



Strategy Summary 2022-2025



WHO WE ARE?

The Institute for Strategic Insights and Research (ISIR) is an independent nonpartisan think tank dedicated to contributing to the building of democratic public institutions and pluralistic societies in the Horn of African countries.

ISIR seeks to engage decision-makers and drive change through policy-relevant researches, dialogues, and trainings.

WHAT WE DO?

Researches

Analysis

Civic
Forums

Training &
Consulting



ADVANCING GOVERNANCE POLICIES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE STABILITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

Thematic focus areas

- Peace and Security
- Governance and Democracy
- Environment and Climate Change

THE 2022-2025 STRATEGY OUTLINES THE OBJECTIVES OF ISIR THINK TANK IN CONDUCTING INDEPENDENT POLICY RELEVANT RESEARCHES

Our Priorities Strategic Objectives

- 1 Advancing Knowledge through Policy Relevant Researches
- 2 Transferring Knowledge to build bridges between research and policy
- 3 Exchanging Knowledge through public forums and dialogue

INNOVATIVE THINKING

Our strategic objectives 2022-2025

1

Advancing Knowledge through
Policy Relevant Researches

2

Transferring Knowledge to
build bridges between
research and policy

3

Exchanging Knowledge through
public forums and dialogue



The ISIR Civic Forum

The ISIR Civic Forums are open platforms for dialogues acting as a catalyst for change. It is mainly a citizen-based initiative, that unlocks the community's potential to engage in critical and constructive conversation.

- Our forums facilitate thoughtful debate on critical issues that bring together different actors for learning and knowledge-sharing.
- We provide open space for distinguished scholars, policy makers and the wider public in an effort to exchange ideas



Exchanging knowledge through public forums and dialogue



Our Geographic Scope: The Horn of Africa

The Horn of Africa (HoA), a geographical belt lying in the eastern part of the continent of Africa is one of the most turbulent regions in the world. In July 2021, the World Bank reported that the region harbors more than 2.7 million refugees and 6 million internally displaced people that have been subject to prolonged conflict, religious extremism, poor governance, and limited public services to support basic needs. Issues related to political stability, and governance had downgraded democratization attempts alternatively violence, and interstate conflict affairs have taken center stage

The region's educated elite, who could supposedly lead the nations with progressive ideas, acquiesce to the prevailing primitive ethnic norms and put their sophisticated knowledge and skills by rallying behind traditional leaders and politicians against this backdrop such status quo is taken for granted without being subjected to critical thinking and policy discussions. In response to the absence of much-needed internal debate and government accountability,

In response to the absence of much-needed internal debate and government accountability the Institute for Strategic Insights and Research (ISIR) will focus on issues of cardinal importance for the progress of regional states in terms of peaceful coexistence, promotion of democratic governance which will contribute to the creation of a pluralistic society tolerant to one and other and approaching critical issues with coherent holistic approaches.



Peace and Security

Democratic Governance

**Environment and Climate
Change Impact**

Our Thematic Focus Areas

The Institute for Strategic insights and Research (ISIR) has positioned itself as an influential Thinktank for public policy in the Horn of Africa (HOA) region. The themes of focus attests to our commitment to drive excellence through the achievement of the core strategic objectives as functions of research, policy engagement, Dialogues and Consulting. A thematic focus on regional Peace and Security will support the governments in the region to overcome Governance challenges through Promotion of Democracy while the focus on environmental issues will tackle Climate Change and its effects.

ISIR has adopted a new approach to stakeholder engagement. We will operate as a point of convergence for policy makers, development partners and other stakeholders who undertake evidence-based policy making. The think tank will also engage Civic Actors across the region through building coalitions, networks and associations throughout the implementation period.

ISIR has adopted a broader perspective that is objective-based approach which will allow us to monitor progress, learn from experiences and adjust our plan of action. We invite you to join hands with us, to advance research, training and policy outreach in the Horn of Africa region.

1 ADDRESSING REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

The Problem:

The Horn of Africa region faces some of the most critical peace and security challenges. The region is fraught with governance challenges, economic underdevelopment, environmental disasters, and resources/territory-based conflicts. It can be argued that the region's fragility and conflict drivers are historically rooted in religious and ethnic conflicts dating back to the pre-colonial era where religion and ethnicity were highly contested among different communities. Colonial legacy also features, as an underlying factor, in the region's protracted political and security turbulence.

Due to its geo-strategic significance, the Horn of Africa region remains the catnip for superpowers— during the Cold War, the region was caught in the crossfire of the rivalry between and among the superpowers with profound security, political and socio-economic ramifications. The adverse impacts of the cold war and post-cold war security externalities (including terrorism and the influx of refugees) lingers, whilst the renewed geopolitical competitions pose further challenge. These therefore need to be collectively addressed by states of the region.

Our Contribution:

The Institute of Strategic Insights and Research will contribute to the strengthening of peace and security in the region by: -

This will be achieved through:

- Conducting relevant, issue-based research on regional peace and security
- Keeping abreast of and connecting to relevant conflict `transformation and peace-building studies
- Participating in key regional relevant research and practice exchanges



2 Promote Democratic Governance

Governments in the horn of Africa face many complex challenges as they have to meet the demands and expectations of an increasingly growing population. As each country struggles with its context specific governance challenges, there is often value in understanding other countries' interventions and drawing insights from best practices through intra-regional learning.

ISIR has long sought to strengthen public institutions to promote "responsible governance", where leaders establish accountability mechanisms to ensure political transparency and economic stability. During the implementation of this strategy ISIR will focus on ways to overcome governance challenges through policy relevant researches, expand civic spaces and present briefing papers on developing issues.

ISIR promotes "transformative democracy" which is the foundation of successful, democratic nations. Overcoming governance challenges unlocks the region's potential to achieve sustainable development and national prosperity. Trust is built when governments have sound values, listen to public needs, perform well, and act in the public interest.

Our Contribution:

To be more specific we will aim to: -

- Address policy and governance challenges to provide insights and policy options grounded in policy relevant researches briefings, and context specific analysis.

- Horn of Africa states to overcome governance challenges by contributing to the improvement of open and effective governments through knowledge creation, designing of training programmes as well as advisory roles.
- Conduct Researches, Policy Papers and debates to foster Economic Governance policies for respective states within the region of Horn of Africa



3 ADDRESS THE RISKS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

The Problem:

Climate change is one of the most urgent and critical threats to regional progress in the Horn of Africa. Climate change has far-reaching implications for the overall security of the region, and affects all sectors of an economy. In addition, the increasing types of climate change hazards such as droughts, floods, soil degradation, and erratic rainfall patterns further fuel ongoing conflicts over natural resources, hence are complicating an already fragile situation.

Our Contribution:

Against this background, ISIR's climate action will be essential in preventing tensions in the long-term. In this regard, we will facilitate public dialogue on climate change by: -

- Addressing climate security and related peace-building initiatives
- Providing in-depth training to various stakeholders about climate change risk mitigating adaptation
- Engaging in continued research to collect data on sustainable ways to address livelihood insecurities as well as environmental degradation.
- Expanding collaboration and networking with others on renewable energy goals and the Blue Economy.





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