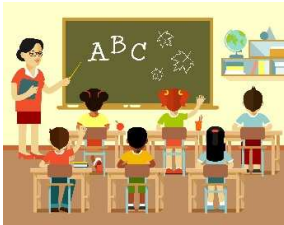




# Djibouti Declaration on Refugee Education in IGAD Member States



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



This document is about good schooling for  
children who are refugees.



Date: 14 December 2017



This document is an agreement made by the  
Ministers in charge of Education in 7 countries.

These are the 7 countries:

1. Djibouti
2. Ethiopia
3. Kenya
4. Somalia
5. Sudan
6. South Sudan
7. Uganda





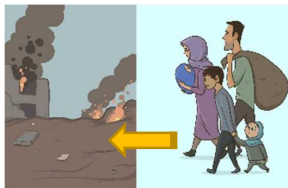
- These countries are all part of IGAD.
- This agreement was made at a meeting called the Regional Conference on Education for Refugees.
- The meeting took place in Djibouti which is why it is called the Djibouti Declaration on Refugee Education.

Here are some important words you will see in this document and what they mean:



### 1. Refugees.

Refugees are people who have to run away from their home countries because they were unsafe there.



### 2. Returnees.

Returnees are refugees that go back to their home country.



### 3. Host communities.

Host communities are the new communities that refugees live in.

## The Ministers of Education from the 7 countries signed this declaration

They agree on all the things below:



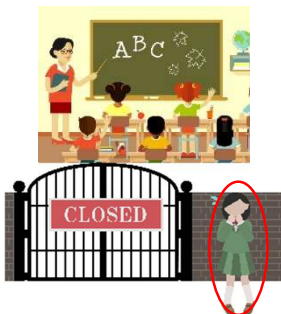
1. They need to remember all the plans and programmes about refugees and education that have already been made by other people.



2. They are very worried that fighting and being forced to move away from home stops children from learning.



- If children do not get good schooling this will affect their futures.
- It will stop them from finding work and being part of their home countries when they return.



3. They are worried about how fighting and being forced to move to other countries affects the education of girls and women. Girls, boys and people with disabilities deserve education just like everyone else.



4. They are worried that children and young people feel pain because of things like abuse and sexual violence.



They want to make sure learners can get help and support for this pain at school.



5. They realise schools are safe places for refugee children and young people.  
Schools help children to learn.  
They are also a place where children can make friends and get to know each other.



6. They know that it is very bad if youth cannot go to school or make money.



This stops them and the country from improving.



Education and work are very important for youth.  
It can help them be included in their communities.



7. Countries must know the rules around what people need to do to get certificates for learning.

The countries in IGAD need to use these rules to make learning better for all learners. This includes refugees.



8. They accept that IGAD must lead the way in making education better for refugees, returnees and host communities. They need to work together and with other partners to do this.

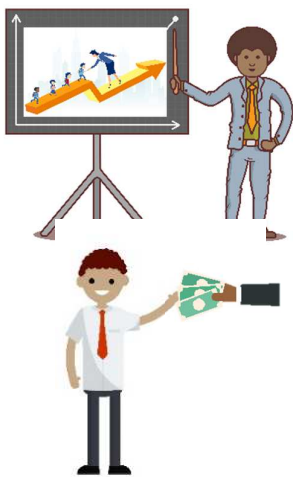


9. They are thankful that the government of the Republic of Djibouti helped to arrange their first big meeting. This meeting is called the Regional Conference on Refugee Education. IGAD and its partners also helped to plan this meeting.



10. They are happy to see how the work that their partners are doing is making education better and more equal for refugees.

The skills refugees are learning will help them get paid work and live better lives.



11. They want to add to the promises they made at a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2017.

- At this meeting, they made a plan to improve education for all refugees, returnees and host communities.
- This plan would help refugees to be more independent and get them ready for paid work.



12. They promise to work toward making sure that refugees, returnees and host communities can get good education.



This will include:

- Improving their skills
- Improving their ability to work
- Helping them be more independent
- Including them in the community
- Helping them find strength to keep going

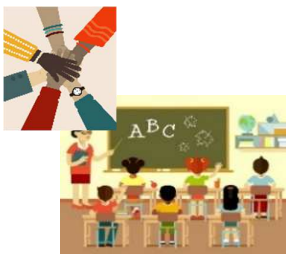


13. They promise to include the needs of refugees, returnees and host communities in their plans to improve their countries.



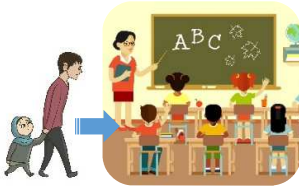
They will gather money from other organisations to improve the lives of their people.

This will also help to give them better education.

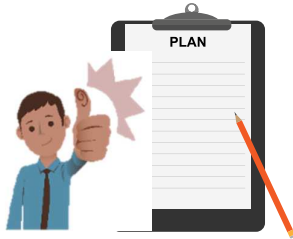


14. Everyone needs to work together to make sure refugees, returnees and host communities are included in schools and get good education.

**The Ministers of Education at this meeting all agreed to do these things:**



15. To share the task of making sure that every refugee, returnee and member of host communities gets good education in a safe learning environment, just like everyone else.



16. To accept and carry out the Action Plan on education for refugees, returnees and host communities.



17. To start a Committee of Education.  
A committee is a group of people chosen to do a specific job.  
The Education committee will make sure that all the plans and policies on education are followed.



18. To include refugees in their countries' education policies, plans and programs.



**The Ministers of Education will take these things seriously from now on:**

**A. A good level of education in the region**



19. Each country must think about the basic guidelines that have to be in place for learners to get good education.

These basic guidelines have to be in place for all levels of schooling:

- pre-primary school
- primary school
- secondary school
- and higher education



All learners should be included, especially refugees and persons with disability.

This is to make sure everyone gets the best education that they can.



20. Countries must decide to use these guidelines so that all learners, also refugees, can get good education and are included in school.



21. IGAD must work with each member country to help them use these basic guidelines. They also need to follow-up and check how these guidelines are working.

### **B. Improving the skills of refugees in each country of the region**

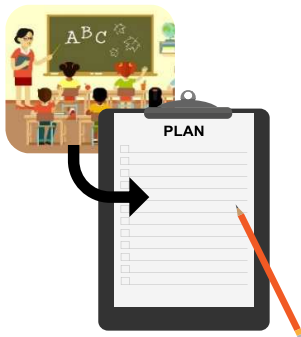


22. Encourage partners to keep on supporting and improving skills programs, especially in areas where refugees live.



23. Make sure that the skills refugees are learning will help them to find paid work. Work is good so that refugees can:
- Make enough money to meet their needs
  - Be independent
  - Feel proud to be a part of a community

### C. Including refugees in schools with all the other learners in the country



24. Add education for refugees and returnees into National Education Sector Plans by 2020. A National Education Sector Plan is a country's plan for how they give education to learners.



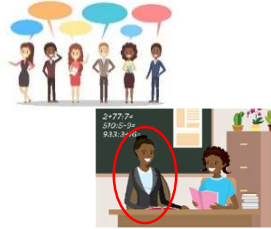
25. Help countries that are part of IGAD to make education for refugee and returnee's part of their education programmes.



26. Make sure that refugees and returnees, especially children, are safe and happy in schools.



27. Give returnee boys and girls the very special help that they need at school. And make sure they can get good education just like anyone else.



28. Share knowledge and plans on how refugee and returnee teachers can be included in schools.



29. Make sure refugees and returnees are included and can get good higher education for example, university.  
They must give more support to certain university students who need special help.



30. Make it easier for refugee children to get into schools.  
Help them get into schools quickly in their new home country.

## D. Recognising education programmes and making them official



31. Recognise refugees and returnee's qualifications in all stages of education.

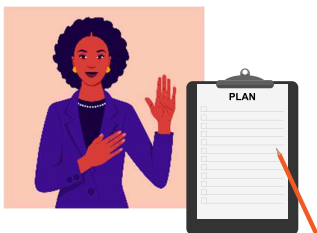


A qualification is a special skill, ability or knowledge that someone learned so they can do a certain job.



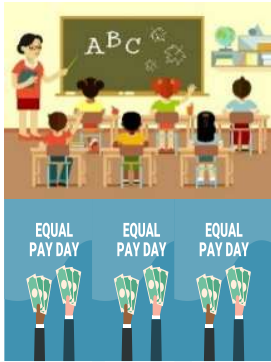
32. Ask all countries in the IGAD region to follow their promises to accept refugee qualifications.  
This should be done in higher education, like universities.

## E. Financing, teamwork and regular checking to make refugee education better



33. The Ministers of Education promise to make plans to improve refugee education that will last for a long time.

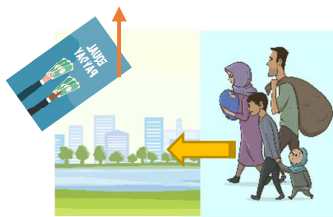
This will be done by planning well and working as a team.



34. Encourage finance organisations and other partners to keep giving funding to IGAD and the countries who are part of them. This money will make sure refugee and host community children and youth can get good education.



All funding should be managed in a way that is honest and nothing should be hidden.



35. Ask financial organisations and partners to increase the money they give to countries where the refugees are from. This will help the refugees to be able to return home.



36. Help the workers who do organisation and planning for IGAD to check that each country follows their action plan.



37. Help the countries of IGAD to be able to keep their promise to make sure refugees, returnees and host communities get good education.



38. Put all the money they get from different organisations together. This will help to pay for refugees, returnees and host communities to get good education.



**We, the Ministers of Education, promise to keep on working to improve education for refugees.**



Date: Thursday 14 December 2017



Place: Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti



**Signed by:**



1. Minister of National Education and Vocational Training (MENFOP)  
Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti



2. Minister of Education  
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



3. Minister of Education, Science and Technology  
Republic of Kenya  
Nairobi, Kenya



4. Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education  
Government of Federal of Somalia  
Mogadishu, Somalia



5. Minister of Education and Instruction  
Republic of South Sudan  
Juba, South Sudan





6. Minister of Education  
Republic of Sudan  
Khartoum, Sudan



7. Minister of Education & Sports  
Republic of Uganda  
Kampala, Uganda

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gabriel Lekeur</li><li>• Thimna Menwana</li><li>• Jeremiah Kasper</li><li>• Sasha-Lee Brown</li><li>• Anathi Ngcwangu</li></ul>	© Cape Mental Health 2021