

# Secondary Cities and Forced Migrants: Arua, Uganda, and Adama, Ethiopia



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# Research Snapshot

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- **Project overview**
- **Actor:** Refugee-led organisations: neglected actor in urban responses to forced migrants
- **Context:** Adama's 'whole-of-society' approach to settling IDPs

# Research Overview



## Local Governance: Responses to Urban Forced Migrants in Ethiopia and Uganda

### Qualitative fieldwork

- 18-month fieldwork period plus reviews of global good practices
- Local research teams in each city
- Research feeds into pilot projects to improve responses

### Interviews with:

- Local government
- Civil society/NGOs
- Refugee-led organisations
- Private Sector
- Host community
- Media/journalists
- International NGOs

# Refugee-led Organisations

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- An **assistance model** that works for refugees  
(offering assistance based on specific community needs/interests)
- **Reach vulnerable populations**  
(unregistered refugees, the very poor without travel funds)
- **Fill a gap** in refugee assistance (created out of necessity)
  - Often first stop for new arrivals who hear about organisations by word of mouth; support refugees in becoming registered and linked to international organisations

# But...

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- Lack funding to pay rent and implement activities (sustainability)
- Generally locked out of international funding due to size, language skills, strict auditing requirements
- Lack true partnerships with NGOs, UNHCR, and other implementing agencies (used for ‘sensitisation’ instead of implementation)
- **Important city actor for collaboration!**



# Adama: National-Regional-Local Response

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- Rising ethnic and tribal conflicts have led to increased numbers of IDPs nationally
- Overall 2.9 million people are displaced from all over the country
- Many IDPs (ethnic Oromo) from Somaliland came to Adama, the capital of Oromia region
- National and regional government called the society to action through social media and TV outlets
- Successful campaign: houses built for every IDP family, jobs and training offered



# Local ‘Whole-of-Society’ Approach

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- Adama city administration received 2000 households
- 1780 houses constructed

## Who participated in settling the IDPs?

- 28 sectoral bureaus
- Over 300 private sector actors
- Over 18 *kebele* (neighbourhood districts) in Adama
- Multiple *Idir* (rotating community finance funds)



# Order of Response

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**First**, locals: giving the IDPs food, clothing, money as they visited the Kebeles

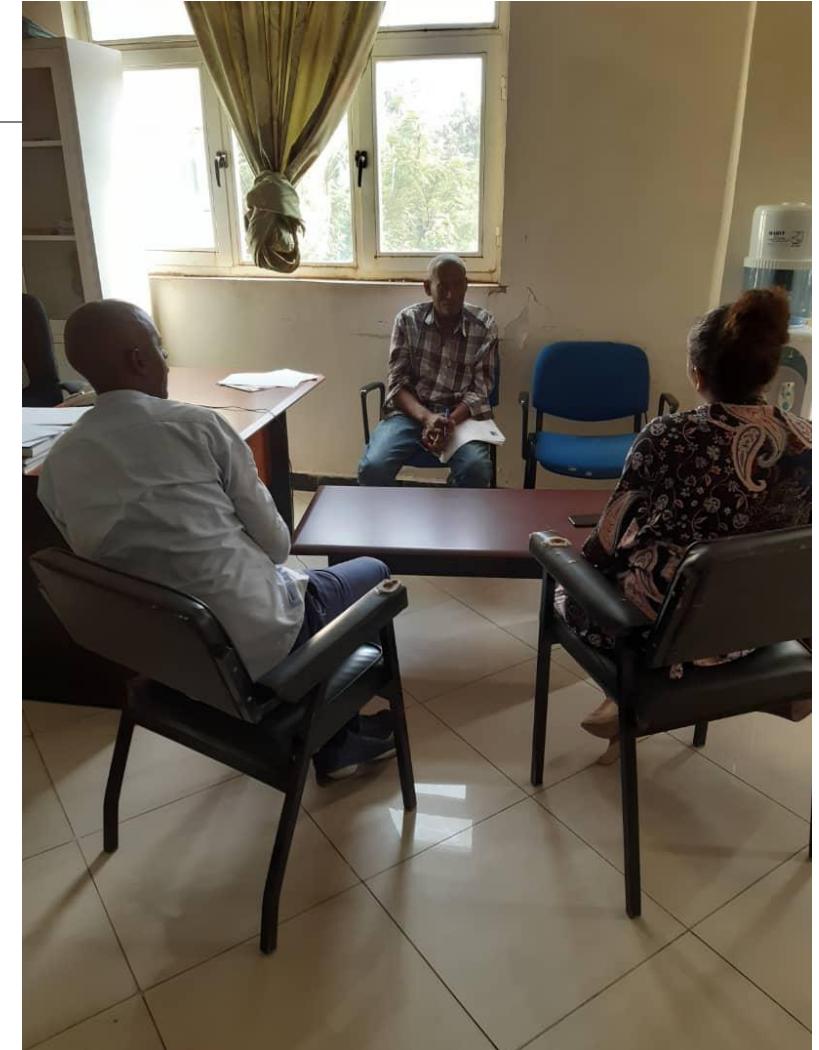
**Second**, different government bureaus: providing camps, health care, food, and media coverage for the call for action

**Third**, private sector actors: donated money and in-kind support

# Lessons Learned

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- Success of ‘cascading’ coordination between federal and regional government
  - Single message shared widely
  - Regional government continued the government’s call for action
  - Adama City promoted it further
- But...power of local action: assistance started at *kebele* (neighbourhood) level



# Lessons learned continued

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- Different sectors of society targeted for donations
  - Private sector made significant contributions
- Making donations tax-deductible could lead to larger contributions
- Reminder of success addressing forced migration *without* international assistance



# Research Contributions

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Policy briefs and reports

Academic journal articles

Refugee Studies Centre Research in Brief

Forced Migration Review themed issue on 'Displacement in Cities and Towns'

Research Practice Network on Refugee Responses in Secondary Cities

- Special Issue on Local Governance and Refugee Responses
- Workshops convening practitioners, academics, local municipal actors



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# FORCED MIGRATION

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## Cities and towns

Due out February 2020

Deadline for submissions: Monday 4th November 2019

There have been many developments since the 2010 issue of FMR on 'Adapting to urban displacement' was published. Increasing working in this field and growing numbers of agencies are adapting and developing their programmes in a world of increased uncertainty of the projected impacts of climate change and associated rural–urban shifts. Ten years on, FMR will explore contemporary approaches plus the wide range of international frameworks, networks and initiatives in this area from which there is much to be learned.



[www.fmreview.org/cities](http://www.fmreview.org/cities)

# Thank you!

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