



Mapping the refugee journey towards employment and entrepreneurship: Obstacles and opportunities for private sector engagement in refugee hosting areas in Kenya



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PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Research Objectives and Methodology



Research Question

“What obstacles and opportunities exist for private sector firms to successfully support refugees in Kenya, either as employers or as catalysts for entrepreneurship?”

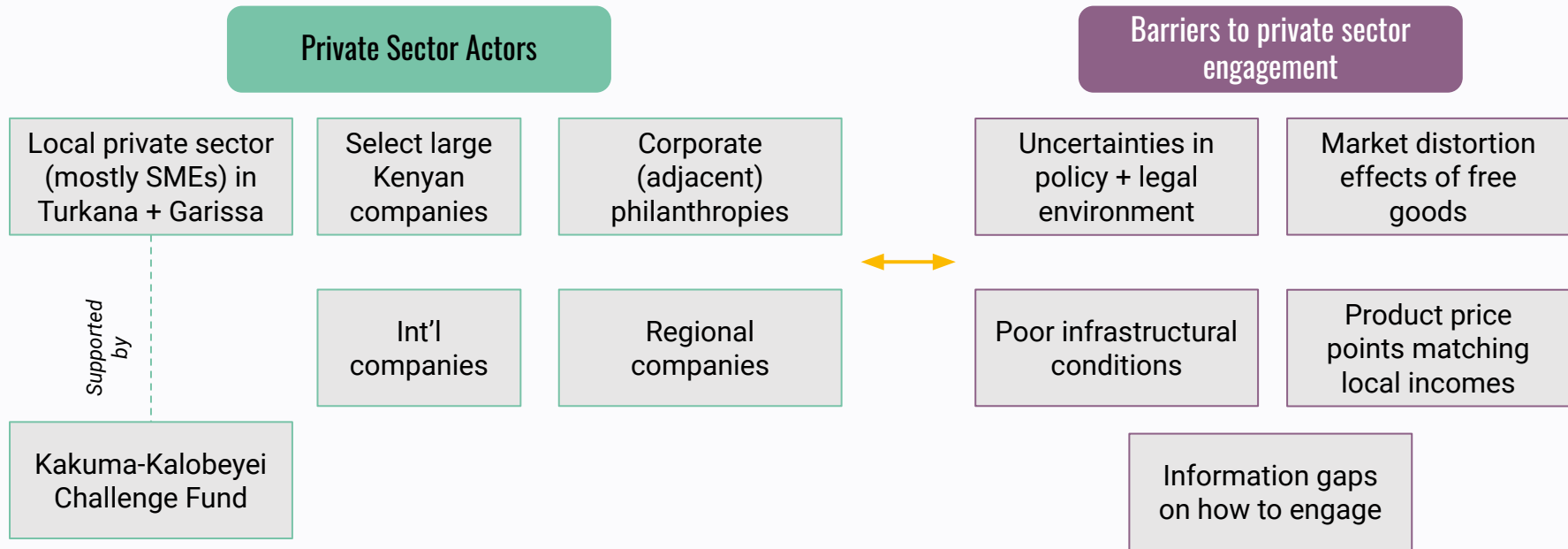
Motivations for the Study

- Understand process for refugee employment and entrepreneurship
- Map areas + levers for private sector engagement with refugees in Kenya
- Analyse barriers to private sector involvement in refugee economic inclusion in Kenya

Methodology

- **Primary research - 24 KIIs**
 - Camp implementation partners (4)
 - Refugees (11 - 4 Dadaab, 3 Kalobeyei, 3 Kakuma, 1 Nairobi)
 - Gov't representatives (3)
 - Private Sector (5)
 - Donors (1)
- **Desk-based research - 113 sources**

Currently, private sector involvement with refugees in Kenya is limited by information-, infrastructure-, policy-, and market-related barriers



Refugees must have the right to work, freedom of movement, and required documentation to access economic opportunities



There are real opportunities for promoting private sector engagement in Kenya's refugee hosting areas, but opportunities are **constrained by refugees' limited access to right to work legally and travel outside camps.**



Protection from exploitation, increased job security, and reliable wages are all key concerns for refugees regarding employment.



Movement outside camps is essential:

- Enables refugees to **take advantage of opportunities beyond immediate areas**
- Allows camp entrepreneurs to **access goods without intermediaries.**



Documentation & registration are imperative for refugees' employment/ entrepreneurship, but processes for obtaining documentation are **ambiguous, change frequently,** and dissuade refugees from applying.

Any intervention to catalyse private sector engagement with refugee economic issues must consider host-refugee dynamics



Refugee-host relationships are multi- dimensional:

- Hosts employ refugees to attract certain customer segments
- Refugees employ hosts for specific jobs
- Seller-seller competition
- Customer-seller relationships
- Hosts as general partner in business w/ refugee as silent partner
- Shared ethnic, religious, communal ties in some areas
- Hosts experiences w/ marginalisation in some areas



Refugee-host relationship dynamics must inform employment/entrepreneurship programme development and private sector engagement to promote social cohesion and mitigate tensions and marginalisation.

Information, a coordinated strategy, and enabling environment are key for private sector engagement with refugee employment & entrepreneurship



Lack of adequate information among private sector actors **on how to engage or employ refugees.**

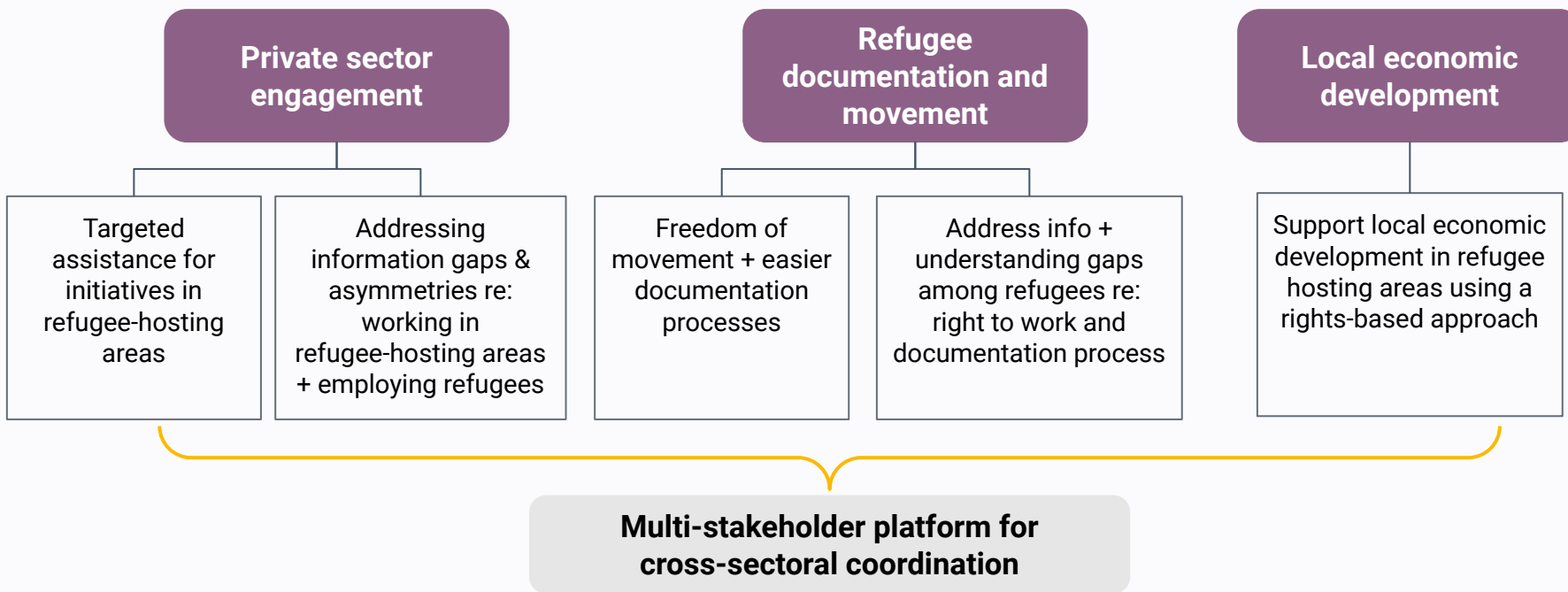


A cohesive + coordinated private sector engagement and partnership strategy is vital for greater private sector involvement in refugee-hosting areas.



An enabling environment and incentives, facilitated by gov't, would promote greater private sector engagement in refugee economic inclusion.

Recommendations



Annexes



Legal frameworks & policies



Intl Instruments

1951 Refugee Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees

New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016) with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) annexed

2018 Global Compact on Refugees

Regional Instruments

1969 Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (now referred to as the African Union Convention)

IGAD Instruments

2017 Nairobi Declaration on Somali Refugees

2018 Djibouti Declaration on Refugee Education

2019 Kampala Declaration on Jobs, Livelihoods, and Self-Reliance for Refugees, Returnees and Host Communities in the IGAD Region

National law

Refugee Act 2017



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Supported by the EU Trust Fund, the Research and Evidence Facility (REF) conducts research relating to migration and displacement dynamics, drivers, and implications in the greater Horn of Africa. The REF is a consortium made up of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS, University of London) as the lead partner, the University of Manchester (based in the United Kingdom) and Sahan (based in Nairobi, Kenya). The REF was created in 2016 to collate and produce evidence and policy relevant knowledge that can inform the work of the EUTF, as well as stakeholders more broadly.