

## IGAD Member States

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The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa was created in 1996 to supersede the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) which was founded in 1986. The seven member states of IGAD - **Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda** - cover an area of **5.2 Million sq. km** and have a population of more than **180 Million**. The IGAD region is very rich culturally due to its numerous ethnic groups, languages and religious practices. The average population growth rate of 2.6 % is one of the highest in the world and nearly half of the population is under 14 years of age. The region is highly affected by internal and external conflicts; therefore the joint peace and conflict prevention efforts of IGAD member states are crucial for a sustainable development of all countries. The region has abundant resources, which when properly developed and tapped could secure economic prosperity for the people, in particular, the rich endowment of rivers, lakes and forests, the large livestock stocks and the high agricultural production potential. IGAD provides the political platform through which the Governments of the member states pool resources and co-ordinate their efforts to initiate and implement regional programmes and projects to tackle development challenges facing the region. As one economic block, IGAD region will have added advantage to effectively compete in the global economy.