

## **Update on the Horn of Africa Regional Initiative by World Bank, United Nations, African Union, European Union, African Development Bank, and the Islamic Development Bank**

The Horn of Africa Regional Initiative was launched by the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, World Bank Group (WBG) President, and senior representatives of the African Union (AU), European Union (EU), African Development Bank (AfDB) and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) during their joint-trip to the region in October 2014.

The Initiative represents a unique commitment among the UN, WBG, AU, EU, AfDB and IsDB to work together to help the Horn of Africa countries address the drivers of fragility and conflict, particularly in tackling forced displacement, supporting populations in borderlands, and facilitating regional economic integration. Together, the organizations involved have pledged over \$8 billion over the next five years to support greater stability and development in the Horn.

Each of the organizations involved has its own mandate, activities, political framework and partnerships in the region, and each is deeply engaged in areas beyond the scope of the Initiative. However, the Initiative provides a framework for the partners to discuss and coordinate programs and interventions to maximise their impact, whilst working through individual strategies and modalities.

This paper is not intended to capture the entirety of programs that individual entities are undertaking in the region, but to highlight some joint efforts.

### **Pledges and programmes**

Pledges made during the 2014 joint visit are on track and being carried out in consultation with the Governments of the region. Of the \$1.8 billion pledged by the WBG, \$500 million has been delivered and another \$700 million committed to specific projects. The EU has through its National Programmes under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF committed in 2015 some € 600 million for the countries of the Horn. The AfDB has committed \$ 280 million towards a regional flagship program focused on drought resilience and sustainable livelihoods program across the HoA region.

### ***On Regional Economic Integration...***

The WBG delivered \$500 million for the Eastern Africa Regional Transport, Trade and Development Facilitation Project. This initiative with the Governments of Kenya and South Sudan will radically reduce travel times and improve connectivity between the two countries, opening up economic opportunities for the whole region.

The AfDB have recently committed \$ 228 million to support the southern link of the Sirari Corridor (Tanzania-Kenya-South Sudan Corridor) which will facilitate inter-regional movement of passengers and freight, widening of access to local markets, and enhancing connectivity with social and economic centres in the region. The AfDB has also earmarked additional \$ 223 million for the Kapchorwa-Suam-Kitale and Eldoret Bypass Road Project which is an important link between Uganda and Kenya.

The EU signed in June 2015 the Regional Indicative Programme for the 11th EDF for Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean from where it is expected that some € 600 million will be available for the HoA. The programme is targeting (i) Peace and Security; (ii) Regional Economic Integration (including infrastructure) and (iii) Natural Resource Management.

### ***On Borderlands...***

In December 2015, the UN together with the President of Kenya and Prime Minister of Ethiopia launched an innovative initiative that aims to develop the border region between the two countries, prevent conflicts through better management of resources and conflict dispute mechanisms, and end the cycle of humanitarian crises in border regions.

### ***On Forced displacement...***

The IsDB is supporting pilot refugee resettlement in Somalia. The pilot project aims to develop agro-pastoral community village in Kismayo, Somalia for refugees returning from Kenya as well as IDPs. The project will enable returnees and IDPs to contribute to the reconstruction and development of the Country. The program will directly contribute to the New Deal objectives of the Federal Government of Somalia.

The EU created in November 2015 the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa that will make available some € 750 million to the Countries in the HoA in 2016-17. By the end of April, some € 370 million will have been committed for concrete Actions with a main focus on (i) support to long term needs of refugees and host communities (ii) Migration Management and free movement of persons; (iii) creating the conditions for return of IDP's and refugees and (iv) job-creation.

In 2015, UNHCR and the WBG, in consultation with IsDB, prepared a joint study on forced displacement and mixed migration in the Horn, which highlighted some of the key development challenges of forced displacement and mixed migration in the region. The WBG's \$170 million multi country project to support improved livelihoods, access to services, and economic opportunities for displaced and host communities is about to begin.

### **Looking ahead**

New challenges have emerged since the joint-visit. The humanitarian impact of El Nino has been an economic and social shock to the whole Horn region, increasing needs across the humanitarian-development nexus, in particular with respect to migration/ displacement. Partners, including the UN, have also engaged in countering violent extremism, which is having a devastating impact on the lives and livelihoods of populations across the region - particularly the most vulnerable, and including youth, women and children.

Countries like Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan remain ineligible for concessional financing from some IFIs, posing challenges of ensuring predictable financing to address drivers of fragility across the region. Eritrea's continued inability to participate in IGAD meetings has also posed a structural challenge to promoting inclusive regional integration. Innovative approaches are required to bridge the gaps among humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts, and to allow partners to finance common outcomes, guided by a common strategy, in protracted crises.

The partners to the Horn of Africa Initiative are working to enhance cooperation with each other, as well as with countries in the region and IGAD and the EAC, to ensure that current and future assistance is well-targeted and well-leveraged. In our funding decisions, we will prioritize efforts that address the root causes of fragility, promote inclusive regional collaboration and facilitate greater economic integration, aiming to support countries in the Horn to jointly address common regional threats, and prevent emerging conflict.