



Djibouti Plan of Action on Refugee Education in the IGAD Member States



IGAD is the short name for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. It uses the first letter of each word.

Introduction



The Government of the Republic of Djibouti held a meeting in Djibouti on 14th of December 2017. The meeting was set up by IGAD. They worked with these organisations to set up this meeting:

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- The European Union (EU)
- The German Development Cooperation implemented by the German Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)



At the meeting, the Ministers in charge of Education decided to work together to make sure that every refugee, returnee and member of host communities gets good education.



Education should be:

- In a safe environment.
- In the countries where they live.
- Fair for everyone.



They also made these promises:

1. To carry out this Action Plan on education of refugees, returnees and members of host communities in IGAD countries.



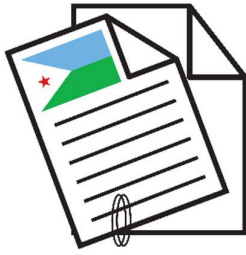
2. To start a Committee of Education.

A committee is a group of people chosen to do a specific job.

This committee will make sure that all plans and policies for education are followed.



3. To include refugees into their countries' education policies, plans, and programs. Policies are similar to rules and laws.



These promises are written in a document called the Djibouti Declaration on Refugee Education in IGAD Member States.

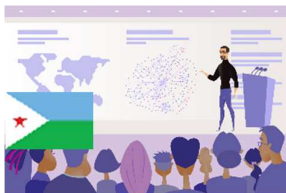
This document comes along with this Action Plan.



The ministers in charge of education in the IGAD region all agree to this Action Plan.



This Action Plan explains the actions that need to be carried out to make sure refugees, returnees and host communities get good education.



The Action Plan comes from a meeting held in Djibouti in December 2017.



The plan includes all the promises and plans the countries in the IGAD have made about education for refugees.

To include refugees in schools along with other children, we need to do these things:



1. Include education for refugees and returnees into Education Sector Plans by 2020. Education Sector Plans are plans that explain who should be educated and why.

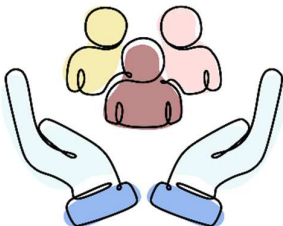
This will include:



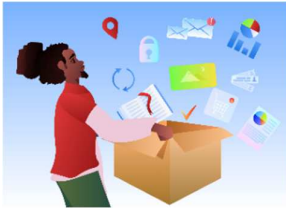
- Finding out how far each country is in including education for refugees and returnees into their Education Plans.



- Writing down everything that the countries are doing to include refugees and returnees into their Education Plans.



- Standing up for and supporting activities that make sure refugees and returnees are included in all the schools in each country.



- Improving the ways of collecting information on education. This information will help to make sure the needs of refugees and returnees are included.



- Making schools for refugees part of the countries' schooling system.



2. IGAD needs to help each of their countries to make Education Sector Plans. Education Sector Plans are plans that explain who should be educated and why.

This will include:



- Sharing knowledge on refugee education.



- Sharing the best ways of doing things and lessons they have learned. This will help to improve refugee and returnee education.



- Giving training on how Education Sector Planning works. Education Sector Planning is making a plan on how learners can get the education they need to build a bright future.



3. Make sure refugees are safe, happy and healthy in schools and education programmes.



This will include:

- Helping schools to be a safe place for children. They should be safe from abuse, being forced to work, and other bad things.



- Making a safety programme to meet the mental and emotional health needs of refugee and returnee learners.



4. Try to help every refugee and returnee boy and girl to get the learning that they need. Education must be fair for everyone.

This will include:



- Helping learners who have special needs to learn.

This can be done by changing the work and the learning spaces so that everyone can join in and do well.



- Helping communities and families help their children to learn.



- Help refugee and returnee children to learn in new languages when they change countries.

Also run programs that help refugee children to keep speaking their home language.



5. Improve each country's plans to include refugee teachers.

Teachers also need to grow in their work skills, and be treated fairly.



This will include:

- Helping more people get trained as teachers with official certificates.



- Finding faster ways to get teachers trained.



- Making sure that the pay refugee and host community teachers' get links to their experience and learning certificates.



- Making sure refugee and host community teachers get good training. They should get training before they become teachers and once they are teachers.



- Make it fairer for men and women to work as teachers.
They should have the same opportunities to grow in their jobs.



6. Work towards creating more opportunities for refugees to learn online rather than in-person.
We can do this by getting more computers, better internet and data.



- Look into the problem of teachers and learners speaking different languages.



7. See community college programs as a way to make more places where people can learn.
These college programmes can train people in the skills that the country needs.



8. Work with the IGAD countries and overseas partners to give out more scholarships to people who need them.

A scholarship is when someone else pays money toward your education.



9. Help refugees to get into high school so that they can get into colleges and universities afterwards.



10. Help universities in the IGAD region keep track of students being trained at universities in other countries.

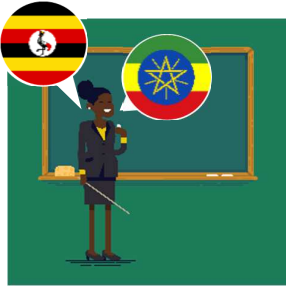


11. Make more ways for the youth to get further education after high school.

Rules about how to give good education for refugees



12. Come up with goals and a list of things that are needed to give refugees and returnees good education.
These should help learners get good results at school.



13. Think about the languages refugees and returnees are learning in.
They should be able to understand the language they are learning in but also not forget their home language.



14. Ask IGAD to watch over how each country goes about improving education for refugees, returnees and host communities.

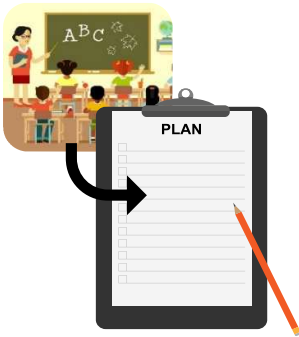


15. Help IGAD and the countries who are a part of them to check if refugees, returnees and host communities are being included in learning.



This includes:

- Make sure refugees can go to government schools
- See schools for refugees as equal to any other schools



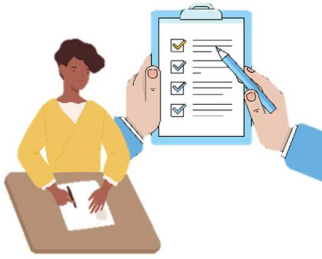
16. Include refugees and returnees in the National Education Sector Plans of each IGAD country.

- A National Education Sector Plan is a country's plan for how they give learners education.
- This will help with the planning and checking of education for refugees, returnees and host communities.



17. Start an IGAD team in each area.

This team has to make sure that their area is following the plan.



For example, they need to check and write reports on if the area is meeting the requirements and getting closer to their goals.

Improving the skills of refugees in each country



18. Check to see what kind of skills training there is for refugees and returnees.



19. Start groups of professionals that are linked with different schools and education organisations.



This group will:

- Link up colleges across the different IGAD countries.



- Look for ways to make sure skills development programs keep running.



- Share their experiences with each other.



20. Encourage governments to work together with businesses so that people can get the right training for their work.
People should be able to go from training programmes into jobs.

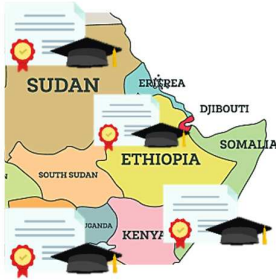
Recognising education programmes and making them official



21. Improve policies to accept refugee and returnee learning certificates or qualifications.
This will help refugee teachers and learners to be included in schools and to get social services.



22. Decide on ways to recognise and accept worker's learning certificates.



This should include:

- Schools and training programmes should accept learning certificates that people get in other IGAD countries.



- Everyone should accept certificates that people get through informal learning. Informal learning is where someone learns things not in a school or from a teacher.



- For different countries and areas to work together on education.



23. Come up with an IGAD plan that will help make learning certificates equal.



- Refugee students should be able to get education at the same level they were at when they left their home country even if they do not have a certificate as proof.



- These refugees should be tested in a fair way and not through big tests.



24. Work together to come up with a plan for accepting the certificates teachers get when they have finished their training.

This should include shorter training programmes for refugee and returnee teachers.



25. Start a working group that includes members from all IGAD countries.



The job of this working group is to:

- Check if each country is accepting learning certificates.
- Explain which learning certificates will be accepted and why.
- Explain how they will make sure they are giving good education.



- Come up with a plan for accepting learning certificates from other IGAD countries and present this plan at a meeting in 2019. This plan should include how learning certificates will be accepted and where the money will come from.

Financing, teamwork and regular checking to make refugee education better



26. Come up with education programmes for refugees that keep running for a long time. Say how much these programmes will cost.



- They need to think about all the resources they have when planning these programs.
- Resources are a supply of money, materials, staff, and other belongings.
- They should ask their partners to help.



27. Make sure that these promises and actions are included in the country's action plans.



28. Gather together money to do what was agreed on at the meeting.



29. Make sure communities and countries are working as a team to make sure programs and money are used to include refugees in education.



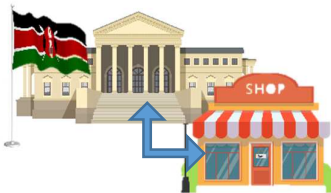
30. Find the best and cheapest ways to improve refugee and returnee education.



31. Come up with creative ways of making money.
This way, they can get ready and quickly get new refugees educated.



32. Come up with plans to make and save money for the future. This money will help every country to keep on including refugees and returnees in education.



33. Look for ways that governments and businesses can work together to make education better for refugees and returnees.



34. Come up with a plan that will do the following things:

- Help everyone to work well together
- Help gather together resources
- Help people communicate with each other.

This plan should be made for each IGAD country.



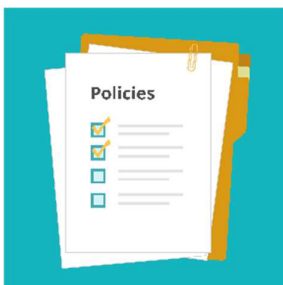
35. Follow the ways of communicating that have been set up in IGAD and start a committee with the leaders of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation in each country.

This will help to make sure that this Action Plan is carried out.



They will do these things:

- Write down the purpose and plans of this committee;



- Come up with an IGAD policy for education, science, technology and innovation which will include skills and training programs;



- Start a management group inside IGAD to organize how this Plan of Action is done.



36. Update the previous plan, the Nairobi Plan of Action, so that it includes the promises and actions from this meeting.

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