

Report of the Horn of Africa Chair

for the period Calendar Year-2023

Broadening Partnerships

(October 2024)

A. The HoAl Framework

The country-led Horn of Africa Initiative (HoAI) was launched in October 2019 with the aim of improving regional integration initially in five Horn of Africa (HoA) countries (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia). From the outset, it has been supported by three Development Partners (DPs), namely, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the European Union (EU) and the World Bank (WB). Collaboration with Development partners was extended during 2023 as Germany through its Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the United Kingdom (UK) through its Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) joined the Initiative respectively in May and December. The process followed was in line with the Partnership framework approved in 2022: https://www.hoainitiative.org/partnership-framework-for-new-development-partners-dps/

In May 2021, Sudan joined the Initiative after being an observer since late 2020¹. Similarly, South Sudan also formally joined the Initiative in May 2022 and has actively participated in the Initiative ever since. Furthermore, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) contributes as an observer, participating in all key meetings, and also collaborates in the implementation of some projects, notably related to resilience.

Four Priority Pillars



Infrastructure



Trade & economic integration





Human capital

The HoAI is based on four thematic pillars:

(i) Improving regional infrastructure connectivity (transport corridors, energy and digital integration);

¹ Sudan has been inactive for much of 2023 following internal conflict.

- (ii) Promoting trade and economic integration (trade, growth, and regional value chains);
- (iii) Building resilience (climate change and related shocks, including the region's borderland areas); and
- (iv) Strengthening human capital development (boost skills and improve access to social services for the people of the Horn of Africa).

Regional integration is a complex multi-layered process that requires significant and multiple changes and a closer alignment of political and governance structures, harmonization of laws and establishment of legal and regulatory frameworks and agreements which will bind the HoAl countries together. The initiative aims to facilitate this process, by promoting complementary policy measures geared towards integration of HoA countries together such as removing the barriers to trade amongst the countries and other steps to promote, where feasible, institutional and regulatory convergence. This initially slow-moving area was subject to a major, successful effort launched by HoA Ministers during 2022 and deepened during 2023. This was through the formulation and adoption of Roadmaps for specific themes, further discussed below.

As detailed below, the Initiative achieved notable progress during the ongoing tenure of the Ethiopian Chairmanship, which started in March 2023 after a successful handover by Kenya, the previous Chair. This rotation was the second one since 2020 and reflects the effective functioning of the governance structures under the country-led approach. Progress was made despite challenging external and regional environments. While benefiting from inputs from other HoA counterparts and DPs, it should be noted that this report represents the views of the Chair and collaborative in nature, benefitting from inputs of other HoA country counterparts. It is in part intended to stimulate further exchanges between HoA stakeholders. It should not be considered as necessarily fully reflecting the opinions of either HoA Member States Governments or Development Partners. The objectives of this report are twofold: (i) to provide a retrospective synopsis of key activities, achievements and challenges during the year 2023; and (ii) to highlight elements of priorities and challenges ahead over the short- to medium-term.

B. Summary of experience during 2023

(i) Overall

Despite challenges due to international and regional circumstances, overall performance under the Initiative has been strong. Further details are provided below. Evidence of progress is reflected in: (a) substantial increases in approved funding, additional DPs joining the Initiative and others expressing interest in doing so; (b) the robustness of the governance of the Initiative proving strong, as the Chairmanship rotation was achieved without any discontinuity; (c) five HoAl Ministerial Meetings² held during the year; (d) continued technical work aimed at improving the quality of the programme and policy formulation through the preparation and initial implementation of key thematic roadmaps; (e) extending consultations on the programme to a broader range of

² There are typically four per year, and only three are planned for 2024.

stakeholders, including the private sector; and (f) increased focus on climate change not only through the lens of resilience but in a cross-cutting manner.

The main challenges facing the Initiative are largely similar to those faced previously, including insecurity in some subregions and the difficult international context. The main improvement concerns Covid-19 becoming endemic and much less disruptive. On the other hand, since April 2023 the conflict in Sudan has become a significant concern due to its political, economic and social impact on the country and the subregion as a whole. The HoA Finance ministers have consistently echoed IGAD's call for a peaceful resolution, and at every HoAI Ministerial joined by DPsadvocating for an immediate cease fire. So far, this call has not been heeded and the risk of contagion cannot be ignored.

(ii) Financing

The HoAI is underpinned by an ambitious investment programme with initially requiring funding of about US\$16 billion to be approved by DPs and implemented over the current decade. Considering the additional needs expressed South Sudan in May 2023, estimated funding requirements now stand at around US\$18 billion.

During the year 2023, based on self-reporting by DPs, many of the pipeline projects were finalised and as a result during the year approvals almost doubled rising from US\$4.56 billion to US\$8.94. The number of projects increased accordingly and from 54 to 104. This increase is partly due to the addition of existing BMZ portfolio (US\$0.67 billion). It should also be noted that the approved amounts include projects directly contributing to the Initiative, as well as others that do so indirectly. A thorough review will be done to verify the alignment of resources reported as part of the Initiative is being undertaken by DPs. The next Chair report for 2024 will provide a further breakdown based on such more nuanced classifications. It will also integrate the UK (FCDO) portfolio.

Following the approval of projects during the year, the pipeline declined from US\$4.18 billion, to 0.92 billion. The investments being funded are based on a priority package approved in 2020 and described in "project profiles" finalised in 2021 and posted on the HoAI website (https://www.hoainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/HoAI-Project-Profiles.pdf). It should be noted that these profiles do not fully cover South Sudan, notably those falling under the first Pillar of the Initiative (Infrastructure Connectivity).

(iii) Key topic discussed and outcomes arising from Ministerial Meetings

There were five Ministerial (15th – 19th) Meetings³ held during 2023: (i) Nairobi in March entailing handover of Chair from Kenya to Ethiopia; (ii) Washington, DC, in April, a side event at IMF-WB Spring Meetings; (iii) Sharm-el-Sheikh (Egypt), in May, a side event at AfDB annual meeting, the first time AfDB co-chaired a HoAl Ministerial; (iv) Addis Ababa, in October; and (v) Brussels, in December 2024. In addition, the Initiative supported two climate related events facilitated by IGAD in

³ Communiques issued after each HoAI Ministerial are posted on the website: https://www.hoainitiative.org/?s=communique

collaboration with Kenya (September) and Ethiopia (December). The latter was a side event at COP28 held in Dubai.

Ministerial Meetings provide an opportunity for interested DPs to participate as observers. During 2023, representatives from Germany and the UK participated in meetings prior to formally joining the Initiative. Other participants included representatives from AFREXIM Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, France, Japan, Islamic Development Bank, the Netherlands and Saudi Fund – most attending meetings more than once. This latter group has been invited to support the Initiative either by financing specific projects or by meeting the thresholds set in the partnership framework.

The Meetings provided Ministers and other participants to discuss in some length key topics based on presentations made during the meetings and documentation circulated. The main themes included the following:

- (a) Private sector engagement: The process started with a general diagnostic in March, which was subsequently deepened in May and, following consultations with stakeholders representing government and the private sector, and paved the way for adoption in October of the private sector engagement roadmap: https://www.hoainitiative.org/regional-private-sector-engagement-roadmap/
- (b) Borderlands development: A process similar to the outlined for private sector engagement was followed, also involving extensive consultations with donors and IGAD. The resulting roadmap was also endorsed in October: https://www.hoainitiative.org/roadmap-for-accelerating-development-in-the-borderlands-of-the-horn-of-africa/
- (c) The Adoption of the above-mentioned roadmaps constitute critical steps towards definition of two flagship programmes under HoAl supporting the development of borderlands as well as another covering the trade, investment and finance cluster. There has been progress in advancing the implementation of these roadmaps, even if progress has been slower that hoped for, in part due to insufficient financing while awaiting project approvals and lack of interim resources. HoAl stakeholders are aware of this challenge and mobilisation issues are underway, including through the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF).
- (d) Digital Integration: The process is well advanced as projects supporting this area are under implementation. Nevertheless, need for greater coordination at the regional level has been noted, as has the need for greater policy harmonisation based on a policy matrix endorsed by Ministers.
- (e) Other: The issues of climate change and food security were also discussed at the meetings and in practice are or will be embedded in other programmes notably borderlands and resilience. Areas such as energy were discussed in 2022 and will be taken u during 2024.

The meetings in Addis Ababa and Brussels were complemented by well attended side events. At these venues, various areas of interest such as engagement with development finance institutions, digital integration and trade and livestock value chains were discussed at technical and higher levels. However, this approach is solely feasible for stand-alone meetings, as Principals are not available when the Ministerial is a side event to a broader event.

(iv) Dealing with challenges emerging or identified previously

The momentum generated, notably on accelerating regional policy reforms, needs to be maintained, including through the implementation of the various roadmaps. The Initiatives' scope may need to be expanded, partly by validating the programme design, which has proven quite robust, and partly to further reach out to a broader group of stakeholders – including the private sector. As detailed below, most of the institutional and human resource bottlenecks noted in the 2022 annual report have been addressed, even though some risks remain or have been amplified, while new ones have emerged.

With respect to external factors:

- The impact and incidence of COVID-19 abated progressively in 2023 and this is no longer a significant constraint.
- The war in Ukraine, which started in February 2022, continues to be a major shock which affects the economies of the HOAI member states causing shortages of key commodities and higher inflation worldwide. Even though measures have been put in place to mitigate the impact of the Russia-Ukraine crisis, the aftermath of this conflict continued to spill over during 2023 and affect the 2024 outlook. Another direct consequence of this is a reduction of potential donor funding to Africa.
- The HoA continued to initially experience the impact of climate change and the drought with about 36 million people are severely affected, notably through loss of livestock and involuntary displacement of the affected population. This was followed by excessive rains and subsequent floods that added to misery. The HoAI priority package, notably the World Bank-Funded De-risking, Inclusion and Value Enhancement (DRIVE), now under implementation, and Ground Water for Resilience project, AfDB's Building Resilience to Food and Nutrition Security project, and other support provided by other DPs are intended to alleviate this situation. Nevertheless, this may not be enough and for instance the borderlands programme could encompass improved water management.
- Due to lower-than-expected growth and reduced fiscal space arising from the need to address the aforementioned shocks and servicing accumulated debts, debt sustainability has become a major concern for most HoA countries. During 2023, this issue is being progressively tackled through policy measures, consideration of debt rescheduling, and in the case of Somalia attainment of the HIPC completion point. In the short to medium term, the HoAI member states are expected to focus more on grants support and concessional financing, as well as leveraging climate, trade and innovative finance to fund the development priorities in the region. As a complement, the process of crowding-in new donors will also continue. Finally, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and innovative finance provide a potential source of funding that form an integral part of the strategy for private sector engagement in the Horn. Specifically, some countries could benefit from related support, such as EU's EFSD+ and blending options discussed at the December Ministerial in Brussels.

As stated previously, the success of the Initiative lies in significant part in achievement of policy, regulatory and standards harmonisation, notably in the area of Trade Facilitation, Digital integration and Energy, as well as a coordinated approach towards borderlands. HoA countries' ownership remains strong. Encouraging prospects remain for deepening the economic and political integration in the Horn of Africa region and concrete actions to this effect are expected to be taken as part of implementing the roadmaps, including trade and those adopted during 2023, and as part of key projects (such as WB's Eastern Africa Regional Digital Integration Project). Indeed, the continued commitment by countries and their Ministers of Finance, and other line Ministries and Government agencies when called upon, underscores the continued high relevance of the Initiative and full recognition of the benefits of economic integration. More efforts are still needed to promote intra- and inter-country collaboration, which requires endorsement of the Initiative and its programme at the highest level. The adopted roadmaps provide a well-defined framework for doing so.

(v) Institutional Arrangements

The original design of the Initiative called for support to be provided to countries by a small temporary Secretariat, reporting to Ministers, especially the HoAI Chair, and Focal Points nominated by them. The institutional support structure of the Initiative, which evolved somewhat and was strengthened once National Advisers located in the five active countries were funded by AFDB in July 2021. These arrangements have proven to be relatively effective and efficient, even if certain areas should be improved:

- The HoAI extended Secretariat (including National HoAI Advisers) remains fully operational.
 The Team Leader relocated to Addis Ababa in May 2023. He continues to closely coordinate various aspects of the Initiative with HoA counterparts and DPs. Valuable support is also provided by two full-time executive assistants with complementary skill sets, one based in Ethiopia, the other (bilingual) in Nairobi.
- Communication remains a weakness. The HoAI website (www.HoaInitiative.org) was overhauled during the second half of 2023 and is now more user-friendly and many relevant public documents have been downloaded to the site. However, the original approach of relying on a single Communication expert proved ineffective as the needs varied and could not be fulfilled by a single person. The expert left the Initiative, and the current plan calls for hiring a firm that can provide the varied services that are needed. This process has been delayed, but needs to be completed as soon as possible.
- As already highlighted in the previous Chair report, document and information sharing is a
 problem and has not been addressed yet. Unless the Secretariat is kept informed of projects
 and their overall status, it cannot fully play its role of monitoring the Initiative, as a "shaker
 and mover" and adviser to the Chair and HoA countries as well as DPs. Concerning
 portfolio monitoring, only in rare instances the Secretariat receives of mission documents
 such as aide-memoires even though such documents are widely shared with counterparts.
 Other than AfDB and WB which make project appraisals public, information on approved
 project by other DPs is lacking. The DPs are requested again to review their internal

- procedures and provide at least general project level information in a timely manner, so that the Secretariat can better perform its monitoring functions.
- The hiring under AfDB funding of fulltime National Advisers has significantly reduced the burden on HOAI Focal Points and other counterparts in the various Ministries of Finance. Relative stability in Focal Points, has been a strong point in ensuring good continuity and ownership and when a change occurs the new nominee is familiar with the Initiative. The funding of the Advisers' position was extended for up-to a further two years in mid-2023 and the arrangements should be revisited during 2025 and preferably sustained.
- In order to crowd-in key stakeholders, countries initially nominated thematic leaders to act as counterparts. The approach showed its limitation because of infrequent involvement in the Initiative and rotations within the civil service. In some cases, such as trade, thematic leaders remain in place. In other instance, for example borderlands, a multisectoral working group act as the main counterpart. In practice, the Initiative has thus adopted a pragmatic approach for engaging stakeholders that is best suited to the issue being addressed. However, when the roadmaps were adopted, it was expected that sufficient resources would be devoted to their implementation. This has not happened due to delays in mobilising the necessary financing.
- The regional projects funded by AfDB and WB face preparation/approval delays due to limited availability of national performance-based allocation (PBA) resources and competing national priority projects: National allocations are needed to complement regional allocation (for instance 1:2 ratio in the case of the WB). It is worth remembering that the Priority Package and list of projects therein went through extensive review by HoA countries and DPs alike. Furthermore, the commitment to HoAI as designed is confirmed by the highest level of decision-makers representing all parties at each Ministerial meetingprior to which the proposed lending pipeline and other form of assistance is distributed. In summary, given the increased focus by DPs on global public goods, which by necessity require a regional approach, our partners would be encouraged to consider using HoAI as a pilot to improve programming of resources and consider making counterpart requirements more flexible and to reduce uncertainty over funding of regional projects. In the case of the World Bank, HoA counterparts have also recommended the presentation to its Board of a formal regional partnership framework covering IDA 21 and beyond, which would explicitly identify and prioritise HoAI projects, to be also funded by country level performance-based allocations (PBA)⁴ and/or other sources of cofinancing.

C. Stakeholders' Feedback

As part of preparation of this report, HoAI National Advisers collected and provided feedback from HoAI counterparts reflected in Table 1 – duplication with issues already presented in the main text has been avoided. The observations are fully consistent with the discussions in this report, even

⁴ PBA availability is especially challenging for smaller countries.

though some themes are emphasised more. With respect to feedback received last year, while many areas were addressed, the following were not fully dealt with:

- The mid-term review (MTR) of the Initiative has not been conducted and none is currently planned for 2024. Feedback from HoAI counterparts suggests this may not an immediate priority: (i) South Sudan has submitted a list of its priority projects fully in line with the HoAI programme, which was approved at the May 2023 Ministerial and resulted in an increase in total HoAI funding requirement to about US\$18 billion, which eliminates a reason for undertaking the review; and (ii) part of the objectives of the MTR may be achieved through portfolio reviews. Nevertheless, suitability of undertaking an MTR in 2025 needs to be revisited.
- Other than through work on borderlands, engagement with the civil society has been relatively limited.
- The proposed Heads of State meeting was postponed.
- The Federal system in Somalia still poses implementation challenges due to the need to coordinate at both central and state levels.
- Information flow to the Secretariat, including on projects and their implementation, remains incomplete.

Table 1: Summary of key feedback from HoAI counterparts

	Area	Comment/recommendations
Ке	y Achievements	·
•	In-country Coordination	Mobilization of all the relevant line Ministries, primarily represented by their National Thematic Leaders under each HoAl Pillar, and in ad-hoc working groups. Lack of specific funding has restricted their activity.
•	Approval of priority projects	Sustained, notably under pillar 1 (Corridors and Digital). Efforts should be continued.
•	Establishment of Task forces and	Regional Trade and Borderlands Task Forces were nominated and have
	Working Groups.	started some activities. Analytical work supported by the MTDF finalised.
		Need to accelerate approval of financial support of programme, especially
		proposed WB regional projects.
Ch	allenges	
•	Security	Security challenges remain as one of the major obstacles to the implementation of the development projects in the country, especially in borderlands, and need to be mitigated.
•	Availability of data and analytical work.	Resources for data collection and feasibility studies are essential to ensure HoA countries benefit from new regional development projects. These studies are necessary for monitoring, planning, and implementing effective and sustainable projects.
•	Private sector engagement	The private sector's involvement in public policy discussions has been limited due to a lack of organization and awareness of their essential role in taking part in shaping public policies and investing in it. Implementation of the private sector engagement roadmap should be prioritised.
•	Donor harmonisation	There is a complex and fragmented situation within and across donors, each with their own criteria, procedures, and expectations. This can create duplication and inefficiency in accessing and managing funds.

	Area	Comment/recommendations
•	Resource mobilisation for projects	Additional funding is expected from DPs that joined recently. IDA 21 and AfDB but requires additional resource allocation, notably for economic corridors including Djibouti-Somalia and South Sudan. The demand for regional infrastructure projects is significant. Innovative solutions for
•	MDTF	private sector and climate financing needed in this area. Importance of timely replenishment of the MTDF to support the Secretariat work and ensure the sustainability of the initiative, including project preparation and implementation of roadmaps.
Со	untry specific and other remarks	
•	Djibouti	Financial allocations remain limited compared to the needs, especially given the need invest in oversized infrastructure so as to serve regional landlocked countries.
•	Ethiopia	Led COP side event with support from IGAD and the HoAI Secretariat at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to showcase its achievements and challenges in addressing climate change and resilience in the Horn of Africa. In addition to a slight delay in effectiveness (a case for the new corridor project), the capacity and institutional coordination of joint development and implementation at country and sectoral level need to be improved. For instance, the Ethio-Djibouti electricity project faced delays for two years. Increasing the availability of resources given the compounding challenges
•	Kenya	and DPs to use more of their resources through a country system is crucial. The Africa Climate Summit held in Nairobi from 4 th to 6 th September 2023, was a significant event that illuminated on several key issues, including building consensus on climate action priorities for Africa. The Nairobi Declaration which is one of the main outcomes of the Africa Climate Summit makes a strong case for accelerated climate action and financing. African leaders called for urgent action by developed countries on a new financing architecture to restructure Africa's heavy debt and unlock climate finance. The leaders expressed concern that many African countries face disproportionate burdens and risks from climate change-related events, which cause massive humanitarian crises with detrimental impacts on economies, health, education, peace and security. Hence, a multilateral finance reform is necessary to provide the scale of climate financing that the world needs to achieve 45 per cent emission reduction required to meet the Paris 2030 Agreement.
•	Somalia	Joined the regional block of East African Community (EAC), which will boost the HoAl objective of regional integration. The country also achieved another milestone as it received a debt relief, after reaching the completion point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.
•	South Sudan	The Republic of South Sudan priority projects has been submitted and has requested expedited preparation, including by undertaking necessary preparatory and analytical work.
•	Cross-cutting	Continue strengthening country-led and country-owned approaches as much (as per Paris Declaration principles) and ensuring alignment and ownership. It would be important to revisit the human capital pillar, which has received insufficient attention. On resource mobilization, important to explore measures to reduce the delay in securing funds, especially due to competing demands from

Area	Comment/recommendations
	country allocation. One possible measure could be for DPs to prepare
	regional strategic papers to improve predictability.
	Engagement with IGAD is important even when it encounters difficulties.
	IGAD has a significant role to play in the HoA initiative, but it also faces
	certain gaps and challenges that need to be addressed.
	It is crucial to involve more key stakeholders, such as thematic leaders and
	project coordinators, in the initiative. Portfolio reviews can help to
	enhance the coordination and alignment of the projects. In the medium
	term, regional economic integration requires the integration of the
	markets, the empowerment of sectors and sometimes the adjustment of
	national policies to a regional context.
	Increasing the Secretariate's capacity to support existing roadmaps
	implementations, particularly the recruitment of a trade expert, to
	strengthen its technical expertise and coordination role.
	On policy dialogue, it is important to resuming the discussion on energy
	trade and more broadly the development of the sector to address low level
	of access to energy in the HoA region. Moreover, it can also contribute to
	the climate agenda and help mobilize resources for the initiative.

D. Next Steps

(a) Participation in the Initiative

A goal of the Initiative has been to crowd-in new donors who are willing to commit to supporting the Horn. This remains a priority, in order to fill financing gaps in the original programmes and provide resources to countries that have joined the Initiative since it was initiated. In order to support this objective, the HoA Ministers in October 2022 adopted a framework for new donors to join the Initiative – full membership would require significant new funding, but the approach also aims to be attractive to smaller donors. Two new donors joined the Initiative during 2023 while other have indicated strong interest, notably BADEA whose application is being processed. The Secretariat has been mandated with the onboarding of new donors.

(b) Implementation support

• The HoAl Chair, and other key HoA counterparts, continued to receive support from an international adviser attached to the HoAl Secretariat (an informal arrangement). The original Team Leader/Senior Adviser) was retained to ensure continuity in the support and to take advantage of acquired knowledge and established relationships and two Administrative Assistants, Kenya in 2022 and Ethiopia in 2023). A small portion of resources under the EU-Funded Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) managed by the World Bank has been set aside to finance these positions, as well as for the organization of key Ministerial Meetings through a Recipient Executed Grant. A fiduciary agency (the Inter-University Council of East Africa-IUCEA) was recruited in 2021 to manage the Grant. The abovementioned AfDB-funded National Advisers are an integral part of the "extended Secretariat." The Team Leader support is expected to continue during 2024 and will be revisited in 2025, notably with a view to enhance the role of National Advisers – whose current term will also end mid-2025.

- The Secretariat team based in Addis Ababa since April 2023, undertook a number of visits to Djibouti and Kenya. Exchanges during these visits have helped to increase the knowledge of the Initiative amongst stakeholders (mainly government officials and donors based in each country), and improved its visibility. Furthermore, under the guidance of the Head of the Secretariat, periodic exchanges, including in-person, were organised with Focal Points and their advisers to promote closer professional ties, a common understanding of issues and challenges and a closer alignment of views on how to optimise the regional integration process, notably in the area of trade facilitation.
- Development and adoption of Trade Facilitation Roadmap and, and signing of Joint Ministerial Declaration on trade facilitation by the HoA member states paved way for the formation of the Regional Trade Facilitation Task Force. The Horn of Africa Member States from Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia signed a joint Ministerial Declaration on Trade Facilitation on 8th August, 2022. Similarly, South Sudan signed the Declaration on 13th October, 2022 after joining the Initiative. The Republics of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan, have completed designation of their respective members to the HoAl Regional Task Force on Trade paving way for commencement of its operations. The Task Force is empowered by and draws its membership from respective Ministries of Finance, Trade, Transport and the Customs and/or Revenue Departments. The Task Force is expected to lead the design and preparation of the regional programme and its components and activities in the area of trade and transport facilitation and subsequently, to support the programme's coordination and implementation. Typically, one of these Ministries takes the lead in project preparation and implementation.

(c) Resource mobilisation

- By early 2023, cumulatively, about U\$\$8.7 billion had been approved or was allocated to projects under preparation. The year 2023 witnessed a continued growth in approvals and commitments (now reported separately) which in December 2023 stood at close to U\$\$10 billion (with significant moves from pipeline to approved). In other words, up-to 60 percent of the priority package as revised in May 2023 has been or is being funded even though the alignment of some smaller projects with the Initiative's objectives need to be reviewed further. Annex 1 provides a snapshot of the portfolio as of December 2023.
- Related to the presentation of the portfolio, it seems further classification of the projects is warranted. Specifically, regional projects directly contributing to the programme covered by the Initiative should be separated from those doing so indirectly or covering other areas, such as humanitarian support. Information circulated after mid-2024 should use this revised format.
- The previous Annual Report had suggested that project preparation and implementation
 provide an opportunity for strengthening stakeholder ownership, building teams across
 HoA countries, and more generally for knowledge sharing and dissemination of information
 concerning priority needs in terms of regional development. This objective has been partly
 met through, a number of workshops on specific issues related to projects under

preparation or key policy issues has increased significantly (notably trade) being organised by DPs in partnership with the HoAl Secretariat. Nevertheless, information and knowledge sharing remain imperfect and largely lacking regarding some projects. The portfolio review being undertaken during 2024 partly addresses this concern as will consolidation of information by the Secretariat.

- The MDTF was signed in June 2021 and has been funding priority eligible activities related to project preparation and funding of the HoAl Secretariat. However, demand is exceeding available resources. Top-ups during 2024 are expected by the new DPs and a request to this effect has also been submitted to the EU.
- Innovative finance, including green and other forms of bonds, climate and trade as well as PPPs and swaps etc., provide potential sources of complementary funding of the Initiative.
 Some aspects were already discussed during 2023, but a comprehensive analytical work identifying potential sources and means to access funds should be undertaken during 2024.

(d) Policy reform

- Following the decision taken in December 2021 by HoA Ministers to give prominence to policy harmonisation, this area received extensive attention during 2022 and 2023. The policy focus areas were trade facilitation, Digital Convergence and Energy. Private sector engagement and borderlands were added to this agenda during 2023. Extensive consultations with stakeholders were undertaken between March and September 2023 and resulted in the adoption of associated roadmaps in October 2023 at the Addis Abeba Ministerial Meeting, during which and update on trade was also presented. Digital integration was also discussed at the last Ministerial Meeting of the year The regional dialogue on all these areas, including energy, supported as needed by the HoAI Secretariat and key donors, should continue during 2024.
- The various roadmaps identify certain "low hanging fruits" representing policy actions that
 may be taken without need for significant funding or further analysis. However, the
 underlying actions remain to be initiated and should be prioritised during 2024.

(e) Key Planned activities

The main activities under the Initiative are highlighted in a rolling annual work programme that is updated periodically. The programme for 2024 calls for:

- At least three Ministerial Meetings, two in Washington around WB-IMF Spring and Annual Meetings and another as a side meeting of the AfDB annual meeting in Nairobi. There are indications that DPs that joined during 2023 may also propose a Ministerial Meeting in their respective Capitals, possibly during 2025.
- Preparation for rotation of Chair should begin, once the process and its timing has been agreed.
- The portfolio review of key projects under implementation will be conducted during 2024, and disseminated to and discussed with key counterparts.

 As in previous years, specific technical workshops and key analytical work will be undertaken and disseminated throughout 2024. Analytical work includes a social cohesion white paper prepared jointly by Kenya and some DPs.

(f) The proposed scope of the 2024 Chair report

By late 2024 the Initiative will have been under implementation for half a decade. In view of this, the next Chair report should be to provide greater coverage of achievements to-date-and thus include a five-year retrospective (including quantification of achievements and results, at least in terms of expectations and realisations to-date that can be drawn from approved projects results frameworks) and a prospective section, setting priorities and expectations for remaining of the decade. This report may also provide inputs into a mid-term review of the Initiative.

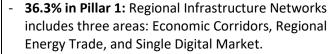
Annex 1: HoAI DP Ongoing and Planned Support end-2023

I. The Horn of Africa Initiative Portfolio Overview⁵

As of Dec 4th, 2023, four development partners (DPs) have approved **104** projects with *USD\$8.937 billion* in total commitment under the HoA Initiative:

- The WB has committed **US\$6,329** million (70.8%)
- European Union has approved **US\$909** million (10.2%) in total commitment.
- African Development Bank has committed US\$1030 million (11.5%)
- BMZ has committed US\$670 million (7.5%)

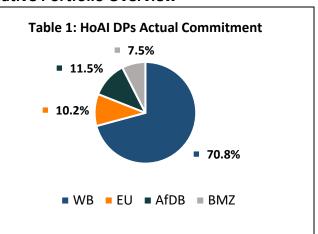
There are four thematic pillars in supporting the Initiative to bring the countries together to address shared regional challenges. The commitments in four pillars are:

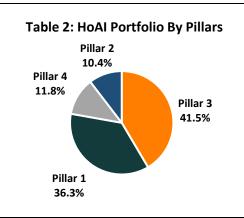


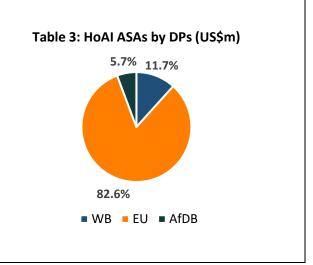
- 10.4% in Pillar 2: Trade and Economic Integration
- 41.5% in Pillar 3: Building Resilience
- 11.8% in Pillar 4: Strengthening Human Capital

The European Union (EU) made a €30 million contribution to the Horn of Africa Umbrella Program Multi-Donor Trust Fund to support activities that deepen the regional integration of the countries of the Horn of Africa, in line with the purposes of the Horn of Africa Initiative.

The trust-funded **Technical Assistance and Advisory Services and Analytics (ASA)** provides research, analysis, surveys, studies, and policy notes to support project development, reform diagnostics and implementation, and policy harmonization and institutional strengthening. The total amount of ASAs activities has reached **USD\$39.37 million**.







⁵ World Bank portfolio figures include regional operations only, which are complemented by an equally strong portfolio of national operations in all sectors.

II. Status of HoA Initiative Priority Project List (Development Partners)

As of Dec 4th, 2023

Projects	Development Partner		Total (\$m in USD)	Partner countries	
Pillar 1: Regional Infrastructure Networks					
1 Economic Corridors					
HoA Gateway Development Project (Kenya: Isiolo – Wajir – El Wak - Mandera)	World Bank	Active	750	Regional	
HoA Initiative Regional Economic Corridor Project (Addis- Djibouti Corridor)	World Bank	Active	730	Regional	
Somalia HoA Infrastructure Integration Project	World Bank	Active	58	Regional	
Horn of Africa Initiative: Djibouti Regional Economic Corridor Project	World Bank	Active	70	Regional	
Horn of Africa Kismayo, Lamu and Mogadishu Corridor: (Kenya) Elwak-Rhamu-Mandera Road Upgrading Project	AfDB	Active	206.55	Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia	
Multinational: Kenya – South-Sudan Road Section (Lesseru-Kitale & Morpus Lokichar)	AfDB	Active	170.1	Kenya, South Sudan	
Horn of Africa Djibouti - Somalia Regional Transport Project (Nagad–Loyada/Lowyaddo-Saylac-Borama Road Upgrade Project - Phase I)	AfDB	Active	64	Somalia, Djibouti	
Sub-Total (Pillar 1.1 Economic Corridors)	2048.65				
2 Regional Energy Trade					
2nd Ethiopia-Djibouti Power System Interconnection Project	World Bank	Active	55	Regional	
AFR RI The Eastern Electricity Highway Project under the First Phase of the Eastern Africa Power Integration Program (Ethiopia, Kenya)	World Bank	Active	586	Regional	
2nd Ethiopia- Djibouti Power System Interconnection Project	AfDB	Active	81	Ethiopia, Djibouti	
Multinational – Desert-To-Power Initiative East-Africa Regional Energy Project (EAREP)	AfDB	Active	5.32	Regional (IGAD)	
Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP) Institutional Capacity Building Program	AfDB	Approved	6.68	Regional (EAPP)	
Eastern Ethiopia Electricity Grid Reinforcement Project	AfDB	Approved	122.6	Ethiopia	
Sub-Total (Pillar 1.2 Regional Energy Trade) 856.6					
3 Single Digital Market					
Eastern Africa Regional Digital Integration Project (IGAD, Somalia, South Sudan)	World Bank	Active	157	Regional	

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Eastern Africa Regional Digital Integration Project SOP-II (Djibouti, Ethiopia)	World Bank	Active	130	Regional
D4D Collaboration for the Horn of Africa Initiative on Digital Government - Now IDGC - Initiative on Digital Government and Cybersecurity	EU	Active	10.6	Regional
Human-Centred Digitalisation #TeamEuropeKenya	EU	Active	29.68	Kenya
HoA Digital market integration phase I project	AfDB	Active	8.3	Regional
Sub-Total (Pillar 1.3 Digital Market)			335.58	
Total			3240.83	
Pillar 2: Trade and Economic Integration				
De-Risking, Inclusion and Value Enhancement of Rural Economies Project (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia)	World Bank	Active	332.5	Regional
EA Regional Transport, Trade and Development Facilitation Project (Second Phase of Program)(Kenya)	World Bank	Active	500	Regional
Development of the Djibouti Corridor	EU	Active	33.92	Djibouti- Ethiopia
COMESA Trade Facilitation Program	EU	Active	5.94	Regional
Towards free movement and labour mobility in the IGAD region, phase II	EU	Approved	15.9	Regional
Promote and Invest in Circular Economy in Eastern and Southern Africa	EU	Approved	10	Kenya, Ethiopia
EU Alliance in support of the Horn of Africa Initiative – pillar 2[1]	EU	Approved	25	Regional
Strengthening food safety Standards and nutrition in Africa (SFNA) - At least 2 countries from each region.	AfDB	Approved	8.55	Regional
Total			931.81	
Pillar 3: Building Resilience				
1HOA – Groundwater for Resilience Project	World Bank	Active	385	Regional
Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project in the HOA Phase II (Ethiopia)	World Bank	Active	180	Regional
Food Systems Resilience Program for Eastern and Southern Africa (IGAD, Ethiopia)	World Bank	Active	625	Regional
Emergency Locust Response Program (Kenya, Ethiopia)	World Bank	Active	201	Regional
Emergency Locust Response Project (South Sudan, IGAD)	World Bank	Active	54	Regional
Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project in the HoA (Djibouti)	World Bank	Active	10	Regional
Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP) in the Horn of Africa (IGAD, Kenya)	World Bank	Active	115	Regional
Africa Environmental Health and Pollution Management Program (Kenya)	World Bank	Active	8	Regional
r rogram (Kenya)	1			

Food Systems Resilience Program for Eastern and Southern Africa (Phase 3) FSRP (Kenya, Somalia)	World Bank	Active	300	Regional
Regional Climate Resilience Program for Eastern and Southern Africa Project (South Sudan)	World Bank	Active	215	Regional
Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience Program Using the Multiphase Programmatic Approach (Ethiopia, Kenya, IGAD)	World Bank	Active	330	Regional
Horn of Africa – Livestock and pastoralism	EU	Approved	42.4	Regional
Locust Response	EU	Active	81.62	Regional
EU Alliance in support of the Horn of Africa Initiative – pillar 3[1]	EU	Approved	58	Regional
Promoting stability and strengthening basic service delivery for host communities, refugees and other displaced people in Gambella Regional State of Ethiopia	EU	Active	5.3	Ethiopia
Collaboration in Cross-Border Areas of the Horn of Africa Region –top up	EU	Active	5.3	Regional
Building Resilience to Impacts of El Nino through Integrated Complementary Actions to the EU Resilience Building Programme in Ethiopia (RESET PLUS)	EU	Active	5.3	Ethiopia
RESTORE Building Resilience in Northern Somalia	EU	Active	3.18	Somalia
RESTORE II Building Resilience in Northern Somalia	EU	Active	8.48	Somalia
Enhancing self-reliance for refugees and host communities in Kenya	EU	Active	8.34	Kenya
Digital Land Governance	EU	Active	21.2	Kenya
Peaceful and resilient borderlands in the Horn of Africa	EU	Approved	42.4	Regional
Individual measures - food security actions	EU	Approved	79.5	Ethiopia
BREACH - Boosting Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change	EU	Approved	37.1	Somalia
Green Deal #TeamEuropeKenya	EU	Approved	13.78	Kenya
Building Opportunities for Refugee and Host Community Self-Reliance	EU	Approved	13.78	Kenya
Strengthening local governance and resilience in South Sudan	EU	Approved	18.02	South Sudan
Green and resilient economy in South Sudan	EU	Approved	84	South Sudan
Enhancing Food Security and Resilience of Rural Communities in Sudan	EU	Approved	95.4	Sudan
Primary Health Care provision for vulnerable populations affected by food insecurity and malnutrition - Sudan	EU	Approved	42.4	Sudan
Social Protection for Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change (SPARCC)	EU	Approved	20.5	Somalia

Multinational - Entrepreneurship and Innovation Development for Resilience EIRB)	AfDB	Active	3.26	Sudan, South Sudan and Djibouti
MULTINATIONAL - East and Horn of Africa Desert Locust Crisis: Emergency assistance to fight the desert locust invasion in 9 regional member countries - Special Relief Fund (SRF)	AfDB	Active	1.49	Regional
Program to build resilience for food and nutrition security in in the Horn of Africa	AfDB	Active	176.85	Regional
African Emergency Food Production Facility (K-AEFPF)	AfDB	Active	66.56	Kenya
African Emergency Food Production Project-1 (SSEFPP-1) - (AEFPF)	AfDB	Active	8.1	South Sudan
African Emergency Food Production Facility Project (AEFPF)	AfDB	Active	5.4	Somalia
African Emergency Food Production Facility Project (AEFPF)	AfDB	Active	76.68	Sudan
African Emergency Food Production Facility Project (AEFPF)	AfDB	Active	10.8	Somalia, Sudan
Multinational Emergency Response (South Sudan and Sudan) – Proposal for an Emergency Humanitarian Assistance to Populations Affected by Floods - Special Relief Fund (SRF)	AfDB	Active	0.41	South Sudan, Sudan
Skills for Employability, Inclusion and Productivity Project	AfDB	Approved	7.29	Somalia
Strengthening IGAD's capacity to increase resilience in the Horn of Africa	BMZ	Active	17.27	IGAD
Regional Fund to Strengthen Drought Resilience in the Horn of Africa	BMZ	Active	41.8	Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, Somalia
Strengthening drought resilience	BMZ	Active	18.7	Kenya
Capacity Development for Strengthened Drought Resilience in the Ethiopian Lowlands	BMZ	Active	13.2	Ethiopia
Soil Protection and Rehabilitation for Food Security (Afar)	BMZ	Active	22.66	Ethiopia
Climate Smart Innovations for Sustainable Land Management	BMZ	Active	19.8	Ethiopia
Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM+)	BMZ	Active	29.92	Ethiopia
Strengthening Drought Resilience in Ethiopia's Lowlands	BMZ	Active	16.5	Ethiopia
Support for the Ethiopia Food Systems Resilience Project (FSRP)	BMZ	Active	22	Ethiopia
Strengthening Drought Resilience of the Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral Livelihoods in the Lowlands (Afar) of Ethiopia	BMZ	Active	6.6	Ethiopia

Preservation of soil and water resources to improve drought resilience and food security in the arid and semi-arid regions	вмz	Active	11	Ethiopia
Community-driven Rural Development (CDRD)	вмг	Active	11	South Sudan
Food Security and Management of Natural Resources (FONA)	вмz	Active	14.63	South Sudan
Total			3710.92	
Pillar 4: Strengthening Human Capital				
Africa CDC Regional Investment Financing Project (Ethiopia)	World Bank	Active	150	Regional
East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP) (Ethiopia, Kenya)	World Bank	Active	210	Regional
First Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence for Development Impact Project (Djibouti)	World Bank	Active	15	Regional
Eastern Africa Regional Statistics Pram-for-Results (Kenya)	World Bank	Active	120	Regional
Eastern and Southern Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence (Ethiopia, Kenya)	World Bank	Active	42	Regional
Disease surveillance for the HoA	EU	Active	7.42	Regional
Inclusive quality education for the most vulnerable children in Sudan	EU	Active	31.8	Sudan
Strengthening the health system and service delivery support in South Sudan, particularly for women and children	EU	Approved	25.9	South Sudan
Education Access and Quality Improvement Programme	EU	Active	26.9	Somalia
Digitalization of vocational training	BMZ	Active	19.8	Kenya
Vocational training programme	BMZ	Active	49.5	Kenya
Promotion of youth employment and vocational training	BMZ	Active	17.6	Kenya
Youth-friendly services	BMZ	Active	7.15	Kenya
Scholarship programme "Wings to fly" (several phases)	BMZ	Active	20.9	Kenya
Strengthening Employability through Technical and Vocational Education and Training	BMZ	Active	14.3	Somalia
Improved living conditions in urban areas and improved integration of returnees (MPF)	BMZ	Active	43.95	Somalia
Higher Education and Vocational Training Financial Cooperation Program (TVET III)	BMZ	Active	33	Ethiopia
Vocational Training and Agricultural Education	BMZ	Active	41.8	Ethiopia
Support for refugee programs in Ethiopia	BMZ	Active	11	Ethiopia
Capacity development in the field of training for health care specialists and technicians	BMZ	Active	18.15	Ethiopia
Vocational Training Ethiopia	BMZ	Active	35.2	Ethiopia
Basket financing for education with Ethiopia (two phases)	BMZ	Active	62.15	Ethiopia

Regional Fund supporting migrants, refugees and host communities in the Horn of Africa	BMZ	Active	33	Regional	
Strengthening the capacities of IGAD and its Member States in support of regional migration policies in the Horn of Africa	BMZ	Active	17.38	Regional	
Total 1053.9					
GRAND TOTAL FOR INVESTMENT PROJECTS (\$m in USD)				\$8,937.46	

III. Technical Assistance and Advisory Services and Analytics (ASA)

ASAs	Development Partner	Status	Total (\$m)
HoA RI for Sustainable Energy Supply	World Bank	Active	1.5
Economic Growth and Resilience in the Borderlands of the Horn of Africa	World Bank	Completed	0.4
HoA Regional Economic Memorandum	World Bank	Completed	0.55
HoA Regional Risk and Resilience Assessments (RRA)	World Bank	Completed	0.15
Strengthening resilience in the Horn of Africa	World Bank	Completed	1.7
FS of a PPP Scheme for Djibouti-Ethiopian Border Road Corridor	World Bank	Completed	0.32
Technical Assistance to Support to HoAl	EU	Active	0.70
Contribution to the MDTF	EU	Active	31.80
TA to the Federal Ministry of Works, Reconstruction and Housing and Somaliland Road Development Agency for preparation and supervision of transport projects	AfDB	Contracted awarded	0.060
TA to develop the digital footprint of the Bank in the East Africa region in the framework of the Horn of Africa Initiative (HoAI).	AfDB	Contract awarded	0.048
TA to the Ministry of Roads and Bridges (South Sudan) to enhance capacity on environment and safeguards and capacity to implement planned investments	AfDB	Active	0.158
IGAD Trade Policy (approved Sept. 2022)	AfDB	Validated by IGAD member countries	1
pre-feasibility study for the Somalia Kub-Kab Road corridor (Somalia)	AfDB	Active	0.063
Sudan Transport Sector Review (TSR)	AfDB	Active	0.075
TA to the Secretariat/Chair on Trade and Economic Integration (regional)	AfDB	Completed	0.05

Renewal of contracts for 4 National Advisers	AfDB	Active	0.587	
Deployment of a National Adviser for South Sudan	AfDB	Active	0.132	
TA to the Ministry of Public Works Reconstruction and Housing (MoPWR&H)	AfDB	Under procurement	0.08	
Total (\$m in USD)			\$39.37	
HOAI CUMULATIVE PORTFOLIO (US\$ million)				
HOAI TOTAL INVESTMENT LENDING AND ASAs (US\$ million)				

HoA Initiative Pipeline List (Development Partners)

As of Dec 4th, 2023

Projects	Development Partner	Status	Total (\$m in USD)	Partner countries				
Pillar 1: Regional Infrastructure Networks								
1 Economic Corridors								
Trade and transport facilitation measures for Strategic Corridors in Africa	EU	Pipeline	45	Regional				
South Sudan (Juba)-Ethiopia (Addia) - Djibouti Transport corridor	AfDB	Pipeline	ТВС	Ethiopia, South Sudan, Djibouti				
Road Infrastructure Programme Phase II (several roads)	AfDB	Pipeline	ТВС	Somalia				
Sub-total (pipeline)			45					
2 Regional Energy Trade								
HoA Regional Power System Transformation Project	World Bank	Pipeline	230	Regional - (note: total amount for Ethiopia and Somalia is \$215m. EAPP is \$15m)				
Sub-total (pipeline)			230					
3 Single Digital Market								
Digital component "Gouvernance pour le développement"	EU	Pipeline	1.38	Djibouti				
Sub-total (pipeline)			1.38					
Total			276.38					
Pillar 2: Trade and Economic Integra	tion							
AFE Regional Trade Facilitation Project	World Bank	Pipeline	325	Regional - (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia)				
Towards free movement and labour mobility in the IGAD region, phase II	EU	Pipeline	15.9	Regional				
Promote and Invest in Circular Economy in Eastern and Southern Africa	EU	Pipeline	10	Kenya, Ethiopia				

Horn of Africa Trade Facilitation and Value Chains	AfDB	Pipeline	12	Regional
EAC and Horn of Africa Capital Markets Integration Project	AfDB	Pipeline	10	Regional
Total			372.9	
Pillar 3: Building Resilience				
Horn of Africa - Groundwater for Resilience Phase II (Djibouti and South Sudan)	World Bank	Pipeline	70	Regional - (Djibouti, South Sudan)
Regional support to the Great Green Wall	EU	Pipeline	5.3	Regional
Regreening Africa – phase II	EU	Pipeline	4	Ethiopia, Somalia
Multinational Horn of Africa Climate Disaster Risk Financing Program	AfDB	Pipeline	25	Djibouti, Somalia, South Sudan
Multinational -Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Response to Food Crisis Project (SEPAREF)- (AEFPF)	AfDB	Pipeline	10.2	Somalia, South Sudan
Green Climate Fund (GCF) Supplementary Financing for the Programme to Build Resilience for Food And Nutrition Security In The Horn Of Africa (BREFONS) REGIONAL -Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Response to Food Crisis Project (SEPAREF)- (AEFPF)	AfDB	Pipeline	150	Ethiopia, Djibouti, South Sudan, Somalia, Kenya
Total			264.5	
Pillar 4: Strengthening Human Capital				
"Protect gains and accelerate momentum towards the elimination of harmful practices affecting girls and young women"	EU	Pipeline	4	Regional
Total			4	
GRAND TOTAL FOR INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN PIPELINE (\$m in USD)				\$917.78