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## ENHANCING RESILIENCE OF CROSS-BORDER COMMUNITIES: THE MANDERA CLUSTER

### WHY IS ACTION NEEDED?

Cross-border areas are regions at the boundary of two or more countries.

In the Horn of Africa, pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities mainly inhabit arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of the cross-border areas. Being at the periphery of the countries, these cross-border areas often attract low national policy attention and investments thus degenerating into high levels of vulnerability and poverty.

**Resilience** is “the capacity that ensures shocks do not have long-lasting adverse development consequences”. It is widely recognized as one of the most powerful means to mitigate and prevent food security crises.

To enhance the resilience of communities in selected cross-border areas, FAO and IGAD established the Partnership Programme on Drought Resilience. The baseline survey was carried out in what is referred to as the Mandera Cluster, including cross-border sites of Ethiopia (Dolo Ado and Dolo Bay), Kenya (Mandera county) and Somalia (Dolow and Belet Hawa).

This brief provides guidance on policy planning for cross-border resilience programming.

### WHAT DID THE STUDY REVEAL?

The overall findings of the survey indicate that access to basic services and ownership of household assets are the main drivers of resilience in the Mandera Cluster. In terms of livelihoods, the study revealed that urban households are most resilient compared with their counterparts engaging in pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods. This difference can largely be attributed to education levels. The two main cross-border activities include livestock grazing and the sale and purchase of livestock and livestock products; households dependent on these activities reported that poor road infrastructure is their main challenge. Most households engaging in livestock grazing as a cross-border activity reported violent conflict as their main challenge.

### WHAT SHOULD POLICYMAKERS DO TO STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE?

- 1. Invest in productive assets**, natural resources management and climate-smart agricultural techniques to boost agricultural production.
- 2. Increase access to basic services** such as schools, health facilities and functional markets as well as improved water sources, sanitation and hygiene.
- 3. Invest in education through the provision of literacy programmes** to enhance household adaptive capacity.
- 4. Promote peace forums** in the Mandera Cluster to improve peaceful co-existence between communities cross-border trade and resource-sharing, including negotiations for peaceful access to pasture and water for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists.

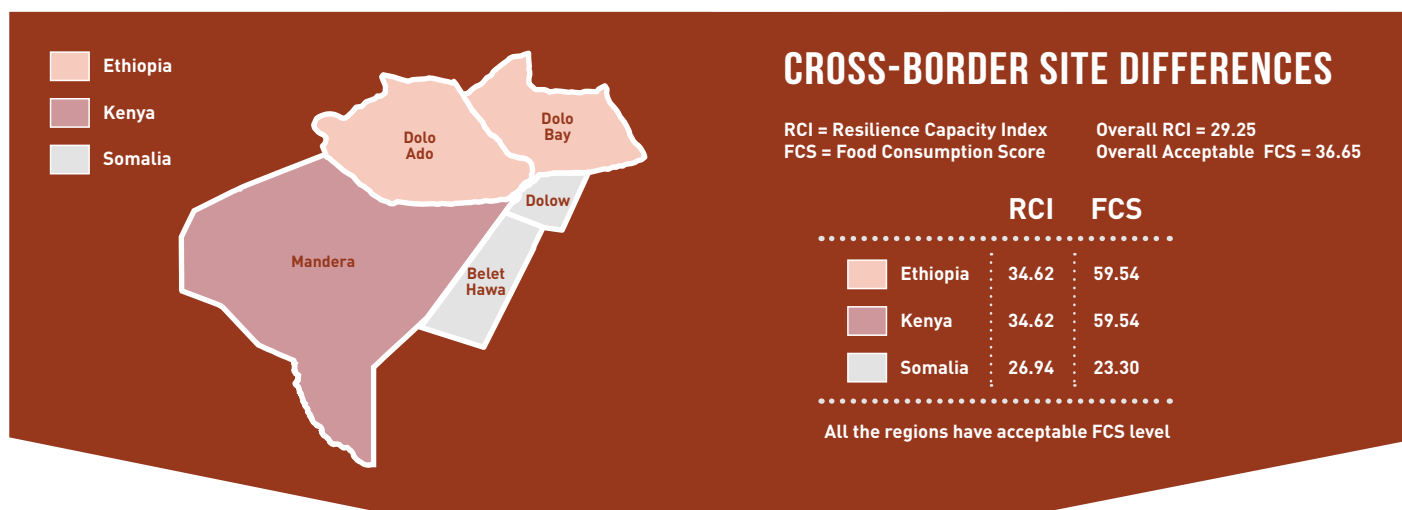
### MEASURING AND ANALYSING RESILIENCE

The Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA-II) tool allows to estimate household resilience capacity to food insecurity in two steps. First, it gives information on household resilience capacity through the estimation of the Resilience Capacity Index (RCI) and the Resilience Structure Matrix (RSM).

These can be used to rank and target households from most to least resilient. The second part shows the determinants of RCI and food security. Through this, RIMA-II can provide clear policy indications. RIMA-II has been applied in over ten countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

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THE INFOGRAPHIC BELOW SHOWS THE MAIN FINDINGS OF THE RESILIENCE ANALYSIS CONDUCTED IN CROSS-BORDER COMMUNITIES (THE MANDERA CLUSTER). IT ALSO PROVIDES CLEAR POLICY INDICATIONS.



**INSECURITY AND CONFLICT DURING LIVESTOCK GRAZING IN CROSS-BORDER AREAS**

**POOR ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE**

**WHAT ARE THE CRITICAL POINTS**

**FOOD INSECURITY**

**LIMITED PRODUCTIVE ASSETS**

**LACK OF ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES**

**INVESTING IN HOUSEHOLDS PRODUCTIVE ASSETS**

**REDUCING DISTANCE TO BASIC SERVICES**  
(e.g. schools, health facilities, markets)

**POLICY INTERVENTIONS**

**INVESTING IN EDUCATION**  
(literacy programmes e.g. mobile schools)

**SUPPORT PEACE FORUMS**  
(that will ensure peaceful co-existence, cross-border trade and sharing of resources in the area)

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