



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

IGAD BI-ANNUAL MEETING ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

November 2023, Naivasha, Kenya

Background

The IGAD Food Security, Nutrition and Resilience Analysis Hub (IFRAH), in collaboration with the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Global Support Unit (IPC-GSU) for East and Central Africa, convened the eighth IGAD Bi-annual Meeting on Food Security and Nutrition from 27-28 November 2023 in Naivasha, Republic of Kenya.

The meeting brought together IGAD member states (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda) and partners (Action Against Hunger (ACF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to jointly discuss the food security and nutrition situation in the region, and outline the immediate, medium and long-term actions needed to address it.

Recommendations

Immediate term

1. Governments, partners and relevant stakeholders should urgently mobilise the necessary funding to deliver life-saving assistance to populations affected by the ongoing flooding in several parts of the region. In addition, they should provide the much-needed multi-sectoral assistance – food, emergency shelter, nutrition and medical supplies and water among others – to the flood-affected populations to mitigate further negative impacts on their lives and livelihoods
2. Governments and partners to work with local communities to repair and rehabilitate critical water infrastructure such as boreholes, to ensure access to safe water and promote improved sanitation practices
3. Governments, UN agencies, NGOs and other relevant actors to increase immediate, coordinated and multi-sectoral life-saving assistance in areas with populations in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+) levels of acute food insecurity
4. Increased nutrition interventions by sector actors, including Ministries of Nutrition and Health, to prevent and treat malnutrition and diseases, especially in low-coverage areas

Medium and long term

1. IGAD to lead efforts to promote a regional and collective strategy to addressing food insecurity in the region, acknowledging that various transboundary shocks and disasters, such as crop pests like desert locusts, conflict, and floods among others, necessitate a coordinated and integrated response
2. IGAD alongside the relevant ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) of member states, to advocate at the highest levels for heightened attention to the region's high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition, and ensure that addressing them becomes a policy priority
3. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) to work with member states, with support from IGAD, to strengthen the institutionalisation of the IPC analytical approach at the national level
4. The IPC to train more analysts in the countries in order to build the critical local capacity needed to conduct IPC acute and chronic food insecurity and malnutrition analyses. In addition, to support south-to-south exchange of analysts to promote sharing of expertise and best practices
5. IPC and IGAD to work together with member states to develop (where none exist) and/or improve food security and nutrition communication strategies at the national and regional levels, to ensure information sharing, and importantly, a link between information and decision making
6. IGAD, through its Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), to work with member states and partners to enhance resilience to the multi-dimensional shocks and risks that affect the food security and nutrition of the IGAD people, as well as to promote inclusive and sustainable development
7. The IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) to work with member states and partners to facilitate capacity development for adoption of resilience enhancing technologies and innovations such as floodplain fodder growing, zai pits, half-moon bands, and forage seed harvesting among others
8. Development partners to support livelihood recovery investments to help communities rebuild and regain their self-sufficiency
9. Member states, IGAD and partners to collaborate with the private sector to create mechanisms that can strengthen the role of risk transfer and risk financing approaches in enhancing communities' resilience, especially in the context of climate change
10. IGAD, through its Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC), to work with actors along the climate services value chain to implement the Early Warning for All (EW4ALL) initiative, and ensure climate information reaches all stakeholders
11. Member states, IGAD, UN agencies, NGOs and other actors in anticipatory action (AA) to equally strengthen AA in the region by working to institutionalise AA within IGAD member states, allocate required resources and build technical capacities to intervene in advance of shocks. In addition, enhance coordination across actors and harmonise AA programmes through the development of joint AA frameworks
12. IGAD to operationalise the IGAD Disaster Response Fund (IDRF) – endorsed by IGAD Heads of States during the 38th extra-ordinary summit of IGAD Heads of States – to guarantee access to rapid and flexible resources for anticipatory action and/or immediate disaster response

13. IGAD and member states' MDAs to promote collaborative research, with specialised research institutions and academia, on ways of optimising agricultural productivity, in the context of climate variability and change
14. Member states and partners to promote and support nutrition sensitive agriculture value chains
15. IGAD, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other sector actors to promote research into the link between displacement, and food insecurity and malnutrition, in particular the impact of migration| displacement on food security and nutrition in areas of arrival
16. Member states and partners to adopt systemic conflict-sensitive approaches to promote conflict prevention and mitigation, contribute to the reduction and resolution of continuing conflict, and reduce the risk of relapse in contexts that have experienced conflict
17. All actors to engage and involve the private sector in their efforts to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition – this will help tap into the sector's innovation, value chains and other resources