



Call for recommendations:

Training of Trainers (ToT) on Refugee Protection Workshop

We, experts of the Member States (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda) of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), gathered from 6-9 June 2022 in Djibouti for the ToT workshop on refugee protection organized by the IGAD Secretariat with the technical support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the financial support from the Government of Sweden, through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

Considering IGAD's goals to promote peace, harmonious development, cooperation, and integration among IGAD Member States through a regional approach for ensuring the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, addressing the root causes of refugee movements, and finding durable solutions for displaced population and their host communities.

Recognizing that the right to seek and obtain asylum is a fundamental right enshrined in Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 12 (3) of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

Reaffirming the crucial importance to uphold the principle of non-refoulement enshrined in Article 33 of the 1951 Convention relating to the Refugee Status and Article 2(3) of the 1969 OAU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa.

Noting that IGAD region continues to host large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers totaling more than 4 million in the IGAD Member States.

Considering also that ensuring the full socio-economic inclusion of refugees into national services and system is crucial to work towards comprehensive durable solutions for refugees in the IGAD region.

Recalling UNHCR's mandate on international protection and the responsibility granted to UNHCR by the United Nations General Assembly to ensure the promotion and supervision of compliance with international refugee law.

Further recalling the commitments of the Nairobi Declaration and its Plan of Action adopted on 25 March 2015 by Heads of State and Government in Nairobi, Kenya to improve protection space, find solutions for those displaced, and provide educational and economic opportunities for refugees residing in the region.

Taking into account the Statement of Good Practices and Recommendations from the Regional Protection and Solutions Dialogue for the East and Horn of Africa which was convened under the auspices of IGAD and the EAC in December 2022 in Nairobi.



In light of the above and to the extent possible, we:

- Encourage IGAD Member States to incorporate all international standards relating to refugees into their national legislation to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers can effectively enjoy all the civil, economic, and socio-cultural rights in their country of asylum.
- Invite IGAD Member States to develop protection-sensitive entry systems that allow access to territory, identification, and referral and screening mechanisms of persons in need of international protection.
- Call IGAD Member States to expand and strengthen border monitoring mechanisms to include cooperation with national border authorities to prevent and address denial of access to territory and asylum procedures and refoulment by border authorities
- Recommend IGAD Member States to identify causes of bottlenecks in asylum processes by undertaking an assessment of the strengths/weaknesses of the asylum institution, based upon which a prioritized workplan of capacity development initiatives can be developed and implemented to promote the fairness, efficiency, integrity, and adaptability of asylum procedures at both 1st instance and appeal.
- Call IGAD Member States to use these work plans as a good basis for seeking support for capacity development initiatives which, in addition to training initiatives, could include measures to address procedural, infrastructural, legislative, or staffing gaps.
- Invite IGAD Member States to seize the opportunity to make ‘Support requests’ that can be matched with pledges of support through the Asylum Capacity Support Group (ACSG).
- Recommend IGAD Member States to work with UNHCR to develop and implement a range of RSD methodologies (including group, simplified, merged, or accelerated RSD, where appropriate) with reference to reliable and up-to-date Country of Origin Information.
- Commend IGAD Member States to maintain (or make new declarations of) *Prima Facie* and/or to utilize merged registration-RSD as an RSD methodology for key caseloads to prevent accumulation of RSD backlogs whilst also ensuring that a sufficiently detailed dataset is gathered to address states’ concerns and to ensure a proper protection response.
- Recommend IGAD Member States to establish teams of well-trained, well-supervised eligibility staff tasked to comply with casework targets for quality RSD casework, with reference to reliable and objective sources of country-of-origin information (COI) to permit large numbers of consistently good quality RSD recommendations to be endorsed during multi-ministerial eligibility committee sessions.
- Appeal to UNHCR, IGAD Secretariat, and other international partners to support the review and development of domestic laws, regulations, strategies, standard operating procedures, and operational toolkits to strengthen domestic regimes for international protection in the region.
- Call IGAD Member States to take a comprehensive approach towards solutions for refugees and asylum seekers hosted in their territories, including through a progressive approach fostering local solutions.
- Urge IGAD Secretariat to promote the harmonization of legislation, policies, and practices among Member States to address secondary movements resulting from the diverse quality of asylum offered by Member States.



- Encourage IGAD Secretariat to develop a common regional mechanism for refugee protection, consistent with the principles of International Protection and responsive to emerging situations in the IGAD region.
- Appeal to the international community on their commitment to responsibility and burden-sharing in support of refugee-hosting countries, and creating enabling environments in favor of sustainable voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity
- Appeal to IGAD Member States to support opportunities for bilateral, multilateral, regional, and international refugee protection forums to exchange good practices and peer-to-peer support to enhance international cooperation and collaboration.
- Welcome the IGAD and Member States initiative aimed at finalizing the adoption of the IGAD Free Movement Protocol that may pave the way towards alternative legal pathways for citizens of IGAD Member States, including refugees and asylum-seekers who are equally citizens of IGAD Member States.
- Encourage Sudan and South Sudan to operationalize the Four Freedoms Agreement, giving citizens from these two countries the freedom of residence, freedom of movement, freedom to undertake economic activity, and freedom to acquire and dispose property in the two countries, including refugees and asylum seekers.
- Invite IGAD Member States and IGAD Secretariat, through bilateral, multilateral, and international forums, to promote regional approaches and dialogues to advance access to durable solutions, including non-traditional durable solutions for refugees in protracted displacement.
- Urge the IGAD Member States to take steps to enhance refugee self-reliance through inclusions into national systems including through increased social and economic inclusion, access to livelihoods, expanded access to quality primary, secondary and higher education, and through the provision of essential healthcare services through strengthened national structures.
- Recall the importance for IGAD Member States to work towards continued implementation of pledges and commitments made at the GRF in 2019, including by exploring matching opportunities between traditional donor and hosting countries to ensure that they are adequately supported financially, materially, or technically.
- Encourage IGAD Member States to develop new pledges in the context of the next GRF in 2023 to address identified gaps and needs while ensuring that pledges are additional, measurable, quantifiable, impactful, and in alignment with the Nairobi Process and associated declarations, where feasible.
- Appeal to the IGAD Member States to invest in understanding the root causes of displacement and their complexities, and double down the efforts to coherently address the vulnerabilities of communities at risk before, during, and after conflicts and disasters through a humanitarian, development and peace nexus.

Djibouti, 9 June 2022