

Strengthening the Capacity of IGAD towards Enhanced Drought Resilience in the Horn of Africa (SCIDA-II)

Supporting local actors and public services to improve the resilience of local populations in four districts of Afar and Somali Regions, Ethiopia

The challenge

The Afar and Somali Regions of Ethiopia consist of almost exclusively arid and semi-arid lowlands (ASAL) and are among the least developed regions in Ethiopia. The Afar and Somali people derive their livelihood either entirely from pastoral livestock farming, or from a combination of crop and livestock farming.

Afar and Somali Regions have a population of about 1.8 million and 10.1 million respectively. The majority of the population lives a traditional lifestyle, which is characterized by migration together with the animals in search for fodder and water. More than half of the population in the lowlands lives below the poverty line. The regions show some of the lowest development indicators in Ethiopia.

Over the past two decades, the regions have experienced recurring severe droughts, which together with other environmental factors led to the degradation of the natural resource base forming the basis of local livelihoods. The population's capacity to cope with a changing climate and the ongoing loss of valuable natural resources (resilience) is in peril.

Our approach

The SCIDA-II Technical Cooperation (TC) Facility is part of the Strengthening Drought Resilience in Arid and Semi-Arid Lowlands of Ethiopia (SDR-ASAL) programme. It operates in three districts (woredas) in Afar and one district in Somali Region,

Project name	Strengthening the Capacity of IGAD towards Enhanced Drought Resilience in the Horn of Africa (SCIDA-II) TC Facility
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Partner organizations	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
Project region	3 districts in Afar region and 1 district in Somali region, Ethiopia
Lead executing agency	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Duration	2/2017 - 12/2020

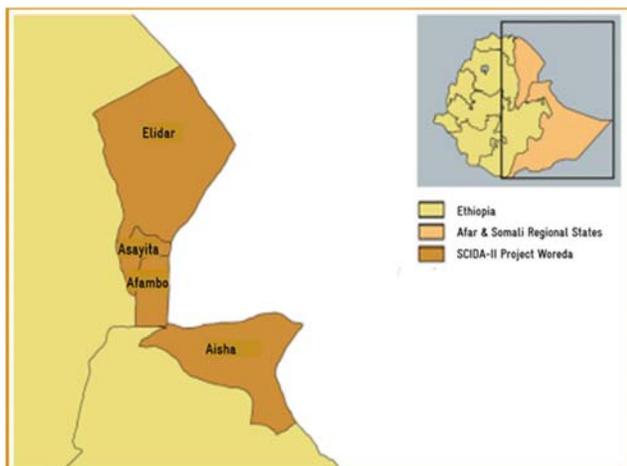
the so-called Dikhil Cluster All districts share a border with Djibouti. SCIDA-II focuses on the following set of activities:

Development management: The regional and district level state authorities responsible for drought resilience activities are supported in building capacities to manage and coordinate the multitude of development activities in their respective regions, taking into consideration cross-border aspects.

Participatory planning: The natural resource planning departments of the public sector are supported with simple, landscape-oriented participatory planning tools. Information from data collections is used in participatory planning processes with communities, and in the dialogue with counterparts in Djibouti on cross-border relevant topics such as migration and transhumance.



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Capacity development plan: The experiences made in the project feed into the capacity development strategy of IGAD for its member states. The success of existing projects of the SDR-ASAL portfolio have created a high degree of trust with stakeholders, including the Ethiopian authorities at national, regional and local levels. The SCIDA-II TC Facility sets out to further develop this initial success of SDR-ASAL's approaches.

Our Goals

The project overall goal is to build capacities amongst local authorities in planning public and private investments to enhance drought resilience of the pastoral population against the effects of climate change and droughts. It is to be achieved through:

- Improved capacities to better manage and monitor development activities in Afar and Somali regions, raising the absorption capacity for future investments and development projects;
- A better position of partners to identify relevant development projects, especially in the cross-border dialogue with counterparts in Djibouti;
- Improved capacities of partners allowing for better management of natural resources by introducing simple and practical technical tools;
- Strengthened capacities for technical staff and users, allowing for planning of more sustainable and productive development activities;
- Empowered communities, permitting to cope better with externally induced changes and to take advantage of economic opportunities.

The project and its experiences form part of IGAD's capacity development strategy for the member states and facilitates better coordination, training, and raising of funds for further investments.

Our Achievements

- Over 50 planning personnel trained in the use of GIS and data collection methods to allow for better visualization of geophysical features in the area;
- A full land use/land cover map of four districts is available to allow analysis of geophysical information at district level;
- Mapping, importance ranking and initial inventory of 10,353 ha of pastoral grazing areas available- to allow for investment planning to improve pasture conditions;
- The first two investment plans are available- for better marketing of local products and improvement of cross-border trade.

Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

GmbH Registered offices Bonn and

Eschborn, Germany

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As at

March 2020

Printed by

Savannah Press, Addis Ababa

Design

Ejtg Design Plc, Addis Ababa

Photo credits

GIZ/ SDR-ASAL

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GIZ is responsible for the content of this

publication. On behalf of

Federal

Ministry for Economic

Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

In cooperation with

Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

