

East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region

REGIONAL LIVELIHOODS WORKING GROUP

Organizers Anna Gaunt (UNHCR) and Sarah King (NRC)

Meeting Location Virtual (WebEx) **Date and time** 06 May 2021 | 10:00 – 11:30

Next Meeting 03 June 2021

Agenda

1. Introductions by UNHCR and NRC
2. Presentations by IGAD and DRC on working across borders on refugee and returnee economic inclusion
3. *Tour de table* on Partner cross-border engagement
4. General – Upcoming Events, AOB, Wrap-up

Attendance

Organisation	Participant	Organisation	Participant
CONCERN	Evans Owino	NRC	Sofie Johansen
DRC	Alistair Cowan	OXFAM	Jeffrey Maganya
DRC	Nicoletta Buono	REDSS	Gakii Kiara
DRC	Winfred Wangari	SOAS	Caitlin Sturridge
DRC	Yasmin Anis	SOAS	Padmini Iyer
FAO	Deborah Duveskog	UNCDF	Mike McCaffrey
FAO	Zalina Kochenova	UNDP	Enock Omweri
FCA	Abdifatah Rashid	UNDP	Hyewon Jung
FCA	Carita Cruz	UNDP	Kristoffer Tangri
FSD Africa	Kuria Wanjau	UNDP	Lily Murei
FSD Uganda	David Darkwa	UN-Habitat	Ang Jia Cong
GIZ	Kokebe Hailegabriel	UN-Habitat	Jonathan Weaver
GIZ	Megan Taeuber	UNHCR	Aditi Sabbarwal
GIZ	Milena Adnyanata	UNHCR	Alemtsehay Fisseha
GIZ	Paul Maina	UNHCR	Anna Gaunt
GIZ	Svenja Müller	UNHCR	Aurthur Mutambikwa
IFC	Stella Marion Njoki Kimani	UNHCR	Charles Alemi
IGAD	Charles Obila	UNHCR	Clara van Praag
ILO	Albert Okal	UNHCR	Clare Gardner
ILO	Julien Varlin	UNHCR	Eric Spielmann
ILO	Nick Grisewood	UNHCR	George Ngechu
ILO	Paul Mayanja	UNHCR	Gerald Peter Emoyo
IRC	Brian Ssebunya	UNHCR	Hanadi Tutunji
IRC	Elizabeth Mukami	UNHCR	Hassan Ibrahim
NRC	Hamelmal Getachew	UNHCR	Ismael Said Ali
NRC	Lili Mohiddin	UNHCR	Julia Seevinck
NRC	Perrine Piton	UNHCR	Lucy Kariuki
NRC	Safo Ahmed	UNHCR	Nada Omeira
NRC	Sarah King	UNHCR	Penda Ndiaye

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Organisation	Participant	Organisation	Participant
UNHCR	Rhodes Ndlovu	VILLAGE ENTERPRISE	Liz Corbishley
UNHCR	Robert Gitau	WB	Ayalew Abebe Fere
UNHCR	Sebastian Herwig	WFP	Francis Opiyo
UNHCR	Wendy Rappeport	WUSC	Gladys Ominde
UNHCR	Yui Arai Suzuki	WUSC	Titus Kisangau
University of Nairobi	Barbara Moser-Mercer	Consultant	Wendy Chamberlin
University of Oxford	Naohiko Omata		

Meeting minutes:

Introductions

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) co-moderated the session focused on *working across borders on refugee and returnee economic inclusion*. Cross-border economic inclusion was chosen as a theme to stimulate discussion, share research lessons and best practices related to cross border initiatives.

Overview of presentations

The session highlighted different approaches of financial inclusion, starting with a regional perspective on IGAD, and finally zooming on a cross-border project covering the Mandera Triangle (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia). The presentations have been uploaded to the [Regional Livelihoods Working Group Portal](#).

IGAD – 'IGAD cross-border initiatives: an overview of IGAD's engagement with member states on return, reintegration and livelihoods': Charles Obila, Migration Officer at the IGAD Secretariat, set the stage by situating IGAD's cross-border initiatives in the engagement with members states on protection, return, reintegration and livelihoods. An detailed discussion of the four key pillars of IGAD: Return and Reintegration pillar focused on creating an enabling environment for safe, sustainable and voluntary return and reintegration; the Education pillar - the Djibouti Declaration and Action Plan on Quality Refugee Education, Addis Ababa Call for Action on Technical and Vocational Education and Training; Economic inclusion of refugees pillar - the Kampala Declaration on jobs, livelihoods and self-reliance for refugees, returnees and host communities in the IGAD region; and the Health pillar and its work on the integration of refugees into national health systems. Gradually, IGAD region is becoming a model to be replicated elsewhere in Africa and possibly further afield. For more information please contact Charles.Obila@igad.int

DRC – 'BORESHA: a cross -border initiative to promote sustainable economic development, greater and peaceful resilience in borderland areas of the Horn of Africa': Nicoletta Buono, Head of PMU BORESHA PROJECT at Danish Refugee Council. Funded by the European Union Trust Fund for Africa, the Building Opportunities for Resilience in the Horn of Africa (BORESHA) project's overall objective is to promote economic development and greater resilience, particularly among vulnerable groups in the cross-border area between Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia (Mandera triangle). The multi-country, multi-sectoral 48-months project adopts a community-driven approach to address the shared nature of the risks and opportunities in the border area by investing in preventing and mitigating the impact of local conflict and

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to promote economic development and greater resilience, with the objective of making the individuals and communities more self-reliant through increased skills and opportunities for cross-border employment, diversified enterprise, and livelihoods; and that cross-border rangeland and other shared natural resources are more equitably and sustainably managed. For more information please contact nicoletta.buono@drc.ngo

Tour de table on Partner cross-border engagement in the East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region:

The Borderlands Working Group – The BWG aims to influence discourse, policy, and practice on border security and management in East Africa from a community-centered approach. Publications of interest: [Greater Horn of Africa Cross-border Learning Conference Report 2019](#) and [Agenda Setting Report for the Borderlands Working Group](#). For more information contact Yasmin Anis, Regional Peacebuilding Coordinator at DRC - yasmin.anis@drc.ngo

UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre – Development approaches to date have tended to design programmes around national development plans, which are implemented within national borders and often overlook the unique challenges of borderlands and their connection to regions outside the national territory. The absence of dedicated borderland programming at a regional level has been a critical gap in developmental policy to date. In response, UNDP has established the Africa Borderlands Centre, which treats border regions as distinct economic and political zones in their own right. The Borderlands Centre offers specialized, expert knowledge and technical advice that will enable the better design, implementation, and adaptation of development programmes for border regions across Africa. It will operate as an expert resource of intelligence, expertise, and experience in support of national governments, inter-governmental agencies, UNDP country offices, UN agencies, development partners and other key stakeholders. Publications of interest: [Borderland Policy Briefing Series | Informal Cross-Border Trade along the DRC-Uganda Border](#); [Borderland Policy Briefing Series | Mobility and Migration in the Karamoja Cluster](#). For more information contact Kristoffer Tangri, Programmes & Partnerships Specialist, UNDP - kristoffer.tangri@undp.org

AOB Members were requested to present key findings, lessons learnt, tools to the group by contacting [Anna](#) (UNHCR) and [Sarah](#) (NRC). Members were encouraged to volunteer in moderating upcoming meetings; as well as share research, publications, highlights, webinars, meetings, etc that they would like uploaded to the [Economic Inclusion Exchange East Africa Portal](#).

Schedule of meetings The next meeting is scheduled for June 03, 2021.
