

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Instituting policies and advocate for more policy change is central pillar of the capacity building for regional and policy advocacy in drought resilience agenda. Since February 2013 – the time of the last Steering Committee meeting – the Platform Coordination Unit (PCU) has made significant progress. Number of regional and in-country workshops have been held, action plan to carry out agenda at both IGAD secretariat and countries level have been identified, work on task teams has also advanced considerably since the recruitment of the coordinators, partnership has been initiated with key regional think-tank institutions. Serious dialogue on cooperation in regional agenda and cooperation with regional organizations including UNECA, Africa Capacity Building Foundation and NEPAT were also in progress.

To date, the Platform Coordination Unit (PCU) has taken a reactive position to follow-up in drought resilience agenda, responding to direct country requests and facilitating follow-up and operationalizing the initiative in member states. This involvement has ranged from assisting in the organisation of full stakeholders' and validation workshops (as the case of South Sudan), support to draft Somalis Country Program Paper and recruitment of experts were provided. GIZ support was central to this process. Support from other donors for recruitment of staff and implement the platform capacity building activities was commendable and crucial (e.g. USAID, GIZ and Joint Financial Arrangement – JFA of Scandinavian countries).

Along similar line, the PCU has yet completed first round of familiarization mission to the member states. The outcome of the mission is translated into guidance principle to our implementation of the capacity building program within the next six months action plan. In its various meetings, the mission described the rationale for the need of regional initiative for the drought resilience and how the objectives could be achieve, and the best way to receive feed-back from the beneficiaries about the usefulness of the proposed Country Program Papers and associated programs.

The mission was able to stimulate discussion on different scenarios and the next step needed at the country level to strengthen the relation between IGAD as Secretariat and member states.

The Capacity Development Coordinator proposes to adopt a more systematic approach to country follow-up in the future. A second round of the workshops has been proposed to establish the coordination mechanisms at member states. A step require mobilize more resources for strong presence in member states. A review of some budget lines within ISAP document may help to realign ISAP to capture the current development in capacity building approach to member states within the context of the platform mechanism as vehicle to strength the relation between IGAD and member states.

Phase II of the workshops will be part of the six month capacity development action plan. The focus will be on start putting in place National Platform Coordination Mechanisms in which the national platform coordinator will be supported by African development Bank in all member states. These workshops would help track progress with the plans, find solutions to the obstacles that countries may encounter in implementing the CPP. The facility at the country level, will enable more advanced countries in IGAD in coordination to share their experiences to follow-up and strategic coordination mechanisms with countries thinking of taking similar steps in drought resilience. Along with the line in phase II, capacity need assessment for both IGAD Secretariat and member states will be conducted.

As far as ISAP is concerned, all Divisions have resources either over or under budgeted without clear accountability process. There is a need to review and reallocate unutilized some budget lines to meet with the current need of the proposed six months action plan. This is require to actively consider ways to transfer and measure the successes achieved in the areas of capacity building, to address the ISAP goal of achieving institutional capacity building that are consistent with other RECs standards. An initial step in this direction could potentially be to work towards aligning standards, for example for maximum residue limits with the line of responsibilities.

Synergies between regional and national processes through strong capacity building services

The planned capacity building program is a policy-based approach on three tiers program targeting technical, executive, and legislatures) to domesticate the knowledge gained at global and regional levels in order to improve the country processes and help implement the agreed regional policies in drought resilience and public policy at national level. The rationale of this approach is to influence and ensure more buy-in among those have significant influence in public policy. Building regional network on relevant drought agenda and building strong regional alliance along the legislatures will hopefully build strong understandable cross borders mind-set.

For doing so, a prerequisite capacity need assessment is vital to have a capacity building strategy and design a demand-driven capacity building program ranging from organizing seminars for high-level policy makers at the country level securing buy-in of the government officials to monitoring how our intervention is making a difference. Along similar line, in house capacity building in the line with the key pillars of ISAP is also drafted and program of action in place for next six months.

Against this background, the capacity of IGAD to deliver its mandates, require designing interventions to meet needs and demands for change and building capacity in the line with the Drought resilience agenda. In order to develop meaningful intervention this start by developing and conceptualizing capacity building program and enlighten the way for future intervention proposal for capacity building for intervention in the line with the mission of IGAD.

The program of action for the next six months summarized in the following points:

- Capacity Need Assessment to develop strategy and design capacity services to be provided for member states through identify the need for IGAD to provide efficient services to member states. The assessment will include in-house IGAD capacity need assessment with it is specialized institutions.
- Strengthen the platform coordination mechanisms in member states for more technical and political buy-in to enhance the implementation of the initiative.
- In house capacity building aim to enhance the internal institutional capacity of Different Divisions including Finance, Administration and Human Resources to perform at least with standard of other RECs. This program through developing internal performance measurements.
- Strengthen cross-borders program and other related activities in collaboration with other Divisions.