



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

[Annex to the Kampala Declaration]

PLAN OF ACTION ON JOBS, LIVELIHOODS AND SELF RELIANCE FOR REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN THE IGAD REGION

Hosted by the Government of the Republic of Uganda, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) convened a regional ministerial meeting in Kampala on 28th March 2019 that was undertaken in collaboration with the European Union, the German Cooperation, the Swiss Cooperation, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the World Bank.

At the meeting resolved to take collective responsibility to create jobs, improve livelihoods and ensure self-reliance for refugees, returnees and host communities in the IGAD Region. They further committed to adopt and implement this Action Plan; establish regional committees of experts and ministers to follow up on issues agreed upon; and integrate refugees into national policies, strategies, programs and plans of action in their respective countries. These commitments are expressed in the Declaration, and adopted in this Action Plan, which outlines the actions to be carried out in order to improve livelihoods, ensure economic inclusivity and self-reliance of refugees, returnees and host communities.

Policy and Legislative Framework for Livelihoods and Self Reliance

1. Assess the procedures for free movement of refugees as well as access to employment, services including education health, financial services and markets
2. Establish mechanisms for integrating refugees and returnees in local development plans for urban as well as other areas hosting displaced population
3. Put in place policy and practice measures that facilitate access to markets for refugees and underlying value chain so that they are able to competitively negotiate fair value for their products and services

The Role of Private Sector and Civil Society in Creation of Sustainable Livelihoods and Job Opportunities:

1. Conduct research and evidence-based studies on the macro-economic impacts of refugees
2. Define the roles of humanitarian and development partners and identify where the private sector can engage in both emergency and protracted settings as well as identify infrastructure that is needed to enable increased private sector engagement
3. Integrate cash-based intervention and access to financial services including loans to refugee and host community
4. Promote market-based approaches in supporting government with investments in infrastructure
5. Promote and strengthen markets opportunities and networks for local goods and services
6. Undertake value chain analysis that can be a pillar for developing economically viable approaches
7. Conduct consumer market studies, market assessments (socio-economic, labour, etc.) to support demand driven responses by relevant stakeholders
8. Promote financing, provision of guarantees, blended finance to attract the private sector to refugee hosting areas and address the infrastructural challenges that limit access to financial services
9. Assess local skills needed to ensure that the trainings are market/demand driven

Sustainable Return and (Re) Integration

1. Address the mismatch between the skills transmitted to refugee populations and demands in the labour market in countries of origin by conducting pilot surveys on skills profiles and labour market demands
2. Ensure support to local authorities to be able to inform and plan with refugees, returnees and host communities using robust data to inform strong planning
3. Build on and complement existing local development plans such as district, counties, etc.
4. Engage government agencies, partners and other related stakeholders in the actual planning and execution of the return and (re) integration,
5. Strengthen capacities of the local government to address the needs of the vulnerable/specific groups including the youth, women and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), minorities and focus on addressing social inclusion/conflict prevention
6. Enhance social cohesion and integration to reduce conflict and create vibrant local economies to support sustainable (re) integration

7. Support and invest in communication and awareness activities in countries of origin/return and host country
8. Create a hub as an entry point that links diaspora and returnees to employment opportunities, business development, skills transfer and the sharing of best practices
9. Strengthen and coordinate the process of registration and documentation of prospective returnees in both countries of origin and asylum
10. Support cross learning between countries in the IGAD region
11. Invest in financial literacy and innovations to be able to support
12. Conduct an assessment of the gaps between skills and market demands in the countries of return to inform skills development programs in countries of asylum
13. Establish a set of guiding principles for the resolution of land disputes between returnees and host communities
14. Initiate a regional dialogue on appropriate measures to re-establish the security of tenure in areas of protracted displacement
15. Support refugees and returnees access to financial services and integrate cash-based intervention and access to financial services including loans to refugee and host community

Regional Coordination, Partnership, Financing and Monitoring

1. Conduct an assessment of the pledges and financial obligations of international community in the Nairobi Declaration and its Plan of Action and its timely implementation
2. Convene a regional meeting to validate and adopt the IGAD Regional Qualification Framework
3. Develop a Harmonized Regional Livelihoods and Self Reliance Strategy
4. Develop an overarching employment strategy, and convene a third thematic meeting on refugees' health and other social sector issues encompassing livelihoods and self-reliance of refugees, returnees and host communities, and call on partners to support the implementation of the strategy
5. Strengthen implementation monitoring mechanisms for the provisions of this Declaration
6. Set up a regional platform for private sector engagement
7. Hold an inter-Regional Economic Communities (RECs) High Level Forum including AU, IGAD, EAC and ICGLR on matters of refugee response
8. Incorporating the various themes into existing Regional Consultative Platforms, e.g. RCP, Education, IDRRSI, etc.
9. Establish a Regional Technical Taskforce of Key Partners, including IGAD, EU, GIZ, UNHCR, IOM, ILO and the World Bank
10. Validate the regional study jobs, livelihoods, and self-reliance for refugees, returnees and host communities

11. Promote the exchange and sharing of best practices and success stories by convening regular meetings and between National Coordination Mechanisms (NCMs)
12. Secure funding for implementation from pledges made at the Global Forum on Refugees in December 2019
13. Convene a special forum on Urban Refugees
14. Facilitate effective implementation of the IGAD Regional Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Strategy and Regional Qualification Framework

On Natural Resource Management for Livelihoods and Self Reliance

1. Ensure conflict resolution mechanisms inbuilt into Livelihood interventions taking into account best practices in allocation of public land, communal land and possibility of compensation for host communities
2. Institutionalize community-based conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms that convene both refugee and host communities to reduce natural resource conflicts through regular dialogue and inclusivity in decision making processes
3. Promote sustainable land use planning and practices to counter degradation and depletion of natural resources
4. Support modern and innovative agricultural production and management practices that simultaneously improve productivity and have a minimal impact on the surrounding environment.
5. Promote the adoption of sustainable environmental management practices including; the use of alternative and renewable energy sources, water resource management and conservation approaches and appropriate, environmentally friendly building technologies by refugees and host communities
6. Scale up trade fairs and expositions that bring together both refugee and host communities