

Advancing the self - reliance agenda for Refugees and their Host Communities



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Summary of Best Practices:

- ❑ **Progressive policies, laws and directives:** Enabling environment for economic inclusion of refugees through legal instruments that are operational and that provide economic rights (examples from Uganda, Djibouti, Ethiopia, South Sudan)
- ❑ **Settlement approach to installation:** Making land available to refugees where they can settle in and produce food for consumption and sale of surplus; and redefining camps as villages (examples from Uganda, Djibouti)
- ❑ **Freedom of mobility:** Refugees have rights to freely move and pursue economic opportunities where these are available (examples from Uganda, Djibouti)



Summary of Best Practices:

- ❑ **Inclusive programs:** Economic inclusion interventions and initiatives that deliberately target both refugees and nationals to foster peaceful co-existence (examples from Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia)
- ❑ **Investments in skills development and education:** Investments in initiatives (including TVET) that respond to the labour market demand (examples from Ethiopia, Uganda, Somalia)
- ❑ **Common markets:** Establishing markets where refugees and nationals can interface to trade and conduct business (example from Uganda)



Summary of Best Practices:

- ❑ **Effective communication and sensitization:** The need for Government authorities to conduct public awareness campaigns on refugee policies at the grassroots
- ❑ **Refugee data and information:** Inclusion of refugee data into national indicators and surveys as well as robust registration systems (examples from Uganda, Ethiopia)
- ❑ **Private sector participation:** Establishing an enabling environment and providing tangible incentives that can encourage the private sector to engage (examples from Ethiopia, Djibouti)



Summary of Best Practices:

- ❑ **Financial inclusion:** Refugees accessing commercial financial services, private sector companies accessing credit lines for capital (example from Djibouti)
- ❑ **Jobs and livelihoods response plans and strategies:** Pro-active planning and strategies by Governments to deliberately address economic inclusion needs (examples from Uganda, Ethiopia)
- ❑ **Infrastructure development:** Investments in infrastructure that can enhance economic growth in refugee hosting areas



Other take-aways:

- ❑ **Inclusion into Government development priorities:** Some Governments are taking out loans to integrate refugees into national systems and economies (the World Bank's IDA 18 Sub Window for Refugees and Sub Window for Refugees and Host Communities 19)
- ❑ **Cross border initiatives:** How employability can be approached from a regional perspective, especially targeting returnees (example from Somalia)
- ❑ **Refugee Protection:** Economic rights should translate into protection outcomes for forcibly displaced populations



Other take-aways:

- ☐ **Peace and security:** Stable and secure environment will ensure that refugees and host communities can participate in economic opportunities



Challenges and lessons learned

- Conflicts can arise when refugees and host communities compete for natural resources hindering peaceful co-existence
- When refugees are allowed to move freely, there could be concerns around security
- Some organizations involved in humanitarian responses do not work effectively with existing local government structures
- Local NGOs that work closely with refugees and host communities could be supported more by donors to enable them to deliver services to refugees and host communities



Challenges and lessons learned

- There is often a lack of commitment by the international community to fulfill promises they have made, leading to unpredictable financing (failure to implement the grand bargain)
- Funding for refugee response is decreasing despite the fact that refugee influx is increasing, thus posing a challenge on sustainability of refugee responses.
- Many organizations do not share information on their planned financial budgets leading to weak financial tracking
- Environmental degradation especially as concerns wood fuel for cooking is a challenge



Challenges and lessons learned

- There is a tendency of partners to doubt refugee numbers being reported because they do not appreciate the settlement approach and freedom of mobility
- Due to different methodologies of data collection and poor coordination, there is an inconsistency of data and information between organizations
- There should be a deliberate commitment by Governments to strengthen national systems and policies to ensure refugees are included
- Humanitarian food aid should be sourced locally in countries where food is produced in surplus rather than being imported by partners



Challenges and lessons learned

- There is poor coordination and alignment of humanitarian and development responses to national policies
- Refugee areas are usually remote, isolated and have poor infrastructure making it difficult to effectively implement economic activities
- Government resources that are budgeted for and targeted at refugee responses are extremely limited
- There is a need to sensitize the private sector so that they can engage in economic activities that will include refugees



Challenges and lessons learned

- Most labour markets in refugee hosting areas are crowded due to existing high unemployment rates
- Land tenure issues can be challenging for Governments in some countries where refugees are provided with land
- Aid financing is reducing for protracted refugee situations despite the fact that needs continue to remain
- Earmarking of funds for specific refugee population groups can leave out other refugee population groups that also require assistance



Challenges and lessons learned

- ❑ Refugee responses are not effective nor sustainable because financing is often short term (annual) and not multi-year
- ❑ Some administrative procedures often hinder refugees from accessing the job market (for example access to documentation)
- ❑ The private sector (especially financial institutions) often deem refugees as a risky population to invest in. There is a need to explore de-risking mechanisms especially when refugees seek financial services.
- ❑ Conducting analytics of markets in refugee hosting areas is important to generate information that can influence private sector to invest



Challenges and lessons learned



- Language and cultural differences between population groups can be barriers to integration in some cases
- Some governments offer referral services for refugees when refugees get employment opportunities with the private sector (example from Uganda)
- Conditions for return in countries of origin should be addressed to ensure durable solutions
- Some existing laws in some countries restrict refugees from participating in certain professions



Opportunities

- Smart villages concept where economic opportunities are identified and strengthened in Djibouti will aim at reducing refugee dependence on humanitarian assistance
- One stop shop concept for refugee documentation in Djibouti where all processes are centralized will ensure refugees can open businesses easily
- Progressive refugee policies, laws and directives in Ethiopia will confer economic rights to refugees
- Aid coordination unit at the Office of the Prime Minister and at Federal State level in Somalia supports effective coordination



Opportunities



- ❑ There is an existing robust private sector in Somalia that can be leveraged to engage with refugees
- ❑ IFC is working with the World Bank to strengthen the financial systems with the Government of Somalia (IFC also has experience with interest free financing in the Gulf region)



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Opportunities



Uganda

- Putting the Global Compact into practice e.g. through costed plans in the education sector
- International responsibility and commitments to the open door policy to welcome refugees
- The development and funding of robust Jobs and livelihoods response plans that will provide economic opportunities



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Opportunities

South Sudan:

- Investments in improving conditions for return in countries of origin can support durable solutions

Ethiopia

- Ethiopia's development agenda (Growth and transformation Plan) GTP III) can include refugees
- Progressive laws, policies and directives



Opportunities



Djibouti:

- Existing laws and policies that allow refugees to operate businesses and to work

Somalia:

- Review of legal frameworks in the country will address issues affecting IDPs and populations in the country
- Existence of a vibrant private sector in Somalia can be leveraged to create economic opportunities



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