

Migration & displacement in the Horn of Africa

Support to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in implementing regional migration and displacement policies

The challenge

The Horn of Africa region is characterized by high flows of inter-regional migration and displacement. According to UNHCR, the region hosts over 21 million internally displaced persons, more than 5 million refugees and asylum seekers and 330 000 refugee-returnees in 2024. The effects of climate change and violent conflict, exacerbate socio-economic inequalities and the vulnerability of refugees, migrants, and host communities.

The goal

The project supports the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and its member states to effectively implement regional migration and displacement policies in the region.

The objective

IGAD is a Regional Economic Community (REC), that aims to foster peace and advancing regional integration in its member states. Moreover, it promotes the implementation of migration and displacement policies in its eight member states which are countries of origin, transit and destination for migrants and refugees.

In 2012, IGAD member states agreed on the Regional Migration Policy Framework (RMPF) and its revised Migration Action Plan (2024-2028). The adoption of the Protocol on Free Movement and Transhumance in February 2020 laid the cornerstone for increased regional integration.

Under the Nairobi Process, IGAD adopted progressive policies on refugee education, jobs and livelihoods, and health. IGAD promotes durable solutions and a regional approach to implement the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) through the IGAD Support Platform on the Nairobi Process.

Project name	Improving Migration and Refugee Policies in the IGAD Region (SIMPI II)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	IGAD member states: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda
Partner organisation	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
Budget	EUR 15.800.000
Duration	01.01.2023 - 31.12.2025

The project builds on IGAD's potential to provide comprehensive and regional solutions for people on the move. It focuses on four main fields of action:

- **Migration policy:** Support pathways for regular migration through the Regional Qualifications Framework promoting skills recognition across borders and improve availability of harmonised and quality migration data on regional and national levels for evidence-based policy making.
- **Displacement Policy:** Foster inclusion of refugees, returnees and host communities into national education and labour market systems to enhance their self-reliance.
- **Cross-border collaboration:** Strengthen cross-border collaboration, social cohesion and the access of mobile populations to basic services in Moyale, Ethiopia and Moyale, Kenya.
- **Systemic learning:** Improve systemic learning in and among IGAD member states around forced displacement and migration.



Photos (left): Representatives from IGAD and the German government at 3rd IGAD Scientific Conference on Migration and Displacement (November 2022)

Photo (center): Exchange during the High-level Kampala Declaration - Private Sector meeting (November 2022)

Photo (right): IGAD representatives presenting the IGAD 2021 Migration Statistics Brochure (April 2022).



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Strengthening IGAD's Migration Policy Implementation

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Photo (left): Beneficiaries of the Cash for Community cohesion (CCC), celebrating the positive effects on peaceful cohesion between local communities in Moyale / Ethiopia. (June 2022)

Photo (right): Ugandan secondary teacher holding a sign saying: "How did your students respond to your new lesson presentation methods?" during Teacher Training activity in Arua, Uganda. (February 2022)

Our achievements

- The **IGAD Regional Technical Working Group on Migration Statistics** was supported to develop regional common definitions, standards, and concepts to foster regional harmonisation of migration and displacement statistics. Based on this data, two IGAD Migration Statistics Reports have been issued.
- The **IGAD Qualifications Framework (IQF)** contributes to the implementation of the IGAD Free Movement Protocol on harmonization, mutual recognition, and accreditation of qualifications. The IQF was adopted during the 4. Conference of IGAD Ministers in Charge of Education in May 2024. Based on the IQF, IGAD member states will be supported to develop national qualification frameworks and in referencing it to the IQF.
- The **IGAD Djibouti Declaration** improves the integration of refugees into national education systems. With the formulation of **National Costed Plans of Action**, member states are supported to identify necessary resources and attract financing. The **IGAD Teacher Training Initiative** enhanced the skills of **755 secondary school teachers**, benefitting approximately **12,464 students** in the largest refugee host communities in Ethiopia, Sudan, and Uganda. The developed Monitoring and Evaluation Framework will keep track of the implementation status of the declaration.
- High-level fora on the **IGAD Kampala Declaration on Jobs, Livelihoods and Self-Reliance** foster exchanges between government representatives, the private sector, NGOs, international partners, and refugee entrepreneurs. They uncover important barriers and opportunities for **refugee inclusion in the national labor market**. The inclusion progress will be monitored through newly developed monitoring framework. National consultations in Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Uganda promoted government and private sector engagement and took stock of its national implementation.

- The cross-border cooperation between local authorities and communities in Moyale (Kenya/Ethiopia) has further increased: The IGAD Moyale Cross Border Development Facilitation Office is established and staffed. The office is used for hosting several joint consultative meetings of Cross Border Local Communities and Au-



Graph 1: The border town Moyale-Moyale at the Ethiopian-Kenyan border is located on the main migration route connecting the Horn of Africa with Southern Africa.

thorities such as the Peace Committees, the Local Migration Network and the Steering Committee as well as Cross Border Development Actors like NGOs Steering Group in formation. 642 persons received short trainings on group formation and management, leadership skills, saving skills and bookkeeping for milk value chain management. In total, 16 milk collection centers and 3 milk processing cooperatives were established and are now running without external support. An additional **750 persons** will receive livelihood support and up to 100 representatives of local government will be capacitated to integrate mobile populations into the local education and health systems.

- The Moyale consolidated **Cross-Border Peace Committee** was established with 25 representatives from both countries. Through the support of this project and partner IGAD – CEWARN, its success in resolving conflicts, engaging the youth and women in peacebuilding, and improving security demonstrates its potential to transform the region.

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On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

In cooperation with Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)