



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 16TH IGAD DROUGHT DISASTER RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE (IDDRSI) PLATFORM STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Entebbe, Uganda

23 November 2023

The partners of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) - the IGAD Member States (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda), Development Partners: Sweden, USAID, Germany/GIZ, UN Agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNICEF), IGAD NGO Forum, Inter-Agency Working Group, Somali NGO Consortium, the Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT, the IGAD Secretariat, held the 16th meeting of the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee from 22-23 November 2023 in Entebbe, the Republic of Uganda. The theme of the meeting was *Consolidating the Path to Resilience and Sustainability: Lessons Learned from a Journey of Ten Years*.

The 16th IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee was officiated by H.E Hon. Esther Anyakun, Minister of State for Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, the Republic of Uganda. It was chaired by Mr Awira Anthony, the Director of Planning, Coordination and Partnership Division, IGAD, representing H.E. Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, the IGAD Executive Secretary and Chair of the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee.

Members of the IDDRSI Platform marked the Tenth Anniversary of IDDRSI and renewed their commitments to the resilience agenda in the region. During the meeting, Members of the Steering Committee thanked IGAD for the leadership and coordination of the platform for over a decade, including the two years of preparation to mobilise resources for flagship projects. The Steering Committee recognised the challenges that our people, particularly those in the arid and semi-arid lands, face due to the impact of climate change.

Thus, the 16th IDDRSI Steering Committee recommends the following:

1. **Recognizing** the recurrent climate-related disasters and human displacement in the region, Climate Change - Conflict- human mobility nexus in the arid and semi-arid lands should be thoroughly investigated in joint actions by IGAD, more specifically ICPAC, ICPALD, CEWARN and the Health and Social Development Division (HSDD) as a matter of urgency.
2. **Considering** the negative impacts of conflicts on the effective implementation of resilience-strengthening projects, deliberate efforts are required to

mainstream conflict sensitivity in the projects, including budgetary allocation from the projects to support national Conflict Early Warning and Response Units (CEWERUs) conflict monitoring, analysis and reporting.

3. Noting that the arid and semi-arid lands in the region are facing water scarcity for human beings, livestock and agriculture and recalling recommendation 15.5, **call upon** all stakeholders to intensify large water infrastructure development (Boreholes, Micro dams, and irrigation infrastructures) as an entry point and basis for implementations of all Priority Intervention Areas.
4. **Recognising** the multi-sectoral nature of resilience building, Member States and Development Partners are urged to scale up investments to expand good practices in water resource management, blue economy, sustainable land management, post-harvest storage systems, forage and feedstuffs, markets, and livelihood diversifications.
5. **Noting** the availability of modern satellite data, the exponential growth in computing power, and increased expertise in the field, climate prediction has become more accurate and reliable. Therefore, Member States are **urged** to strengthen their capacity for timely communication to end-users and early action using evidence from modern early warning systems.
6. **Appreciating** the advances in the early warning systems at regional and national levels, we **call upon** the IGAD Institutions to work closely with Member States, local authorities, and Development Partners to expand the provision of cluster-level (downscaled) climate information services.
7. **Recognizing** the newly validated IGAD Migration Action Plan (MAP) with priority areas directly related to eight IDDRSI Priority Areas, **call upon** IGAD and GIZ to create a Technical Working Group to harmonise implementation in the region.
8. **Acknowledging** the region's recent experience with the substantial loss of 13 million livestock, largely attributed to inadequate livestock feed, IGAD is **urged** to work with countries towards feed security by redirecting the regional and country initiatives toward attaining animal feed security, recognising it as a pivotal factor in ensuring comprehensive food security.
9. **Recognizing** the benefits of regional thinking that guided the two phases of IDDRSI, **calls upon** IGAD to lead the planning of the third phase of Country Programming Papers as well as the Regional Programming Paper to incorporate new developments in drought resilience building in the region, such as the climate change impacts.

10. There is a **need** to develop a database of people in the Arid and Semi-Arid lands (ASAL) to manage the beneficiaries of livelihood interventions better and effectively monitor and measure the performance of resilience projects and programmes in the region.
11. **Call upon** IGAD, Member States and Development Partners to equally address resource allocation to all IDDRSI Priority Intervention Areas and cross-border clusters, including improved coordination.
12. **Considering** IGAD's roles in leading and coordinating IDDRSI and where strong coordination at regional, national and sub-national levels are critical for the success of the regional resilience agenda, IGAD is **urged** to establish fund allocation mechanisms from projects coordinated and implemented by IGAD to support coordination and capacity development functions at regional and national levels.
13. **Recognising** limited economic and social position of women, youth and persons with disabilities **calls upon** all stakeholders to prioritise women, youth and persons with disabilities in cross-border trade and other economic activities.
14. **Noting** that different stakeholders in the region (Development partners, NGOs, UN Agencies, etc.) and Government agencies continue to work in silos (e.g., in developing early warning systems, water development, etc.) **calls upon** all stakeholders of IDDRSI for a stronger coordination effort towards a joint impact monitoring framework.
15. **Appreciating** the leadership and coordination role of IGAD in the development of Resilience Measurement in the region that will serve evidence-based policymaking in the region, **urges** IGAD to expand the IGAD Resilience Index (IRI) to address other shocks, such as floods and conduct a thorough capacity needs assessment in the Member States to enhance the quality and availability of the data required for the effective application of IRI in Member States.
16. **Welcomes** a UN-NGO Joint Advocacy Document, "A Call to Resilience-Building and System Strengthening in the Horn of Africa," presented by the Inter-Agency Working Group as input to the overall regional resilience initiative.

Done on 23 November 2023, Entebbe, Uganda