



The 16th IDDRSI PLATFORM STEERING COMMITTEE and 9th General Assembly

22 - 24 November 2023, Entebbe, Uganda

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The IGAD region covers 5.2 square Kilometers, where seventy per cent of the total land mass is under arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) that receive less than 600 millimeters of annual rainfall. As a result, the communities in the ASALs often face food insecurity due to recurrent drought, flood, Desert Locusts, conflict, poor infrastructure and market shocks that affect the supply of commodities in remote areas.

The implementation of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) was initiated in 2011 with the objective of strengthening the resilience of the communities in the ASALs through a multi-sectoral and 15 years strategy (2012-2027), with three five-year plans. IDDRSI was a product of a collective decision made in 2011 by IGAD Member States, Development Partners, implementing agencies and other actors and stakeholders committed to expeditiously ending drought emergencies in the Horn of Africa region. IDDRSI was developed immediately after the decision of the Heads of State and Governments of the IGAD Member States. Its implementation began in 2013 after the countries developed their programming papers and regional programme. IDDRSI's programming framework guided investment in the Member States through Country Programming and regional flagships jointly among Member States, which introduced a paradigm shift. With the coordination and leadership role of IGAD, the efforts to end drought emergencies have involved the concerted promotion and execution of policies, programmes and coordinated actions throughout the IGAD region, supported within a framework of enhanced international partnership, aligning humanitarian interventions with long-term development investment.

The Roles and Functions of the IDDRSI Platform

The IGAD Secretariat, member states, development and implementing partners, UN agencies and other stakeholders met in September 2011. The stakeholders meeting recommended that IGAD establishes a multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary regional Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Platform to foster coordinated resource mobilisation, inclusive design, and implementation of regional dryland emergency and development programmes alongside evidence-based participatory development of supportive policies.

As part of its institutional arrangements, the IDDRSI Platform has a 3-tier structure that comprises a General Assembly of participating stakeholders, a Platform Steering Committee and a Platform Coordinating Unit. The platform is coordinated by a Platform Coordination Unit, overseen by the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee, which meets twice a year and reports to a Platform General Assembly. The General Assembly is a high-level engagement of

ministers and senior policy officials from IGAD Member States, senior representatives of Development Partners and other stakeholders, which meets once a year and provides strategic leadership and policy direction to facilitate the expedited implementation of drought resilience initiative.

During the last ten years, the Platform Steering Committee meeting and the General Assembly have occurred regularly. Since July 2012, the Steering Committee has met 15 times, including the first three times as the Interim Steering Committee, which was formalised and inaugurated as a full Steering Committee on 21 February 2013. The General Assembly sat eight times. There have so far been 2 Resilience Summit meetings (Nairobi, 2011; and Kampala, 2014), attended by the Heads of State and Governments of countries in the IGAD region and senior representatives of development partners. The platform attracted an audience of diverse development partners, from UN Agencies to Civil Societies and NGOs. The regular platform meetings allow learning over time for collective actions and resource mobilisation for resilience and humanitarian actions.

Ten Years Journey of the IDDRSI Platform (Oct 2013 to October 2023)

IDDRSI is a fifteen-year initiative (2012-2027) currently in the fourth year of Phase 2 (September 2019 to August 2024). It provides a framework through which the key factors contributing to the region's instabilities and vulnerabilities can be analysed, understood, and comprehensively addressed.

Implementation of Phase 1 of IDDRSI (2013-2018), with a one-year extension, began with very high momentum and vengeance to end the drought emergency in the region. The mobilisation of resources from diverse stakeholders was unprecedented, about 1 billion USD at the end of the first phase. Resilience investment mobilised within the framework of the IDDRSI during Phase 2 is USD 220.7 million. Resource mobilisation by IGAD for the implementation of the regional strategy is USD 499.6 million, covering projects initiated from September 2019 and ending in 2026. This amount does not include the resilience investment expected from the agreement under negotiations or at an advanced stage.

The IDDRSI Platform was strongly supported by Development Partners organised under one umbrella, the Global Alliance for Action for Drought Resilience and Growth (GA in short), active from June 2012 to 2015.

Development Partners, including those that were members of the GA, individually continued their support to the resilience investment in the region, notable the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, USAID, and the German Government (BMZ, KfW, GIZ), EU, Denmark, Sweden, Swiss Development Cooperation. In addition, IDDRSI benefited from the technical assistance of UN agencies such as the FAO, UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, UNOCHA, and the CGIAR, mainly ILRI.

The IDDRSI Strategy is, perhaps, the best-crafted multi-sectoral and multi-year strategy that won the attention of the Member States and Development Partners for a decade. The development of IDDRSI benefited from the technical inputs of development partners that knew the genesis of IGAD and its mission, which is aimed at mitigating the effects of recurrent droughts and other natural disasters.

With increasing hazards in the region, coupled with COVID-19 that affected the already weak economic basis of a fragile region, a concerted effort of development partners in mobilising resilience investment to the scale to implement the IDDRSI strategy would have been the right action, which was one of the critical gaps during the Phase 2 of IDDRSI.

With the emergence of a new partnership in 2019 under the umbrella of the Horn of Africa Initiative (HoAI), there is strong hope to bring development partners together for resilience investment that is commensurate with the scope of the problem in the region, particularly in the ASALs, where IDDRSI and its partners have already laid a good foundation during the last ten years.

Meetings of the IDDRSI Platform, 22-27 November 2023

The IGAD Secretariat plans to convene meetings of the IDDRSI Platform (Steering Committee and General Assembly) to mark the Tenth Anniversary of IDDRSI, receive reports on the progress being made in the implementation of IDDRSI throughout the IGAD region and discuss the plans and provide concrete recommendations for consolidating and institutionalising the gains achieved over the past decade as the initiative moves into the last phase of the programme.

The 16th meeting of the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee and the 9th General Assembly of the IDDRSI Platform will be held in Entebbe, Uganda, from 22-23 November and 24 November 2023, respectively, with arrangements for online participation for those unable to travel to Uganda. The theme of the 16th IDDRSI Platform meetings is *Consolidate the Path to Resilience and Sustainability: Lessons Learned from a journey of ten years*.

Objectives of the Tenth IDDRSI Anniversary

1. Take stock and showcase the achievements made under the IDDRSI Platform from January 2014 to October 2023.
2. Identify significant challenges for broader impacts in the arid and semi-arid lands of the region.
3. Provide salient recommendations to improve the future strategic direction of IDDRSI, Regional Programming Paper, and Country Programming Papers for the remaining period of IDDRSI (2024 to 2027).
4. Generate further interest and increased support from development partners and the private sector to the IDDRSI at national and regional levels.

The IGAD Executive Secretary will chair the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee meeting on 22-23 November 2023, which will be opened by the minister in charge of coordinating the drought resilience platform in Uganda. The minister will also open and chair the IDDRSI Platform General Assembly on 24 November 2023.

During the Steering Committee meeting, the IGAD Secretariat (IDDRSI Platform Coordination Unit) will present a report on implementing the recommendations made in the previous meeting. In addition, there will be updates on the regional platform, the status of food security in the region and future directions by IGAD and development partners. Thus, representatives of IGAD Member States will make presentations on the progress of CPPs during the last ten years. Development Partners will also make their experience of supporting resilience building in the region, with achievements and challenges and lessons learned from implementing resilience projects and humanitarian actions. The observations, recommendations and conclusions of the Steering Committee will be recorded in the form of a communique for presentation to the IDDRSI Platform General Assembly meeting on the 24 of November, 2023. The General Assembly is expected to discuss, enrich, and endorse the recommendations for implementation.