
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT
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GCC-Africa Inter-Regional Workshop

Advancing IGAD–GCC Cooperation for Safe, Sustainable and Mutually Beneficial Inter-Regional Trade in Livestock and Livestock Products:

Regional Coordination of TAD Control and Livestock Trade Facilitation

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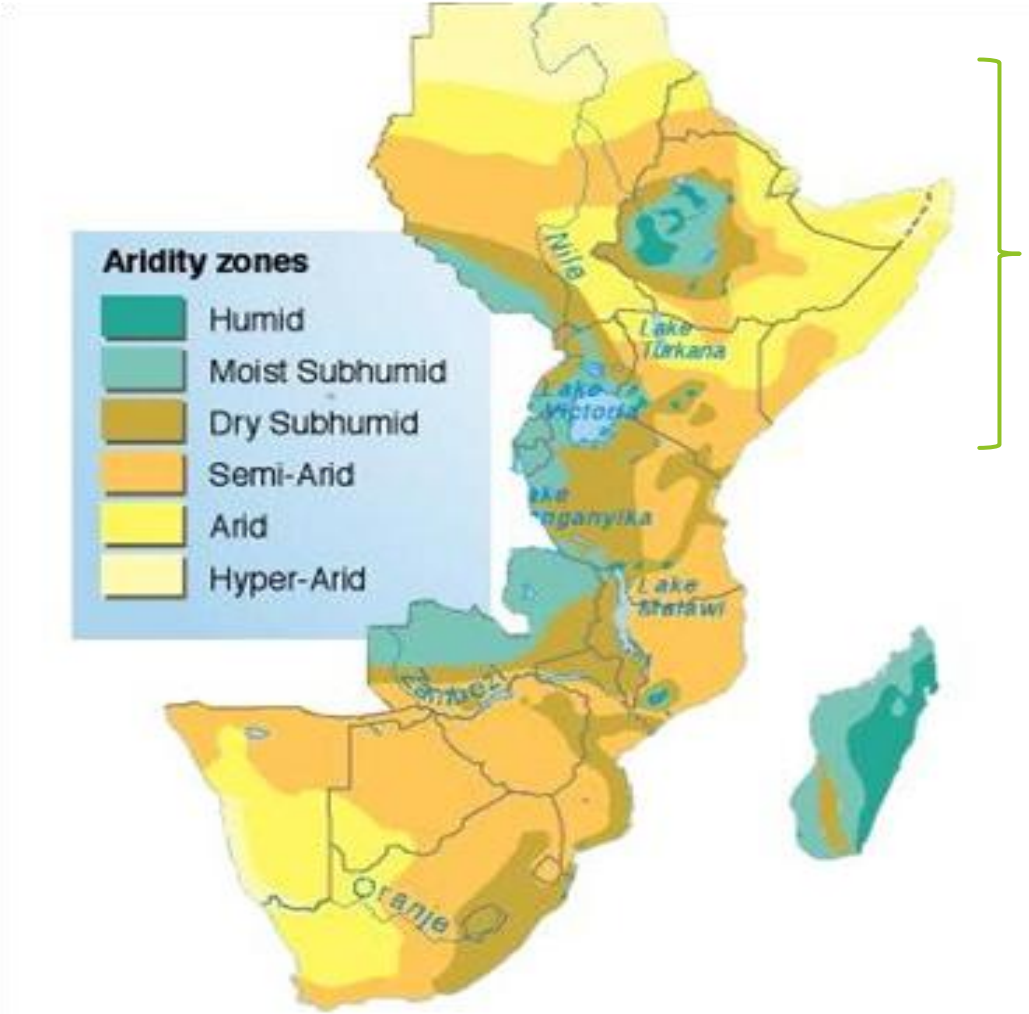
06- 08 October 2026, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

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Background: The IGAD region

Pastoralism is the Predominant livelihood, over 40 million pastoralists

60-80% of IGAD rural people raise livestock as their main income.



TOTAL RUMINANT POPULATION (IGAD)

488 Million

Africa's largest livestock exporter

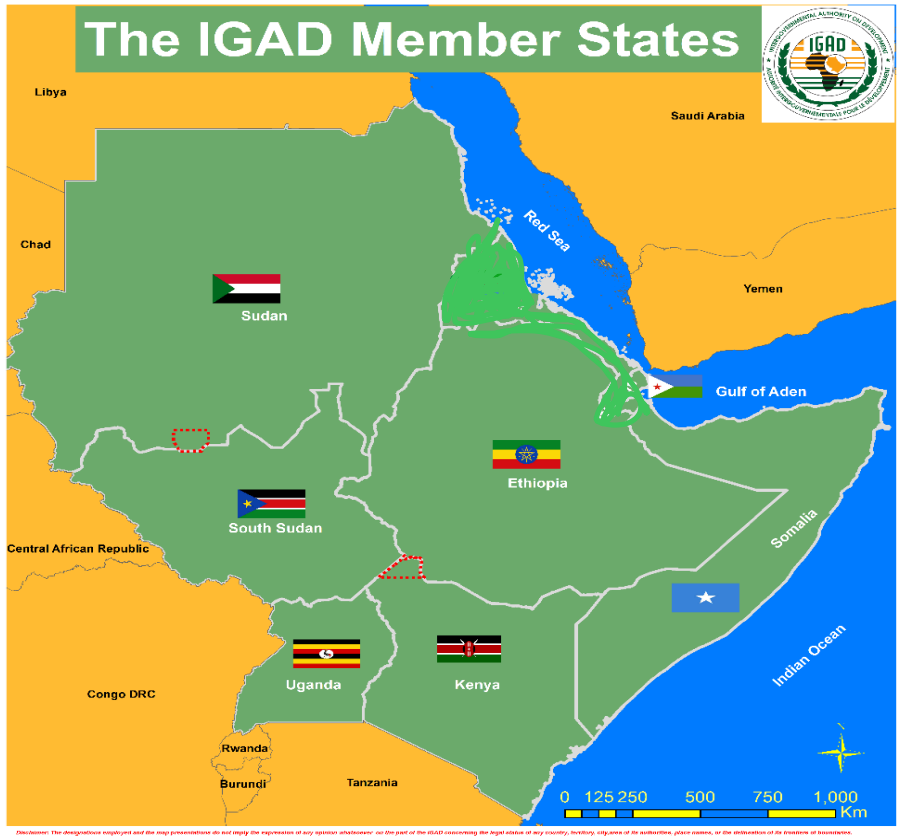
CONTRIBUTION TO GDP

10-50%

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Background

Livestock in the IGAD Region

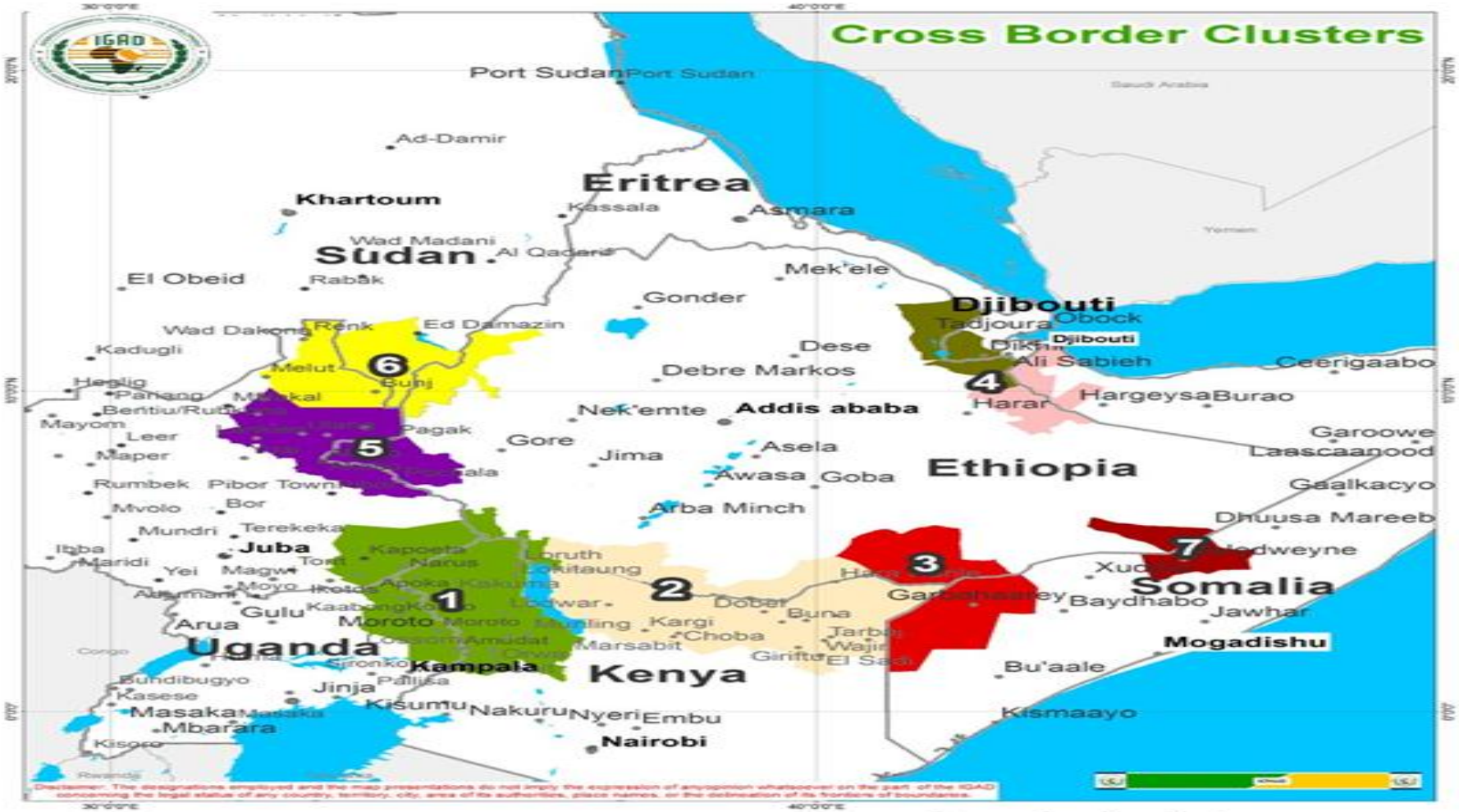


Intergovernmental Authority on Development(IGAD)

- **IGAD Regional Member States are 7**: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda(established in 1986)
- Total ruminant population- 473 million- based on 2024 country estimates
  - Cattle- 155 m(15% of the World)
  - Sheep- 133 m(12% of the World)
  - Goats- 160 m(13% of the World)
  - Camels- 24 m(60% of the World)
- Most IGAD countries do regional trade as well as export to Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries, Southeast Asia and beyond
- IGAD region exports **58% and 10%** of live animals and meat respectively of annual demand of MENA countries,
- **IGAD-MENA annual trade**:
  - Live Animal **10-12 million**
  - Meat **60,000 ton**
- **The Region's trade Corridors**: Port Sudan, Djibouti, Barbara, Kismayo, Lamu, Mombasa
- **Contribution to GDP** ranges **from 10-50%**

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IGAD Established Cluster Approach to Facilitate Cross border TAD Control Coordination: Moyale, Mandera, Karamoja, Dikhil and other clusters



1 IGAD Cluster 1 (AKA Karamoja Cluster)

2 IGAD Cluster 2 (AKA Somali Cluster)

3 Proposed new areas in Somalia

4 IGAD Cluster 4 (AKA Dikhil Cluster) plus proposed new areas in Somaliland

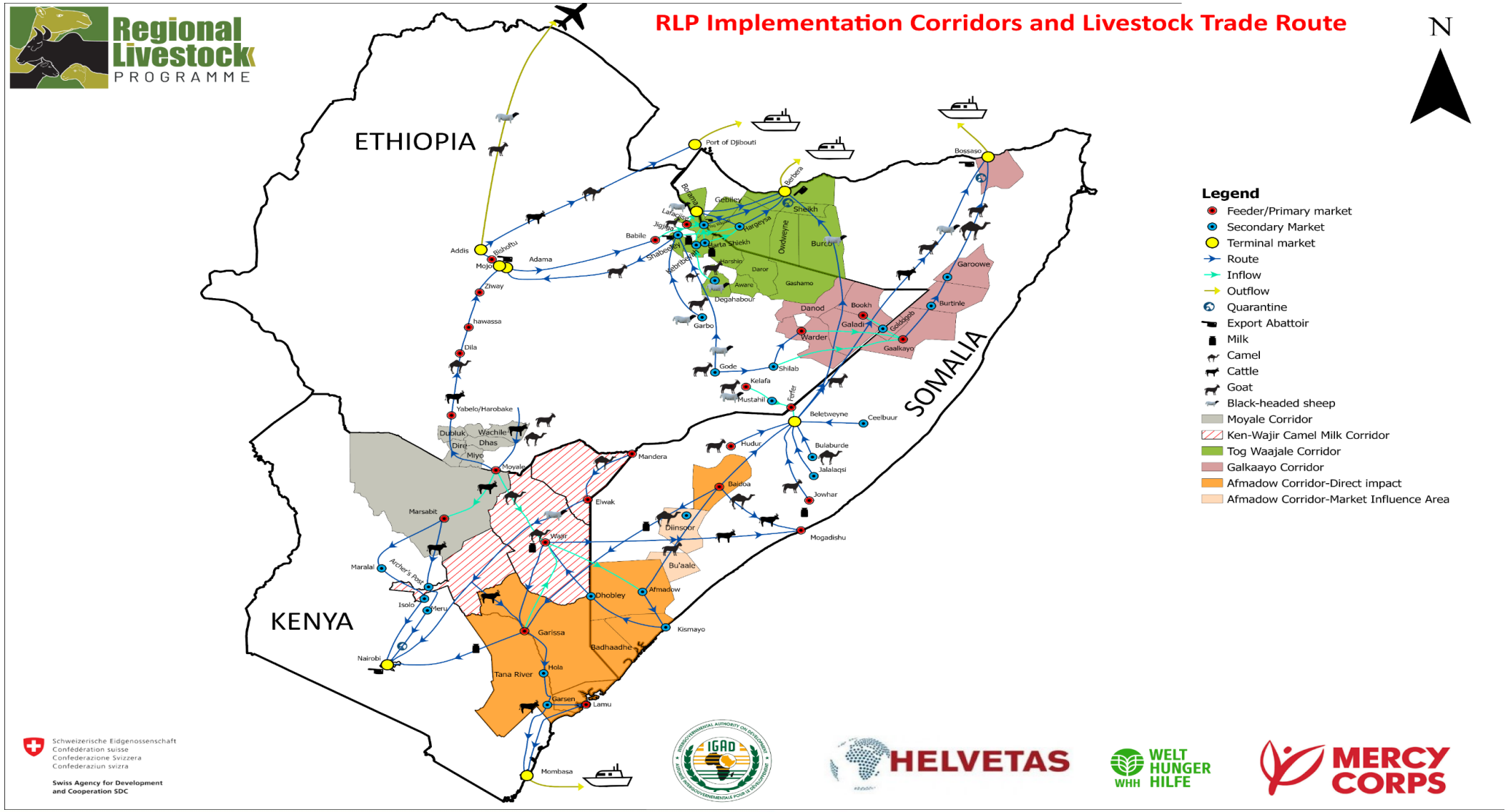
5 Proposed cross border cluster: Ethiopia and South Sudan

6 Proposed cross border cluster: Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan

7 Proposed cross border cluster: Ethiopia and Somalia

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IGAD Membr States are Interconnected and Interdependent for different socio-economic reasons: Established Trade corridors



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

IGAD

HELVETAS

WELT HUNGER HILFE

MERCY CORPS

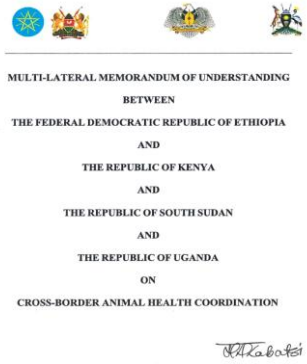
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Regional Cooperation in TAD Control and Livestock Trade Facilitation

1. Coordination and Harmonization of TADs Control

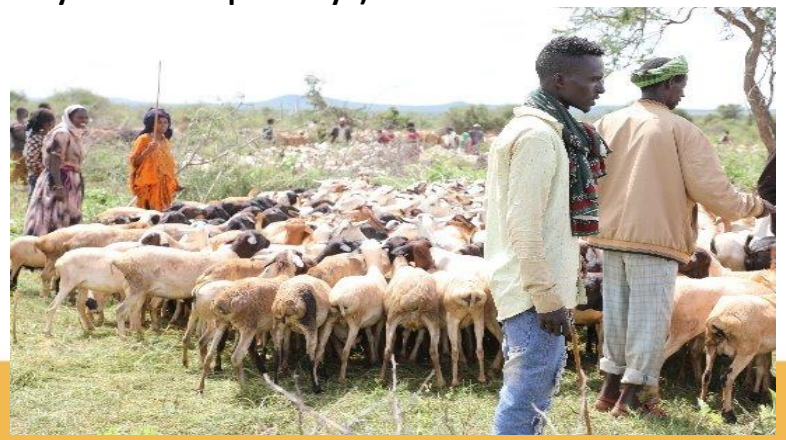
- **Memoranda of understanding on** Cross Border Cooperation on Animal Health and Sanitary Measures
  - **Nine Priority TADs identified (9 TADs)**
    - RVF, CBPP, CCPP, PPR, Brucellosis, FMD,
    - Sheep and goat pox, camel pox, LSD) and d
  - **Six Bilateral MOUs signed**
    1. DJIBOUTI-ETHIOPIA;
    2. ETHIOPIA-KENYA;
    3. ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA;
    4. ETHIOPIA-SOUTH SUDAN,
    5. ETHIOPIA-SUDAN
    6. SOUTH SUDAN - SUDAN
  - **One Multi-lateral MOU Singed**
    - (ETHIOPIA-KENYA-SOUTH SUDAN-UGANDA)
- **Developed Implementation Frameworks** to operationalize the MoUs
- **Developed animal disease** information Sharing Protocols
- **Developed governance** structure to operationalize MoUs
  - Joint steering committee
  - Multi-disciplinary technical committee
- **Regular synchronized** cross border vaccination programs-all clusters implemented in 2026




MULTI-LATERAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA
AND
THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
AND
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
AND
THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
ON
CROSS-BORDER ANIMAL HEALTH COORDINATION



Launch of the Annual Synchronized cross border vaccination Program May 20269Ethiopia-Kenya)



Regional Cooperation……Continued

2. IGAD-MENA Inter Regional Coordination and Collaboration to Enhance Livestock and Product Trade

- Since 2016, IGAD-ICPALD have convened annual inter-regional technical meetings
  - 3rd CVO forum in 2018 in Dubai,
  - 4th CVO forum in Feb 2020 in Addis,
  - 5th in March 2022 in Addis, and July 2024 in Entebbe) to align veterinary standards, SPS protocols, and harmonize lab methods
- Private-sector forums started in 2022
- 8th regulatory/CVOs forum was conducted in Dubai, UAE July 1.2, 2025- Hosted by UAE
- **4th Private Sector** forum for IGAD Exporters and MENA Importers was conducted in Dubai, UAE on June 30,2025
- Support to Private actors to Expand Market
  - Promotion at GULF FOOD fair
  - New buyers on meat and live animal
  - Value addition and product diversification
- **Livestock trade corridors investment** with infrastructure such as holding grounds, feedlots, and watering points.
- **Accelerating AfCFTA implementation for Livestock:** Awareness creation and familiarization to promote intraregional trade



8th IGAD and MENA regulatory bodies (CVOs) meeting at Dubai, United Arab Emirates July 01-02, 2025



4th IGAD exporters and MENA importers forum at Dubai, United Arab Emirates June 30, 2025

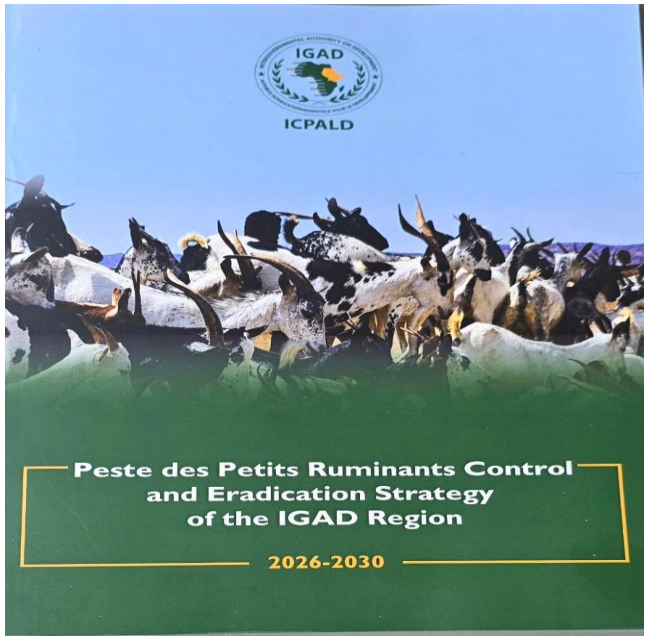
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Regional Cooperation……Continued

3. Harmonization of Policies, Guidelines and Protocols

- Guidelines on LITS in the IGAD Region-Revised edtion
- IGAD Model Legal Framework For Livestock Identification And Traceability(LITS)-Revised edition
- Quarantine Standard Operating Procedures
- Regional Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary(SPS) Strategy
- Regional Veterinary Certification System
- Regionally Harmonized Animal welfare guidelines
- Regional Strategies for the control of Priority TADs such as FMD,PPR
  - Joint IGAD and EAC FMD Strategy(11 countries)
  - Regional PPR Control and Eradication Strategy
- SMP on laboratory diagnostic tests and testing protocol for TADs
- Regional Animal health Strategy
- IGAD Transhumance Protocol: Sigen by most MS





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Regional Cooperation……Continued

Promoting Regionally Interoperable LITS and Certification Systems

- **Ethiopia's (ET-LITS)**
  - Evolved from a pilot launched in 2014 into a nationally anchored, legally mandated and digitally supported system.
  - Animal Health and Welfare Proclamation No. 1376/2025,
  - Integration with the vaccination, certification and disease surveillance underway
  - Target to bring 45 million animals under the LITS system in the next 5 years
  - Government initiative to establish disease free zone
- **Kenya's (ANITRAC)**
  - **Animal Identification, Registration, Traceability and Tracking system (ANITRAC**) is currently in the piloting and testing phase, with
  - Preparations underway for national rollout
  - Animal Identification and Traceability Bill, 2026
  - Linkage with the national animal vaccination initiative
  - National vaccination initiatives :led by the president
- **Somalia (SOMLITS)**
  - SOMLITS) is at a design stage.
  - The system has been formally initiated,
  - Requirements gathering and conceptual design completed,
  - Now moving into the realization phase
- **Uganda (U-LITS)**
  - U-LITS is conducting successful pilot and integration with the national animal health systems

ET-LITS

ETHIOPIAN LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY SYSTEM



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Regional Cooperation……Continued

4. Capacity Building in TAD Control and Trade Facilitation

- ❑ TOT on TADs test and testing SOP in laboratory diagnostics – harmonized Lab Dx procedures and protocols
- ❑ Development and Dissemination of Quarantine Standard Methods and Procedures
- ❑ Risk-Based and Syndromic Animal Disease Surveillance
- ❑ Training on SMP-AH, Quarantines
- ❑ Protocol for information sharing on cross-border animal health and sanitary measures between Ethiopia and Kenya (20 of whom 6 were female)
- ❑ Post-vaccination sero surveillance in cross border areas
- ❑ Desginate regional reference Labs for priority TADs in coordination with MS..on process



TOT onIntra regional harmonization of Sop onTAD diagnostic tests and procedures



Technical Support Mission to the Somali Livestock Quarantine and Inspection Center,

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Challenges

- Frequent change of sanitary requirements by some importing countries affecting the export continuity
- Inadequate information sharing and transparency in SPS and certification b/n exporting IGAD and importing MENA countries(epid and surveillance data, e-certification, LITS, Late feedback in import risk assessment
- Unharmonized laboratory diagnostic and testing methods between IGAD exporting and MENA importing Countries
- Limited access of information concerning import requirement from websites
- Weak public–private coordination, Value chain, lack of formal trade structures,
- Weak implementation of bilateral and regional agreement, and absence of agreement between some countries
- Unharmonized halal certificates among GCC Countries
- Inconsistent Trade Policies and unharmonized certification—IGAD Region
- Weak implementation of recommendations from the IGAD-MENA Forum
- Inadequate investment in TAD Control and Cross border coordination
- Inadequately justified export ban-**scientifically unjustified**

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Opportunities

- Proximity to the Middle East market and North Africa
- Taste of our animals/organic products-Meat preference;Rangeland
- High market demand regionally; in Middle East, Asia
- More competitive pricing than distant exporters, well-positioned to serve MENA markets
- Growing interest of Government & private sector
- Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement(AfCFTA)
- Large and diverse livestock resource base
- Institutional knowledge and regional coordination(IGAD/ICPALD)



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Areas of Collaboration/Work together

- Value addition, aggregation and processing(Quarantine, Feedlot, feed and fodder production, technology/digitization)
- Co-Investment in trade sensitive transboundary animal disease control
- Harmonize laboratory testing methods
- Joint capacity building/training on test harmonized methods and procedures
- Mutual Recognition Agreement(MRA) on disease surveillance, veterinary certification, inspection
- Work together to Harmonize import requirements among GCC countries
- Mechanism to regularly assess and approve new/existing establishments with out delay

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Proposed Actions to Overcoming Barriers to Trade

- ❑ **IGAD-GCC to cooperate** to promote harmonization of policies and assist MS to implement standards and protocols
- ❑ **Establish a regular information exchange mechanism** with importing countries on SPS, certification, and market requirements.
- ❑ **Regularly share epidemiological data, surveillance results**, and disease control activities consistently.
- ❑ **Ensure status notifications on the WOAH (OIE) platforms** to build confidence and maintain transparency with trading partners

- ❑ **Negotiate and implement Bilateral Memoranda of Understanding** (MoUs) between IGAD exporting countries and GCC importing countries.
- ❑ **Institutionalize a review of Bilateral MOUs** and revision process every **1–3 years to reflect evolving SPS requirements** and trade needs

- ❑ **Intensify efforts** to prevent, control, and eradicate transboundary animal diseases across IGAD member states.
- ❑ **Enhance regional surveillance and coordinated response** mechanisms to minimize trade disruptions

Source:

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Proposed Actions to Overcoming Barriers to Trade

- ❑ **Establish FMD -free zones** and compartments to expand export opportunities.
- ❑ **Advocate for mutual recognition of halal certificates** across GCC countries
- ❑ **Expedite clearance procedures by SFDA in Saudi Arabia**, like UAE, to reduce delays and costs for exporters.
- ❑ **Address unjustified market bans** (including offal) and ensure bans are lifted more promptly.
- ❑ **Regulatory bodies should review UAE** and KSA importer interest in offal trade approval, as already accepted by Qatar and Oman

- ❑ **Promote branding and value addition** in livestock and livestock products among member states

Source:

Proposed Actions to Overcoming Barriers to Trade

- **Ensure exporting IGAD countries comply** with international animal welfare guidelines.
- **Develop and implement training programs** for stakeholders (traders, transporters, abattoir workers) to strengthen compliance.
- **Facilitate collaboration between IGAD and MENA** countries to harmonize laboratory testing methods and Joint Tranining

- Advocate for **predictable and stable sanitary requirements** from MENA importing countries.
- Recommend that any **significant changes in import requirements** from GCC countries to occur at least **every 3–4 years**, allowing exporters sufficient time to comply without disrupting trade.

Source:

Acknowledgement

- UAE Government for hosting this important event
- WOAH GCC and East Africa Sub Regionall Offices
- Abu Dhabi Food and Agriculture Authority(ADAFSA)
- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

هيئة أبوظبي للزراعة والسلامة الغذائية
ABU DHABI AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Source:

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THANK YOU