



# Greater Horn of Africa Cross-Border Learning Conference

25- 26 February, 2019. Nairobi, Kenya



# LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>APD</b>	Agency for Peace and Development
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>AUBP</b>	African Union Border Programme
<b>BMS</b>	Kenya's Border Management Secretariat
<b>BWG</b>	Borderlands Working Group
<b>CBOs</b>	Community Based Organisations
<b>CBSG</b>	Cross-Border Security Governance
<b>CEWARN</b>	IGAD Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism
<b>DDG</b>	Danish Demining Group
<b>DFID</b>	Department for International Development
<b>DRC</b>	Danish Refugee Council
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EUTF</b>	European Union Trust Fund
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>GHoA</b>	Greater Horn of Africa
<b>HARP</b>	LPI Horn of Africa Regional Programme
<b>IAG</b>	InterAfrica Group
<b>ICBT</b>	Informal Cross-Border Trade
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Person
<b>IGAD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority for Development
<b>IOM</b>	International Organisation for Migration
<b>LOKADO</b>	Lotus Kenya Action for Development Organisation
<b>LPI</b>	Life & Peace Institute
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental Organisation
<b>OSSREA</b>	Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa
<b>RASMI</b>	Regional Approaches for Sustainable Conflict Management and Integration
<b>RDPP</b>	Regional Development and Protection Programme
<b>RVI</b>	Rift Valley Institute
<b>SEEK</b>	Selam Ekisil
<b>SECCI</b>	Support for Effective Cooperation and Coordination of Cross Border Initiatives
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development



# INTRODUCTION

The Greater Horn of Africa's (GHOA) borders and borderlands are spaces of cooperation and linkage – marked by centuries of cross-border trade and extensive kinship and social ties – that defy political demarcation and control. Borders and borderlands share numerous security and development challenges, including conflict, crime, trafficking and political and economic contestations. Even though the contested nature of 'borders' highlights a stark geographical divide between government policy makers in state capitals and borderland communities, there is increasing evidence of the opportunities that borderlands present. As attention to borders in the GHOA increases, both from governments and external stakeholders, there is a need to identify the key lessons learned from interventions and initiatives in the borderlands.

In order to shift paradigms and focus on borders as bridges rather than barriers, Pact, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) – Danish Demining Group (DDG), the Life & Peace Institute (LPI) and the Rift Valley Institute (RVI) hosted the 'Greater Horn of Africa Cross-Border Learning Conference' on 25 and 26 February 2019. The main objectives of this event were to elevate the voices of communities directly affected by borderland policies and to examine borderlands programming through cross-border and 'community-centred' approaches.

The primary aims of the conference were to: enable discussion on the complexities and nuances of borderlands and how these inform policy and practice; provide space for members of borderland communities and local organisations to interact with policy makers, donors and practitioners; promote sharing of learning and experience from the implementation of cross-border programmes and policies; and provide an opportunity for productive networking between practitioners, governments and local organisations and actors.

Pact, DDG, RVI and LPI are working to advance knowledge and enhance border management and security, convene spaces to influence public action, and promote transnational collaboration across the region. These organisations are members of the Borderlands Working Group (BWG), a collaboration among 12 non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

to promote evidence-based and community-centered approaches to policy making and practical interventions across borderlands in East Africa.

More than 140 participants from across the region gathered in Nairobi to discuss, debate and devise better co-operation on evidence-based programming and policy making for the GHOA's borderlands. Participants included representatives from the NGO consortium that makes up the BWG, the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), international donors such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Union (EU) and the Department for International Development (DFID) as well as embassy officials, academics, local peace actors, government officials, traditional leaders, , women's groups and community-based organisations (CBOs) from across the region.

The conference provided invaluable insight into issues confronting the region's borders and borderlands, especially the challenges faced by its people, policy makers and practitioners. This report represents a summary of the conference's key learning points and discussions. It also highlights the policy and operational challenges various actors have encountered in the course of their work. Finally, it provides recommendations gleaned from the presentations and discussions to enhance coordination on cross-border programming and policy making, particularly through people- or community-centered approaches.



## BORDERLANDS: BRIDGES NOT BARRIERS

The conference's opening remarks were provided by representatives of the Government of Kenya, LPI, DRC-DDG and Pact. Ambassador Frederic Ngoga-Gateretse of the African Union Border Programme (AUBP) also provided a statement. Speakers highlighted the need to view borders as opportunities for regional integration and as bridges instead of barriers. While the border regions present many challenges, they also underline many untapped opportunities. Trade, the seasonal movement of livestock (known as transhumance) and human migration characterise the region's borderlands. How best to manage, improve and deliver services remains the central challenge for those working in these fiercely contested border areas. Job creation, in particular for young men, is seen as a way to reduce conflict and improve security.

Africa has 109 international boundaries and some 100 ongoing disputes regarding these borders and borderlands. Ambassador Frederic Ngoga-Gateretse stressed the need for governments to be creative and to re-imagine a united continent. One step to achieving this is by adopting the AU Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation (Niamey Convention). The Niamey Convention aims to 'ensure efficient and effective integrated border management' (Article 2(5)) and defines cross-border cooperation as any act or policy aimed at promoting and strengthening good-neighbourly relations between border communities and administrations or other stakeholders with the jurisdiction of two or more states, including the conclusion of agreements useful for this purpose.

At present only 16 AU Member States have ratified the convention, and none are from the IGAD region. This fragmented approach to policy makes the continent economically and politically weaker, according to Ambassador Ngoga. "Borders must be viewed as bridges for stronger regional integration and greater political and economic development," he said. He also encouraged African nations to use AU mechanisms for peaceful dispute resolution rather than relying on costly international court processes.

It is clear that bridging these gaps and aligning

policy to community needs and wants is paramount to better service delivery and more effective programming. The management of cross-border issues has had varied degrees of success with regard to national, regional and global interventions. These largely marginalised borderland areas are best seen as opportunities rather than venues for disputes; border programming should reflect this.

## BORDERS: WHAT ARE BORDERLANDS AND WHY DO THEY PROVIDE A RELEVANT LENS FOR PROGRAMMING?



The first panel discussion explored what is meant by the term 'borderlands.' Presenters discussed the key shared characteristics of the GHoA borderlands, what differentiates them, and why 'borderlands' is a relevant lens for programming. The panel examined the divergence between national government agendas and the needs and perspectives of borderlands communities.

Borderland communities face numerous challenges including competition over limited natural resources, illegal trade and crime networks, conflict over grazing land and water rights, livestock raiding, violent extremism, climate change and the proliferation of weapons. One major issue is how national border policies regularly follow a securitized paradigm in which fixed populations would be optimal for control, while a large majority of local communities, especially pastoralists, tend

to pursue mobile subsistence livelihoods and transhumance agendas.

This creates a fragile center-periphery dichotomy between government and local communities that can engender public distrust towards various stakeholders in the borderlands, including the state and its security organs.

Participants discussed ongoing security challenges in border areas, in particular the border between Kenya and Somalia where the fragile balance among local militias, police and soldiers is regularly disrupted by Al-Shabaab ('the youth'), an Al-Qaeda-aligned extremist group. Communities who tolerate or support Al-Shabaab are often punished by both parties to the conflict. Youth and businesses are often targeted and extorted to pay soldiers or Al-Shabaab militants for protection. The Kenyan security forces have been accused to use collective punishment against Somali-Kenyan communities after AS attacks as part of their counter-terrorism strategy<sup>1</sup>. Participants highlighted that this particular approach was counter-productive not only against AS, but also it also supported recruitment into AS<sup>2</sup>. Uganda has also employed tough security approaches aimed at curbing livestock raiding. Although these approaches may reduce livestock-linked violence in the short-term, they also engender community resentment towards the government, which can be consequential in the long run.

Conflict remains a major destabilising factor in the region. While civil war continues in South Sudan and Al-Shabaab threatens Somalia and Kenya, internal political dynamics and ethnic conflict in Ethiopia have generated the world's largest displaced population, exceeding that of Syria or Iraq.

### IGAD's Conflict Early Warning and Response

<sup>1</sup> Washington Post (2016) "Ethnic Somalis are dying in Kenya and some say the Government is to blame". [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/ethnic-somalis-are-dying-in-kenya-and-some-say-the-government-is-to-blame/2016/01/07/4bc66dbc-a848-11e5-b596-113f59ee069a\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/ethnic-somalis-are-dying-in-kenya-and-some-say-the-government-is-to-blame/2016/01/07/4bc66dbc-a848-11e5-b596-113f59ee069a_story.html)

<sup>2</sup> Human Rights Watch (2012), Kenyan Police and Military Abuses against Ethnic Somalis <https://www.hrw.org/report/2012/05/04/criminal-reprisals/kenyan-police-and-military-abuses-against-ethnic-somalis>

Mechanism (CEWARN) has identified three future trends in the borderlands that policy makers and practitioners need to consider in their interventions. Socio-economic considerations such as informal cross-border trade can be a boon for the borderlands. At the same time ecological pressures are mounting due to climate change, especially for women and children. Security – whether due to hard or porous borders – also remains a key factor. Each of these factors presents its own unique challenges, but they also are entwined and inform decision-making by donors and practitioners.

Another key consideration for GHOA borderlands programming centers on livestock-based livelihoods. More support to pastoralism is required as alternative livelihood activities barely meet basic household needs. Moreover, the lack of attention to transhumant pastoralism risks repeating failures from past livelihoods programming. Identifying and investing in holistic long-term approaches while looking at the unique capacities of the borderlands is essential. The dissonance between continental and regional policy frameworks and national policy frameworks was highlighted, particularly regarding pastoralism. IGAD, drawing on the AU's Framework for Pastoral Development, has clearly articulated a policy in favour of mobile pastoralism, evident in the basic assumptions of IGAD's Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI). There is an urgent need to increase understanding of the benefits of pastoralism among national policy makers and even local governments, and to advocate for the inclusion of pro-pastoralist policies in the national development agenda.





## GRANULAR ANALYSIS IN PROGRAMMING

“The people are hungry and angry.”

- Conference Participant -

One particular question was raised on how living in the borderlands affects individuals' lives and livelihoods. Participants from community groups, peace committees, chiefs' forums and women's collectives identified the main challenges as mostly linked to themes of climate, conflict and livestock. All stakeholders recognised the need to strengthen relations between governments with borderland communities.

The NGO consortium that makes up the BWG views local communities in East Africa as their first priority and guiding force. Their needs, interests and capacities are paramount to policy and debate and drive programmatic responses by NGOs and other actors. The BWG's main aim is to influence discourse on border policy and move programmatic interventions in borderlands towards a community-centred approach. In this spirit the 'Agenda Setting Report of the Borderlands Working Group' commissioned in 2017 investigated key historical, geographical, demographic, economic and political trends in the Somali borderlands (Kenya–Ethiopia–Somalia), Moyale (Kenya–Ethiopia), Karamoja Cluster/Elemi Triangle (Kenya–Ethiopia–Uganda–South Sudan) and Gambella (Ethiopia–Sudan/South Sudan).

The BWG report highlights that livestock remains central to borderland communities as both a key economic driver and a regular source of conflict. While livestock is the main trade and economic commodity in the borderlands, not all pastoralists benefit equally. More attention is needed to understand wealth distribution in pastoralist communities and improve access to credit for alternative business models. In many cases, pastoralist communities do not directly

benefit from the large amounts of livestock that they herd and tend because these are owned by politicians living in urban areas.

Traditional social linkages are vital for disaster response and conflict resolution in the borderlands. Strengthening and investing in customary mechanisms while identifying and supporting holistic long-term approaches is a critical pathway to durable solutions.

There are numerous borderland community groups working to improve peace and security in the GHoA. In Kenya's Turkana County the 'Cross-Border Chiefs Forum' supported by the USAID Peace III programme has seen a gradual transition from regular cattle raids, killings and displacement to a calmer, more peaceful and increasingly developed region. The Chiefs' Forum is an example of how traditional governance structures are important to ensuring community resilience and instilling legitimacy to traditional leaders from different areas such as Moroto, Turkana and Pokot in the Karamoja Cluster.

Grassroots community organisations in the Karamoja Cluster have been vital in bringing peace to areas prone to conflict. This has led to the re-opening of schools and increased cross-border trade. The forum's success is also due to its collaboration with Ugandan officials, women's forum members, and the 'Peace Directorates' of the Turkana and Pokot counties. But these developments are fragile and easily reversible. The lack of telecommunications infrastructure, poor network coverage, and lack of emergency funds to respond to threats or conflicts that can quickly escalate all need urgent addressing.

In some cases dialogue meetings have improved relations between communities and Kenya's security personnel, who historically have not engaged in 'winning hearts and minds.' Trust enables all parties to work together on security issues and to reduce threats and attacks. More investment is needed to foster better relations through joint activities. For example, in Lamu the Kyunga Youth Bunge Initiative supported regular meetings between youth and security agencies and activities such as joint cleanup exercises. Similar community–



security provider dialogues have been central to DDG's programming in the Karamoja Cluster and in Mandera and Wajir Counties in Kenya.

Moreover, the Lotus Kenya Action for Development Organization (LOKADO), a community-driven organisation formed in 2003 with members from Lokichoggio, Oropoi and Kakuma addresses violent cross-border conflict among the Turkana and communities in Uganda and South Sudan. Despite some success, this can be dangerous work and members have suffered threats of violence and criticism from leaders who dislike scrutiny. Conflict drivers are understood to include politicians protecting criminals aligned to their interests or even promoting illicit activity such as cattle raiding or smuggling. LOKADO, like most community-based organisations at the conference, struggles to achieve all its goals in an effective manner due to limited resources to implement and enforce frequent livestock recovery missions.

The Somali Cluster Steering Committee of Women showcased their efforts to reduce the numbers of children and young people being

recruited into extremist groups such as Al-Shabaab. Through their trainings, they identify warning signs of radicalisation and work actively with religious leaders to correct religious falsehoods that justify violent extremism. Peace III has assisted women in the Karamoja and Somali Clusters to speak up about their problems in a society that traditionally does not permit them to do so. Similarly, DDG's 'Guurti Plus' initiative in southern Somalia, which facilitates conflict resolution and peace via consultative community-led forums, supports women who advise traditional leaders on how best to solve taboo issues such as gender-based violence (GBV).

Ongoing local peace processes such as the Peace III-supported Dukana–Dilo–Maikona Peace Declaration have helped to reduce violent conflict in border areas of Kenya and Ethiopia. However, support is still needed to manage recurrent security issues such as petty theft and attacks. Ethiopian community leaders called for more government support similar to efforts seen in Kenya.

## BORDERS: GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIA AND DONORS

A layered approach to border management encompasses numerous actors with varying roles and responsibilities trying to find continuity and cohesion. It is critical for governments and donors to harness what they do best and align their priorities to best service borderland regions. It is a collaborative albeit difficult effort that requires each layer to effectively manage its own unique challenges within its specific mandate. This session heard from various government, academic and donor representatives. It intended to showcase how a “borderlands lens” can or should be used by traditionally State-centred institutions.

### 1. Government approaches to borderlands

Although border management is under the control of national governments, local governments have been playing an increasingly important role in self-determination and managing these spaces. Countries in the GHoA have a decentralised political structure. For example, the devolution process in Kenya is broadly seen as a positive step for the Turkana and Garissa County governments that were historically neglected, or worse, seen as centres of opposition to national interests. Somali communities living in the borderlands more often rely on locally-aligned militias as security forces due to the lack of support from Federal Member State authorities or the Federal Government of Somalia, which does not exert much control outside of Mogadishu.

“Cross-border policies formulated by the central government that do not consult borderland communities result in policies that further marginalise already marginalised groups”, said Adam I. Aw Hirsi, Planning Minister of the Jubbaland state of Somalia. Minister Aw Hirsi called for government at all levels to better engage with borderland communities and stressed the need for grassroots consultations mobilisation.

In addition, Kenya’s Border Management Secretariat (BMS) has adopted a ‘whole of government approach’ that aims to enhance

inter-agency information sharing. This integrated approach, with several government committees and international agencies working together, is intended to ensure secure entry and exit points and to facilitate trade and migration across borders. Kenya’s BMS team recently travelled to Ethiopia to assess the possibility of opening five more border crossing to facilitate trade and ease of movement. Uganda is collaborating closely with the Kenyan government, IGAD and international partners such as the EU and DFID to reduce vulnerabilities for communities in arid and semi-arid lands. Other developments include disarmament in the Karamoja Cluster and continuous cross-border meetings between Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan. Government initiatives include providing locals with oxen and ox ploughs, distributing sewing machines to women groups and making initial capital investments of between US\$ 5 million (\$1345) and US\$ 10 million (\$2690) in community members including ex-combatants.

The centre-periphery tension between government and local communities, and consequent policy and law acceptance and support of such measures, is another pertinent issue for borderlands. Uganda’s Office of the Prime Minister has encouraged collaborative partnerships rather than pressure from CSOs or NGOs. Success is more likely when there is a flexible and collaborative manner of working together rather than pressuring governments to act.

### 2. Inter-governmental initiatives and collaborative policymaking

Government agencies are increasingly integrating cross-border initiatives focused on the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. Border communities bear a heavy socio-economic burden of refugee flows that challenge access to resources and land rights. Refugee-related issues are increasingly being treated as bilateral issues rather than matters of domestic policy.

Kenyan and Ethiopian border communities have long experienced internecine violence, extreme poverty and environmental stress,



creating socio-economic problems such as criminality and violent extremism. In response, the Kenyan and Ethiopian governments, in partnership with IGAD and the UN, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2015 entitled 'Cross-Border Integrated Programme for Sustainable Peace and Socioeconomic Transformation.' This MoU covers the cross-border area from Marsabit County, Kenya to the Borana/Dawa zones in Ethiopia. Since its launch, the programme has mapped spatial data on both sides of the border with the aim of conflict resolution and livelihood generation. A business incubation centre called the 'Biashara Centre', was opened in Marsabit town to tackle youth unemployment and assist small and medium enterprises.

In a similar vein, the EU, with co-funding from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is supporting the Support for Effective Cooperation and Coordination of Cross Border Initiatives (SECCI) project to address drivers of conflict and instability in the borderlands of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. The project has drawn upon experiences in the Great Lakes including the 'UN Peacebuilding Fund Cross-border Project in Burundi and Tanzania' supported by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UNDP. These agencies are working together on either side of the Tanzania–Burundi border to improve refugee livelihoods, and the lessons they have learned need to be replicated in the SECCI context.

Another example is the 'Collaborative Policy Analysis and Engagement' (CPAE) pilot, an initiative by CEWARN, the Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA), InterAfrica Group (IAG) and Life & Peace Institute. This initiative identified regional policy dilemmas and responses, leading to the development of a regional policy framework on Informal Cross-border Trade (ICBT) and Cross-Border Security Governance (CBSG) that was adopted by the IGAD Ministers of Trade in June 2018. Of particular note are strategies 2 and 4 in the policy framework,

which promote trade facilitation along IGAD's borders as well as borderland communities' participation in policy consultations. The next step is to pilot and implement the policy framework on the ground. Throughout the pilot project design and implementation process, a key consideration will be to ensure involvement by the people who will be most affected and ensure that their perspectives are heard. This includes stakeholders who are traditionally marginal to regional policy processes such as local communities, academia, and civil society. The CPAE has been lauded by partners and observers as innovative and ground-breaking.

### **3. Academia's role in moving evidence into practice**

Academics working in borderlands research must aim to bring unbiased perspectives to the debate that can be translated into action on the ground. Evidence helps inform practitioners and supports them in making appropriate decisions regarding borderlands and cross-border programming. It also helps identify and promote different voices, many of which are often unheard due to their location or lack of engagement in the political process. Academic institutions working with governments or NGOs need to respond to challenging and changing environments through partnerships with local organisations.

Researchers and academics must promote interdisciplinary, people-centred approaches that acknowledge the dynamic nature of borderlands. These must go beyond viewing borders merely through a security lens to recognizing that they are complex spaces subject to the challenges of state–society relations. At present the dominant paradigm is one of 'state-centric views on borders versus transnational realities in borderlands.' This then requires border-sensitive solutions beyond the securitisation framework. Borders in vulnerable regions such as the GHoA are characterised by impunity, weak governance and low-risk/high-opportunity environments. The confluence of these factors leads to a 'border effect' that intensifies people-centred insecurities and contributes to a complex security environment

that drives an illicit economy.

Borders in conflict-affected regions are characterized by the propensity for impunity, weak state governance systems and a low-risk/high-opportunity environment. The confluence of these factors leads to the “border effect” which, which intensifies people-centered insecurities, thus contributing to a complex security landscape and an environment that drives the illicit economy.

**We can trace the border effect along four dimensions:**

- The border is a “facilitator” for violent crime, due to its “filter mechanism”. Not just landscapes, history and everyday life, but also non-state actors spill across borders while law enforcement agents are constrained by national sovereignty, increasing the vulnerability of local communities to abuse.
- It is a “magnet” to those involved in illicit businesses due to the profit to be made with illicit cross-border activities, impacting strongly on people’s local livelihoods and economic opportunities.
- It is a “deterrent” to trust relationships between actors involved in illicit businesses and thus, by extension, between those who provide illicit economic opportunities and local communities who depend on them. This fuels a general environment of mistrust.
- It is a “disguise” of nuanced forms of violence. Contrary to state-centric views that stigmatise borderlands as generally violent spaces, the transnational borderland lens facilitates studying how the geography and political economy of borderlands produce distinct forms of insecurities and uncertainties that fuel grievances.

Taking into account the border effect will ensure that programming and policy is border-sensitive and understood within a context of weak state governance, low-risk and high-opportunity and with a propensity for impunity.

There is also a need to strengthen the ‘borderlands knowledge hub’ and to conduct participatory conflict analysis, conflict-sensitivity training and awareness-raising for communities and practitioners working in the borderlands. These processes should recognise that evidence is political and can be used or ignored to suit governments’, communities’ or organisations’ specific agendas. This is not simply about providing trainings but also addressing organisational processes and managing the environment that influences policy so as to introduce flexible, tailored and collaborative ways of thinking and working.

**4. How are donors improving delivery?**

One of the conference’s aims was to bring local communities face-to-face with donors. The conference offered both parties a forum for a frank exchange of ideas and dialogue to improve coordination and programming. In another panel discussion, donors from the EUTF, USAID, UNDP and the Embassy of Denmark shared their strategies to deliver better cross-border programming. Representatives acknowledged a need to improve cross-border funding and integrate recommendations into programme design while also harmonising their approaches at different levels (donors, CSOs and governments). Donors expressed their desire to increase youth and women involvement in programming while also engaging non-traditional actors such as security personnel and the private sector to bridge gaps in policy and delivery.

Participants also raised the need for multi-year funding to support large-scale programmes that address long-term problems in a holistic manner rather than via isolated piecemeal efforts. There are some best practices emerging in the development cooperation as for instance, the EUTF in 2016, which is supporting cross-border interventions. The Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) in Ethiopia is also a good example, which aims to create evidence-based, innovative and sustainable development and protection solutions for refugees and host communities. It has funded

and supported DDG's work in the Somali region of Ethiopia, which has the country's highest number of IDPs. The UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa is currently discussing a Horn of Africa strategy for regional cross-border matters with the idea of starting a multi-partner trust fund that allows different actors to access a common pool of funds and report back in a streamlined way.

Donors are adapting. They are applying key principles to their programmes, including the use of evidence-based assessments and a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach, especially at regional policy levels. There is a drive to be creative and leverage momentum to fill gaps and evenly spread resources. During the conference, donors urged GHoA countries to produce plans to use their own budgets to support cross-border activities that reduce aid dependency. There is a need to institutionalise informal mechanisms so that these remain functional once donors leave or reduce funding. For example, the final year of Peace III must focus on the continuity of structures like women's forums or peace committees. Donors want to plan exit strategies that involve new actors entering the space like the diaspora, private sector and philanthropic organisations.

## VOICES FROM THE BORDERLANDS



A range of civil society actors and community members presented their views and proposed interventions in the borderlands. The 'Voices from the Borderlands' panels presented a unique opportunity for those living in and experiencing the dynamics of borderlands to

discuss what has worked and what needs to be done vis-à-vis cross-border programming. Presenters in these panels included women leaders, customary chiefs, elders and local CBOs, and NGOs.

### Security

Over-securitisation as a result of armed groups and extremist groups has had negative effects on local populations, in particular young males in Kenya and Somalia. In Ethiopia, the violence against local population by government is often named as the catalyst for the rise of numerous non-state actors with varying claims of legitimacy. Non-state armed groups often punish local communities for 'collaborating' with government security forces. Communities across the GHoA called on governments to adopt a bottom-up approach to security that is sensitive to the context and needs of the people.

The main threats for pastoralist communities are low-level conflict over pasture and water, high rates of banditry, and increasing levels of armed violence due in part to the proliferation of small arms. The availability of illicit arms easily trafficked across the porous borders, unresolved grievances between groups and communities and competition for increasingly scarce resources cumulatively result in heightened poverty and security challenges.

### Livelihoods

Key drivers of conflict and migration (licit and illicit) include the lack of support for viable livelihoods and the general lack of economic opportunities. People in the GHoA borderland areas are some of the poorest in the world. Traditional livelihoods remain unsupported, especially in the case of livestock-based production systems. For the burgeoning youth population, the lack of viable economic opportunities can lead them to dangerous alternatives. Often this is fuelled by a vicious circle of poor access to education, inadequate training, low wages, low-productivity jobs, and a lack of basic protections that leaves many young workers excluded from participating in economic growth and development. These issues are exacerbated by climate change



and shrinking access to and viability of grazing lands, especially in borderland areas. Youth migration into urban areas also adds pressure to remote locations' limited resources. Despite the opportunities that borderlands present for economic resilience, for instance through cross-border trade, greater efforts need to be made to develop durable solutions and improve livelihoods via area-based approaches and engagement of non-traditional actors. New technology can be employed to develop more private sector opportunities while also increasing access and ease of doing business in these regions.

### **Climate change**

Climate change is the greatest global of this century. Borderland regions prone to cyclical climate hardships need to develop innovative responses to mitigate increasing climate irregularities and extremes. Pastoralism and rain-fed agriculture are bound to face challenges as climate becomes a major inhibitor rather than facilitator. Increased variability of rainfall can be expected, together with rising temperatures and increasing floods and droughts. In addition to political tensions, competition over climate-dependent resources is another driver of conflict in the borderlands. Climate change must be addressed incorporated into our analysis and interventions a rather than in isolation as simply a scientific element of the environment.

### **Peace forums, chief councils and committees**

Despite differences between governments in the GHoA, local people in border regions share numerous commonalities including religion, language and kinship and social networks. These connections are critical to resolving ongoing conflicts and supporting economic resilience. Remote and historically neglected communities can now use new technologies to better communicate, build businesses and respond to issues of immediate relevance to them. For example, SOKAAB, a Somali-based crowd-funding platform facilitated by the DDG "DIALOGUE" project, supports communities and youth initiatives across the Somali region. It has raised money to install water projects

and build schools and roads.

LOKADO is another example of how local communities are trying to educate the younger generation on peace by establishing peace clubs in cross-border primary schools in Turkana West. They have also held joint peace activities, response interventions and engagements with local governments for better social amenities. In Ethiopia, a combination of customary traditions and formal law has been used to address conflicts along the border, while community-led local peace initiatives engage government agencies and security forces. These informal mechanisms need increased government support to exist organically without foreign donor funds or international NGO involvement.

### **Women**

In all border regions, partners have a strong focus on improving conditions for women. Through these efforts women have been able to connect, communicate and share information on issues affecting them such as inter-communal conflicts, GBV, violent extremism, household problems and climate change. In the Karamoja Cluster, for example, women have contributed immensely to peace efforts. Their work in various professions such as education and civil service has provided them with unique representation at decision-making levels. They are able to network, share resources (including water and pasturage) and find solutions to livestock issues. Participants outlined the important role women play in peace negotiations and climate-related responses to hardship, but also acknowledged that they have a long way to go in improving the lives of women in borderlands.

### **Mixed migration**

Conflict-based displacement and the search for livelihoods remain the region's main drivers for mixed migration. The ongoing civil war in South Sudan has forced more than one million refugees into Uganda, Ethiopia and Kenya. Political oppression and lack of economic opportunities in Eritrea and Sudan are forcing people from their homes to search for better lives.

Ethiopia's political reforms in 2018 have set the agenda for unprecedented developments in the region. The subsequent strengthening of relations between Eritrea, Somalia and Djibouti presents a historic moment for the Horn of Africa to shift regional tensions into cooperation, particularly in areas like labour markets and migrant flows. The mood for change is apparent. However, despite the opening of political and social spaces, displacement and economic migration remain critical challenges for the region and for Ethiopia in particular. Ethiopia now has the world's largest displaced population; it is estimated that more than half of these IDPs are located in or originate from Ethiopia's Somali region.

Despite the July 2018 announcement that Eritrea and Ethiopia had agreed to end their 'state of war' and the subsequent easing of tensions between the erstwhile foes, there has been little indication that political and civil society space in Eritrea has opened up. Some NGOs like Human Rights Watch report that Eritreans now find it easier to leave the country. Eritrea continues to produce significant mass migration into the region and further afield towards Europe. This adds pressure to development NGOs and Eritrea's neighbours. In Sudan's eastern Kassala State, there are large refugee and IDP populations with limited resources. Interventions so far have been in livelihoods, food security, resilience, child protection, GBV and education. Some of the challenges include illegal trade and smuggling. There remains a lack of coordination along borders and no strategic planning of activities. This situation has been worsened by the recent declaration of a State of Emergency by the Government of Sudan to stem ongoing civil unrest and protests across the country. Eritrea's relationship with Sudan, which is receiving EU support to strengthen border protection, is complicated due to the current political and civil unrest.

### **Somaliweyn**

The Kenya–Ethiopia–Somalia borderland is a fiercely contested space. Somalia's territorial claims – referred to as Somaliweyn (greater Somalia) – come from historic commonalities

in identity that in the past led to wars and have produced lingering memories of injustice and violence. These commonalities bond a people divided by borders drawn by long-gone colonial powers. While some Somali nationalists harbour expansionist dreams that encroach on Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti, in reality the Federal Government of Somalia does not exert sufficient control of its security forces.

The new-found partnership between Ethiopian and Somali governments and political personalities defines the current political dynamic in the Horn of Africa but numerous groups in the border regions are expressing frustration over ongoing government neglect and favoritism or even persecution along ethnic lines. In efforts to bridge these differences there has been a strong focus on supporting regional chiefs and local actors such as peace champions and NGOs such as Integrated Development Focus, Somalia. These types of organisations often operate with little or no government engagement.

## **KEY POINTS OF THE BORDERLANDS CONFERENCE**

Through technology and innovative strategies, borderland communities are increasingly becoming better connected, communicating and sharing vital information on issues that affect them. Capacity building and training on peace and security issues has helped vulnerable groups cope and manage risks better. Achieving greater peace and security remains a major challenge considering that conflict is mired in intergenerational, cyclical violence and exacerbated by unpredictable climate events.

Signs of progress in borderlands management include the strengthening of local leaders and communities through peace committees and women's forums that have been replicated across the region with relative success. Governments are also learning from each other and implementing effective models for developing cross-border peace initiatives. These gains need to be capitalised upon. The various actors could increase their joint border work and adopt better understanding of their



challenges via people-centred policies.

Participants urged the conference organisers to continue in their efforts and to host another similar event in due course to capture the momentum achieved by the learning and dialogue such forums create. Positive inroads to better understanding and harnessing borderlands' potential requires better engagement and platforms for voices to be heard.

Despite notable progress, fundamental challenges remain. Developmental imbalances on different sides of borders places strains and

creates trade inequalities. Concerted efforts and area-based approaches are needed in the borderland regions to manage the burdens of refugees, IDPs and unemployed youth who are at risk of radicalisation. Strategies for ensuring the sustainability of cross-border programmes and structures are also needed so that positive programme outcomes become a permanent feature of the region and reliance on donors is reduced. While innovative sources of cross-border financing are being created through the EUTF and other funding arrangements, more creative and less donor-dependent funding strategies are needed.





## PARTNERS

**The Rift Valley Institute (RVI)** is an independent, non-profit organization, founded in Sudan in 2001, currently working in seven countries in Eastern and Central Africa. The aim of the Institute is to advance useful knowledge of the region and its diverse communities, bringing a better understanding of local realities to bear on social and political action. For the Cross-Border Conference, RVI was the convening actor. For more information: <https://riftvalley.net/>

**PACT** is a nonprofit international development organization founded in 1971, Pact works on the ground in nearly 40 countries to improve the lives of those who are challenged by poverty and marginalization. PACT strives for a world where all people are heard, capable and vibrant. This conference was funded under PACT's PEACE III programme funded by USAID as well as the EUTF-funded RASMI. For more information: <https://www.pactworld.org/>

**The Danish Refugee Council (DRC)** is Denmark's largest international non-governmental organisation. We work with humanitarian, development and peacebuilding activities to ensure a dignified life for refugees, the displaced, and displacement-affected people and communities in 40 countries. The Danish Demining Group (DDG) is a Unit in the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) working on issues of Peace, Security and Stabilisation. The Cross-border Conference was funded under DANIDA CIV. For more information: <https://danishdemininggroup.dk/>

**Life & Peace Institute (LPI)** is an international peacebuilding organisation that works in partnership with civil society in nonviolent conflict transformation. This conference was funded under SIDA. For more information: <https://life-peace.org/>



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# GREATER HORN OF AFRICA CROSS-BORDER LEARNING CONFERENCE

February 25-26, Nairobi

## Agenda

### DAY 1: Approaches on Borderlands

TIME	DESCRIPTION
8:30-9:00	<b>Registration</b>
09:00-09:30	<p><b>Welcome and opening remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Government of Kenya</b> - Peter Thuku, Ministry of Interior, National CEWERU</li> <li>• <b>DRC/DDG Representative</b> - David Kangethe, Country Director, DRC Kenya</li> <li>• <b>PACT Representative</b> - Leslie Mitchell, Country Director, Pact Kenya</li> <li>• <b>LPI Representative</b> - Hannah Tsadik, Director of Global Policy</li> </ul> <p><b>Statement from Ambassador Fred Ngoga Gateretse; African Union Border Programme</b></p>
9:30-10:45	<p><b>What are Borderlands and why this is a relevant lens?</b></p> <p>This panel sets the stage on the concept of 'borderlands' and the reasons that it needs a particular approach. This panel will bring some of the latest research on current and future trends in the region's borderlands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presenter 1 (15 min):</b> Presentation of Borderlands Working Group Agenda Setting Report - Padmini Iyer, DDG</li> <li>• <b>Presenters 2 (15 min):</b> Presentation of Political Economy Analysis - Simon Richards, EUTF-SEEK and Jarat Chopra, EUTF RASMI</li> <li>• <b>Presenter 3 (15 min):</b> Presentation of Community Perspectives - Chief Mark Amojong</li> <li>• <b>Presenter 4 (15 min):</b> Presentation of Future trends in the borderlands - Bethlehem Abebe, IGAD - CEWARN</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Wafula Okumu, The Borders Institute</p>
10:45-11:15	Tea/Coffee Break
11:15-12:55	<p><b>Break-out sessions: What have we learned from cross-border projects?</b></p> <p>Five practitioners share their experiences working in different cross-border projects.</p>

TIME	DESCRIPTION	
	<p><b>Break-out session: Peacebuilding and Security</b></p> <p>In this break-out session PACT, DDG and IOM will share some key learning from a decade of cross-border work in East Africa focusing on their experiences in Peacebuilding and Security, and border management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Abdi Mohamed/Ubah Hassan, PACT:</b> Presentation on learning from PEACE III (20min)</li> <li>• <b>Abdul Haro, DDG:</b> Presentation on the history and learning from DDG Border Security Management approach (20 min)</li> <li>• <b>Abdirahman Abdi Hussein, IOM:</b> The role of government and community-approaches in border management (20 min)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Break-out session: Borders, Inter-governmental Initiatives and collaborative policymaking</b></p> <p>In this break-out session the UN and LPI will share some key learning from their cross-border work in the Greater Horn of Africa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mads Knudsen, Matteo Frontini and Dr. Asfaw Kumssa, UN (20 min):</b> ‘Opportunities and Challenges in jointly realising the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus at border areas in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa region’.</li> <li>• <b>Demessie Fantaye, LPI (20 min):</b> ‘A collaborative policy making process in the IGAD Region - the case of the CPAE Pilot Initiative’</li> </ul>
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
14:00-15:00	<p><b>What have we learned from cross-border projects?</b></p> <p>This plenary session unpacks the discussions and learning generated in the breakout sessions. What have been the key breakthroughs and the most important lessons learnt? What gaps remain?</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Gibbons - Pact</li> <li>• Dereje Wakjira - RPLRP</li> <li>• Ruth Warutere - EASSI</li> <li>• Vincent Chordi - EUTF-REF</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Georgia Gilroy, Wasafiri</p>	
15:00-16:00	<p><b>Beyond Securitisation in Borderlands: from evidence to practice</b></p> <p>This panel explores the roles and experiences of academics, practitioners and policy stakeholders in reshaping the conventional ‘security approach’ to borderlands. The panelists will be asked to reflect on how evidence reaches and/or reshapes practice.</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annette Idler, University of Oxford</li> <li>• Yadaira Orsini, Oxford Policy Management Limited</li> <li>• Natasha Leite de Moura, DDG</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Stephen Kirimi, LPI</p>	
16:00-16:30	<b>Closing day one</b>	



**DAY 2: Lessons from Borderlands**

TIME	DESCRIPTION
9:00-9:30	Recap of Day 1 and Setting the scene for Day 2
9:30-11:00	<p><b>Knowledge from the Borderlands:</b> This session will hear from different voices from different border areas on their experiences of working in and across borders. This will be a unique opportunity to learn and exchange with actors/people living and working in the border areas. Participants will include local CBOs, women leaders, peace committees, chiefs, customary elders, among others.</p> <p><b>Borderlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kenya-Somalia</li> <li>• Kenya-Uganda</li> <li>• Kenya-Ethiopia</li> <li>• Ethiopia-Somalia</li> <li>• Sudan-South Sudan</li> <li>• Sudan-Eritrea</li> </ul>
10:30-11:00	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>
11:00-13:00	<p><b>Knowledge from the Borderlands continued:</b> This session will hear from different voices from different border areas on their experiences of working in and across borders. This will be a unique opportunity to learn and exchange with actors/people living and working in the border areas.</p>
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
14:00-15:15	<p><b>Borderlands and Governments</b> In this panel regional, national and local government representations will share their perspective on engagement with borders, the key challenges and successes in cross-border collaboration and ways to bring the learning of the two days into concrete policies.</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kennedy Nyaiyo- Head of Border Management Secretariat, Kenya</li> <li>• Francis Okori - Commission on Karamoja, Office of the Prime Minister, Uganda</li> <li>• Adam I.Aw Hirsi- Planning Minister Jubaland State of Somalia</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ali Hersi, Saferworld</p>
15:15-15:30	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>
15:30-16:45	<p><b>Borderlands and Donors</b> This panel hears from donors working in the region on their strategies for working in the borderlands and for delivering cross-border programming and investment.</p>

TIME	DESCRIPTION
15:30-16:45	<p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU - Natalie Mitchell-Bennett</li> <li>• USAID - Amy Hamelin</li> <li>• UN - Matteo Frontini</li> <li>• Embassy of Denmark – Adam Sparre Spliid</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Nancy Balfour, Center for Humanitarian Change</p>
16:45 - 17:00	<b>Closing remarks</b>

## SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS

### What are borderlands and why is this a relevant lens

**Padmini Iyer, PhD, DDG:** Padmini is a field anthropologist specializing in pastoralism (esp. in the Karamoja Cluster) and theories of cooperation and conflict. She is currently the Regional Conflict Analysis Coordinator for DRC-DDG East Africa and Great Lakes.

**Simon Richards, LPI:** Now working with LPI as a strategic advisor, Simon Richards has been a senior adviser, researcher and manager, with over 25 years of experience working on social development, peace building and conflict management programming, policy and research, (often involving borders!) in diverse international environments and organisations in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

**Jarat Chopra, PhD, EUTF-RASMI:** Jarat has extensive experience in Africa over several decades. More recently, he served as Coordinator of the United Nations Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group (SEMG), based in Nairobi, Kenya, between 2012 and 2014. Chopra also served as the Senior Advisor on Somalia and Eritrea for the World Bank, and managed the two country programmes from 2010 to 2012. He is the author of *Peace-Maintenance: The Evolution of International Political Authority*, and editor of *The Politics of Peace-Maintenance*.

**Chief Mark Amojong:** Mr. Mark Amojong is the Senior Chief of Namoruputh Location in Loima Sub County, Turkana County. He is the chairperson of the chiefs' forum secretariat, a PEACE III initiative convened in December 2015. Mr. Amojong has led cross border community dialogue meetings, helped resolve disputes over natural resources and working with elders in drawing grazing patterns, recovery and handover of stolen livestock.

**Bethlehem Abebe, CEWARN:** Bethlehem is IT and Data Management Officer at IGAD's Conflict Early Warning and Response mechanism (CEWARN) based in Addis Ababa.

**Wafula Okumu, PhD, The Borders Institute:** Dr Wafula Okumu does research on settlement of border/territorial disputes, border security, peace and security in Africa, democracy and governance, international organisations, and International Relations/Foreign Policy. The Borders Institute is currently working: 'Boundary and territorial disputes

settlement,' internal boundary/border disputes in the Horn of Africa, trans-boundary natural resources management, and border communities.

### Breakout Sessions

**Abdi Mohamed Abdi, Pact:** Abdi Mohamed is currently the Deputy Chief of Party, PEACE III program. Abdi has 10 years working experience in the field of peace building and conflict resolution. He has previously worked with UNDP and has a teaching background. Abdi holds master's degree from the University of Nairobi.

**Ubah Hassan, Pact:** Ubah Hassan is a Senior Regional Cluster Manager for PEACE IIIgram. She holds a master's degree in International Relations from the University of Nairobi. She has provided training and mentoring services to Civil Society Organizations In Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Somalia. She has worked for a number of international agencies in the region namely Coffey International, Mercy Corps and the International Organization for Migration.

**Abdul Haro, DRC Kenya:** Abdul is a peacebuilding and armed violence reduction specialist with over a decade's experience in project management and conflict mitigation in Northern Kenya and borderlands between Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. He is currently the Senior Consortium Coordinator for a DRC-led consortium of 4 agencies implementing a cross-border EU-funded grant across Mandera-Kenya, Dolo Ado-Ethiopia and Gedo-Somalia.

**Abdirahman Abdi Hussein, IOM:** Mr. Abdi Hussein has over 6 years' experience in humanitarian work, interactive knowledge, especially in stakeholder relations and building the capacities of national/local authorities. He is familiar with the components of the country action plans and the development assistance framework (UNDAF). Abdi is currently responsible for the Migration Management Programme that includes Border Security and Identity Management at International Organization for Migration, Kenya and co-chairs Kenya's Shelter and NFIs Sector.

**Mads Knudsen, UNDP:** Mads is a Programme Analyst at UNDP Regional Office, Nairobi. Since October 2018 he has coordinated a joint UN cross-border project in the borderlands of Burundi and Tanzania implemented by UNDP, IOM and UNHCR. He has been a development advisor to the



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Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN working on sustainable development and its link with humanitarian action.

**Asfaw Kumssa, PhD, UN:** Dr. Asfaw Kumssa is a Chief Technical Advisor at the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Nairobi. Previously, Dr. Kumssa served for 16 years as the Coordinator of United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) Africa Office (UNDESA's Project Office) in Nairobi. While in UNCRD, he undertook training and research activities, advisory services, and information exchange related to local and regional development and assisted African countries in designing and implementing effective and innovative local and regional development policies to address their socioeconomic needs and problems.

**Demessie Fantaye, LPI:** Demessie is a research advisor with the Life & Peace Institute-Horn of Africa Regional Programme, and the editor of the Horn of Africa Bulletin.

### What have we learnt from cross-border projects

**Sarah Gibbons, Pact:** Sarah is a drylands and conflict management professional with extensive experience in conceptualising, managing, and evaluating peace-building, environmental governance, and livelihoods programmes in dryland areas of Africa. She is currently the Chief of Party for the PEACE III programme.

**Dereje Wakjira, PhD, IGAD:** Dr Wakjira has been with IGAD since 2015 and is currently working as Regional Coordinator for Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Program funded by the World Bank. The project is Regional and cross-border, focusing on Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia. He is based at the IGAD Center for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) in Nairobi.

**Ruth Warutere, EASSI:** Ruth is a program officer at the Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the advancement of women (EASSI). She is a passionate women traders advocate with over five years' experience working with women cross border traders along the East Africa border points. Ruth holds a Master's Degree in Social Sector Planning and Management from Makerere University, Uganda.

**Vincent Chordi, EUTF-REF:** Vincent is the Key Expert

for the Research and Evidence Facility on Conflict and Governance. He has worked with UNHCR in different countries of the region over two decades. He has extensive experience in designing and implementing emergency response for refugees and IDPs, in providing international protection and participating in the design of programmes linking relief and development including those leading to the creation of conditions conducive to the return and the reintegration of refugees and IDPs.

**Georgia Gilroy, Wasafiri:** Georgia works as the Conflict Portfolio Lead, which takes a systems-based approach to understanding regional conflict dynamics within the Horn and East Africa, and how those dynamics manifest in violence and marginalization. Georgia has over ten years' experience providing strategic design and support to governance, early recovery and stabilisation programmes in fragile and conflict affected countries, and has led the knowledge and learning strategies of multi-year, multi-million-pound programmes in Somalia and the DRC.

### Beyond Securitisation in Borderlands: from evidence to practice

**Annette Idler, PhD, University of Oxford:** Dr Annette Idler is the Director of Studies at the Changing Character of War Centre, and Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford. Her work focuses on the interface of conflict, security, and transnational organized crime. Dr Idler is the author of *Borderland Battles: Violence, Crime, and Governance at the Edges of Colombia's War* (Oxford University Press, 2019).

**Yadaira Orsini, Oxford Policy Management Limited (OPML):** Yadaira heads up OPML's Conflict, Security, and Violence team. Her work addresses development challenges in areas of conflict, including drug trafficking, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration processes, and building state capacity after conflicts. She has worked with governments and the private sector in countries throughout Latin America, Africa (including Uganda, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo), Europe, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines, and remotely on projects involving Afghanistan, Nigeria, Myanmar, Syria, and Lebanon.

**Natasha Leite de Moura, DDG:** Natasha has been working in Peace, Security and Governance for

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the last 14 years in Latin America, West Africa, East Africa and the Pacific. She is currently DRC-DDG's Regional Security and Governance Coordinator for East Africa and the Great Lakes.

### Borderlands and Governments

**Kennedy Nyaiyo, BMS:** Mr. Nyaiyo is a Kenyan career Administrator in the Ministry of Interior. He has vast experience in the administration and management of security. He is currently the Director of the Border Management Secretariat.

**Francis Okori, OPM Uganda:** Mr. Francis Okori is the Assistant Commissioner Programs for Karamoja in the Office of the Prime Minister, Uganda.

**Adam Aw Hirsi, Jubaland State of Somalia:** Mr. Adam Aw Hirsi is the current Minister of Planning & International Cooperation. Previously, he served as Minister of Justice, Constitution and Religious Affairs for Jubaland State and was the former governor of the Gedo Region in Somalia. He is currently a PhD candidate at Kenya Methodist University.

**Ali Hersi, Saferworld:** Ali is Saferworld's Somalia / Somaliland Country Director. He has previously worked at the Society for International Development and CARE International. Ali has close to 20 years' experience working in Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia and South Sudan. Ali holds an MA in Peace and Justice from Univ. of San Diego and another MA in International Relations from Warsaw University, Poland.

### Borderlands and Donors

**Natalie Mitchell-Bennett, EU:** Natalie is a programme manager at the European Union Delegation to Kenya. She works on the EU Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF) for Addressing Instability and the Root Causes of Irregular Migration and Displacement in Africa, with a particular focus on displacement-affected populations, the humanitarian-development nexus and cross-border programming on resilience and conflict prevention.

**Amy Hamelin, USAID:** Amy is the Deputy Chief of the Democracy, Governance, and Conflict Office within the USAID Kenya and East Africa Mission. With over 20 years of experience in international development, conflict mitigation, and democratization, Ms. Hamelin joined USAID in March of 2014 and has served in positions in Washington and in the West Africa regional mission.

Previously she was a contractor with USAID in Liberia and Pakistan after starting her career with the National Democratic Institute and The Carter Center.

**Matteo Frontini, UN:** Matteo has more than 18 years' experience in international development and has worked closely with Governments, the European Union, UN agencies, NGO's in several African countries, Haiti and Indonesia. In the last few years Matteo has been working as an early recovery advisor at the Resident Coordinator's office in Burundi where he led the Durable Solution's strategy which is now implemented by the UNCT in support to the returnees, IDPs and host communities. Matteo has also been working at the R-UNDG in Nairobi coordinating the Great Lakes Region Strategic Framework (GLRSF) a multi-agency cross border approach to ensure humanitarian/ Development and Peace programmes within the New Way of Working architecture."



