



## FINAL DECLARATION

### 10<sup>th</sup> IGAD HEALTH MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON REFUGEE AND OTHER CROSS BORDER HEALTH PROGRAMS

#### Preamble

**We, the Health Ministers of IGAD Member States convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018, to discuss the Refugee and Cross Border Health issues in the IGAD region**

1. **Recalling** the recommendations of the First and Second Conferences on Public Health in the Horn of Africa held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1996 and 1998, for the improvement of HIV and AIDS control among vulnerable populations in the IGAD Region, recommendations from Ministerial meeting on health held in Djibouti in November 2006, the recommendations of the First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Ministerial Committee meetings on Health and HIV&AIDS held in Nairobi, Kampala, Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Addis Ababa in March 2007, January 2008, February 2009, March 2010 and December 2010 respectively, the recommendations of the First IGAD Conference on Health held in Addis Ababa in December 2014; the recommendation of 9<sup>th</sup> IGAD Ministerial Meeting on Surveillance and Outbreak held in Nairobi, Kenya in July 2016; and other Regional and Sub-regional conferences on major communicable diseases and other key public health priorities;
2. **Acknowledging** the strong commitment to improving health and promoting the well being of people in the IGAD region including refugees by governments, communities and development partners, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063 and universal Health Coverage and other Global Health Commitments;
3. **Recognizing** that communicable diseases such as HIV, TB and Malaria place a high-level burden on IGAD member states Health system and pronounced changes in the incidence of epidemic diseases have been observed in the region in parallel with the climate change and extreme weather conditions;
4. **Mindful** of the importance of the IGAD Health Programs in complementing the efforts of the national health systems especially at the cross border areas addressing the cross border and mobile population with the focus on supporting refugees access to health services;
5. **Deeply concerned** by the persistent burden of high maternal, infant, child mortality and morbidities across the IGAD member states and mindful of the regional, national and global efforts to reduce these mortalities and morbidities;



6. **Alarmed** by the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases particularly cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases; and their impact on the lives of the people of the region, and the urgent need to address them
7. **Concerned** by the frequent conflicts and droughts which frequently cause displacement of the populations in the region resulting in increasing number of refugees hosted by governments of the member states with serious impact on the national health systems that requires additional resources to strengthen the health systems and improve capacity especially at cross border areas
8. **Recognizing** that the increasing number of refugees hosted in the region continue to place a high burden on the IGAD Member States' Health System and communities in the cross border and other hosting areas
9. **Aware of** the need to improve access to quality health care services to the refugees and other cross border mobile populations; **also aware** that most of the refugees in the region are from the member states, and thus underscoring the importance of integrating their health needs into the national health system;
10. **Recognizing with appreciation** the current support provided by the Global Fund for improving availability and utilization of TB/HIV services in the refugee camps in the IGAD region, **Also appreciating** the support provided by the USAID to strengthen the IGAD cross border programs especially to address the cross border health threats; further **recognizing with appreciation** the support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for cancer initiative
11. **Further aware of** the previous support provided by the World Bank, Canadian Government and University of Alberta, UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF and other partners for IGAD Regional Health Programs
12. Acknowledging the efforts provided by member states in the provision of TB/HIV services in the Refugee and cross border populations through the various implementation mechanisms both at regional and country level
13. **Welcoming** the establishment of the IGAD Medicine Regulation and Harmonization (MRH) Program, and the IGAD Regional Action Through Data (IGAD-RAD) Program/initiative, while **Encouraging** more to mobilize additional financial and technical support from other conventional and non-conventional health partners for IGAD Health Programs and special support to strengthen the health systems of South Sudan and Somalia

**WE THE HEALTH MINISTERS OF IGAD MEMBER STATES DO HEREBY AGREE TO:**

14. **Take** collective responsibility that every refugee, returnee, other cross border population, and members of the host communities have access to quality healthcare services within our respective countries without discrimination;





15. **Integrate** the refugee health programs into the national health system including joint planning, implementation and reviews

**AND SOLEMNLY DECLARE OUR COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:**

**A. On IGAD HIV, TB and Malaria Strategic plan for the period of 2018-2025**

16. **Endorse** the IGAD HIV, TB and Malaria Strategic plan for the period 2018 - 2025 with its Four Strategic Objectives and interventions as recommended by the technical experts, and acknowledge the complementarity of this strategic plan to the national strategic plans and the efforts of member states;
17. **Direct the** IGAD secretariat to coordinate with member states the implementation, monitoring and follow up of this TB, HIV and Malaria strategic plan;
18. **Call upon** the development partners to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of this strategic plan;

**B. On improving TB and HIV services for the refugees**

19. **Endorse** the recommended Supportive Guidance Document for improving TB and HIV services for refugees in the IGAD region;
20. **Renew our commitment** to continue providing leadership and the necessary support required to improve detection and management of MDR TB in alignment with national programs;

**C. On the Upcoming Global Fund Multi-country Grant Application**

21. **Noting with satisfaction** that the Request for Proposal (RFP) from the Global Fund provides opportunity for the continuation of the ongoing TB/HIV regional grant implemented by IGAD in the refugee settings within the member states;
22. **Endorse** the findings and recommendations of the in country and regional dialogues on the common priority gaps and challenges related to accesses and utilization of TB services in the refugee settings in the member states, and need to mobilize additional resources to support TB and MDR TB interventions among refugees
23. **Confirm** IGAD as our preferred applicant for the regional TB interventions among refugees in the IGAD region, and request the Country Coordination Mechanisms (CCMs) of the member states to support and endorse IGAD application for upcoming Global Fund Multi-country Grant
24. **Task** IGAD Secretariat, to prepare robust and technically sound funding application, and request the Country Coordination Mechanisms (CCMs) of the member states to support



3

