

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

2 0 1 9
31 Oct - 1 Nov

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

DELIVERING THE GLOBAL
COMPACT
ON REFUGEES
LOCAL APPROACHES TO INCLUSION

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

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ACRONYMS

CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ERP	Education Response Plan
EUTF	European Union Trust Fund
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
GCR	Global Compact on Refugees
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GoD	Government of Djibouti
GRF	Global Refugee Forum
GTP III	Growth and Transformation Plan III (Ethiopia)
ICT	Information Communication Technologies
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoP	Ministry of Peace (Ethiopia)
MoSHE	Ministry of Science and Higher Education
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCRRS	National Comprehensive Refugee Response Strategy (Ethiopia)
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NURI	Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
OSS	One-Stop-Shop
Q&A	Question and Answer
ReDSS	Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat
REF	Refugee Engagement Forum
SG	Steering Group
STA	Settlement Transformative Agenda (Uganda)
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

'Delivering the Global Compact on Refugees: Local approaches to Inclusion', a regional government-to-government Conference, was held from 31 October – 1 November 2019 in Addis Ababa, hosted by the Government of Ethiopia. The Conference brought together six governments of the East and Horn of Africa region - Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda, as well as Representatives from the AU, IGAD and ECA, and stakeholders from donor governments, UN agencies, and NGOs.

The conference was held with the objective to foster cross-national sharing of experiences and identify forward-looking opportunities for the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and roll-out of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) throughout countries in the Horn and East Africa. It served as an opportunity to take stock of good practices, lessons and opportunities in advance of the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019.

The countries of the Horn and East Africa have, despite national challenges, shown impressive commitment and leadership in tackling the challenges of forced displacement. Since their initial commitment to the implementation of the CRRF, pilot countries are now in different stages of roll-out, where some have presented a road-map for its implementation, established coordination mechanisms, and begun regional and local implementation. In all countries, development partners have engaged positively to support various initiatives that are inclusive of refugees and host communities. Experiences are emerging that chart the transition to sustainable development-oriented support to refugees and to host communities, through strengthening refugee access to essential social services and phased transition away from exclusive and parallel humanitarian assistance.

Within the context outlined above, participating governments deliberated on three specific themes:

Theme 1: Investing in national services to support host communities and the inclusion of refugees

Theme 2: Advancing the self-reliance agenda for refugees and their host communities

Theme 3: Expanding the whole-of-government approach, ensuring local ownership and adequate financing to the Global Compact on Refugees

In deliberating on the topics, governments identified several good practices. The creation of favourable legal frameworks and the introduction of several new initiatives have facilitated integration of refugees within the national education system of respective governments and access to civil documentation for refugees. Progressive policies, laws, directives and interventions such as making land available to refugees, ensuring freedom of mobility of refugees, putting inclusive programmes in place, investments in skills development and education, private sector participation, financial inclusion whereby refugees access commercial financial services, and investments in infrastructure are helping advance the self-reliance and inclusion agenda for refugees and their host communities. Governments carrying out consultations for National Plans at district and

national levels, the use of data and evidence, and creating common projects between host and refugee communities and opening space for inclusion are among some of the good practices contributing to expanding the whole-of-government approach, ensuring local ownership and adequate financing to the Global Compact on Refugees.

Among the challenges hampering integration of refugees within the national education system were high dropout rates, the language barrier, a lack of recognition of qualification and certification, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of multi-year, predictable and sustainable funding. Inadequate harmonization of national civil registration systems, a backlog of birth registration for refugees and host communities, and limited awareness of refugee documentation by other stakeholders such as banks and the private sector need attention.

Challenges affecting the advancement of the self-reliance agenda for refugees and their host communities include security concerns, a shortage of funding despite increasing refugee influx, inconsistency of data and information between organizations, existing high unemployment rates amongst nationals, land tenure issues, and the private sector's common perception that refugees are a high-risk population to invest in. Limited coordination and alignment of humanitarian and development responses to national policies, and the failure of some organizations to work with existing local government structures were also identified as obstacles. The 'whole-of-government approach' is also affected by inadequate alignment of development partners to national and local development plans. This indicates the need for ensuring local ownership through government led planning, the mapping of existing interventions, and joint assessments.

In identifying opportunities for the future, in relation to service inclusion, participants highlighted the development of costed plans with adequate funding, the more effective use of coordination structures (national-local-donor community), increased development funding, and reviewing regional systems, such as for the recognition of qualifications and certification in relation to integration of refugees within the national education system. Refugee access to civil documentation contributes to the development of the national economy and strengthened access to social services. Working to ensure the acceptability of issued civil documents within IGAD countries, the use of existing systems and processes are some of the opportunities identified to access to civil documentation.

Opportunities related to advancing the self-reliance agenda for refugees and host communities in the region include progressive refugee legal frameworks, initiatives that facilitate refugees' engagement in businesses and the participation of the private sector, and increased funding for country-based robust jobs and livelihoods response plans. Area-based approaches which holistically consider refugees, hosts, internally displaced persons (IDP) and returnees should be further explored. The inclusion of refugees in national statistical collection, household surveys, and vulnerability mapping are considered opportunities in implementing the GCR and contributing to the whole-of-government approach.

In conclusion, it was noted that several overarching elements were necessary for the successful roll out of the GCR and the CCRF approach, notably enabling legislation and policies as well as political will to take commitments forward. Joint initiatives between host and refugee communities and the engagement of the private sector are encouraged. Coordination is key, not only within government (among line ministries and at national to local levels) but also between all relevant stakeholders for the effective realization of the whole-of-government approach. The use data and evidence are key to the implementation of the GCR.

Fulfilling national commitments to further its duty of care to refugees, relative to existing national resource constraints of

governments in the East and Horn of Africa, will be dependent on further equitable responsibility-sharing by the international community. In this regard, new financing models of assistance, in addition to the engagement of new actors, should be prioritized. The upcoming Global Refugee Forum (GRF) is an opportunity to further strengthen responsibility-sharing in the spirit of the GCR, which was called for by all participating governments.

1. INTRODUCTION

'Delivering the Global Compact on Refugees: Local approaches to Inclusion', a regional government-to-government Conference which brought together States and stakeholders from the Horn and East Africa, was held from 31 October – 1 November in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Conference aimed to foster cross-national sharing of experiences and identifying forward-looking opportunities to achieve the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, with a focus on local approaches to the inclusion of refugees within their host communities. The Global Compact on Refugees is considered a game changer in the collective approach to refugee protection and assistance, with the international community committed to supporting this transformation in the spirit of solidarity and burden sharing.

As we approach the one-year anniversary of the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, and two years since the launch of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), it was an apt moment to take stock of the change processes underway within national refugee responses and to provide a platform for government-to-government experience sharing.

The Conference was organized under the patronage of the Ministry of Peace (MoP) of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE), in partnership with the Royal Danish Government and the UN Refugee Agency – UNHCR. The outcomes of the Conference seek to support the preparation of States ahead of the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) to be held on 17-18 December 2019; which will present a unique opportunity to define key areas of national investment and matching contributions in support of refugees and their host communities in the year ahead.

Six governments, namely, Djibouti, Ethiopia (which is one of the five co-convening countries at the GRF), Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda participated in the Conference. Participating delegations had broad-based participation from across government, including ministerial representation, together with sub-national government counterparts.

The Conference focused on three specific themes: (1) 'National services to support host communities and the inclusion of refugees.' Under this theme integration of refugees within the national education system and access to civil documentation were given due attention. (2) 'Advancing the self-reliance agenda for refugees and their host communities'. The two sub-themes focused on were economic rights in practice and TVET and employability. (3) 'Expanding the whole-of-government approach, ensuring local ownership and adequate financing to the Global Compact on Refugees'. The third theme focused on inclusion of refugees in national and local development plans, and coordination. The Conference provided an important opportunity for experience-sharing between participating governments to share their best practices but also challenges and lessons learned in the roll out of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), as well as to identify opportunities for the future.

2. OPENING SESSION

The Conference was graced by the presence of high-level representation from the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) who delivered keynote remarks during the opening session. H.E. Hussein Mar Niot, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management of South Sudan; H.E. Eweru Musa Francis, Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees of Uganda; H.E. Namuyangu Kacha Jenipher, Minister of State for Local Government of Uganda; H.E. Muferihat Kamil, Minister of Peace of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE); and H.E. Abdirashid Mohamud Hassan, Deputy Minister of Humanitarian and Disaster Management of the Federal Government of Somalia were among the ministerial delegations present on the Conference.

The two-day event was addressed by high-level speakers including, H.E. Muferihat Kammil, FDRE Minister of Peace, H.E. Stephan Schønemann, Under-Secretary for Development Policy of Denmark, and H.E. Clementine Nkweta-Salami, UNHCR Regional Director, Eastern Horn and the Great Lakes Region.

H.E. Muferihat welcomed the participants and said her government was “extremely pleased” to host the conference as an extension of Ethiopia’s long-standing and proud tradition of hosting refugees. Describing the conference as “the first major step towards the Global Refugee Forum”, she wished the participants fruitful deliberations and reaffirmed her government’s commitment to the socio-economic inclusion of refugees within Ethiopian communities.



**Muferihat Kammil, Minister of Peace of
the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

The Minister touched upon Ethiopia’s revised refugee law, which grants greater rights to refugees, and mentioned that refugees have already started enjoying some of the rights including registering their vital events, opening bank accounts and having SIM cards in their names. She appealed for increased international support and burden and responsibility sharing for her government to be able to implement the full range of rights which are in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. Muferihat thanked the Government of Denmark and UNHCR for their support and partnership in organizing the workshop.

H.E. Stephan Schønemann, Under-Secretary for Development Policy of Denmark, echoed the Minister of Peace in welcoming the delegates to the conference and wishing them success. Likewise, he thanked the Ministry of Peace and UNHCR for their partnership and cooperation in making the workshop a reality.



**Stephan Schønemann, Under-Secretary
for Development Policy of the Kingdom of Denmark**

His Excellency appreciated the countries of the Horn of Africa for their long-standing tradition of welcoming refugees, which he said was recently reinforced by their lead role in rolling out the CRRF, offering refugees access to public services and local livelihoods opportunities in ways that benefit the local host communities. He mentioned his country's long-standing support to programmes by several IGAD countries that benefit refugees and affected host communities, adding that his country Denmark is happy to note that "the Horn of Africa is developing into a role model for the CRRF process worldwide - by putting in place policies and structures that allow refugees to be contributors to local social and economic development". He described the political commitment towards the inclusion of refugees in local social and economic development across the entire region as "second to none" and said that his government is "strongly committed to continuing our support for this process".



**Clementine Nkweta-Salami,
UNHCR Regional Director,
Eastern Horn and the Great Lakes Region**

H.E. Clementine Nkweta-Salami, UNHCR Regional Director, Eastern Horn and the Great Lakes Region, joined the two dignitaries who spoke before her in welcoming participants to the conference and wishing them productive discussions. She thanked the governments of Ethiopia and Denmark for their commendable partnership with UNHCR in organizing the conference.

Her Excellency said the Conference was an important platform for the Governments of the region to share experiences on the operationalization of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the different approaches to the socio-economic

inclusion of refugees, adding that countries in the IGAD Region have valuable lessons to share with each other and the rest of the world.

The Regional Director said that the 2017 Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia had proven to be a landmark regional framework, which translated the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) into action. She expressed her belief that the important contribution of the Nairobi Declaration process to the transformation of the refugee response model in the region would be an important part of the deliberations of the conference.

The UNHCR Regional Director recognized the significant development challenges and resource constraints the countries of the Region faced and encouraged them to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the upcoming Global Refugee Forum where international solidarity, cooperation and responsibility sharing are high on the agenda.

Dignitaries who also spoke on the occasion on behalf of their respective organizations were Amira Elfadil Mohamed Elfadil, African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs, Vera Songwe, UN Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, and Kebede Kassa, Refugee Education Specialist of IGAD.

3. OUTCOMES OF THE CONFERENCE

Following the high-level opening session, participants of the Conference held discussions in three groups to deliberate on the three themes identified for the Conference: investing in national services to support host communities and the inclusion of refugees; advancing the self-reliance agenda for refugees and their host communities; and expanding the whole-of-government approach, ensuring local ownership and adequate financing to the Global Compact on Refugees.

In addition to government delegations, donor organizations, UN agencies, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) were invited to participate.

The first two sessions were dedicated to governments sharing their best practices on the two sub-themes identified under each topic and also gave other stakeholders an opportunity for Questions and Answers (Q&A). Governments also deliberated on challenges and lessons learned in the roll out of the CRRF agenda, as well as on opportunities for the future.

The major outcomes related to the best practices, challenges and lessons learned are outlined in the subsequent sections. The last section presents outcomes of the Conference related to forward-looking opportunities.

3.1 BEST PRACTICES

3.1.1 Best Practices: Investing in national services to support host communities and the inclusion of refugees

In relation to the theme of investing in national services to support host communities and the inclusion of refugees, two sub-themes were identified. The first related to integration of refugees within the national education system and the other on access to civil documentation. The best practices identified within each of these sub-themes are elaborated below.

Integration of refugees within the national education system

Participating governments mentioned that there has been progress towards a favourable legal environment in the integration of refugees within national education systems. Djibouti, for example, mentioned having in place an enabling framework through recent legal revisions. In addition, an MoU signed between the Government of Djibouti (GoD) and UNHCR in 2018 related to education of refugees was mentioned. Likewise, Uganda and Somalia reported on their open-door policy for refugees, which include focus on access and quality education at all levels.

Attempts of curriculum adaptation were mentioned as good practices. Uganda's experience in establishment of Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres and development of specific curriculum were cited as examples. South Sudan reported that refugees use the same curriculum and materials as nationals.

Another good practice was related to costed education response plans to facilitate the integration of refugee education programmes into the national programme, enabled through the IGAD Djibouti Declaration which has greatly fostered political commitment to achieve results. Through the process, Governments are able to learn from each other, facilitating buy-in on the integration agenda. Working through a regional body like IGAD plays a strong catalytic role and fosters accountability and regionally based solutions. Uganda shared its experience on costed plans and education sector plans including the new 2021-2025 sector plan. The Education Response Plan (ERP) for refugees and host communities is aligned with the national plan and vision 2040. In Sudan, refugees can join government schools, and in Ethiopia, 75% of the payment for refugee scholarships is covered by the Government. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) outlining sharing of responsibilities among relevant Ministries, i.e. Ministry of Education (MoE) and Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MoSHE), has further enabled inclusion. Similarly, Uganda reported progress in ensuring refugees' access to university, like nationals they can use a scheme where refugees are exempted from fees applicable to foreigners and thus paying the same fee as nationals to attend university. Djibouti introduced gradual integration of refugees in pre-school, primary, and secondary schools, aiming to attain full integration by 2025. It was noted that funding of the costed education plans remains an issue, but the upcoming GRF is considered an opportunity in this regard.

It was also reported that governments are increasingly engaging in the gradual inclusion of refugee education data into national systems. Djibouti, for example, reported on the Education Action plan (2017-2020), which focuses on access, teacher training and inclusion of education data into the national statistics system, as well as a national policy on professional training.

Regarding efforts around employment and training of teachers, Ethiopia, for example, reported harmonisation of payment packages. The country is using an area-based approach whereby eligible teachers are enrolled within host communities. Likewise, Uganda is taking steps towards harmonisation of packages, such as salaries. Somalia reported that Somali refugee teachers are trained to teach in Dadaab camp, and Djibouti reported that refugee teachers receive the same training as national teachers and that the country is working on the integration of teachers into the national civil service (receiving the same salary by 2025). The phased approach to integration also came out as a good practice, with gradual integration of aspects such as teacher training. In South Sudan, refugee teachers are trained with national teachers.

Access to civil documentation

Participating governments shared progress in creating a conducive legal framework for refugees to access civil documentation. For example, South Sudan maintained that the government follows an open door and no encampment policy for refugees. Ethiopia reported that it has been creating an increasingly favourable legal environment since the 2016 pledge to issue birth certificates to refugees born in Ethiopia, through amendment of the relevant proclamation. It was also noted that civil documentation is not mandatory for access to services and other rights in Ethiopia. Uganda's use of existing systems to provide civil documentation was mentioned as exemplary. Refugees are entitled to documentation and refugee ID cards which enables access to basic services (as well as for example opening bank accounts/access to SIM cards). Access to birth certificates and driving permits are also made possible. In Djibouti, birth certificates are issued for newly born babies of refugees, and marriage and death certificates too are issued. It was noted that the strong culture of civil documentation in Djibouti helped refugees get access to civil documentation. Refugees receive ID cards for 5 years and maintain freedom of movement, can open bank accounts and start their own business.

One-stop-shops in camps which provide vital statistics services is one of the good practices reported in terms of access to civil documentation to refugees. In Ethiopia, for example, one-stop-shops (OSS) are established in all refugee camps. The Comprehensive level 3 registration system is linked to the national immigration database for issuance of refugee IDs, which is another good practice in this area.

3.1.2 Best Practices: Advancing the self-reliance agenda for refugees and their host communities

Several important areas were identified that have contributed to enhanced economic inclusion and self-reliance of refugees and host communities in different country contexts. Two sub-themes were identified for discussions under this theme. One of them was on economic rights in practice and the second on Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) and employability. The best practices of participating governments on each of these sub-themes are presented below.

Economic rights in practice

One of the key good practices identified in relation to advancing the self-reliance agenda for refugees and their host communities relates to having in place progressive policies, laws and directives. Examples from Uganda, Djibouti, Ethiopia, and South Sudan demonstrate an enabling environment for economic inclusion of refugees through legal instruments. In Uganda, for example, it is reported that the existing Refugee Act has provided refugees with economic rights. Similarly, Ethiopia has made pledges and has enacted a new refugee proclamation which facilitates refugees' economic rights in practice. Making land available to refugees where they can settle and produce food for consumption and sell the surplus has boosted the economy of some refugee hosting areas in Uganda, for example. Redefining camps as villages, and establishment of common markets for refugees and nationals are further examples from Uganda and Djibouti which have had positive effects on local economies. Governments reported freedom of mobility for refugees and its contributions to enhancing the latter's economic rights. Djibouti and Uganda reported that refugees have rights to freely move and pursue economic opportunities where these are available.

Governments are also implementing inclusive programs. Economic inclusion interventions that deliberately target both refugees and nationals foster peaceful co-existence, and are implemented in Uganda, Ethiopia, and Somalia. Uganda, for example, reported that peaceful co-existence has been strengthened by livelihoods and economic inclusion programs

funded by development partners. Furthermore, inclusion of refugee data into national indicators and surveys was reported as a good practice contributing to enhanced inclusion programmes for refugees.

Governments also reported good practices in terms of private sector engagement in effective realization of refugees' economic rights. Ethiopia and Djibouti shared their experiences on providing tangible incentives that can encourage the private sector to engage. In Djibouti, for example, the government is working on establishing credit lines in banks to serve refugees and migrants that seek to open new companies. Furthermore, creating access to Information Communication Technologies (ICT) in refugee hosting areas was considered a successful enabler. Public private dialogues with the private sector in Ethiopia have been useful to allow the Government and the private sector to interface on refugee inclusion.

Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) and Employability

Skills development ensures refugees' ability to respond to labour market demand. The majority of refugee populations and hosts are youth and equipping these youth with education and skills that will enable them to access jobs and economic opportunities is critical. Many states in the region already have TVET policies, strategies and established national TVET institutions which can be leveraged for refugee inclusion. This needs to be supported by partners. Ethiopia's new refugee proclamation and the National Comprehensive Refugee Response Strategy (NCRRS) gives due attention to TVET. GIZ's Qualification and Employment Perspectives for Refugees and Host communities in Ethiopia (QEP) Programme, implemented in three regional states, works to include refugees into the national TVET system.

In Uganda, the Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI) Pilot is mentioned as a good practice, where refugee and host communities are put in groups and trained on extension services. Uganda reported a robust TVET project funded by EUTF and the efforts to integrate refugees into TVET trainings (refugees account for 70% of the trainees); many of these graduates have opened their own businesses.

The Settlement approach to installation, refugees' freedom of mobility, inclusive programs that facilitate economic inclusion and initiatives that deliberately target both refugees and nationals to foster peaceful co-existence have increased refugees' employability. Furthermore, Somalia's example regarding cross border initiatives demonstrates how employability can be approached from a regional perspective, especially targeting returnees. The experience of facilitating Voluntary Repatriation from Kenya to Somalia (specifically from Dadaab Refugee Camp) may be cited as an example where refugee skill sets and training programs were matched with available self and wage employment opportunities in the country of origin

3.1.3 Best Practices: Expanding the whole-of-government approach, ensuring local ownership and adequate financing to the Global Compact on Refugees

Governments also shared their good practices on expanding the whole-of-government approach, ensuring local ownership and adequate financing to the Global Compact on Refugees. The two sub-topics identified under this broader theme were inclusion of refugees in national/local development plans, and coordination at central and local levels. The good practices are discussed below under these two sub-themes.

Inclusion of Refugees in national/local development planning

The inclusion of refugees in national development plans is a good practice in several countries. Governments reported that having in place consultation processes for National Plans at district and national levels, as well as including refugees in national vision documents, led to integration in sector planning.

Somalia, for example, reported that the National Development Planning process for the National Development Plan (NDP) 9, which covers the period from 2020 to 2024, involved both IDPs and refugees. Refugee issues are mainstreamed throughout the principal pillars of the NDP, including in national strategies on health and education. Similarly, the Djibouti National Vision 2035 includes refugees. Djibouti also has in place a social protection framework led by the Ministry of Social Affairs, which includes refugees. Additionally, medical coverage will be extended for an eligible 12,500 refugees and asylum seekers, and refugees will be progressively included in the national health care program.

Uganda is recognized as the first country to include refugees into the national planning framework under the Settlement Transformative Agenda (STA) in the NDP 2. The Ugandan Minister of Local Government who attended the discussion noted that structures are in place from the centre to local government, noting that the CRRF Steering Group which is in place nationally is comprised of district chairpersons, county officers, and refugee representatives who are involved in all planning matters. The Refugee response plan in Uganda has been developed with a whole of government approach. This response plan is cascading down to sector ministries in a consultative process to mitigate service delivery gaps in Education, Health, Water and Environment, Jobs and Livelihoods. The country remains committed to continue inclusion of refugees in its forthcoming National Development Plan III 2021/22 -2025/26, sector development plans, and inclusion of refugees into the national statistical system. Five-year district development plans were in the process of being formulated. While planning is based on a bottom up approach to ensure ownership at the local levels, national planning authorities provide guidelines to ensure harmonization.

The importance of data and information was highlighted. In Uganda, for example, it was reported that as part of the research agenda several issue papers, which have provided disaggregated numbers, have been developed. A household survey has also been used as a critical tool for planning and inclusion, providing the necessary detail. The study has enabled comparable statistics between refugees and hosts and showing gaps in terms of service delivery. Uganda will further strengthen this work through additional pledges at the GRF to continue inclusion of refugee issues in its national planning framework, the National Development Plan III 2021/22 -2025/26, sector development plans, as well as inclusion of refugees in the national statistical system.

In terms of financial tracking, the development and use of a financial tracking tool to manage off-budget resources were mentioned as good practices to ensure inclusion in planning. In Uganda, the OPM has in place an online monitoring and reporting tool for partners.

Coordination at central and local levels

Governments reported on coordination from central to local levels. In Uganda, the Government is taking the lead in establishing and running a Steering Group (SG) - a multi-disciplinary decision-making body comprising 36 members, 58% of whom represent government. The SG is co-chaired by the Hon. Minister for Disaster and Refugees and Hon. Minister of Local Government and meets on a quarterly basis to make decisions. Sitzings of the SG are rotated in the Refugee Hosting

Districts with field reviews in advance to inform decisions in the meetings.

Further, the SG in Uganda has developed and adopted three sector specific Response plans; on Education, Health and Water and Environment, with additional sector initiatives under development. It has also devised tools for analysing the extent of service delivery gaps, mapping of existing interventions, for resource mobilization, and for alignment of actors such as local governments in the refugee response. The establishment of the Refugee Engagement Forum (REF), an electoral college for Refugee representatives, is a Platform for refugee voices in the SG. Uganda highlighted the importance of accountability mechanisms, and recognized the value added of close engagements with local governments due to their central role in implementation of the response. Central and local governments have distinct separate roles working in parallel. A national CRRF communication strategy was adopted in April 2019 to coordinate messages that define the refugee response, improve on the channels of information sharing, and define the approach to information dissemination about refugee response.

In Somalia, a Durable Solutions Unit under the Ministry of Planning works to build mechanisms for coordination at national and local levels. 14 government institutions are involved, including several line ministries. The Wadajir Forum led by Ministry of Interior and comprising 5 federal member states and one regional administration is responsible for refugees and IDPs related to reconciliation, trust, infrastructure, and capacity building. The Forum employs multi-stakeholder approach with a focus on social healing, peace dividends, civic dialogue, local governance, including displaced – and demonstrates a good approach to social cohesion in the displacement context. Somalia has in place a comprehensive approach to planning where IDPs, refugees and returnees are similarly incorporated into national and local plans, and coordination structures were aligned to this. Countries also shared good practices in coordination with other relevant stakeholders including the private sector. The Private sector engagement strategy in Uganda, for example, is used as a coordination and lobby tool for private sector to invest in Refugee Hosting Districts.

3.2 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

3.2.1 Challenges and lessons: Investing in national services to support host communities and the inclusion of refugees

Participating governments identified low enrolment rates and high dropout rates as key challenges of integration of refugees within the national education system, and a need to further invest in education for both hosts and refugees to prevent this. In Djibouti, for example, refugees' enrolment rate stands at only 42.3% and Somalia only 32%. Other challenges hampering integration of refugees within the national education system include the language barrier, lack of recognition of qualification and certification, inadequate infrastructure and limited number of teachers especially during times of high influx of refugees resulting in congestion of classrooms, and lack of capacity to support children with special needs. Ethiopia, for example, reported that a double shift system is used because of lack of classrooms and teachers. The challenges are further exacerbated by lack of multi-year, predictable and sustainable funding and limited coordination among relevant stakeholders.

Challenges related to ensuring access to civil documentation for refugees include inadequate harmonization of national civil registration systems, backlog of birth registration for refugees and host communities, limited funding, and limited awareness of refugee documentation by other stakeholders such as banks and the private sector.

One of the lessons identified is the need for strengthening coordination structures and capacity building of national authorities. There is also a need for putting in place a system of cross-boundary skills recognition. Multi-year, predictable and sustainable funding (both from national governments and donors) is key for a quality response. The international community's reassurance related to burden-sharing is required.

3.2.2 Challenges and lessons: Advancing the self-reliance agenda for refugees and their host communities

Challenges hampering the advancement of the self-reliance agenda for refugees and their host communities were shared by governments. Despite the good practices of governments allowing freedom of movement for refugees, there were instances where security concerns have made it difficult for refugees to freely move. Land tenure issues can be challenging for Governments in some countries where refugees are provided with land. Environmental degradations and lack of fuel wood for cooking are also among factors that make refugees' circumstances difficult. In addition, the remoteness of most refugee areas and the resulting isolation with poor infrastructure have made it difficult for refugees to effectively engage in economic activities.

Some of the challenges were related to inadequate coordination among relevant stakeholders. It was noted that some organizations involved in the humanitarian response do not work effectively with existing local government structures. Poor coordination and alignment of humanitarian and development responses to national policies is also believed to hinder advancement of the self-reliance agenda in some respects. Poor coordination was also said to negatively affect the quality of relevant data collected. Due to different methodologies of data collection and poor coordination, there is an inconsistency of data and information between organizations. Other challenges are related to the lack of communication and trust. It was mentioned that many organizations do not share information on their planned financial budgets leading to weak financial tracking.

Resource limitations have made it difficult to properly advance the self-reliance agenda. It is reported that funding for refugee response is decreasing despite the increase in refugee influx, thus posing a challenge to sustainability of refugee responses. What is more, financing is often short term (annual) and not multi-year resulting in refugee responses not being effective nor sustainable.

As part of the lesson to advance the self-reliance agenda for refugees and host communities, it was suggested that humanitarian food aid should be sourced locally in countries where food is produced in surplus rather than being imported by partners.

Deliberate commitment by Governments to strengthen national systems and policies to ensure refugee inclusion was highlighted. It was also felt that there is a need to sensitize the private sector so that they can engage in economic activities that will include refugees. Another lesson around private sector engagement was the importance of conducting analytics of markets in refugee hosting areas to generate information that can influence the private sector to invest. Since the private sector (especially financial institutions) often deem refugees as a risky population to invest in, the need for exploring de-risking mechanisms especially when refugees seek financial services was underscored.

3.2.3 Challenges and lessons: Expanding the whole-of-government approach, ensuring local ownership and adequate financing to the Global Compact on Refugees

According to findings from the discussion, one of the challenges hindering the whole-of-government approach and coordination was related to alignment of development partners to national/ local development plans. A related challenge was the difficulty to have an overview of off-budget resources and uncoordinated follow up and monitoring. These indicated the need for government led planning, mapping of interventions, and carrying out joint assessments with a broader range of partners in order to improve the effectiveness of responses (and having Standard Operating Procedures in place for such processes). A key challenge was also to ensure additionality of resources, including new forms of financing, new actors, and getting on board a broader range of donors, such as the private sector. In sum, there was a need for better financing, the right type, provided at the right time and within the right timeframe.

Another challenge was related to lack of clarity in mandates between line ministries and mandated refugee institutions (resistance of national institutions to change). There was a need for sensitization among decision-makers. It was considered important to use inter-ministerial/centrally located government institutions to coordinate (e.g. OPM, MoF). A focus on capacity development was crucial in this context, but governments and partners were encouraged to seek approaches beyond training to more long-term approaches and institution building. When it came to local levels, coordination mechanisms were also important, but it was noted that this had cost implications. Furthermore, awareness raising was important across government and among the population by using existing civic engagement mechanisms and radios. Peacebuilding initiatives had to be carried out at sub-regional as well as national levels.

3.3 OPPORTUNITIES

Conference participants' deliberations also involved identification of opportunities for effective roll out of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) agenda under each of the three themes, which included looking forward towards the Global Refugee Forum.

Opportunities for integration of refugees within the national education system include costed plans with adequate funding, coordination structures (national-local-donor community), and regional systems for recognition of qualification and certification. Another opportunity is related to harmonization of packages (salary/training) for refugee teachers. Anticipated increased development funding pledges at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), is hoped to bring more responsibility-sharing. Existence of permissive legal framework for refugees, one-stop-shops which provide vital statistics services in camps, the data provided through comprehensive level 3 registration systems, and increased coordination between line ministries were identified as conducive opportunities for access to civil documentation.

Opportunities to advance the self - reliance agenda for refugees and their host communities were identified by conference participants. Based on experiences in Djibouti, for example, the 'smart village' concept - where economic opportunities are identified and strengthened to reduce refugee dependence on humanitarian assistance- was highlighted. The One-stop-shop concept for refugee documentation where all processes are centralized is an opportunity that enables refugees to more easily start up businesses. Having in place coordination units at the Office of the Prime Minister at Federal State level, such as in Uganda and Somalia, supports effective coordination. The private sector can be leveraged to engage with

refugees. In Uganda, putting the Global Compact into practice through, for example, costed plans in the education sector and the development and funding of robust Jobs and livelihoods response plans that will provide economic opportunities are some of the opportunities identified to advance the self-reliance agenda. South Sudan's investments in improving conditions for returnees to their country of origin can support durable solutions. Ethiopia's progressive laws, policies and directives and inclusion of refugees in the country's development agenda (GTP III) are identified as opportunities.

In terms of expanding the whole-of-government approach, one of the opportunities identified is the area-based approach which can also holistically consider hosts, refugees, IDPs and returnees where relevant. Focus on host communities, which enables consideration of refugees in larger response frameworks which also encompass youth and the most vulnerable, urban/rural poor is recognized as an opportunity. There is growing emphasis on refugees being part of national statistical collection, household surveys, and vulnerability mappings. Adaptation of humanitarian responses and expansion of existing successful projects/ programmes are believed to further facilitate the whole-of-government approach. Opportunities around expanding existing initiatives to factor in refugees and hosts in traditional development approaches into national systems and services, such as having refugee windows in development programmes, was also recognized. This could include looking at projects that address climate change and environmental issues.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The two days conference provided participating governments the opportunity to share their respective good practices but also challenges and lessons learned, and opportunities for the future. Despite challenges, there is encouraging progress in relation to investing in national services to support host communities and the inclusion of refugees, advancement of the self-reliance agenda for refugees and their host communities and expanding the whole-of-government approach as a result of creating conducive conditions including through favourable legal frameworks and interventions. The Conference also helped identify some concrete opportunities for the future in the roll out of the CRRF agenda.

Some of the key messages from the high-level statements of participating governments are summarized below.



Abdoukader Daher Ainan, CRRF Officer, L'Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugié et Sinistré (ONARS), Djibouti

Abdoukader Daher Ainan, CRRF Officer, L'Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugié et Sinistré (ONARS), gave a closing statement on behalf of his government. He mentioned that the participation of a strong delegation of ten different ministries was indicative of how Djibouti is committed to effectively roll out of the CRRF agenda. He noted that consultations have

taken place for GRF with several ministries and commitments will be soon validated. He affirmed Djibouti's open heart for refugees and expressed his government's desire to be CRRF champions. He also expressed his thanks to participating governments. "We came to share our experiences, we have learnt good practices from brother countries, we will go back with a lot of baggage," he said



Khadar SH Mohamed Nur, Director of Disaster Risk Management of Ministry of Humanitarian and Disaster Management of Federal Government of Somalia

Khadar SH Mohamed Nur, Director of Disaster Risk Management of Ministry of Humanitarian and Disaster Management of Federal Government of Somalia, recounted his personal story as a refugee, and noted that many people in the Somali government have had the same experience. He affirmed Somalia's commitment to effective implementation of the CRRF agenda.



Hussein Mar Niot, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management of South Sudan

Hussein Mar Niot, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management of South Sudan, noted that the majority of South Sudanese were at some point refugees. He expressed his regrets that South Sudan was still contributing to refugee populations in the region and extended his thanks to neighbouring countries for harbouring and taking care of South Sudanese refugees. He mentioned that even though South Sudan is not a CRRF country, the country is already doing CRRF activities and expressed his hope that South Sudan will be recognized as a CRRF country soon. He appreciated the experience sharing from other governments in the region during the Conference. "This is important for us; we are going home equipped," he said.



Mohamed Yasin, Acting Commissioner for Refugees of Sudan

Mohamed Yasin, Acting Commissioner for Refugees of Sudan, expressed his thanks to the hosting government and participating States. He said that Sudan had not joined the CRRF, but the country was using the same approach in its handling of refugee issues. “Our presence here has increased our knowledge and experience,” he affirmed.



Ecweru Musa Francis, Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees of Uganda

Ecweru Musa, Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees of Uganda, said, “We have built a community of friends in the sub-region and built the momentum for the region to go to the GRF more united with synchronized positions.” He added that Uganda will join the rest of Africa to go to Geneva to share unique experiences of hosting refugees and show promising models. He noted that Uganda is one of the first countries to pilot the CRRF and move away from an emphasis on humanitarian work only. He urged fellow governments and partners to look at reasons of displacement on the continent and address them, moving together towards a day when the region will be discussing the return of refugees rather than reception or new caseloads.

4.1 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the discussions and outcomes of the conference, the following key conclusions and recommendations were made by the participants.

Enabling Environment

- Experience sharing among government stakeholders, particularly practitioners, is encouraged. Exchange visits should be supported across the region.
- Governments should continue the conversations from the Conference to advance discussions in their respective countries as they prepare for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and consider making new commitments at the forum to include refugees in national and local plans. Principally, it is important to outline what is expected of Governments, Donors, and other actors.
- Legislation and policies that create an enabling environment are crucial for the self-reliance and service inclusion agendas, as is political will to take commitments forward. Operationalizing effective legal and policy frameworks is equally important.
- There should be a deliberate commitment by Governments to strengthen national systems and policies to ensure refugees are included. Joint initiatives between host and refugee communities and the engagement of the private sector whenever situations allow should be pursued. The financial inclusion of refugees is important in this context.
- There is a need to sensitize the private sector so that they can engage in economic activities that include refugees, including the provision of foundational information and studies required for such engagement.
- Conducting an analysis of markets in refugee hosting areas is important to generate information that can influence the private sector to invest.

Whole of Society approaches

- The implementation of the GCR is a multi-stakeholder endeavour, which requires equitable responsibility-sharing by the international community.
- Governments must be in the driving seat, a principle which is clearly articulated in the GCR. External actors, donors, civil society and others must support governments in that position.
- Coordination, not only within government (among line ministries and from the national to the local level) but also between relevant stakeholders, is key to effectively realize the whole-of-government approach.



- The distinct roles of central and local governments should be recognized in the CRRF agenda. Local governments should be supported to play their role in implementation.
- Comprehensive planning, within the context of national and local development plans, is key. District and sector response plans are important tools to implement a comprehensive response. Data and research should be better developed to support this, included within national data collection systems. Development and humanitarian partners must in all cases align to government frameworks, and to national and local development plans.
- Effective communication and awareness raising around refugee issues is crucial at local and national levels, highlighting the benefit of the CRRF to host communities and national systems.
- Increased support to local NGOs that work closely with refugees and host communities should be considered.
- Financing to the GCR agenda should be up-scaled, including the establishment of funding modalities that provide flexible financing over a multi-year timeframe, together with the engagement of new actors.
- Data and evidence are key in implementing the GCR; the inclusion of refugees in national statistical data bases and surveys is an opportunity to strengthen effective planning and response.



ANNEX 1: Conference Agenda

AGENDA

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT
CONFERENCE,
DELIVERING THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEE:
LOCAL APPROACHES TO INCLUSION

Day 1 – October 31, 2019

Welcome

Notes

08.30 am - 09.00 am	Registration	■ Entrance Lobby
09.00 am - 09.10 am	Invited guests take their seats	■
09.10 am – 09.20 am	Opening and Welcome by Conference Master of Ceremonies. Overview of Agenda	■ Room TBC
		■ Plenary

High Level Opening Statements

Notes

09.20 am – 09.30 am	H.E. Muferihat Kamil, Minister of Peace of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE)	■ Plenary
09.30 am – 09.40 am	H.E. Clementine Nkweta-Salami, UNHCR Regional Director of the Eastern Horn and the Great Lakes Region	■
09.40 am – 09.50 am	H.E. Stephan Schønemann, Under-Secretary for Development Policy of Denmark	■
09.50 am – 10.00 am	H.E. Fathia Alwan, Director of Health and Social Development, IGAD	■
10.00 am – 10.10 am	H.E. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	■
10.10 am – 10.20 am	H.E. Amira Elfadil Mohamed, African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs	■
10.20 am – 10.30 am	H.E. Sahle-work Zewde, President of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE)	■
10.30 am – 10.50 am	Coffee Break	■

Outline of themes, presentations and break out session logistics

Notes

10.50 am – 11.00 am		■ Plenary
	Theme 1: <i>Investing in national services to support host communities and the inclusion of refugees</i>	■
	Moderators: Nicolaj Heiberg, Ambassador of Denmark to Uganda and Enock Mambili, Snr. Education Officer, UNHCR. Rapporteur: Celine Mersch, Snr. CRRF Officer, UNHCR	■
	Theme 2: <i>Advancing the self-reliance agenda for refugees and their host communities</i>	■
	Moderators: Yonatan Araya, Snr. Policy Adviser, UNHCR and Godfrey Kaima, Head of CRRF Secretariat, Uganda. Rapporteur: Carolyn Ndawula, Snr. Solutions and Development Officer, UNHCR	■
	Theme 3: <i>Expanding the whole-of-government approach, ensuring local ownership and adequate financing to the Global Compact on Refugees</i>	■
	Moderators: Annabel Mwangi, Snr. Policy Advisor, UNHCR and Catherine Osborn, Policy and Coordination Specialist, ReDSS. Rapporteur: Katarina Herneryd-Yahya, Snr. Development Officer, UNHCR.	■

Sub-Themes		Notes
11.00 am – 12.30 pm	<p>Sub-Theme 1.1: <i>Integration of refugees within the national education system</i> Opening presentations: Somalia and Uganda</p> <p>Sub-Theme 2.1: <i>Economic rights in practice</i> Opening presentations: Ethiopia and Uganda</p> <p>Sub-Theme 3.1: <i>Inclusion of refugees in national/local development planning</i> Opening presentations: Kenya and Djibouti</p>	3x Groups, Regional States
12.30 pm – 1.30 pm	<hr style="border: 1px solid orange; width: 30%; display: inline-block; margin-right: 10px;"/> Lunch <hr style="border: 1px solid orange; width: 30%; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;"/>	
1.30 pm – 3.00 pm	<p>Sub-Theme 1.2: <i>Access to civil documentation</i> Opening presentations: Kenya and Ethiopia</p> <p>Sub-Theme 2.2: <i>TVET and employability</i> Opening presentations: Ethiopia and Djibouti</p> <p>Sub-Theme 3.2: <i>Coordination at central and local levels</i> Opening presentations: Uganda and Somalia</p>	3x Groups, Regional States
3.00 pm – 3.20 pm	<hr style="border: 1px solid orange; width: 30%; display: inline-block; margin-right: 10px;"/> Coffee Break <hr style="border: 1px solid orange; width: 30%; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;"/>	
3.20 pm – 4.30 pm	<p>Theme 1: <i>Q&A session with Donor Governments, UN agencies, NGOs and academia.</i></p> <p>Theme 2: <i>Q&A session with Donor Governments, UN agencies, NGOs and academia.</i></p> <p>Theme 3: <i>Q&A session with Donor Governments, UN agencies, NGOs and academia.</i></p>	3x Groups
4.30 pm – 6.00 pm	<p>Market Place – Stakeholders from regional non-governmental organizations showcasing innovations and best-practices.</p>	Entrance Lobby
6.00 pm – 7.30 pm	<p>Reception hosted by the Government of Ethiopia. Musical performance by Betty G, UNHCR High Profile Supporter.</p>	Room TBC

Day 2 – November 1, 2019

		Notes
08.30 am – 08.45 am	Theme 1: <i>Summary of Day 1</i> Theme 2: <i>Summary of Day 1</i> Theme 3: <i>Summary of Day 1</i>	Rapporteurs
08.45 am – 10.45 am	Theme 1: <i>Consultations on challenges and lessons learned</i> Theme 2: <i>Consultations on challenges and lessons learned</i> Theme 3: <i>Consultations on challenges and lessons learned</i>	3x Groups, Regional States
10.45 am – 11.00 am	Coffee Break	
11.00 am – 12.00 pm	Theme 1: <i>All stakeholder consultation on opportunities</i> Theme 2: <i>All stakeholder consultation on opportunities</i> Theme 3: <i>All stakeholder consultation on opportunities</i>	3x Groups
12.00 pm – 1.15 pm	Lunch	
1.15 pm – 1.45 pm	Theme 1: <i>Presentation of Government-to-Government consultation outcomes – followed by Q&A</i>	Plenary
1.45 pm – 2.15 pm	Theme 2: <i>Presentation of Government-to-Government consultation outcomes – followed by Q&A</i>	
2.15 pm – 2.45 pm	Theme 3: <i>Presentation of Government-to-Government consultation outcomes – followed by Q&A</i>	
2.45 pm – 3.10 pm	Coffee Break	
3.10 pm – 3.25 pm	Presentation on Global Refugee Forum—A platform for commitments, Annabel Mwangi, Snr. Policy Adviser, UNHCR	Plenary
High Level Closing Statements		Notes
3.25 pm – 3.35 pm	H.E. Muferihat Kamil, Minister of Peace of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE)	Plenary
3.35 pm – 3.45 pm	H.E. Ann Encontre, UNHCR Representative in Ethiopia	
3.45 pm – 4.25 pm	Statements by participating Regional States	
4.25 pm – 4.30 pm	Conference Closing by Master of Ceremonies. Official Photo	Regional States

ANNEX 2: Opening remarks by Muferihat Kammil, Ministry of Peace (MoP) of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Excellency Amira Elfadil Mohamed, African Union Commission Commissioner for Social Affairs.

Excellency Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

Excellency Stephan Schønemann, Under-Secretary for Development Policy of Denmark.

Excellency Clementine Nkweta-Salami, UNHCR Regional Director of the Eastern Horn and the Great Lakes Region
Excellencies Heads of Government Delegations from our neighbouring countries

Excellencies Heads of Delegations from IGAD.

Excellency Ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished guests, Dear participants
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Federal Government and the People of Ethiopia and my Ministry, I would like to welcome you all to Addis Ababa, the diplomatic capital of Africa. We are also extremely pleased to host this conference as an extension of Ethiopia's long-standing and proud tradition of hosting refugees, spanning over centuries. I must emphasize that this is indeed a very timely and important conference, which brings together representatives from the wider regions for a constructive discussion on 'local level inclusion of refugees'.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all that Ethiopia is currently going through a very significant transformation, in virtually all areas of our social, economic, and political lives. We believe the most important driver of this process is the stellar commitment of the leadership to expand the political space and deepen the democratization of the state. The issue of providing more and sustainable support to help refugees integrate into our society and economy has been a central focus in our legislative agenda. As such, we are excited that parliament passed this year a bill aimed at providing strong opportunities and protections for refugees sheltered among our host communities in all corners of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is host to the second largest refugee population in Africa, sheltering nearly one million registered refugees and asylum seekers. Despite funding challenges, we have continued hosting refugees. We believe this commitment of according unreserved welcome to refugees and other people in distress will receive an important momentum as we begin putting on the ground the generous refugee law enacted by Parliament.

Above all, it is a practical demonstration of the people of Ethiopia's open heart and commitment towards refugees. The process of embracing our sisters and brothers from different parts of the world and particularly from the neighbouring countries and the implementation of the laws would not have been possible except without the hospitable spirit deep-rooted in the Ethiopian culture. We are grateful and proud of our people. And My Ministry is immensely honoured to be part of the

executive branch that aims to uphold and nurture the rich social capital of our society.

The new refugee law is expected to guarantee a wide-range of rights that enable refugees not just survive but also thrive together with communities hosting them. These rights include work permits, access to primary education, drivers' licenses, legal registration of life events such as births and marriages and access to national financial services.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am also happy to report that refugees have already started to enjoy some of these rights, including registering their vital events, opening bank accounts and having SIM cards in their names. While you can all count on our commitment, as exemplified in our initial gains from the early implementation of this law, the task ahead is huge, and we obviously cannot do it alone. Nor should we leave the burden to our traditional partners such as the UNHCR – without whose contribution our efforts to help refugees would simply be extremely difficult.


Many of us have committed strongly to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework enclosed in the Global Compact on Refugees. And we all understand the scale of challenges that are associated with implementing of this commitment. Despite these challenges, it is my strong belief that the framework will serve as a foundation for a global consensus that supporting refugees means contributing more than financial assistance. That it is also about leading by example in terms of putting a firm political will at the centre of the negotiations and activities.

Equitable responsibility-sharing and partnerships remain key to the success of the Global Compact on Refugees through ensuring that both refugees and communities hosting them receive the support they need. In the months and years to come, we expect to bring together the full range of national and international partners and donors to strengthen us and build our capacity. Such a collaborative support will improve our potential to deliver on comprehensive responses with a longer-term vision of including refugees in national systems.

This Conference is unfolding in the spirit of partnership, solidarity and cooperation. It has materialized as a product of a solid partnership between the Government of Ethiopia, through my Ministry, the Danish Embassy in Addis Ababa, and the UN refugee agency UNHCR. Its most important objective is to encourage more effective partnerships and sharing of knowledge, encourage participant engagement in discussions on forward-looking solutions.

We are happy to be joined here by our brothers and sisters in the IGAD region in this important assessment exercise, which helps us to learn from one their experiences but also informs our national level preparations for the December Global Refugee Forum.

Among the many participants present, there are invaluable lessons on how an effective integration of refugees takes place at the local levels all over the region. While it is certainly important that crucial political steps are taken to ensure a favourable environment for Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), it is undeniably that the most critical setting that determines the outcome of integration takes place is local community level. And it is also the goal of this conference to bring these good examples of local practice to the fore-front, which I hope will serve as further inspirations in a more global context.



Ethiopia is one of the five co-conveners of the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva in December. We are happy to take this first major step today towards the Global Refugee Forum and hope to see a lively discussion on best practices and opportunities for inclusive refugee response approaches and measures in the region. It is also our hope as co-conveners of the global refugee forum that all participants will leave this conference feeling more prepared and ready to put together best practices as well as agree on clear and actionable pledges.

I encourage you to have candid discussions on each of the three key themes and come up with an outcome document which will help strengthen our capacity as a region to implement the Global Compact on Refugees.

Please allow me to extend my gratitude to the Government of the Royal Danish Government, the UNHCR and other partners for helping on making this conference a reality and for their sustained support to the refugee cause.

I wish you all fruitful discussions.

Thank you!

ANNEX 3: Opening remarks by Clementine Nkweta-Salami, UNHCR Regional Director of the Eastern Horn and the Great Lakes Region

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to join Her Excellency, Muferihat Kammil, Minister of Peace of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in welcoming you to this Regional Conference on “Delivering the Global Compact on Refugees: Local Approaches to Inclusion”, which Ethiopia is co-organizing with the Danish Embassy and UNHCR as part of its co-convenor role in the upcoming Global Refugee Forum.

As you will all agree with me, it is a historic time to be in Ethiopia today. Earlier this month, the Nobel Committee awarded the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, adding to the country’s growing international praise and recognition. I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and the people and government of Ethiopia on winning the world’s highest prize.

The award comes on the heels of commendable political reforms over the past year and half, as well as the adoption of a historic refugee law, allowing refugees to obtain work permits and business licenses, obtain drivers’ licenses, legally register vital events such as births and marriages, and open up access to national financial services, among others. This is all part of Ethiopia’s commendable commitment to move away from refugee camps as the primary mode of refugee assistance, towards promoting their socio-economic inclusion, becoming dignified contributors to the economic development of Ethiopia.

This commitment builds on Ethiopia’s long and proud history of welcoming and hosting refugees from across the region and is in line with Government’s commitment to the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees. At the heart of this innovative new compact is a more comprehensive response to displacement in which refugees are included in national services like health and education, rather than being served by inefficient, humanitarian-driven parallel service systems. It also focuses on ensuring refugees have the opportunity to be self-reliant and can contribute to local economies in a way that also brings substantial developmental benefits for their hosts by supporting national and local development agendas.

In recognition of its longstanding generosity to refugees, its progressive refugee law as well as commendable work in the implementation of the CRRF/GCR, the High Commissioner has invited Ethiopia to be a co-convenor of the first ever Global Refugee Forum, together with Costa Rica, Germany, Pakistan and Turkey. It will take place in Switzerland, Geneva, on 17 -18 December 2019 and will provide a platform for experience sharing on the implementation of the GCR and to generate impactful commitments and other pledges towards making tangible, long-term policy and practice shifts to improve the lives of refugees and host communities worldwide.

As the Global Refugee Forum is about a month and half away, it is an apt moment to take stock of the change processes underway within national refugee responses and to provide a platform for government-to-government experience sharing-hence this Regional Conference.

The IGAD Sub-Region is one of the most important regions in Africa, sheltering over 5 million refugees and where three of the top-ten refugee-hosting nations in the world are located. And regarding formalised 'Support Platforms' for the GRF – the IGAD region will be one of only three such platforms globally. Many of the countries represented here have been actively involved in the practical application of the CRRF/GCR from the very beginning. The IGAD Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action which the Heads of States of IGAD countries adopted in March 2017, provides an unprecedented opportunity for the Somalia situation to be addressed in a comprehensive way. In December 2017, IGAD member states (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda), held a historical refugee education conference that culminated in the 'Djibouti Declaration' and Action Plan whereby Member States committed to include refugee children into their national education systems by 2020. To achieve this ambitious target, IGAD member states embarked on the development of multi-year Education Costed Plans that cover education needs for both refugees and host communities. There have also been subsequent IGAD declarations on health, and jobs and livelihoods.

Individually, countries such as Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda have been taking a number of measures that laid the foundation for the operationalization of the CRRF/GCR, including creating enabling legal environments and governance structures, expanding partnerships, defining short and longer-term priorities, as well as taking practical steps to include refugees in national systems.

I believe this region has a lot of best practices to showcase to the world at the GRF and urge all of you here to productively use this platform to share cross-national best practices and identify forward-looking opportunities to achieve the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, both regionally and in your individual countries. The outcome of this conference will make an important input for the GRF and the way forward.

Once again, I would like welcome you to this conference and wish you fruitful deliberations.

ANNEX 4: Opening remarks: Stephan Schönemann, Under-Secretary for Development Policy of Denmark

Excellences, ministers, distinguished guests and colleagues,

It is a great joy and privilege for me to be here today, not least because it is good to be back! Since I left the region four years ago, tremendous developments have taken place – not least in the response to refugees in all countries that are present here.

I am honoured and excited by standing here today. Honoured, because of the fantastic company I find myself in. I am truly impressed by the fact that the conference has attracted such a high number of dedicated and distinguished participants from governments and partners across the region. And I am excited because this conference is indeed the first of its kind – focused on sharing experience from implementation of the CRRF and on finding even better solutions.

For anyone who has followed the roll-out of the CRRF, it should come as no surprise that a conference like this is convened here in the Horn of Africa. For decades, you have kept your borders open to your brothers and sisters from neighbouring countries in need of safety and assistance. And increasingly, you have offered them access to public services and local livelihood opportunities in ways that also benefit local host communities.

Our joint belief in this approach to displacement is actually what brings us together here today. No less than five countries from the region – Uganda, Djibouti, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya – have decided to commit themselves to the implementation of the CRRF and its objective of local inclusion of refugees. This commitment was reinforced even further through the launch of IGAD's Nairobi Action Plan. And since then, progress has been impressive – even as seen from my distant vantage point in Copenhagen.

Denmark has for many years been financing programmes and activities in several IGAD countries – in support of both refugees and affected host communities. We have done so in recognition of the outstanding hospitality that has been demonstrated by all of you. We are therefore all the more happy that the Horn of Africa is developing into a role model for the CRRF process worldwide - by putting in place policies and structures that allow refugees to be contributors to local social and economic development. My government is strongly committed to continuing our support for this process. And that's why I am here today – to benefit from your experience, and to discuss how we collectively can progress even further. Together, we are delivering on the Global Compact on Refugees - as true partners.

In Uganda, Denmark has for decades worked with the central government, district local governments, UNHCR, civil society partners and the private sector in building inclusive approaches for refugees and local communities. We are proud to be supporting the rollout of the CRRF in Uganda and applaud the Ugandan government for the impressive political momentum it is showing. All of this is made possible by Uganda's strategic approach to creating and sustaining policy frameworks. It allows all interested development actors to contribute effectively through a whole-of-government approach that includes a growing number of line ministries and District Local Governments in policy work. The three costed sector response plans on Education, Health, and Water and Environment map out investments needed for inclusion of refugees into the national service delivery system. They are the entry points for development partners in Uganda to support the CRRF rollout and

globally the first of their kind. This is a major achievement and we applaud Uganda's policies – they are truly progressive.

In Somalia, forced displacement remains one of the most complex humanitarian and development challenges. Given the scale of these challenges, the commitment of the Federal Government is all the more commendable. I am especially encouraged by the newly formed Durable Solution Secretariat, which can help drive a 'whole of society and whole of government' approach to the benefit of both displaced people and local communities across the country. We have for years been supporting internally displaced along with refugees and host communities in neighbouring countries through our partners among UN agencies and NGOs. The majority of the displaced people in Somalia – both IDPs and refugee returnees – are youth and women living in informal sites in urban centres, often under very desperately difficult conditions. We look forward to continuing support for inclusive approaches in Somalia.

In Djibouti, the government has committed itself to provide refugees with the right to work, and this was quickly followed up by a new refugee proclamation. And Djibouti has also made impressive strides towards including refugees in the national education system. It is only fitting that IGAD's declaration on education of refugees is named after Djibouti.

In Kenya, we have been working with UN agencies as well as international and local civil society for the past 15 years in support of both refugees and host communities. We are happy to be part of a process that brings strong progress towards social and economic integration and viable alternatives to encampment. This started with the Kakuma Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme, which is based on collaborative partnerships between development and humanitarian partners under strong leadership by the local government with the support of UNHCR. And now, a similar approach is being rolled out in north-eastern Kenya, through the upcoming Garissa Integrated Socio-Economic Development plan that further underlines Kenya's commitment towards inclusive approaches in support of both refugees and host communities. From the side of Denmark, we will continue to support these processes as much as we can.

And in Ethiopia, we are staunch partners of the government in rolling out the nine pledges for inclusion of refugees and the subsequent, progressive refugee proclamation. We do so through working with both UNHCR, WFP and a range of civil society partners – in support of the ambitious vision that the Ethiopian government has put forward and is currently delivering on through the finalisation of the 10-year National Comprehensive Refugee Response Strategy. The commitment of Ethiopia is also clearly seen in the convening of this very conference – and in the co-convening role at the Global Refugee Forum later this year.

In short, the political commitment towards the inclusion of refugees in local social and economic development across the entire region is second to none – and in many cases development actors like ourselves see the potential for contributing within the framework of a sustained, long-term partnership! This deserves to be showcased at the upcoming Global Refugee Forum.

And that's why it is now an opportune moment to investigate how political commitments are translated into practical action on the ground. Ultimately, it is at the local level that experience is gained on how best to develop inclusive approaches and build social cohesion. We all have to learn from this experience when seeking to ensure that refugees will not only survive, but also thrive – to the benefit of themselves as well as their hosting communities.

And that is exactly why Denmark is so pleased to have taken part in organising this conference together with the Government of Ethiopia and UNHCR. All across the Horn of Africa, we see evidence of how long-term development engagements at the local level can help bridge the humanitarian-development nexus and play a crucial part in supporting the continued roll out of the CRRF. It demonstrates how political commitments can be transformed into tangible solutions on the ground. Much has been achieved already – but I have no doubt that this conference will lead to further progress through the sharing of lessons learned and through new partnerships and ideas being generated.

The usefulness of this conference is evident. New approaches are needed to give millions of displaced a chance of a more dignified life while also supporting host communities in meeting the challenges and opportunities that the presence of refugees entails. No country can undertake the immense challenge of refugee responses in isolation. The task requires partnerships as a basis for joint planning and action. We all have a collective responsibility to challenge our structures and systems to do more and do better in the search for comprehensive solutions.

This is a matter of relevance not only to the Horn of Africa – but to the world in general. In only six weeks, many of us will be meeting again in Geneva for the first ever Global Refugee Forum. The countries in the Horn of Africa are among the most progressive and advanced when it comes to inclusive approaches to managing displacement – and you have much to offer the rest of the world in terms of experience and know-how, in support of the continued roll-out the CRRF and the Global Refugee Compact. Denmark is proud to be partnering with you in this process as a solid contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees and I hope that we can showcase this together once we gather in Geneva on 16 – 18 December.

Finally, I just wish to extend my sincere appreciation to both UNHCR and the government of Ethiopia for joining hands with us in making this conference a reality. Being the first of its kind, the road towards this conference has been long – but also incredibly valuable. I wish all a productive and successful conference!

Thank you very much!

ANNEX 5: Moderators' Brief Bios

ANNABEL MWANGI

Annabel Mwangi is currently a Senior Policy Advisor with UNHCR's Global Refugee Forum Co-ordination Team in Geneva and is the team lead for engagement with States and development actors. Annabel has a DPhil. in Development Studies, with a focus on International Refugee Law, from the University of Oxford, and over 10 years' experience with UNHCR in the fields of protection, solutions, cluster co-ordination and policy development. She has worked in these capacities in Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Turkey and Yemen. She has also previously worked as a Policy Advisor to the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Working Group on Refugees and Migrants.

CATHERINE OSBORN

Catherine Osborn is currently the Regional Policy and Coordination Specialist for the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS), a coalition of 14 non-government organizations (NGOs). ReDSS is a coordination and information hub that acts as a catalyst to stimulate forward thinking and policy development on durable solutions for displacement in East and Horn of Africa Region. Catherine has over 15 years' experience in the international humanitarian and development sectors with a speciality in international refugee and humanitarian law and a focus on protection and policy coordination. She has worked in Kenya for the last three years and previously has worked in Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan, Palestine and Afghanistan with a variety of NGOs and UN agencies.

ENOCK MAMBILI

Enock Mambili is the Senior Education Officer based at the UNHCR Representation in Ethiopia. Before joining UNHCR Ethiopia, Mr Enock worked for the Norwegian Refugee Council as an Area Manager in West Nile, responding to refugee and host population in Uganda. Enock began working in NRC as an Education Project Manager in 2014 in South Sudan and Uganda before taking over as an Area Manager in 2015. Mr Mambili started his international career in education in 2009 as an Education Project Manager with World Vision International in Somalia before joining Save the Children International in South Sudan. Mr Mambili has over 15 years' experience working in development and emergencies. Mr Enock holds a master's degree in education planning and management.

GODFREY KAIMA

Godfrey holds a Masters degree in Business Administration, Post Graduate Diploma in Public Administration and Management and another in Demography. He is currently employed as Under Secretary in charge of Refugees and Disasters in the Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda and the Head of the CRRF Secretariat in Uganda. He has 21 years uninterrupted experience in the public sector at both local and central government levels. He possesses competences in local governance, planning and financial management, project planning and management, human resource management, policy management, engagement, networking and knowledge management, and secretariat functions.

YONATAN ARAYA

Yonatan Araya is a Senior Policy Advisor – GCR at the UNHCR Regional Bureau for East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes. Based in Nairobi, he advises UNHCR country operations in the region on the operationalization of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), including on strategic and operational partnerships with international financial institutions (IFIs) and multilateral development banks. Before joining UNHCR in 2015, Yonatan spent six years with the World Bank's Global Program on Forced Displacement supporting World Bank's efforts to address the development dimensions of forced displacement in its analytical, operational and partnership activities. Yonatan has two Master's degrees (LL.M from George Washington University in the US and MA in International Studies from the University of Birmingham in the U.K.) and a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) degree from Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He is admitted to practice law in New York State, USA.

NICOLAJ PETERSEN

Nicolaj Petersen is currently the Danish Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. From 2014-2018, Nicolaj served as Head of Department for Technical Quality Support in the Danish MFA since 2014. Before this position, he served as Deputy Head of Department for Africa, a position he assumed after serving as Danish Senior Civilian Representative in Southern Afghanistan/ Director for Strategy, Plans & Transition in the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team. Nicolaj was previously Deputy Head of Department for Corporate Affairs in the Danish MFA. He held a number of positions within the Danish MFA including as Chief of Staff to the FM's Climate Representative responsible for organizing the COP15 Summit in Copenhagen in December 2009. Nicolaj served as Private Secretary to the Danish FM from 2007-2008, and European Correspondent/Foreign Policy Committee Secretary, heading the Staff serving the Ministry's Political Director. From 2003-2006, he was First Secretary at the Danish Embassy in London. Nicolaj began his career in the Ministry at the beginning of 1999, responsible for Danish development assistance to West Africa. He holds a master's degree in Political Science/ International Relations from Copenhagen University.