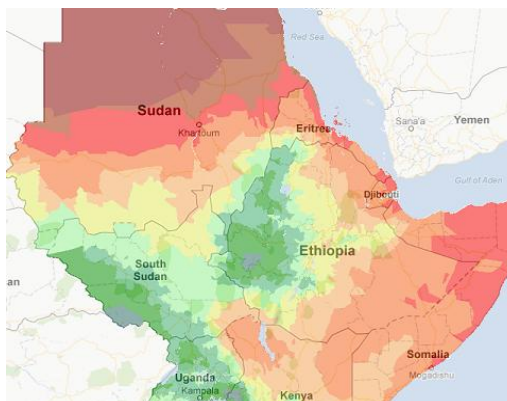


Concept Note

IGAD SUMMIT ON DROUGHT RESILIENCE, Kampala, Uganda, 24 – 27 March 2014. ***Investing differently to end drought emergences in the IGAD region***

1.0 Background and introduction

The IGAD¹ region comprises **Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan** and **Uganda** and has a land area of 5.2 million km². 60 - 70 percent of the region is made up of areas that receive less than 600mm in annual rainfall, which are commonly known as arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) and are characterised by recurrent droughts and unpredictable rainfall patterns.



The droughts have been increasing in severity and frequency over the years and their impacts are exacerbated by floods, advancing desertification, land degradation, global warming and climate change phenomena. These harsh and worsening ecological circumstances have created conditions of chronic vulnerability, with persistent food insecurity, widespread economic hardships and human suffering, mostly affecting the pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities that inhabit the ASALs.



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The devastating drought that hit the IGAD region in 2010-2011 affected more than 13 million people and exacerbated food insecurity to famine levels in many parts of the IGAD region. The severity of this crisis brought to the fore the catastrophic impact of recurrent droughts and their dire humanitarian, environmental and productivity consequences. Simultaneously the 2011 drought underpinned the ineffectiveness of past drought response approaches, prompted questions on the causes of vulnerability

¹ IGAD: Inter-Governmental Authority on Development. A Regional Economic Community (REC) that is one of the building blocks of the African Union.

and called for more enduring solutions. While droughts are unavoidable natural phenomena in the Horn of Africa, their impacts can be mitigated by taking appropriate action, to avoid the occurrence of famine and other emergencies.



Disasters kill lives, but drought kills livelihoods

2. The Nairobi Summit Resolution of September 2011 to do things differently

Seeking to address the catastrophic phenomenon of recurrent droughts and related worsening environmental concerns in a sustainable manner, the Heads of State and Government of the IGAD region convened a Summit in Nairobi in September 2011 to discuss the crisis. The summit discussed the growing problem and worsening effects of droughts in the IGAD region and examined the urgent need to tackle the related problem of chronic food insecurity, diminished productivity, increasing poverty and vulnerability, in a sustainable manner. The Nairobi Summit resolved to embark on an IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) to end drought emergencies. Recognizing the need *to do things differently*, the Nairobi Summit called for the urgent introduction of innovative sustainable development strategies, policies and programmes at member states' and regional levels, aimed at building resilience to future climatic and economic shocks.

IDDRSI is IGAD's plan and commitment to end drought emergencies, build drought resilience and achieve growth and sustainable development in the IGAD region. In the past, the approaches used or advocated by governments, development partners and humanitarian agencies to respond to drought and related emergencies were in the form of humanitarian relief interventions, usually based on the action of individual Member States or international agencies.

Aware that achieving the objective of this initiative will entail dedicated and coordinated actions and enhanced partnerships at national, regional and international levels, the Summit tasked the IGAD Secretariat with the responsibility to lead and coordinate the implementation of the Initiative. The initiative calls for increased commitment by affected countries and interested development partners and urges enhanced regional and international partnership to support investments in sustainable development especially in the ASALS. The necessity and significance of the coordination role being played by the IGAD Secretariat in the implementation of IDDRSI is defined by the regional character of the drought resilience initiative, which demands the concerted action of all countries, sectors, partners and stakeholders in the region.

The implementation of IDDRSI is being undertaken within the framework of the collective agreement by all concerned (Member States, partners and stakeholders) to do things differently. It is based on the technical validity of the approach to end drought emergencies through building resilience and sustainability. IDDRSI advocates a coherent architecture of international assistance that involves the enhanced coordination of the strategic links between humanitarian relief interventions and development initiatives. These approaches have created a strong political momentum which promises to generate greater commitment in

the affected countries and their development partners. IDDRSI promotes increased investments to facilitate the execution of appropriate intervention activities aimed building drought resilience and sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable communities.

3. The Drought Resilience Platform and Partnerships

IGAD Member States and their Development Partners agreed to form a Regional Drought Resilience Platform. The Platform brings together the different partners and stakeholders including Member States, the IGAD Secretariat, Development Partners and implementing Partners, including UN agencies, Civil Society and specialized research and training institutions. As part of its institutional arrangements, the Platform comprises a General Assembly of participating stakeholders, a Platform Steering Committee and a Platform Coordinating Unit. The Platform provides the modalities through which the region's priorities and possibilities for intervention by affected countries and development partners, in support of the drought resilience initiative, are discussed – and provides the most effective mechanism by which the implementation of the drought resilience initiative can be coordinated.

Within the framework of its assignment to lead and coordinate the implementation of the IDDRSI, the IGAD Secretariat initiated a consultative, participatory process to develop a Strategic Plan that is now guiding the region's interventions in the efforts to end drought emergencies, build drought resilience and attain sustainable development. The IDDRSI Strategic Plan has been translated by IGAD Member States into their respective Country Programming Papers (CPP) for activities at the national level and the Regional Programming Paper (RPP), for interventions planned at the regional level. Coordination mechanisms, at national and regional levels, required for the effective implementation of the drought resilience initiative have been established.

A number of partners have come forward, some supporting the IGAD Secretariat to build the capacity necessary to optimally perform its leadership and coordination functions in the implementation of the initiative; others are supporting Member States in the development and funding of field programmes aimed at building drought resilience. The Drought Resilience Initiative is well and truly underway, with evidence to demonstrate the seriousness with which countries and their partners are determined to do things differently and end expeditiously drought emergencies in the region.

4. Second Summit on Drought Resilience, Kampala, Uganda, 24 – 27 March 2014.

The IGAD Secretariat, in consultation with IGAD Member States and Development Partners, is now planning to convene the second summit on drought resilience, which will take place in Kampala, Uganda, 24 – 27 March 2014. Coming just over 2 years after the Summit that was held in Nairobi in September 2011 adopted the decision to embark on the drought resilience initiative, the Kampala summit will provide an excellent opportunity for Member States and Development Partners to review the progress made, exchange ideas on the way forward and re-affirm commitment to end drought emergencies in the region.

5. Doing things differently

In a decision founded in a spirit of collective political commitment, the Nairobi Summit in 2011 advocated for expeditious action, dedicated to the objective of ending drought emergencies. Recognizing the need to do things differently, by combining preventive (rather than reactive) methods, acting regionally (rather than as individual Member State) and using twin-track (rather than only emergency) and holistic (rather than silos) approaches, the Summit resolved to embark on a drought resilience initiative.

The Summit assigned the IGAD Secretariat the task of leading and coordinating the implementation of the Initiative. The Summit also urged the affected countries to develop policies and strategies that will facilitate investments that support programmes aimed at building resilience to future climatic and economic shocks, including building human capital and sustainable livelihoods. A number of development and implementing partners including the private sector, NGOs and UN agencies and national and regional NSAs welcomed this strategy and undertook to consider aligning their investments, as appropriate, to support the region's new initiative.

While in the past, the ASALs were regarded largely as an expanse of unproductive wasteland, and attracted little or no interest or investment from the private and public sectors, the drought resilience initiative will help rediscover the true value of the region's resources and opportunities for production. Whereas the predominant livelihood system in the ASALs of the IGAD region is pastoral livestock production, the contribution of livestock and livestock products to the agricultural GDP is frequently underestimated in all the affected countries. This under estimation of the region's principal product obscures the region and the livestock sector from the political limelight that usually inspires government support and thus undermines the region's potential for enhanced productivity and progress.

Moreover, the modest efforts of some individual countries to assist their communities in addressing the problems of drought emergencies have been rendered ineffective by the absence of similar schemes across the border, underscoring the importance of the regional approach and the critical necessity for the harmonisation and coordination of intervention action in the drought resilience initiative, across and within national boundaries. The importance of a regional approach (acting nationally, but thinking regionally) calls for the simultaneous engagement of countries in the region in efforts that promote, facilitate and support drought resilience and sustainability.

The Summit took the bold decision to address the effects of recurring droughts on vulnerable communities in the IGAD region, calling for increased commitment by affected countries and Development Partners to support investments in sustainable development especially in the Arid and Semiarid Lands (ASALs). The Nairobi Summit urged all countries to work together as a region and all concerned to do things differently, working concertedly and holistically, combining relief and development interventions, aimed at building resilience to future shocks. The IDDRSI Strategy serves as a common framework for developing national and regional programmes.

6. Expected outcomes

- Coming just over 2 years since the Summit resolution made in Nairobi in September 2011 for the countries in the Horn of Africa and their development partners to embark on an initiative to end drought emergencies, the Kampala Summit will serve as an opportunity to review the progress made, discuss the way forward and re-affirm commitment to end drought emergencies in the region.
- Having resolved to do things differently during the Nairobi Summit of 2011, the Kampala summit will be an opportunity for both Member States and Development Partners to assess what is different in their thinking or action; and what has changed since the devastating drought of 2010/2011. It will be an opportunity for each country and each development partner to review what they have done to prepare the most vulnerable communities in the region for the next drought and discuss issues of mutual accountability. It will be a time to re-think and re-focus our priorities and mutual responsibilities on how to be ready for the next drought.
- However, as well as taking stock of evidence of our responsibility to honour our pledges and resolutions, the Kampala Summit will be an opportunity to also remind ourselves that the IDDRSI Strategy is a 15-year proposition that compels us to be forward looking, trying to figure out how to make the process of the drought resilience initiative irreversible; through increased investments, through linking humanitarian assistance with development assistance; through better coordination and deeper cooperation; through more inclusive engagement and involvement of all groups and categories of actors and stakeholders; and through increased commitment to the sustainable use of natural resources.

7. Contacts

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