



ENHANCING THE RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITIES IN CROSS-BORDER AREAS OF ETHIOPIA, KENYA AND SOMALIA

The Horn of Africa is one of the most food-insecure regions in the world, with pastoral and agropastoral communities in the region increasingly vulnerable to growing pressures on natural resources, upon which they depend for survival. Addressing these challenges requires mechanisms and policies that reduce communities' exposure to these risks. Building their capacities will ensure their long-term sustainability to cope with future disasters.

The Partnership Programme between FAO and IGAD was designed to enhance the resilience of communities in cross-border areas of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, coupled with the strengthening of IGAD's capacity – particularly the specialized institutions – to effectively lead and facilitate interaction among its member states on policy and investments, thereby fostering the delivery of cross-border resilience.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project sought to build resilience of vulnerable cross-border communities in the region through four major components. These were as follows: (i) ensuring technical and financial support to marginalized and vulnerable cross-border pastoral and agropastoral communities in a demand-driven and participatory manner, (ii) improving the regional thematic resilience-related policy framework through policy dialogue, design and implementation of critical policy issues in the region, (iii) improving evidence-based analysis and information through resilience analysis, mapping of shared resources and institutions, coordination and information-sharing and (iv) leveraging and strengthening the capacity of IGAD specialized institutions to effectively implement the cross-border community and policy components.

IMPACT

The training, capacity-building, community action plans and investment proposals have laid important foundations in the target cross-border communities for resilience to future disasters. The project's thematic focus areas of natural resources, trade and marketing and livestock pest and diseases contributed to addressing a number of challenges and issues identified in the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience Sustainability Initiative. The project has contributed to placing communities at the centre of cross-border policy and investment discourse and actions, not only as beneficiaries but as key stakeholders defining the agenda of their future. Through community plans, the project has built the status of cooperatives, which are ready to receive grants for the communities in target areas.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 4 000 000

Duration

March 2016 – October 2018

Resource Partner

Switzerland

Partner

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

Beneficiaries

Cross-border communities living in drought- and conflict-prone arid and semi-arid land areas of IGAD member states



ACTIVITIES

- Target communities were selected and Community Action Plans completed, validated and endorsed in all three countries, specifically in Manderla (Kenya), Dollow/Belet Xaawa (Somalia) and Dolo Ado and Dolo Bay (Ethiopia).
- 15 Community Investment Proposals were developed based on the plan and submitted to IGAD. These were reviewed and endorsed by the IGAD-FAO Partnership Programme grants committee. All proposals were funded for Madera (Kenya) and Dollow/Belet Xaawa (Somalia). There were some delays in finalizing the fund transfer for Ethiopia but this was resolved and communities will receive their investment grants.
- The project established and capacitated 30 Agropastoral Field Schools across all target areas, ten in each country. These field schools have begun to share some of the benefits of the project in their areas.
- Technical support provided throughout the implementation and field missions organized with governments and NGO partners to support activities on the ground.
- Resilience, conflict, natural resources and food security baseline analysis carried out in the target areas and results shared with the participating countries, highlighting key issues requiring joint action in the cross-border areas.
- The capacities of 21 master trainers were developed through Agropastoral Field Schools in all three countries, with Somalia having the highest number of participants.
- Financial and procurement manuals put in place, with the necessary capacities built through direct implementation of spot checks and audit reports of the project.
- The first community investment grant committee was established and facilitated. The committee deliberated and cleared 15 investment proposals from Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.



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Project Title

IGAD – FAO Partnership Programme on Drought Resilience

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