

SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATION – REFLECTIONS ON LOCAL INTERVENTIONS AND URBAN REFUGEE POLICY

Fourth Learning Exchange for the CRRF:
Inclusive Urban Development and Mobility –
Regional Network and Dialogue Action

31 January - 2 February 2023
Lodwar, Kenya



Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums

Hosted by
 UNOPS

First published in 2023

Cities Alliance UN House - Boulevard du Régent 37
1000 Brussels, Belgium

Overview: This report provides an overview of the discussions at an in-person peer learning event organised by Cities Alliance and financed by the European Union (EU) in Lodwar, Kenya from 31 January to 2 February 2023. It was the fourth learning event of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF): Inclusive Urban Development and Mobility - Regional Network and Dialogue Action, which is implemented by Cities Alliance and financed by the EU through the European Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF for Africa).

The theme, Sustainable Integration – Reflections on Local Interventions and Urban Refugee Policy, provided network cities with the opportunity to share their experiences and initial results from activities to integrate migrants and displaced persons and foster social cohesion through the Action.

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Cover: © CitiesAlliance, Lodwar, Kenya



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Summary



Cities are the first point of entry for most migrants and displaced persons seeking work, shelter, and safety, and where they will attempt to integrate and realise their aspirations for a better life. Whether they do so, or live excluded from opportunities in the city, depends on how a city responds to migration.

The CRRF: Inclusive Urban Development and Mobility – Regional Network and Dialogue Action is supporting secondary cities in the Horn of Africa to manage and integrate refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs). It is doing so by creating a regional network that will help the cities share experiences and strengthen policy development for greater social cohesion, and piloting approaches to refugee management and integration. The Action is implemented by Cities Alliance through its Cities and Migration Programme and financed by the EUTF.



This peer learning event in Lodwar, Kenya, was the fourth in a series of five events organised through the Action. Partner cities began thinking about the network's sustainability once the Action ends, with discussions and group exercises on priorities, institutional design, and working modalities. They also learned how to use organizational ecosystem mapping to achieve their goals by identifying where the gaps are and how to fill them.

In keeping with the theme of Sustainable Integration – Reflections on Local Interventions and Urban Refugee Policy, all the cities shared their experiences with integrating migrants and displaced persons in their communities and the initial impact the Action's interventions have had. The winner of the Call for Papers competition, Dr. Binyamin Bogale of Jigjiga University, presented his paper on "The Role of Local Actors in Managing Migration Along the Eastern Desert Route of Ethiopia."



The fifth and final peer-learning event of the Action will be held in Koboko, Uganda from 6–8 June 2023.

Participants

KENYA



Peter Akono, Minister, Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Areas Management, Turkana County



Boniface Lokuruka Rimati, Vice Chairperson, Lodwar Municipality Board

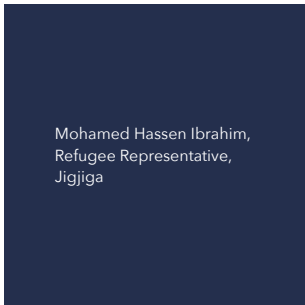


Maimunah Melisa, Host Community Representative, Kakuma Settlement



Ambrose Merinyang, Board Member, Lodwar Municipality Board

ETHIOPIA



Mohamed Hassen Ibrahim, Refugee Representative, Jigjiga



Medhanit Mulugeta Tesfaye, Somali Region Coordinator, Refugee and Returnee Services, Jigjiga



Ahmednur Fahie Ali, Protection Department Leader, National Authority for the Refugees and Displaced People Office, Gabiley

SOMALIA



Joel Azabo, Focal Point, EU Programme, Koboko Municipality



Stephen Bogere, Senior Sociologist, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development



Draecabo Trinity Ceaser, President, Arua City Development Forum, and Private Sector Representative



Harriet Dozu, Host Community Representative, Koboko



Wadri Sam Nyakua, Mayor, Arua City Council



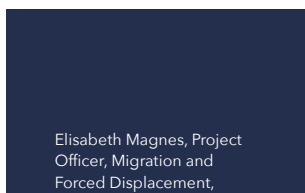
Solomon Osakan, Senior Settlement Office Department of Refugees, Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)



Moses Akuma Odims, Executive Secretary, West Nile Development Association (WENDA)



Solomon Sonko, Senior Development Economist and Desk Officer, OPM, Kampala



Elisabeth Magnes, Project Officer, Migration and Forced Displacement, EC, Kenya



Charles Obila, Migration Officer, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Djibouti



Bongo Patrick, Head of Programme/ Project Manager, Associazione Centro Aiuti Volontari (ACAV), Uganda



Meseret Teferi, Senior Grants Manager, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Ethiopia Programme



Roseline Ekidor, Board Member, Lodwar Municipality Board



Abubakar Rugamba Kabura, Youth and Refugee Representative, Kakuma Settlement



Esther Kiyanga, Turkana County



Victor Lekaram, Director, Urban Areas Management, Turkana County



Abdikadir Mohamed Aden, Host Community Governor, Kebribeyah/Jigjiga



Siyad Abdi Ahmed, Mayor, Jigjiga



Mustefa Mohammed Ahmed, Host Community Representative, City and Social Affairs, Assosa



Biniyam Bogale, Department of Sociology, Jigjiga University, and winner of the Call for Papers



Mohamoud M. Duale, Civil Society Representative, Takulo Somali Community



Hibo Hassan Harun, Director of the Planning Department and Representative of the Mayor, Gabiley Municipality



UGANDA



Malish Bonjira Asu, Refugee Representative, Executive Director, South Sudanese Refugees Association (SSURA), Koboko



Hellen Drabrezu, Host Community Representative, ACTogether, Arua



Mambo A. Ismail, Project Accountant, Koboko Municipality



Cornelius Jobile, Deputy Town Clerk, Arua



Chelangat Andrew Milton Kamalingin, Municipal Town Clerk, Koboko Municipality



Sanya K.F. Wilson, Mayor, Koboko Municipality



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Vittorio Capici, Programme Manager, European Commission (EC) Directorate General for International Partnerships



Angelo Di Giorgi, Programme Officer, Migration Management and Displacement, EU Trust Fund for Africa, Horn of Africa Window



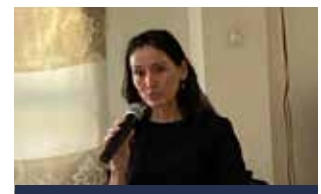
Yayehyirad Yemaneh, Assosa Field Coordinator, IRC, Ethiopia Programme



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Loren Landau, Technical Expert to the Cities Alliance, Oxford University and University of the Witwatersrand



Participants.

Source: © Cities Alliance

The CRRF – Inclusive Urban Development and Mobility Action

Context for the Action

Today, an estimated 60 per cent of refugees globally live in urban or semi-urban areas instead of camps or purpose-built rural settlements, which are often geographically separated from host communities with limited access to livelihoods. The Horn of Africa hosts one fifth of the world's refugees. These include urban-assisted refugees who have been moved to urban areas for protection concerns or medical treatment; refugees who can sustain themselves economically; unregistered or self-settled refugees living in urban areas; and refugees living in settlements or camps.¹

The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework developed out of the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which reaffirmed the importance of international refugee rights, including the need to strengthen their support and protection. The Declaration called on the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to apply the CRRF in specific situations that featured large-scale movements of refugees in order to ease pressure on host countries, enhance refugee self-reliance, expand access to third-country solutions, and support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

The CRRF was incorporated into the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), the non-binding global framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing which recognises that solutions to refugee situations require international cooperation.² The CRRF is currently being rolled out in Africa, Asia, and South America.

1 EUTF Action Fiche for the Implementation of the Horn of Africa Window T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-67. Available at: https://trust-fund-for-africa.europa.eu/our-programmes/crrf-inclusive-urban-development-and-mobility_en.

2 Hammond L., et al. 2020. *Comprehensive Refugee Responses in the Horn of Africa: Regional leadership on education, livelihoods and durable solutions*. Research & Evidence Facility, EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. Available at: <https://blogs.soas.ac.uk/ref-hornresearch/files/2020/03/CRRF-report.pdf>.



Delivering the CRRF in the Horn of Africa

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has played an important role in supporting the delivery of the CRRF in the Horn of Africa, notably through the 2017 Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia.

In the declaration, heads of state and government committed to improving protection space and solutions for displaced people and providing educational and economic opportunities for some four million refugees and forcibly displaced people residing in the region. It represented a dramatic turn towards addressing displacement and migration from a development perspective, rather than a humanitarian one.

The Declaration forms the basis of IGAD's regional approach, which is leading to an incremental shift towards greater freedom of movement for refugees. Many are attracted to urban areas, presenting new sets of challenges and opportunities for service delivery and the pursuit of sustainable livelihoods and protection.³

Perceptions of the CRRF vary from country to country, and its implementation relies on national policy coordination and institutional arrangements. Urban displacement is, however, only partially reflected in national policies. Support to host governments in the region through the CRRF remains mainly centred on camps or rural settlements, with little attention paid to urban and semi-urban areas that host (or will host) an increasing number of refugees.

Municipalities that can successfully manage the population increase resulting from refugees will be better able to tackle demographic growth and rapid urbanisation. Consequently, municipal governments have become key actors in managing refugees.

Additionally, secondary cities in the Horn of Africa are rarely represented in international discussions and panels to share the challenges and opportunities they face when trying to implement global agendas, such as the GCR or the CRRF. When questioned, municipalities point out that even if national plans are adopted, local implementation faces challenges in the availability of technical, human, financial, and logistical resources.

Refugees and host community representatives generally believe that they are not consulted enough and not well integrated into urban policies.⁴ In most cases, growing populations are not matched by increased municipal budgets, and host governments argue that they do not have the necessary financial resources to fully extend the CRRF at the local level.

Overview of the Action

The rationale of the CRRF: Inclusive Urban Development and Mobility Action is that by strengthening the capacity of local authorities to deliver services and undertake contingency planning, refugees and their host communities will benefit from better services and a better quality of life. This will also improve the ability of local authorities to implement the CRRF and other global agendas. The Action has selected municipalities from four partnering countries in the Horn of Africa to address the dual challenges of the rising number of displaced people and wider urbanisation.

It is divided in three components: a regional network and dialogue, and two pilot projects (one in Koboko, Uganda and a second in Assosa, Ethiopia). All three components aim to equip secondary cities with tools to increase the safety and well-being of displaced populations and their host communities in urban or peri-urban settings. By providing knowledge and technical assistance to local authorities and increasing the participation of displaced persons and host communities in the city's economic and social life, the project seeks to reduce inequalities between these groups and improve their living conditions.

The project is financed by the EUTF for Africa, which provides joint, flexible, and quick support to complement political dialogue, development cooperation programmes, humanitarian assistance, and crisis response assistance. This support is always in close cooperation with the beneficiaries.

Cities Alliance is the global partnership fighting urban poverty and promoting the role of cities. With its Global Programme on Cities and Migration, Cities Alliance has made a long-term commitment to support secondary cities in low-income countries that are managing large inflows of migrants and refugees.

³ EUTF Action Fiche for the implementation of the Horn of Africa Window T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-67. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/sites/default/files/bt05-eutf-hoa-reg-67_-_crrf_urban_development_and_mobility_incl_rider.pdf.

⁴ Annex 1: Workshop survey.

Components of the Action

COMPONENT 1: Regional Network and Dialogue

The first component responds to the needs of secondary cities in the Horn of Africa that are currently experiencing a high influx of refugees and involuntary migrants seeking access to social services, housing, livelihoods, and basic support. It establishes a regional network and platform for dialogue among seven secondary cities: Arua and Koboko in Uganda, Kakuma-Kalobeyei in Kenya, Assosa and Jijjiga in Ethiopia, and Gabiley and Boroma in Somalia.

The network and dialogue are supporting secondary cities in strengthening their voices and bringing national and international attention to their needs. The cities also have the opportunity to advocate at global debates such as the Global Refugee Forum, which increases their international presence, improves their technical knowledge and capacities, and helps them play their fundamental role in successfully implementing global agendas.

The Action includes refugee and host community representatives in the dialogue, allowing them to discuss their needs, challenges, and potential solutions with the appropriate municipal, national and regional actors and engage in local planning activities. Peer learning with neighbouring cities facing similar challenges is informing cities on solutions for improving living conditions and opportunities for both refugees and host populations, reducing the risk of conflict, and providing access to basic services for all vulnerable city residents.

Cities Alliance is implementing the regional network and dialogue component. Five peer-learning events, hosted by partner cities and facilitated by Cities Alliance, are being organised to include displaced and vulnerable host communities in urban policy discussion. The events feature a discussion of cities' needs and a technical training session to meet the identified needs.

This report documents the fourth peer-learning exchange in Lodwar, Kenya following previous exchanges in Arua, Uganda (March 2021), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (November 2021), and Kampala, Uganda (March 2022).



COMPONENT 2: Support to Koboko Municipality

The second component of the Action responds to the current need to provide direct support to municipalities hosting a significant number of refugees. This innovative component directly supports the Koboko Municipal Council (KMC) to improve municipal urban planning and service delivery. The KMC is implementing this component with technical advice from ACAV.

According to a 2018 study initiated by the International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG International), self-settled refugees make up about 26 per cent of Koboko's estimated population.⁵ The study also underscores that insufficient local budget allocation is impacting the municipality's ability to deliver adequate public services.

The initiative is strengthening local structures instead of creating parallel support systems. On a broader level, it is directly involving urban authorities to strengthen the inclusion and participation of displaced persons in the economic and social life in urban settings across the region. It is also improving livelihoods and greater access to quality basic services for refugees and host populations in select urban settings.

⁵ VNG. 2018. *Survey Highlights on Self-Settled Refugees in Koboko Municipal Council Empowering Refugee Hosting Districts in Uganda: Making the Nexus Work*. Available at: <https://www.vng-international.nl/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/NEXUS-Summary-Self-settled-refugees-Koboko-MC-nov-2018.pdf>.



COMPONENT 3: Promoting Inclusive Urban Development in Assosa, Ethiopia

The third component of the Action provides is supporting Assosa Municipality. Implemented by the IRC, it is strengthening public, private, and civil society service delivery capacities, resources, and infrastructure for host communities and displaced populations in Assosa's urban and peri-urban settings. Assosa is a central crossroads for migrants within Ethiopia or along the northern migration route, and its population has almost tripled in the past 12 years, straining access to basic services.

One of the least developed urban areas in Ethiopia,⁶ Assosa hosts five refugee camps. International interventions mainly target refugees and some small surrounding host communities, leaving room for potential conflicts over already scarce resources. Relationship-building and technical assistance to local authorities can create pathways for more inclusive community engagement, strengthening systems and urban planning.⁷

This component's activities are providing greater access to quality basic services, including water and sanitation, health, waste collection, and protection for displaced and host populations in Assosa. Better access to services will enhance social cohesion and community dialogue and help promote socio-economic development. The component also strengthens the inclusion and participation of displaced persons in the city's economic and social life.

6 EUTF Action Fiche for the implementation of the Horn of Africa Window T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-67. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/sites/default/files/bt05-eutf-hoa-reg-67 - crf urban development and mobility incl_rider.pdf.

7 Ibid.



Introduction

Opening Remarks

Hon. Peter Akono, Minister for Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Areas Management, Turkana County

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the fourth Peer Learning Event in Lodwar, Turkana County.

Turkana County is amongst the 47 counties in Kenya. After the adoption of devolution in 2013, urban development in the county has witnessed unprecedented growth. For example, Lodwar town had a spatial plan of approx. 70 km² now covers an area of 200 km² and the population has grown threefold.

Turkana County now has a population of over 1 million residents. It has an urbanisation level of 27 per cent, with rapid urbanisation due to push-and-pull factors driven majorly by devolution and rural-urban migration and international migration (refugees).



Ladies and Gentlemen, Turkana West has a population of more than 216,000 refugees, making 30 per cent, and an urban population of 25 per cent. The county has planned nine towns, three of which are in Turkana West, including the proposed Kakuma-Kalobeyei Municipality intending to include refugees as a part of urban development planning for the county.

The 2019 CRRF and the Global Compact led to the development of the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio Economic Development Plan (KISEDPA), a progressive area-based programme that is integrated into the County Integrated Development Plan which calls for a vision for economic and social integration.

In supporting international trade and migration, Turkana County Government has provided land for immigration border points. Nadapal border point has already been demarcated and is operational. Other areas soon to be planned and surveyed are Lomokori (200 acres of an integrated border control point at the Uganda-Kenya border), Todonyang (approximately 50 acres on the Kenya-Ethiopia border).

The county government is in the process of registering all community lands. Already, my ministry has submitted 66 of 156 village units to the Cabinet secretary for

lands to begin the adjudication process that will see communities issued with title deeds for their land. We are planning to cover the remaining registration units before the closure of the financial year.

My ministry is also planning for land regularisation in Lodwar municipality. In this process, cadastral maps will be drawn and will lead to the issuance of at least 7,000 title deeds. We are also working with The World Bank under the Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project to issue title deeds to residents in five other settlements within the county.

The Kakuma-Kalobeyei proposed municipality is soon going to be issued with a charter and will open doors for this region. It will be a special municipality and the second after Lodwar. Tomorrow, I will host a high delegation from the World Bank, UN-Habitat, and the State Department of Urban Development, and will amongst others, discuss how to actualise and finance the municipality.

I am hopeful that with such engagements, we will get to learn a lot from each other. I offer my full support and commitment to working with all of you. I hope you enjoy your stay in Lodwar and invite you to visit some of our attraction sites.

Angelo Di Giorgi, Programme Officer, Migration Management and Displacement, EU Trust Fund for Africa, Horn of Africa Window

Three years ago, the EUTF funded this Action with EUR 8.2 million with the intention to equip secondary cities with the capacity to handle migration in a sustainable, applicable, and human way. Mainly, the idea behind this Action is to make cities that are resilient when it comes to data for the best needs of growing populations, funding both metro growth and the advancing coming migrant influxes. The programme represents one valuable example of what the European Union is doing to support the Action and implementation of the CRRF in line with its values and EUTF objectives.

This worthwhile event represents a unique opportunity for us to assess where we are in implementation, share achievements, and learn from shortcomings. I am glad to see that so many mayors and municipality representatives, implementers, and local partners were able to join us here. This not only will make the commitments made over these days more relevant and helpful, but it is also an acknowledgement that



the programme matters for you, since it is delivering concrete results to your citizens and to the displaced populations that are benefiting from the support you receive. It is also an example of how consultative initiatives like this project can increase social cohesion and improve the lives of many, regardless of their legal status.

I am delighted to see present in the audience so many researchers and staff members from relevant institutions. Their knowledge and legal mindset will be a great help in discussions and for reaching thorough conclusions after these exchanges and learning. I am most intrigued by the lectures that the researchers will offer us, since we all understand how much urban planning in the context of migration and displacement has to be guided by strong scientific considerations. I think that the experience revealed under the project so far is that is a weakness.

It is also worth mentioning the important role played by Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and United Cities and Local Governments Africa (UCLGA), for migration and displacement to be handled in a multi-lateral way. We cannot believe that these are issues one single country should treat alone. IGAD and UCLGA are the essential players.

However, policies, programmes, academic research, and high-level dialogues need someone to put them into practice and have an impact on the reality. For this reason, I will put strong emphasis on the work done by participating municipalities as well as by the refugees, host communities, and civil society.

Lastly before closing, I would like to consider for a moment the two pilot projects financed by EUTF in Ethiopia and Uganda and their work on the improvement of service provision for displaced populations in those communities, including the operations of municipalities and the local branches of the relevant ministries. I am very much looking forward to hearing from their experience.

Special thanks goes to Cities Alliance, not only for having organised such a rich agenda for the three days, but also the for work done so far. Their work enabling secondary cities to become resilient with arrival of migrants and displaced populations in a sustainable manner is indeed worth praising. Echoing His Excellency, I encourage you all to make the most of these few days together by deepening your connections and be inspired by others' experience to make life better for IDPs, refugees, migrants and the communities hosting them.

Abubakar Rugamba Kabura, Youth and Refugee Representative, Kakuma Settlement

My name is Abubakar Rugamba and I am a Burundian refugee staying in Kakuma refugee camp, which is a home to more than 200,000 refugees. In Kalobeyei settlement we have 47,000 refugees. Kakuma Refugee Camp, with all these numbers, makes one of the largest camps in the world and the second largest in Kenya.

On behalf of all refugees, we can all say thank you to the people of Kenya and their government for having such a good welcoming heart because we all know how hard is for Kenya to meet needs of its population and yet still host such a big number of refugees.

Well, I said thank you because when I first got here, refugee status was a problem. I could not own a business and register it, I could not open a bank account, I could not stay with the host community. But through the county government development plan, which is the KISED, the county government came up with a plan to address host and refugee issues for both to benefit from national services such as education, healthcare, and increased socio-economic



opportunities – all anchored in building the skills and increasing the capacity of refugees and the Kenyans in the local community.

The hope is to increase self-reliance among refugees and reduce poverty so that refugees are not seen only as a burden, but also as people who can contribute to the economic growth of the county. It is a fact, as we speak almost 50 per cent of the revenue of Turkana is from Kakuma refugee camp. And now thanks to the Refugee Act that was signed into law last year, it will be possible for refugees to move freely inside and outside the country, contrary to the past years, when refugees were restricted to free movements.

Despite this new law, situations of police harassment are still present. Therefore, all refugees would like to request the county government to implement immediately the new Refugee Act so that refugees can take advantages of different opportunities in the country and show their potential instead of being forced to stay in camps.

This really great opportunity for us to learn how other governments from different regions tackle the harassment issue of displaced people, migrants and refugees, for instance in the case of Uganda where refugees have the opportunity of moving freely and can also work.

To conclude, most importantly, I would like to thank Cities Alliance and the European Union for providing us with this type of platform that brings us together in order to have this discussion. It is where we can gain knowledge and sense how to tackle the issue of local integration and inclusion for refugees and the host.

In this context, it is where CRRF comes in, with urban planning to help governments host refugees and ensure enough service delivery in order to improve their quality of life and provide proper expansion planning. We shall remember that economic integration falls into three categories: trade creation, employment opportunities, and consensus and cooperation, and that's why CRRF is here.



“

When I first got here, refugee status was a problem. I could not own a business and register it, I could not open a bank account, I could not stay with the host community. But through the county government development plan, which is the KISED, the county government came up with a plan to address host and refugee issues for both to benefit from national services such as education, healthcare, and increased socio-economic opportunities – all anchored in building the skills and increasing the capacity of refugees and the Kenyans in the local community.

– Abubakar Rugamba Kabura, Youth and Refugee Representative, Kakuma Settlement

Brigitte Hoermann, Acting Head of Global Programmes and Senior Migration Officer, Cities Alliance

A very warm welcome to the different delegations that this Action convenes since the last three years. The Cities Alliance sincerely thanks the County Government of Turkana, represented today by Hon. Peter Akono, Minister for Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Areas Management for welcoming delegations from over four countries to learn from each other and the experiences of your administration.

Cities Alliance is a global partnership fighting urban poverty and supporting cities to deliver sustainable development. Our mission is to enhance the well-being of urban populations by delivering innovative, multi-sectoral solutions to urban poverty. We leverage the collective expertise of our partnership to catalyze urban transformation and social inclusion.

As we witness here today, Cities Alliance supports collaboration among cities in and across developing countries and with support of regional, national, and interregional authorities and actors. This event demonstrates Cities Alliance's convening capacity to provide a platform where practitioners can share knowledge, skills, expertise, and resources to meet their development needs and objectives. As a global partnership of organisations fighting urban poverty and supporting cities to deliver sustainable development, Cities Alliance introduces expertise and support from global partners as needed.

Cities Alliance's peer-to-peer learning approach and networks for urban practitioners convene stakeholders from different backgrounds to exchange experiences on migration, forced displacement, and secondary cities and build coalitions to advocate for necessary support at the national and global level. Such networks promote forms of solidarity among municipal leaders in negotiating with national or other supra-local authorities.



We transform our data-driven advocacy into action and through our multi-donor fund we have funded over 400 urban projects around the world, benefiting migrants, forcibly displaced communities and vulnerable urban households. We hope we can increase this portfolio to the benefit of all cities that are present here today.

We are looking forward to leveraging these networks and expertise for the well-being of all city residents and wish you fruitful days of discussions and coalition building.

Updates on the Regional Network and Dialogue

Florence Lozet, Urban Analyst at Cities Alliance, presented a video on the work of the network to the panel and summarised achievements in each of the Action's four outputs so far:

OUTCOME 1: Inclusion of displaced persons and vulnerable host communities in urban policy development is strengthened for a greater social cohesion and conflict prevention.

Partner cities were introduced to two mechanisms for inclusion at the Action's first peer-learning event in Arua in March 2021: the Municipal Development Forum (MDF) and the Community Upgrading Fund (CUF).⁸ Technical sessions provided information on how these mechanisms can benefit the city – such as improved urban governance, including all residents in planning, and developing partnerships among stakeholders to address challenges – as well as how to fund and implement them.

A Municipal Development Forum is a platform established at the municipal level for all stakeholders to meet regularly to exchange views, debate priorities, and agree on common actions on matters pertaining to the town or city. Cities Alliance has promoted the role of the multistakeholder forum as a platform for participation and dialogue among urban citizens, including host communities and displaced populations, to exchange knowledge and inform local policies, plans and budgets. All cities of the network have started the establishment of an MDF by The majority of the cities of the network have started working on the establishment of an MDF.

Arua shared its successful experience with the MDF, and as a result of the project, Koboko established a forum of its own. The other partner cities are now equipped with the knowledge and capacity to develop forums, and, thanks to the developing network, they have the connections with Arua and Koboko to provide guidance. The Municipalities of Gabiley and Borama finalised an initial proposal to establish an MDF in their cities, while the Municipality of Jigjiga also expressed interest in establishing such an inclusive mechanism.

The municipalities have also shown strong interest in establishing a CUF, with Arua exploring a potential launch of a CUF in 2023.



OUTCOME 2: Understanding and skills of local administrations and city stakeholders for addressing urban displacement are improved through regional awareness and networking with other secondary cities in the Horn of Africa facing similar migration dynamics.

Partner cities have hosted four peer-learning events (including this one) facilitated by Cities Alliance to exchange experiences on integrating migrants and displaced persons. The events featured technical topics selected by the cities, including mechanisms for inclusion, fundraising, integration and urban planning, urban expansion planning, and sustaining a regional network of cities.

So far, the Action has produced three technical expert papers on identified peer-learning themes to inform policy discussions. The first paper provided an overview of the MDF and CUF and how to establish them in a municipality.⁹ The second one was on local resource mobilisation strategies, and the third on Urban Expansion Planning for cities hosting IDPs and migrants¹⁰ at the regional level to frame and guide the peer-learning networking and events.

⁸ The CUF is a vehicle to improve access to basic social and infrastructural services for the urban poor living in slums and informal settlements. It is a financing mechanism that allows slum dwellers – including host communities, refugees, migrants, and settlement-based community organisation – to access grants and financing for small infrastructure initiatives that meet the community's basic needs under clearly defined criteria.

⁹ https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/CitiesAlliance-MDFCUFReport_2021%20%282%29.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.citiesalliance.org/resources/publications/cities-alliance-knowledge/urban-expansion-planning-cities-hosting-idps-and->



“

I am using the technical expert papers to shape and inform my technical and political advisors for cities, regional governments and federal ministries that are relevant for the topic of cities and migration.

– Hon. Wadri Sam Nakua,
Mayor Arua

A Call for Papers was launched in 2022. The winning paper from the competition was written by Mr. Biniyam Bogale from Jigjiga University, and he presented his findings on the role of local actors in managing migration along the eastern desert route of Ethiopia.

The Action is also facilitating a City and Mobility Award for secondary cities in the Horn of Africa that have a particularly commendable approach to managing migration. The partner cities selected the city participating in the Action that has inspired them the most, and the results will be announced at the next peer-learning event.

OUTCOME 3: Structured peer network of secondary cities in the Horn of Africa with a significant migration and refugee dynamic formed.

Through the Action, the partner cities laid the groundwork for a regional network to help them manage migration more effectively. With technical guidance from

Dr. Loren Landau, they have designed a governance structure for the network and prepared a five-year strategy for organisation, budget, and activities.

“

The network has created a valuable professional field and momentum for positive and inclusive policy and practice reforms.

– Loren Landau



OUTCOME 4: The role of secondary cities in managing significant migration and refugee dynamics is advocated to state and regional actors in the Horn of Africa to improve effective local management of forced migration.

The partner cities participated in global events, including the African Review of the GCM, the cities' contribution to the GCR in 2021, and the Cities Alliance Kampala Regional Exchange in 2022. A panel session co-organised with IGAD and UCLG Africa was dedicated to the network at Africities 2022 on the topic of the role of secondary cities in providing durable solutions to migration and forced displacements. Regular data gathering on local efforts towards achieving the GCR and GCM targets was addressed at the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges in 2022.





Case Studies

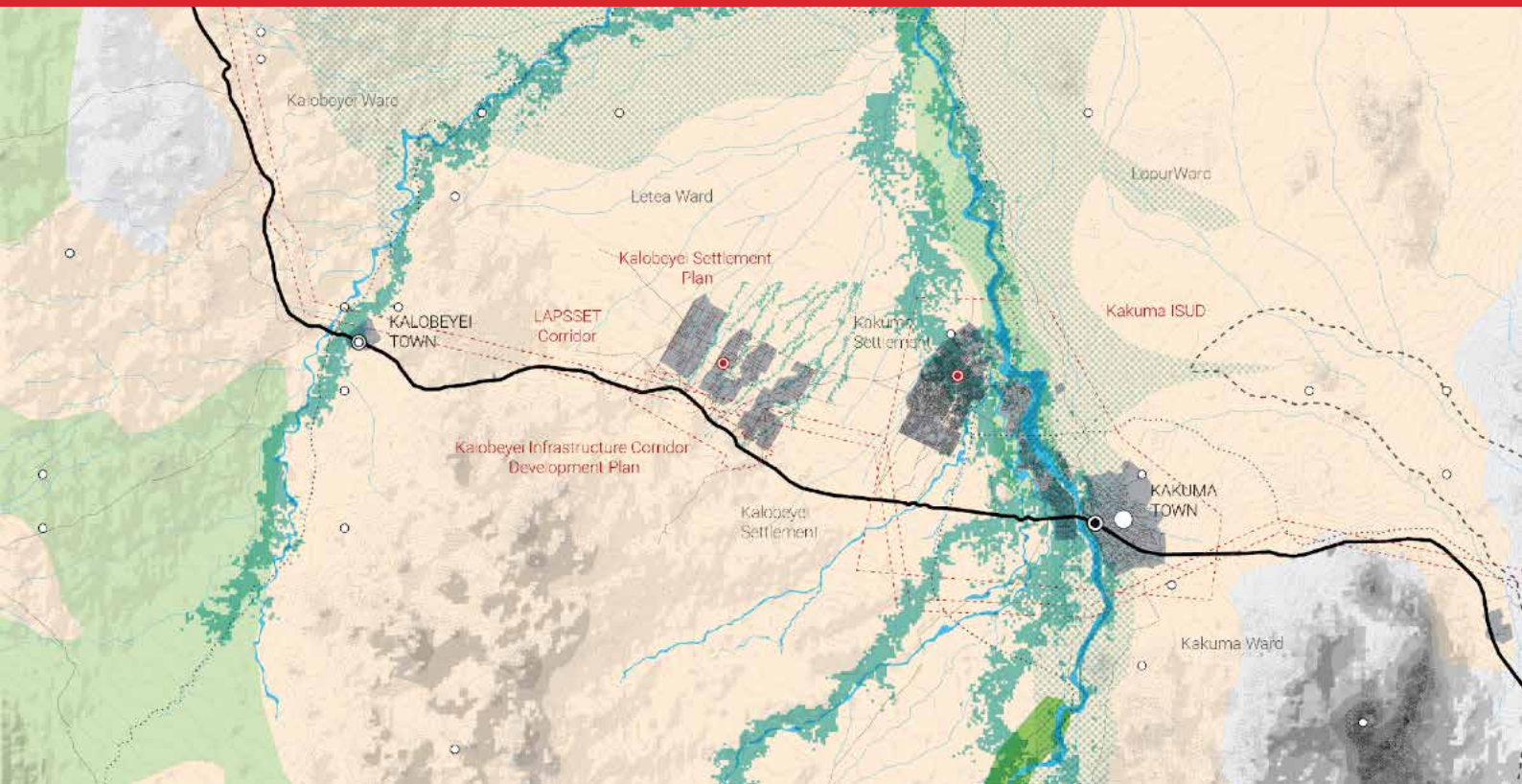
A Model of Integration – Experience from Turkana County

Turkana County is the second largest in Kenya, with a population of around 927,000 (2019). It is located in northwestern Kenya on the borders with Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Uganda, making it a prime destination for refugees from these countries. There are two refugee camps, Kakuma and Kalobeyei, with a combined population of nearly 1.6 million.

Victor Lekaram, Director of Urban Areas Management for Turkana County, began with an overview of how the Turkana County local government has supported the socio-economic integration of refugees for nearly a decade.

Turkana County sees refugees as an economic opportunity and has recognised that it needs to transition away from humanitarian and emergency support to socio-economic integration. This shift in mindset was supported by a push for greater decentralisation in Kenya and a refugee policy that is forward looking in terms of economic inclusion for refugees.

The county applied this approach to socio-economic integration in 2015 when it established the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement, where refugees could live and do business. The settlement has been planned and developed under the 15-year multi-sector Kalobeyei Integrated Socio Economic Development Plan (KISEDPP), a participatory initiative led by the county in collaboration with UN-Habitat and UNHCR.



Map of Kakuma-Kalobeyei.

Source: Turkana County Government. © Cities Alliance

The large refugee population is helping Kakuma and Kalobeyei transition from a town to a full-fledged municipality, with the increased resources that come along with the new classification. The county is supporting an integrated urban development plan for the new Municipality of Kakuma-Kalobeyei to ensure that it is inclusive and benefits both refugees and host community.

The county is establishing an economic zone in the corridor between Kakuma and Kalobeyei, where the new integrated settlement will be established, to create economic opportunities for both refugees and host communities and stimulate local growth.

Turkana's experience shows how an empowered local government can take the initiative to improve the lives of all its residents. And once the local government has begun taking action, partners will come to support their efforts.

The Hon. Peter Akono, Minister for Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Areas Management for Turkana County, said that one of the hallmarks of Turkana County's approach to refugees is that it makes sure that the host community benefits as well. He also stressed the importance of strengthening the municipality's role in providing service delivery to both refugees and host communities.

Melissa Maimunah, Host Community Representative for Kakuma Settlement, noted that the presence of refugees in Turkana West has helped transform

the economy by supporting growth and boosting productivity. She also urged all stakeholders not to shy away from tackling the more difficult issues surrounding refugees and that integration is a continuous process.



All of the resources that we are putting into the refugees, the host community is also given priority to benefit from those resources.

– The Hon. Peter Akono, Minister for Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Areas Management for Turkana County



Integration and social cohesion are dynamic processes that need to be worked on, built up, and nurtured.

– Melissa Maimunah, Host Community Representative for Kakuma Settlement

The Role of Data in Legal Protection and Inclusive Urban Planning in Refugee-Hosting Cities – The Case of Arua, Uganda

Located in northwestern Uganda near the borders with South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Arua is a commercial hub and transit centre for the West Nile region. The city has received a large influx of refugees, many of them unrecognised under Uganda's Refugee Act, which only recognises refugees living in Kampala or designated camps. Without accurate information on how many refugees were living in Arua, the city struggled to plan and budget for services.

In 2020, Cities Alliance, with the financial support of the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) brought together a consortium that included the AVSI Foundation, Arua city, and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), the government agency mandated to collect and coordinate data in Uganda, to produce an accurate census of refugees and migrants in Arua's Central Division. This information would also enable the city to advocate for additional financial support to respond to migrants' needs.¹¹

Samuel Mabala, Cities Alliance's Country Urban Adviser for Uganda, moderated the session and invited key stakeholders to share how they have applied the census data to enhance legal protection and inclusive urban planning in Arua.

The data is being used for city planning

The Mayor of Arua City, Wadri Sam Nyakua, noted that the census data is already being used to inform policy making, programming, and investment planning in city infrastructure. It has enabled the city to open a municipal court to improve access to justice for refugees. Schools hosting migrant and refugee students are already receiving additional resources for more classrooms, desks, and toilets, and refugees are represented at school management committees. In addition, the data has revealed that migrants are contributing to the city economy through businesses they own and operate.

Stephen Bogere, Senior Sociologist at the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, said that the census data informed the preparation of the

Arua's physical development plan and encouraged the city planning department to establish a comprehensive digital database that is regularly updated to inform planning and decision making.

Arua has received additional resources from partners

The Deputy City Clerk of Arua City, Cornelius Jobile, noted that the data showed that out of 670,000 students taking the Primary Leaving Examination, 30 per cent were migrants. The city shared this data with partners, including UNCDF, which used it to design a programme for financing durable solutions targeting the youth. Another partner, VNG, intends to conduct a census to generate data on Ayivu Division, which was not covered in the earlier census. The city also used the data to allocate market space to accommodate fish sales from South Sudan.

Solomon Osakan, Senior Settlement Officer at the OPM said that the data led to a rapid needs assessment of refugees and their needs, which resulted in additional financial support from international donors for schools and ambulances in Arua. The Ugandan government also provided additional resources to UBOS to generate data for inclusive planning when it conducts the next national census in July 2023.

Services have expanded, and there is greater awareness of Gender-based Violence (GBV)

The Host Community Representative, Ms. Hellen Drabrezu, said the data increased awareness of GBV and crime in the city. It also informed the planning for extending water services to underserved areas and an assessment of the adequacy of referral health facilities in police and prison barracks. In addition, it has fostered a good relationship with the South Sudanese business community in both formal and informal sectors.

¹¹ The Arua census is accessible at <https://www.citiesalliance.org/resources/programme-outputs/report/arua-city-central-division-census-migrants-and-host-communities>.

Key Findings of the Census



Refugees make up 10.3 per cent of the population of Arua's Central Division.



Access to social services such as water, education, electricity, medical facilities, housing, and sanitation is severely constrained.



In terms of economic opportunities and financial services, refugees have limited capacity and skills in financial literacy, enterprise selection, business management, and low access to loan facilities.



Immigrants and refugees have been able to acquire land for commercial and subsistence farming as well as possession of other movable valuable assets.



Refugees who break the law and are arrested stay in prison longer without access to justice or legal representation, due to ignorance of the law and language barriers.

Female refugees are particularly vulnerable due to cultural marginalisation and stigmatisation:



Female refugee-headed households live in overcrowded small rental units with inadequate housing facilities.



Women and girls experience early/forced marriages (some cross-generational), including resorting to transactional sex to support themselves and/or their suffering mothers.



Women have limited or no access to sexual reproductive health care or HIV services.

The census conclusions written by UBOS included several recommendations. It urged Uganda to recognise all the refugees in the country, not just those in Kampala or designated camps. The report suggests expanding the Urban Refugee Policy to include refugees beyond Kampala and enacting a migration policy that provides more support to migrants in terms of labour, settlement, and assistance. It also called for a comprehensive census to be undertaken in the rest of Arua city, establishing a local government refugee desk, and increased budget for service delivery.

Making Room for Displaced People: Urban Planning and Management Approaches for Greater Social Cohesion and Integration of Refugees and IDPs – Experiences from Ethiopia and Somalia

Displacement and mobility are an increasing trend, and secondary cities are especially impacted, as they serve as safety nets for displaced people. This represents an opportunity; with growing populations and steady economic growth, secondary cities generate large number of jobs in the construction, service, industry, and other sectors.

Secondary cities can step ahead the challenge of migration and displacement by adopting forward-looking, creative urban planning and management approaches. Lessons from East African secondary cities show that such approaches facilitate the social and economic integration of IDPs, refugees, and labour migrants and catalyse local economic development.

Tsigereda Tafesse, Cities Alliance’s Country Urban Advisor for Ethiopia, highlighted Urban Expansion Planning as an approach that has been very successful in Ethiopia. Urban Expansion Planning is a long-term urban planning instrument that anticipates the inevitable population growth of cities and frames it into spatial planning, infrastructure design, and service delivery.¹²

In Ethiopia from 2013–2016, Urban Expansion Planning led to the construction of over 570 km of arterial roads, creating space for at least 140,000 new residents and more than 26,000 jobs. It also reduced informality and squatting in cities including Bahirdar, Hawassa, and Mekelle. Since 2020, more cities in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Uganda have been exploring urban expansion planning.

City and community representatives shared how cities in Ethiopia and Somalia are using Urban Expansion Planning and other approaches to integrate refugees and IDPs.

Urban expansion planning as an instrument of integration

In **Hawassa, Ethiopia**, the city’s administrative territory has expanded almost fourfold. The urban expansion plan created space for the city to expand, which in turn made land and services available for vulnerable groups, such as IDPs. It helped officials regularise informal settlements on government land occupied by mostly labour migrants and IDPs, creating security and bankable assets for these groups. Arterial roads built in expansion areas connected vulnerable people to services and the urban labour market.

Hawassa was able to accommodate a massive new industrial park, which has created jobs for over 20,000 young people, many of them women, labour migrants, and IDPs. The park has also attracted many new businesses in the service and hospitality sectors. Overall, the city’s revenue has increased significantly due to leases, service charges, and taxes from new businesses.



Hawassa Industrial Park.

Photo: Cities Alliance.

¹² More information on managing migration and Urban Expansion in Secondary Cities can be found here: <https://www.citiesalliance.org/resources/publications/cities-alliance-knowledge/managing-migration-and-urban-expansion-secondary>

In **Gabiley, Somalia**, the expansion plan is making it possible for the city to prepare for the population to double in the coming years. It is facilitating basic services such as education, health, water, electricity, and communication services for IDPs and host communities alike. Gabiley Region is the main destination for refugees crossing the border into Ethiopia. There is currently no official number and contact to ensure their safety. Additional people in the city are putting pressure on resources availability including water and energy.

Gabiley has made many changes to make basic services more accessible to both IDPs and host

communities. The city is divided into four districts, each with its own services such as schools, a medical centre, administrative offices, a commercial market, and a police station.

Gabiley is currently in the process of developing a five-year plan which includes community participation without discrimination. The plan aims to facilitate access to basic services for all, the creation of an economic zone, and building urban resilience by increasing the capacity of local authorities and resources to respond to environmental stress and increasing displacement of populations.

Investments and services to promote social and economic integration

Studies show that the majority of migrants and IDPs coming to secondary cities are most likely to settle there permanently. Without careful planning and investment in services (land, roads, market, water, health, schools, etc.) that consider migrants, IDPs, and refugees, secondary cities are most likely to suffer from unemployment, crime, violence, political unrest, aggravated poverty, and environment risks. Purposeful investment in services and infrastructure improves lives and unlocks economic potential for migrants, IDPs and host communities. Cultural integration efforts play a significant role in fostering social cohesion.

In **Ethiopia**, the municipality of **Adama** worked with Cities Alliance and the Adama Science and Technology Institute to establish a migration resource centre that provides voluntary registration and identification, cultural orientation, soft skill training, and job placement services. It has already voluntarily registered over 4,000 IDPs, creating a database that provides insights into migrants' skill sets as well as causes and patterns of migration. More than 1,200 IDPs have been trained and linked with jobs in industry parks and the service sector.

The city also built a market in the expansion area to facilitate economic opportunities and improve service delivery for IDPs and host communities.



Promoting businesses linked with IDPs can help facilitate integration.

Photo: Cities Alliance.

Recommendations

Ms. Tafesse offered several recommendations for policy and planning based on Cities Alliance’s extensive experience:

- Localisation of policies on governing urban migration plays a key role as cities seek to gain the resources and tools that they need to host migrants and displaced people who, formally acknowledged or not, continue to arrive.
- Policies and approaches of donor governments and international actors should increase the engagement of, and investment to, municipal authorities confronted with rapid urbanisation to build capacities and peer learning networks.
- Urban expansion planning should be adopted into national planning frameworks, as it has a critical role to play in helping rapidly urbanising cities accommodate new migrants and sustainably manage spatial expansion.
- Urban migrants and IDPs are there to stay. Facilitating durable economic solutions is a crucial intervention. This needs global advocacy as well as policy and financing responses.
- IDPs, refugees, and migrants must participate in local planning and the setting of service delivery and infrastructure development targets.
- Cities Alliance has existing instruments and mechanisms that are proven to be effective, cost efficient, and sustainable that should be scaled up to leverage the role of more secondary cities in managing migration.



Integration of Refugees in Resource-Constrained Municipalities: The Case of Koboko Municipality, Uganda

In **Koboko**, the second component of this Action - CRRF: Inclusive Urban Development and Mobility - responds to the current need to provide direct support to municipalities hosting a significant number of refugees. This component directly supports the Koboko Municipal Council (KMC) to improve municipal urban planning and service delivery. KMC is implementing this component with technical advice from ACAV.

Like other refugee-hosting towns in Uganda, Koboko faces the challenge of a rapidly increasing population combined with limited budget allocations from the central government and other resource constraints. Bongo Patrick, ACAV Project Manager for the Koboko pilot, moderated a discussion of how the EU Action is supporting Koboko to integrate refugees, plan for urbanisation, and improve basic services.

Dr. Sanya Wilson, Mayor of Koboko Municipality, said that refugees have brought many opportunities to his city,

including new health and education facilities that benefit both refugees and host communities. For example, with support from the Action the city was able to build a new trauma healing centre - a major need for refugees - so that people could receive mental health treatment in Koboko instead of traveling to Arua, where the nearest facility was located. The project also supported the city to build new facilities for schools, such as toilets, desks, and a science lab in one secondary school. There is huge demand in Koboko for meat, so the city built a modern new abattoir that can accommodate 50 cows.

The city was able to do this all because of data, the mayor noted. When refugees started coming to Koboko, there was a lot of pressure on resources, such as schools, healthcare, markets, and water points. The city decided it needed data on how many people were in the city and how they were using resources. With that data, Koboko has been able to lobby and advocate for extra funding to support refugees.



The Action supported Koboko Municipality in developing a participatory physical development plan.

Photo: Koboko Municipality.

Koboko has made sure that refugees and host community both benefit from these opportunities. When the markets became congested, the city built more markets with half the stalls for refugees and half for the host community. Skill development programmes also targeted half refugees and half host community. These programmes have helped refugees start businesses and contribute to the city's coffers.

“

By 2040 Koboko will most likely be a city not because of politics, but because of planning.

- Dr. Sanya Wilson, Mayor of Koboko.



The EU Action has helped the city address important gaps in the health and education sectors as well as physical planning – effectively transforming the city, said **Andrew Chelangat, Town Clerk for Koboko Municipality**.

The Action has made a substantial contribution to the municipal budget. Ismail Mambo, Senior Accountant and Project Accountant for Koboko Municipality, noted that in 2022, the municipal budget breakdown was 61 per cent government grants, 29 per cent external assistance (from the EUTF Action), and 8 per cent local revenue. The EUTF funds have boosted service delivery to Koboko's growing urban population by supporting the municipal budget in various sectors, including education, health, livelihood, trade and industry, finance and planning, and inclusion and protection.

Malish Bonjira, Executive Director of SSURA, said that the Action has provided much-needed capacity building for local CBOs, who took on much of the community mobilisation.

Harriet Dozu, Host Community Representative for Koboko, noted that Koboko has some advantages that have helped it integrate migrants, including language and cultural similarities and an understanding that migrants are there because circumstances have forced them – a message that was echoed via radio and tv.



A four-classroom block in Koboko's Birijaku Primary School built through the Action.

Photo: Koboko Municipality.



“

It is the first of its kind that a lower local government has received direct funding from a donor. So Koboko Municipal Council is really the way to demonstrate that direct funding to municipalities has a correlation with improvement of service delivery because it is a faster way of delivering resources where it is most needed. What Koboko Municipality has accomplished in two years with the support of the EU, if they were to rely on other funding would have taken them close to 40-50 years to accomplish.

*- Bongo Patrick,
Programme Manager, ACAV*

Koboko's Best Practices for Refugee Integration

Two years into the EU Action, Koboko Municipal Council has identified the following best practices to help integrate refugees:



Involve refugees in the planning process right from the start at the cell, ward, division, and municipal level.



Ensure that refugees and host communities have equal access to basic social services such as education, health, etc.



Integrate refugees into school management committees, parent-teacher associations, and governance bodies.



Insert a special provision in municipal contracts with contractors to include refugees in their workforce (30 per cent).



Provide inclusive access to economic opportunities such as markets, income-generating activities, and saving groups.



Recognise that intermarriages and cultural galas promote integration and peaceful co-existence.

Promoting Inclusive Urban Development in Assosa Town

In **Assosa**, the third component of this Action - CRRF: Inclusive Urban Development and Mobility - was implemented by IRC and supported by Assosa Municipality. While financial support could not be provided directly to the Municipality at the time of the project implementation, this component strengthened public, private and civil service delivery capacities, resources and infrastructure for host community and displaced populations in Assosa's urban and peri-urban settings.

Meseret Teferi, Senior Grants Manager for IRC in Ethiopia and moderator, noted that IRC has been implementing EU-funded activities to strengthen basic

service delivery, capacity, resources, and infrastructure for the host community and displaced persons in Assosa since December 2019. The activities were based on initial assessments that public service provision in WASH, health, and protection in particular were inadequate to meet the demands of the rapidly growing population.

Over three years, the EU Action in Assosa has significantly improved access to water, health care, and protection services (especially for victims of GBV) for both displaced people and the host community. The Action is unique in an area where most interventions concentrate only on refugees.



“

The impact of the Action in sum is: Treat refugees equal with host community to ensure and sustain peaceful coexistence and a strong social interaction with the host community.

- Mustafa Mohammed Ahmed, Host Community Representative, Assosa

Mustafa Mohammed Ahmed, Host Community Representative from Assosa, said that there was initially a lot of resistance to refugees in Assosa because they had no legal grounds to settle there, and resources were already scarce. With its emphasis on social cohesion, however, the Action is beginning to change that view.

Yayehyirad Yemaneh, Field Coordinator for IRC in Ethiopia, shared some stories of people who are

benefiting from the new facilities, including a woman who recently gave birth in the new delivery facilities and a health care worker.

Mr. Yemaneh also shared that newly installed CCTV cameras are making the court system more efficient and effective. Previously, court staff could only access cameras in Addis Ababa.

Rachel Nega, a 24-year-old nursing student and resident of Assosa, gave birth to her third child at Assosa General Hospital's new delivery wing on 14 November 2022 and is very happy with the change.

She had her first two children in the old hospital, where the delivery rooms were “very old, condensed, no prenatal and post-natal room, and post-natal for all cases were the same. The space was not suitable for the mother, a strong bad smell due to suffocation,” she remembered.

“Today, I feel lucky to give birth in a building like this. The current delivery building is comfortable, clean, and suitable for the mother.”

Source: IRC



Desalegn Berhanu, a 32-year-old midwife in the delivery ward, has worked at Assosa General Hospital for seven years. He appreciates the new, more professional facilities:

“The previous delivery blocks were constructed 35 years back and with no improvement it was old, substandard, and uninspiring for professional work.

So, the building was not comfortable for either the professionals or the clients. The assigned staff faced difficulty staying in the room. Because of this, some active second-stage mothers got their babies with no professional support.

The delivery building, now built with EU funds and the IRC, has solved the problem of the past and is very comfortable and suitable for both professionals and pregnant mothers.”

Source: IRC



Initial Lessons from the Action

Mr. Yemaneh outlined some initial lessons that IRC and KMC have identified after three years of the Action:

- Before conducting any hydrogeological surveys or selecting a site, it is important to secure the potential site free from any claims.
- Lengthy community conversations on land issues contributed to high inflation costs on supplies and delays in implementing some activities. This factor should be taken into consideration in future projects.
- Working in synergy with community-based structures and groups is critical to ensuring that GBV survivors have timely access to response services.



Partners organised and celebrated International Women's Day on March 8 with different messages on GBV, family planning services, reproductive health service for adolescent girls, and youth.

Photo: IRC



“

It's amazing to see that municipalities are doing the same kinds of things that international NGOs are doing. I want Assosa Municipality to be exactly like Koboko, Arua, Lodwar and Jigjiga. It's a very good environment and a very good experience to see this kind of change that we have done. That's our next step because it ensures sustainability, and that's the main thing. We're going to be going out and it is going to be the municipality that is going to be carrying each activity that is being done.

- Meseret Teferi, Senior Grants Manager, IRC, Ethiopia



IGAD's Work on Cross-Border Programming on Migration and Mobility: The Need to Promote Social Cohesion Between Beneficiaries

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is a body of eight member states: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda (Eritrea is currently inactive).

Three main migration routes run through IGAD states, making them the origin, transit, and destination for millions of migrants and displaced people:

- The Eastern Route (Gulf of Aden migration route) runs through Djibouti, Northern Somalia, and Yemen to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries. The route also experiences reversed flows from Yemen, including Yemenis, third-country nationals, and returning Ethiopians and Somalis.
- The Northern Route runs through Sudan, Libya, and Egypt into Europe.
- The Southern Route runs through Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, and South Africa.

IGAD countries hosted 4.2 million refugees, around 12 million IDPs, and 6.5 million international migrants in 2019.

Charles Obila, Migration Officer for IGAD,

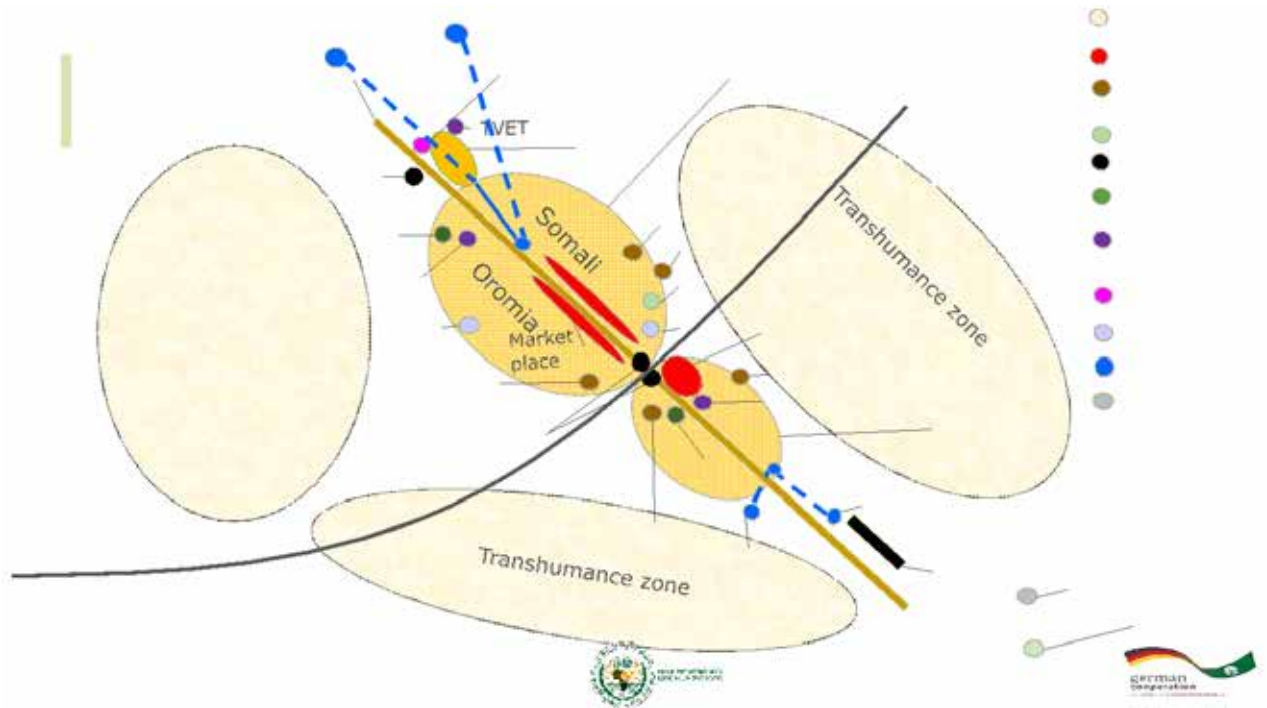
gave an overview of the Regional Migration Fund (RMF), which IGAD established in 2019 to create economic opportunities, improve living conditions, and promote social cohesion among refugees, migrants, and host communities in the region. The RMF is implemented using an area-based approach that combines two types of interventions with the objective to reduce tensions across several communities:

- Catalytic Economic Infrastructure Projects (CEIPs), which are large-scale, long-term with impacts within and across economic sectors and designed to establish structural conditions for sustained, inclusive economic growth.

- Complementary Economic and Social Projects (CESPs) are small scale, use local resources, have a quick turnover, and are strongly learning-oriented.

IGAD is piloting the RMF in Moyale-Moyale, on the Kenya-Ethiopia border. On the Ethiopian side of Moyale the population is mostly Oromia, with

the Kenyan side mainly Somali communities. Mr. Obila noted that there is a lot of conflict between the communities; for example, Somalis do not cross into the Oromia side to shop or sell at the markets, and vice versa. They also have separate infrastructure, such as water lines, and lack of water was a major source of conflict.



The towns of Moyale-Moyale on the border between Kenya and Ethiopia. The gold line represents the international border.

Source: IGAD

IGAD brought together the communities to meet and discuss the problems. They discussed priorities and identified the main investment opportunities for the pilot, which included water infrastructure improvements, a modern abattoir, a formal livestock market, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and entrepreneurship training.

IGAD identified 12 projects within those areas, serving as facilitator with private companies implementing the

infrastructure components, such as building the abattoir and constructing the water infrastructure.

While it is still too early in the process to discuss impact on the beneficiaries, Mr. Obila noted that the project has already reduced tensions between the Somali and Oromia communities and brought them together to discuss cooperation on shared cross-border problems – a major step forward.



Call for Papers Competition Winner

At the third peer-learning event in Kampala, Cities Alliance launched a Call for Papers to identify, compile, and disseminate best practices, methodologies, and strategies on migration and refugee management at the local level in the Horn of Africa. The winning paper was submitted by Dr. Binyamin Bogale of Jigjiga University on “The Role of Local Actors in Managing Migration Along the Eastern Desert Route of Ethiopia.”

Dr. Bogale presented his winning paper in Lodwar.

The Role of Local Actors in Managing Migration Along the Eastern Desert Route of Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, many irregular migrants (especially men) fall prey to traffickers and smugglers because they use irregular overland routes. While there are four of these migration routes, one of the biggest is the Eastern Desert Route, which extends from the city of Jigjiga to the border town of Tog-wochalle near Somaliland.

The Eastern Desert Route serves as a concentration hub for many irregular migrants arriving from the northern, central, and southern parts of Ethiopia, Somaliland, and Somalia. It is also a destination for internal migrants from southern Ethiopia, refugees, and migrants on their way to the Middle East and Europe. As a result, the Somali region of Ethiopia faces overwhelming pressure from the problem of migration management.

This study seeks to provide new insights into migrants’ experience along the Eastern Desert Route and the role of local actors managing migration; both issues that have received minimal attention. The author conducted interviews, focus group discussions, and observations of migrants, the local community, government (kebele, city administration, police commission, Eastern Anti-Trafficking and Smuggling Task Force members), and non-governmental organisations involved in managing irregular migration (IOM).

Findings

There are different factors for migration such as, unemployment, drought, ethnic conflict, and political instability in Ethiopia. Informants stated that the migration trends are changing in terms of pattern, nature of actors involved, the structural organisation of smuggling, and trust on financial exchange.

Increasing numbers of irregular migrants transiting the route from parts of Ethiopia or Somalia/Somaliland have challenged the migration management capacity of the region, especially the city administration of Jigjiga and Tog-wochalle.

En route, migrants are exposed to various forms of risks that are exacerbated by local actors' limited capacity to respond:

- According to stranded migrants, police officials, local community and the transportation sector workers, disagreements over payment between brokers and migrants or between brokers leads to migrants being arrested and confined.
- Many migrants face physical and emotional abuse, such as threats to attack, physical attacks, and degrading words from brokers and their facilitators along the route.
- Smugglers and their facilitators use control of mobility, sleep deprivation, and denial of communication to control the migrants. They keep them in hotels, shisha rooms, and sometimes even religious institutions in the daytime.
- The migrants face health issues with no rehabilitation centres along the route.
- The stresses associated with migration, combined with a lack of social support and harassment, produce a discrepancy between achievement and expectations, further detrimentally affecting migrants' physical and mental well-being.

Despite the influx and change in the patterns of migration along the route, local governmental actors and NGOs have made varying efforts in response to irregular migration in general and migrant smuggling in particular:

- The Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BOLSA) leads prevention and management of irregular migration including human trafficking activities in the region.
- The Eastern Anti-Trafficking/Smuggling Task Force involving four regions (Ethiopian Somali, Harari, Eastern Oromia, and Dire Dawa Council) was established in 2016.

- Travel to migrants stranded in border areas is difficult due to regional border conflict, budget limitations, lack of expertise on the issue, and vehicle shortages.
- Police commissions lack the capacity to take preventive action to protect migrants, such as conducting surveillance of bus stations, hotels, shisha/khat establishments, and checkpoints along the route, as well as increased night patrolling in notorious parts of the city.
- IOM's liaison office in Jigjiga provides protection services only to Ethiopian returnees deported to Tog-wochalle by the governments of Yemen and Somaliland.
- There is a lack of coordination among the Ethiopian Somali, Harari, and Oromia regional governments and the Dire Dawa Council.

Prosecuting smugglers is exceedingly difficult. There is no social stigma on criminality associated with an involvement in smuggling among the local community. Even if there are circumstances where the criminal act is reported and investigation has been initiated, only very few end up in prosecution. Intercepted migrants are often unwilling to testify against their smugglers. Courts are understaffed and overburdened with other cases, making prosecution complicated.

Recommendations

- There is a significant and urgent need to protect migrants' human rights and prosecute and punish actors involved in smuggling/trafficking,
- This should start with the implementation of UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in its entire form along with strengthening of all the migration control, management infrastructures and regulations adopted by the Government of Ethiopia with adequate budgeting/funding,
- Ethiopia must reach a mutual agreement with Somaliland/Somalia for a safe referral pathway and establish a common rehabilitation centre for intercepted migrants along their shared border.
- The capacity of regional local actors involved in the management of migration must be strengthened to better function in managing migration and promoting safe migration.



Technical Session: Using Ecosystem Mapping to Engender Social Cohesion and Sustainable Livelihoods

Dr. Caroline Wanjiku Kihato, Visiting Fellow, ODID, Oxford University, explained how the partner cities can use organisational ecosystem mapping to make decisions in line with their development priorities. She began the session by providing an overview of ecosystem mapping, with visuals to explain the process.

An ecosystem comprises a diverse group of actors whose actions and non-actions shape the outcomes of the system. Ecosystem mapping is the process by which organisations identify actors that positively or negatively impact their goals and priorities. Drawing on biology and social systems, the key idea is that organisations exist in dynamic and interconnected relationships which shape their impact and survival.

Organisational ecosystem maps offer a template for understanding how those outside of an organisation's immediate purview impact its current and future possibilities. They are powerful analytical tools for identifying general trends and activities in a system, offering opportunities to see where gaps and potential lie.

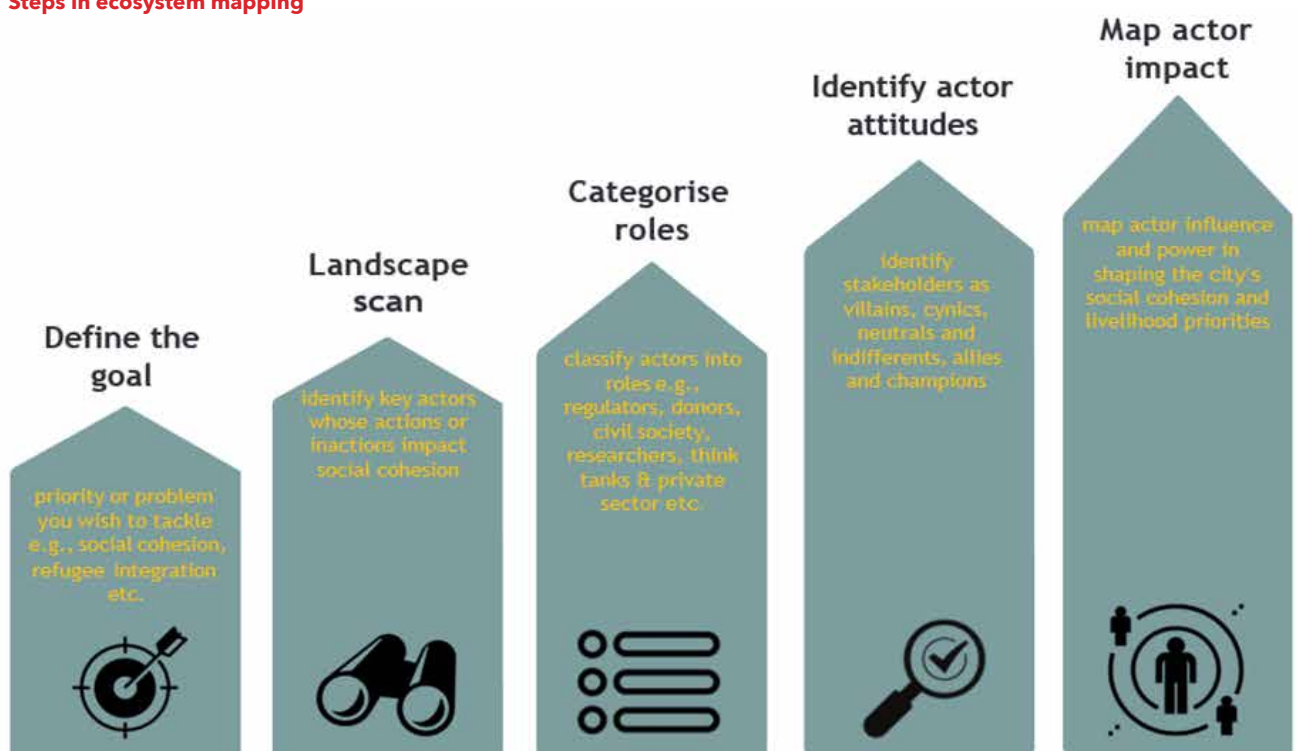


How can cities use ecosystem mapping to engender social cohesion and sustainable livelihoods?

- In a complex and dynamic organisational context, maps help stakeholders step back and see the big picture.
- They provide insights into the visible and invisible actors that impact the ecosystem.
- Maps allow stakeholders to understand the general trends and activities in the ecosystem.
- Maps help identify the strengths and weaknesses in the system as a whole.
- Maps support stakeholders in identifying the levers and actions needed to strengthen their impact.
- The maps are adaptable to multiple scales and can help decision-makers and other stakeholders tackle multiple issues.

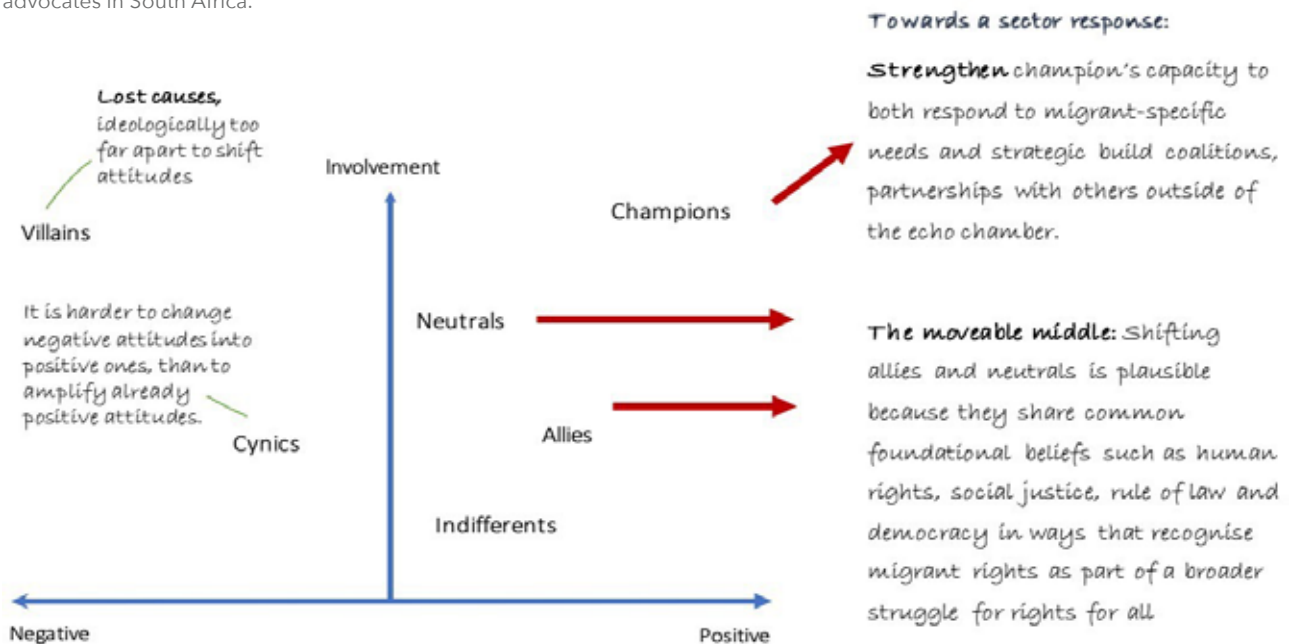
Creating an ecosystem

Steps in ecosystem mapping



Using the ecosystem to design a social cohesion strategy:

An example of broad strategy co-created with migrant advocates in South Africa.

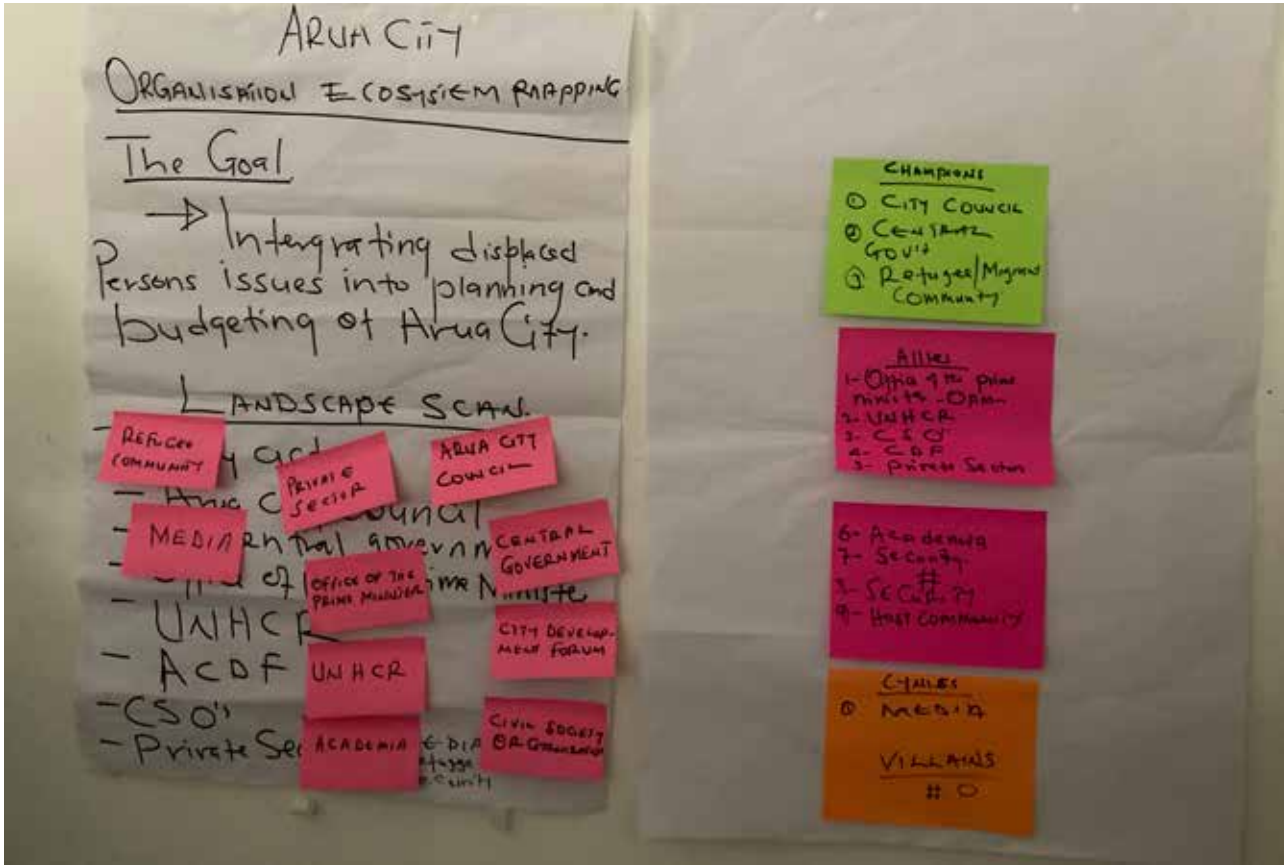


Prepared with an understanding of ecosystem mapping, the cities broke down into groups to create their own maps by setting out the problems they want to solve, determining which key actors are involved, and developing a broad strategy for how the key actors can help them address the problem.

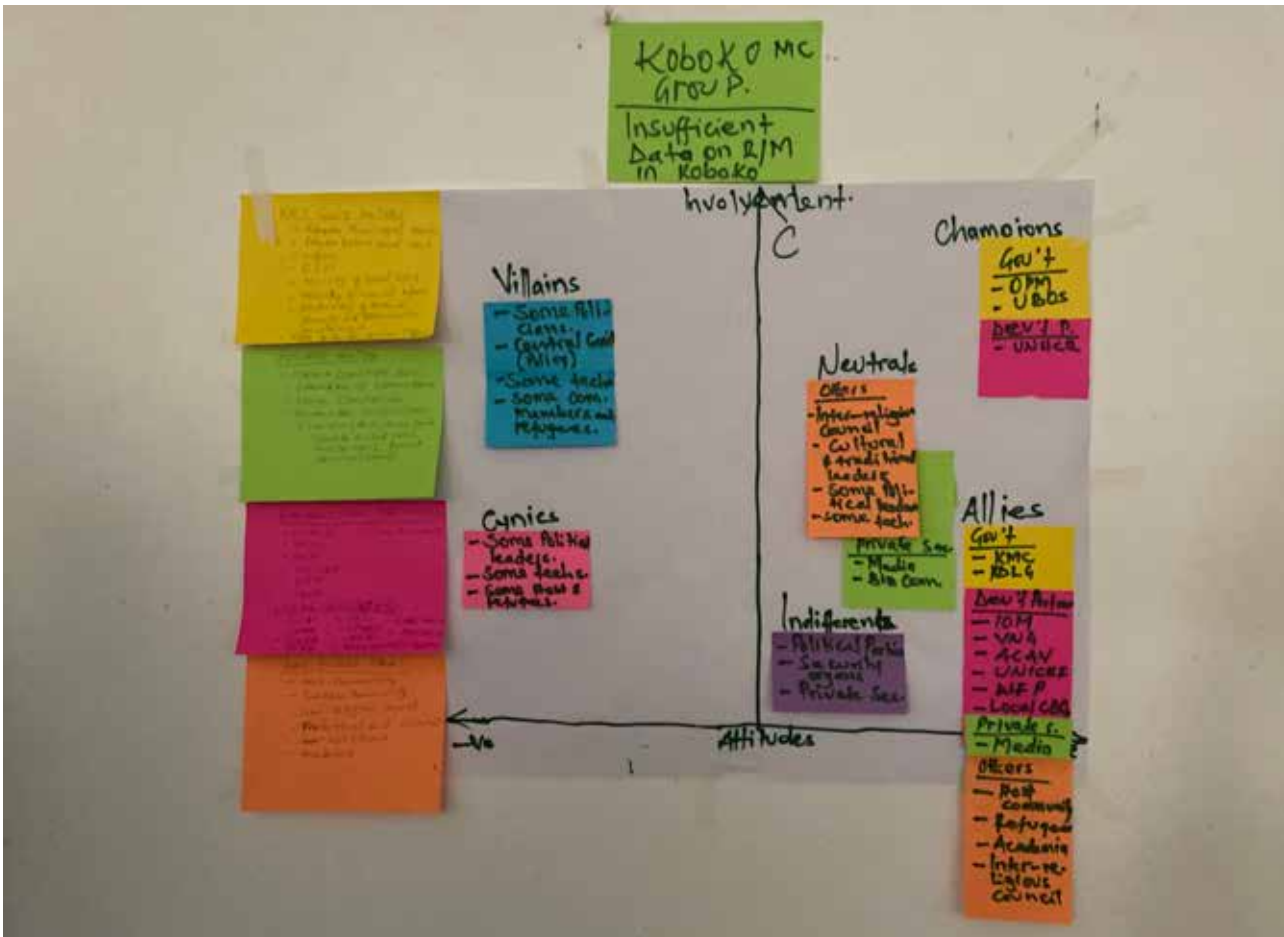
After this process, Dr. Kihato encouraged participants to look at their maps, step back, and look for the key strengths and weaknesses. Each city presented its map

and explained why specific partners and issues were included, clearly relishing the process.

The cities designed their maps around priorities, including the need to adequately involve displaced people in planning and budgeting (Arua), dignified and productive lives for refugees and host communities (Assosa), socio-economic integration of IDPs with host community (Jijjiga and Kakuma).



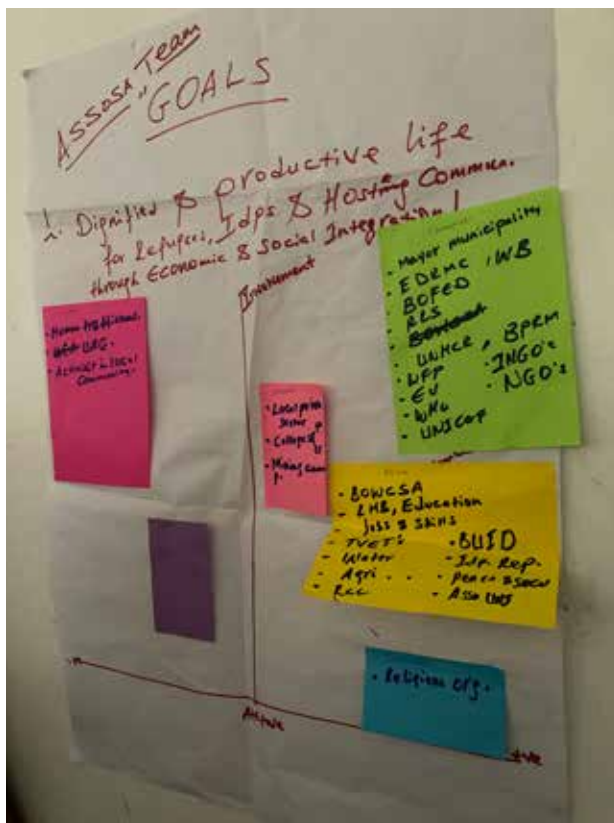
Arua municipality's ecosystem.



Koboko municipality's ecosystem.



Kakuma municipality's ecosystem.



Kakuma municipality's ecosystem.

A recurring theme was including partners with access to – or the capability to produce – updated, accurate data on refugees. Dr. Kihato suggested the cities look more closely at who they need to go to for data, which person should be approached at the census bureau, where are they on the map, and how should they be approached and convinced to address the data problem.



“ I am so happy to inform you that I am already using the ecosystem mapping tool in my everyday work of building a team for my lobby and advocacy. It was a new method of building a team I learned in the Lodwar peer-to-peer learning event.

– Hon. Sanya Wilson, Mayor of Koboko



Technical Session: Building the Network of the Future

Overview of the Session

Loren Landau, Technical Advisor to Cities Alliance and Professor of Migration and Development at Oxford University, has been working with the partner cities to institutionalise the network that is being built through the Action. Each peer-learning event has addressed a different aspect of network-building to move the process forward, and this session focused on developing a proposal for a second phase.

Prof. Landau opened with an overview of where things stand. He noted that as the project's first phase ends – effectively a pilot or proof of concept – network

participants are deeply committed to enhancing and sustaining a forward-looking regional network and dialogue platform. Based on prior discussions, partners value the comparative perspectives they have gained seeing them as learning opportunities leading to better lives for refugees, displaced persons, migrants, and host populations.

Looking forward, the network should continue to promote innovation, learning and the adoption of best practices, and promote partnerships. Broadly this should take place in two specific areas: (1) inclusion and participation of displaced persons in the economic and social life; and (2) improved livelihoods and greater access to quality basic services for refugees and vulnerable host populations in the secondary cities in the Horn of Africa.

For the network to achieve these priorities, members must agree on specific priorities, institutional design, and working modalities. Prof. Landau outlined several questions for participants to discuss in small groups:

- **Framing:** The network is currently dedicated to supporting municipalities in promoting the rights, welfare, and security of displaced persons in urban settings. While this must remain a focus of this work, in what ways does this framing empower municipalities or hinder the development of progressive policies and programmes? Are there ways of orienting or framing the network that would enable more effective action given the political climates in which you work? Will one framing attract more positive support or negative attention than another? Financial resources? Technical expertise? Which is most in line with your long-term municipal priorities?
- **Criteria for success:** What criteria should be used in assessing the network's success? How do these differ in the short (i.e., two-year) vs. the medium (i.e., five-year) term?
- **Institutional configuration:** The network's membership has remained relatively stable since its inception. Moving forward, how should the current members relate to other municipalities? Should the network strategically incorporate new members or form partnerships with other municipalities? What should the criteria be for membership or partnership with the current network? Should the network seek to build national hubs around existing members? Should network members seek to join existing or emerging municipal networks?
- **Role of international partners:** What should be the position of international organisations and bodies. These include, inter alia, Cities Alliance, UNHCR, IOM, IGAD, and the East African

Community (EAC). For example, should they be full members? Should they be strategically invited? Should they have a role in agenda-setting?

- **Role of refugees, civil society, and community:** The network is oriented to improving the lives of disadvantaged and displaced people. What should be the position of citizens, refugees, or civil society actors in the network? Should they be invited on an ad hoc basis? Should they be considered full or ancillary members? Who should be represented and how should they be selected? What role should they play?
- **Representation:** Who should represent the municipalities in regular meetings and events? Should it be elected officials? Civil servants? What are the advantages and disadvantages in terms of securing political support, technical capacity, long-term planning and positive interventions?
- **Administration:** How should the network be administratively organised? Should there be a permanent secretariat? If so, where should that be and who should comprise it? What resources does it require? What should be the process for determining or adjusting priorities and reflecting on progress? What forms of oversight will best ensure smooth operations and accountability to the membership?

The cities presented some of their initial discussions, and Prof. Landau noted that a more in-depth consultation process will follow to sift through the results of the exercise, which will be continued at the final peer-learning event.

We are nearing the end of the first phase of the research. The funding that has built this network, made connections, that has made the kinds of differences we've heard about during this workshop, is coming to an end. Even though this phase is coming to an end, many of you feel the work is just beginning.



“

We have seen very powerfully how this network has helped changed the discussion, has helped us to start talking about refugees, migrants, displaced people, as a normal process. That is incredibly important, not just because it enables the projects and interventions which you've done, but it changes the way we talk about these things. In many cities across the continent you say, "We should plan for refugees" and they just close the door in your face. I think that is changing, and that is part of the network has done.

- Prof. Loren Landau



Initial Achievements

After two years of implementation, the overall network vision remains unchanged: Empowering local authorities to promote social inclusion and equitable development for municipalities affected by displacement and migration always in consultation with refugee and host communities.

Looking forward, it seeks to develop a functional and *sustainable* network that provides ongoing technical and political support (e.g., visibility, legitimacy, allies) as they build effective emergency response mechanisms while incorporating displacement and human mobility into their long-term planning processes. To do that, it aims to (a) amplify their voices and influence in relevant national, regional, and international policy forums and (b) provide value-

added services to municipalities and national and regional bodies including international organisations, donors, and humanitarian organisations.

Recognising its limited technical and financial resources, the network operates on the principle of “catalytic interventions” that enable network members (and the network writ large) to become champions of planning for migration and displacement. This involves finding means of setting local, national, and regional agendas; transforming national policy and financial frameworks; and attracting the technical and financial resources where they are likely to have the greatest impact (e.g., municipal, regional, national). Underlying these efforts are ongoing relationships of trust, mutual respect, and constructively critical engagement.

Activities

Over the first phase of the Action, it established a regional network and platform for dialogue among the seven selected secondary cities. The network served as a channel aimed at improving local migration governance through advocacy and inclusion dialogues as well as technical expertise.

Dialogues that Promote Advocacy and Inclusion

- The Action established a platform for dialogue on various levels:
 - **Local:** *Relationship within the city.* The network includes refugee and host community representatives allowing them to discuss their needs, challenges and potential solutions with the appropriate municipal, national and regional actors to engage in local planning activities.
 - **National:** *Relationship with the state.* The network also enabled dialogue between key counterparts from municipalities and their national authorities (also, national authorities from neighbouring countries).
 - **City to city:** Exchanges with neighbouring cities facing similar challenges informed cities on solutions for improving living conditions and opportunities for both refugees and host populations, reducing the risk of conflict and providing access to basic services for all vulnerable city residents.



“

We have been exposed to the previous experiences from other cities who are managing the same issues. We can directly learn from them on what works and what does not work and act accordingly.

– Hibo Hassan Harun,
Gabiley Municipality

- **Regional:** *UCLG Africa and IGAD.* Having IGAD and UCLG Africa as part of the Steering Committee of the Action allowed it to spearhead regional cooperation on urban refugees and displaced persons in the Horn of Africa. Most IGAD member states are making national commitments to improve refugee access to education and livelihoods while at the same time responding to new displacement. Many countries developed national actions plans or roadmaps and are pursuing progressive changes from encampment systems to integrated settlements.



“

The focus of this Action is 'localisation of migration governance' and how to achieve it.

– Charles Obila, IGAD

- **Global:** *Relationship with International Organisations and implementation of Global Agendas.* The regional network aims to support the cities in strengthening their voices and bringing attention to their needs. The network may have limitations, as the participating cities rely on very different institutional contexts and environment. However, it provided the cities with the opportunity to advocate at global debates including: Africities, the World Urban Forum, the Global Compact on Refugees, the African Review of the Global Compact on Migration, and the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on IDPs. It also used Cities Alliance as a global platform.



“

Regional partnership and networking are central to answer to the needs of urban refugees. We would like to use the CRRF Action and the IGAD support platform to follow up on the global refugee pledges with a regional approach.

- Solomon Sonko, Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda

Improved Technical Expertise

Each peer-learning event included two technical sessions on mechanisms that have successfully helped cities introduce participatory approaches to planning and city administration that includes all city residents. The five mechanisms are:

- **The Municipal Development Forum:** A platform established at the municipal level for all stakeholders to meet regularly to exchange views, debate priorities, and agree on common actions on matters pertaining to the town or city. Cities Alliance has promoted the role of the multi-stakeholder forum as a platform for participation and dialogue among urban citizens, including host communities and displaced populations, to exchange knowledge and inform local policies, plans, and budgets. All of the network cities have begun establishing an MDF.
- **The Community Upgrading Fund:** A vehicle to improve access to basic social and infrastructural services for the urban poor living in slums and informal settlements. It is a financing mechanism that allows slum dwellers – including host communities, refugees, migrants, and settlement-based community organisations – to access grants and financing for small infrastructure initiatives that meet the community's basic needs under clearly defined criteria.
- **Local Resource Mobilisation:** This involved how to mobilise resources to overcome obstacles and support specific needs. Network members learned about the resource mobilisation cycle, partner mapping, establishing a fundraising strategy, and storytelling.
- **Urban Expansion Planning:** This is a simple, cost-effective approach that cities can use to proactively plan for their urban expansion. It helps cities plan the next 30 years of growth in a way that matches their context and resources.
- **Ecosystem Mapping:** This tool helps cities better recognise interest parties, obstacles, and potential allies, and consider the resources required to address obstacles and capitalise on opportunities. It spans multiple scales, from the municipal and city region (to support urban expansion work), along with national and regional policies. While much of the work will ultimately be undertaken at the local or national level, mapping can enable cities to better situate their own interventions within broad policy frameworks and global priorities. It helps them read their environments better and 'market' their work in ways that can attract national and global support.

A limitation observed at the end of Phase I is the lack of resources allocated to the cities hosting significant numbers of displaced persons to implement these types of mechanisms that would help them to make savings in the future.

For example, a recent study of household-level impacts of Urban Expansion Planning compared households' outcomes in new urban areas that were planned and unplanned. Households in areas where the city had implemented urban expansion plans were twice as likely to have running water, twice as likely to have formal tenure or title to their home and had incomes 58 per cent higher. Especially for urban residents, the benefits of an urban expansion plan are clear and substantial (Patrick Lamson-Hall, *Ready to Grow: Urban Expansion Planning for Cities Hosting IDPs and Migrants*).

The regional network - an instrument to influence policy on refugees: the Arua census

In October 2021, Cities Alliance, upon the request of the former Arua Municipality and in partnership with UBOS and AVSI, undertook a census of migrant and host communities in Arua City Central Division.

UBOS acknowledged the need to review Uganda's current refugee policy to expand the recognition of urban refugees beyond Kampala. This policy would regulate the relationship between nationals and refugees as well as call for additional support to the refugee-hosting cities to enable them plan and budget for the various services and provisions.

Helen Nviiri, UBOS Director of Population and Social Statistics, is part of the network and has discussed the census findings twice. A result of these discussions, the Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda is considering the possibility of discussing more rights for urban refugees.

"In Uganda, after all the discussions, the work with the mayors through the network, and the new available data, a window has been opened to reframe the narrative and include urban refugees in discussions," said Solomon Sonko of the OPM.

Uganda's next Population and Housing Census will take place in August 2023. UBOS indicated that for the first time, the census would include questions on refugees in urban areas.





Reflections

“



In Arua, we were talking about recognition of forcibly displaced persons in cities. Today, we're talking about the inclusion of forcibly displaced persons in cities. That is a big step forward.

- Florence Lozet, Urban Analyst, Cities Alliance

As the network prepares for its fifth and final peer-learning event, it is clear that the Action is bringing about an evolution in how participants approach refugee-related issues.

The network is fulfilling its function of acting as a learning tool between cities. Through these discussions, stakeholders from different municipalities including mayors, refugees and host communities convene at one table and are encouraged to look for financial and legal solutions that can be replicated from one city to another.

Participating cities are clearly being inspired by each other. After Koboko shared its successful approach to integrating IDPs and host communities piloted through the Action via direct financing through the Municipality, Arua and Jigjiga have already expressed interest in replicating the approach.

Some key principles that have emerged since the first event in Arua in 2021 include:

- Ownership and sustainability of municipal project implementation is better realised when city authorities and stakeholders participate in project implementation from the inception phase.
 - Municipalities have a growing role in the future of diplomacy. The role of cities is being recognised by international agreements such as the GCR, the GCM and the CRRF. Local authorities are key stakeholders to ensure complementarity between local, national, and regional programmes targeting better integration and social cohesion.
 - Including host community and refugee representatives in the discussion promotes integration and reduces the potential for conflict.
- Data is desperately needed and critically important to efforts to obtain funding and additional resources.

Overall, the Action's activities have shown that regional partnerships and networking are central to responding to the needs of urban refugees. In addition to promoting best practices, the type of dialogue fostered by the network encourages cities to achieve the global agendas. It also facilitates a common voice for the network cities, and the presence of IGAD and UCLG Africa make it easier for that voice to influence the regional agenda.





Annexes



Workshop Feedback

Will you be able to use the learning for city level policy planning or services?

“ Knowledge gathered from the sessions will be applied in planning and development for the cities we work in as well as with the communities with the objective to decentralize development actions.

- Solomon Sonko, OPM

“ I will use the learning to provide technical and political advisory to my city.

- Hon. Wadri Sam Nyakua, Arua City Mayor

“ The recommendations will be used in the Midterm review (Policy Brief) for the National Urban Policy, Migration and Refugee Policy, and the preparations of the MDF in Koboko and Arua.

- Stephen Bogere, MLHUD Uganda

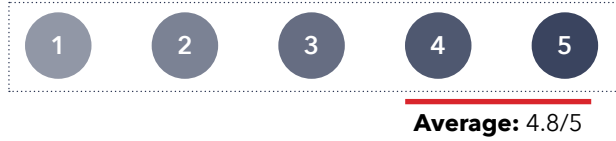
“ We are in the middle of planning for the next fiscal year so it is important to incorporate new issues and learning.

- Cornelius Jobile, Deputy Town Clerc

Survey

How satisfied are you with the event?

1: Not at all | 2: To a small degree | 3: Normal
4: To some degree | 5: To a high degree

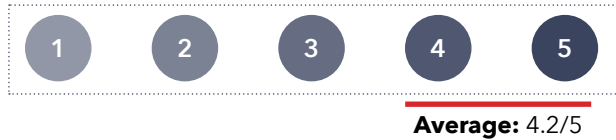


Did the event meet your expectations?

100% yes

Will you be able to use the learning for city level policy planning or services?

1: Not at all | 2: To a small degree | 3: Normal
4: To some degree | 5: To a high degree



To what degree did this training increased your capacity to address urban displacements?

1: Not at all | 2: To a small degree | 3: Normal
4: To some degree | 5: To a high degree



To what degree did this training increased your capacity to address urban displacements?

“ We have been exposed to causes and ways other cities are managing the same situation that we are facing every day. By discussing with them, we have example of appropriate responses.

- Maimunah Melisa, Host community Representative

“ This has given us an opportunity to integrate the recommendations in some of the USMID sub-components - using UBOS data for Arua and also constituting the executive committee of the MDF for refugees.

- Stephen Bogere, MLHUD Uganda

“ Experiences reported by the cities provided clarity on the different refugee responses and approaches.

- Moses Akuma Odims, Executive Secretary, WENDA

Reflecting on the previous events, how do you think the regional city network is useful for your city/country?

“ It enabled me/us to adopt and share how we have been living together with the urban refugees: how to share resources, how to access social amenities .

- Harriet Dozu, Host community Representative

“ The events are useful in learning more on how to promote effective citizen engagement, urban expansion programmes and physical planning. Policy reforms, gender responsiveness the approaches of IGAD as well as the integration management in budget and planning.

- Stephen Bogere, MLHUD Uganda

“ It is useful in terms of networking, advocacy and lobbying. All the cities represented in the network have a common interest.

- Hon. Sanya Wilson, Mayor



Could you mention the number of city-level interventions and/or policy documents that integrates or will integrate approaches aimed to increase the safety, well-being, social economic inclusion and equality of displaced communtiiies and host as a result of the project.

“ Lessons from this platform could be integrated into job creation efforts and programmes for the cities.

- Hon. Wadri Sam Nyakua, Arua City Mayor

“ The USMID programme, the MDF preparation in cities, proposed reviews of the urban policy, the 5-year development plans, the preparation of the municipal profiles and slum profiles and mapping in Koboko and Arua for the future.

- Stephen Bogere, MLHUD Uganda

“ Five years municipal development plan 2020-2024
- Annual development plans and budgets of the Municipality of Koboko.

- Hon. Sanya Wilson, Mayor

“ Uganda vision 2020. Five national development plan. Koboko Municipal development strategy. Koboko Municipal Development Plan. Annual sector plan.

- Chelangat Andrew Milton Kamalingin,
Town Clerk





Are you actively using the previous sessions knowledge and expert papers?

“ *In the USMID sub-component, in PSUP programme, in the preparation of MDFs, in the strengthening of MDF and in spatial planning.*

- Stephen Bogere, MLHUD Uganda

“ *Leveraging on knowledge, skills and experiences to inform programming of new interventions. Expanding on partnerships and diversification of resource mobilisation to address existing and emerging challenges.*

- Hon. Sanya Wilson, Mayor

“ *Yes, to mobilise revenue for the city.*

- Mambo A. Ismail, Senior Accountant

“ *We need to have all the presentations shared.*

- Chelangat Andrew Milton Kamalingin, Town Clerk

“ *Focus on the sustainability of the network.*

- Mohamoud M. Duale, Civil Society Representative



Meeting agenda

CRRF: Inclusive Urban Development and Mobility-Regional Network and Dialogue

Overview

The Event: A peer-learning event for the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF): Inclusive Urban Development and Mobility – Regional Network and Dialogue Action, which is financed by the European Union (EU) and implemented by Cities Alliance within the framework of the European Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF) for Africa. It is the fourth in a series of five events dedicated to exchanging experiences with representatives of partner cities and community stakeholders to strengthen policy development for greater social cohesion. The previous events were in Arua, Uganda (2021), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2021), and Kampala, Uganda (2022).

Network cities will present local interventions and their impact on sustainable integration and urban refugee policy in the Horn of Africa. The cities all host significant numbers of IDPs and refugees and face the challenges of rapid population increase, low budget allocations, and resource constraints while striving to achieve inclusive, sustainable urban planning and service delivery.

Date: 31 January – 2 February 2023

Location: Stegra Hotel, Lodwar, Kenya

Context

Cities around the world are experiencing an unprecedented refugee situation. Over 70 million people worldwide are fleeing their homes because of persecution, conflict, generalised violence, or human rights violations, with most living in urban or semi-urban areas instead of camps or purpose built settlements. This is placing considerable pressure on cities, especially fast-growing secondary cities in developing countries that are already struggling to meet the needs of their populations. The situation is especially acute in the Horn of Africa, which hosts

around one fifth of the world's refugees. Uganda is one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in Africa, closely followed by Ethiopia and Kenya.

Cities Alliance is the global partnership supporting cities to deliver sustainable development. Through its Global Programme on Cities and Migration, Cities Alliance has made a long-term commitment to supporting secondary cities in low-income countries that are managing large in-flows of migrants and refugees. By supporting the Action's implementation, Cities Alliance aims to facilitate regional networks and dialogue that will foster peer networks and knowledge exchange on the challenges and opportunities related to refugees in urban settings in the Horn of Africa, in alignment with EUTF objectives and the Valletta Action Plan.

Objective of the Action

The Action aims to increase the safety and well-being of displaced populations and their host communities living in urban or peri-urban settings and reduce inequalities between these groups. Specifically, it seeks to build and/or strengthen established regional networks and dialogue processes to foster learning, knowledge exchange, and partnerships in two areas: a) inclusion and participation of displaced persons in economic and social life; and b) improved livelihoods and greater access to quality basic services for refugees and vulnerable host populations in secondary cities in the Horn of Africa.

The logic is that supporting secondary cities through regional networking and dialogue will foster the exchange of best practices and lessons learned to identify solutions for improving service provision. Living conditions and opportunities for refugees and hosts will improve and the risks of rivalry and conflict reduced. Peer networks and a platform for dialogue across city representatives will promote innovation, learning, and the adoption of best practices.

Participants

KENYA

Peter Akono, Minister, Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Areas Management, Turkana County
Roseline Ekidor, Board Member, Lodwar Municipality Board

Abubakar Rugamba Kabura, Youth and Refugee Representative, Kakuma Settlement
Victor Lekaram, Director, Urban Areas Management, Turkana County

Boniface Lokuruka Rimati, Vice Chairperson, Lodwar Municipality Board
Maimunah Melisa, Host Community Representative, Kakuma Settlement
Ambrose Merinyang, Board Member, Lodwar Municipality Board

ETHIOPIA

Abdulmunem Abdulwahid Yusuf, Mayor, Assosa

Abdikadir Mohamed Aden, Host Community Governor, Kebribeyah/Jigjiga
Siyad Abdi Ahmed, Mayor, Jigjiga

Mustefa Mohammed Ahmed, Host Community Representative, City and Social Affairs, Assosa
Biniyam Bogale, Department of Sociology, Jigjiga University, and winner of the Call for Papers
Mohamed Hassen Ibrahim, Refugee Representative, Jigjiga

Medhanit Mulugeta Tesfaye, Somali Region Coordinator, Refugee and Returnee Services, Jigjiga

SOMALIA

Mohamed Omar Abdi, Mayor, Gabiley

Ahmednur Fahie Ali, Protection Department Leader, National Authority for the Refugees and Displaced People Office, Gabiley

Mohamoud M. Duale, Civil Society Representative, Takulo Somali Community

Hibo Hassan Harun, Director of the Planning Department and Representative of the Mayor, Gabiley Municipality

Omar Mohamoud Qayaad, Civil Society Representative, Director, Horn Migrants Support Organisation (HOMSO), Borama

UGANDA

Malish Bonjira Asu, Refugee Representative, Executive Director, South Sudanese Refugees Association (SSURA), Koboko

Joel Azabo, Focal Point, EU Programme, Koboko Municipality

Stephen Bogere, Senior Sociologist, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development

Draecabo Trinity Ceaser, President, Arua City Development Forum, and Private Sector Representative

Harriet Dozu, Host Community Representative, Koboko

Hellen Drabrezu, Host Community Representative, ACTogether, Arua

Mambo A. Ismail, Project Accountant, Koboko Municipality
Cornelius Jobile, Deputy Town Clerk, Arua

Chelangat Andrew Milton Kamalingin, Municipal Town Clerk, Koboko Municipality
Wadri Sam Nyakua, Mayor, Arua City Council

Solomon Osakan, Senior Settlement Office Department of Refugees, Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)

Moses Akuma Odims, Executive Secretary, West Nile Development Association (WENDA)
Solomon Sonko, Senior Development Economist and Desk Officer, OPM, Kampala

Sanya K.F. Wilson, Mayor, Koboko Municipality

PROJECT PARTNERS

Vittorio Capici, Programme Manager, European Commission (EC) Directorate General for International Partnerships

Angelo Di Giorgi, Programme Officer, Migration Management and Displacement, EU Trust Fund for Africa, Horn of Africa Window

Elisabeth Magnes, Project Officer, Migration and Forced Displacement, EC, Kenya

Juma Menhya Nyende, Director, United Cities and Local Governments Africa (UCLGA), Eastern Africa Regional Office

Charles Obila, Migration Officer, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Djibouti

Bongo Patrick, Head of Programme/Project Manager, Associazione Centro Aiuti Volontari (ACAV), Uganda

Meseret Teferi, Senior Grants Manager, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Ethiopia Programme

Yayehyirad Yemaneh, Assosa Field Coordinator, IRC, Ethiopia Programme

CITIES ALLIANCE

Anais Fasano, Senior Administrative Assistant, Cities Alliance

Brigitte Hoermann, Acting Head of Global Programmes and Senior Migration Officer, Cities Alliance

Caroline Kihato, Technical Expert to the Cities Alliance and Visiting Fellow, Oxford Department of International Development (ODID), Oxford University, and Director, Frame45

Loren Landau, Technical Expert to the Cities Alliance, Oxford University and University of the Witwatersrand

Florence Lozet, Project Manager and Urban Analyst, Cities Alliance Samuel Mabala, Country Urban Adviser, Cities Alliance, Uganda Tsigireda Tafesse, Country Urban Advisor, Cities Alliance, Ethiopia

Tuesday, 31 January 2023

Lead Facilitators: Florence Lozet and Samuel Mabala, Cities Alliance

TIME (EAT)	SESSION
7:30 – 9:15	Flight from Nairobi – Lodwar
11:00 – 13:00	Arrival of participants and lunch
13:00 – 13:20	<p>Welcome remarks</p> <p>Hon. Peter Akono, Minister for Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Areas Management, Turkana County</p> <p>Angelo Di Giorgi, Programme Officer, Migration Management and Displacement, EU Trust Fund for Africa, Horn of Africa Window</p> <p>Abubakar Rugamba Kabura, Youth and Refugee Representative, Kakuma Settlement</p> <p>Brigitte Hoermann, Acting Head of Global Programmes and Senior Migration Officer, Cities Alliance</p>
13:20 – 14:15	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Update on the Action and video from the network</p> <p>Florence Lozet, Project Manager and Urban Analyst, Cities Alliance</p> <p>Tour de Table</p> <p>Introduction of participants, expectations for the event, and lessons learned from last peer-learning event in Kampala</p>

14:15 – 14:45	A Model Of Integration - Experience From Turkana County
	<p>Hon. Peter Akono, Minister for Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Areas Management, Turkana County</p> <p>Victor Lekaram, Director, Urban Areas Management, Turkana County Abubakar Rugamba, Refugee Representative, Kakuma Refugee Camp Melissa Maimuna, Host Community Representative, Kakuma Refugee Camp</p>
14:45 – 15:15	The role of local actors in managing migration along the eastern desert route of Ethiopia
	<p>Biniyam Bogale, PhD, Department of Sociology, Jigjiga University and Winner of the Action's Call for Papers</p> <p>The Eastern Desert migration route runs through Ethiopia's Somali Region, extending from Jigjiga to Togwochalle near Somaliland. It is a hub for irregular migrants arriving from northern and central Ethiopia, Somaliland, and Somalia on their way to Europe and the Gulf States. As a result of this influx of migrants, the Somali Region is facing overwhelming pressure in managing migration.</p> <p>This study aims to better understand migrants' experiences along the Eastern Desert Route and the role of local actors in managing migration. It investigates the major risks and consequences migrants encounter and how the regional government and Jigjiga city administration respond.</p>
15h15 - 15h45	Coffee Break
15h45 – 17h45	Technical session: using ecosystem mapping to engender social cohesion and sustainable livelihoods (part 1)
	<p>Dr. Caroline Wanjiku Kihato, Visiting Fellow, ODID, Oxford University, and Director of Frame45</p> <p>Organisational ecosystem mapping provides a powerful way of understanding the complex systems that shape the environment, relationships, and futures of secondary cities. Organisations exist in dynamic and interconnected ecosystems which impact how they function. Like natural organisms, organisations can co-evolve in an enabling ecosystem or collapse when conditions are unfavourable, and not well understood.</p> <p>This session on organisational ecosystem mapping will allow partner organisations to step back and think beyond their immediate contexts, to understand how other sectoral, regulatory, political, business, and global actors impact the current and future possibilities of realising more inclusive and resilient cities and populations. In the context of the CRRF, it will offer ways of identifying visible and invisible relationships that shape the outcomes of refugees and vulnerable populations in partner cities and provide potential levers for action.</p>

Wednesday, 1 February 2023

Lead Facilitators: Florence Lozet and Tsigereda Tafesse, Cities Alliance

TIME (EAT)	SESSION
8:30 – 9:15	<p>The role of data in legal protection and inclusive urban planning in refugee-hosting cities: the case of Arua, Uganda</p> <p>Moderator: Samuel Mabala, Cities Alliance Country Urban Advisor, Uganda Hon. Samuel Nyakua Wadri, Mayor, Arua</p> <p>Cornelius Jobile, Deputy City Clerk, Arua</p> <p>Helen Drabezu, Host Community Representative, Arua Solomon Osakan, Regional Manager, OPM, Uganda Moses Akuma Odims, Executive Director, WENDA</p> <p>Uganda's refugee policy allows involuntary migrants from neighbouring countries to settle and guarantees them freedom to live in settlements, work, and own assets.</p> <p>Outside of Kampala, the government does not recognise refugees in urban areas, and Uganda's refugee-hosting secondary cities lack a mandate to manage refugee response. With support from Cities Alliance and working with Arua city authorities, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) in 2021 conducted a census of migrants and host communities. In this session, key stakeholders will share how data is being used to ensure legal protection of refugees and promote inclusive urban planning.</p>
9:15 – 10:00	<p>Making room for displaced people: urban planning and management approaches for greater social cohesion and integration of refugees and IDPs - experience from Ethiopia and Somalia</p> <p>Moderator: Tsigereda Tafesse, Cities Alliance Country Urban Advisor, Ethiopia Hon. Siyad Abdi Ahmed, Mayor, Jigjiga (TBC)</p> <p>Hibo Hassan Harun, City Representative, Gabiley</p> <p>Mohamoud M. Duale, Host Community Representative, Gabiley (TBC)</p> <p>Today, more than half of the world's refugees and IDPs live in urban areas. In East Africa, secondary cities are popular destinations for refugees and displaced people because of their economic opportunities. Given the fragile infrastructure and limited resources of secondary cities in most East African countries, competition between refugees/IDPs and host communities over resources can easily lead to tensions and conflicts. Cities can head off this challenge by adopting forward-looking, creative urban planning and management approaches that facilitate the social and economic integration of IDPs and refugees and leverage their labour and skills to catalyse development.</p>
10:00 – 10:45	<p>Integration of refugees in resource-constrained municipalities:</p> <p>The case of Koboko Municipality, Uganda</p> <p>Moderator: Bongo Patrick, Head of Programme/Project Manager, ACAV, Uganda Dr. Sanya Wilson, Mayor, Koboko Municipality</p> <p>Andrew Chelangat, Town Clerk, Koboko Municipality</p> <p>Mambo Ismail, Senior Accountant/Project Accountant, Koboko Municipality</p> <p>Malish Bonjira, Executive Director, SSURA</p> <p>Dozu Harriet, Host Community Representative, Koboko Municipality</p>

Like other refugee-hosting towns in Uganda, Koboko faces the challenge of a rapidly increasing population combined with limited budget allocations from the central government and other resource constraints. The pilot CRRF: Inclusive Urban Development and Mobility Action – implemented by KMC with technical assistance from ACAV and funding from the EU – clearly demonstrates how secondary cities can be supported to address local refugee integration, wider urbanisation, and the provision of basic services. The project has helped KMC turn its development plan into reality by harnessing the opportunities created by self-settled refugees and host communities living together to propel its development agenda.

10:45 – 11:15 **Coffee Break**

11:15 – 11:45 **Promoting inclusive urban development in Assosa town**

Moderator: Meseret Teferi, Senior Grants Manager, IRC, Ethiopia
Hon. Abdulmunyam Abdulwahid, Mayor, Assosa

Yayehyirad Yemaneh, IRC, Ethiopia

Mustefa Mohammed Ahmed, Host Community Representative, Assosa

Presentation on the implementation, challenges, and lessons learned from the project Promoting Inclusive Urban Development in Assosa Town, implemented by the IRC with funding from the EU.

One of the least developed urban areas in Ethiopia and a crossroads for migrants, Assosa's population has almost tripled in the past 12 years, straining access to basic services. Assosa is in the Benishangul-Gumuz region, which hosts three refugee camps: Bambasi, Tsore and Sherkole. International interventions target only refugees (and small surrounding host communities), leaving room for potential conflicts over scarce resources. Relationship-building and technical assistance to local authorities can create pathways for more inclusive community engagement, strengthening systems and urban planning. Greater access to basic services will enhance social cohesion and community dialogue and help promote socio-economic development.

The interventions will also strengthen the inclusion and participation of displaced persons in the city's economic and social life.

11:45 – 12:45 **Building the network of the future (part 1)**

Dr. Loren Landau, Oxford University and University of the Witwatersrand

After a series of initial meetings, participants are deeply committed to enhancing and sustaining a forward-looking regional network and dialogue platform. The network is a potentially powerful mechanism to achieve collective objectives. It substantively aims to benefit people displaced by conflict, war and climate while simultaneously securing urban futures for long-term residents, transient populations, and recent arrivals. It works from the explicit position that beyond short-term humanitarian aid, assisting displaced populations means strengthening the cities where they live. Doing so demands improved livelihoods and security, greater access to quality basic services, and avoiding interventions that divide communities instead of promoting solidarity and collective action. Thus, the network will include refugees, migrants, and host populations in collective discussions.

12:45 – 13:45 **Lunch**

13:45 – 14:30 Igad’s work on cross-border programming on migration and Mobility**Charles Obila**, Migration Officer, IGAD

IGAD established a Regional Migration Fund (RMF) in 2019 to create economic opportunities, improve living conditions, and promote social cohesion among refugees, migrants, and host communities in the IGAD region. The RMF is implemented using an area-based approach that combines two types of interventions. Catalytic Economic Infrastructure Projects (CEIPs) are large-scale, long-term with impacts within and across economic sectors and designed to establish structural conditions for sustained, inclusive economic growth. Complementary Economic and Social Projects (CESPs) are small-scale, use local resources, have a quick turnover, and are strongly learning-oriented. This session will highlight the progress made in rolling out the RMF in Moyale on the Ethiopia-Kenya border.

14:30 – 15:30 Technical session: Using ecosystem mapping to engender social Cohesion and sustainable livelihoods (part 2)**Dr. Caroline Wanjiku Kihato**, Visiting Fellow, ODID, Oxford University**15:30 – 16:00 Break****16:00 – 17:00 Technical session: Using ecosystem mapping to engender social cohesion and sustainable livelihoods (part 2, continued)****Dr. Caroline Wanjiku Kihato**, Visiting Fellow, ODID, Oxford University

Thursday, 2 February 2023

Lead Facilitators: Florence Lozet and Anais Fasano, Cities Alliance

TIME (EAT)	SESSION
9:00 – 10:00	Building the network of the future (part 2) Dr. Loren Landau , Oxford University and University of the Witwatersrand
10:00 – 11:00	Reflections on the event and vote for the city competition
11:30 – 16:30	Site visit TBD
16:30 – 17:00	Closing and next steps Florence Lozet , Project Manager and Urban Analyst, Cities Alliance
18:00	Dinner

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