PEACE, PROSPERITY AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

SUPPORT PLATFORM NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the **IGAD Support Platform**

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Regional Strategy for Sudan and South Sudan Displacement Situation concluded, ready for Ministerial Council.

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Delegates from IGAD Member States and the IGAD Support Platform partners at the meeting to review the Regional Strategy for Sudan and South Sudan Displacement Situation in Nairobi, Kenya.

IGAD Support Platform



Core group:

EU, Germany, UNHCR, UNDP, World Bank

Secretariat: IGAD

Chair: Sudan

4 Objectives:

- Sustaining and galvanizing the political momentum of the Nairobi Process
- Mobilizing additional support for the Plans of Action, particularly in the education, livelihoods and health sectors
- Strategically engage more actors in particular additional States, development partners, civil society and the private sector
- Follow up on Member States commitments through an IGAD Secretariat-led process supported by the core group.

Welcome to the IGAD Support Platform Newsletter:

Welcome you to our maiden Newsletter publication for the IGAD Support Platform. This will be a quarterly publication bringing you all the news, updates and developments about interventions in refugees and other forced displacement situations in the IGAD region.

In this First Edition we focus on IGAD supported activities the period October to December 2022. In our subsequent publications we will expand to include the work of other stakeholders and actors in the field of forced displacement in the region.

Your suggestions, comments and contributions are always welcome.

Charles Obila, *Coordinator, IGAD Support Platform on Forced Displacement.*

The IGAD Support Platform Newsletter

Editor: Bob Nuwagira
Design and Layout: masambue11@gmail.com
IGAD Support Coordinator: Charles Obila
For more information and contributions contact;
Bob Nuwagira, Communications and Partnerships Officer, IGAD Support Platforms on Forced Displacement
bob.nuwagira@igad.int | +256 782 940384

Coordination of the IGAD Support Platform is supported by the European Union under the EUTF-CRRF Project.







Regional Strategy for Sudan and South Sudan Displacement Situation concluded, ready for Ministerial Council.

From October 24th to 26th, IGAD convened a high-level forum on the Kampala Declaration on jobs, livelihoods and self-reliance of refugees, returnees and host communities. The forum was held in Nairobi, Kenya under the theme, "Enhancing self-reliance and resilience of displacement-affected communities."

In attendance were high profile experts from the private sector, delegations from IGAD member states, refugee community representatives, international development partners among others. Several regional Small and Medium Enterprise and other international business executives as well as governors from federal governments were also in attendance.

Discussions focused on themes addressing issues of jobs, livelihoods and the self-reliance of displaced persons and their host communities including fostering conditions for market access, promotion of social protection, financial inclusion, and sustainable energy utilization.

Delegates also engaged in plenary discussions on harnessing the opportunities in digital economy, creating synergies at local and regional level for implementation of the Kampala declaration and creating enabling policies and legislation for refugees and returnees' access to formal and informal employment, among others.

Delegates also participated in different networking and information sharing side events and an exhibition where different partners including IGAD members states highlighted their progress in implementing the Kampala Declaration. Refugee community groups supported by the UNHCR regional bureau participated in exhibitions.

The three-day event highlighted successful initiatives and partnerships to promote the Kampala Declaration within the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region to find long term solutions for people affected by displacement to become self-reliant. It also highlighted the ways to unleash the private sector's contribution for job creation for refugees, returnees, and host communities thereby contributing to economic growth and sustainable development.

It provided an opportunity to integrate private sector and refugees' perspectives into the deliberations of the Kampala Declaration implementation both at national and regional levels. National Progress reports were discussed and the Plan of Action to the Kampala Declaration was discussed and adopted.

The high-level engagement was organized with support of the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the Government of Germany, the World Bank (DRDIP), Amahoro Coalition, UNHCR, International Rescue Committee (IRC) and hosted by the Government of Kenya.



Somalia Hosts Special Information Sharing and National Dialogue on Forced Displacement



The Government of Somalia through the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation and the National Commission for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (NCRI) convened a Special High-Level Information Sharing Session on the IDP Situation and a policy dialogue on forced displacement from 5th – 7th December 2022 in Mogadishu.

The workshop sought to promote exchanges and foster collaboration between various actors working in the area of forced displacement and host communities in Somalia and to align efforts with the Government priorities toward comprehensive solutions.

The high-level meeting was opened by the Somali Prime Minister, H.E Hamza Abdi Barre and attended by the Minister of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, the Minister of Health, and Deputy Minister of Education, Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and Deputy Mayor of Banadir Regional Administration.

Also in attendance were representatives of relevant line ministries, and government agencies, federal member states, clan elders, civil society organizations, and IDP representatives. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the United High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided technical support during the workshop.

Discussions focused on finding sustainable solutions for the longstanding challenge of displacement for the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) as laid out in the country's National Development Plans (NDP 9) and other policies and strategies. Emphasis was laid in the importance of the dialogue and harmonization of approaches by all the actors dealing with both climate-induced displacement (drought, floods, locust) and conflict related displacement.

Worthy to note is the fact that IDPs have been elected in the local councils of Puntland and Galmudug States and the implementation of a national registration system which provides up to date data on the displacement across the country.

Delegates developed strategies to improve coordination, harmonize workplans and national frameworks for State and Federal Government planning and implementation. A comprehensive list of the resolutions of the high-level information sharing session and national dialogue were captured in a communique. The national dialogue was supported by IGAD through the Common Regional Mechanism for Refugee Management (CRMRM) Project and the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP).

"Many displaced children in Somalia, missing out on their basic rights such as protection, education & more. This is indeed a saddening reality that we must address as a nation"

H.E Hamza Abdi Barre, Prime Minister of Somalia.

This workshop seeks to strengthen collaboration, coordination & broaden partnerships to the government-led initiatives.

Jacob Apollo - Refugee Protection Officer, IGAD



"Our aim is promoting national dialogue and coordination in addressing forced displacement in Somalia. I hope to see our reconciliation and stability return them back to their homes and their communities."

The Minister of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation H.E Ahmed Mohamed Fiqi









IGAD Targets Private Sector at the Kampala Declaration Forum

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Kenyan Government Officials and other delegates at the National Consultations on Education Response Plan of Action for refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities

Kenya Holds National Consultations on Education Response Plan of Action for refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) with support of the German Development Cooperation convened a national consultation with the Government of the Republic of Kenya on 28-29th September in Machakos, to develop the Costed National Education Response Plan of Action for refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities as part of the implementation the Djibouti Declaration.

IGAD Member States signed the Djibouti Declaration in 2017 that amplifies the need to accelerate inclusion of refugees into national education systems and ensuring that no one is left behind with regard to access to education, skills development and building competencies.

The action plan focuses on six priority areas all focusing on host communities, refugees and asylum seekers including, increasing access to quality, equitable and inclusive education and training; Improving the quality and relevance of education and training; and promoting the well-being and protection of learners. Others include, promoting peaceful co-existence and global citizenship; promoting partnerships, collaborations and linkages with all actors and stakeholders in the provision and support of education and training in refugee hosting areas; and improving governance and management of education and training service delivery in refugee hosting areas.

The costed action plan is aligned to the National Education Sector Strategic Plan 2018-2022 (NESSP) and the draft Education Policy on Inclusion of Refugees and Asylum Seekers into the National Education System as well as international policies, such as the 2016 Comprehensive Refugee Response Plan (CRRF) and the 2018 Global Compact for Refugees (GCR).



NewsBytes

National Consultations on Regional Refugee Management Framework Concluded

In October and November 2022, IGAD concluded national consultations on the state of refugee management in each of the member states. The findings and recommendations informed the draft IGAD Regional Refugee Management Framework which focuses on holistic and common regional approaches to refugee protection and management in tandem with whole of society and whole of government approach.

The IGAD led process has been documenting the best practices, challenges, cross-cutting issues that need to be addressed at a regional level and establishing gaps and recommendations on improving refugee management in each of the seven IGAD member states, to form a comprehensive regional framework.

The 1996 Agreement Establishing IGAD empowers it to among others, develop common policies, strategies and programs at ensuring sustainable development, peace, stability and social well-being in the region.

South Sudan Reviews Commission for Refugee Affairs' Strategic Plan for 2023 – 2027

IGAD provided technical assistance to South Sudan's Commission for Refugees Affairs (CRA) through a national consultant to review CRA's Policy Framework and develop its Five (5) Years Strategic Plan for 2023 – 2027.

The five-year strategic plan is meant to enhance CRA's capacity to deliver relevant services to Refugees hosted in the Country through the development of a feasible programme/activity-based strategic plan to support the Commission's response to its mandate in complementarity to other national institutions and partners supporting refugee programmes.

Taking into account the changing and emerging contexts including the increase in refugees and refugee returnees, this Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027 comes at a critical time of the country's intervention and will serve as a useful document intended as a tool for planning and resource mobilization for prioritized crucial activities of the Commission for Refugees Affairs in the long term. South Sudan's Minister of Interior, Hon Mahmoud Solomon Agook led the validation of the Strategic Plan on October 28, 2022 in Juba.

Sudan's National Durable Solutions Strategy Validated

IGAD supported Sudan's Commissioner for Refugees (COR) in convening a validation workshop of its revised national durable solutions strategy. Sudan developed the national durable solutions strategy in 2021 and a series of national reviews was conducted thereafter prompting an expert validation before it is forwarded to the Council of Ministers for adoption.

In October 2020, the Governments of South Sudan and Sudan, IGAD, the European Union and UNHCR launched the Solutions Initiative for Sudan and South Sudan. A flagship activity of the IGAD Support Platform, the Solutions Initiative aims to galvanize a stronger collective response to support durable solutions for over 7 million South Sudanese and Sudanese refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and their host communities in and from South Sudan and Sudan.

IGAD Seeks new Partnerships at the Geneva Protection Dialogue

In 2020, the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) launched three regional Support Platforms to reinforce regional refugee responses, including the MIRPS Support Platform in Central America and Mexico, IGAD Support Platform in the East and Horn of Africa, and the SSAR Support Platform for Afghan Refugees.

The Platforms convened for an information exchange and knowledge sharing forum on the sidelines of the UNHCR Protection Dialogue, which took place in Geneva from the 6th to 8th December 2022.

Participants included the chairs and the secretariat of the different Support Platforms (IGAD, USA for MIRPS and EU for the Afghanistan), host countries (Sudan, Kenya, Mexico, Guatemala, Iran etc.), donor (Germany, Qatar, World Bank), UNHCR, OECD among others. In attendance were officials from the yet to be established Support Platform for the Central African Republic.

Discussions centered on sharing the progress and achievements of the Support Platforms, the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) indicator framework and subsequently drafting first GCR global indicator report. There were also consultations on the Investment Tracking Tool developed by the UNHCR in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to track global investments and donor contributions in supporting refugees and other displaced populations.

The IGAD delegation too had talks with representatives from the Governments of Qatar and the USA with the former premising on the desire to support solutions for the displacement situation in Somalia and the USA Government keen on mobilizing the involvement of private sector.

There were other consultations with other stakeholders including the World Bank, IKEA Foundation and the GRF Team. The regional preparations for the 2023 GRF were kickstarted.

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Delegates from Djibouti and Kenya participating in the Validation of the Solutions Strategy for the Displacement Situation in Sudan and South Sudan.

