

HORN OF AFRICA INITIATIVE: POLICY PERSPECTIVES

NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS WORKSHOP, RADISSON BLUE

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FOCUS

- Security Threats And Challenges
- The Need for Borderland Cooperation
- Policy Frameworks
- Priority Areas

Security Threats in the Borderlands

- Regional instability
- Recurrent drought
- Insecurity and conflict
- Influx of refugees and asylum seekers,
- Displaced population
- Unemployment
- Disasters
- Food insecurity,
- Proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons,
- Illicit trade in counterfeits and contraband products,
- Tax evasion,
- Human smuggling and trafficking,
- Drugs trafficking,
- Cross-border radicalization, terrorism,
- Cybercrime,
- Money laundering,
- Illicit trafficking in precious items like gold, diamond, indigenous timber.

The Need for Borderland Cooperation

- There is need for effective border management systems that: promote **regional cooperation**; promote **common understanding of border insecurities** and approaches to addressing them; minimize border tensions; **increase joint enforcement and surveillance** efforts; **deter organized crime activities**; **secure flow of goods and people** in the spirit of regional and continental integration; **integrate and develop marginalized border areas** through provision of essential infrastructure; and **promote a sense of security** and well-being among the border populations; **enhance communication and information exchange** between neighbouring countries; and maintain secure borders that do not obstruct but rather facilitate legal cross-border trading and movements of people.

Kenya's Borderlands

- Kenya's Borderlands are largely Arid and Semi Arid.
- **The National Government, County Governments regional economic blocs, Development Partners, Regional Blocs and Inter-Governmental Organizations** have remained instrumental in ensuring equitable development in Kenya and its borderlands.
- **Devolution** has contributed to significant county-based development especially in infrastructure. Despite these gains, there are recurrent intra-community conflicts and insecurity around some borderland counties.

Policy and Legal Frameworks

- Constitution of Kenya, 2010
- Kenya Vision 2030
- Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)
- Policy on Devolved System of Government, 2016
- National Policy for Disaster Management
- Refugees Act 2021
- Sessional Paper No.8 of 2012 on The National Policy for the Sustainable Development of Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands;
- Sessional Paper No.5 of 2014 on National Policy for Peacebuilding and Conflict Management in Kenya ;
- Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2016 on National Climate Change Framework Policy

Regional Frameworks

Include the following, among others:

- IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), 2011;
- IGAD Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN)
- IGAD Policy Framework on the nexus between Informal Cross Border Trade and Cross-Border Security Governance, 2018;
- IGAD Transhumance Protocol;
- EAC Peace and Security Protocol;
- EACWARN

Where Are We?

- Cognizant of the HOAI Vision” *To work together to build a prosperous, integrated and peaceful HOA”*
- There are numerous policy and institutional frameworks with regard to governance and development of borderlands.
- There are various programmes/projects by partners in the Borderlands.
- Kenya has excellent bilateral and multi-lateral relations and engagements with States within the HOA. Various Sectoral MoUs are in place.
- Need to optimize these frameworks, institutions, investments and opportunities to create impact.

Proposed Policy Interventions

- Enhanced coordination of Partners within a Programs Approach.
- Institutional capacities for the formulation and implementation of policies for the security, stability and development of borderlands;
- Strengthening of institutions responsible for security, stability and development;
- Support policies for transboundary resource management and sharing;
- Development of policies that facilitate cross border cooperation in peace, security and development;
- Harmonization of cross-border policies with a view to promote economic cooperation;
- Development of policies that promote cross-border trade;

Priorities

- Capacities for enhanced awareness raising and sensitization of the citizenry in the member states to ensure buy-in and support of the policy frameworks.
- Development of Entry and exit points, including One Stop Shop Border Posts (OSBP)
- Strengthening of Border Control to ensure integrated border management.
- Support cross-border structures, coordination, consultations and Policy Dialogue.
- Deepen in-country and cross-border Peace initiatives;
- Open up security roads for rapid response to insecurity and conflict;
- Promote natural resource management.

Thank You