



## REPORT

### The First Technical Partners Meeting for: “Enhancing Blue Economy in the IGAD Member States for Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihoods Diversification”



7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022  
Juba, South Sudan

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## ACRONYMS

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ABDP	Aquaculture Business Development Programme
AU-IBAR	Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
BE	Blue Economy
BESIP	Blue Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan
CV	Curriculum Vitae
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILED	Inclusive Local and Economic Development
IUU	Illegal Unreported Unregulated
KEMSFED	Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development Project
LVFO	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization
MEDA	Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis
PM	Prime Minister
PMP	Performance Management Plan
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SCM	Steering Committee Members
SWAM	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
TOR	Terms of Reference

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has developed a 5-year Blue Economy strategy (2021 – 2025) and Implementation Plan (BESIP), aligned with Africa's Blue Economy strategy. The vision of IGAD's Blue Economy strategy is to develop an inclusive and sustainable Blue Economy that significantly contributes to the Horn of Africa's transformation. Three main principles that underpin the implementation of the Blue Economy are the circular economy; good governance and environmental and social sustainability. The IGAD Blue Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan intend to structure the Blue Economy implementation at both national and regional levels while increasing cooperation and regional integration, and strengthening support to the member states to effectively translate policies into concrete actions. It will also contribute to the effective implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy (and its up-coming Action Plan). More specifically, the IGAD Blue Economy Strategy aims to:

- Improve the implementation of the BE in all IGAD members States;
- Contribute to the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy;
- Develop strong harmonizing regional BE initiatives;
- Increase cooperation and regional integration by using the BE as a catalyst to stimulate a converging dynamic of interests and efforts.

Four of the IGAD Member States are coastal (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan) but three IGAD Member States (Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda) are landlocked. At the level of the IGAD member states, almost all of them have started to engage themselves in the development process of the Blue Economy. Although a comprehensive database on the Blue Economy governance status in the IGAD Member States is lacking, currently these countries are more or less at an early stage of development in the elaboration of strategies and action plans as well as in the implementation of the BE. Overall, none of them, except Kenya, have completed national consultations, preceding the development of a Blue Economy policy and/or strategy. Thus, the process of implementing Blue Economy remains broadly nascent in the IGAD Member States apart from the actions and initiatives carried out in a sectoral framework (fisheries, ports, tourism, etc.). Only Kenya now has initiated an administrative entity specifically dedicated to Blue Economy but still dependent on the Ministry of Fishery.

IGAD's Environment and Natural Resources Strategy document clearly states that the 'state of the environment is posing a serious problem for sustainable development. The economy of the IGAD Member States and the livelihoods of the people are largely dependent on the utilization of available natural resources such as water, forest, land, ecosystems, biodiversity and other resources. Water is prioritized in the regional poverty alleviation strategy. In a region where 80% of the land is composed of arid & semi-arid areas, water is a key factor limiting development progress.

Water bodies are becoming the endpoints of pollution. If there is any natural environment, which is paying the price for development, it is the water system. Water pollution has become a very serious threat to sustainable, and balanced socio-economic growth and environmental protection in the IGAD region. Coastal and marine pollution is a major concern. IGAD has a very productive and diverse coastal and marine environment region (the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean) that stretches from the coast of Sudan down to Mombasa in Kenya. The coastal population in the IGAD region has been increasing exponentially. This has created immense pressure on the coastal and marine environment,

which has resulted in the depletion and pollution of biodiversity. Pollution through dumping of toxic wastes as well as indiscriminate discarding of single use plastics and environmental randomness also undermine the realization of Africa's Blue Economy Growth in the IGAD region.

This project is premised on the IGAD's Blue Economy Strategy (2021-2025) and its implementation plan, funded by EU-TCF. The strategy guides the formulation and implementation of projects and programmes on Blue Economy development in the IGAD region. This project contributes to the following outcome "the capacity of IGAD and its Member States strengthened by structuring and mainstreaming the BE at both national and regional levels while increasing cooperation and regional integration, and strengthening support to the member states to develop their own national BE strategies. It will also contribute to the effective implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy". It is a three-years (2021 – 2023) project to start the implementation of the IGAD Blue Economy strategy in selected priority three Result Areas:

- **RESULT AREA 1:** Blue Economy approach in IGAD region harmonized and coordinated to harness the contribution of the different sectors.
- **RESULT AREA 2:** The health of marine aquatic ecosystems is improved and systems for managing, controlling and reducing aquatic pollution and waste are strengthened in IGAD coastal countries.
- **RESULT AREA 3:** Blue Economy enhancing capacity, technologies and innovations documented/disseminated and the project impact evaluated

Intervention activities for Result Areas 1&3 are going to be implemented in all IGAD MSs but Result Area 2 interventions are only for the four coastal countries (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan) of IGAD.

The project objectives are:

- To establish a functional Blue Economy structure at IGAD to cater for the regional and national needs (selected member states of IGAD),
- To assess the impact of pollution and develop mitigation measures on aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems, and
- To increase research and knowledge management/dissemination on key BE indicators (questions for the IGAD region for learning), policy and practice change
- among the Member States.

In a nutshell, this project intends to achieve the following three broad results:

- Blue Economy approach in IGAD region harmonized and coordinated to harness the contribution of the different sectors,
- The health of marine aquatic ecosystems is improved and systems for managing, controlling and reducing aquatic pollution and waste are strengthened in IGAD coastal countries, and
- Blue Economy enhancing technologies and innovations promoted, documented and disseminated.

IGAD through this project with funding from the Swedish Embassy in Ethiopia, with an estimated budget of 4,866,905 US\$, for a duration of 3 years in 4 IGAD coastal MS seeks to improve the governance of the Blue Economy in the IGAD region and its Member States, will conduct marine biodiversity situation analyses, make inventory of chemical and plastic pollutants from source to sea,

develop and apply tools to monitor and mitigate chemical and plastic pollutions in the IGAD coastal member states.

## **2. MEETING PARTICIPATION**

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The meeting was attended by 30 participants drawn from 7 IGAD Member States, the Embassy of Sweden in Ethiopia and other development partners. The Participation from Member States comprised of National Focal Persons for Blue Economy and Fisheries Directors while the represented technical partners included FAO, LVFO, AU-IBAR.

## **3. OPENING SESSION**

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### **a. Welcoming remarks by the Programme Manager of Environment Protection Unit of IGAD Secretariat**

On behalf of the Agriculture and Environment Director for IGAD, the Programme Manager of Environment Protection Unit of IGAD Secretariat, Dr Eshete Dejen welcome all participants to the meeting. He remarked on the importance of pulling together towards the implementation of the Blue Economy project He thanked the Government of South Sudan for accepting to host the first Steering Committee meeting of the project.

### **b. Opening Remarks by the Director General of Fisheries, Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, Republic of South Sudan**

In his opening remarks, the Director General of Fisheries, Republic of South Sudan, Mr Jackson Muso, welcomed all participants to South Sudan for the first ever Steering Committee meeting for the Blue Economy project. He thanked the IGAD Secretariat for organizing and convening the meeting. He also acknowledged the support and funding of the project by the Government of Sweden, which has necessitated the implementation of the regional IGAD regional Blue Economy strategy (2012 - 2025). A highlight of achievements made by the project was made including the launch of the project, the training and workshops conducted so far and the support given to IGAD Member States in the development of national BE strategies.

## **4. SETTING THE SCENE**

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### **a. Presentation of the Workshop Agenda**

Dr. Eshete Dejen, the Programme Manager of Environment Protection Unit of IGAD Secretariat, presented the IGAD Regional Blue Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan for 5 years (2021-2025). She gave a definition of the Blue Economy and highlighted the link between the IGAD strategy and the Africa Blue Economy Strategy. She presented the opportunity and challenges of Blue

Economy in the region that gave a basis of the strategic axes of the interventions in the regional strategy.

#### **b. Introducing the BE Project**

Dr Wassie Anteneh, the IGAD Blue Economy Expert, presented a brief on the IGAD Blue Economy project. He started by presenting the goal of the project, three project objectives and the three result areas. He also highlighted the different outputs to be achieved for every result area. A brief on the project logical framework was also presented focusing on some project outcome and output indicators and their respective targets.

A summary of achievements attained so far was presented and this included:

- The launching of the workshop was held in Djibouti on 11-12th October 2021, in Djibouti.
- Validation Workshops of National BE Baseline Reports in the IGAD MSs (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda and Sudan)
- Adoption of IGAD 5 Year Blue Economy Strategy and Declaration
- Media Advocacy and journalists training conducted in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2022 to promote Blue Economy in the region.
- National BE Strategy Development Induction Training, Mogadishu, Somalia
- Regional and National BE Platforms Established
- Both narrative and financial reports (semi-annual and annual) Submitted

## **5. OVERVIEW OF BLUE ECONOMY IN IGAD MEMBER STATES**

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#### **a. Djibouti**

Djibouti has significant potential in the blue economy spanning from her unique marine and aquatic environment, strategic location, etc. Blue Economy has different sectors under the same national coordination unit. The sectors include fishing and coastal tourism, renewable energy, telecommunication, port activities, the national office for water and sanitation, housing and urbanism department.

Djibouti has taken the following steps towards the development of the national Blue Economy strategy:

- Established a sub-directorate in charge of the green, blue and circular economy in May 2022
- Created the Sustainable Development Department in October 2022
- Participated in the training on the development of the national BE strategy report in Somalia
- Advertised for the consultancy to develop the national strategy. Three curriculum vitae (CV) have been received.
- Collection of existing data is ongoing.

## **b. Ethiopia**

This presentation provided some quick facts about Ethiopia including the national sectors related to Blue Economy such as Hydroelectric power, maritime (transport and port services, knowledge and skill economy on maritime affairs (seafarers; fisheries, aquaculture and Crocodile farming; mineral extraction (salt, hydrocarbons, soda ash, sand); tourism; Recreation and Transport Services.

An update on the status of the development of the National Blue Economy Strategy was provided where it was indicated that a working group has been established from line ministries, and the hired consultant has presented his inception report. The working group has agreed on the frame work of the strategy and the first draft is expected to be submitted in few weeks. It is expected that the final strategy shall be submitted to the Government by the end of January. It was reported that the leading Ministry for BE (Ministry of Transport and logistics) will submit the Strategy to the PM (Council of Ministers) for endorsement, before the commencement of its implementation.

Ethiopia's main challenges were indicated as lack of clear national vision for blue economy, lack of sectorial integration to work on Blue Potential, lack of knowledge of Blue Potential, lack of commitment and coordination among stakeholders at federal and regional levels, and poor record and data management system in all sectors of BE.

## **c. Kenya**

Kenya presented the report on the second day and it was indicated that Kenya seeks to promote economic growth, social inclusion, and improvement of livelihoods while ensuring environmental sustainability of the aquatic resources. It encompasses a range of productive sectors, including fisheries, tourism, transport, shipbuilding, energy, bio prospecting and underwater mining and related activities.

Kenya's role in enhancing the Blue Economy was highlighted by her membership in various global and regional memberships. Different national Blue Economy projects and programmes that Kenya is undertaking include: Training Kenyans to participate in all aspects of emerging Blue Economy activities e.g., sustainable fishing, seafarers, sea weed farming; Marine Fish Stock Assessments for commercial fish species; Enhancement of the fish stocks; Fish safety and quality control- construction of fish quality laboratories, refurbishment and modernization of fish landing facilities and fish markets; Development of Fishing Ports and related Infrastructure; Promotion of aquaculture development (cage culture, aquaponics etc.); Development of specific strategies for conservation of critical habitats and coastal ecosystems i.e. Marine Protected Areas ; Protection of aquatic and coastal environment to eradicate Illegal Unreported Unregulated fishing (IUU) through coast guard service and others; Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development Project (KEMSFED) to enhance economic benefits and coastal livelihoods; Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP)- to increase incomes, food security and nutritional status of the rural poor households through fish farming; ECOFISH Programme a regional project which aims to demonstrate the added value of regional cooperation in attaining sustainable fisheries, with a view to addressing post-harvest losses, maximizing economic and ecological benefits and combating IUU practices; TrueFish Project – aims at improving access to commercial networks and availability of skilled workers for competitive aquaculture businesses while promoting sustainability and bio-security of aquaculture in Lake Victoria Basin; and Coral Reef Project- Enhancing Livelihoods, Food Security and Maritime Safety through



## Increased Resilience of Fishing Communities Dependent on Coral Reef Fisheries in the African Coastal Countries of the Indian Ocean.

It was indicated that the national BE Strategy has not yet been finalized. The strategy has been drafted but it needs to go through the public participation phase before it is validated. Kenya's BE challenges include: maritime insecurity, insufficient capacity to harness aquatic resources, destruction of habitats, pollution, climate change, overexploitation, Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities, advent of invasive species, weak governance mechanisms, inadequate financial resources, inadequate human and technical capacities, and limited access to relevant technologies and innovations among others.

### **d. Somalia**

The Somalia presentation highlighted the BE resources and socio-economic benefits from the different sectors such as marine & inland water bodies ecosystem, tourism, ports & trade corridors, and renewable energy. The presentation also provided the roadmap & status of the development National BE Strategy, which was stated as follows:

- In November 2021, an inclusive National BE Report was presented to the relevant ministries
- In July 2022, a national BE Strategy Development Training was held in Mogadishu with all IGAD Member States
- In October 2022, the development of the National BE Strategy started, where the hired consultant presented the inception report.
- It is expected that in between November and December 2022, the strategy will be finalized so that its validation is done and endorsed by BE line government ministries by the end of January 2023.

Different on-going projects in Somalia were highlighted including: The Water for Agro-pastoral Productivity and Resilience (Biyoole Project); The Inclusive Local and Economic Development – ILED; The Somalia Crisis Recovery Project (empowering youth and women); The Marine Spatial Planning Training Project; The Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis (MEDA); and The Mogadishu Port Development project.

The Blue Economy challenges experienced include lack of awareness and limited knowledge of BE potential resources, limited or incomplete Legal and regulation framework in many BE institutions, poor Infrastructure, limited public sector institutional capacity to support BE (Fisheries, Ports, Tourism, etc), limited enforcement capacity, and IUU fishing, overfishing and potential maritime security. However, Somalia has the following recommendations to overcome the challenges:

- Develop an inclusive National BE Strategy and implementation plan at national level
- Establish a national coordination platform for harmonizing of the BE policies and legal frameworks as well as interventions and programs
- Expand the existing commercial ports and construction of new ones including commercial fishery ports
- Maritime domain awareness capacity development
- Develop existing BE sectors and invest in emerging ones
- Promote trade and tourism investment opportunities
- Develop initiatives for developing coastal and inland riverine communities and marine ecosystem protection

- Establish maritime MCS coordination and information sharing platform at regional level

#### **e. South Sudan**

An overview of the water resources in South Sudan was presented, as well as the different BE sectors distributed in different State Ministries. The sectors include fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, river navigation, hydropower or energy sources, mineral exploration in rivers and lakes, trade (export and import) in Blue Economy products, and environmental sustainability development. A national estimated potential for all the sectors were presented.

In South Sudan, the development of blue economy sectors will enhance the livelihood of the communities through employment, income generation, transport facilitation, tourism and ecotourism, among others. Blue Economy is cross cutting sector consist of range of productive sectors covering food generating sectors and those of socioeconomic nature.

As far as the coordination is concerned, the Blue Economy Unit is established under Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture to run National Blue Economy activities. The Blue Economy matters will be incorporated into policies of line Ministries. South Sudan is in the process of developing a national BE Strategy, where a consultant has been engaged and consultations going on. It has been estimated that the strategy will be validated and submitted to the ministry by the end of January 2023.

The main challenges experienced by the sector include floods is a major challenge affected majority of population; blockage of waterways with waterweeds (water hyacinths, etc.) constraining river transport and other activities like fishing; inadequate waste management and improper disposal of empty water bottles into rivers and other waterbodies; and lack of data to adequately estimate the contribution of Blue Economy to the economy of the country

#### **f. Sudan**

An overview of Sudan's socio-economic and natural resource base was presented, where it was indicated that the country is well endowed with natural resources including oil and gold, water resources and cultivated land (about 840,00km<sup>2</sup>, ie 68.5% of its territory). The country's population was estimated at about 41 million in 2016 with an annual growth rate close to 2.1%.

The development of the national Blue Economy Strategy has started where a template for the strategy has been developed and experience share with IGAD Countries. Gender mainstreaming has been underlined to be impeded in the strategy. National consultations with national platform have been done to accelerate the strategy, with emphasis on research and studies. In coordination with the National platform of BE, Sudan has started discussing the unified template for preparing the final strategy. A consultant has been engaged to fast track the development of the Strategy.

The major challenges experienced include lack of statistics; limited knowledge and experience to exploit and utilize BE resources sustainably and efficiently; aquaculture development is limited mainly in fresh water, and requires more data for understanding prerequisites; and weak funding and lack of awareness are big obstacles towards sustainable development.

#### **g. Uganda**

Uganda has different BE sectors that coordinated under the Ministry of Water and Environment. The other ministries and institutions related to BE include the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries; Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities; Ministry of Works and Transport; Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development; Petroleum Authority of Uganda; and Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization.

As far as the development of the national BE Strategy is concerned, Uganda has already prepared ToRs and identified a team leader. Currently, the following activities are ongoing:

- Liaising with the relevant persons at institutions for adequate briefing and clarification of tasks
- Preparing an inception report outlining methodology, approach and proposed locations/institutions for visit and consult in country.
- Assessing the ongoing initiatives on BE sectors
- Conducting desk review of regional and continental BE policies and strategies

## **6. WAY FORWARD**

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- We are going to use the feedback provided to update the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year project activities.
- Since all the needed project staff are on board, we will expedite the implementation of project activities in the second year
- We will keep on improving the project management following the plan developed by the Knowledge Management/ M&E Expert. We need to be the source of knowledge on Blue Economy.
- We are going to work closely with AU-IBAR to create synergies and avoid duplicating efforts. We are also going to co-organize a Blue Economy knowledge share fair in early 2023.
- We are going to produce policy briefs on the contribution of Blue Economy
- We are going to share the Project Steering Committee meeting report with all members as well as with the Embassy of Sweden in Ethiopia.
- We will continue with resource mobilization for the full implementation of the regional BE strategy.
- Continue engaging with SWAM for North-South collaborations
- IGAD Member States to continue developing their national BE strategies and have them finalized by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2023.

## 7. ANNEXS

### 1. Meeting Agenda

Time	Item	Presenter
<b>DAY 1 (07 November 2022) –Technical Meeting</b>		
<b>REGISTRATION AND OPENING SESSION</b>		
<b>MC: Dr. Eshete Dejen</b>		
8:30	Registration of Delegates	IGAD AED Team
9:30	Welcoming Remark by IGAD	AED Director
9:40	Opening Remark by Representative of Government of South Sudan	DG for Fisheries, South Sudan
9:50	Introduction of participants	Participants
10:00	Approval of Provisional Agenda	IGAD
<b>SETTING THE SCENE</b>		
<b>Chair: Daher Elmi</b>		
10:05	Workshop Objective	Dr Eshete
10:10	Introducing BE Project	Dr Wassie
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Health Break and Group Photo</b>	<b>IGAD</b>
	Discussion	Chairperson + All
<b>OVERVIEW OF BLUE ECONOMY IN IGAD MSs</b>		<b>Presenters</b>
11:00	Overview of BE in Djibouti	NFP
11:15	Overview of BE in Ethiopia	NFP
11:30	Overview of BE in Kenya	NFP
11:45	Overview of BE in Somalia	NFP
12:00	Overview of BE in South Sudan	NFP
12:15	Overview of BE in Sudan	NFP
12:30	Overview of BE in Uganda	NFP
<b>12:45</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>IGAD</b>
<b>OVERVIEW OF BLUE ECONOMY IN RECs/DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN AFRICA</b>		
13:45	Overview of AU BE Strategy	AU Delegate
14:05	Overview of BE-FAO/SFE	FAO/SFE Delegate
14:25	Overview of BE-COMESA	COMESA Delegate
14:45	Discussion	Chair TBA
<b>15:30</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	<b>IGAD</b>
16:00	General Discussion	Chair TBA
<b>17:00</b>	<b>End of Day1</b>	

## DAY 2 (08 November 2022): Steering Committee Meeting

MC: Dr. Eshete Dejen

8:30	Registration of Delegates	IGAD AED Team
9:00	Welcoming Remark by IGAD	ES/Delegate
9:10	Statement by the Swedish Government	Delegate
9:20	Opening Remark by Representative of Government of South Sudan	Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
9:30	Introduction of participants	Participants
9:40	Approval of Agenda	IGAD
9:45	Review of the draft ToR for SC	Dr Eshete D.
10:05	IGAD BE Strategy	Member State Representative
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Health Break and Group Photo</b>	<b>IGAD</b>
11:00	Progresses of the BE project implementation	Dr Wassie A.
11:30	Project Budget/Financial Report	Yosef H.
11:50	BE Project Second Year Work Plan and Monitoring & Evaluation Framework	Simon O.
12:20	Gender in the IGAD Blue Economy Sectors	Amina/Joselyn
12:45	AU-IBAR: Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy	Dr. Mohamed Seisay
<b>13:00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	<b>IGAD</b>
14:00	Communication and Visibility	Tigist/Simon O.
14:15	Discussions and Recommendations	Chair TBA
<b>15:00</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>IGAD</b>
15:30	Discussions and Recommendations .....cont'd	Chair TBA
16:30	Closing Remarks and way forward	IGAD
<b>17:00</b>	<b>End of Day2</b>	

## DAY3 (09 November 2022)

IGAD

9:00 Field Visit to the Fish Market and Nile River Transport System in Juba City

13:00 Lunch IGAD

14: 00 End of Day3

## 2. List of Participants

### 1. Ms. Barwako Houssein Kidar

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**Kenya**

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**Somalia**

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**South Sudan**

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**9. Mr Jackson E. MUSO**

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**10.Rep from MFA**

**Sudan**

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**PARTNERS**

**15.LVFO (Uganda)- SPONSORED**

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## **16.FAO**

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- 23.**Simon Oswan**, BE KM & Learning Expert, AED, Djibouti
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