



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

**IGAD REGIONAL ACTION THROUGH DATA (RAD)
Expert technical working group and Steering Committee Meeting
23rd – 26th of June; 2021, in Mombasa, Kenya**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXPERT TWG MEETING 23RD – 24TH JUNE, 2021

During the discussion of the meeting, number of issues were underlined and noted by Expert TWG members from member states. These are including:

1. Benefits of regional collaboration and harmonization on reliable data sharing practices;
2. The need to facilitate sharing of health data between the Member States in-order to promote continuity of services across borders and to improve surveillance system in the member states;
3. The need to harmonize data sharing policies in the member states with special focus on cross border health data sharing policies;
4. Necessity to regulate laws on data protection and ensure confidentiality of data across Member States;
5. Having proactive measures to improve future practices of cross-border health-related data sharing and
6. The need of IGAD to expedite the process of implementation of IGAD Regional Health Data Sharing and Protection Policy.

Considering on the above-mentioned issues, the Experts Technical Working Group strongly recommends the following:

1. IGAD should come up with proposed actions to fast track the implementation on of IGAD Regional Health Data Sharing and Protection Policy;
2. IGAD should provide special consideration in terms of capacity building countries with inadequate data protection and sharing system;

3. The partnerships among IGAD/RAD, GIZ, RAD consortium and other partners concerned with information sharing and data protection harmonisation programs should be strengthened.
4. Experts and TWG recommend for the Steering committee to endorse;
 - a) IGAD regional data sharing and protection policy
 - b) IGAD regional data sharing and protection policy implementation guide
 - c) IGAD regional data sharing and protection policy metrics
5. Build the capacity for RAD/IGAD, Member States to ensure effective coordination and implementation of the policy implementation;
6. Member states, development partners, and other stakeholders to provide support effective implementation and domestication of IGAD Regional Health Data Sharing and Protection Policy.
7. Member States, to commit to ratification and domestication of the IGAD Regional Health Data Sharing and Protection Policy
8. Member States, to commit to inclusive participation in the implementation process for the IGAD Regional Health Data Sharing and Protection Policy
9. IGAD, to commit to provide technical assistance and financial support
10. IGAD and Member States to commit to resource mobilization for implementing the IGAD Regional Health Data Sharing and Protection Policy
11. Regular sharing of data on SDGs and Agenda 2063 and other global commitments
12. IGAD should lead the implementation of these recommendations and the establishment of in-country coordination body;
13. Member states appreciate the financial support from USAID through the RAD project
14. Upcoming and planned 3rd steering committee of RAD meeting to be held as from 18th – 19th August, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Done on June 24, 2021 in Mombasa, Kenya