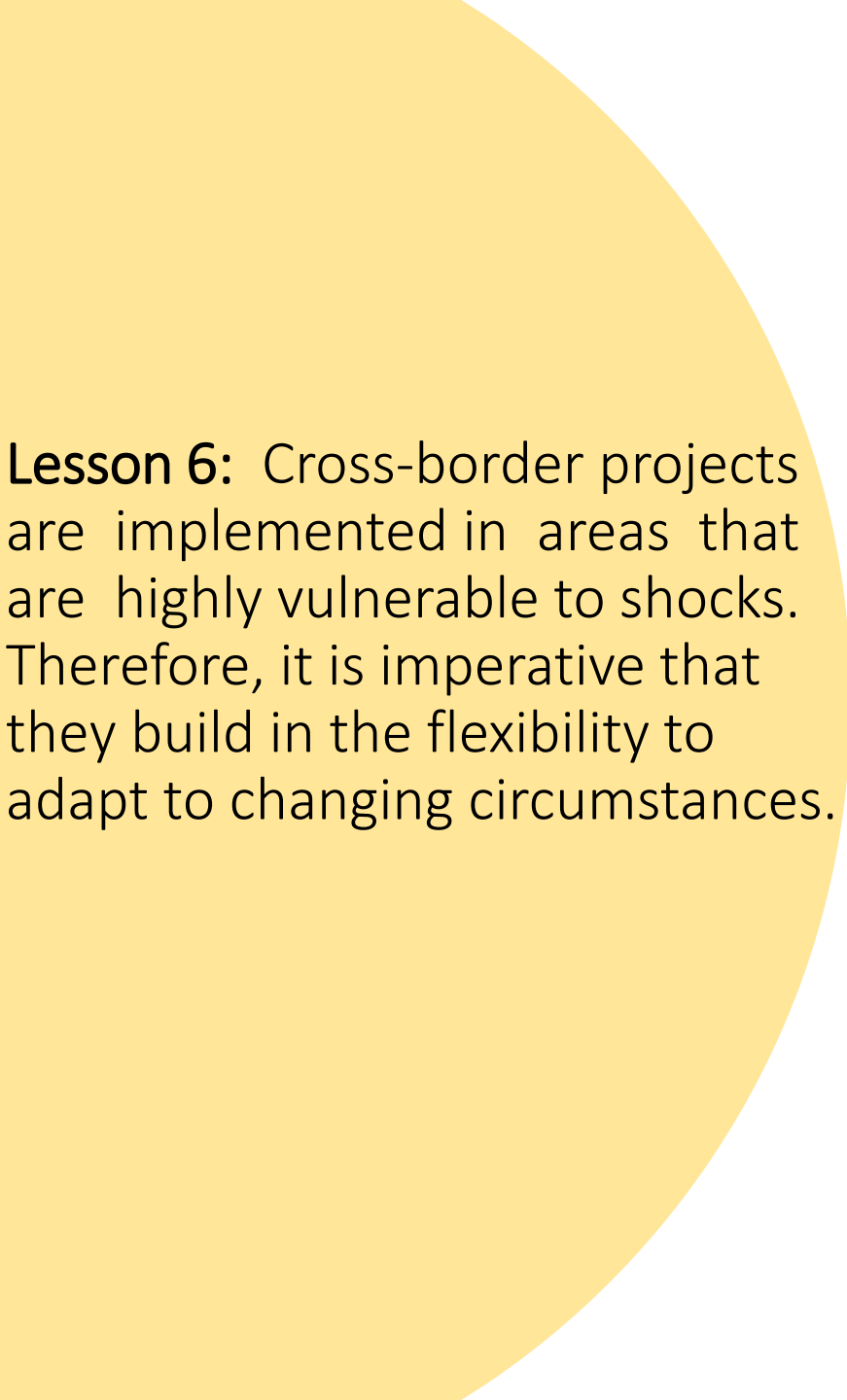
Lesson 4: When co-implementing cross-border development projects, the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, modalities for funding, monitoring and reporting should be articulated explicitly. As much as possible, SO P's, guidelines, templates and other tools should be agreed and adopted during the inception phase, and training undertaken to ensure compliance and smooth operations.

- This often resulted in delayed disbursements, and as IGAD had no reserve of funds to buffer the project in such instances, implementation of project activities was held back.

- staff implementing the project demonstrated a level of flexibility and adaptability, and took the opportunity to challenge themselves to work with diverse financing modalities
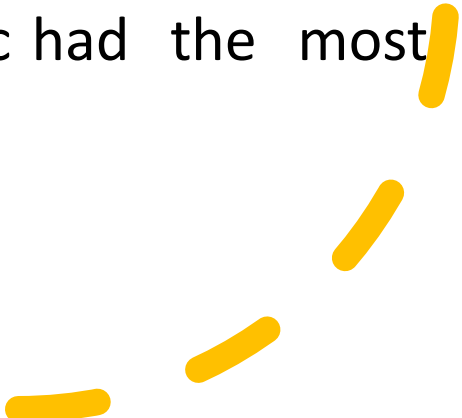
Lesson 5: Project weaknesses need to be addressed during the inception stage to ensure the level of efficiency and effectiveness is not negatively affected.

- First, some activities were not allocated sufficient budgets, while other critical ones, such as coordination, were originally not budgeted.

- Secondly, the project required IGAD to coordinate other EUTF-funded partners, who operated independently, had no binding agreements or MoUs with IGAD and had different implementation timelines and project components.

- Thirdly, the project activities were not designed with sufficient consideration about the mandate of IGAD, which also delimits its scope.

Lesson 6: Cross-border projects are implemented in areas that are highly vulnerable to shocks. Therefore, it is imperative that they build in the flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances.

- The region faced a series of other shocks such as frequent conflict outbreaks in Mandera and Moyale, desert locust invasion and floods.

- These shocks also contributed to delayed implementation.

- Out of all these, the Covid-19 pandemic had the most direct impact on IGAD's activities.

Lesson 7: The SECCCI project developed an exit strategy with phased activities that can form the basis for starting new focused cross-border flagship projects.

- All content produced during the project was successfully uploaded onto the portal.

- The reports and documents of the rapid information and awareness creation workshops were shared with local officials.

- Submitted the translated documents and audio recordings of MoUs, agreements and protocols to local officials

- Shared the ICPAC website, updated climate and weather forecast information was linked to the public relation offices at the Cluster level.

The SECCCI project Products of IGAD components

Thank you