

East African Regional Dialogue on **Migration** and **Development** in **Cities**

SUMMARY REPORT

ENTEBBE, UGANDA

22nd October and 23rd October, 2019



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Summary Report

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United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United National Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) organized the East African Regional Dialogue on Migration and Development in Cities in Entebbe, Uganda.



Group photo with dialogue participants. © UN-Habitat

Overview

UN-Habitat, along with UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) in cooperation with IOM (International Organization for Migration) organized the East African Regional Dialogue on Migration and Development in Cities on the 22nd and 23rd October in Entebbe, Uganda. The two-day Dialogue brought together national and local government authorities from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, as well as representatives of civil society, private sector, international organizations and development partners to exchange experiences and successful practices for fostering social and economic inclusion of migrants, refugees and IDPs in different local contexts. More than 50 participants

from 8 African countries discussed priorities for actions and developed strategies to create an enabling environment for local economic development and entrepreneurship, and to capture how urban and territorial planning can be used to not only improve living standards, but also create inclusive spaces for livelihood generation and social cohesion.

This report summarizes the discussions, presentations, conclusions and next steps in the East African context for UN-Habitat's and UNCTAD's work in the field of migration and refugee response.

Background and Challenges

DAY 1 MORNING SESSION

Introductions

The East African Regional Dialogue kickstarted with opening remarks from **Vincent Byendaimira**, representing the **Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development in Uganda** who eluded on efforts of the Ugandan Government to improve access to services for the refugee and host communities. Mr Byendaimira explained that actions taken by the Ugandan Government, with its liberal migration legislation, will support refugees to access livelihood opportunities and allow for socio-economic development and inclusion. He also listed the Government's efforts, in partnership with Cities Alliance, to ensure local level programming related to migrants and refugees, specifically in West Nile, Uganda, as well as in urban areas such as Kampala. He underscored that the the Ministry hopes to support hosting communities to be able to harness the positive impacts of migration and reduce consequences from the influx of migrants and refugees.

The two inviting agencies, UN-Habitat and UNCTAD as well as IOM, brought forward their work in the field of migration globally and specifically in the East African region, highlighting the need for integrated and innovate approaches to support local authorities to find sustainable solutions for rapid influx of additional populations in East Africa.

UN-Habitat highlighted that migration from rural to urban areas in search for better socio-economic opportunities is globally on the rise. But in many countries, including in East Africa, displacement and migration (including international migration) is caused by protracted conflicts and climate change and due to its rapidity has caused challenges for local authorities. Cities in East Africa need to be enabled to harness the positive consequences of urbanization and using it as a transformative force. Most often, local authorities are not involved in decisions around migration as related policies are often under the National Governments' mandates. However, this dialogue is an opportunity to support communication across the different levels of governance and increase cross-sectoral thinking. UN-Habitat underlined the need in the East African context to improve the living and economic conditions of refugee and host communities equally. This Dialogue is an important means towards sharing lessons and experiences between countries and levels, including national and local actors as well as relevant urban stakeholders.

UNCTAD focused on the transformative force of economic inclusion and entrepreneurship in the field of development. UNCTAD introduced the training package for inclusive entrepreneurship policy frameworks and increased local economic development. There is a need to understand the specific needs of migrants when establishing businesses and to tailor approaches to the local contexts. UNCTAD introduced the "Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees", developed in cooperation with IOM and UNHCR, includes case studies and best practices from different countries.

IOM, represented by its Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa, introduced the agency's work on increasing social cohesion of migrants and refugees in the region. The search for better access to services and opportunities drive people from rural to urban areas, leading to a shortage in housing and services. This competition over the limited resources, including land and jobs, between hosts and refugee populations, could increase xenophobia and a negative narrative on migrants. IOM has been working with local governments at global, regional, sub-regional and national level to integrate and mainstream humanitarian and development efforts. Currently, IOM is leading the process of implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and engaging in a dialogue among different actors and stakeholders across all sectors. Some of IOM's work includes investing in community-based services in Kampala, Uganda and developing plan in consultation with the community in Somalia.

Panel Discussion on policies and background of migrant and refugee hosting communities in East Africa

During this first discussion, panelists introduced their specific local contexts, sharing challenges and successful actions for mitigating those challenges.

“**Mr. Samson Mangué-Sazon from Central African Republic (CAR)** shared his experience from the sixth arrondissement in the town of Bangui where the population increased from 112,000 to 222,000 people, mainly because of the rapid influx of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) due to the crisis in CAR. The sixth arrondissement, he reported, is the economic center of the region and has a majority Muslim community. In the area, social tensions (with the Christian minority) and challenges due the increased demand for services and goods arose. As part of the efforts from the local government, five new settlement areas were established to accommodate the large number of IDPs, introducing Cash for Work and capacity building for community leaders on integrating IDPs with support from partners such as IOM and NRC. After the Khartoum Peace Agreement (between the government and the 14 non-conventional armed groups) signed on 6 February 2019, the security situation in 13 prefectures (out of 16) is still worrying and but many (Christian) IDPs returned to their place of origin and the government decided to demarcate the sixth arrondissement as a “Welcoming Area,” a trading zone for livestock and agricultural produce. With a market in close proximity, trade flourished in the arrondissement, benefitting both host and migrant/IDP communities.

“**Mr. Charles Ocici, Director for Empretech Centre in Kampala, Uganda** discussed the initiative “Entreprise Uganda”, which was launched 18 years ago. It is a public-private institution designed to support the government in realizing its objective of promoting the development of SMEs as the main vehicle for expanding production, providing sustainable jobs and enhancing economic growth. The project, which was established under the framework of a UNDP Enterprise Africa regional initiative from a consortium of local and international donors, has conducted training workshops for Empretec, with close to 110 people having been trained on entrepreneurship and business development. The project aims to provide for more long-term, sustainable solutions for enhanced livelihood opportunities and business set up, by building entrepreneurship skills for local citizens and refugees/migrants in urban areas, including informal settlements.

“**Mr. Mohammed Shale, CEC of Ministry of Physical Planning, Garissa County, Kenya** discussed Garissa County’s nearly 30-year experience of hosting refugees, and the existing considerations affecting the local communities considering the Dadaab camp closure processes. The Dadaab Complex of camps have been hosting the largest population of refugees in Kenya, and there are neighbouring settlements e.g. Alinjudur, Modogashe, Dadaab and Burra, hosted on the periphery of the refugee camps, including informally established facilities and infrastructures such as market areas. There continue to be inadequate provision of and access to waste management systems, and other public services and infrastructures which affect the overall health and of refugee and hosting communities. There is a need to create linkages and enhance connectivity between the Dadaab Complex and other settlements to promote equal growth and development opportunities, such as through road construction and improvement.

The discussion following the panel presentation focused on the challenges regarding data collection in communities hosting migrants, refugees and IDPs and UN-Habitat introduced its methodology for area-based urban profiling, which aims at spatially mapping services and urban vulnerabilities for highlighting systemic urban bottlenecks and for evidence based recommendations for action. The team underlined the intertwined relation between planning and policies (as well as political will of all relevant actors). Other points mentioned included the selection criteria for beneficiaries as it was highlighted during the discussions that actions focusing on migrant/refugee communities, without considering the needs and vulnerability of host communities would threaten social cohesion and raise tensions.

Second Panel, discussing challenges with a thematic focus

“**Mr. Edward Kessy, a representative from the National Government Council of Tanzania**, shared the efforts and initiatives currently being undertaken in Tanzania for the inclusion of migrants and refugees. Some of the efforts include coordinating participation, ownership for economy, including policy level and monitoring of projects in Tanzania. Within the area of 900,000km², little land has been surveyed, Hence, local government authorities are partnering with urban planners and surveyors to do so. There are about 16 UN agencies working as part of a 5-year UN joint empowerment program to support local communities, addressing health, education and fostering agribusiness along with the national and local governments. As part of the program, there is also a focus on engaging and empowering women and youth, addressing their challenges such as gendered violence, and ability to move to higher levels of education. Entrepreneurship has been a key tool and consideration moving forward, and is reflected as part of the regulatory framework, to be adopted in cabinet.

“**Mr. Gasim Nikonara Abyasi from Juba City Council in South Sudan** shared the challenges and initiatives of the government in dealing with IDPs in the years 1983 to 2004. Some of the concerns that were raised include challenges and difficulties in meeting basic needs, such as health, and access to basic amenities. NGOs and partners have been providing support in the form of protection and humanitarian aid in the region, however, humanitarian aid is often disconnected from development programmes in the same regions and cities. The framework in response has been developed by the government through the help of UN agencies, taking advantage of how migration of people has also created opportunities, with greater efforts to target urban development processes through policies in the three largest cities.

“**Ms. Betty Mutabazi from Slum Dwellers International (SDI)**, explained that people living in informal settlements often face challenges such as inadequate availability and accessibility of services. The situation is especially severe for women and youth, as they face insecurities when accessing public facilities e.g. toilets. Ms Mutabazi highlighted that in general, disadvantaged people, including urban poor and migrant/refugee communities, suffer from inadequate housing and shelter, reduced access to services (WASH, but also electricity, poor connectivity and access to education and health). She presented SDI’s main objectives in Uganda including the organization of different forums to discuss issues and implementation of programmes with the authorities, carrying out slum upgrading processes, including training low cost housing/building and increasing accessibility and affordability of public facilities (e.g. toilets) for host and refugee populations living in informal settlements.

Mr. Gabriel Musentekwa from Zambia brought forward the challenges faced in the land locked country of Zambia, experiencing an influx of more than 100,000 refugees, mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. National level legislation foresees that refugees are taken to transitory points or camps before arriving to dedicated settlement areas. Zambia is currently undergoing a rapid urbanization process, as rural population and refugees flock to urban areas, due to famines and the large rural-urban development gap. From 2011 onwards, the government provided refugees the choice of either voluntary repatriation or further integration into the local communities. He introduced a business and entrepreneurship program by The Zambia Development Agency, conducted in an all-encompassing manner, including host and refugee populations as beneficiaries. In many cities, refugees established businesses, that, due to extended opening hours and sustainable business plans, thrived, enabling the local communities to access food and goods. The three pillars behind the Zambian Entrepreneurship program include the attraction of foreign direct investments; support for positioning of produce to be viable in foreign markets; and Enterprise development.

Ms. Grace Munduru, representing the recently established Madi Okollo Local Council in Uganda, described the work of the Council towards balancing the needs of refugees and host communities. The influx of refugees, mainly from South Sudan, has brought about positive and negative impacts for the communities, including increased business opportunities for host population, but also competition for services, livelihood opportunities and natural resources, such as land and water.



Picture 2 Panel of Local Authorities. © UN-Habitat



Picture 1 Panel on thematic challenges. © UN-Habitat

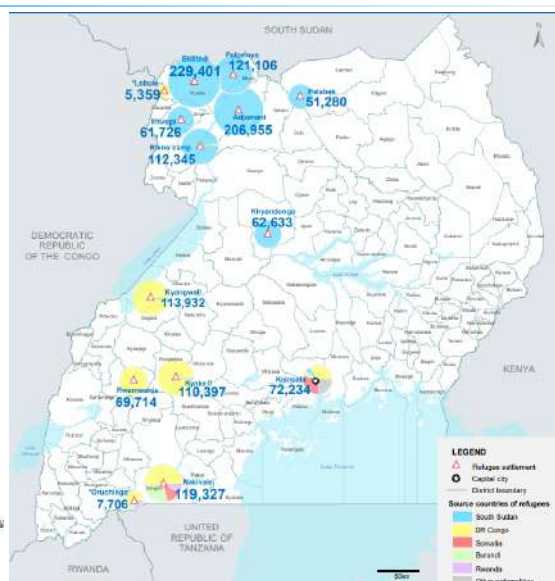
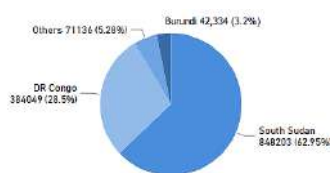
UGANDA

1,347,360

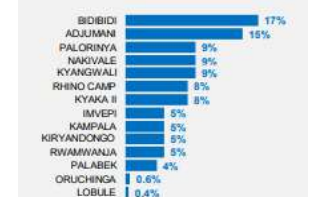
REGISTERED REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS



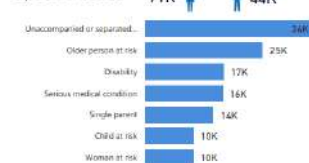
Countries Of Origin



% Of Refugees In Host Locations



Specific Needs



Picture 3 Slides on migration data and information across countries: Uganda © UN-Habitat

Legal frameworks impacting migration patterns in different East African countries

“ Mr. Emiliano Giovine from the R&P Legal studio, Milan, presented an overview of the legal frameworks in the East African context, highlighting that in many cases, migration (especially in conflict situations) happened spontaneously and often without formal registration – leading to a high level of informality. Regulatory frameworks in some countries limit the freedom of movement and access to formal employment of refugees and migrants, while others are more liberal and even support land acquisition and establishment of businesses, enabling local authorities to harness the opportunities of migrant populations as generators for economic development. He also highlighted the strategic importance of data collection and indicators for the growing of impact investment in enterprises founded by migrants or refugees or whose activities are related to migration.

Introduction of IGAD priorities regarding population dynamics in East Africa

“ Mr. Charles Obila from IGAD presented the national level initiatives and declarations identifying the priorities in the region regarding displacement and migration of IGAD member States. IGAD works at three levels - Regional, National, and Sub-national – and fosters discussions across-borders. Mr Obila introduced Uganda as the first IGAD country to mainstream migration into their national development plans and underlined the innovative legal frameworks of the country in this respect. Current initiatives of IGAD include projects, supported by the Swiss, World Bank, EUTF, GIZ, and KFW, focus on capacity building, disaster displacement, labor mobility, service provision and economic development.

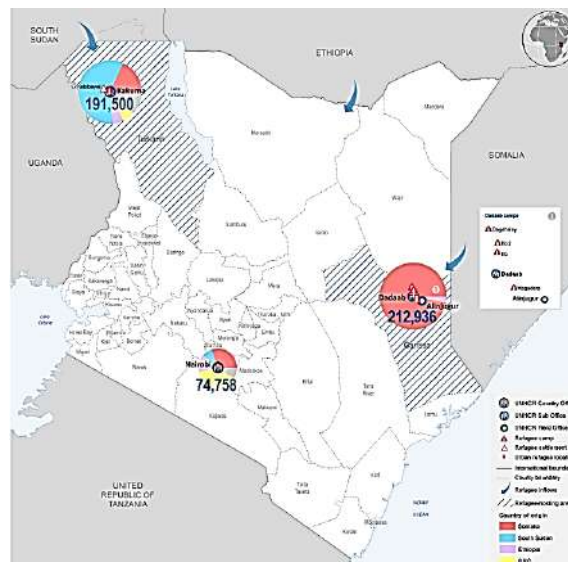
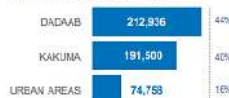
KENYA

479,194

REGISTERED REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS



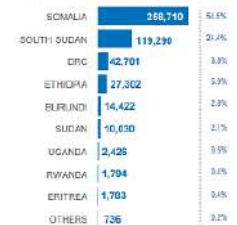
HOST LOCATIONS



DEMOGRAPHICS AGE AND GENDER



COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



ETHIOPIA

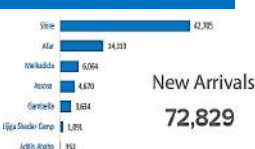
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REGISTERED REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

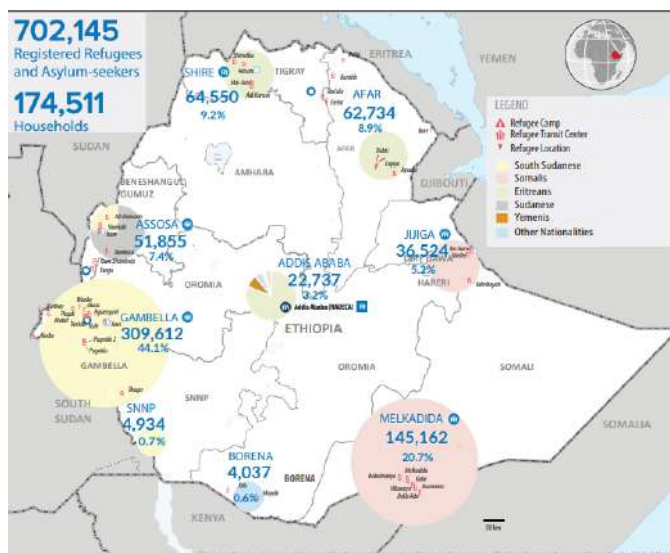
Refugee Ethnicities In Host Locations



Arrivals In Host Locations



New Arrivals
72,829



DEMOGRAPHICS AGE AND GENDER



Thematic Working Groups

DAY 1 AFTERNOON SESSION

Thematic Group Discussions

Participants broke into working groups in the afternoon to work on the following topics:

1. Identify the main challenges local authorities face when having to manage large influx of additional populations;
2. Identify the challenges migrant and refugees might face when accessing services (including housing, social and basic services) as well as entering the labor market or starting a business;
3. Share experiences on the opportunities that their localities have to boost local economic development and foster entrepreneurship in an inclusive manner;
4. Identify opportunities using urban and territorial planning for supporting local economic development and managing increased need for service provision and housing, while acknowledging the current challenges for planning;
5. Identify main actions local authorities can take for fostering social cohesion and inclusion.

In a following exercise, all groups were asked to develop strategies and action lists, setting priorities for their specific local context.

Bottom: Picture 5 Group discussion on opportunities for using urban and territorial planning for local economic development and social inclusion, lead by UN-Habitat. © UN-Habitat



Picture 4 Group discussion on opportunities to foster social cohesion and inclusion, lead by IOM. © UN-Habitat



Picture 5 Group discussion on opportunities to boost local economic development and foster entrepreneurship in an inclusive manner, lead by UNCTAD. © UN-Habitat



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