

Executive Summary

ICGLR 2021 Joint Mid-Term Review Workshop

Moving ICGLR to the next level, Taking actions, achieving results

On May 24th, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Secretariat together with its partners and various stakeholders kick-started the midterm review of the Regional Project on Peace and Security in the Great Lakes Region project. The project co-funded by the European Union (EU) and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is implemented by GIZ and UN partners: the UN O-SESG, UN Women, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with the support of other partner organizations. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the five-day workshop (24th -28th May), was semi-virtual with 2 hubs in Bujumbura and Kigali, while other partners were connected from different workstations or countries.

In attendance were about 55 persons from the ICGLR Leadership; ICGLR Program Directors & Assistants, the ICGLR Regional Training Facility (RTF), Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM), members of the Technical Unit, GIZ, Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes (O-SESG), UN agencies, Implementing partners and the ICGLR Fora.

Regarding the regional context, following the last annual planning session held in December 2020, the health, economic, security and humanitarian situation in the Great Lakes Region remains dire. Sudan, South Sudan, DRC and CAR are home to 4 out of the 6 UN peacekeeping missions in Africa. There are around 10.1 million internally displaced in just 5 Member States: South Sudan, DRC, CAR, Sudan and Uganda. Covid-19 is expected to leave a long-lasting scar on the region's economies as Sub-Saharan Africa will be the world's slowest growing region with 3.4% expected growth in 2021.

In this context, the ICGLR's work remains of utmost importance and it is incumbent on the institution to obtain concrete results with regard to peace and security for its Member States.

This midterm review provided the opportunity to assess implementation of the 2021 work plan and also the progress made since the inception of the overall project in 2019. The workshop also enabled all stakeholders to identify key actions to take to achieve results in the persisting challenging environment in which the ICGLR works, to define strategic orientation beyond 2021 and identify ways for closer coordination between the different sub-projects.

The workshop highlighted key achievements of the first semester of 2021; such as

Selected Programmatic Achievements	Key Institutional Achievements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launching of pool of mediators training and training on Insider Mediation for DDR/RR• Elaboration of a handbook on Peace Education• Support to Peace and Security initiatives in CAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruitment of Program Directors: P&S and DGG; Director of LMRC-Lusaka• Successful coordination of the RTF-Kampala Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) and outcomes

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocacy to authorities and partners on the seriousness of SGBV cases, the need to strengthen and raise funds for prevention and holistic response mechanisms• Provision on alignment of the draft Certification Regulation with revised RCM in Uganda and Zambia• Successful training sessions: on insider mediation, of RTF affiliated trainers in three MS, of 3 regional audit firms on RCM• ES visit to Youth and private sector fora,	<p>were outlined.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Efforts to eradicate negative forces & support to peace initiatives in the GLR• Renewed commitment of MS to the ICGLR: revitalization, payment of contributions• The recruitment of a New Director for RTF Uganda is underway.
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The 2021 action plan drawn still remains valid.



Résumé de la
planification annuelle

The focus areas were:

- Reinforce organizational strength
- Bolster political leadership
- Eradicate negative forces
- Reinforce implementation on natural resource management and peace and security programs.
- Strengthen holistic SGBV prevention and response mechanisms

As demonstrated above, the plan is being implemented and results have been obtained in the first semester. However, some challenges persist. To address these challenges, the following key actions were identified:

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ICGLR Strategic Direction and Restructuring

- Consolidate renewed contacts with MS at the highest level
- Put in place strategies to increase political will and engage member states even further in 2nd semester
- Use the opportunity of the upcoming induction process for NCMs to strengthen collaboration and communication between the Secretariat and MS
- Develop an operational plan for restructuring based on the report by Ernst & Young

COVID-19 Impact

- Determine key actions to be taken at regional level as part of Covid-19 response: duration of quarantines, cost of tests, vaccine roll-out, etc
- Re-engage Ministers of mines, defense, gender and health

Strategic management of the narrative on the GLR

- Accelerate the process of developing a strategic plan of ICGLR
- Develop a communication strategy to showcase programmatic results to MS, technical & financial partners as well as other key stakeholders.
- Organize regular meetings between ICGLR Leadership and Programs and the decentralised entities

This workshop took place at a time when one of the Member States; DRC is facing natural calamities due to volcanic eruption in Goma; there is no better time than this to establish how best the Secretariat can be of added value to MS by identifying key actions to take in addressing such crises and ensuring the promotion of peace and security.

ICGLR is determined in the second semester to continue strengthening its institutional capacities and to improve implementation, coordination, communication, and visibility of all programs in the MS in order to fulfill its mission of peace and security in the region.