



Navigating Challenges,
Advancing Regional Prosperity



ANNUAL REPORT
2023



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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List of Abbreviations

ACQF	Africa Continental Qualification Framework
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AfDB	African Development Bank
AIDA	Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa
AJS	Alternative Justice System
ARII	Africa Regal Integration Index
ASALs	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
AU	African Union
AUABC	African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption
BIAT	Boosting Intra-Africa Trade
CBMPs	Cross-Border and Moving Populations
CDMS	Climate Data Management Software
CEWARN	Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism
CHWs	Community Health Workers
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
DHO	District Health Office
DOC	Disaster Operations Centre
DRDIP	Development Response to Displacement Impacts Projects
EAREP	East Africa Regional Energy Project
ECW	Education Cannot Wait
ERP	Education Response Plan
FSRP	Food System Resilience Programme
GCR	Global Compact for Refugees
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
GWIS	Groundwater Information System
HDP	Humanitarian Development Peace
HSD	Health and Social Development
ICEN	IGAD Centre of Excellence in Nutrition
ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre
IDDRSI	IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience Sustainability Initiative
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JRC	Judicial Reform Committee



LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LeNNS	Learning Network on Nutrition Surveillance
LHSS	Local Health Systems Sustainability
LITS	Livestock Identification and Traceability Systems
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoU	Memoranda of Understanding
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MSU	Mediation Support Unit
NCAC	National Constitution Amendment Committee
NCM	National Coordination Mechanisms
NFGs	National Focal Groups
NGWCS	National Groundwater Centres
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
NMR	Neonatal Mortality Rate
NRI	National Research Institutions
PAP	Political Affairs programme
PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
PIDA	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
PPR	Peste des Petits Ruminants
PRM	Participatory Rangeland Management
PSCM	Peace and Security Coordination Mechanism
RCP	Regional Consultative Process
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RGWC	Regional Groundwater Centre
RMCC	Regional Migration Coordination Committees
RPSC	Regional Project Steering Committee
RSF	Rapid Support Forces
RSRI	Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative
SAF	Sudanese Armed Forces
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Standards
SRDs	Minor Ruminant Diseases
STMP	Sustainable Tourism Master Plan
TADs	Transboundary Animal Diseases
TOT	Trainers of Trainers
TST	Transnational Security Threats
UHC	Universal Healthcare Coverage
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

“

The year 2023 was marked by several important achievements for IGAD, which continued to complement Member States' efforts in achieving peace, security and prosperity in the region.



Foreword by IGAD Executive Secretary

I am pleased to present to you the 2023 annual report of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

In 2023, IGAD continued to make significant strides in advancing our strategic goals amidst a complex backdrop of geopolitical tensions, economic fluctuations, and climatic variations. The year was marked by substantial achievements across our core pillars of agriculture, environment, economic cooperation, peace and security, health, and social development. As we reflect on the year's progress, it is crucial to recognise the collective efforts of our Member States, development partners, and stakeholders that have been instrumental in these accomplishments.

IGAD has been pivotal in addressing food security challenges exacerbated by climatic changes and economic pressures. Our multifaceted approach included boosting agricultural productivity, enhancing animal health, and improving resilience against transboundary animal diseases. Notably, the implementation of advanced veterinary services and support for the fisheries sector has helped to stabilise food sources in vulnerable regions, contributing significantly to regional food security. Our efforts in the sustainable management of natural resources have been bolstered by initiatives to improve the governance of transboundary water resources and promote sustainable land management practices. These initiatives have contributed to enhanced environmental conservation and community resilience against natural disasters.

Our commitment to combating environmental degradation and climate change saw progressive actions, including adopting innovative technologies for disaster risk management. Establishing the High-Performance Computing facility has notably enhanced our climate modelling capabilities, enabling more accurate weather forecasts and timely dissemination of climate information, which are critical for agricultural planning and disaster preparedness.

IGAD has actively promoted regional economic integration through significant infrastructure projects and policy harmonisation. This includes enhancing cross-border trade and energy cooperation. Our efforts in streamlining trade procedures and facilitating smoother border crossings have resulted in increased trade flows and strengthened economic ties among Member States, fostering a more integrated and economically diverse region.

In the realm of peace and security, IGAD has effectively utilised its platforms to mediate conflicts and promote diplomatic engagements. Our conflict early warning systems have been crucial in preempting and managing conflicts, thereby maintaining regional stability. Furthermore, initiatives to strengthen governance and institutional capacities have laid a stronger foundation for sustainable peace and security across the region.

Significant efforts were made to ensure that social development and inclusion are at the forefront of our programmes. Initiatives aimed at empowering women, youth, and marginalised communities have been scaled up, resulting in greater participation and equitable access to resources and opportunities across the region. Our health initiatives have focused on enhancing the capacity of health systems to manage and respond to public health emergencies. The regional strategies deployed have improved surveillance, response to infectious diseases, and overall public health preparedness, which are vital in a region prone to health crises.

IGAD continued to champion gender equality and youth empowerment. Initiatives to engage women in economic activities and decision-making processes have been impactful, fostering inclusivity and social equity throughout the region.

IGAD's efforts to strengthen partnerships and international collaborations have been noteworthy. Strategic alliances with various international stakeholders have been revitalised, amplifying the impact of regional programmes and projects. These collaborations have not only enhanced capacity building but also ensured that IGAD's interventions are sustainable and aligned with global development goals.

Financially, IGAD has maintained a robust and accountable financial system. Our commitment to transparency and effective management has ensured that the funds and resources entrusted to us are utilised efficiently and effectively. The financial strategies employed this year have not only maximised resource utilisation but also attracted further funding from international donors, enhancing our operational capacity to deliver our mandates.

As we move into 2024, IGAD is poised to build on the past year's successes while adapting to emerging global and regional challenges. Our focus will remain on enhancing the resilience of our communities, promoting sustainable development, and deepening regional integration for the prosperity and stability of the IGAD region.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our Member States, partners, and all stakeholders for their unwavering support and commitment to the IGAD mission. Together, we are progressing towards a more integrated, prosperous, and peaceful region. This foreword captures the essence of our collective journey in 2023, reflecting our resilience, dedication, and optimism. We invite our partners and stakeholders to continue this journey with us as we strive to achieve more inclusive and sustainable development for all our people.



Workneh Gebeyehu (PhD)

Executive Secretary

IGAD Secretariat

Acknowledgement

The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has worked with stakeholders whose consolidated effort has resulted in the successful completion and production of this Annual Report 2023.

First, IGAD Secretariat acknowledges the support of its Member States (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda). Special appreciation goes to the IGAD Policy Organs (Assembly of Heads of State and Government, Council of Ministers and the Committee of Ambassadors) for their continued support to the Authority in the implementation of her mandate.

In a special way, IGAD acknowledges H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, the IGAD Executive Secretary, and the senior management team whose leadership and strategic guidance has contributed significantly to the execution of the mandate of the Authority.

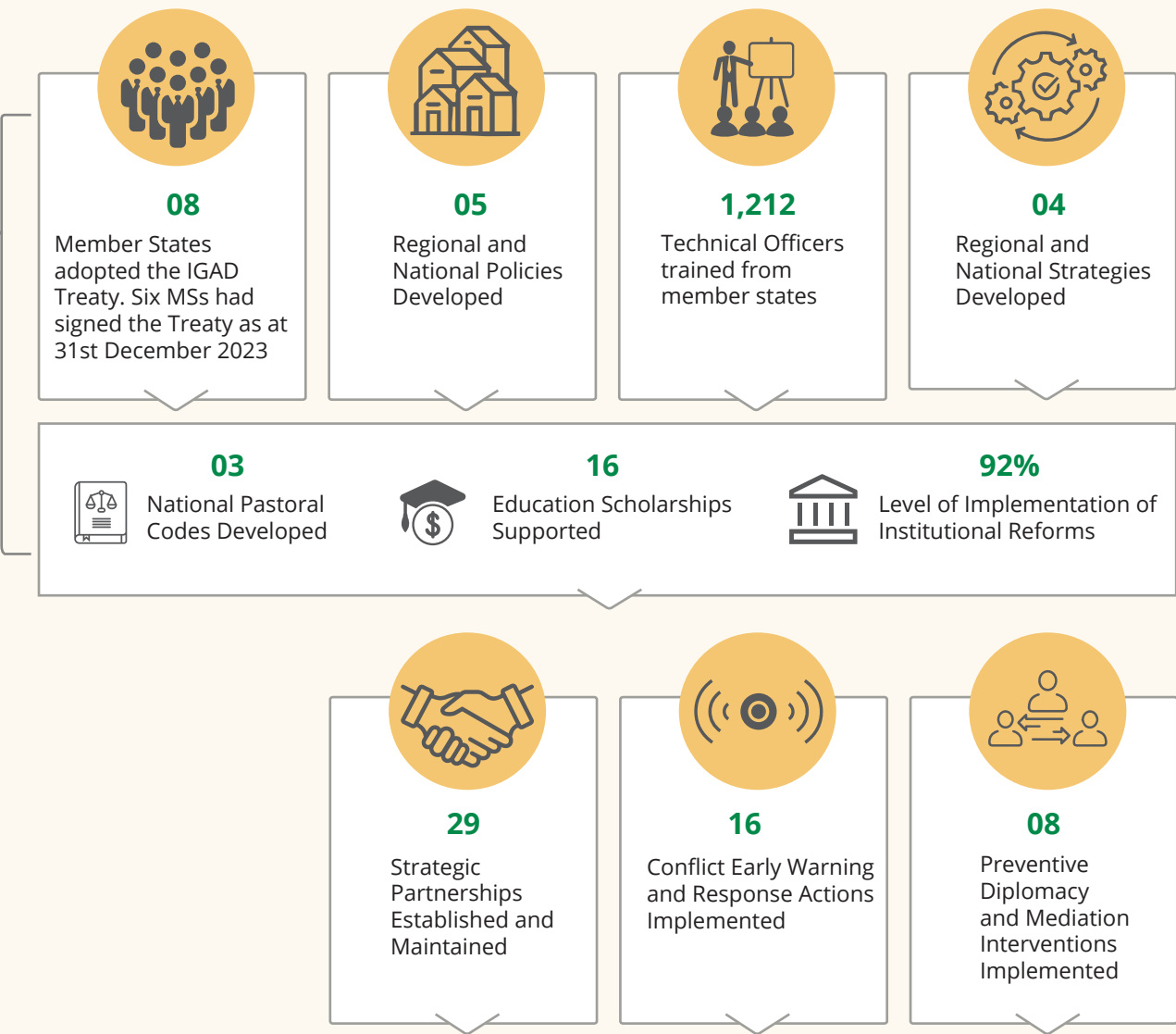
IGAD is grateful to all its development partners for the financial and technical support rendered towards the implementation of programmes and projects, and production of this Report.

Finally, IGAD Secretariat highly appreciates the drafting team members and all its Staff whose participation was critical to the successful completion of this Report.

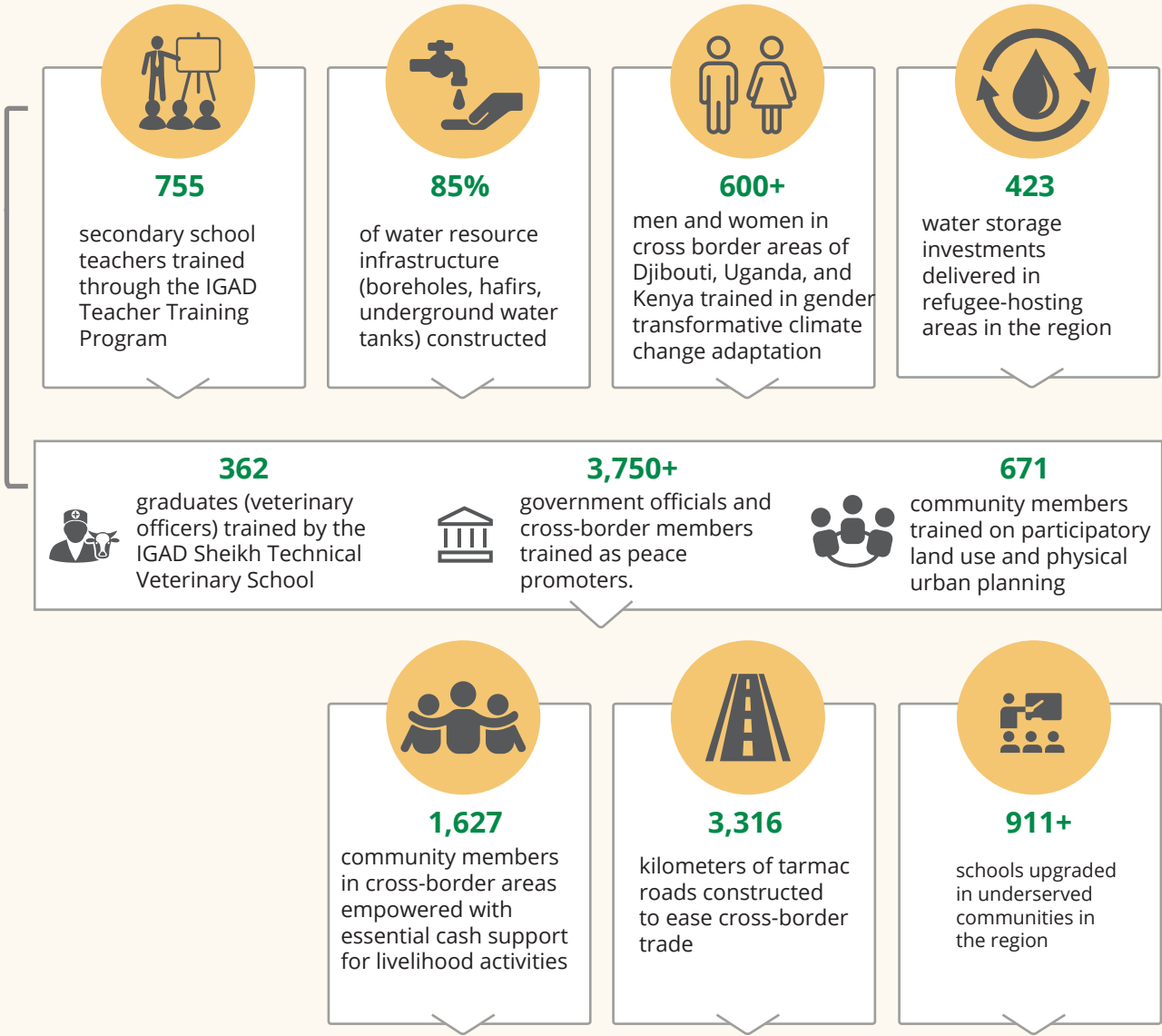
Commitment to Results in 2023

The year 2023 was marked by several important achievements and milestones for IGAD, which continued to complement Member States’ efforts in achieving peace, security and prosperity in the region.

Corporate Performance



Sector Performance Tracking







Executive Summary



In line with its strategic priorities, and in collaboration with its member states and development partners, IGAD continued to deliver transformative programmes, projects and interventions in the areas of: agriculture, livestock and blue economy; regional integration; health and social development and; peace and security. In addition, a number of corporate development services were implemented to facilitate the delivery of the Secretariat's mandate

Executive Summary

This Annual Report presents the highlights of IGAD's programmatic and financial performance and results for the year 2023.

In line with its strategic priorities, and in collaboration with its member states and development partners, IGAD continued to deliver transformative programmes, projects and interventions in the areas of: agriculture, livestock and blue economy; regional integration; health and social development and; peace and security. In addition, a number of corporate development services were implemented to facilitate the delivery of the Secretariat's mandate.

During the reporting period, IGAD made significant investments towards increasing production and productivity of agriculture and livestock in the region that have since significantly enhanced member states' capacities in the areas of: prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and zoonosis; enhancing animal health (disease control) and trade; enhancing human resource capacity in the areas of livestock and drylands; strengthening animal disease information sharing; enhancing adoption of technology to improve livestock and agricultural production and; strengthening development and domestication of regional policies to improve production and productivity and promote transhumance.

Additionally, IGAD continued to contribute to strengthening the management and utilisation of aquatic resources and harnessing transboundary ecosystems in the region through development and validation of National Blue Economy

Strategies for Djibouti, Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. In order to fully understand the dynamics of blue economy resources, IGAD conducted several studies, assessments and trainings on different thematic areas, which culminated in a regional knowledge share fair on the Blue Economy in the region. As part of its food system resilience program, IGAD developed and validated two crucial strategies on post-harvest loss management and food safety and also continued to implement its Regional Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Strategy aimed to boost the competitiveness of agricultural and livestock commodities and intra-regional trade.

In order to enhance sustainable management of natural resources and the environment, IGAD delivered several interventions that, included: strengthening regional capacity in gender-responsive land policies and regulatory frameworks; working with member countries, Local Governments and Communities to address the root causes of land degradation and low productivity; establishing efficient mechanisms to manage land use related conflicts and providing instruments to enable pastoral mobility in cross-border areas.

During the review period, IGAD through its Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) successfully installed, trained, and operationalised the Climsoft Climate Data Management Software (CDMS) for the Sudan Meteorological Authority (SMA); enhanced climate visualisation tools, including the East Africa Hazards Watch (EAHW); enhanced the capacity of National Meteorological



and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) through a series of workshops and; supported the production of climate products to increase availability, access and use of climate services and to guide disaster risk management action in member states. IGAD also implemented and supported several initiatives to boost Member States' capacities on Sustainable Management of Desert Locusts and other Transboundary Pests in the IGAD Region.

In pursuit of its regional integration priorities, IGAD continued to deliver strategic interventions to support member states in the areas: operationalization of IGAD's regional trade policy; supporting to AfCFTA domestication and capacity building for member states in trade facilitation. These interventions are expected to significantly contribute to boosting intra-regional trade.

In order to address the health and social development challenges in the region, IGAD invested significant resources in scaling up health systems to improve access to equitable health services for enhanced pandemic preparedness, disease surveillance, and monitoring. In addition, IGAD catalogued all IGAD regional health policies and identified the challenges with the adoption and domestication of these policies at the Member States' levels. Through its Centre of Excellence on Nutrition, IGAD drafted a nutrition surveillance curriculum for higher education programmes and also established an eight-member community of practice on nutrition surveillance (Learning Network on Nutrition Surveillance (LeNNS)). The LeNNS comprises of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Somalia, Djibouti, Malawi and Zambia.

Regarding the social development sector, several impactful projects were implemented

which contributed to strengthening governance systems and architecture for migration and displacement in the region; establishment of a free movement of persons and transhumance regime; strengthening member states' capacities in migration data systems; harmonization of remittance policies and frameworks; prevention of climate-induced disaster displacement; enhancing evidence-based decision making on migration and displacement; enhancing education access and; operationalization of the regional migration fund.

In 2023, IGAD implemented several Peace and Security (P&S) interventions towards promoting peace, security and stability in the region. The interventions were in the areas of: strengthening early warning data capabilities; conflict profiling and production of early warning products; development of a national mediation strategy for Somalia; contributing to the Ethiopian peace process; strengthening mechanisms to address transnational security threats, preventing and countering violent extremism, supporting the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden efforts, post-conflict reconstruction and development and; enhancing good governance and democratization.

In line with its resolve to strengthen the institutional capacity to effectively deliver its mandate, IGAD continued to execute a number of reforms, including: strengthening the functionality of the planning, budgeting and monitoring system (PBMS), deepening international cooperation and strategic partnerships, boosting evidence-based decision making, and through other special initiatives on taking IGAD to the people and increasing traction towards gender equality and women's empowerment.



A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a wooden staff. The hand is dark-skinned and is positioned on the left side of the frame. The staff is light-colored wood and extends diagonally across the lower half of the image. The background is a blurred, textured surface, likely a thatched roof, in warm brown tones. A green rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the title text.

Introduction and Background

Credit: ICARD Secretariat

A person is sitting in a dugout canoe on a calm body of water. The person is holding a long wooden pole. The water is very still, reflecting the sky and the person. In the background, there are green hills and mountains under a blue sky with white clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Credit: DuckDuckGo

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is one of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of the African Union. The IGAD region stretches over an area of 5.2 million square kilometres that comprises Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The region has 6,960 kilometres of coastline with the Indian Ocean, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Tadjoura and the Red Sea

FIGURE 1 MAP OF IGAD



Approximately 70 to 75 per cent of the IGAD region is made up of arid and semi-arid lands, which receive less than 600 mm of rainfall annually.

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

Approximately 70 to 75 per cent of the IGAD region is made up of arid and semi-arid lands, which receive less than 600 mm of rainfall annually. The rest of the region has a great variety of climates and landscapes including cool highlands, swamp areas, tropical rainforests and other features typical of an equatorial region. The region possesses diverse ecosystems and agro-ecological zones at different altitudes ranging from 150 metres below sea level (Dalul) to about 4,600 metres above sea level (Mount Kenya).

Historical Background

Recurrent and severe droughts and other natural disasters between 1974 and 1984 caused widespread famine, ecological degradation and economic hardship in the Horn of Africa. Despite substantial efforts by individual countries and international support, the magnitude of the problems necessitated a regional approach.

In 1986, the then drought-afflicted countries of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda (all located in the Horn of Africa) formed the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) with a mandate to coordinate and complement national efforts in combatting drought and desertification. Although IGADD was initially conceived to coordinate Member States' efforts to combat drought and desertification, it became increasingly apparent that the Authority provided a regular forum where leaders from the said countries could address other political and socio-economic challenges in a regional context.

Realising this, the Member States, at an ordinary summit in April 1995, resolved to expand the mandate of IGADD and made a declaration to revitalise IGADD with expanded areas of cooperation. On Mar. 21, 1996, in Nairobi, the Assembly of Heads of States and Government signed the 'Letter of Instrument to amend the IGADD Charter', establishing the revitalised regional body, with a new name, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). IGAD was then launched on Nov. 25, 1996, with its expanded mandate in the areas of regional cooperation and integration and social development, peace and security, humanitarian affairs and agriculture and environment protection.



The IGAD region stretches over 5.2 million square kilometres, with 6,960 kilometres of coastline and Approximately 70 to 75 per cent of arid and semi-arid lands.

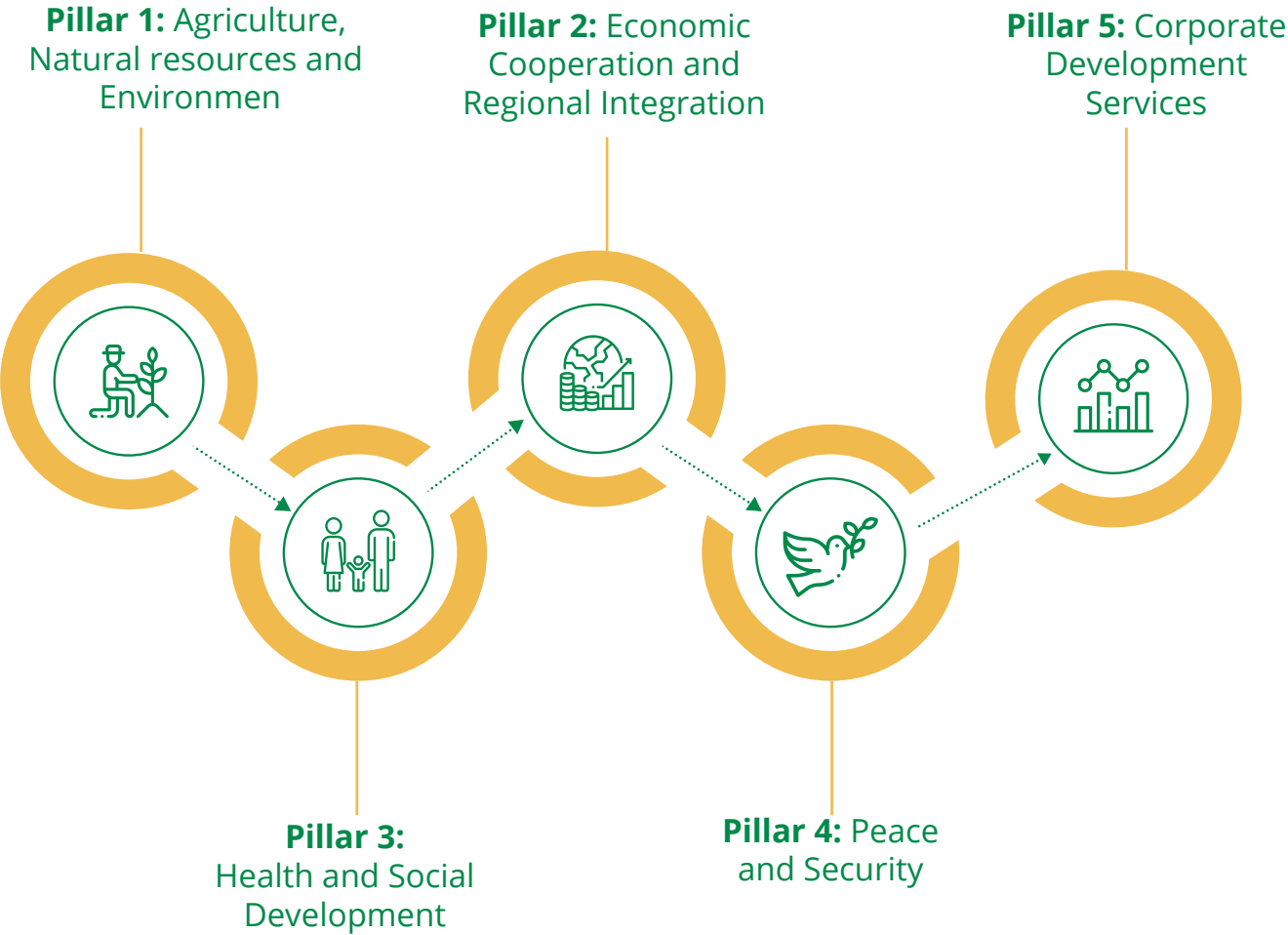


On Mar. 21, 1996 in Nairobi, the Assembly of Heads of States and Government signed the 'Letter of Instrument to amend the IGADD Charter' establishing the revitalized regional body, with a new name, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

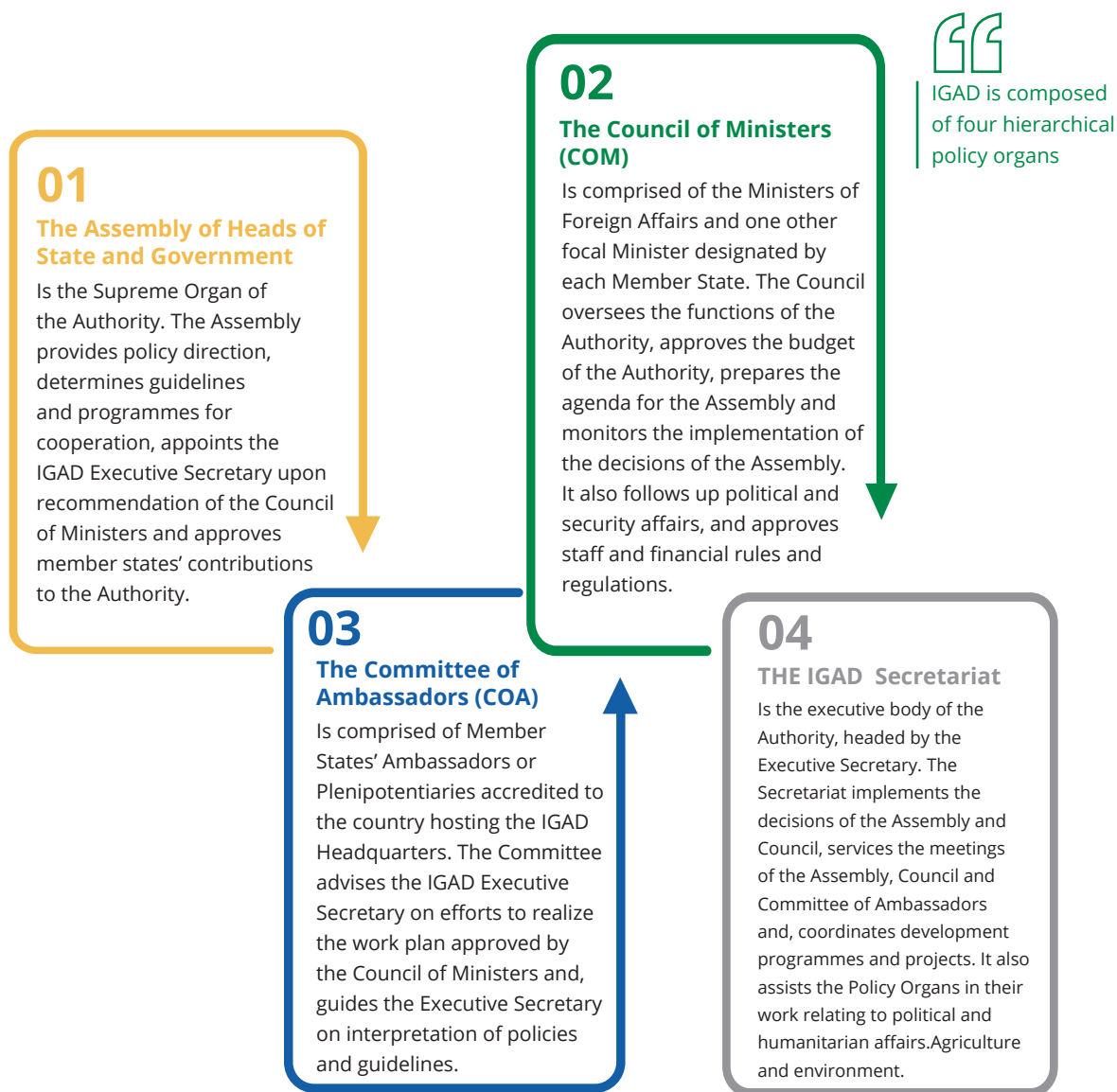


The Agreement Establishing IGAD identifies a number of areas of cooperation among Member States, which are clearly highlighted in the five (5) pillars of the IGAD Regional Strategy (2021-2025) as below:

FIVE (5) PILLARS OF THE IGAD REGIONAL STRATEGY



IGAD's Regional Strategy (2021-2025) and its implementation plan serve as a comprehensive development blueprint, guiding the programmes' priority areas and aligning them to emerging development and political issues in the region.



IGAD VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

Vision:



A resilient, Peaceful, Prosperous and integrated region where citizens enjoy high quality of life

Mission:



Promote regional cooperation and integration to add value to Member States' efforts in achieving peace, security and prosperity

CORE VALUES



- Integrity And Trust
- Commitment To Service
- Partnerships
- Innovation And Continuous Improvement
- Performance Accountability
- Coordination
- Transparency
- Professionalism
- Teamwork

Credit: Freepik

A photograph of two women in traditional headwraps working in a coffee field. The woman on the left is in the foreground, wearing a black headwrap with a colorful patterned band and a blue cloth draped over her shoulder. She is looking down at a coffee branch. The woman on the right is wearing a green headwrap and a black shirt with yellow and blue floral patterns. They are both looking at a coffee branch with green and red cherries. The background shows a blue sky with white clouds and green leaves.

Socio-Economic Characteristics of the IGAD Region

Credit: Shutterstock





Credit: Freepik

Total population
of the IGAD
region in 2010

↑
207.5
million

It is projected that 400
million people will be living
in the region by 2050

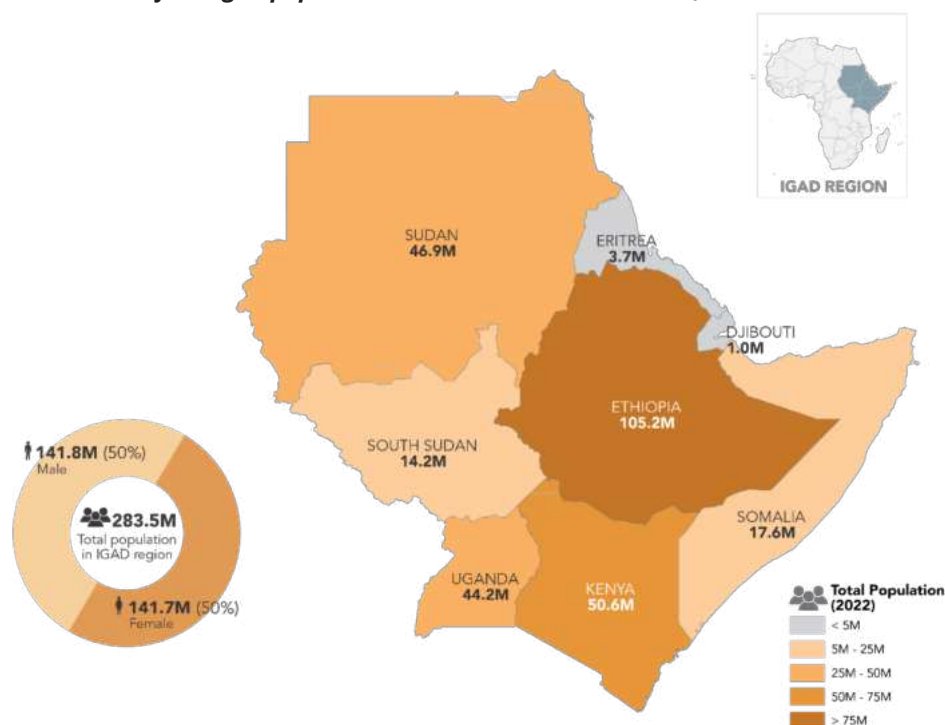
400
million

2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE IGAD REGION

Population

The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development comprises eight diverse countries with varied economic structures and agro-ecological zones. The Member States include Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The populations also vary, with Ethiopia being the most populous country in the region while Djibouti has the smallest share of the region's population. The total population of the IGAD region in 2010 was 207.5 million. This population has steadily increased over the last decade to an estimated 283.5 million in 2022. It is projected that 400 million people will be living in the region by 2050, and more than 55 per cent of this population will be relatively young (below 20 years). This population growth, coupled with the disproportionate age structure in favour of the youthful population, is expected to be an asset but may be a liability depending on the transformation that the region adapts in terms of inclusive development, governance and food security.

Map 1: distribution of the igad population across the member states, 2022



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

Source: IGAD Member States NSOs

In 2022, the average life expectancy at birth across the IGAD region stood at 62 years. Eritrea and Sudan had the highest life expectancies in the region at 67 and 66 years, respectively. Somalia and South Sudan reported the lowest life expectancies in 2022 at 56 years each¹.

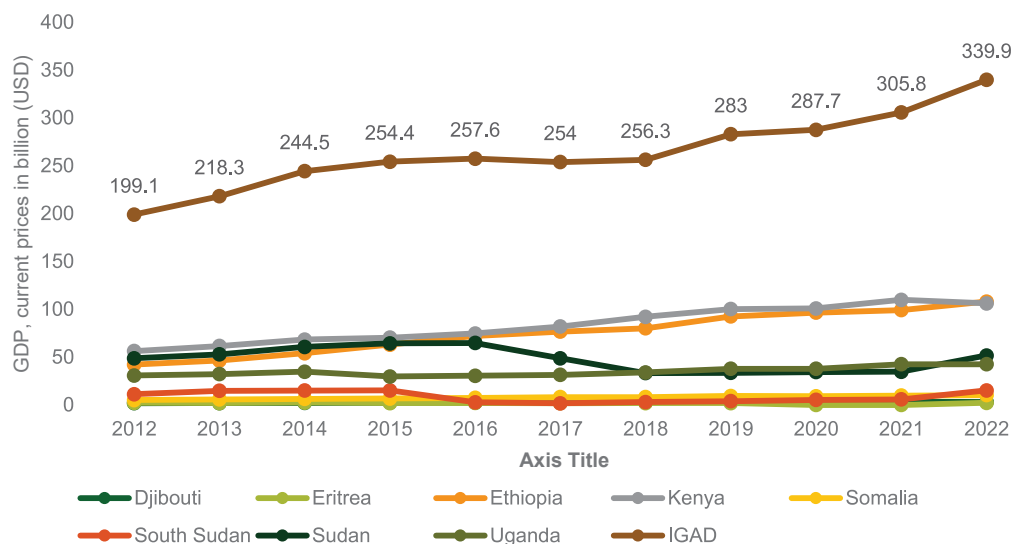
Poverty and the Economic Situation

Most IGAD Member States belong to the world's Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and share similar economic growth rates. Despite vast natural and human resources, the region remains one of the world's poorest. Albeit slow, it has recently demonstrated reasonable progress in its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth. IGAD's nominal GDP growth was reported at 11% in 2022, an increase from the previous number of 6% for 2021. Growth in nominal GDP means growth in economic activities in IGAD, attributed to an increase in quantity or price. As of 2022, Ethiopia was ranked first, with the largest economy in the IGAD region, ahead of Kenya. Ethiopia recorded the highest GDP in current prices, estimated at 108.1 (Billions of U.S. dollars), followed by Kenya, estimated at 106.3 (Billions of U.S. dollars). In contrast, Djibouti recorded the lowest GDP in current prices, estimated at 3.2 (Billions of U.S. dollars). The Human Development Index in most of the IGAD Member States is low, apart from Kenya, which is currently at a medium level. The low level might be attributed to widespread poverty and inadequate access to healthcare and other amenities.

IGAD's nominal GDP growth reported in 2022 **11%** GDP growth

Increase from the previous number of 2021 **6%** GDP growth

Figure 2: Trend in GDP Growth in the IGAD Member States, 2012-22 (US \$ Billions)

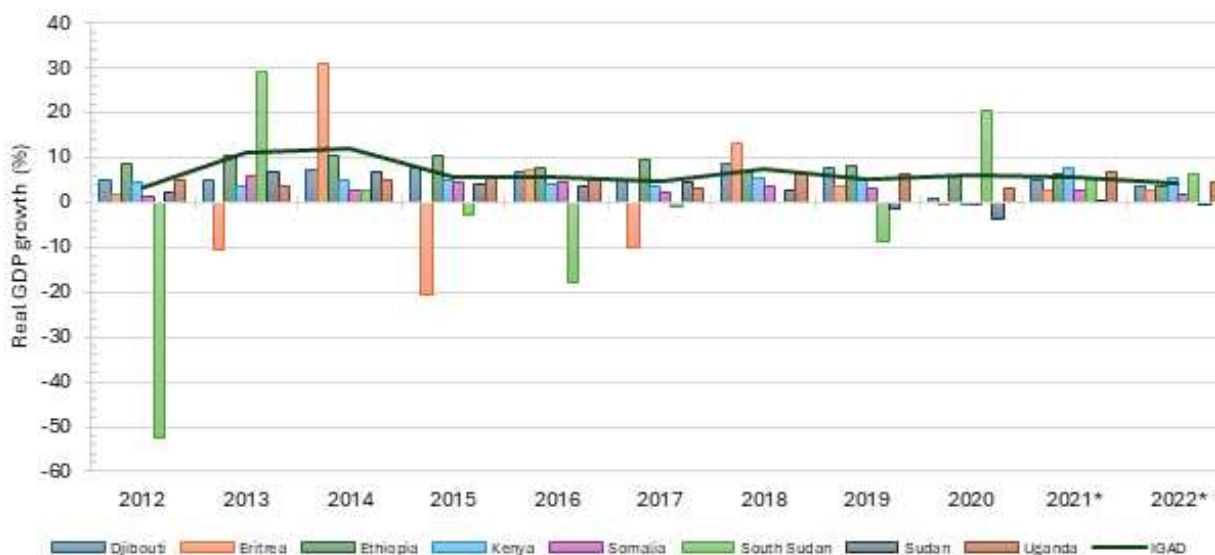


Source: IGAD Statistics Database

¹Source: IGAD Statistics Database

Due to the global economic shock caused by the pandemic, IGAD's real GDP growth rate was at its lowest value in 2022 compared to 2012. As a result of the economic slowdown in the IGAD region, Sudan posted negative growth (-0.3%) out of the eight IGAD member states in 2022. As of 2022, South Sudan had the highest real GDP growth rate, estimated at 6.5%, followed by Kenya at 5.4%.

Figure 3: Real GDP growth rate in the IGAD Member States, 2012-22 (%)



Source: ASYB 2021, * IMF

Table 1: GDP Per Capita for IGAD Member States (2022)

Country	Annual GDP 2022 (GDP, current prices (Billions of U.S. dollars)	GDP per capita (2022)	Human Development Index (HDI) ²
Djibouti	\$ 3.18	\$3136	0.509
Eritrea	\$2.37	\$644	0.492
Ethiopia	\$ 108.11	\$1028	0.498
Kenya	\$106.26	\$2099	0.575
Somalia	\$ 10.42	\$592	-
South Sudan	\$ 15.26	\$1072	0.385
Sudan	\$ 51.72	\$1102	0.508
Uganda	\$ 42.62	\$964	0.525
IGAD	\$339.94	\$1,199	-

Source: IGAD Statistics Database

²Source: <https://countryeconomy.com/countries/groups/intergovernmental-authority-development>

Employment

Changes in the working-age population's size can significantly impact the labour market and the economy. A growing working-age population provides opportunities for economic growth while simultaneously creating challenges for job creation and integration of new labour market entrants. By contrast, a shrinking working-age population creates challenges for economic growth, competitiveness, population dependency and other related challenges.

Notably, the proportion of the working-age population (15 years and older) expanded from about 58 per cent in 2010 to about 60 per cent in 2022, with six in ten persons in the IGAD region being within the working-age population in 2022. The working-age population stood at 169.7 million in 2022, having increased by about 41.5 per cent since 2010. There were relatively more females than males in the working-age population for the entire period under review. Women represented 50.4 per cent of the working-age population in 2022; this share has remained relatively unchanged for the entire period³.

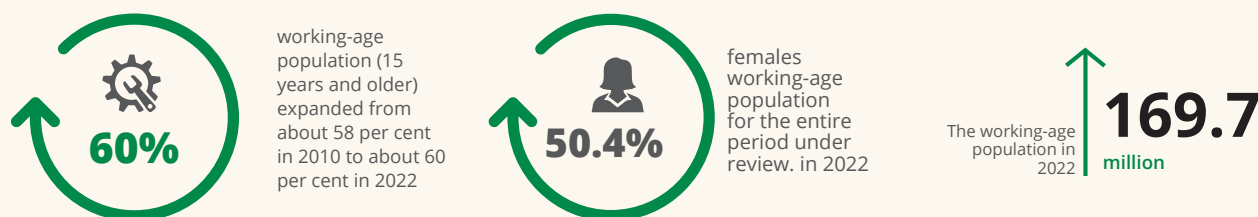
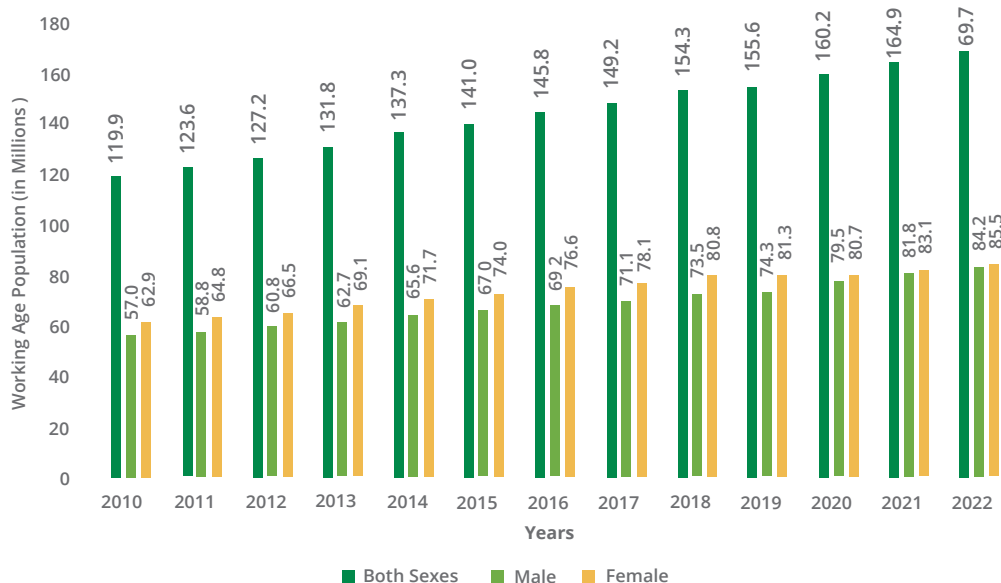


Figure 4: IGAD Working-Age Population, by Sex, 2010-2022 (Millions)



Source: IGAD Statistics Database

³Source: IGAD Migration Statistics Database

Food Security

Climatic shocks, conflict and insecurity, and poor macroeconomic conditions, among other shocks and stressors, converged to drive alarming levels of acute food insecurity across the IGAD region in 2023. Between 46-58.4 million people across seven⁴ of the eight IGAD Member States either experienced a crisis or worse (IPC⁵ Phase 3 or above) levels of acute food insecurity or required immediate food assistance at any given time during the year. At the start of the year, unparalleled levels of acute food insecurity persisted, particularly in southern and south-eastern Ethiopia, the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of Kenya, and most parts of Somalia. Five consecutive seasons of below-average rains culminated in the region's longest and most severe drought recorded in recent history.

For crop farming households, the drought led to consecutive seasons of subpar harvests, adversely impacting food availability and income sources for many. This, in turn, put upward pressure on food prices, significantly curtailing households' purchasing power.

The drought devastated pastoral livelihoods, the key livelihood activity across many of the worst-affected areas. Extensive livestock deaths, estimated at 13.2 – 6.8 million in Ethiopia, 2.6 million in Kenya and 3.8 million in Somalia – were recorded due to a lack of water and pasture. Milk availability, the primary source of nutrition for young children, was severely limited as most animals ceased producing milk. Moreover, the poor body conditions of many of the remaining livestock limited their saleability, limiting households' access to income.

As of March 2023, an estimated 21.4 million – 11 million people in the drought-affected areas of Ethiopia, 5.4 million people in Kenya and 4.98 million people in Somalia – were estimated to be food insecure and in need of immediate food assistance due to the drought. A projected famine did not materialise in Somalia due to scaled-up humanitarian assistance. However, improved rainfall during the 2023 March-May rainfall benefited cropping activities and supported improved livestock body conditions and production, thus bringing some relief from the impacts of the drought. .

In the second half of the year, the presence of El Niño conditions in the tropical Pacific (since June 2023) brought both risks and opportunities for food security in the region. The northern regions of Ethiopia,



Between 46-58.4 million people across seven of the eight IGAD member states either experienced Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) levels of acute food insecurity or required immediate food assistance at any given time during the year



13.2

million

Extensive livestock death in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia in 2022.



As of March 2023, an estimated 21.4 million – 11 million people in the drought-affected areas of Ethiopia, 5.4 million people in Kenya and 4.98 million people in Somalia – were estimated to be food insecure and in need of immediate food assistance due to the drought.

including Afar, Amhara and Tigray, experienced a severe food crisis due to an El Niño-induced drought that led to a failed Meher harvest (following a below-average June-September rainfall season), poor pasture conditions and severe water shortages. In Tigray, the situation was particularly alarming, with more extreme food security outcomes being recorded and the most vulnerable households estimated to resort to negative coping strategies.

Meanwhile, in other parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda, heavy rains and flooding during the 2023 October-December (OND) rainfall season – attributed to the El Niño – resulted in the loss of lives and livelihoods, extensive population displacement, livestock deaths, and the destruction of farmlands and critical infrastructure. The southern and south-eastern parts of Ethiopia, coastal and northern Kenya, and the riverine and low-lying agro-pastoral zones of southern Somalia experienced the most significant impact, exacerbating pre-existing food insecurity challenges and making recovery even more difficult for those affected by the 2020-2023 drought. Overall, the above-average rains brought about positive prospects for food security due to improved water and pasture availability and expectations of favourable main and off-season harvests. However, it was anticipated that some severely affected areas, like Somalia's riverine regions and households severely affected by the 2020-23 drought, would continue to experience a crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+) levels of acute food insecurity.

Conflict and insecurity, both political and resource-based, continued to compromise food security across parts of the region, including in northern Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

In Tigray, conflict episodes were sporadic following the November 2022 peace agreement. Nonetheless, many households continued to face significant food consumption gaps due to eroded livelihoods, loss of assets, limited access to income-earning opportunities and exhaustion of coping mechanisms, given the long-term nature of the 2020-2022 northern conflict. The escalation of hostilities in Amhara since April 2023 further negatively impacted lives and livelihoods, deepening an already concerning food security situation. Limited humanitarian operations due to security concerns aggravated the situation.

In Somalia, armed conflict and insecurity drove population displacement and disrupted livelihoods, markets and economic activity. Meanwhile, localised conflict contributed to high levels of acute food insecurity in South Sudan, particularly in Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile and Warrap states.



Meanwhile, in other parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda, heavy rains and flooding during the 2023 October-December (OND) rainfall season – attributed to the El Niño – resulted in the loss of lives and livelihoods, extensive population displacement, livestock deaths, and the destruction of farmlands and critical infrastructure.

⁴Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda

⁵The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a set of standardised tools used to classify the severity of food insecurity using a five-phase scale, that is, Minimal (IPC Phase 1), Stressed (IPC Phase 2), Crisis (IPC Phase 3), Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe or Famine (IPC Phase 5)



The food crisis in Sudan intensified further as armed clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) spread to new areas, resulting in widespread population displacement and limited humanitarian access. Between July and September 2023, an estimated 20.3 million people, accounting for 42 per cent of Sudan’s population, faced crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 +) levels of acute food insecurity⁶. Furthermore, by the end of December 2023, about 7.4 million people had been forcibly displaced in Sudan due to the conflict – close to 5.9 million internally and 1.5 million into neighbouring countries, making it the largest internal displacement crisis globally⁷. Economically, the conflict worsened Sudan’s already fragile economy by paralysing the banking system, disrupting trade routes and supply chains, and causing damage to critical infrastructure. High food prices persisted as the Sudanese Pound (SDG) continued to depreciate, limiting the government’s capacity to import food and that of households to purchase.

faced Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 +) levels of acute food insecurity Between July and September 2023

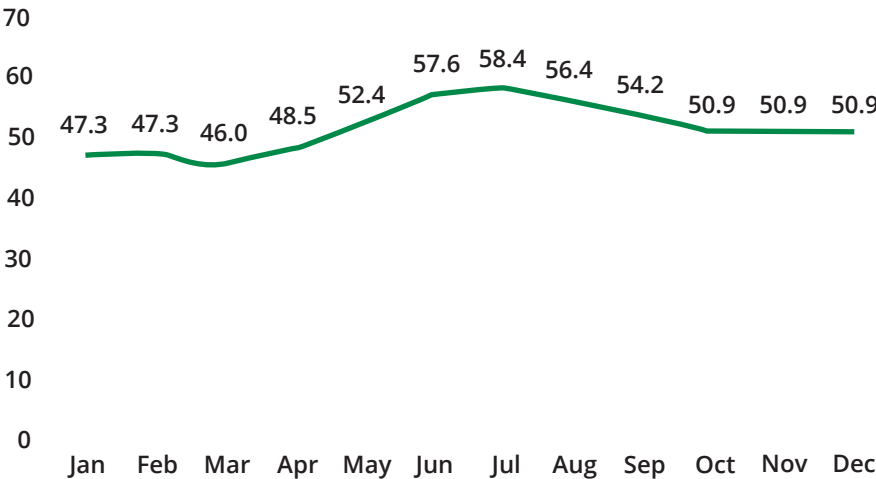
20.3 million

people had been forcibly displaced in Sudan due to the conflict

7.4 million

Across almost all the countries in the region, exceptionally high food prices, linked to high global food and fuel prices, and macroeconomic challenges, including high rates of inflation, local currency depreciation, and low foreign currency reserves, continued to limit food access. Though food prices declined compared to 2022, they were still higher than the recent five-year average.

Figure 5: Food Insecure Populations (numbers) in the region in 2023 (in millions)



Source: IGAD Food Security, Nutrition and Resilience Analysis Hub (IFRAH), 2023

⁶IPC. Sudan IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis June 2023-February 2024. August 2023
⁷IOM DTM. DTM Sudan Weekly Displacement Snapshot 15. January 2024

Health

Most IGAD Member States are low-middle-income countries with low health service coverage and high birth, mortality and morbidity rates. Within the IGAD countries, the health systems are at different levels. The health burden within the IGAD region disproportionately manifests across the countries. South Sudan, one of the IGAD countries, recorded the highest neonatal mortality rate (NMR) of 40 in 2021, while Uganda had the highest HIV incidence of 1.30 in 2021. Kenya and Somalia had the highest TB incidence, recording 251 per 100,000 population and 250 per 100,000 population, respectively. Uganda and South Sudan had the highest Malaria incidence, recording 284 per 1,000 population at risk and 275 per 1,000 population at risk, respectively.

Ensuring that a high proportion of births are attended by skilled health personnel is a critical component of improving maternal and newborn health outcomes. At the IGAD level, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel ranges from 32% to 78%, which is still below the global threshold of 84%.

Critical initiatives by Member States continue to include expanding Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC). Kenya, for example, has attained a UHC index of 53, followed by Uganda at 49, while Somalia and South Sudan recorded the lowest indexes of 27 and 34, respectively.



Most IGAD Member States are low-middle-income countries with low health service coverage and high birth



At the IGAD level, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel ranges from 32% to 78%, which is still below the global threshold of 84%.

Table 2: Summary of health indicators across IGAD Member states

Country	Neonatal mortality rate, 2021 (Per 1,000 live births)	Incidence of HIV per 1,000 uninfected adults, 2021	Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population, 2021	Universal Health Coverage Index, 2021 (0-100)	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%), 2013-2022	Malaria incidence (per 1000 population at risk, 2021) ⁸
Djibouti	30	0.13	204	44	-	70.5
Eritrea	17	0.06	74	45	-	25.7
Ethiopia	26	0.12	119	35	50	46.3
Kenya	18	0.73	251	53	70	64.5
Somalia	36	-	250	27	32	66.3
South Sudan	40	1.27	227	34	40	274.8
Sudan	27	0.07	58	44	78	72.8
Uganda	19	1.30	199	49	74	284.0

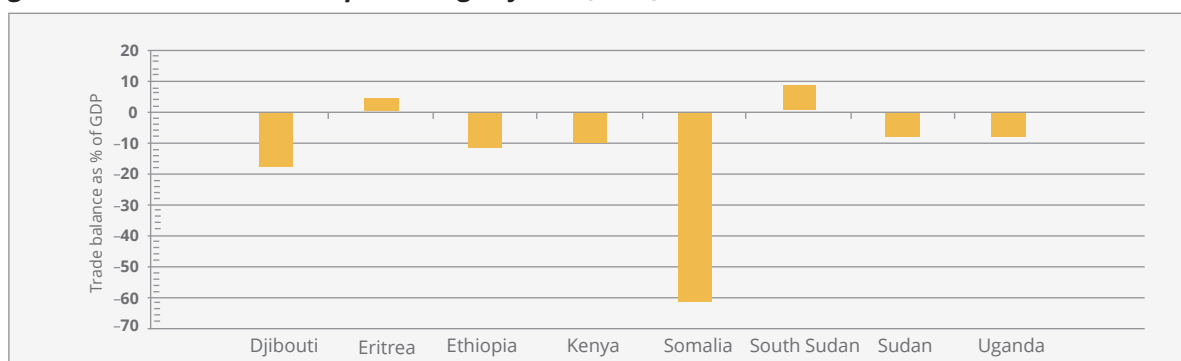
Source: WHO, 2023

IGAD Regional Integration: Trade

According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)'s Africa Regional Integration Index (ARII) of 2019, IGAD reaches a little under half of its potential for regional integration. IGAD scores highest on the dimension of free movement of people, as most of its members have committed to liberalising mobility on the continent. The productive dimension is where it has the most to improve. As a result, efforts on integrated production and trade are essential. Most IGAD member states recorded significant deficits in balance of payment between 2012 and 2022. As of 2022, only Eritrea and South Sudan had a surplus in trade balance among the IGAD member states⁹.

IGAD's dependence on international trade has increased significantly since 2012. Between 2012 and 2022, the IGAD region has recorded a consistent deficit in trade balance as a share of GDP, indicating more imports of commodities, capital and services than exports. The highest value was in South Sudan, 8.7%, indicating a trade surplus, and the lowest was in Somalia, -61.4%, indicating a trade deficit. As of 2021, only Eritrea had a surplus in the current account among the IGAD member states.

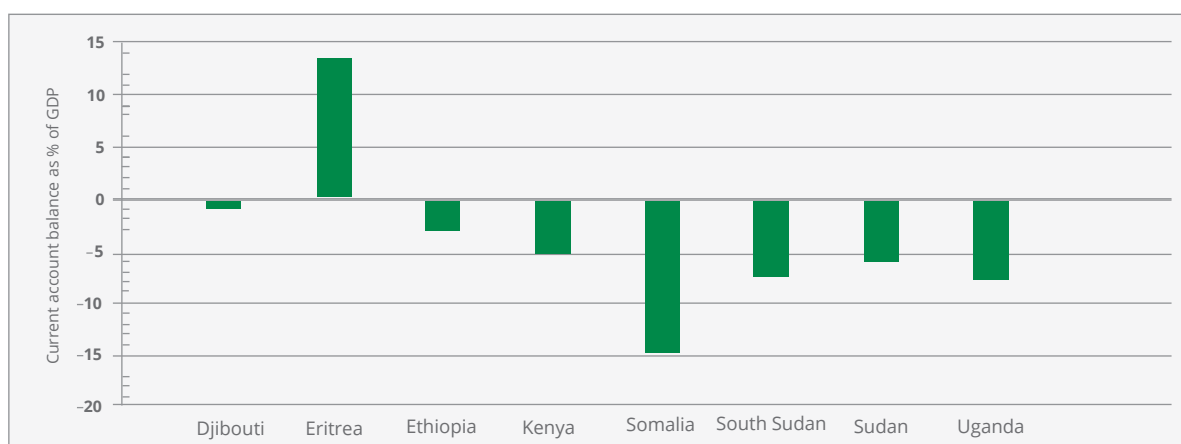
Figure 6: Trade Balance as a percentage of GDP (2022)



Source: AfDB 2022

Seven of the eight IGAD member states recorded deficits in Current account balance as a percentage of GDP, except Eritrea, which recorded a surplus in Current account balance as a percentage of GDP estimated at 13.5 per cent in 2021.

Figure 7: Current account balance as a percentage of GDP (2021)



Source: ASYB 2021

⁹Source: <https://www.who.int/data/gho/publications/world-health-statistics>

⁹External balance on goods and services (formerly resource balance) equals exports of goods and services minus imports of goods and services (previously nonfactor services).



A close-up photograph of a woman wearing a teal hijab, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She is holding two green bell peppers in her right hand. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green plants and a dirt path.

IGAD Performance and Results in 2023

Credit: IGAD Secretariat



IGAD PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS IN 2023

3. IGAD PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS IN 2023

In line with its strategic priorities, IGAD continued to make significant progress in delivering transformative programmes, projects and interventions in the areas of agriculture, livestock and blue economy; regional integration; health and social development; and peace and security.

This section presents the highlights of IGAD's programmatic and financial performance and results in 2023.

3.1 Transforming Capacities to respond to Food Crises

The IGAD region is currently facing an escalating food crisis, characterised by high prices and increasing hunger. Vulnerable communities are bearing the brunt of the effects, threatening regional food security. Multiple short- and long-term drivers continue to affect all food and nutrition security aspects. The El Nino rains of 2023, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, global food, fertiliser, and fuel prices remain elevated and at historic highs, with persistent domestic food price inflation, economic slowdowns, ongoing conflict and political unrest in some member states, and extreme weather events were some of the top concerns. Combined, these shocks drive rising hunger and poverty rates in the region.

In order to address these food and nutrition security challenges, IGAD supported and implemented various interventions that have contributed to increasing the production and productivity of agriculture, fisheries, aquatic sectors, and trade in the region. The IGAD's multisectoral response combines immediate actions to address emergencies and long-term investments to enhance resilience.



3.1.1 Increasing Production and Productivity of Agriculture and Livestock

In 2023, IGAD supported regional efforts to increase production and productivity of agriculture and livestock in the areas of prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and zoonosis; enhancing animal health (disease control) and trade; enhancing human resource capacity in the areas of livestock and drylands; strengthening development and domestication of regional policies in agriculture and livestock; increasing public and private sector investment in agriculture; increasing the productivity of fisheries and aquatic sectors in the region and; strengthening animal disease information sharing.

a) Supporting prevention and control of trans-boundary animal diseases (TADs) and zoonosis

IGAD implemented various interventions (including capacity building) to prevent, detect, and control transboundary animal diseases and zoonosis. TADs have the potential to cause catastrophic production losses (reduce herds and flocks dramatically), constrain international trade in livestock and livestock products (trade barriers and foreign exchange losses), add significantly to the cost of livestock production (costly disease control measures), and threaten food security. Therefore, prevention and control of TADs are a critical factor in increasing market access and facilitating trade. For example, during the 2020-2022 drought, the region witnessed high mortality of livestock (nearly 13.2 million), a drop in animal prices, loss of reproduction/ productivity and an increased burden of disease management due to high morbidity of transboundary animal diseases associated with livestock movement in search of pasture and water across international borders.



Control and management of TADs, including exclusion, requires cooperation between several countries. The following are some of the key outcomes achieved by IGAD during the reporting year.

a) Enhancing animal health (disease control) and trade:

IGAD continued to popularise the operationalisation of the bilateral and multilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) implementation framework on animal health (disease control) and trade along four cross-border clusters (Ethiopia-Kenya; Ethiopia-Djibouti; Ethiopia-Somalia; and Karamoja (Ethiopia-South Sudan, Kenya and Uganda) clusters. So far, the operationalisation of the signed cross-border





Credit: IGAD Secretariat

► Enhancing animal health in the region

MoUs has contributed to the synchronisation of animal health legislation and policy enforcement interventions undertaken in a coordinated manner.

Besides enhancing collaboration and service delivery in cross-border animal health, the MoUs have also contributed to the improved coordination and harmonisation of disease surveillance and vaccination calendars against common cross-border TADs, reduced duplication in animal health service delivery, reduction of TADs and zoonosis in the region

IGAD also supported various Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) initiatives that have contributed to the reduction of the impact of TADs and zoonosis and to the global eradication of PPR by 2030. PPR, also known as sheep and goat plague, and other key minor ruminant diseases (SRDs) are trade-sensitive diseases in the IGAD and EAC regions. IGAD strengthened the regional PPR eradication coordination committee by supporting regular meetings. The strengthening of the committee has resulted in increased resource mobilisation, partnership, vaccinations, stakeholders' engagement and multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination.

“

IGAD also supported various Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) initiatives that has contributed to the reduction of the impact of TADs and zoonosis and to the global eradication of PPR by 2030.

b) Enhancing human resource capacity in the areas of livestock and drylands.

During the reporting period, IGAD supported several trainings to enhance Member States' capacities in the areas of livestock and drylands. A total of 163 Member States experts (136 males and 27 females) were trained in various areas related to livestock and drylands. The trainings focussed on market promotion and trade linkages, import requirements, enhancing entrepreneurship capacity for livestock value chain actors, gender mainstreaming, enhancing compliance with export standards and enhancing collaboration in the livestock and meat trade

Table 3: Trainings delivered in areas of livestock and drylands

	Males	Females	Total
Operationalizing the Regional Camel Strategy	24	3	27
Gender mainstreaming for ICPALD staff	17	9	26
Strengthening collaboration in livestock and meat trade	18	3	21
Operationalizing the livestock marketing prototype App	16	5	21
Compliance with MENA sanitary standards for exports	15	1	16
	Males	Females	Total
AfCFTA benefits for trade counsellors in IGADMS's embassies	14	2	16
Market promotion, linkages and B2B for trade counsellors in IGAD MS's embassies	14	2	16
Study tour to Namibia for the private sector meat exporters and feedlot managers	11	2	13
Gender mainstreaming ToT for government officials	6	0	6

In addition, twenty-seven (27) member states' stakeholders were trained on operationalising the regional camel strategy. The operationalisation of the camel regional strategy would help boost camel sector production, productivity and trade.

c) Strengthening animal disease information sharing:

We facilitated the adoption of the animal disease information sharing protocol along the cross-border areas of Ethiopia-Djibouti and the Karamoja cluster (Ethiopia-South Sudan, Kenya, and Uganda). This has contributed to improved and timely sharing of animal disease information among border countries. These actions are anticipated to reduce disease outbreaks, enhance TAD control along the borders, increase livestock production and livestock products and trade.



d) Enhance adoption of technology to improve livestock and agricultural production.

To address the low level of adoption of livestock technology among pastoralists in the region, IGAD supported the development of a digital platform for livestock e-commerce aimed at connecting livestock buyers and sellers across borders through technology. The prototype App will offer small livestock farmers in rural areas a way to buy and sell their livestock online. To date, 21 (16 males and five females) buyers and sellers have been trained on how to use the prototype App in Kenya and some of the trainees have already indicated that the App has reduced some of the above challenges.

To enhance production of livestock in drylands, IGAD supported the adoption of improved livestock breeds by communities and farmers in the drylands (in three clusters of Mandera, Karamoja and Moyale) and reviewed the performance of businesses established along the fodder and livestock value chains.

e) Strengthening development and domestication of regional policies to improve production and productivity and promote transhumance.

IGAD supported the adoption, popularisation, ratification, and domestication processes of the Protocols on Free Movement of Persons and Transhumance and complementary measures to implement them. Also, IGAD supported drafting the national pastoral codes in three Member States (Kenya, Djibouti, and Uganda), developing a regional model pastoral law to guide IGAD countries, and drafting pastoral bills into laws. These interventions have since contributed to the protection and livelihoods of pastoralist communities in the region.



IGAD supported the development of a digital platform for livestock e-commerce aimed at connecting livestock buyers and sellers across borders through technology



IGAD supported drafting the national pastoral codes in three Member States (Kenya, Djibouti, and Uganda), developing a regional model pastoral law to guide IGAD countries, and drafting pastoral bills into laws

Credit: Shutterstock

IGAD supported a cross-border meeting on transhumance, peace, and security between Turkana (Kenya), West Pokot (Kenya), and Karamoja (Uganda). This initiative promoted peaceful pastoralism, preventing and resolving violence linked to cross-border transhumance in the Karamoja cluster. The meeting recommended community-led sustainable options in response to the Republic of Uganda President's Executive Order No. 3 of 2023, which limited the herders from Turkana from utilising the grazing and water resources.

3.1.2 Increasing Productivity of Fisheries and Aquatic Sectors in the Region

IGAD continues to contribute to strengthening the management and utilisation of aquatic resources and harnessing transboundary ecosystems in the region to achieve food-nutrition security, build resilience, generate employment and income for youth and women and propel economic growth in the region.

During the review period, IGAD implemented various interventions that have since yielded the following results:

a) Development of National Blue Economy Strategies:

IGAD supported the Member States – Djibouti, Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda – in developing and validating and promoting their National Blue Economy Strategies. The national Blue Economy strategies were aligned with Africa Union and IGAD Blue Economy strategies. The development, validation and endorsement processes were conducted in collaboration with the respective national focal Ministries coordinating the Blue Economy. Currently, IGAD is supporting the development

and mainstreaming of the National Blue Economy Strategies for all IGAD Member States into National Development Plans and investment plans for further financing.

As a result of the national validations, development partners have picked interest in supporting Member States in developing BE bankable projects. IGAD organised a consultative meeting on Somalia Blue Economy Implementation Framework and Sectoral Investment Plans. The Blue Economy Section of IGAD, the Federal Republic of Somalia and the African Development Bank (AfDB) participated in this consultative meeting. African Development Bank has supported the development of an investment framework and an investment plan to accelerate the implementation of the Somalia National Blue Economy Strategy. Ethiopia also received support from UNECA to make Blue Economy accounting studies based on the national Blue Economy strategy produced with the support of IGAD.

b) Knowledge Generation and Sharing on Blue Economy:

In order to fully understand the dynamics of blue economy resources, IGAD conducted several studies and assessments in selected Member States, which included:

- A gender analysis of the Blue Economy for IGAD Coastal Countries of Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan;
- A study to assess the status of marine biodiversity and its management in the region.
- An assessment of chemical and plastic pollutants in the coastal countries of Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, and Sudan. This study aimed to have an updated inventory of the types and quantities of chemicals and plastic pollutants



In addition, IGAD organised jointly with AU-IBAR and EU-funded Ecofish Programme a knowledge share fair on the Blue Economy in the region under the theme “Leveraging Blue Economy through efficient small-scale fisheries management and aquatic biodiversity conservation to build the Africa we want”, which brought together over 150 participants from all IGAD Member States and other countries. The share fair enabled Member States to disseminate knowledge on policy and programmatic issues in the blue economy sector in the region.

The knowledge-sharing fair has enhanced effective collaboration and cooperation through cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary and integrative dialogues, knowledge-sharing and utilisation

c) Trainings on blue economy resources:

IGAD supported several capacity-building and training efforts for Member States to harness blue economy resources in the region. The trainings included:

- Pot-harvest loss management for Lake Turkana Basin and the Baro-Akobo-Sobat River Basin communities. The regional training aimed at improving fish hygiene, value addition and marketing in both basins for market access and reduced post-harvest losses. A total of 29 fisheries

experts and fishing community members (8 women and 21 men) from the two basins were trained..

- In collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, IGAD supported a regional training on the Blue Economy Valuation Took Kit (BEVTK). This tool that helps countries evaluate the contribution of the Blue Economy to their national Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- Regional Youth Awareness Creation Training on Blue Economy and Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems. The training was attended by the National Focal Persons for Blue Economy in the IGAD Member States, Representatives from the Ministries responsible for youth affairs and Representatives from Ministries responsible for Gender. A total of 16 (10 men and six women) participated in this four-day training. It was a capacity-building event to create an understanding of the human-environment interaction and to create youth and women networks for sharing of best experiences

The trainings brought together fisheries experts and fishing community members, BE experts, and experts from the national planning departments.



3.1.3 Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary Systems in the Region

IGAD continued to implement its Regional Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Strategy aimed to boost the competitiveness of agricultural and livestock commodities and intra-regional trade. During the review period, IGAD implemented several interventions, the results of which included:

- **Strengthening SPS committees:**

IGAD facilitated a regional forum to strengthen and operationalise the regional Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Standards (SPS) committee to enhance compliance and promote livestock trade. The committees have supported the enhancement of compliance and promote livestock trade. The efforts are contributing to the IGAD region achieving an internationally competitive regional economic community that promotes shared prosperity and improved livelihoods for all its people by implementing effective, risk-based, harmonised SPS measures to facilitate safe regional and international trade.

- **Enhancing Animal Identification, Traceability Systems (LITS):**

IGAD documented the current status of LITS in IGAD Member States, including good practices and lessons. This would improve the supply of safe and quality livestock and meat exported from the region. IGAD assessed the legislation, database, devices, and coordination in four (4) Member States (Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda). This included documenting the LITS challenges, lessons, and recommendations and shared them with stakeholders.





Credit: Shutterstock

3.1.4 Strengthening Food and Nutrition Systems in the Region

IGAD implemented short-term responses to strengthen food systems, especially facilitating increased trade in food and agricultural inputs, supporting resilient livestock value chains, and better linking production and consumption centres. These efforts yielded the following significant results:

- **Strengthening market systems:**

IGAD invested in interventions that contributed to building resilient communities by strengthening market systems in the IGAD region. Investing in strengthened market systems is expected to improve resilience to shocks and stresses through increased income, improved production systems, increased food availability and livelihood diversity.

- **Enhancing entrepreneurship capacity for livestock value chain actors:**

IGAD conducted various capacity-building initiatives that increased livestock productivity and trade. The entrepreneurship capacities of dairy, beef, feed, honey bee, poultry and piggery value chain actors in some Member States were enhanced to strengthen livestock value chains. Uganda has cascaded the training it received from IGAD to lower-level stakeholders using its resources.

IGAD has also undertaken several strategic initiatives as part of its ongoing commitment to fortifying agricultural resilience and ensuring food security within the IGAD region.

- **Initiating the 4th Biennial Review (BR) Process:**

IGAD embarked on a comprehensive review process to enhance the effectiveness of its interventions in agriculture and food security. Through rigorous critical analysis of previous cycles, the organisation identified areas for improvement, such as data quality and indicator relevance, setting the stage for more impactful future initiatives.

- **Advancing Food System Resilience:**

Under the Food System Resilience Programme (FSRP), IGAD made significant efforts to bolster food security and resilience in the region. This included formulating and validating two crucial strategies on post-harvest loss management and food safety. These strategies, endorsed by agriculture ministers from Member States and key development partners, provide a robust framework for addressing critical challenges in the food system.



► High-level Ministerial Validation of IGAD Regional Food Safety and Post-Harvest Strategies

- **Capacity Building and Knowledge Dissemination**

Recognising the importance of building institutional capacity and knowledge sharing, IGAD facilitated various capacity-building activities and knowledge dissemination efforts. These included the graduation of 63 students in disciplines relevant to agriculture and food security and support for research grants to advance evidence-based policymaking in the region.

- **Global Engagement and Advocacy:**

In addition to its regional efforts, IGAD actively engaged on the global stage to advocate the region's priorities. Participation in events like UNFCCC COP 28 in Dubai provided valuable opportunities to raise awareness of the region's challenges and advocate climate-resilient approaches to agriculture and food security.





ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

3.2 ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

In 2023, IGAD made significant strides towards advancing its strategic development objective of enhancing sustainable management of natural resources and the environment as outlined in the Regional Strategy 2021-2025. Improving sustainable use and management of natural resources and environment in the region and matching different ecosystems with optimal land uses has been the focus of interventions. It is critical to maximise the potential of the cross-border resources such as land, water and rangelands while ensuring their sustainable use.

IGAD worked with member countries, Local Governments and Communities to address the root causes of land degradation and low productivity, established efficient mechanisms to manage land use related conflicts and provided instruments to enable pastoral mobility in cross-border areas, thus increasing resilience to climate change.



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3.2.1 Improving Management and Use of Transboundary Water Resources

IGAD continued to support interventions for preservation, sustained exploitation, management, and use of transboundary water resources in the region. These interventions contributed to the following results:

- National Focal Groups (NFGs) in Member States were strengthened to ensure a unified approach towards sustainable groundwater management in the region. The NFG members from each Member State have since demonstrated unwavering commitment through active participation in periodic dialogues to address existing challenges and reinforce engagement in critical groundwater management matters.
- The Regional Groundwater Centre (RGWC) was established to serve as a central hub for enhanced sustainable groundwater utilisation. The successful procurement and delivery of Information and Technology equipment for RGWC and National Groundwater Centres (NGWCs) underscore IGAD's operational readiness and commitment to robust data management.
- Initial Data Sharing Procedures were developed. The signing of these procedures marked a significant step towards streamlined data sharing. In addition, the development and implementation of two crucial training modules namely, "Building Resilient Boreholes" and "Optimising Regional Groundwater Data Management" exemplifies IGAD's commitment to capacity building in the management of ground water in the region .

- IGAD also conducted Learning and Training on the Horn of Africa Groundwater for Resilience (HoA GW4R) workshop for experts in charge of water resources from Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia to support Member States achieve joint management of transboundary groundwater resources. The proposed interactive learning agendas with National Focal Groups further enhanced knowledge dissemination, ensuring a collective understanding and capitalisation of best practices.
- A web-based Groundwater Information System (GWIS) Portal was developed, which marked a significant step towards providing easy access to groundwater information. This portal, encompassing water levels, quality, recharge rates, and aquifer characteristics, aims to empower water managers, policymakers and stakeholders in informed decision-making.
- IGAD conducted a Ministerial meeting in which Ministers responsible for water affairs within the IGAD region collectively agreed on a strategic process to enhance cooperation for water resources management and development. IGAD remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing sustainable water and food systems across the Horn of Africa, guided by these strategic initiatives and partnerships forged through collaborative endeavours.



► Harnessing ground water resources in the region

Credit: IGAD Secretariat

In addition, IGAD initiated regional collaboration on sustainable groundwater management through expert dialogues. For instance, the expert dialogue held during the Africa Climate Week served as a pivotal platform for co-creating strategies to bolster water availability, enhance food security, and foster peace and security. Emphasising the critical nexus between water and food security, discussions highlighted the region's heavy reliance on groundwater, the impacts of climate change, and the imperative for enhanced data sharing and capacity building.

The dialogue culminated in overarching recommendations, emphasising the importance of increased coordination, investment in data collection and analysis, and the adoption of holistic, nexus-based approaches to water management.

The above achievements collectively contribute to IGAD's overarching goals of improving water resource management, preserving transboundary natural resources and fostering regional collaboration.

3.2.2 Improving Land Governance for Sustainable Development

IGAD recognises the critical role that land governance plays in achieving inclusive socio-economic development in the region.

During the review period, IGAD implemented several interventions on land governance in the areas of strengthening policy and regulatory framework, gender-sensitive land use planning and management, community management and protection of rangelands and enhancing protection of women's right to land.

a) Strengthening regional capacity in gender-responsive land policies and regulatory frameworks:

IGAD supported Kenya and Uganda to review their National Land Policies while South Sudan, Somalia and Djibouti were facilitated in developing their land policies. One notable advance in this regard is the Draft National Land Policy for South Sudan that was passed by the National Council of Ministers.

The IGAD Regional Land Monitoring Report was regionally validated to enhance national and regional capabilities to measure progress made in the land sector and support the monitoring demands created by various global and continental commitments. The regional land monitoring initiative contribute to improve and enhance sustained capacity in regular tracking and reporting of progress made in land policy development and implementation in the IGAD Member States.



IGAD initiated regional collaboration on sustainable groundwater management through expert dialogues



IGAD supported Kenya and Uganda to review their National Land Policies while South Sudan, Somalia and Djibouti were facilitated in developing their land policies.

b) Strengthening gender responsive and conflict sensitive land use, planning and management

IGAD played a significant role not only in advancing and improving the region's capacity for gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive land administration but also in promoting inclusive and participatory rangelands and urban planning to secure land rights in the Somali Cluster. The Dollo Ado Woreda Participatory Land Use Plan in Ethiopia enabled the mapping of 342,774 hectares of rangelands.

The Land Use Plan provides an excellent opportunity to work with the local stakeholders to address the food systems and the associated linkages to better the lives of the communities.

In Kenya, local physical development plans for the four urban centres in Mandera County (Khalalio, Sala, Rhamu dimtu and Kiliwehiri) ensured the planning and mapping of 8,100ha of community land. The plans lay a foundation for the survey and the allocation of the land, which will help the government generate resources for improved service delivery in the areas. Overall, 41 technical experts and 206 (180M, 26F) community members were engaged in awareness creation, data collection, analysis and validation.

In addition, IGAD conducted participatory mapping in cross-border areas of Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda, focusing on Benishangul-Gumuz, to identify key shared rangeland resources and ecosystems used by transhumant pastoralists. A total of 13,000ha of rangelands were mapped in the three Member States, contributing to the functionality and productivity of rangelands and their ability to deliver socio-economically essential ecosystem services and address local community needs. Studies were conducted on the availability and distribution of different rangeland products and market opportunities in cross-border areas of

Kapoeta East in South Sudan, Kaabong district of Uganda and Benishangul-Gumuz in Ethiopia and management plans for the identified products were developed. A Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) Field Guide was developed to support the scaling of PRM using guidelines already piloted in Member States (Ethiopia and Kenya) to ensure effective consultation and participation of communities in rangeland management interventions.

IGAD's focus on strengthening gender-responsive land dispute resolution mechanisms continued with strong engagement of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), local government actors and religious institutions in securing land rights. Strengthening capacities of local leaders, community members and mediators with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively mediate land disputes using the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) approaches formed the core of interventions in the Somali Cluster. A total of 423 (275M and 148F) members from key sections of the community, including elders, women and local administration officials, participated in strengthening community networks and support systems focusing on land rights and conflict resolution in Mandera County of Kenya.

As a result, IGAD made significant strides in institutionalising access to land justice and forging strategic partnerships with partners in the Somali cluster. The Khadi courts in Mandera have embraced ADR as part of their procedures. There is an ongoing harmonisation of the Alternative Justice System (AJS) methodologies and ADR for effective service delivery to the rights-seeking public. The launch of the Mandera County Alternative Justice Centre, with 40 (33M, 7F) trained elders, marked a milestone in promoting gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive alternative land dispute resolution.



c) Supporting community led actions for the management and protection of rangelands in Somali Cluster

IGAD supported the direct involvement of local communities to address rangeland restoration and environmental issues through independent and locally driven approaches that promote maximum community ownership while ensuring linkage to broader regional land management, environmental and development challenges. IGAD conducted multi-stakeholder consultations to identify and support the selection of promising scalable community projects on rangeland rehabilitation and management in the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia and Mandera County of Kenya.

A total of 303 (210M, 93F) stakeholders were reached through sensitisation on climate-resilient community-led interventions and enabled local communities to directly identify and prioritise the most feasible locally prominent projects for building local resilient livelihoods. The continued support for implementing the community-led rangeland rehabilitation initiatives are expected to have a catalytic effect towards empowering the communities in increasing the productivity of rangelands, reducing natural resource degradation and enhancing climate resilience in cross-border communities.



A total of 303 (210M, 93F) stakeholders were reached through sensitisation on climate-resilient community-led interventions and enabled local communities to directly identify and prioritise the most feasible locally prominent projects for building local resilient livelihoods

d) Reducing barriers and enhancing protection of women's rights to land

IGAD's commitment towards addressing barriers to women's land and property rights and capacity enhancement was evidenced by the development of tailored interventions at national, regional and cluster levels. The Reference Guide for Women Land and Property Rights based on Qur'an and Contemporary Legal Instruments in the Somali Cluster was developed to provide recommendations for addressing the existing barriers and support the implementation of existing legal and Islamic laws to increase women's tenure security and achieve inclusive and sustainable development in the Somali community. The development of the Guide engaged 50 (33M,17F) Sharia law scholars, gender and land experts from regional and county governments and women's rights organisations.

IGAD also organised a high-level side event during the CSW67 under the theme: "Investing in Land Digitalisation System to Close the Gender Gaps on Land in the IGAD Region" in collaboration with the Government of Uganda and other international land actors. The objectives of the side event were to highlight long-standing and persistent gender inequalities in land access, ownership, control and utilisation and call upon global, continental and national partners to take deliberate actions towards protecting women's land rights, including supporting land digitalisation processes.

The event, which attracted over 60 participants was also used to popularise the IGAD Women's Land Rights Agenda and the IGAD land monitoring framework.

A small green seedling with four leaves is growing out of a crack in dry, cracked earth. The background is a close-up of the cracked soil, with a green tint overlaying the entire image.

STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

Credit: Freepik

3.3 STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

IGAD, through its Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), complements Member States' efforts to address the challenges of climate change and disaster risks by strengthening the capacity of Member States to manage disasters for resilience; promoting climate services in the region, including, co-production, downscaling and dissemination of climate information to the policymakers and end-users for decision-making.

During the review period, several interventions were implemented to address climate variability and change and disaster risks and the results of which are highlighted below:

3.3.1 Increased Availability, Access and Use of Climate Services.

In order to increase accessibility to climate services for end-users, IGAD implemented and supported several interventions in collaboration with partners, including:

- IGAD successfully installed, trained, and operationalised the Climsoft Climate Data Management Software (CDMS) for the Sudan Meteorological Authority (SMA). The database is crucial in archiving, maintaining, and generating climate services. This process has efficiently archived metadata and data for 29 main synoptic/agro stations, covering various parameters such as Rainfall, Maximum Temperature, Minimum Temperature, Dew Point, Wind Speed, Wind Direction, Relative Humidity, Evaporation Piche, Evaporation Pan, Vapour Pressure, Pressure at the Station, Mean Sea Level Pressure (MSLP), and Sunshine. This shift significantly improved from the previous practice of storing data in plain text files (Excel), which was considered less optimal.
- IGAD enhanced climate visualisation tools, including the East Africa Hazards Watch (EAHW; <https://eahazardswatch.icpac.net/map/ea/>), East Africa Agriculture Watch (EAAW; <https://agriculturehotspots.icpac.net/>), Climate Station, as well as the Maproom and Data Library (<http://digilib.icpac.net/maproom/index.html>) including the website.



IGAD strengthened member states' capacities in co-production, downscaling and dissemination of climate information to stakeholders



IGAD successfully installed, trained, and operationalised the Climsoft Climate Data Management Software (CDMS) for the Sudan Meteorological Authority (SMA)

- IGAD enhanced the capacity of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) through a series of workshops, including the sixty-third, sixty-fourth, and sixty-fifth Pre-Climate Outlook Forum (Pre-COF) capacity building and training sessions (Pre-COF63, Pre-COF64, and Pre-COF65), along with foundational training initiatives. This capacity-building effort was supplemented by scholarship offers to Member States with the objective of fostering collaboration in developing regional and national climate forecasts for respective seasons. Additionally, the foundational climate prediction training aimed to provide operational forecasters from NMHSs with essential knowledge and skills in seasonal forecasting.
- IGAD made substantial contributions to a total of 16 peer-reviewed publications. In addition to these publications, various reports, such as the Summary of Seasonal Forecasts for Policy Makers, were generated to foster the effective utilisation of climate services. Furthermore, in the reporting year 2023, IGAD collaborated with JRC to produce 11 monthly crop and food security assessment reports. These comprehensive reports are readily accessible on the IGAD site (<https://agriculturehotspots.icpac.net/s/5f0c1d31>).

- IGAD acquired a High-Performance Computer (HPC), which will be pivotal in enhancing the centres' modelling capacity and enabling the delivery of advanced climate services.

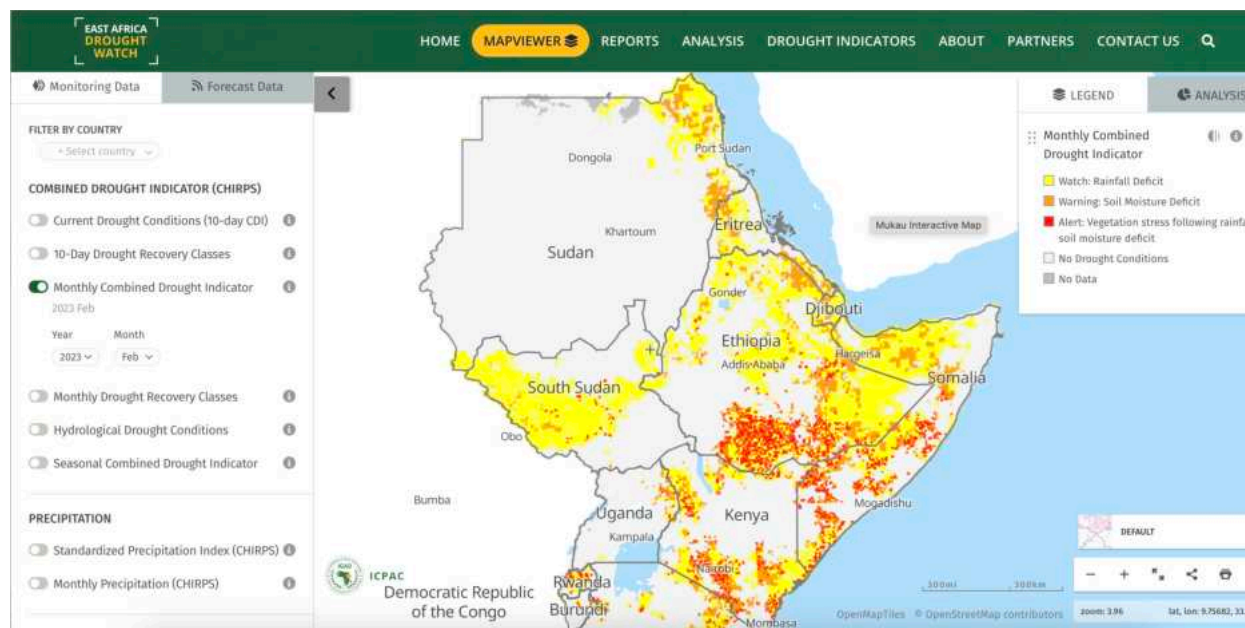
3.3.2 Increased Availability, Access and Use of Data and Information to guide Disaster Risk Management

The IGAD region continued to face extreme events such as droughts, floods, landslides, cyclones, tropical storms, and forest fires. These events were aggravated by underlying vulnerabilities to climatic change and extreme weather events. The severe and prolonged drought event from the end of 2022 to early 2023 was succeeded by extensive riverine and flash floods, as well as landslides, causing loss of lives and widespread damage to infrastructure in Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia .

The IGAD Disaster Risk Management programme has undertaken various initiatives aligned with the IGAD Regional Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Strategy 2019-2030. These efforts include, but are not limited to, bolstering risk knowledge, reinforcing disaster risk governance through collaboration with disaster risk management focal institutions across the IGAD member states, and augmenting preparedness measures while advocating for anticipatory action and long-term resilience building to climate extremes in the region.

Through its Disaster Operations Centre (DOC), IGAD continued to strengthen the capacity of the national disaster risk management agencies in the IGAD member states in monitoring major hazards and issuance of early warnings for drought, floods, pests like the desert locusts, extreme rainfall and temperature in the region. In addition, IGAD generated useful knowledge and information products on drought monitoring and forecasting which is now upgraded to version 2.0 and accessible at **East Africa Drought Watch**, which is

the main IGAD platform for monitoring drought and widely used by member states, humanitarian agencies and other stakeholders. IGAD through the DRM programme has strengthened seasonal preparedness for disaster risk reduction by convening and co-developing advisories with member states that inform national preparedness, and early action plans, as well as anticipatory actions, which significantly contributed to boosting the member state's preparedness for prevention, mitigation and response capabilities.



Source: IGAD Secretariat, 2023

On disaster risk knowledge, IGAD developed a comprehensive regional risk profile for floods and displacement, accessible via the ICPAC Geoportal. Current endeavors include the integration of disaster displacement into the East Africa Hazards Watch platform and the formulation of a predictive model for assessing the risk of disaster displacement across the IGAD region. These initiatives aim to enhance disaster preparedness and response efforts.

IGAD is using advanced technologies to improve the forecast skills for improved Early Warning Information skill and impact-based forecasts through use of artificial intelligence such as machine learning. The strengthening IGAD capacity on Disaster Risk Management and climate change adaptation is launched Early Warning for IGAD project is launched with partners to bolster end to end and people centered early warning systems in the region.

On regional disaster risk governance, IGAD convened the Technical Advisory Committee, comprised of Directors or Director Generals representing national disaster risk management authorities, and deliberated on the progress and challenges of effective risk reduction actions at national and regional level. The programme has contributed during the global and Africa platform on Disaster Risk reduction under Africa Union Commission and UNDRR respectively.

During the COP 28 meeting in Dubai, IGAD launched its operational and institutional framework for multi-hazard early warning system and the regional road map for Anticipatory Action. In order to advance effective coordination of anticipatory action efforts in the region, IGAD established a regional working group on Anticipatory Action with key partners.

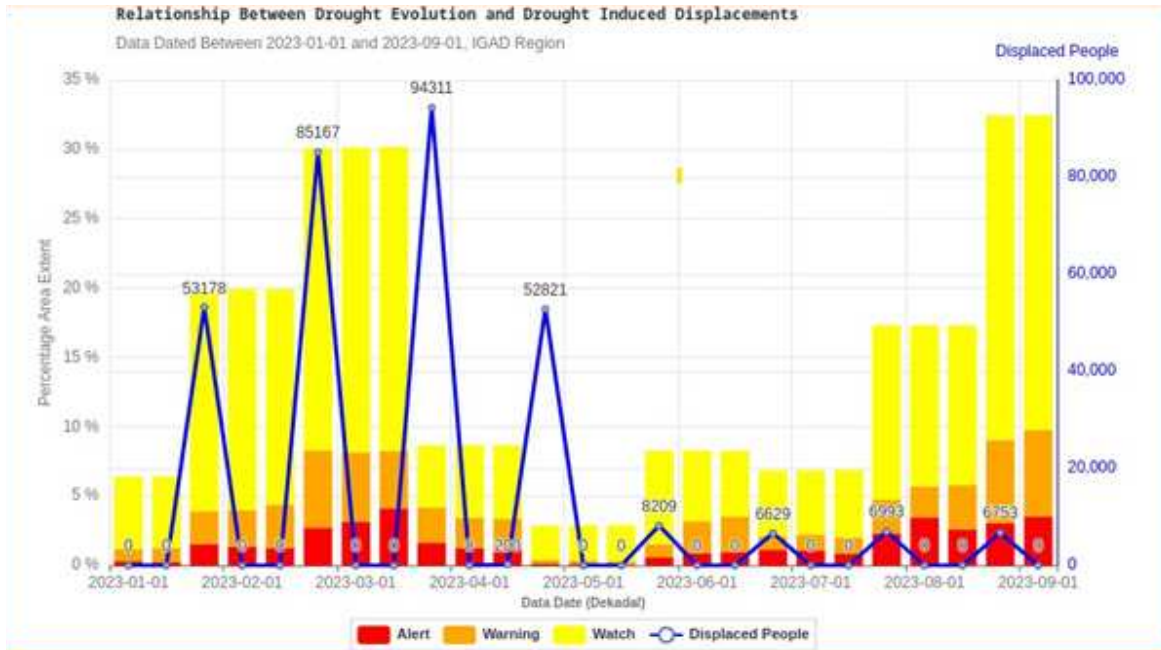
A number of regional and national capacity building trainings were conducted including on drought hazard monitoring, early warning systems, disaster risk assessment, and anticipatory action.

The IGAD Disaster Risk Management Programme has mobilized resources through expanding partnerships with various institutions. In 2023 three grant agreement were signed and are under the implementation.

3.3.3 Coordinating Drought Resilience Initiatives.

The Horn of Africa region has had a prolonged drought following the worst performing rains in 40 years and five successive failed rainy seasons. In 2023 alone, the drought situation claimed the lives of thousands, shattered the livelihoods of the predominantly pastoral and agro-pastoral communities, put millions of people at high risk of food insecurity and famine, killed millions of heads of livestock, and displaced millions of people in the region.

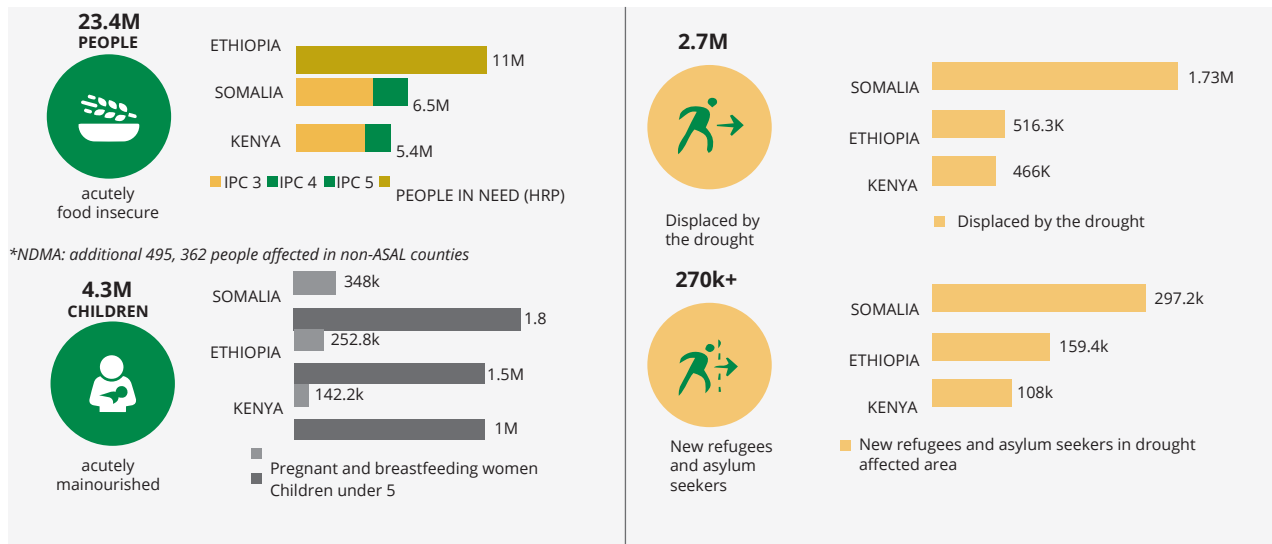
Chart 1: showing the impacts of drought in the horn of Africa



While it is hard to gauge the true scale of the economic impact of drought, Munang estimates that African economies are losing 5-15% of per capita GDP growth every year due to climate change . (Africa Business Report, 17 October 2022).¹⁰ Since 1990, droughts have lowered African countries' GDP levels by 0.7%¹¹

¹⁰<https://african.business/2022/10/energy-resources/africa-loses-5-15-in-gdp-each-year-due-to-climate-change-uneep>
¹¹<https://www.ifc.org/content/dam/ifc/doc/2023/working-paper-adapting-to-natural-disasters-in-africa.pdf>

Chart 2: Drought situation in the Horn of Africa, July 2023



Source: WFP Drought in the Horn of Africa Situation Update, July 2023

- ◆ In 2023, while droughts affected 88.9 million people in Africa¹², the Horn of Africa (HoA) was also affected by the prolonged drought leaving 23.4 million people acutely food insecure and 5.1 million children acutely malnourished. An estimated 2.7 million people have been displaced by the drought.¹³
- ◆ The drought-induced famine in Uganda caused 2,465 deaths, making it the second deadliest disaster in 2023.
- ◆ In Somalia, the three areas identified as at Risk of Famine in January 2023 (Mogadishu IDPs, Baidoa IDPs and Burhakaba Agro-pastoral) saw a significant reduction in the number of people in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe) from 194,000 to around 12,000 with additional reductions in the number of people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and are no longer at Risk of Famine.
- ◆ Many households lost all of their livestock: 36.6 million people have been affected by the drought across the HoA; of these, 6.2 million people live in affected areas while 2.7 million people were displaced by the drought. The highest figures were in Somalia at 1.7M, followed by Ethiopia (516,000) and Kenya (466,000). Over 270,000 refugees and asylum seekers had arrived in drought-affected areas since January 2023.

The Horn of Africa was also affected by the prolonged drought leaving 23.4 million people acutely food insecure

2.7 million people were displaced by the drought.

¹²Disaster Year in Review 2022 (issue no. 70 April 2023). file:///C:/Users/hp/Downloads/CredCrunch70.pdf

¹³Drought in Horn of Africa Situation Report July 2023 <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000151188/download/>

Through its Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), IGAD registered several milestones and results, including:

- The 16th IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee meeting and the 9th General Assembly were held in November 2023 in Entebbe, Uganda. The event that brought together more than 80 diverse stakeholders ended with strategic decisions that focused on increasing investment in resilience and developing the next phase of the implementation plan of IDDRSI. That was a testimony of the relevance of the regional platform that brings together Member States, Development Partners, UN Agencies, Bilateral and multilateral agencies and wider groups of non-state actors.
- IGAD Resilience Coordination Platform developed two policy briefs and one Ministerial Communique resulting in technical activities all targeting towards sustainable management of transboundary pests. In addition to this, the technical support offered by the platform to the IGAD Member States is in development on frameworks for data sharing, framework for Bio-pesticide registration, a framework for national pest management plan and a framework for drone registration in agriculture and pest control.
- IGAD developed an Online Communication Platform for the Community of Practice (CoP) on Risk Transfer and Micro-Insurance held a Regional Stakeholders Meeting on the IGAD Protocol for Resilience Measurement /IPRM/ and held the IGAD Regional Drylands Resilience Research network Bi-Annual meeting.
- IGAD organised a consultative workshop on improving the IGAD Resilience Index (IRI) and concurrently organised a stakeholder meeting to present the resilience assessment results for Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. IGAD also developed and validated Food Systems Analysis Framework. Moreover, through the IGAD Resilience Coordination Platform, it organised policy meetings, including ministerial meetings and strategic partners' meetings.



The 16th IDDRSI Steering Committee meeting and the 9th General Assembly recommended a paradigm shift for IDDRSI in future to be focused on increasing investment in resilience and development of the next phase (Plan) of IDDRSI.



IGAD developed an Online Communication Platform for the Community of Practice (CoP) on Risk Transfer and Micro-Insurance held a Regional Stakeholders Meeting on the IGAD Protocol for Resilience Measurement /IPRM/ and held the IGAD Regional Drylands Resilience Research network Bi-Annual meeting

The above initiatives contributed to the effectiveness of IGAD Member States in responding to food security, nutrition, and resilience. The initiatives also contributed to the desired outcome of improving access to critical information related to food security, nutrition, and resilience information. The implementation of the Resilience Index, the operationalisation of the technical working groups, the validation of the food systems analysis framework, and the increased advocacy for formulation and adoption of resilience frameworks all contributed to the focus and objective of IGAD to enhance preparedness and expand/increase access to resilience information. In terms of participation, the project's aim of achieving 2/3 gender representation was actualized.

3.3.4 Inter-Regional Platform on Sustainable Management of Desert Locusts and Other Transboundary Pests in the IGAD Region.

Through the IGAD Resilience Coordination Platform, IGAD implemented and supported several initiatives to boost Member States' capacities on Sustainable Management of Desert Locusts and other Transboundary Pests in the IGAD Region. The initiatives resulted in the following:

- The IGAD Ministerial meeting on Sustainable Management of Desert Locusts was held in August 2023. It issued a Ministerial Communiqué that called for joint action for frontline desert locust states and the inclusion of transboundary pests as a risk for micro-insurance to build farmer resilience.
- An Inter-Ministerial technical workshop through which Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia, represented by the Ministries in Charge of agriculture and plant control, jointly formulated a framework for Transboundary Pest Management Plans, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on joint action for effective cross-boundary in pest management to pest control, and joint coordination mechanisms.
- IGAD convened an all-important cross-border desert locust management meeting between Ethiopia and Somalia's state Ministry of Agriculture to prevent a full-blown locust breeding in Hargeisa and a possible invasion in Ethiopia and Kenya later in 2024. The meeting was witnessed by DLCO-EA as a partner in control.
- A capacity building workshop was conducted for Member States' representatives on the development of Pest Management Plans, IGAD Bio-pesticide registration guidelines and effective biological control and bio-pesticide of which more than 60 participants from Member States and partners participated in the activities. In addition, two (2) Steering Committee meetings through which recommendations were in Strategies and Preparedness, Regional and Inter-Regional Collaboration, Governance and Coordination, Research and Innovation, and Policy and Advocacy.
- A Knowledge Management and Crisis Communication regional strategy and plan has implemented two trainings for regional journalists and media actors in crisis communication and anticipatory action in November 2023. Over 60 participants from Member States and media agencies were trained. This resulted in over 15 news features and articles informing the public of current and future pest risks in IGAD and neighbouring regions.



CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR REGIONAL TRADE AND INTEGRATION

Credit: Freepik

3.4 CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR REGIONAL TRADE AND INTEGRATION

The pursuit of regional economic cooperation and integration is one of IGAD's core strategic focus areas, as highlighted in Pillar 2 of the IGAD Strategy 2021-2025. In light of the above, IGAD aims to promote and ensure the realisation of the African Economic Community through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). IGAD's role has been orchestrated through such measures as: reforming trade facilitation measures, facilitating the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers and improving policies, regulations and procedures across borders to allow for flexible movement of people, goods, services and capital.

IGAD's regional integration priorities are aligned with the African continent's Heads of State and Government, reaffirming the need to step up the continent's economic integration and structural transformation agenda through key programmes and initiatives. These include the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), launched in Kigali, Rwanda, in March 2018. These initiatives build on other existing initiatives for growth and sustainable development, such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), Boosting Intra-Africa Trade (BIAT) and Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa (AIDA).

Over the years, IGAD has specifically invested in programmes and initiatives towards easing cross-border trade in goods and services; developing inter-modal infrastructure; investing in energy-efficient solutions and better telecommunications connectivity across more boundaries, and facilitating the free movement of people across frontiers. With most of the IGAD Member States being Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), IGAD adopted a cross-border approach to ensure access to water, energy, and existing transport networks in the region amid long-running tensions within and between countries. Specifically, IGAD developed an Informal Cross-Border Trade/Cross-Border Security Governance Policy Framework.

During the reporting period, IGAD strengthened the capacity of Member States to increase regional trade by launching and operationalising the IGAD Regional Trade Policy, the AfCFTA Regional Implementation Strategy for the IGAD and capacity building of Member States in trade facilitation. To further support regional integration and trade, IGAD also commenced programmes to support regional market digitalisation.



IGAD aims to promote and ensure the realisation of the African Economic Community through complementing the efforts of member states to execute the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).



Over the years, IGAD has specifically invested in programmes and initiatives towards easing cross-border trade in goods and services; developing inter-modal infrastructure; investing in energy-efficient solutions and better telecommunications connectivity across more boundaries, and facilitating the free movement of people across frontiers

3.4.1. Operationalisation of IGAD's Regional Trade Policy (2022-2025)

The IGAD Regional Trade Policy is a cooperation framework that guides the IGAD Member States in promoting trade integration in a more flexible policy environment. The policy was prepared with support from the African Development Bank and set to improve the trade facilitation environment in the IGAD region through knowledge generation and capacity building.

The IGAD, through the IGAD Regional Trade Policy, creates an open and unified regional economic space that will boost intra-IGAD trade by creating the necessary enabling environment and removing obstacles to trade for goods and services.

Furthermore, the policy creates coherence among the national trade policies of the IGAD Member States. The policy is helping IGAD Member States implement their obligations arising from regional trade agreements, particularly the AfCFTA. Finally, the policy helps create an enabling environment for foreign and domestic investment. This raises the standard of living of the region through closer economic integration.

3.4.2. Support to AfCFTA Implementation in the region

IGAD developed the AfCFTA Regional Implementation Strategy in partnership with the UNECA. The Regional AfCFTA Implementation Strategy is aimed at guiding participating Member States to actualise the benefits of the AfCFTA.

The AfCFTA Regional Implementation Strategy for the IGAD will lead to increased trade with the rest of Africa, stimulation of production through regional value chains, stimulation of growth in trade in services, poverty reduction, improvement of women's livelihoods, stimulation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and increasing government revenue, among others.

IGAD also facilitated the review and validation by stakeholders of the national AfCFTA implementation strategies for Sudan, Uganda and Ethiopia. The regional and national strategies identify opportunities, gaps, and steps required to take full advantage of continental and global markets resulting from the AfCFTA-induced opportunities. The regional strategy identifies concrete actions that Member States should undertake to best leverage opportunities arising under the AfCFTA and address related challenges.

3.4.3. Capacity Building of Member States in Trade Facilitation

In 2023, IGAD delivered a number of capacity building workshops for Member States in trade facilitation, which included:

- Training on the International Road Transport (TIR/eTIR) and the Conventions on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Roads (CMR/eCMR) in March 2023. The training was attended by 21 representatives from six IGAD's Member Countries (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda) representing Ministries in charge of Trade, Transportation and Customs Administrations. Through the training,



► Facilitating regional trade in the region

IGAD built the capacity of government officials from the Ministries of Trade and Customs Administrations of the IGAD Member States.

The training enhanced the knowledge of Member States about the benefits of implementing the two conventions, including the reduction of customs administrative procedures and the adequate allocation of resources for proper risk assessment. Knowledge was also gained on simplifying transit operations and managing data related to cross-border transport.

- Training workshop to enhance export capacity and entrepreneurship skills for business executives to build more robust private sector actors along Ethio-Djibouti and LAPSSET Corridors in September 2023. A total of 28 participants (seven female) attended the training, including business executives from institutions and associations operating along the Ethio-Djibouti and LAPSSET corridors who were equipped with the latest information on the AfCFTA and opportunities emanating from the corridors.

The workshop enhanced entrepreneurship skills among participants, enabling them to identify and capitalise on export opportunities effectively, and fostering peer-to-peer learning and networking opportunities amongst the participants, promoting collaboration and knowledge exchange within the private sector.

3.4.4. Sustainable Tourism Development

To advance its regional tourism agenda, IGAD developed and launched its Sustainable Tourism Master Plan (STMP) in 2013. The STMP was aimed to guide sustained investments in the tourism sector in the region. In October 2023, IGAD held a regional consultative meeting on the Sustainable Tourism Master Plan to assess its impacts in the last ten years (2013 – 2023), with a view to informing the formulation of the STMP 2024-2034 while taking into consideration emerging issues, including prioritisation of the tourism sector in the implementation of AfCFTA, the effects of externalities such the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased perceptions of instability in the region. In attendance were thirty-eight (38) delegates from IGAD Member States, organisations and individuals involved in tourism management and development in the region.

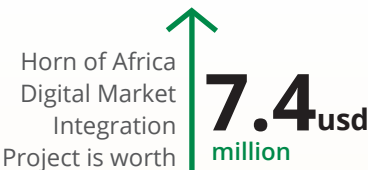


Credit: Uganda Wildlife Authority

3.4.5. Digital Market Integration

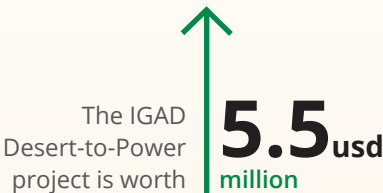
IGAD, with support from the AfDB and the World Bank (WB), launched two projects aimed at creating an integrated digital market in the region. The two projects are the Eastern Africa Digital Integration Project (EARDIP) and the Horn of Africa Digital Market Integration (HDMI) Project, supported by WB and AfDB, respectively. The EARDIP is worth US\$ 10 million, and HDMI worth US\$ 7.4 million.

IGAD through EARDIP is advancing digital market integration in the Eastern Africa region by increasing affordable access to regional broadband connectivity and strengthening the enabling environment for cross-border digital services. Through the HDMI project, IGAD is facilitating robust, secure, and reliable digital trade and e-commerce enablers, promoting digital economy and trust substrates and filling gaps with regard to the digital ecosystem (cybersecurity, data protection and exchanges and digital transactions) in the region.



3.4.6. Renewable Energy Initiative

The East Africa Regional Energy Project (EAREP), also referred to as the Desert-To-Power Initiative, was commenced in 2023. It is a flagship renewable energy and economic development initiative supported by the AfDB that aims to accelerate socio-economic development by deploying solar technologies in the region. The project aims to develop and harmonise a regional renewable energy (RE) policy for the East Africa Sahel countries (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan). Specifically, the project aims to develop technical studies for regional solar parks and associated battery storage close to the regional interconnectors, as well as strengthen the technical capacity of IGAD in the operationalisation of the IGAD Regional Infrastructure Master Plan (IRIMP). The project is worth US\$ 5.5 Million and will be completed in January 2026.



A photograph of a refugee camp with many white tents and children walking in the foreground. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. The text "ENHANCING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EMPOWERING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters. A thin orange horizontal line is positioned above the text.

ENHANCING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EMPOWERING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Credit: Unepa

3.5 ENHANCING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EMPOWERING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

The diversity within the IGAD region, while a source of strength, also presents unique opportunities and challenges that require innovative and context-specific policy solutions. It is therefore imperative to identify levers to comprehensively support social inclusion in integrating vulnerable populations, such as persons with disabilities, women, children, refugees, asylum seekers, returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) into national development strategies and systems.

The Health and Social Development (HSD) Division is dedicated to achieving improved social well-being and human productivity for inclusive development in the IGAD region on access to health services, movement of people, decent employment, quality education and youth empowerment.

3.5.1. Scaled up Health Systems to Improve Access to Equitable Health Services:

The health sub-programme area implemented various projects that contributed to stronger health systems that enhanced pandemic preparedness, surveillance, and data sharing and established a Centre of Excellence in Nutrition in the IGAD region and cross-borders.

In 2023, to enhance pandemic preparedness, disease surveillance, and monitoring, IGAD invested in improving cross-border health infrastructure and workforce. IGAD supported Member States to leverage technology to enhance data collection and service delivery while promoting regional solutions. Towards pandemic preparedness and data sharing across Member States, prevention, and control of tuberculosis and COVID-19 among vulnerable populations, refugees, and cross-border mobile populations, the initiatives within the health programme promoted and coordinated support Member States on improved nutrition. IT equipment was procured targeting distribution to 18 cross-border sites, respective District Health Offices (DHOs), and the Ministry of Health (MoH) for data transmission, as shown in the table below, whereby the handovers for Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia were completed.



The Health and Social Development (HSD) Division is dedicated to achieving improved social wellbeing and human productivity for inclusive development in the IGAD region on issues of access to health services, movement of people, decent employment, quality education and youth empowerment.



The health sub-program area implemented various projects contributing to stronger health systems enhancing pandemic preparedness, surveillance, and data sharing, including establishing center excellence in Nutrition in the IGAD region and cross-borders.



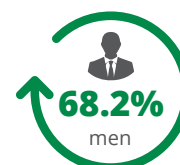
Credit: IGAD Secretariat

► Strengthening health systems and health service provision in the region

Further to the achievements in 2023, 44 experts (68.2% males and 31.8% females) participated in the IGAD data-sharing policy to facilitate domesticating it at the national level. Djibouti piloted SORMAS via a Trainers of Trainers (TOT) programme for 24 healthcare professionals (58.3% males and 41.7% females). Dashboards for COVID-19, Ebola, and Monkey Pox were created in four IGAD member countries. In December 2023, IGAD COVID-19 Response closed its programme, having strengthened healthcare systems for pandemic preparedness and response. In the final stage, it supported the vaccination of vulnerable populations at the Djibouti/Ethiopia border with an 80% target reach. A total of 20 lab experts were trained, and 10 COVID-19 cross-border meetings were held to improve coordination.

The IGAD Global Fund-TB initiatives targeting refugees conducted a rapid assessment to address barriers to TB services in refugee camps in Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Djibouti. The assessment provided recommendations that led to improved availability of services for HIV, TB,

44 member states' experts participated in the IGAD data-sharing policy development and domestication process at the national level

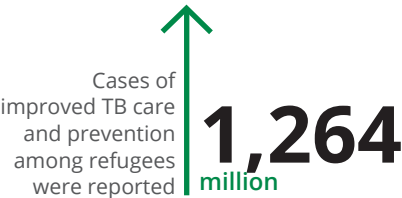


and malaria, community-based TB case finding, and mass screening in refugee camps. The case notification rate increased from 131 to 160 in 2023. Some 1,264 cases of improved TB care and prevention among refugees were reported, with 57.7% males and 42.3% females. IGAD supported the training of 171 experts and 3,413 Community Health Workers (CHWs) and conducted 16 TB cross-border meetings.

Under the Local Health Systems Sustainability (LHSS) project, IGAD catalogued all IGAD regional health policies and identified the challenges with the adoption and domestication of these policies at the Member States’ levels. As part of the initiative, a menu of health financing options was identified as tailor-made for the particular contexts, informed by the existing mechanisms for Cross-Border and Moving Populations (CBMPs) to access healthcare services in cross-border areas.

IGAD Centre of Excellence in Nutrition (ICEN) was established to promote collaboration, research, and innovation to improve nutritional outcomes in the IGAD region. In 2023, ICEN established a community of practice on nutrition surveillance – the Learning Network on Nutrition Surveillance (LeNNS). The network membership traversed eight countries (Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Somalia, Djibouti, Malawi and Zambia) in and outside the IGAD region. Under LeNNS, a nutrition surveillance curriculum for higher education programmes was drafted for adoption in the LeNNS countries.

IGAD Multi-sectoral Health Emergency Response received a multi-year grant from the World Bank to lead and implement a multi-sectoral health intervention in the region. This will further build the capacity of Member States for emergency response and resilience through system strengthening.



IGAD Centre of Excellence on Nutrition (ICEN) working with partners established a community of practice to promote collaboration, research, and innovation to improve nutrition outcomes in the region”

Table 4: Distribution of IT equipment to the health sector and in cross-border sites

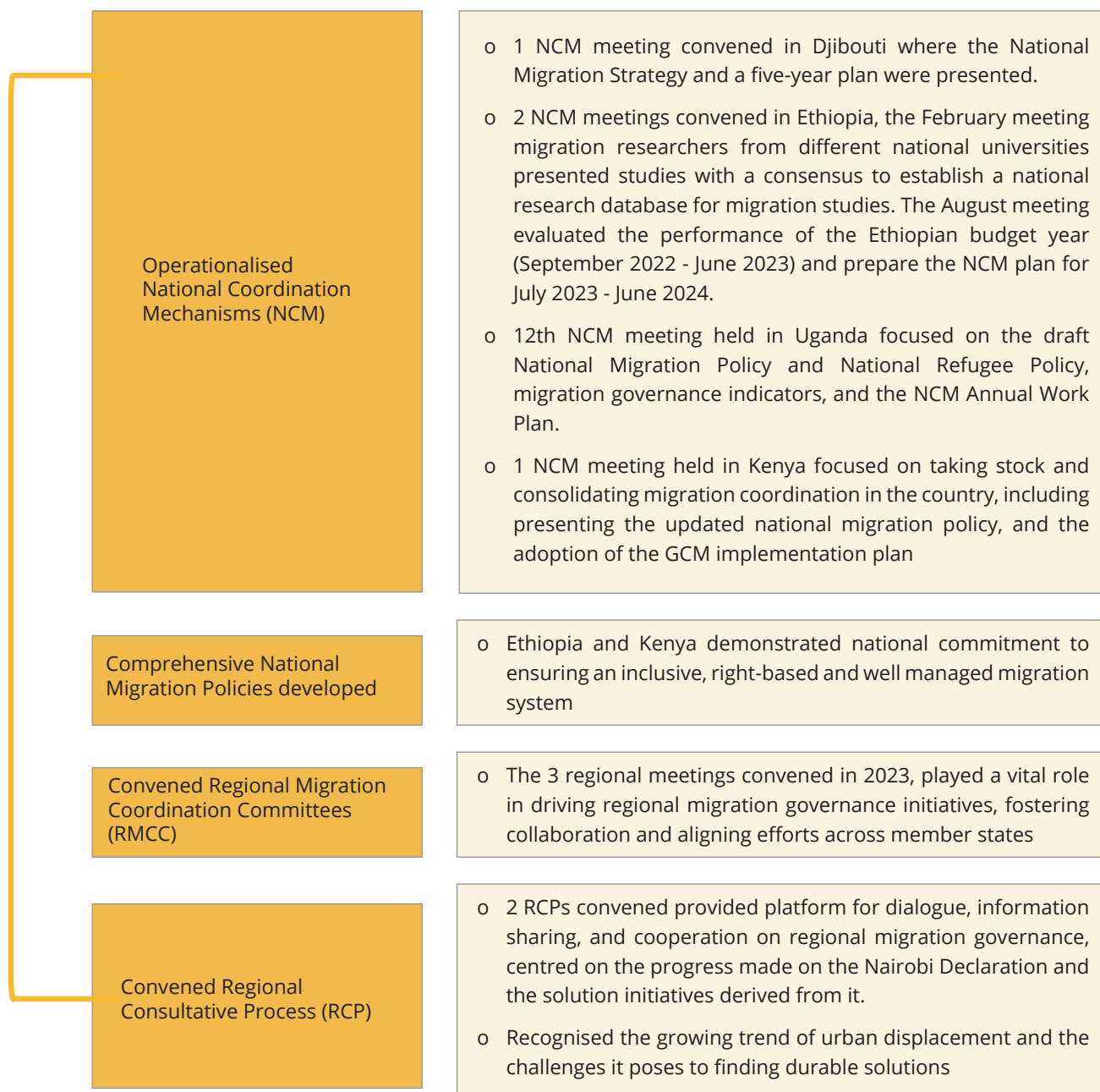
Countries	Tablets	Laptops	Desktops	Extensions	UPS	Servers	Access Points
Djibouti	4	6	17	17	17	1	3
Ethiopia	41	15	18	15	18	-	3
Kenya	-	7	37	37	37	-	4
Somalia	3	14	29	37	29	-	3
Sudan	-	9	21	24	21	-	3
South Sudan	30	10	27	6	27	-	3
Uganda	4	9	34	30	34	-	3

Source: IGAD Secretariat, 2023



3.5.2. Strengthening the IGAD Migration Governance Architecture:

The validation of the revised Migration Action Plan (MAP), 2024 – 2028, in 2023 was a major milestone in the renewal of the comprehensive regional governance framework on migration. Further achievements attributed to migration governance at national and regional levels are summarised below:



The second Ministerial Conference on Labour, Employment and Labour Migration of IGAD, held in 2023 produced a ministerial communique with recommendations that included the development of the IGAD labour market information system and also the adoption of a regional social protection strategy. On bilateral engagements, IGAD facilitated the bilateral agreement on migrant workers that was signed between the Governments of Ethiopia and Lebanon, as a commitment to protecting the rights and improving the working conditions of migrant workers through a high-level dialogue to promote the well-being of migrant workers from Ethiopia.

Within the framework of migration cross-border cooperations, the IGAD Moyale Cross-border Development Facilitation Office, a flagship migration initiative, was officially opened on 29 September 2023, to foster regional cross-border cooperation of mutual interests and strengthen peace structures between the bordering communities of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. The opening of the office revitalised the cross-border peace structure that consists of 30 members (15 from Kenya and Ethiopia) supported through the IGAD Migration Programme and Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN).

Among the collaborative interventions progress in Moyale was the GIZ partnership of the Cash Community Cohesion initiative between IGAD, local NGOs, private sector that supported over 1,600 individuals and over 400 households on various livelihoods on both Ethiopia and Moyale border.

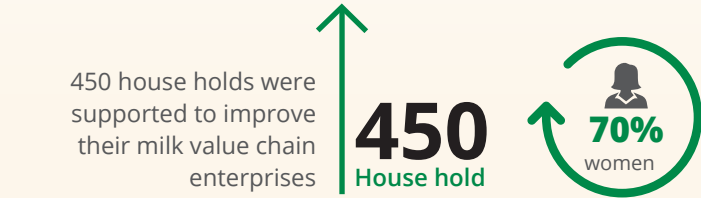


The second IGAD Ministerial Conference on Labour, Employment and Labour Migration, held in 2023, adopted ministerial recommendations that included the development of the IGAD labour market information system and the adoption of a regional social protection strategy



The IGAD Moyale Area Development Office was established to facilitate mutual regional cross-border and strengthen peace structures across border communities of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia

More than 70% of the recipients were women, of which large proportion of them developed saving and investment strategies to self-sustain beyond the cash-transfer project. Accordingly, through a milk value chain development program, around 100 households from mobile and 350 from host communities were supported to improve their economic well-being and have better access to social services.



3.5.3 Creating economic opportunities for refugees, migrants and host communities through cross-border investment:

Significant milestones were achieved in the selected investment locations as highlighted below

Table 5: Summary of Investment Initiatives under the Regional Migration Fund (RMF)

Intervention Location	Achievement on progress for 2023
Tog-Wajale cross-border (Eastern Ethiopia on the border of Ethiopia and Somaliland)	(i) Identified basic economic and social infrastructures to be constructed in the subsequent year: slaughterhouses, medium sized-dams, livestock market and community development center, and (ii) Two sub-delegatees selected as implementing partners and commenced the prioritization of the construction of the different measures/project activities
Nimule-Elegu (northern border of Uganda with South Sudan)	Infrastructure identified for construction in 4 areas: skills development, agriculture (including livestock), market centre development, water source development and flood management structures
Ali-Sabieh (border with Somalia and Ethiopia, bordering also the Dikhil Region)	Feasibility study, preparations of design and bill of quantities (BoQ) and procurement of works contractor and supervision firm completed for the construction of 1 market centre and rehabilitation of one vocational education to commence in 2024
Ali-Addeh (Djibouti)	Feasibility study, preparations of design and bill of quantities (BoQ) and procurement of works contractor and supervision firm completed for construction of 1 market centre, one community development centre to commence in 2024. Construction of an Orientation Centre for refugees and internally displaced persons completed

Since its inception and by the end of 2023, the IGAD Regional Migration Fund (RMF) intervention has expanded to two (2) new cross-border locations in the IGAD region, Ethiopia-Somalia (Tog-wajale), and Uganda-South Sudan (Elegu-Nimule cross-border) in the investment projects.

Under the Moyale cross-border interventions of joint stakeholder collaboration, during the year 2023, two implementing partners/sub-delegates, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE), were selected and signed an agreement with IGAD. Plots of land required for the construction of the infrastructures (abattoirs, Boda-boda and livestock markets) were secured from the local authorities. A consulting firm was commissioned and undertook a feasibility study for the construction of abattoirs in Moyale.

Training for the local community coordination committee in Ali-Sabieh, Ali Addeh, Moyale-Moyale and Tog-wajale was conducted for a total of 80 people (29 males and 51 females) to build their capacity skills on marketing and develop marketing plans as well as entrepreneurship skill.

3.5.4 Strengthened governance for migration and displacement, with durable solutions in place for affected populations:

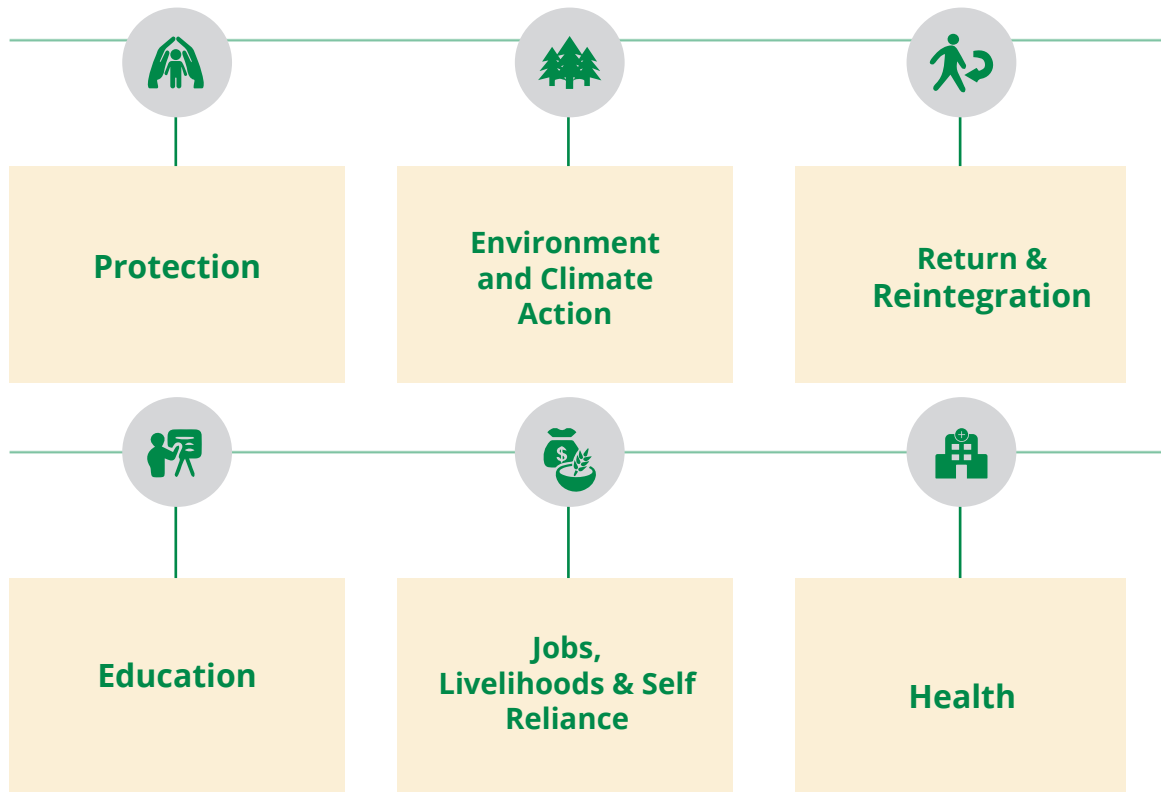
The IGAD Support Platform¹⁴, is a member state-owned joint multi-collaborative initiative, with significant milestones attained towards implementation of the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) through a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). Subsequently, in 2023, the joint inter-REC convergence of IGAD and EAC led to the signing of the joint declaration of IGAD and EAC, which emphasised the importance of collaboration to tackle the underlying causes of displacement, provide protection to refugees and work for durable solutions. The Regional Monitoring Results Framework of the support platform was validated in 2023, that established

standardised monitoring systems. Further to the endorsement of durable solutions strategies, in 2023, regional frameworks to address the crisis situation in Sudan and South Sudan and the Regional Solution Strategy were validated.

A significant milestone that was achieved in 2023 in the adoption of the Regional GRF roadmap was the instrumental role of IGAD in leading high-level initiatives that included the Humanitarian Development Peace (HDP), education, migration and displacement statistics to take stock of progress made with the Support Platform. Additionally, IGAD co-convened the multi-stakeholder pledge on economic inclusion and social Protection, led by the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in collaboration with United States of America, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, and Mexico.



Pillars of the IGAD Support Platform



GRF pledges towards economic inclusion had 243 pledging partners globally, including 82 countries of which four were IGAD Member States (Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda). Two regional pledges were made, which included the inclusion of displaced populations in national development strategies and climate action.

GRF pledges towards economic inclusion had 243 pledging partners globally

243
pledging partners

In the efforts to transform into reality, the commitments of the Kampala Declaration on Jobs, Livelihoods, and Self-Reliance for Refugees, Returnees, and Host Communities, three national dialogues (Djibouti, Ethiopia and Uganda), and one regional conference were convened in 2023 as fundamental platforms to further raise awareness of the Declaration and take stock of achievements. The participation of refugees created inclusive dialogues to promote a whole-of-society approach that formalised refugees' contribution to policy-making and improving existing legal and administrative frameworks. The Kampala Declaration monitoring framework rolled out in 2023, in collaboration with Member States and support from development partners, will lead to providing a tool to measure countries' progress across the five pillars of the Plan of Action as well as pledges made during the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) 2023 global platform.

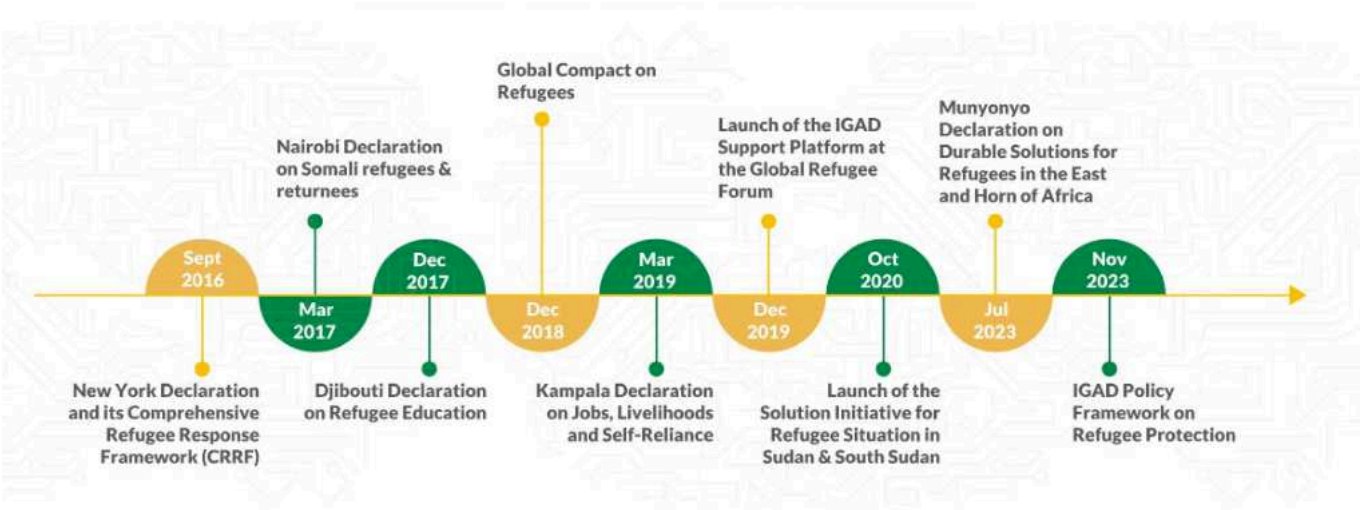
¹⁴<https://igadsupportplatform.org/>

In the efforts to address development responses to forced displacement in the IGAD region and transform the refugee response model from a parallel care and maintenance approach to comprehensive responses, as outlined in the GCR and the Nairobi Process, IGAD convened a High-Level Conference that resulted in delegates from member countries to identifying cross-sector collaborations and integrated approaches to prioritise the empowerment of displaced populations. The 12th conference of the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP) Regional Project Steering Committee (RPSC) meeting held in 2023 was a key policy platform that brought together Project Countries and other stakeholders, which included a field visit to enable delegates experience firsthand learning of the best practices and approaches that work to support programme implementation.

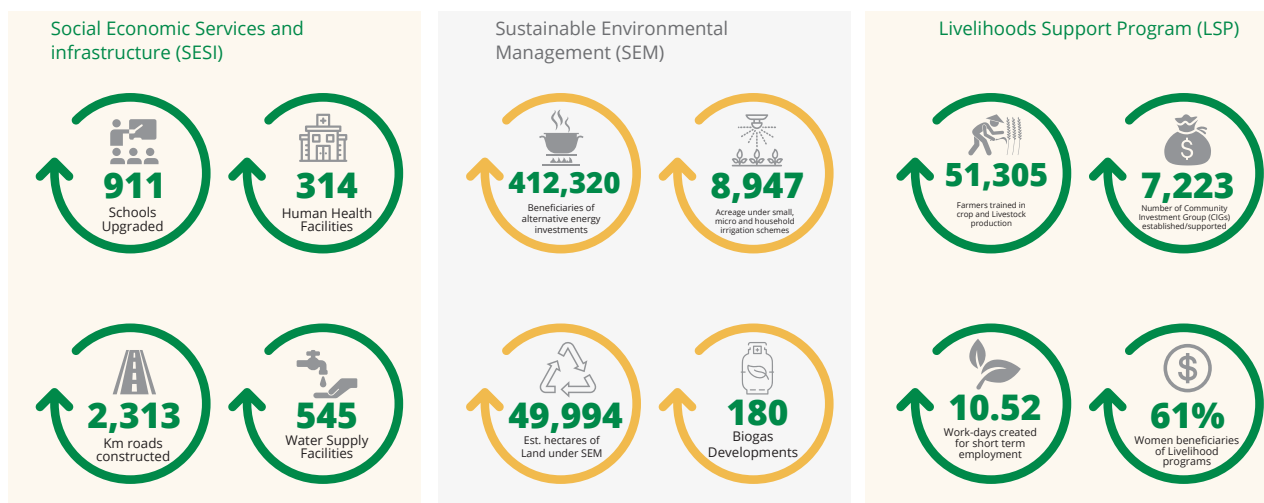
The findings of the study conducted in 2023, on the application of Community Driven Development (CDD) approaches in refugee-hosting areas towards improving access to education of IGAD member countries (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda) affirmed the CDD approach as a suitable mechanism that gives control of decisions and resources to local refugee hosting communities.

The regional mechanisms for refugee management are fundamental for Member States in fulfilling a harmonised approach to obligations in refugee protection policies, legislation, and practices, as well as assistance and solutions for refugees and host communities in the region. Recognising the substantial challenges and potential benefits of unified refugee responses, IGAD Member States endorsed a comprehensive Policy on Refugee Protection

IGAD Support Platform Timelines



Development interventions supported to transform refugee communities in the region



IGAD Policy Framework on Refugee Protection.



The IGAD Policy Framework on Refugee represents a significant step towards addressing the challenges of forced displacement. It facilitates collaboration among Member States, ensuring a more coordinated and efficient response to refugee crises in the region. The figure below summarises the overall achievements in 2023 that included policy validation, trainings and learning events, technical support to Member States in the development of national policies and strategies as well as national policy dialogues.



► People and goods moving into Uganda and Kenya at the Malaba One Stop Border Post

3.5.5. Establishment of a Free Movement of Persons and Transhumance Regime:

The IGAD Treaty, the Protocol and related conventions provide an opportunity for Member States to govern regular pathways to migration in a manner consistent with States laws that protect citizens from extreme vulnerabilities above. Close collaboration and coordination among IGAD Member States based on legal frameworks of cooperation are necessary to facilitate safe, regular and beneficial migration in the Region. The workshop held in 2023 by the IGAD-EU Trust Fund (EUTF) identified the benefits, obstacles and recommendations of the synopsis of each of the four legal instruments that led to a summary plan for signature, ratification and domestication of the four IGAD legal instruments by the Government of Uganda.

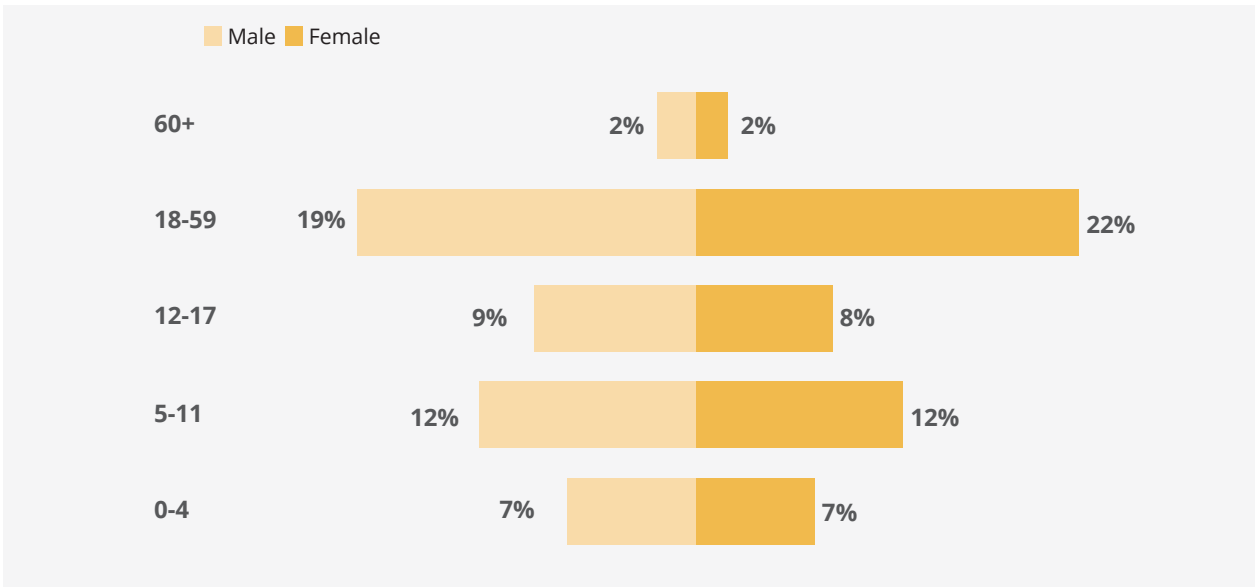
3.5.6. Strengthening Capacities for Migration Data Systems:

Migration and displacement statistics are well articulated in the IGAD regional migration policy framework and the IGAD regional strategy for developing statistics. As part of IGAD, the regional migration data technical working group and sub-working group on displacement statistics held meetings, which resulted in the launch of the 2nd IGAD migration statistics report. The report provides resourceful data such as the regional demographic of the refugee population resourceful for policymakers and organisations to develop targeted strategies and support systems that address the specific needs of different age groups within the refugee population in the IGAD region.

“Migration and displacement statistics are well articulated in the IGAD regional migration policy framework and the IGAD regional strategy for the development of statistics.”

Furthermore, in 2023, in efforts to strengthen governance for migration and displacement, with durable solutions in place for affected populations, IGAD and Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) organised a Collaborative Leadership Programme (CLP) training programme aimed to equip participants from IGAD Member States with data-driven solutions to address internal displacement that trained 18 experts/officials from Member States (12 Males, 6 Females). Additionally, to achieve a simplified data dissemination system at the IGAD Secretariat, 16 IGAD staff (12 males, four females) were trained on the PxWeb system on publishing statistical data and results on the web.

Figure 8: Demographics of Refugee Population in IGAD Region

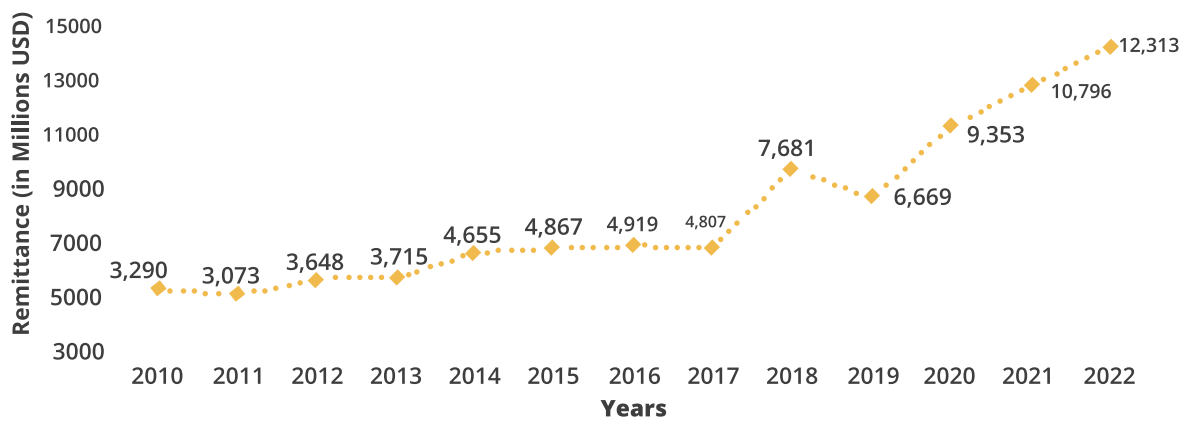


Source: IGAD Secretariat, 2023

3.5.7 Support on Harmonisation of Migrant Remittance Policies and Frameworks:

In 2023, IGAD convened a high-level meeting of Central Bank governors of Member States on harmonising remittance policies. This meeting provided the strategic and policy direction towards implementing the regional roadmap for harmonising remittance policies across IGAD member countries. The Central Banks of the IGAD Member States appointed a Single Point of Contact (SPoC) for the day-to-day implementation of the roadmap. IGAD, in collaboration with stakeholders, finalised country assessment reports on the remittance policy based on the feedback of the Member States’ central banks. Two webinars were conducted in line with support to Member States in the harmonisation of remittance policies; these were: (i) Regional Harmonisation of Remittance Policies and Regulations IGAD: An Assessment of the Remittances Regulatory Landscape: A reflection on the situation in Somalia, and (ii) Regional Harmonisation of Cross-Border Payment Policies and Regulations in the IGAD region: Insights from South Sudan

Figure 9: Total Migrant Remittances in the IGAD Member States, 2010-22 (US \$ Million)



Source: IGAD Secretariat, 2023

3.5.8 Addressing Climate-Induced and Natural Disaster Displacement:

In 2023, in addition to holding a regional meeting focusing on human mobility in the context of disaster and climate change, the Regional Consultative Process on Migration (RCP) brought to the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF) the participation of IGAD Member States and stakeholders in knowledge exchange, and to explore a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach expanded the inclusion of human mobility in the context of disaster and climate change. Additionally, under the Joint Programme on “Addressing Drivers and Facilitating Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Contexts of Disasters and Climate Change in the IGAD Region” initiative, funded by the Migration Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), disaster displacement risk models were developed for cyclones and floods, and displacement risk profiles were integrated into the ICPAC Geoportal and are available and accessible to Member States to take informed decisions and formulate respective policies and actions.

The successful development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on cross-border disaster displacement for the borders between Ethiopia-Kenya and Kenya-Uganda were tested in 2023, in two cross-border simulation exercises between Ethiopia-Kenya (Moyale) and Kenya-Uganda (Mbale) with national and local entities, border authorities and civil society.

3.5.9 Enhancing Evidence-based Decision-Making Discourses on Migration and Displacement:

The collaborative efforts of the network of researchers, academicians, think tanks and policy institutions in the region were a fundamental contribution to publishing informative policy recommendations on migration and displacement. In 2023, twenty-five (25) research papers selected from the scientific conferences of 2021 and 2021 produced a series of published policy series, with the first on access to basic services as a means to social inclusion¹⁵.



The successful development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on cross-border disaster displacement for the borders between Ethiopia-Kenya and Kenya-Uganda were tested in 2023, in two cross-border simulation exercises between Ethiopia-Kenya (Moyale) and Kenya-Uganda (Mbale) with national and local entities, border authorities and civil society.



The collaborative efforts of the network of researchers, academicians, think tanks and policy institutions in the region were a fundamental contribution to publishing informative policy recommendations on migration and displacement

The regional exchange and learning mission held in December 2023 in Busia, Kenya, One Stop Border Post (OSBP) brought together 55 participants from National Statistics Offices, Ministry of Immigration and National Coordination Mechanism. The learning mission resulted in the member countries' representatives identifying areas of improving and utilisation of administrative data for effective migration and displacement policies. Additionally, IGAD organised a regional learning workshop on durable solutions for displacement-affected communities in Somalia and South Sudan to exchange lessons on the approaches to establishing durable solutions entities as well as on the implementation of national durable solutions strategies.

To enrich the efforts of sharing information and data, creating more interactions of stakeholders, providing platforms on progress on policy and strategy implementation for regional and national on IGAD migration and displacement discourse, the design of the migration and displacement digital portal was launched that will be completed by mid-2024.

3.5.10 Enhancing Access to Education Services in the Region:

In a collaborative effort to improved education quality and accessibility for vulnerable groups, such as refugees, migrants, and displaced populations, across its Member States, through cooperation between Africa Continental Qualification Framework (ACQF-II) and IGAD Member States, Djibouti, Somalia, and South Sudan undertook in the development of their respective National Qualifications Framework, that also integrates with the Djibouti Declaration, IGAD Qualification Framework (IGADQF) and National Equalisations Framework.



► Enhancing access to education services for underserved communities in the region

Credit: Duck Duck Go



In 2023, six (6) national IGAD countries (except Sudan) held national consultations to review progress on implementing the Djibouti Declaration, led to Kenya adopting a National Costed Plan and Uganda presented its second costed plan having rolled out its first multiyear Education Response Plan (ERP-II) and launching the development of its National Qualifications Framework.

The IGAD Council of Higher Education endorsed the IGAD scholarship guidelines targeting students from refugees, returnees, and marginal host communities. In 2023, 25 students qualified for the scholarship of which 16 students enrolled at the International University of Africa in Sudan. However, due to the conflict in Sudan, the foreign students returned to their countries, and admission assistance was provided.

In partnership with UNHCR, IGAD piloted the Djibouti Declaration Monitoring and Evaluation framework (case countries and non-case countries), with the findings presented to the Member States and stakeholders in the migration and displacement third stock-taking conference. This led to the incorporation of the pledges in the area of education



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qualified for
the IGAD Education
Scholarship
Programme

25
Students

¹⁶<https://www.norrag.org/policy-insights-launch-refugee-teachers-the-heart-of-the-global-refugee-response/>

¹⁷<https://globalcompactrefugees.org/good-practices/implementing-djibouti-declaration-education-refugees-returnees-host-communities>

¹⁸<https://globalcompactrefugees.org/good-practices/igad-giz-teacher-training-initiative-itti>

¹⁹<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Processes%2C-products-and-lessons-in-translating-into-Kassa-Tsegaye/7c28a47b0dea93e2dc72347335fb4268bd75c805>

In 2023, the IGAD education programme launched a publication, “NORRAG policy insights publication launch”, which contains an IGAD Paper “21. Leading by example: Translating the Djibouti declaration into action through refugee teacher professional development” by the Geneva graduate institute¹⁶. Moreover, two lessons on the Djibouti Declaration¹⁷ and the IGAD Teacher Training Initiative¹⁸ were posted on the GRF/UNHCR website. Another paper published in 2023 was “Processes, products and lessons in translating policies into practice: The case of IGAD teacher training initiative in refugee and host community secondary schools.”¹⁹

3.5.11 Fostering Social Inclusion and Equity for Children and Youth:

The development of a Regional Child Policy Framework was launched to promote the rights and welfare of children in the IGAD region; a technical review workshop with IGAD experts and international partners (International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Save the Children and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)) was convened in 2023 which led to a review of the draft policy and the first national consultation in Ethiopia which provided strategies on implementation for the policy

The development of the IGAD Regional youth policy framework in collaboration with Save the Children International and the Horn of Africa Youth Network was concluded in 2023, which also leverages the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) IGAD initiative that guided on prioritising, efforts to create a nurturing and supportive environment in the IGAD region for the youth development.



A photograph of two hands shaking in a firm grip, symbolizing agreement or partnership. The hands are positioned in the lower half of the frame. In the background, a city skyline with tall buildings is visible, though blurred. The entire image has a teal/green color overlay. A short orange horizontal line is located above the text.

BUILDING A PEACEFUL, SECURE AND STABLE REGION

Credit Foncier

3.6 BUILDING A PEACEFUL, SECURE AND STABLE REGION

IGAD, through its Peace and Security Programme, complements Member States efforts to pursuing sustainable peace, security and stability in the region as a pre-requisite to sustainable economic development and regional integration.

In 2023, IGAD continued to implement several priority peace and security interventions, including: strengthening data collection, analysis and dissemination capacity for conflict early warning and timely response actions; enhancing IGAD's capacity for preventive diplomacy, mediation and peace building for sustainable peace, security and stability in the region; assisting Member States emerging out of conflicts to develop and implement Post-conflict peace building strategies and programmes in line with the AU PCRD policy framework; strengthening the predictive, preventive, responsive, and adaptive capabilities of IGAD and member states to address transnational security threats; and promoting IGAD's engagement in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden towards better cooperation and collective actions.

3.6.1. Early Warning for Early Response

IGAD's Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) is mandated to receive, generate, analyse, and share high-quality information concerning potentially violent conflicts to decision-makers to inform peace and stability actions in the region. The utilisation of early warning products by Member States' decision-makers is key to having a peaceful and stable region, which CEWARN programme 2021-2025 strategies aspire to contribute to by the end of the strategic period.



IGAD's Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) is mandated to receive, generate, analyse, and share high-quality information concerning potential cross-border conflicts to decision-makers to inform peace and stability actions in the region.

3.6.1.1 Strengthening early warning data capabilities:

In 2023, CEWARN significantly improved data collection and analysis system by providing continuous updates and capacity-building skills for data collectors, situation room officers, and Member State analysts on data quality assurance.

The integrated media scanning tool continued to collect data on conflict and peace events in the IGAD region. Gender-responsive and socially sensitive conflict analysis capacities were strengthened at the national and regional levels by operationalising Situation Rooms and engaging National Research Institutions (NRIs), who produce quarterly country-specific analytical products such as trend analysis, situation reports, and scenario-building exercises.

One of the key milestones achieved this year was a regional conflict profiling scenario-building exercise undertaken in a workshop. Based on comments and directions received from the Committee of Permanent Secretaries, the regional conflict profiling was refined. This exercise identified seven key concerns for regional actions that included climate security, and global warming among others.



Gender-responsive and socially sensitive conflict analysis capacities were strengthened at the national and regional levels.

The report recommended policy actions to IGAD to move the situation from the status to the best-case scenario.

3.6.1.2 Production of early warning products

IGAD continued to undertake periodic and adhoc conflict analysis and dissemination of information

Table 6: Knowledge products on early warning produced and disseminated in 2023.

	Information/products	Number
1	Produced and shared Daily Media News Summary	608
2	Produced and shared weekly summary of major developments in the IGAD region based on the five CEWARN sectors	80
3	Produced daily News Brief on Sudan for the consumption of the Director, Executive Secretary, and IGAD senior management staff	82
4	Prepared monthly trend analysis for the region using graphs based on the data compiled from the integrated media scanning tool in the reporter	12

CEWARN has been sharing such important information with MSs, the Executive Secretary (ES), Senior Management, CEWERUs, and Partners.



Credit: IGAD Secretariat

3.6.1.3. Conflict profiling:

In 2023, CEWARN convened a regional conflict profiling and scenario-building exercise, which brought together CEWERUs, CSOs, experts, CEWARN, and IGAD staff to deliberate on major issues of concern for the region on peace and security.

Table 7: Depicts the outcome of the conflict profiling exercise.

1	Governance deficit
2	Economic challenges
3	Security challenges
4	Role of External Actors
5	Mismanagement of gender, ethnic, and religious diversity
6	Climate security and global warming
7	Management of land and natural resources

Seven key concerns are identified, for which three associated issues for each concern are again sorted out (a total of 21 issues) and considered to be a priority for action. For each of the issues, the report details the causes, actors, and impacts. The report recommends policy actions to IGAD to move the situation from the status quo to the best-case scenario.

3.6.2. Mediation and Preventive Diplomacy

The Mediation Support Unit (MSU) implements interventions that contribute to the efforts of Member States in conflict prevention, management, and resolution. The activities implemented aimed to contribute to the overall goal of achieving a more robust and peaceful IGAD region with self-reliant Member States in preventing, addressing, and resolving conflicts.

- **Development of a National Mediation Strategy**

IGAD supported a national workshop towards the development of a national mediation strategy for Somalia. The workshop created a space for the exchange of knowledge and experiences, as well as for sharing information among diverse institutions engaged in mediation and peacebuilding.

The workshop successfully identified a comprehensive process for developing a national mediation strategy, addressing the contentious issues at the heart of Somalia’s challenges. This encompassed critical aspects such as implementing federalism, pursuing a genuine reconciliation process, and establishing an imperative of institution-building.

IGAD conducted various training and awareness-raising sessions for MSs and various segments of communities on mediation thematic areas.



Credit: IGAD Secretariat

► Strengthening mediation efforts in the region



IGAD supported the development of the national mediation strategy for Somalia

29 national institutions supporting CSOs, youth and women trained in conflict sensitive practices



29
National Institution

50 government officials, Refugees and IDPs trained in conflict resolution, peace building and mediation skills respectively



50
Government Officials, Refugees and IDPs

The training and awareness-raising sessions were aimed at enhancing conflict resolution, and peace-building skills, and motivating the target groups to play their roles in their respective areas.



- **Mediation support to Ethiopia**

Through its MSU, IGAD contributed to the Ethiopian peace process specifically by supporting and identifying stakeholders (stakeholders' analysis) for the peace-building process and the enhancement of the capacities of those involved in the implementation of the agreement for the Ethiopian Government.

3.6.3. Efforts on Post-Conflict Peace Building in South Sudan and Sudan

The IGAD has been supporting peace-building efforts of Member States including the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan. The major achievements are highlighted below.

South Sudan Peace Building Process

Encouraging progress has been made in implementing the Revitalised Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). The efforts of the IGAD contributed to largely holding a ceasefire since the R-ARCSS was signed in September 2018, except those of inter-communal and sub-national violence clashes. The risk of relapse to a conflict is therefore reduced and further deterioration of humanitarian and security situations has been deterred. In 2023, the following specific outcomes were achieved

Support provided to the Transitional Institutions and Mechanisms:

Mandated by the Revitalised Peace Agreement, the IGAD has been providing its support to the Transitional Mechanisms/Institutions, including but not limited to the National Constitution Amendment Committee (NCAC) and the Judicial Reform Committee (JRC). The NCAC, which was reconstituted in October 2018 after the signing of the R-ARCSS on 12 September 2018, has to

date revised or drafted 21 Bills, out of which six were revised or drafted during the reporting period. The NCAC had submitted all the revised or drafted Bills to the concerned authorities. Eight Bills were already enacted by the Transitional National Legislative Assembly. The others are at different statuses of the approval process and are at the hands of either the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs or the Cabinet or the Transitional National Legislative Assembly. Currently, the NCAC is working on the remaining three Bills, namely the National Pension Fund Act, 2009; Telecommunications Act, 2010; and the Transport Act, 2008. After several years of engagement, the NCAC is now coming to successfully conclude its re-extended mandate in February 2024. However, the remaining Bills will be completed before their mandate expires. The IGAD has been supporting this process closely, and the Bills have helped to undertake reforms and establish legal systems in conformity with the R-ARCSS.

The National Constitution Review Commission and the National Election Commission:

The commissions were reconstituted on 03 November 2023. Although it was late, the reconstitution of these commissions was a good step forward for which IGAD has been encouraging the Parties through consultations and continuous shuttle diplomacy. Following the reconstitution, the IGAD Special Envoy and his team met separately with the Chairpersons of the Commissions in December 2023. They exchanged views on how IGAD could support the election and

the constitutional-making process. Establishing these commissions was a great move towards conducting the national elections and having an elected government at the end of the transition period. The IGAD planned, in cooperation with its Partner, to facilitate capacity-building activities in the coming year.

Sudan Peace Talks

A Trilateral Mechanism of IGAD, AU, and the UN was established to facilitate intra-Sudanese talks to restore constitutional order and civilian rule in the Republic of Sudan. As a member of the Trilateral Mechanism, IGAD had been playing a vital role in encouraging progress until the renewed conflict erupted on 15 April 2023. Under the auspices of the Trilateral Mechanism, the intra-Sudanese Talks were conducted in three different phases.

First phase: During the first phase, many consultations, shuttle diplomacies, and technical plenaries were conducted with several stakeholders, which resulted in identifying and framing priority issues and agenda for discussion and negotiation; mapping key stakeholders, and also creating a conducive environment with the release of political detainees and lifting of the State of Emergency

Second phase: In the second phase, the Trilateral Mechanism undertook consultations with the parties, prepared a matrix of all the initiatives that highlighted the areas of convergence and

divergence and conducted shuttle diplomacy that helped to better understand and narrow differences towards resolving the crisis. The second phase concluded with a major achievement of signing the Political Framework Agreement

Third phase: The third and last phase of the political process was launched on 08 January 2023 by the signatories to the Political Framework Agreement with the facilitation of the Trilateral Mechanism aiming at reaching a final political settlement. From January to the end of March 2023, the Signatory Parties with the support and facilitation of the Trilateral Mechanism, concluded different workshops on five critical issues identified in the Political Framework Agreement. All the workshops were well-attended by hundreds of participants from all corners of the country. Each workshop, except the one on Military and Security Reform, came up with recommendations aimed at serving as an input to the final political agreement.

At the end of consultations, a final political agreement was to be signed on 01 April 2023; a transitional constitutional document was to be signed on 06 April; and the formation of transitional government structures was to commence on 11 April. In line with these set deadlines, the signatories established a joint committee that prepared a draft political agreement.



The IGAD undertook the 40th extraordinary assembly virtually on the next day of the conflict, on 16 April 2023, and issued a communique calling the parties to end the conflict, but without much progress. The IGAD continued its efforts and conducted the 14th Ordinary Session of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti. The Summit decided, among other things, that the IGAD Tripartite transitions into IGAD Quartet through its communique issued on 12 June 2023. The IGAD process, under the leadership of the Quartet Group of countries, had adopted a Roadmap for resolving the conflict in the Republic of Sudan, which faced many challenges.

Moreover, the IGAD Co-facilitated the Sudan Peace Talks in Jeddah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, until the Sudanese army suspended its participation in the ceasefire talks. The IGAD continued its efforts and conducted its 41st Extraordinary Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti on 09 December 2023. The submit decided to establish an IGAD framework comprised of respected diplomatic and political interlocutors to undertake the mediation efforts in Sudan

3.6.4. Strengthening Mechanisms to Address Transnational Security Threats

The IGAD security sector programme is a comprehensive regional programme that aims to contribute to the effective prediction, prevention, and management of the existing, evolving, and emerging (EEE) common transnational security threats (TSTs) through the enhancements and strengthening of MSs capacities, regional cooperation, and the legal instruments pertinent to the security threats.

In 2023, IGAD continued to strengthen the mechanisms to address the various TSTs at national and regional levels. The mechanisms were through efforts to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination, enhancing the capacity of relevant institutions, and the promotion of legal instruments applicable to security threats ranging from terrorism, transnational organised crimes, and maritime insecurity. The following results were achieved:

- About 394 senior practitioners (65 females, 329 males) from all MSs have been trained, sensitised and enabled to gain knowledge, and skills, enhance their capacity to tackle threats, create awareness, and strengthen cooperation.



IGAD continued its efforts to ensure a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Sudan as a Co-facilitator



394 senior practitioners across member states equipped with skills to tackle threats, create awareness, and strengthen cooperation on addressing TSTs in the region

- Five informal networks were created to facilitate information and experience sharing among the practitioners.
- The final stage in creating of a regional cooperation and coordination mechanism has been reached. Four knowledge products including a regional strategy were officially launched and made public.

In addition, IGAD organised the Inter-Ministerial Regional Forum for the Criminal Justice Sector and the Police in the presence of the IGAD Committee of Ambassadors to enhance Cooperation and Coordination against TSTs. The regional forum culminated in a Mombasa Declaration with an eleven-point statement adopted by all Member States affirming their commitment to enhancing regional cooperation and coordination on criminal justice matters.

Regional Protocol on Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism

A network of Judges, prosecutors, and crime investigators:

A network of the public prosecution, the Judiciary, and the criminal investigation unit of the Police has been created to forge a formal network for effective criminal information sharing. This network is formed as part of regional cooperation and coordination among the Police, the Criminal Justice Sector, and the Judiciary. Twenty (20) representatives from the Public Prosecution, Judiciary, and Criminal Investigation of all MSs attended the forum. The delegates came up with recommendations and drafted Terms of Reference for the network

Memorandum of Understanding:

IGAD signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Chile that set historic milestones for cooperation in maritime security and safety. The signed MoU was the first of its kind, linking a South American Nation-State and a REC like IGAD which is a living symbol of shared commitment to collaborate in a spirit of south-south cooperation. The MoU is the beginning of a big cooperation that sets the basis for experience sharing with the Chile Government and the IGAD Member States in maritime security, highlighting the importance of learning from respective rich experiences while underlining the importance of coordination and exchanges of critical information and maritime expertise between the IGAD SSP and Chile.

3.6.5. Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism

IGAD through its Centre for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) supports Member States by implementing non-coercive measures to address the drivers of violent extremism in the region. IGAD's interventions are guided by a human security approach to security that combines state security with the larger imperative of non-state actors in addressing security concerns. These activities have played a crucial role in promoting gender equality within our programming and ensuring that our interventions are tailored to meet the needs of the PCVE context in the region.

During the review period, IGAD implemented a number of interventions towards addressing the drivers of violent extremism in the region, the results of which include but are not limited to:

- IGAD conducted a study on the Gender Analysis in PCVE, which provided valuable insights that will guide CVE to be more intentional about gender mainstreaming in our CVE programming.
- In addition, a regional conflict and gender analysis in PCVE was conducted to better understand the complex interplay of conflict and gender dynamics in PCVE efforts in the region and to strengthen the Centre's capacity to mainstream gender in all its programmes.
- Twenty-seven (7 females and 20 males) media practitioners were trained on adopting a gender-sensitive approach while reporting on PCVE. During the training, the media experts gained deeper insight on the concept of violent extremism as a concept.

Twenty-seven (7 females and 20 males) media practitioners trained in gender-sensitive reporting skills on PCVE

27
Media practitioners

3.6.6. Advancing towards a Shared Vision and Common Goal in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

The IGAD Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (RESGAS) initiative operates under the resolution of the IGAD Council of Ministers, which seeks to improve the region's policy environment in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden by establishing forums for discussion that aim to promote shared goals, norms, and cooperation among the region's Member States through the development of an IGAD common position and Regional Plan of Action on the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. IGAD also established a taskforce with members representing each of the organisation's Member States—Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda—in an attempt to carry out the council resolution.



IGAD also established a taskforce with members representing each of the organisation's Member States—Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda—in an attempt to carry out the council resolution

RESGAS Common Position and Plan of Action:

The IGAD Common Position (ICP) and Regional Plan of Action (RPA) on the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden have been mapped out and validated by the Taskforce members and the IGAD Committee of Ambassadors. The CIP and the RPA are expected to be implemented over the next five years and provide an important framework that shall lay a firm foundation for coordinated and integrated efforts to accomplish a common goal in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden by leveraging on opportunities, promoting a shared vision and mitigating challenges through a multilateral approach. The two documents focus on regional cohesion, coordination, and cooperation; socio-economic development; maritime and terrestrial matters; and research, technology, innovation and capacity building. Through this process, IGAD is cementing itself as a key player in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden arenas

Meetings and Consultations:

During the review period, IGAD conducted numerous policy-level gatherings, expert exchange dialogues, consultations, studies, and research on the dynamics and shared opportunities in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden with pertinent regional stakeholders, such as Member States, relevant institutions, Taskforce members, academia, CSOs, researchers, private sector institutions, etc. Through these discussions and consultations, IGAD was able to better understand the dynamics in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden with all of its member nations and to obtain important data that informed the creation of the CIP and RPA.

During the meetings, discussions centred on understanding the perspectives of various players and challenges in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden,

and the surrounding area, as well as prospective opportunities and repercussions to the IGAD Region.

IGAD Special Envoy for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden continued to increase global awareness based on the IGAD Declaration of Principles on Cooperation in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, as well as to create coordination channels with the Eastern side of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, the Special Envoy made diplomatic exchanges to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a member of the Red Sea Council, as part of their interactions with regional and global stakeholders. The envoy also continued with back channel and shuttle diplomacy efforts. Additionally, the implementation progress of the Taskforce mandate was routinely reported to the IGAD Council of Ministers and Heads of State and Government by the IGAD Special Envoy.

Exchange of Experiences:

A Baltic Sea cooperation experience exchange was organised in Helsinki, Finland, by RSGAS and CMI. The exchange aimed to expose participants to best practices in cooperation, coordination, hybrid threats, and maritime and marine environment protection. Participants from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda attended. The study tour, titled “Baltic Sea Cooperation Experience Exchange,” examined the theme and provided outcome recommendations.

One recommendation emphasised the benefits of cooperation with Baltic Sea institutions and its outcomes. The IGAD Taskforce on the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden broadened their knowledge and skills around the work of the Baltic Sea Cooperation and Arctic Sea Council. The exchange exposed participants to the development and implementation of regional policies in the Baltic Sea region and the integrated, common interest and systems used by Fin-traffic in the Baltic Sea.

Engagement Strategy:

An engagement strategy is being developed between the eastern and western shores of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden and other national, regional, inter-regional, and international institutions.

The goal of the engagement strategy is to direct and increase coordination, partnership, and cooperation between countries that are both littoral and nonlittoral and those that are on the eastern and western shores of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

RESGAS engagements have positioned IGAD as a major actor in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden arena, and it has been acknowledged by the African Union, the United Nations, the European Union, the US, the UK, Norway, Finland, and the League of Arab States. IGAD mandate on the Red Sea is now seen as the most developed in terms of defining its shared vision and common goal.

3.6.7. Enhancing Good Governance and Democratisation in the Region

IGAD Political Affairs Programme (PAP) is one of the five Programme Areas of the Peace and Security Strategy focusing on promoting good governance, Rule of Law, Democracy, and Human Rights in the region. PAP's objective is to assist the efforts of IGAD MSs in promoting and deepening democracy and good governance, holding credible and regular elections, and respecting and protecting human rights, through which maintaining peace and security shall be enhanced in the region.

The following key activities were implemented in the reporting period:

IGAD Governance Forum annual meeting:

The IGAD Governance Forum meeting was held under the overarching theme of 'Promoting and Deepening Democratic Governance through the Ratification and Domestication of Regional and Continental Instruments.' The primary objective of the meeting was to assess the state of governance in the region, to identify gaps and forge common strategies for advancing democracy, good governance, human rights protection, and the rule of law. The conference was organised by the IGAD Political Affairs Programme of the Peace and Security Division in partnership with the African Union AGA-APSA Secretariat.

The meeting brought together representatives of Election Management Bodies (EMBs), National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), anti-corruption bodies, Civil Society organisations, Parliament, IGAD Youth envoy, and Ombudsman, among others, who were drawn from IGAD Member States of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda

Building regional alliance against corruption:

IGAD MSs national anti-corruption institutions decided to strengthen cooperation in anti-money-laundering, information-sharing against Illicit Financial Flows and enhance cooperation in Asset Recovery. They have also committed to supporting each other in experience sharing legal practices, and benchmarking. The Consultative workshop concluded with an agreement on the need to establish a regional platform among national anti-corruption institutions. The African Charter on Preventing and Combating Corruption, also known as the Maputo Convention, was promoted, and consensus was built on the need for swift ratification and implementation. Meanwhile, the workshop strengthened cooperation between IGAD PAP/PSD and the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption (AUABC). The workshop was organised in close collaboration with AUABC (enhancing alignment with AU organs is one of the objectives).



IGAD MSs national anti-corruption institutions decided to strengthen cooperation in anti-money-laundering, information-sharing against Illicit Financial Flows and enhance cooperation in Asset Recovery.

Network of Human Rights Institutions:

IGAD launched a network of IGAD National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs). The draft mandate and constituencies of the regional network were thoroughly discussed, and finally unanimously endorsed and validated.

3.6.8 Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development

IGAD established its Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Unit (PCRD) to lead the design and Implementation of post-conflict programmes, projects and initiatives in the region. In 2023, the PCRD implemented some activities, including capacity-building training workshops on PCRD for South Sudan and Ethiopia. The training workshops for South Sudan focused on the general concepts of PCRD based on the AU and IGAD PCRD frameworks, while the training for Ethiopia mainly focused on Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration.



IGAD established its Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Unit (PCRD) to lead the design and Implementation of post-conflict programmes, projects and initiatives in the region.



Description	Target group	Number of people
Training workshop on conflict prevention, management, and Resolutions for youth leaders	Representative/youth leaders from all IGAD MSs	Total 49 18 Females and 31 Males
The 2023 annual meeting of the IGAD Youth Forum for Peace: Majorly focused on the role of youth in promoting peace and security, and appointment of The Youth Envoy	Members of the council of the youth forum across the MSs	Total 35 Females 15 Males 20
Experience sharing and peer learning of MSs peace and security-related institutions on post-conflict reconstruction and development	Member States' peace and security-related institutions on post-conflict reconstruction and development	Total 14 10 males and 4 females
High-level consultative workshop on transitional justice for Ethiopia to contribute to the development of the Ethiopian Transitional Justice Policy	Senior Government officials of Federal and Regional States of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	Total 35
Capacity-building training on the basic concepts of PCRD for South Sudan	Government officials and senior experts of peace and security-related institutions, representatives of civil society organisations, women, youth, and religious leaders	Total 36

Capacity-building training given to youth groups focused on enhancing the understanding of PCRD and, mobilising and promoting youth contributions to peacebuilding initiatives. PSD-PCRD unit organised and facilitated several peer learning events on PCRD for MSs to learn from one another. These learning opportunities helped MSs adopt lessons learned from failures and better practices in their efforts on post-conflict peacebuilding.

3.6.9 Peace and Security Coordination Mechanism

Through the Peace and Security Division (IGAD), IGAD has continued to streamline and synergise the coordination activities across programmes and offices through the Peace and Security Coordination Mechanism (PSCM). PSCM coordination meetings were organised and conducted. This PSCM meetings.

This PSCM meeting:

- reviewed the actions taken after the February 2022 high-level retreat, exchanged views on peace and security issues in general, and assessed the resource situation for implementing the P&S sector strategy.
- discussed the preparatory tasks for the partners' meeting.
- Lessoned and exchanged views on peace and security issues with major emphasis on South Sudan, Sudan, and Somalia.
- reviewed the three technical teams that include M&E processes and communications work, including the envisioned work of the Media Network.
- exchanged views on implementing the sector strategy 2021-2025 in general because of the resource limitation in the post-IPPSHAR period.
- Exchanged views on the PSD-Partners meeting for Resource mobilisation and set directions



Mid-term assessment of the P&S Strategy:

IGAD also conducted a Mid-term assessment of the P&S strategy. The review's objective was to conduct the mid-term assessment of the peace and security strategy (2021-2025), undertake programme-level self-reflections on post-IPPSHAR programming, and identify priorities for the remaining period. This mid-term review brought together directors, programme officers, finance officers, and other relevant Peace and Security Division staff members.

Women, Peace, and Security Interventions:

During the review period, IGAD, through its Women, Peace and Security initiative, implemented several activities, including:

- The re-launch and operationalisation of the IGAD women's peace forum. The operationalisation of this platform marks a great success due to its significance in providing avenue for regular follow-up on UNSCR1325 implementation.
- Capacity building for MSs to develop and follow up on their national action plan for the implementation of the UNHCR 1325 resolution. Some MSs have since used these opportunities to learn from other MSs how to develop their National Action Plans (NAPs) like Ethiopia and Somalia. Most importantly, countries have reached a consensus on using a regional framework to follow up on the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

- The IGAD Women Peace and Security conference was held. The conference attracted IGAD Women Peace and Security forum board members and the National chapter members of each MS along with other relevant stakeholders who used this platform to inform each other on the progress they have achieved towards implementing their NAPs.

IGAD Region Epistemic Community:

The IGAD Region Epistemic Community on Governance, Peace, and Security (IREC) was established as a regional platform for scholars with the objective of generating ideas, informing, critiquing, and contributing to policy on matters of peace, conflict, development, security, and governance in the region through rigorous and timely evidence-based research. The first IREC meeting was conducted on 16 May 2023 virtually

Nine scholars/Universities from around the region (Addis Ababa University, Makerere University, University of Nairobi, one from GGA, one from GGA-EA and one member from IGAD as well) attended the meeting. In this first meeting, IREC reviewed the proposed constitutive Concept Note and developed a list of ideas to incorporate in this document. IREC is expected to transform knowledge, action and leadership, fostering peace, security and economic development through world-class research and sharing of best practices

A top-down view of several hands reaching towards a dark wooden surface where large cardboard gears are being assembled. One large gear is light blue, and another is yellow. The hands are positioned around the gears, suggesting a collaborative effort in building or repairing a mechanism.

BUILDING A STRONGER IGAD FOR BETTER SERVICE DELIVERY

Credit: Freepik

3.7 BUILDING A STRONGER IGAD FOR BETTER SERVICE DELIVERY

IGAD aspires to continually improve its critical internal systems and processes and to harmonise its policies and procedures to facilitate the effective and efficient delivery of its mandate. These systems and processes include information and communication technologies, human resources development systems, financial and accounting systems, budget and reporting systems, risk management and auditing systems. Others are legal systems, quality assurance and standard procedures, procurement systems, communication and knowledge management systems, planning, monitoring and evaluation systems.

In 2023, IGAD Member States unanimously adopted the IGAD Treaty, transforming the rules of engagement among IGAD Member States and solidifying IGAD's role and status as a Regional Economic Community and one of the eight building blocks of the African Union to drive the integration agenda of the continent. Draft general and special conditions for all types of contracts were developed and are currently under review by the legal and procurement teams. In addition, several interventions were implemented to enhance the Secretariat's capacity to deliver her mandate, the results of which are highlighted below

3.7.1 Strengthening programme development and management:

IGAD Secretariat developed a roadmap to translate the IGAD Regional Strategy (2021-2025) into national actionable plans harmonised with the Country Programming Papers (CPPs). The roadmap outlined the scope, approach, steps institutions and people will take to develop the Country's Programmes at all levels.

To strengthen its functional capabilities to deliver effectively, the IGAD Secretariat supported several technical trainings for a total of 141 IGAD Staff on various functional areas such as planning, programming, coordination, resource mobilisation, M&E, and statistics. Furthermore, the Secretariat provided training in Human Resources, Audit, Procurement, Finance, ICT, and Info documentation (with emphasis on PBMS, Sun Systems and related systems) for a total of 112 staff. The trainings enhanced the capacity to comply with internal



IGAD aspires to continually improve its critical internal systems and processes and to harmonise its policies and procedures to facilitate the effective and efficient delivery of its mandate.



Technical trainings supported by the IGAD Secretariat

141
Staff Trained

and international guidelines/SOPs and standards. For instance, the Travel Request, Authorisation and Clearance Systems (TRACS) was launched and implemented starting from 1 September 2023 and improved the travel policy and financial rules and regulations. The TRACS training was conducted for senior management and all staff, and a total of 266 (about 65%) staff attended the training.

In terms of the internal control systems, the Secretariat conducted two internal control system reviews/upgrades; as well as quality assurance and compliance checks for its different divisions, Specialised Institutions (SIs) and Offices. In addition, the Secretariat reviewed the IGAD Staff Rules and Regulations, which were adopted by the Heads of State and Government. The Revised Regulations will improve IGAD's overall human resource function.

IGAD Secretariat developed a Multi-Year Budget and Plan, for the years 2024, 2025 and 2026, as per Chapter 2 of the IGAD financial rules and regulations and as detailed in Chapter 2 of the Financial Management Procedures Manual. The Secretariat organised the regional budget meeting in December 2023. The meeting, which brought together the IGAD Committee of Finance Experts and Committee of Ambassadors, adopted the IGAD Budget for FY2024 and the multi-year budget for 2025 and 2026.

3.7.2 Deepening International Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships:

IGAD Secretariat strengthened coordination mechanism internally across its divisions, Specialised Institutions, and externally with its Member State Institutions as well as among the various partnerships with development partners, civil society organisations and private sector.

IGAD Secretariat organised several regional partnership events, revitalised strategic partnerships and participated in continental and regional meetings on normative frameworks and Agenda 2063. The meetings included: World Bank Spring Meetings; Two Horn of Africa Initiative Ministerial Meetings; The Global Climate Summit (COP 28); Africa Climate Summit; Two African Union Summits; IGAD-Sweden Partnership Meeting; ISAP IV JFA Partners Meeting; Donor Round Table for Peace and Security; IGAD-German (BMZ) Partnership Meeting; IGAD- UNDP Partners Meeting; IGAD-USAID Partnership Meeting among others.



IGAD Secretariat developed Multi-Year Budget and Plan, namely years 2024, 2025 and 2026, as per Chapter 2 of the IGAD financial rules and regulations and as detailed in Chapter 2 of the Financial Management Procedures Manual.



IGAD Secretariat strengthened its coordination mechanism internally across its divisions, Specialised Institutions, and externally with its Member State Institutions as well as among the various partnerships with development partners, civil society organisations and private sector



The meetings resulted in: increased awareness about key geopolitical, economic, social, security and general development challenges and opportunities in the region; increased visibility about IGAD programmes and achievements in the region; agreement on common areas of interest with various partners and strengthened partnerships in areas of mutual interest. In addition, the Secretariat established and revitalised four strategic partnerships. Three continental and regional meetings on normative frameworks and Agenda 2063 were attended.

Furthermore, the Secretariat initiated the review and assessment of the IGAD Partners Forum (IPF). The IGAD Partnership Strategy was revised in 2022, providing new insights and traction towards revitalised and beneficial partnerships that serve the best interests of the Horn of Africa region while contributing to global and international or other frameworks and priorities that align with regional needs and interests.

Boosting Evidence-based Decision-making

IGAD Secretariat envisions digitalising its business processes so as to go paperless through implementing the IGAD digitalisation agenda, operationalising information systems integration, reviewing and or developing respective administration and financial policies, and organising IGAD communications meetings.

Key achievements were:

Conducted knowledge management activities, including developing the KM Policy, customising the E-learning platform and developing the IGAD statistical abstract. Four knowledge management initiatives and activities were implemented.

The Secretariat produced the annual progress report and disseminated it to IGAD Member States and key stakeholders in March 2023.

The external institutional audit process was concluded in accordance with Article 46 of the IGAD Treaty. Accordingly, the audit report and management letter were signed off and shared with IGAD MSs and other stakeholders.

Taking IGAD to the People

IGAD's projects, programmes and initiatives are tailored to foster prosperity, security and resilience in its Member States through continuous engagements and interactions with relevant institutions in the IGAD Member States.



Three continental and regional meetings on normative frameworks and Agenda 2063 were held



The external institutional audit process was concluded in accordance with Article 46 of the IGAD Treaty. Accordingly, the audit report and management letter were signed off and shared with IGAD MSs and other stakeholders.

To realise the reform agenda of taking IGAD to the people, the IGAD Secretariat has strengthened IGAD Mission Offices and Offices of Special Envoys to Brussels, the African Union, South Sudan and the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Somalia (RESGAS) to enhance its diplomatic relations in targeted strategic locations and institutions. It supported more than six diplomatic and partnership meetings. It has established eight functional IGAD Heads of Mission and Representative Offices in its MSs. For instance, Heads of Mission conducted 15 IGAD engagements within Member States. It is evident that the Secretariat coordinated high-level political and diplomatic meetings with Member States and development partners. The Secretariat held a meeting on the IGAD quartet initiative.

The Secretariat delivered regional diplomacy trainings where 54 executives benefited from the same.

IGAD also engaged Member States to sensitise them about its legal instruments. The 14th Ordinary Session of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government was held on Monday, 12 June 2023, in Djibouti, the Republic of Djibouti and passed many decisions. Consequently, the Heads of State and Government signed the revised IGAD Treaty (12 June 2023). The treaty solidifies the IGAD's status as a Regional Economic Community, a more robust and integrated entity than its previous status without a treaty.

In addition, IGAD also conducted national high-level consultation in view of the adoption or ratification of its legal instruments, including the Protocol on free movement of people. The Secretariat established and operationalised the Eminent Person's Committee.

3.7.5. Increasing Traction towards Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

IGAD Secretariat conducted a technical support mission to its Specialised Institutions in Ethiopia and Kenya to strengthen coordination and build staff capacity on gender. Tailored support focused on enhancing coordination, evidence-based advocacy and lobbying among staff. The Gender Affairs staff engaged experts, Gender Focal Points, the management and respective Member State officials in Ethiopia and Kenya.

The Secretariat participated in Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) agenda-setting meetings at national, continental and international levels (e.g., the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York).



It is evident that the Secretariat held and or facilitated high-level political and diplomatic meetings with Member States and development partners



IGAD Secretariat conducted a technical support mission to its Specialised Institutions in Ethiopia and Kenya to strengthen coordination and build staff capacity on gender



► Enhancing peace and security coordination efforts in the region

Credit: Google

A close-up photograph of a person's hands working at a desk. The person is wearing a blue button-down shirt. Their right hand holds a black pen with silver accents, poised over a black calculator. Their left hand is resting on the calculator's keypad. The desk is made of light-colored wood. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the person's shirt and the desk surface.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Credit: Freepik

3.8 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

a. Income and Expenditure by sources of funding for FY 2023 are subject to an external audit to be conducted in FY 2024.

In the year 2023, the IGAD Secretariat recognised a total income of USD 73,929,599 (14, 400,616 = MSs and 59,528,983=Partners Funding).

IGAD member countries contributed a total of USD 14,400,616 while the arrears stood at USD 34,612,153.94 as at 31d

December 2023. Funds received through the IGAD Secretariat towards implementation of IGAD programmes in the period 1 January to 31 December 2023 (in USD) and trend analysis

Source of Funding		Funds received	
	2023	2022	2021
MS Contributions	14,400,616	11,580,000	13,166,383
Partner Funding	59,528,983	46,661,823	48,101,572
Others income	0	0	422,748
Total Funding	73,929,599	58,241,823	61,690,703

b. Audited Financial Statements for 2022

The IGAD institutional 2022 audit report was clean. Compared with previous audit findings, neither significant nor control deficiency was reported in FY2022 Audit. This improvement could be due to implementing financial rules and regulations, internal controls and international standards. IGAD Secretariat received a total USD 77,915,257 and total expenditure was USD 76,246,171.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

31 December 2022				31 December 2021			
	Note	General fund	Special fund	Total	General fund	Special fund	Total
		USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
Revenue from non-exchange transactions							
Contribution from member states	4 (a)	17,062,059	-	17,062,059	14,836,573	-	14,836,573
Income from donors	12	-	59,134,253	59,134,253	-	50,825,883	50,825,883
Revenue from exchange transactions							
Interest income		651	-	651	78	-	78
Other income	4 (b)	530,731	-	530,731	185,755	236,915	422,670
Revenues from exchange transfers	4 (c)	-	1,187,563	1,187,563	-	-	-
Total revenue		17,593,441	60,321,816	77,915,257	15,022,406	51,062,798	66,085,204
Expenditure							
Staff costs	5	13,513,184	-	13,513,184	11,386,059	-	11,386,059
Other operating expenses	6	2,693,046	-	2,693,046	2,226,694	-	2,226,694
Depreciation	7	198,300	652,348	850,648	222,116	654,836	876,952
Amortization of intangible assets	8	-	13,665	13,665	-	13,665	13,665
Increase in provision from Member states	9	1,764,567	-	1,764,567	5,379,741	-	5,379,741
Project expenditure		-	57,271,937	57,271,937	-	52,170,971	52,170,971
Finance costs		-	139,124	139,124	-	30,047	30,047
Total expenditure	10	18,169,097	58,077,074	76,246,171	19,214,610	52,869,519	72,084,129
(Deficit) / surplus for the year		(575,656)	2,244,742	1,669,086	(4,192,204)	(1,806,721)	(5,998,925)
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

		31 December 2022			31 December 2021		
	Notes	General Fund	Special Fund	Total	General Fund	Special Fund	Total
		USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
Non-current assets							
Property plant and equipment	7	1,331,642	2,801,526	4,133,168	1,398,916	3,172,727	4,571,643
Intangible assets	8	-	9,461	9,461		23,127	23,127
Total non-current assets		1,331,642	2,810,987	4,142,629	1,398,916	3,195,854	4,594,770
Current assets							
Contribution from members	9	6,563,757	-	6,563,757	2,846,266	-	2,846,266
Debtors and prepayments	11	1,619,838	9,073,231	10,693,069	2,241,271	8,638,434	10,879,705
Grant receivable	12	-	3,739,088	3,739,088	-	2,024,374	2,024,374
Cash and cash equivalents	13	(602,224)	20,577,596	19,975,372	1,517,388	29,358,382	30,875,770
Total current assets		7,581,371	33,389,915	40,971,286	6,604,925	40,021,190	46,626,115
Total assets		8,913,013	36,200,902	45,113,915	8,003,841	43,217,044	51,220,885
Fund balances							
General fund		4,686,762	-	4,686,762	5,262,418	-	5,262,418
Special fund		-	3,034,224	3,034,224	-	789,482	789,482
Total fund balances		4,686,762	3,034,224	7,720,986	5,262,418	789,482	6,051,900
Current liabilities							
Creditors and accruals	14	1,307,581	6,526,622	7,834,203	705,604	5,873,805	6,579,409
Unexpended grant liability	12	-	26,640,056	26,640,056	-	36,553,757	36,553,757
Provision for staff benefits	15	2,918,670	-	2,918,670	2,035,819	-	2,035,819
Total current liabilities		4,226,251	33,166,678	37,392,929	2,741,423	42,427,562	45,168,985
Total fund balances and current liabilities		8,913,013	36,200,902	45,113,915	8,003,841	43,217,044	51,220,885

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

	General fund	Special fund	Total
	USD	USD	USD
At 1 January 2021	9,454,622	2,596,203	12,050,825
Deficit for the year	(4,192,204)	(1,806,721)	(5,998,925)
At 31 December 2021	5,262,418	789,482	6,051,900
	=====	=====	=====
At 1 January 2022	5,262,418	789,482	6,051,900
(Deficit) / surplus for the year	(575,656)	2,244,742	1,669,087
At end of the year 2022	4,686,762	3,034,224	7,720,987
	=====	=====	=====



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