



# Implementation of cross-border MoUs in the IGAD region for Animal Health Intervention,

Harmonized activities, border controls, animal movement  
management, and animal identification and traceability practices

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**Workshop on FMD Epidemiology, Surveillance, and  
Diagnostics to Strengthen Control Efforts in Eastern Africa**

21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025, Mombasa, Kenya





# Outline of Presentation

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5. Foot and Mouth Disease(FMD) status in IGAD member state
6. Recommendations and Way Forward



# 1. Background

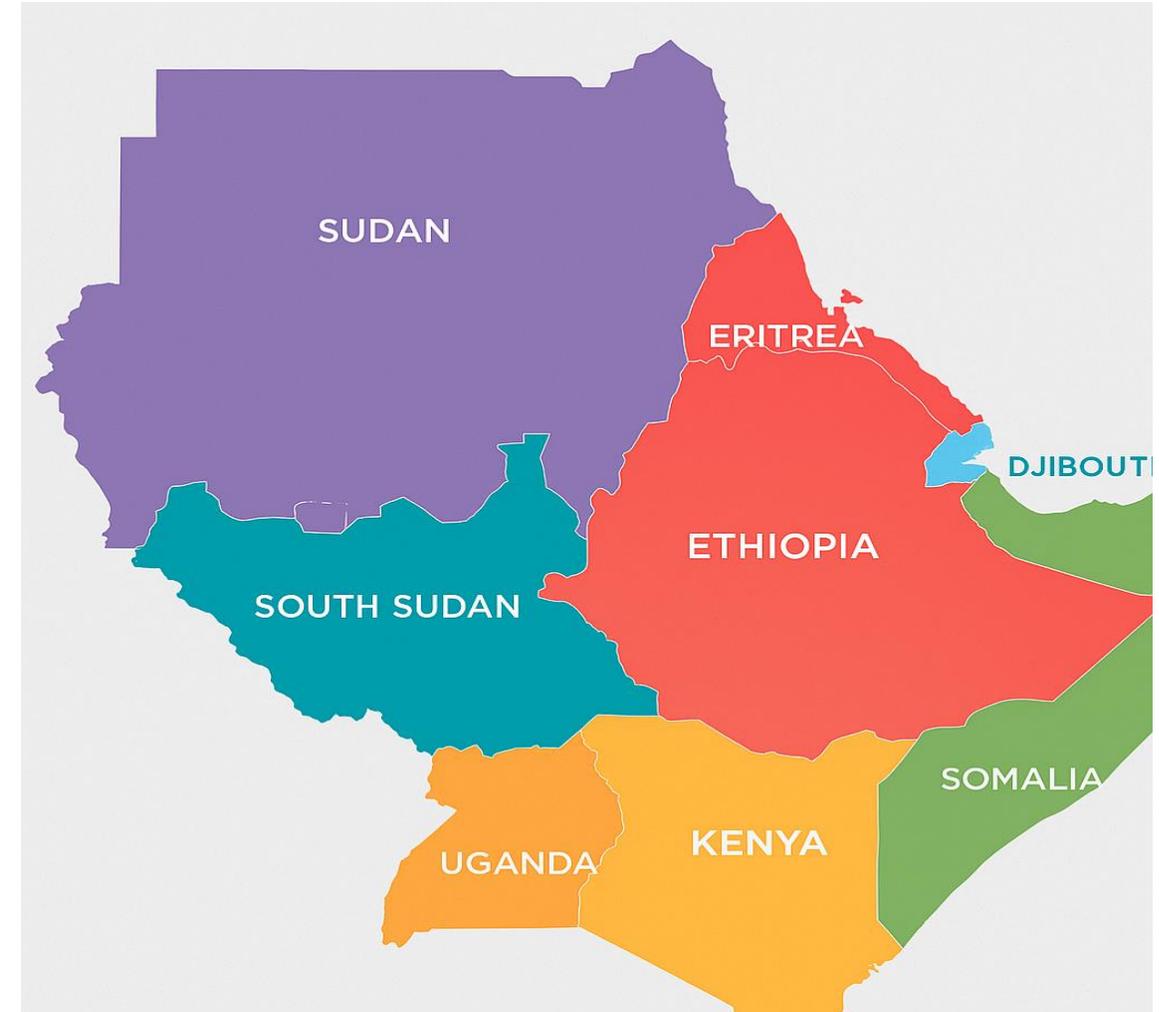
- The IGAD region's livestock population is massive (estimates > 532 million heads) and pastoral mobility is central in arid/semi-arid zones.
- IGAD is the leading exporter of live animals, contributing 42% of the continent's exports.
- The IGAD region meets over 60% of the live animal and 10% of the meat annual demand of the MENA.
- Mobility across international boundaries is frequent, making TADs control a shared challenge: seasonal livestock movement, search for pasture, drought dynamics.
- Among prioritized TADs in the IGAD Strategy are FMD, PPR, LSD, CBPP, CCPP, etc.





## .... Context & Rationale

- The IGAD region comprises 8 member states (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda).
- FMD is particularly challenging because of
  - ✓ High transmissibility
  - ✓ Multiple serotypes,
  - ✓ wildlife reservoirs,
  - ✓ Impact on livestock production
  - ✓ and trade restrictions.



## 2. Signed MoUs in IGAD member states to Harmonize Animal Health Activities

- IGAD / ICPALD has actively facilitated bilateral and multilateral MoUs for cross-border animal health cooperation to harmonize Animal Health activities.
- The MoUs that has been signed so far by **IGAD-ICPALD** Facilitation or Coordination
  - **Multilateral**
    - ✓ Karamoja Cluster(Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan)
    - Somali Cluster MoU (Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia)
  - **Bilateral**
    - ✓ Kenya-Ethiopia
    - ✓ Somalia-Ethiopia
    - ✓ Ethiopia-South Sudan
    - ✓ Ethiopia-Djibouti
    - ✓ Somalia-Kenya
    - ✓ Ethiopia-Sudan
    - ✓ Sudan-South Sudan
    - ✓ Kenya- Uganda

## ..... Cross-Border MoUs and Institutional Mechanisms in IGAD

➤ The focus areas of MoUs signed by IGAD member states

### 1. Harmonized Disease Surveillance and Control

- ✓ Joint surveillance for Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TADs) such as FMD, PPR, CBPP, and RVF.
- ✓ Development of harmonized vaccination calendars across border regions.
- ✓ Regular sharing of animal health information through national and regional databases.
- ✓ Joint outbreak investigations and coordinated response.

### 2. Strengthening Cross-Border Veterinary Services

- ✓ Establishment of cross-border coordination committees and joint technical working groups.
- ✓ Creation of joint veterinary border posts and quarantine stations.
- ✓ Standardization of veterinary certificates, movement permits, and inspection procedures.

### 3. Movement control and Management

- ✓ Mapping and formal recognition of transhumance routes, grazing zones, and watering points.
- ✓ Agreed rules for seasonal livestock movement to reduce disease transmission.



## ..... Cross-Border MoUs & Institutional Mechanisms in IGAD

- The focus areas of MoUs signed by IGAD member states

### **4. Animal Identification and Traceability**

- ✓ Development of harmonized animal identification (ID) systems and traceability frameworks for cross-border trade.
- ✓ Linking national systems into regional databases to enable disease tracing and trade certification.

### **5. Border Infrastructure and Resources**

- ✓ Upgrading of veterinary laboratories, quarantine facilities, and border checkpoints.
- ✓ Shared use of diagnostic and cold-chain facilities.
- ✓ Development of mobile veterinary teams or infrastructure for pastoral mobility areas.

### **6. Data, Information, and Communication Systems**

- ✓ Adoption of Animal Health Information Systems (AHIS) and integration with IGAD-AHIS and WDAH-WAHIS reporting.
- ✓ Strengthened communication between national veterinary services and border communities.



## ..... Cross-Border MoUs & Institutional Mechanisms in IGAD

- The focus areas of MoUs signed by IGAD member states

### **7. Livestock Trade and Market Access**

- ✓ Coordination of quarantine standards and export certification procedures.
- ✓ Mutual recognition of animal health certification for trade.
- ✓ Support for regional livestock markets in border areas.

### **8. Capacity Building and Research**

- ✓ Joint training of veterinary officers, laboratory technicians, and border health workers.
- ✓ Exchange of information and best practices on surveillance, diagnosis, and vaccination.

### **9. Resource Mobilization and Project Coordination**

- ✓ Alignment of bilateral MoUs with IGAD, AU-IBAR, FAO, and EU-funded projects.
- ✓ Development of joint work plans and monitoring mechanisms.

## 3. Progress in Implementing Cross-Border Animal Health MoUs Among IGAD Member States

### 3.1. Harmonization of cross-border surveillance and information sharing

- Diseases reporting workflows agreed.
- Governance and calendars launched for Sudan–South Sudan (Juba, Feb-2020) to coordinate surveillance and reporting.
- IGAD regional data-sharing policy/framework developed to underpin routine cross-border health data exchange (complements animal-health streams).
- Disease information sharing protocols have been validated and signed to allow timely notification and joint response. E.g. for the Karamoja cluster, a disease information sharing protocol was signed in 2024.
- Participatory disease surveillance (PDS) and training of border/veterinary staff is part of the implementation in cross-border regions.

## .....Progress in Implementing Cross-Border Animal Health MoUs Among IGAD Member States

### 3.2. Harmonized vaccination

- ✓ Harmonized annual calendars produced for Sudan–South Sudan; first cycle prepared for 2021 in shared border areas.
- ✓ Cluster-level synchronized vaccination referenced for Karamoja/Somali clusters in ICPALD “cross-border lessons” note (regularization urged).
- ✓ Kenya–Uganda MoU operationalization workshops laid out joint vaccination procedures right after the 2013 signing.
- ✓ In cross-border projects, synchronized vaccination has been implemented. For example, along the Ethiopia–Kenya border outbreak zones, vaccination was synchronized for multiple TADs (CBPP, LSD, FMD, PPR, etc.), covering millions of animals.

.....Progress in Implementing Cross-Border Animal Health MoUs Among IGAD Member States

### 3.3. . Border Controls, Animal Movement Management and Transhumance

- Controlling animal movement is crucial in TADs control, especially for FMD which spreads easily via movement.
- MoUs include provisions for harmonizing movement permits, regulation of stock routes, and controls on veterinary certification.
- The **IGAD Protocol on Transhumance** (endorsed in February 2020) is an important legal instrument to legitimize safe, orderly cross-border livestock movement.
  - ✓ It mandates mapping and designation of "transhumance corridors," issuance of transhumance certificates, review of corridors, recognition of seasonal movement.
  - ✓ It also obliges Member States to harmonize relevant laws and invest in pastoral regions to support mobility.

## .....Progress in Implementing Cross-Border Animal Health MoUs Among IGAD Member States

- Mapping of stock routes, natural resource sharing, and corridor design is a recurring component of cross-border coordination.
- Protocols include movement-permit templates & outbreak reporting forms for transhumance corridors in Karamoja cluster.
- Kenya-Uganda MoU workplan addresses border inspection/quarantine and formalization of livestock movements in Turkana-Karamoja.
- Border posts and formal crossing points should be strengthened with veterinary inspection, quarantine, holding grounds. Many livestock movements, though, are informal/uncontrolled, posing significant risk.
- Informal cross-border trade (ICBT) constitutes a major challenge, often bypassing official controls. The IGAD ICBT-Cross Border Security Governance policy addresses this nexus.
- Security, smuggling, conflict, and porous borders complicate enforcement.

## 4. Animal Identification and Traceability (LITS) in IGAD

- IGAD has developed **Regional Guidelines on Livestock Identification & Traceability (LITS)** to harmonize procedures across Member States.
- A **Model Legal Framework for LITS** was proposed to help Member States enact national legislation consistent with regional goals.
- The IGAD Strategy for Sustainable and Resilient Livestock (2022–2037) includes LITS as a cross-cutting component.
- Some progress: training of LITS focal personnel, exposure visits, and referencing best practices has been conducted in Namibia.
- **Karamoja protocol** specifies harmonized information flows and standard data items that enable trace-back/trace-forward across borders (foundation for regional ID&T).
- **WOAH/IGAD presentations** highlight ongoing work to align surveillance, certification and quarantine—pre-requisites for practical cross-border traceability.



# .....Animal Identification and Traceability (LITS) in IGAD

- ✓ Advantages of LITS include: enabling trace-back/trace-forward in outbreaks, supporting movement control, assuring certification in trade, controlling cattle theft, and improving stakeholder confidence.
- ✓ Challenges remain: cost of devices (ear tags, RFID, boluses), infrastructure (database, network, power, connectivity), maintaining central database, stakeholder adoption, regulatory enforcement, interoperability across borders.



**IGAD**  
**MODEL LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR**  
**LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION**  
**AND**  
**TRACEABILITY SYSTEM (LITS)**



An initiative of the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) to provide a model legal framework to guide IGAD member states in the development of their respective national LITS laws and for the harmonisation of the regional LITS initiative

May, 2016



**AFRICAN UNION**  
**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU**  
**FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**



## 5. FMD (Foot and Mouth Disease) in IGAD member state or EAC

### 5.1. FMD in status in IGAD member states

- FMD is **enzootic (endemic)** across most IGAD member states frequent outbreaks and high sero-prevalence.
- Surveillance, vaccination and control systems are **inconsistent**, with notable gaps in reporting, data submission and harmonization across borders.
- Many border regions exhibit **high risk of disease spread** due to livestock movement, transhumance and informal trade.
- Recent studies in Kenya, Ethiopia and neighboring states show **significant sero-prevalence** of FMD in small ruminants and cattle, indicating widespread exposure.
- The region lacks **FMD-free zones** or formal WDAH "free status" recognition for most countries; the region is still in the phase of **progressive control** rather than elimination.

....FMD (Foot and Mouth Disease) in IGAD member state or EAC

### .....FMD in status in IGAD member states

- Cross-border coordination initiatives on **Priority TADs underway** (via IGAD/ICPALD), but the on-the-ground implementation remains variable across countries and border zones.
- The **IGAD regional FMD control and prevention strategy** is drafted and on progress of Finalization.
- Because of its high contagion and multiple serotypes, control strategies need harmonized vaccination (serotype matching), movement restrictions, stamping-out or zone containment, biosecurity, rapid detection.

.....Foot and Mouth Disease(FMD ) in IGAD member state or EAC

## 5.2.Confirmed circulating FMD Virus in IGAD member states or EAC:

- Based on recent literature, the following serotypes are confirmed as circulating in IGAD member states:
  - ✓ Serotype **O**:- widely present and dominant in many countries in the region.
  - ✓ Serotype **A**:- also present in several countries in the region.
  - ✓ Serotype **SAT 1**:- reported in some countries of the region
  - ✓ Serotype **SAT 2**:- Confirmed as circulating.
- **FMD Virus Serotype Circulating in Each Eastern African Countries**
  - ✓ **Djibouti**:- **O** (reported; data sparse).
  - ✓ **Eritrea**:- **O, A, SAT2** (reported more recently); **C, SAT1** (older serology).
  - ✓ **Ethiopia**:- **O, A, SAT1, SAT2** (endemic; **C** detected historically, not since 1982/83).
  - ✓ **Kenya**:- **O, A, SAT1, SAT2** (endemic; multiple livestock and buffalo detections).



## .....Foot and Mouth Disease(FMD ) in IGAD member state or EAC

### ➤ .... FMD Virus Serotype Circulating in Each Eastern African Countries

- ✓ **Somalia:- O, A, SAT2** (documented in outbreak/field studies; O most consistently reported).
- ✓ **South Sudan:- O, A, SAT1, SAT2**
- ✓ **Sudan:- O, A, SAT1, SAT2** (SAT1 last detected in 1976 in available records).
- ✓ **Uganda:- O, A, SAT1, SAT2** (multiple serotypes within a single year in outbreaks).
- ✓ **Rwanda:-O, SAT 2** confirmed (multiple years; SAT 2 in 2020 and earlier; O in 1960/1998/2004). Some studies also report detections of **A** and **SAT 1** in field samples.
- ✓ **Tanzania:-O, A, SAT 1, SAT 2** (well-documented and endemic; recent and historical studies concur).
- ✓ **Burundi:-O, A, SAT 1, SAT 2** (historic records plus 2016 outbreaks characterized; current status endemic).



## 6. Recommendations & Way Forward

### ➤ Legal and Policy Harmonization

- ✓ Encourage all IGAD Member States to adopt/adapt the Model LITS legal framework to national law.
- ✓ Review and harmonize regulations on animal movement, border inspections, veterinary certification.
- ✓ Make MoU obligations binding (or with stronger accountability) rather than purely voluntary.

### ➤ Strengthen Institutional and Governance Mechanisms

- ✓ Fully operationalize joint steering committees, RAG for FMD, cross-border coordination units, joint management structures under each MoU.
- ✓ Allocate dedicated national budgets (not only donor) for MoU implementation.
- ✓ Promote institutional linkages between veterinary, trade, border, security agencies.

## .....Recommendations & Way Forward

### ➤ **Build Capacity and Infrastructure**

- ✓ Equip border posts with veterinary inspection capacity, cold chain, quarantine/holding facilities.
- ✓ Strengthen diagnostic laboratory networks and cross-border lab cooperation.
- ✓ Train veterinary staff, border officers, livestock officers in cross-border disease control, traceability.

### ➤ **Phased Roll-Out of Traceability (LITS)**

- ✓ Start with pilot zones or high-risk corridors; use group-level ID initially, later individual tagging
- ✓ Develop interoperable national databases connected across borders.
- ✓ Subsidize or cost-share identification devices for pastoralists or smallholders.
- ✓ Ensure data security, access protocols, and user-friendly interfaces.

## .....Recommendations and Way Forward

### ➤ **Enhance Cross-Border Information Sharing and Early Warning**

- ✓ Fully implement and enforce disease information sharing protocols (e.g. Karamoja cluster).
- ✓ Use ICT tools, dashboards, mobile apps to share outbreak alerts across borders.
- ✓ Build trust: ensure agreed data confidentiality, benefit-sharing, and reciprocity.

### ➤ **Strengthen Surveillance and Joint Vaccination Strategies**

- ✓ Plan synchronized campaigns along border zones (matching vaccine types, timing).
- ✓ Design joint outbreak response plans, sharing of resources and personnel.
- ✓ Use risk-based surveillance to focus limited resources on high-threat routes.

### ➤ **Sustainability and Funding**

- ✓ Mobilize domestic resources, not rely solely on donors
- ✓ Explore public-private partnerships, cost recovery models, user fees (with equity safeguards)
- ✓ Leverage regional and continental programmes (AU-IBAR, GF-TADs, FAO, OIE)

## .....Recommendations & Way Forward

### ➤ **Engage Communities, Traders and Local Actors**

- ✓ Awareness campaigns on benefits of traceability, sanitary compliance, disease reporting.
- ✓ Incentives (e.g. premium prices, market access) for compliant livestock owners/traders.
- ✓ Include local/range communities in corridor planning, MoU implementation monitoring.

### ➤ **Monitoring, Evaluation and Adaptive Learning**

- ✓ Define performance indicators (e.g. reduction in cross-border disease outbreaks, % of animals traced, compliance rates).
- ✓ Periodic reviews, feedback loops, ability to adapt protocols based on lessons.
- ✓ Document and disseminate success stories and challenges.



# Thank you

# Asante

