



3rd IGAD Scientific Conference on
Migration and Displacement

Inclusion and Social Cohesion: Connecting research, data and policy



24-26th
 October **2022**

**CALL FOR
 ABSTRACTS**



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in cooperation with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the World Bank and the Sweden International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) are organising the 3rd IGAD regional scientific conference on “Inclusion and Social Cohesion”. IGAD hereby cordially invites abstracts to be submitted for presentation at the upcoming conference on 24th to 26th October 2022.

The IGAD region hosts roughly 4.5 million refugees and asylum seekers, along with around 12.3 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs¹). Intra-regional movements such as (seasonal) labour migration, mobile populations, cross-border trade, transhumant pastoralists, mixed migration, irregular migration and displacements through conflicts or due to rapid and slow-onset environmental events as well as disasters are predominant features of migration and displacement in the region.

The spread of the COVID-19 virus has significant impact on mobility in general and more specifically on cross-border mobility and mixed migration. However, long-lasting effects of pandemic responses which varied considerably between countries did not only severely impact people on the move, but in fact fundamentally changed the way societies function as a whole. Generally, but particularly fuelled by health-related concerns, the movement of persons (across borders) has been in part perceived as threatening a destination’s local culture, economy, and security and thereby heavily affecting effective social inclusion.

The term social inclusion follows UNDESA’s definition which characterises the concept as “the process of improving the terms of participation in society, particularly for people who are disadvantaged, through enhancing opportunities, access to resources, voice and respect for rights.”²

1 [Situation Regional Bureau for the East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region \(unhcr.org\)](https://www.unhcr.org/en/refugees-and-asylum-seekers/2019/04/14-situation-regional-bureau-for-the-east-and-horn-of-africa-and-the-great-lakes-region)

2 [UNDESA. Leaving no one behind: The imperative of inclusive development. Report on the World Social Situation 2016. Chapter 1: Identifying social inclusion and exclusion](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/pubs/2016/report/worldsocialsituation2016/chapter1-identifying-social-inclusion-and-exclusion)

A lack of social inclusion of disadvantaged groups of persons, such as migrants and displaced persons, can in turn lead to tension and even conflicts that significantly impact stability at different levels of society, thus can ultimately undermine social cohesion. Conversely, it is widely accepted that well-managed migration and forced displacement can significantly enhance the development of hosting communities.

Societies that are less prone to slip into destructive patterns of tension and conflict when different interests collide, i.e. socially cohesive societies, are defined by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) as societies where “... **all groups have a sense of belonging, participation, inclusion, recognition and legitimacy. Such societies are not necessarily demographically homogenous. Rather, by respecting diversity, they harness the potential residing in their societal diversity (in terms of ideas, opinions, skills, etc.).**”³

It is therefore imperative to identify levers to comprehensively support migrants and refugees by, among other measures, integrating migrants and refugees into national development strategies and service provision systems. At the same time, inclusive approaches need to be adopted which take into consideration and adequately address the needs of hosting communities in order to pave the way to social cohesion as a prerequisite for thriving communities.

3 <https://www.un.org/development/desa/socialperspectiveondevelopment/issues/social-integration.html>

Objective

In line with Global Compact for Migration (GCM) Objective 16 “Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion”, the 3rd IGAD Scientific Conference aims to investigate determining factors for socially cohesive societies in which all members including migrants, displaced persons as well as members of host communities are able to jointly strive towards the wellbeing of all its members. This includes, but is not limited to, fostering social inclusion, fighting exclusion and marginalisation, as well as creating a sense of belonging for all members of the community. More importantly, the Call for papers invites submissions particular to aspects of the IGAD region, and to propose solutions and evidence-based policy recommendations to IGAD and its Member States.

IGAD is calling on researchers and practitioners from Universities, IGAD Council of Higher Education, network of research institutions, and think-tanks, international organisations and NGOs to submit high quality abstracts on the following themes:

Theme 1: Access to basic social services as a means for social inclusion (incl. education, water, infrastructure, transportation, housing, etc)

What are barriers that prevent migrants and displaced populations from accessing basic social services? What are means to overcome these barriers to increase universal accessibility of services? What needs to be done in order to ensure equitable access to basic social services for both migrants and displaced persons, as well as hosting communities? How does (in-) accessibility of basic social services affect social inclusion and cohesion?

Theme 2: (Un-) Equal opportunities due to gender, age, ability, ethnicity and their intersections

What are the benefits of inclusive approaches to promote social cohesion? What are good practice examples to promote the integration of migrant women and girls to support their economic autonomy and strengthen social cohesion? How do interventions, on policy-, societal- and programmatic level, need to be designed to be sensitive to gender, age, ability and other forms of vulnerability? What role can IGAD play to ensure that no one in the region is left behind?

Theme 3: Participation in social and cultural life, justice and decision-making

What are legal provisions governing participation in society for migrants and displaced persons? What are means to ensure that labour markets are inclusive and migrant workers are able to fully participate in the formal economy by facilitating access to decent work and employment? What are means to allow for greater representation and influence decision-making processes for migrants? What are good practices promoting community engagement and dialogue between migrants and host community members? What role can sports and the arts play to promote mutual understanding and appreciation?

Theme 4: Urbanization and social cohesion

What are opportunities and challenges of urban/rural spaces for socially cohesive societies? How does rural to urban migration affect social cohesion in receiving cities, and in rural spaces alike? What are opportunities and challenges of larger migrant communities in cities? What role does urban planning play in fostering socially cohesive societies?

Theme 5: Social cohesion before the backdrop of changing climates

How do low/high level of social cohesion impact societies' "vulnerability to climate change impacts? What particular challenges do communities face in terms of social cohesion that are heavily affected by climate change, e.g. concerning' distribution of land and access to natural resources between migrants and host communities? In what ways are climate-induced disaster displacements such as flooding and locust invasions in the IGAD region threatening socially cohesive societies?

Theme 6: Transnational identities and their influence on integration and social cohesion

What role do (multiple) citizenship and national identity play in forming socially cohesive societies? How do return migrants integrate into their communities of origin and thus shape social cohesion and community values? What are good practices of promoting migrants' integration while respecting their cultural identity? How can the diaspora be involved to foster intercultural dialogue, sharing of stories, mentorship programmes, and development of business ties that improve integration outcomes?

Theme 7: Impact measuring of inclusion and social cohesion

What are important indicators to assess inclusion and social cohesion, and how can these be best applied? How can it be assured that the particular situation and needs of migrants are adequately assessed? How can good examples of societies in which migrants contribute to prosperity alongside members of host communities be transferred to other contexts?

Submission Guidelines

This call for papers invites international scholars and practitioners especially those from the African continent and IGAD region with expertise in the subject matter to submit abstracts.

Submitted abstracts should relate to the conference themes and follow the below guideline:

i- Abstracts should be written in English or French and be 250-300 words;

ii- Interested authors should send a one-page CV/Bio, with latest publications and contact details (email address and phone numbers);

iii- Submissions should indicate the Theme that the abstract falls under;

iv- All submissions will be peer-reviewed, and accepted authors will be invited to write and present a paper of 3500-4000 words;

v- Conference funding support will be dependent on the timely submission and acceptance of the full research paper;

vi- Selected research papers will be published.

Please send your abstracts and other documents to this e-mail address: scientificconf2022@igad.int

Important Dates

Deadline for submission of abstracts: **31st May 2022**

Notification of acceptance of abstracts: **30th June 2022**

Deadline for final full paper submission: **31st August 2022**

Partners

This Conference is organized by IGAD and GIZ, the World Bank, the Sweden International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) in cooperation with universities, IGAD Council of Higher Education, network of research institutions, and think-tanks, namely; Addis Ababa University, Maseno University, Makerere University, Ahfad University for Women, Jigjiga University, Kenya Institute of Migration Studies, University of Nairobi



Contact for further details

For any enquiries regarding the conference call for papers, please contact:

scientificconf2022@igad.int

Website: www.igad.int



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