MEETING REPORT

Virtual Cluster Coordination Meeting

Mandera Cluster III

Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020.

Contents

Participant Registration

Meeting participants joined and were admitted from the waiting room and joined the meeting while muted on both audio and video.

Welcoming Remarks

The facilitator welcomed participants we 1ˢᵗ virtual Mandera cluster coordination meetingin accordance with the ongoing ravaging COVID-19 pandemic in the region.

The facilitator outlined some house keeping rules to be observed during meeting the meeting and presented the agenda which was adopted.

Brief opening Remarks

IGAD-SECCCI Project Coordinator welcomed participants and gave brief opening remarks noting that this is the 1ˢᵗ Cluster Coordination Meeting having not held any since inception because of security issues and issues related to delayed opening of a new cluster office in this cluster.

Additional remarks were given by representatives from the BORESHA Consortium, PACT-RASMI and the UNDP/RSCA-SECCCI project manager who all stated that they were looking forward to the meeting discussions and strategic wayforward.

Self-introduction

Self introduction session followed during which paricipants stated their names, organizations affiliations, roles and expectations. The meeting was attended by 22 participants in total.

Meeting objectives and approach

The IGAD-SECCCI Project Coordinator outlined the meeting objectives stating that the presentations and discussions should cover achievements, challenges and offer practical solutions in moving forward noting the lack of time remaining for the project. He further noted that due to the delay in implementing project activities and the current movement restrictions caused by the ongoing COVID pandemic, only 28% of funds had been used in 3 years.

UPDATES, ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

IGAD Cluster Coordinator Mandera Cluster (III)

The cluster coordinator presented a preamble giving structure and background about the SECCCI project stating that:

1. SECCCI project model is tripartite partnership between UNDP, IGAD and UNEP with distinct roles and responsibilities.
2. IGAD-SECCCI project financial resources for implementation of the activities are from EU channeled through UNDP. As such, an LOA was developed between IGAD-UNDP with clear engagement terms.

He further observed that Mandera Cluster remains unique without an established cluster facilitation office and, that it was important to understand the different situations between the clusters. Additionally, he stated that the activities being reported at this workshop were predominantly undertaken by IGAD/ICPAC under the SECCCI project.

The achievements, challenges and way forward are summarized below.

Achievements	1. SECCCI in Mandera has had several coordination meetings & partnership building sessions at the cluster level working with county governments and local administrations.
	2. In an attempt to promote collaboration under the existing MoUs, SECCCI in Mandera has undertaken the following thematic activities:
	   o In awareness raising – *conducted several cross-border community peace dialogues, launched CPMR Platform- need reactivate.*
	   o In review of policies and protocols affecting cross-border communities – *working with MPAF and hope extend same to SOM & ET-mapping all peace actors and putting place structures.*
	3. Initiated and conducted rapid information sharing - *Have held one training session in Mandera county in Kenya.*

	4. Capacity strengthening – Climate and Rangelands *(drought risk management)*
	5. SECCCI in Mandera has had good coordination and working modalities and relationship with IPs: (BORESHA & PACT-RASMI consortiums) and others doing similar activities
	6. SECCCI in Mandera undertook joint field missions – visiting field sites and monitoring progress of activities (with BORESHA to dolow Somalia)
	7. SECCCI in Mandera supported and participated in the establishment of conflict prevention, management and resolution (CPMR) platform for Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia
	8. SECCCI in Mandera was involved in the water diplomacy and dialogues workshop was held on 11 December 2018 in Nairobi regarding Somali Water Information Sharing and Networking.
Challenges	• **Project execution and implementation** – delays in setting up an operational and functional cluster coordination office.
	• Delays in disbursement of funds from UNDP to IGAD thus affecting coordination and field activities.
	• Complex structure of project reporting system that are multiple and sometimes overlapping.
	• **Insecurity -** The security situation in Mandera remains fluid including – Frequent conflicts, violence extremism (Al-Shabab etc) and is currently escalating due to the heightened tensions and renewed fighting between the Juba land State and FDR of Somalia, that is overflowing into Mandera County in Kenya and also Sucking in ET who is siding with SOM FDR thus affecting Dolo Ado in ET.
	• **Border crossings:** Due to insecurity and strained national relations between the countries, the borders can't be crossed currently.
Lessons Learnt	A number of MoUs and Agreements are majorly bilateral between Kenya and Ethiopia. The project together with other partners and respective national and local governments are exploring modalities and

	mechanisms of developing relevant *tripartite* agreements and MoUs involving Somalia-Kenya-Ethiopia.
	
	- Synchronize the new ones to fit together into a tripartite
	    o The ICBT and CBSG
	    o Animal health agreement – transboundary
	    o etc

Next Steps	1. Domestication and customization of MoUs, policies and protocols
	    a. Deepening the awareness e.g Translation to local languages
	    b. Extending penetration – radio broadcasts and local barazas.
	2. Reviving the Cross-border conflict prevention, management and resolution (CPMR) platform structures – to strengthen the conflict management Early Warning and Early Response mechanisms
	3. Exploring how to access the **conflict rapid response fund** to strengthen and facilitate local community peace committees and field monitors
	4. Establishing cluster sectoral technical committees
	5. Facilitating drafting and operationalization of cross-border natural resource use action plans
	    a. To supplement setting up of cross-border trade and local development plans

Proposed Future Outlook	Facilitate the cluster office establishment to improve coordination and field activities. -This will further increase SECCCI Project visibility by being pro-active and, building and sustaining potential partnerships as well as effective monitoring reporting.

UNDP/RSCA-SECCCI, Simone Beccaria

The SECCCI project manager underscored that the roles of UNDP and IP's together with associated challenges regarding lack of office establishment in Mandera cluster III were even compounded further before the pandemic. He updated the meeting that the project staff for the Mandera cluster III coordination office iare on board and that a draft agreement for the use of office from World Vision is the only one still pending awaiting signature from the head of RSCA.

He further informed the meeting that the annual report for year 2 is being refined and will be submitted to the EU within the next 10 days and that the mid-term evaluation has been conducted and a draft report shared for comments with all SECCCI project staff. The Technical committee will need to review the evaluation outcomes and advice on ways forward. Finally, job descriptions for consultants to undertake capacity needs assessment and local development plans have been prepared so that they can support cluster offices in their work.

BORESHA Consortium

The consortium presented on the 3 project outcome areas:

Outcome 1: resilience capacity: Developing DRR committees to develop DRR plans some of which are implemented in government plans applying the bottom-up approach.

Outcome 2. Livestock insurance. Promotion of awareness, 1000 insurances issued.

Outcome 3. Livelihoods, partnership with private sector.

They underscored the great partnership they have had with IGAD especially SECCCI and ICPALD. Some of the updates and achievements enumerated include:

i. They have manage to undertake a number of initiatives in the area of Microfinance
    o Approximately 1500 youth supported with education
ii. They have successfully initiated the Cash-for-work during the drought in 2019.
iii. They have established 3 business center areas. Providing business skill training.
iv. They have established country based Cross-border trade committees since they have had challenges in establishing tri/cross-borders committees as had been envisioned in the project.

v.   They have developed an application to provide market information in cross-border areas.

vi.   Within rangeland areas: They have had NRM training together with establishing and implementing a number of community based plans and facilitating environmental clubs in schools.

vii.   In the area of water resource management, around eight water points rehabilitated.

viii.   In supplementing COVID-19 management: They have been able to establish hand-washing areas. They have provided PPEs for health workers Courtesy of re-aligning budgets.

ix.   In the areas of Knowledge management, they have been sharing with IGAD-SECCCI several knowledge products and continues to produce: Technical briefs on Cross-border integration and Conflict sensitivity.

x.   They have requested a Cost-extension that has been submitted to the EU.

Challenges

- Currently, the diplomatic row between Kenya and Ethiopia has restricted movement and operations.

- Drought in 2019 along with locust invasion, floods. In this regard, management of water and locust invasion should be discussed in cluster coordination meetings.

Suggestion is to have regular cluster coordination meetings every 6 months.

PACT-RASMI Consortium

The consortium indicated that it has managed to reach over 6000 participants with various activities that include:

i.   Linking youths to conflict management programmes,

ii.   Initiating several livelihoods programmes for the youth.

iii.   They have managed to put into place incidence reporting and data sharing mechanisms together with local government authorities.

iv.   They have always facilitated and convened numerous inter-clan dialogues.

Regarding COVD-19 interventions, the consortium is undertaking the following;

i.   Training local government authorities in terms of COVID-19 management and response strategies.

ii.   They have held numerous Radio talk shows on COVID 19 pandemic where the presenter can take calls and respond to questions on the ongoing impacts of the pandemic.

They observed that the current problems are facing include:

i.   Presence of Jubaland force that has caused displacement across the region.
ii.   Frequent Inter-clan conflicts.
iii.   Frequent Droughts, floods, locusts.
iv.   Lack of working border management.

Questions & Answers

i.   BORESHA: Project ending in 2020, how is the exit strategy organized?

    a.   Extension is applied for, but it is not expected. Sustainability should be part of project design.

ii.   Noting that conflicts are historical and can't be solved by a 3-year project, what has PACT-RASMI done?

iii.   PACT-RASMI has put in place structures that can be impacted on with the aim to reduce the amount of violent incidence. .County governments came together with clan representatives and RASMI to form a peace agreement.

iv.   Local traditional conflict management mechanisms have been disrupted by formation of nation states; Commercialization of pastoralism; change of ownership to large owners and Alignment into local political conflicts.

    a. Solution is tying pastoralist-related conflicts to state decision making and including local traditions with policies.

v.   Problem in relation to border management: Would IGAD as an entity in unique position be able to facilitate activities related to this issue?

    a. CEWARN includes representatives from foreign ministries of regional states.

    b. CEWARN is one option to solve problems related to border management.

vi.   Is there an assessment on technical aspects related to river flows?

HEALTH BREAK

M & E Updates

- Updated indicators will need to be approved by steering committee.
- In Mandera there were no baseline indicators collected only managed conduct trainings in Dolo Ado for Ethiopia and Somalia components.
  - There is still need to collect baseline data for Mandera Kenya since different contexts affect MoUs and protocols awareness and adoption.
  - UNDP finance observed that since IGAD still has funds for the balance of trainings from December, A new budget for another training a new budget needs to be submitted for consideration.
- One key constraint/challenge has been limitations in budget allocations.
- Any new indicators will be shared with the steering committee for ratification too.

Updates on the IGAD Knowledge Management Platform (KMP)

On behalf of the IGAD Knowledge Management coordinator who was unable to attend, Dr Aboset gave a brief presentation on the status of the knowledge platform and plans for future development and content gathering.

Updates from UNEP

Ms Marjin on behalf of UNEP presented on status and update on the water research component aimed at improving technical capacities to effectively address transboundary water management. During the presentation, it was observed that water diplomacy meetings are an ongoing process and will continue until end of project. However, for Dawa-Juba-shebelle river basins, they are in the process of only conducting desktop reviews and reports shall be shared.

Plenary Discussions

- A point was raised the Cluster Coordination Meetings should be more predictable in terms of timing and also should consider for inter-cluster coordination meeting.
  - The next meeting will be held within the next quarter and that inter-cluster coordination meeting can be made in agreement with IP's.
- It was brought to the attention of participants that the EU are commissioning a cross-border study to Altai. This is an opportunity for cross-border actors to influence design

of future phases of funding from the EU and would require coordination from all partners and stakeholders.

- It was concluded that a joint proposal on No-cost extension is not feasible at this time of the project.

- Final evaluation of all projects could be shared as main recommendations and could becombined where feasible.

- It also importa to always ensure joint communication where appropriate.

- EU should be communicated on challenges faced as well as be informed that there have been important lessons learnt.

- Some clear questions should be asked regarding cross-border programmes e.gWhat are the goals? Is it cost-effective?

- BORESHA is available for inter-project effort in terms of providing clear picture from cluster level.

WAY FORWARD

	Activity/Task	Suggestion/Comment	Responsible person
1.	UNDP to update on Dolo Ado office establishment	Staff to continue working remotely to deliver on what is expected of the project	Simone
2.	IGAD and UNDP to hold a joint meeting later to thrash out the joint operations and partnership relationships at the Dolo Ado office	A clear work-plan for the cluster to be developed	Simone, Aboset, Kassim/Fred
3.	Need for concerted effort for information and knowledge mining to capture all the lessons learnt eg CEWARNS -early warning and PACT - effective conflict resolutions mechanisms	Well documented

Caution: Let's not forget what is expected of the project, there is need to always consult the pro-doc and capture relevant information to make sure we deliver | KC management, Project Coordinator, Cluster Coordinators

Check out IGAD old portal too |
| 4. | Rework the baseline to cover Mandera Kenya side budget and submit for consideration | | George and ME team |
| | | | |

5. Share calendar for cluster and inter-clusters coordination meetings		The PC and CCs to lead and involve partners Guidance from Project Manager
6. EU is commissioning the cross-border ~~evaluation~~ case study to ALTAI. Partners to share and give coordinated input to inform the design of the future projects.	Get TORs and additional information to act on… will be a good opportunity to showcase collective approach Demonstrate the benefits of cross-border interventions	Simone to share the proposal to all To be done at the clusters so the CC and DCC to lead the consultations together with partners in the clusters
7. Partners to share all feasible relevant information e.g publications, Mid-Term Evaluations/Reviews, project reports etc to strengthen partnership and coordination	UNEP To share the desktop study report immediately	Work with IGAD-KM and UNDP communications teams
8. Revised workplan	Internal by SECCCI then share with partners to build synergies and joint activities	To come from clusters therefore CCs & PC to take the lead.

Summary Way Forward

- A concept note for the study by the EU has now been received and will be shared in order to form a common response.
- Share the calendar dates and timings for upcoming meetings and activities.

- UNEP to share the desk study report on water research.
- Work plans at cluster levels with clearer timeline and structure for the next 3-6 months to be worked on.
- M&E team to review baseline and indicators
- PM and PC to share the dates for Technical Committee and Steering Committee.

ANNEX

Participants

Organization	Participants Name	Email	Gender
IGAD-SECCCI	SECCCI Project Coordinator Dr. Gezahegn Aboset Habtemichael	gezahegn.aboset@igad.int	M
	Cluster Coordinator (Mandera) - Prof Kassim Farah	kfarah@icpac.net	M
	Assistant Cluster Coordinator_ (Mandera) - Fred Atieno	fred.atieno@icpac.net	M
	Cluster Coordinators (Omo-Turkana) - Dr Agol Kwai	agol.kwai@igad.int	M
	Cluster Coordinator- (Marsabit/Moyale) – Mr Jiddah Choke	jiddah.choke@igad.int	M
	Deputy cluster Coordinator – (Omo-Turkana) – Mr Edwin Mangeni	edwin.mangeni@undp.org	M
	Deputy cluster Coordinator (Marsabit/Moyale) – Mr Gemechu Deed	Gemechu.deed@undp.org	M
	IGAD M&E officer:- George Obhai	george.obhai@igad.int	M
	Knowledge management - Christine Bukania	christine.bukania@igad.int	F
	IGAD Scientist - Adan Mohamed	amohamed@icpac.net	M
	IGAD Scientist-Abebe Tadege	atadege@icpac.net	M
	IGAD Scientist – Linda Ogallo	linda.ogallo@icpac.net	F
UNDP-RCSA SECCCI	Simone Beccaria-SECCCI Project Manager	simone.beccaria@undp.org	M
	Yoas Mvula	yoas.mvula@undp.org	M
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UNEP	Marijn Korndewal	marijn.korndewal@un.org	F
Implementing partner -BORESHA Consortium	Nicolleta Buono	nicoletta.buono@drc.ngo	F
	Abdi Abdi	Abdi.abdi@drc.ngo	M
Implementing partners - PACT-RASMI Consortium	Abdimunim Abdirahman Dahir Haji	adahir@pactworld.org	M
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PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

CONCEPT NOTE

UNDP-IGAD-UNEP-EUTF Support for Effective Cooperation and Coordination
of the Cross-Border Initiative (SECCCI)

1st Cluster Coordination Meeting – Mandera Cluster III

Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020.

Background

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development IGAD) is one of the Africa Union's Regional Economic Communities (RECs) that brings together eight Member States in the Horn of Africa. IGAD's interventions are informed by its thematic priority areas of focus including; Agriculture, Livestock and fisheries management; natural resource and environment protection, social development, regional economic cooperation and integration, peace and security as well as gender affairs.

IGAD's interventions also place special emphasis on human security, livelihoods resilience and development of the cross-border areas as they are considered frontiers of regional cooperation and integration as well as areas where human security and development conditions are particularly dire. Thus, IGAD's programmes and projects are implemented by IGAD Secretariat in Djibouti and IGAD specialized institutions including, Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN), Security Sector Programme (ISSP), IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) and IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC). IGAD established a framework, IDDRSI (IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiatives), with the aim of improving the livelihoods of the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Communities that occupy territories classified as arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), through selected priority thematic intervention areas.

In contributing towards addressing and supporting priority interventions in the Cross-border areas, IGAD, in collaboration with EU, UNDP, UNEP and including international NGOs; VSF-Germany, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and PACT, together with local NGO partners have been jointly implementing "Support for Effective Cooperation and Coordination of the Cross-border Initiatives" (SECCCI) in three clusters namely; South Omo-Turkana (Cluster I), Marsabit-Moyale (Cluster II) and Mandera Cluster (Cluster III, bordering Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia).

The SECCCI project focuses on Peace Building and Conflict Prevention in Cluster II. The various partners named above have clear mandates as indicated in the project document including support for peace building and conflict resolution, integrate natural resource management and support for livelihoods. The role of IGAD is to provide coordination for the implementing partners.

Rationale

A joint cluster coordination meeting is an opportunity to engage project stakeholders and implementing partners to familiarize themselves with overall project progress. Additionally, the meeting creates an opportunity to build the capacity of all involved stakeholders and implementing partners to understand the various roles and responsibilities of IGAD and other UN agencies.

IGAD is expected to organize at least one Cluster Coordination Meeting per quarter for all the implementing partners. However, no such meeting has been held for Mandera Cluster (III) owing to non-existent of established functional cluster office. Despite the short-comings, the Cluster Coordination Unit is organizing the 1st Cluster Coordination Meeting virtually for Cluster III bringing together the SECCCI partners, stakeholders in the cluster and the implementing partners. The cluster coordination meeting will provide practical discussions on the achievements, challenges and explore future solutions by the project partners, cluster stakeholders and implementing partners in order to attain efficient and effective delivery of SECCCI project goals.

The virtual meeting is necessitated due to the currently ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, movement cessation and restrictions imposed by IGAD member states governments to manage the pandemic. Participants from Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia are expected to attend and participate in the one-day virtual cluster coordination meeting.

Objectives

1. To review the achievements of the SECCCI project in the Mandera cluster;
2. Review and discuss on the challenges & constraints;
3. To explore and propose practical solutions moving forward.

Expected outputs

1. Reviewed, discussed and agreed upon Cluster coordination activities.
2. Strengthened Mandera Cluster coordination mechanisms.
3. Agreed upon way forward and action plans agreed upon.

Methods and Approach

UNDP RSCA in collaboration with IGAD will facilitate the meeting. The approach of the meeting will be virtual and interactive including cordial sharing, exchanges and discussions. A Zoom link to the meeting will be sent to all the participants via emails and participants are encouraged to have access to reliable and stable internet connectivity.

Logistics

UNDP-RSCA, in collaboration with IGAD will facilitate the meeting (hosting the meeting and ensuring better connectivity). IGAD will work directly with UNDP-RSCA to finalize details related to invitation and registration of participants, circulating final agendas and access rights to the meeting. The meeting will be chaired by the SECCCI Mandera Cluster Coordinator.

Proposed meeting agenda - June 23rd, 2020

Time	Activity	Responsible
9:00 – 9:10	Participant Registration	Fred Atieno
9:10 – 9:20	Welcoming Remarks	• IGAD-SECCCI Project Coordinator Dr. Gezahegn Aboset, **(IGAD)**
	Brief opening Remarks	• Ms Nicolleta Buono, **BORESHA Consortium**
		• Mr. Abdimunim Abdirahman, **PACT & RASMI**
		• Mr. Simone Beccaria, **(UNDP/RSCA-SECCCI)**
9:20 - 9:30	Self-introduction	All
9:30 - 9:40	Meeting objectives and approach	**IGAD-SECCCI** Project Coordinator Dr. Gezahegn Aboset, **IGAD.**
9:40 - 10:00	Updates, Achievements, challenges and lessons learnt	Mandera Cluster (III) Cluster Coordinator – Prof Kassim Farah, **(IGAD-ICPAC/SECCCI)**
10:00 –10:20	Achievements, challenges and lessons learnt by Implementing partners	• Simone Beccaria, **(UNDP/RSCA-SECCCI),**
		• Nicolleta Buono, **(BORESHA Consortium)**
		• Mr. Abdimunim Abdirahman, **(PACT & RASMI)**
10:30 – 10:40	Questions & discussion	All
10:40 – 11:00		**HEALTH BREAK**
11:00 -11:10	Updates on M&E issues	Mr. George Obhai **(IGAD-M&E Officer)**
11:10 – 11:20	Updates on the IGAD Knowledge Management Platform (KMP)	Christine Bukania **(IGAD- Knoweledge Management Coordinator)**
11:20 – 11:40	UNEP Studies	Marijn Korndewal **(UNEP – Programme Officer)**
11:40 – 12: 15	Discussions	All
12:15 – 12:45	Recommendations/way forward	Mr Fred Atieno, Asst. Mandera Cluster Coordinator **(IGAD-ICPAC/SECCCI)**

Dates & Schedule: Tuesday, June 23, 2020, from 9.00 am till 12.45 pm.

Location: Virtual Locations

Deliverables

1. Meeting Report

2. Cluster Coordination action plan