



# Eastern Africa Regional Digital Integration Project (EARDIP)

## PROJECT FACTSHEET | FEBRUARY 2025

### General Overview

The East African Community (EAC) is implementing the Eastern Africa Regional Digital Integration Project (EARDIP), a transformative initiative aimed at fostering digital transformation, enhancing regional connectivity, and accelerating socio-economic growth through innovative digital solutions. EARDIP is a cornerstone project reflecting the EAC's commitment to leveraging technology to drive regional integration, economic competitiveness, and inclusive development.

The project is designed to bridge the digital divide by improving access to affordable internet, enhancing cybersecurity and minimizing other payment risks in general, strengthening cross-border data governance and facilitating the development of a regional online market. Through a collaborative approach, EARDIP seeks to create a robust and inclusive digital economy that accelerates economic integration and regional development.

### Project Objective

To advance digital market integration in the Eastern Africa region by increasing affordable access to regional broadband connectivity and strengthening the enabling environment for cross-border digital services.

### Specific Objectives



Enhance seamless cross-border digital services.



Strengthen cybersecurity and minimize other payment system risks and data integration

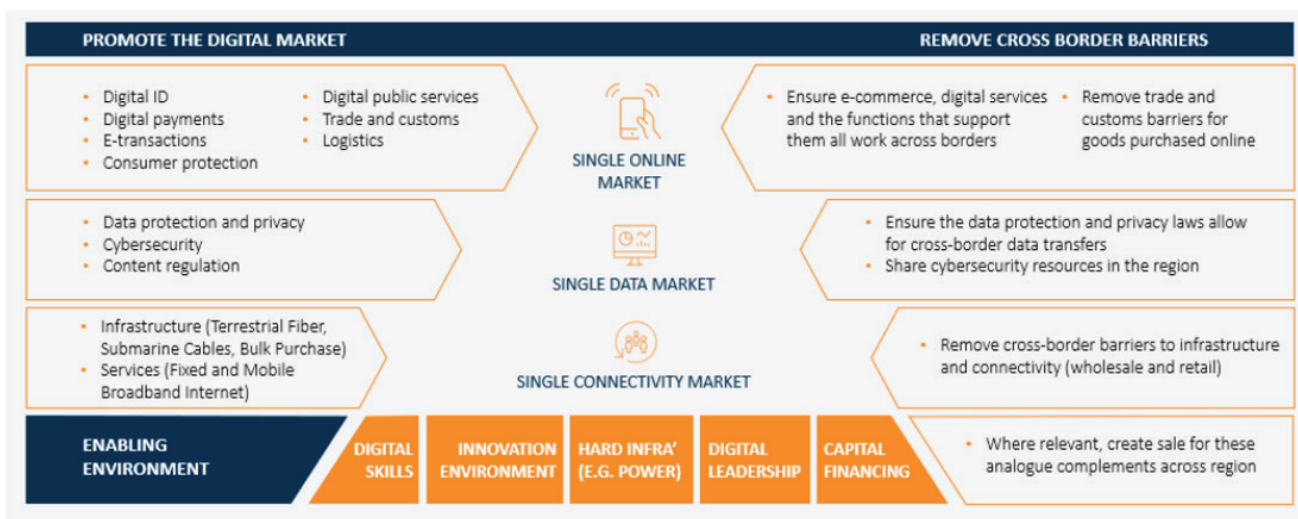


Expand access to digital services and online purchases.



Build capacity for digital skills and project implementation

The project is designed around **three (3)** distinct but interconnected layers of an integrated regional digital market. The three market layers are **(i) a single connectivity market**, removing barriers for regional telecom infrastructure and services deployment; **(ii) a single data market**, enabling the secure exchange and processing of data across borders; and **(iii) a single online market**, allowing the access and delivery of services online and e-commerce across borders.



Source: Single Digital Market for East Africa, 2019. Report 136699. World Bank, Washington, DC.

Note: The proposed project in its first stage will not be addressing directly Digital ID, trade, customs and logistics solutions, content regulation and innovation environment.

## Project Components

The Eastern Africa Regional Digital Integration Project (EARDIP) is designed to address key digital infrastructure and policy gaps across the region. To achieve this, EARDIP is structured into **four (4) components**, each targeting critical areas necessary for building a seamless, inclusive, and secure digital economy within the region.



### COMPONENT 1: CONNECTIVITY MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION

#### Objective:

Provide support the development of terrestrial cross-border connectivity and expand backbone and last-mile connectivity to rural and remote communities.

#### Targets:

- Enhancement of cross-border and national backbone network connectivity across the Community.
- Provision of last-mile connectivity to rural, borderlands and underserved communities.
- Establishment of an enabling legal, regulatory, and institutional ICT environment.



### COMPONENT 2: DATA MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION

#### Objective:

Enable secure data exchange, storage, and processing across borders while strengthening the cybersecurity environment.

#### Targets:

- Adoption of a regional mechanism to govern and support secure cross-border transfers of personal data.
- Adoption of a regional mechanism to strengthen cybersecurity frameworks, infrastructure, and capacity.
- Establishment of a structured coordination mechanism to enhance cyber threat analysis, response, and capacity-building.
- Build cybersecurity capacity in the region to support enhanced coordination and response mechanisms



## COMPONENT 3: ONLINE MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION

### Objective:

Support the integration and development of the online market through e-service enablers and digital skills training.

### Targets:

- Adoption of legal and governance frameworks on e-commerce, trade, and payment systems in the region.
- Enable and facilitate cross-border transactions for goods and services.
- Design and implementation of new digital skills program aimed at expanding the availability of digital skills trainings.



## COMPONENT 4: PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

### Objective:

Provide technical assistance and capacity support for efficient project preparation and implementation

### Targets:

- Recruit project teams to undertake implementation of project-associated activities.
- Establish monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
- Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) compliance.
- Facilitate project collaboration and coordination with other implementing regions and countries.

## Expected Outcomes

### CONNECTIVITY



A robust and interconnected EAC digital economy.

### DATA MARKET



Enhanced cybersecurity and data integration across borders.

### ONLINE MARKET



Improved access to digital services and e-commerce opportunities.

### DIGITAL LITERACY



Increased digital literacy and capacity building.

## Implementing Partners

The EARDIP is a World Bank financed **Series of Projects** aimed at advancing **digital market integration** in Eastern Africa by enhancing cross border broadband connectivity, data flows and digital trade.

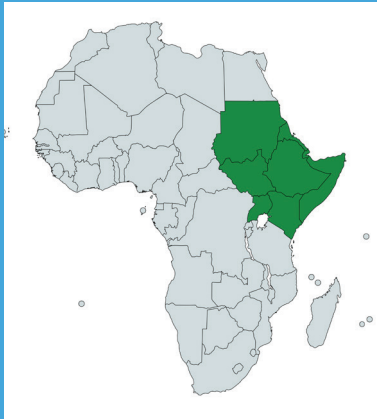
Phase I of the EARDIP project is valued at **USD 172 million**, allocated to both regional and national projects. Within this phase, the EAC initiative receives **USD 15 million** with activities to be implemented in collaboration with EAC Partner States, regional institutions, and other Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The project leverages both public and private sector participation to ensure sustainability and maximise impact. Strategic partnerships with ICT industry stakeholders, financial institutions, are expected to play a critical role in the project's success.

### EAC



USD 15 MILLION

### IGAD



USD 10 MILLION

### SOMALIA



USD 80 MILLION

### SOUTH SUDAN



USD 67 MILLION

## Contacts

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