Notes, Side Event: Supporting Refugees and their Host Communities in the Horn and East Africa, Lancaster House, London, 10 May 2017

Summary: The event was organized on the margins of the London Conference on Somalia. IGAD and UNHCR provided updates on the follow-up to the 25 March ‘Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions’ and CRRF implementation. IGAD and its member states reaffirmed their hospitality towards refugees, provided they receive adequate international support, especially through a Multi Donors Trust Fund and multi-year funding. IGAD works to develop indicators and a roadmap by June/July to move forward with the Nairobi Declaration. The role of development actors and financial institutions was highlighted, calling for a ‘new way of working for refugees’, a call heeded by OCHA. All actors agreed on the importance of maintaining the momentum and translating decisions into action. Donors renewed their support, also for Somalia’s stabilization and indicating that funding should be accompanied with the adoption of the right policies and legislations by countries. Resettlement was not much discussed, possibly shedding light on responsibility sharing perspectives focused on funding. Noteworthy, OCHA and ICRC called to address the current lack of attention to IDPs. NGOs were represented by ICVA and the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS). The official Co-chairs’ Summary is available here. Details on statements are provided below:

Welcome and Opening Remarks:
Rt Hon Priti Patel, UK Secretary of State for International Development, UK:
- Global displacement crisis is the defining humanitarian challenge of our generation; highlights issues on approach to durable solutions and international solidarity.
- Commend contributions and solidarity with refugees by states in the region for years.
- After the 19-20 September and Nairobi summits, we need to turn ambitions into reality.
- Time and again, UK has shown commitment. UKAID is saving live as we speak. UK encourages others to follow its lead demonstrated e.g., last year by the organization of the Syria London Conference; the UK role in the historic adoption of the ‘Jordan Compact’. This compact helps refugee inclusion thus helping them stay close to their country of origin pending a possibility for safe and voluntary return, while at the same time contributing to the host country.
- There is more we can do, especially through breaking down humanitarian and development silos to foster socio-eco inclusion and contribution to host countries. Also for more sustainable interventions.
- UK is committed to support politically, technically, financially especially through working with the World Bank and its IDA 18 refugee window.
- Time is not always on our side but concrete commitments can make a difference. Call on donors to contribute with funding for humanitarian and development in the region. At country level, new partnerships with private sector can also bring added value.
- Also call on countries in the region to adopt the right kinds of legislation and policies, particularly linked to including refugees in development plans.

Mr. Robert Goodwill, UK immigration Minister:
- More should be done to ensure aid reaches people where they are, before they feel the need to embark on dangerous journeys.
- We cannot ignore what is happening and allow migration go unmanaged. Uncontrolled migration is in no-one’s interest. Abuses of criminal networks should not go unpunished.
UK has developed a comprehensive and principled approach to migration based on:

1. Ensure protection as populations reach safe places. Protection in the first safe country of arrival should be enhanced.
2. Maintain clear distinction between refugees and economic migrants, for better targeting of those in need of protection and discourage those not warranted to move.
3. Reaffirm states’ sovereign right to control their borders.
   - In this perspective, creating long-term options in the region is a win-win approach.
   - UK is also important actor on resettlement and is proud of its record and work on this.

Mr. George Okoth-Obbo, Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, UNHCR:
- This event is a strong show of support from the international community.
- We have a duty to: illuminate what is happening in the region; bring attention to the East and Horn of Africa; acknowledge states in the region have remained opened despite the stress and limited resources; acknowledge some of those states are at a breaking point. We should acknowledge this rhetorically and concretely, with support.
- The CRRF speaks to our duty to ensure the comprehensiveness of the response, of a response that is adequate. In this perspective, we need to rally development actors as collaborators and expand engagement.

**Session 1: Country and Regional Perspectives**

**Follow-up to the IGAD Summit on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees**

Amb. Tewolde Gebremeskel Redda, Director – Peace and Security, IGAD:
- IGAD countries committed to continue working in line with their historical approach: open doors; safeguarding asylum space; fulfilling obligations of the 1951 Refugee Convention, 1967 Protocol and 1968 OAU refugee convention.
- Committed to move beyond encampment, linking to a regional Refugee Response Framework and an ambitious development response supported by the World Bank, which also address needs of host communities.
- Progress is made in countries on specific policies / legislations (e.g., Djibouti adopted legislation on refugees’ access to work; Uganda is example on alternatives to camps).
- Hospitality will continue but need support from international community, especially through the IGAD Multi-Donor Trust Fund announced in Nairobi on 25 March 2017.
- IGAD works to develop by June/July indicators and a roadmap to go forward.

Mr. Stefano Manservisi, Director General of DEVCO, European Commission:
- Commend IGAD for the March Summit, a flagship example of how things should be done. The European Commission provided support to IGAD ahead of the summit and commit to contribute to the implementation of its outcomes.
- Funding is crucial but not enough. It needs to be accompanied with adoption of right policies / legislation on e.g., access to work; alternatives to camp; resilience.
- Decisions need to be translated into action, increased investment, improved coordination, enhanced durable solutions in the region. Security in Somalia is a crucial factor, especially for VolRep. We are concerned by the situation in South Sudan.

**African Union (not named on program):**
- Concerned by the alarming regional situation, which calls for new approaches and mainly for addressing root causes. A Common African Position (CAP) on Humanitarian Effectiveness was recently adopted. it can contribute to new approaches.
Commend hospitality in the region and the adoption of policies allowing refugees to live in better conditions. Host communities also need support.

AU will continue providing technical support and coordination.

WB investments in Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda are encouraging. This should be extended to other areas, e.g. Nigeria, Sahel countries and Southern Africa.

Importance of the link between relief and development has been emphasized many times but is less concrete in proposals. AU invites international financial institutions such as the African Development Bank to further define the approach.

African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction is a significant basis for the AU orientation on prevention and response, to minimize loss and enhance recovery.

Important to grasp that meaningful development in the region cannot be achieved in a context of humanitarian crisis and fragility. The solution lies in a comprehensive approach which includes restoring the rule of law.

Update on the CRRF Process

Mr. Daniel Endres, Director, Comprehensive Responses, UNHCR:

- CRRF objective is to jointly increase response in a systematic and sustainable manner: ease pressure; promote self-reliance; third country solutions; VolRep.
- At the Leaders’ Summit, important commitments were made by host and donor countries, which are excellent starting points for a comprehensive response.
- The implementation of pledges proceeds at a good pace in the region and CRRF pilots.
- Particularly welcome the recent Djibouti law towards a settlement approach and access to services and jobs for refugees. Ethiopia is also evolving towards more freedom of movement and work for refugees.
- Government of Ethiopia, with support from UNHCR and WB has developed a roadmap for CRRF implementation. In Tanzania, the CRRF Secretariat will be convened later this month. The CRRF was launched in Uganda in late April
- Collaboration between national and subnational entities is important for CRRF implementation e.g., we need to develop surge mechanisms for local administrations.
- CRRF is not another layer of coordination but aims at harnessing synergies through area-based approach, a “new way of working for refugees”.
- We need to boost humanitarian funding for immediate needs, longer term and for inclusion of refugees in development plans. We need more work with private sector.
- WB will provide support through the grants included in its IDA 18 refugee window (USD 2 billion). European instruments can also make a difference, e.g. through engaging private sector.
- It is imperative to address root causes and drivers of displacement. We need concerted efforts to increase security in Somalia. We will build on Durable Solutions Initiative to better prioritize development planning and drought response.
- Host countries need support. The regional framework will allow to transfer commitments into concrete actions. It will represent a milestone for the GCR.

Country Perspectives

HE Yusuf Garad Omar, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion, Federal Government of Somalia:

- International community has long contributed to Somalia’s security and development. The Federal government has also stepped up, especially to build its institutions.
▪ Over past 2 years, we saw an increase in returns to Somalia as a result of conditions in countries of asylum such as Yemen and Kenya and the stabilization of Somalia.
▪ It is important to address the linkages between meeting the immediate needs and longer term investments.
▪ Federal government is committed to reverse the trend of protracted displacement and to the CRRF which is in early phase of development.
▪ Federal government is grateful for the international community’s assistance but still facing considerable challenges: support is still needed to work for durable solutions.

HE Henry Oryem Okello, Deputy Foreign Minister, Republic of Uganda:
▪ Creative solutions are needed for asylum space and to promote resilience of refugees and host communities.
▪ The Uganda context has changed since 19 Sept 2016. There is now a large influx of refugees making Uganda one of the largest hosting country. In NY, we pledged to continue the settlement policy but we may be reaching maximum capacity of available land. Nevertheless, our borders remain open, a policy going back to WWII.
▪ Uganda already applies CRRF principles: refugees coexist with the host population to the extent that external actors might find difficult to distinguish both. Along with the settlement policy, refugees enjoy freedom of movement, have access to education; right to work, to establish business. Work permit fees have been waved for refugees.
▪ Consultations with stakeholders led to the translation of CRRF objectives into specific Uganda objective: Support government policy and protect asylum space; Support resilience and self-reliance of refugees and host communities; expand solutions, including third country options; Support Uganda’ role in the region and invest in human capital and transferable skills. Consultations also led to identification of 5 ‘pillars’: Admission and Rights; Emergency and Ongoing Needs; Resilience and Self-Reliance; Expand Solutions; VolRep.
▪ Government launched CRRF in a multi-stakeholder approach in March. The Secretariat’s ToRs are now finalized. Lessons learned will be discussed at a later stage through a technical workshop also looking at the role of local authorities.
▪ Challenges faced are:
  o Chronic underfunding of the refugee response, which compares negatively with funding received by other large hosting countries. International solidarity is much needed. Multi-year funding is particularly needed.
  o Expectations of the host populations in times of investments need to be managed. Dialogue is important in this regard.
  o Land is scarce and there is concern that the host community might start being reluctant to disburse with this only commodity.
▪ The Solidarity Summit will take place in late June and address those challenges.
▪ Uganda can help break the cycles of violence and displacement.

HE Amb. Catherine Muigi, Republic of Kenya:
▪ We successfully hosted the March IGAD summit and are committed to its outcome and to working on resilience.
▪ Now that Somalia is at a crossroads, the question is what would it take to ensure Somalis abroad can be stakeholders of state building? What can create a pull factor?
▪ We need to work to jumpstart livelihood in Somalia to sustain more returns.
Kenya will set up a training institute to equip refugees ahead of their return. It is important to show to host communities that we can address environmental degradation linked to refugees’ presence.

Mr. Mohamed Abdi Affey, Special Envoy on Somali Refugees, UNHCR:
- There is deep sense of hopelessness among refugees in the region, exacerbated by the nutrition crisis and conflict. More support is needed for WFP, especially in Yemen.
- Host governments and communities need support and need to focus on carrying their responsibility on behalf of all of us, particularly expanding protection.
- We need to redouble efforts to improve conditions in Somalia: stabilization is key; put Somalia back on its feet is key.
- Countries in the region have been generous in hosting Somalis and more can be done.
- Europe and the USA should review their policy of forced returns to Somalia.
- Somali diaspora remittances contribute billions to Somalia and the region. This needs to be facilitated through revised policies.

**Session 2: International Engagement and Support**

Mr. Colin Bruce, Senior Advisor, Fragility, Conflict and Violence, World Bank:
- One risk we face is potential loss of momentum. This is why this meeting is important and we hope there will be more such meetings to report on progress.
- We need to continue building evidence on what is working and build a stronger evidence-based narrative. This can be done using elements such as the recent **WB study on Kakuma camp** showed that the presence of refugees has led to an increase by 3% in regional per capita income.

Mr. Stephen O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA:
- In response to record numbers of people forcibly displaced, the NY Declaration underlined legal obligations and called for robust support. Annex I/CRRF is comprehensive in that it guides us to more systematic and sustainable responses. It means engaging a broader range of actors.
- This is vital because it helps us implement decisions of the WHS and on HDN. We are glad to hear UNHCR refer to a ‘NWoW for refugees’.
- CRRF implementation is key but not without challenges: if tide of people crossing into Uganda is not stemmed, we may reach a limit point. Root causes should be addressed.
- NY Declaration has only one reference to IDPs: insufficient on the part of international community. We need to find way to address this and better grasp reasons for flight.
- There is commitment to collectively pursue the IGAD framework. It is vital to translate it into action and put humanity first.

Mr. Elhadj As Sy, Secretary General, IFRC:
- In most places where our volunteers work, there is no health facilities, no teachers and governments are weak. But there are communities who share what they have. Those communities are networks and basis on which we can rely/build.
- We work with our national societies to build on initiatives from the communities.
- Investing in host communities is truly an investment. It can bring dividend, social capital, overcome xenophobia and fear, achieve social cohesion, peace and stability.
- Need to beware about stress on scarce environment/resources. It may lead to conflict.
Mr. Peter de Clercq, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UNSOM:

- We see important headways at regional level; Next step is to move to concrete implementation. At the government level, commitment and whole of government approach are critical. Support from the international community is also fundamental.
- In line with the NWoW, we need to enhance the complementarity between durable solutions and humanitarian action.
- We should face the fact that working on durable solutions is a process that will take years. In particular, the pace and magnitude of returns to Somalia will have to match the reception capacity of Somalia, which has made tremendous progress.

Honorable Ahmed Hussen, Minister for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Canada:

- Commend generosity and hospitality of countries in the region and welcome the focus on collective response as we all share in international protection.
- Support UNHCR in putting forward CRRF. We need more predictability in responses.
- Welcome the follow-up to the Leaders’ Summit which we co-hosted. Canada is fully on track on delivering on its commitments, including the funding pledges.
- Canada has also a strong traditional involvement in resettlement. Increased efforts, including on additional pathways are necessary. Canada launched a global refugee sponsorship initiative to stimulate more commitments, learning from the Canadian experience on how ordinary generosity of citizens can be replicated.
- In a context of closing doors, the generosity of this region is important. Our common humanity should be at the forefront and center of the Global Compact on Refugees.

Ms Tone Skogen, State Secretary, Norway:

- Regional response is what is called for. As refugees become contributors to host economies, more solutions will appear. However, this requires investments before it can bear fruits. International financial institutions should support this endeavor.
- Clear need to support crisis affected countries. Norway recently increased its support to those countries and to the UN. We are prepared to consider further scaling up.

Mr Thomas Greminger, Secretary of State, Switzerland:

- IGAD summit of 25 March was a milestone on the way forward for Somali refugees.
- We are committed to a principled approach on refugee rights (e.g., on VolRep); recognize need to combine different approaches such as development and protection.
- There is need for increased support for durable solutions including for socio-economic integration of refugees, linked to addressing needs of host communities.
- Switzerland has seconded durable solutions experts to various UN agencies.

Mr Simon Henshaw, Assistant Secretary, USA:

- In a race against time and famine, we welcome new approaches and want to do our part so that the forcibly displaced are also seen as assets.
- CRRF is excellent tool to ensure more coherent linkage of development and relief.
- We note strong regional progress on the Leaders’ Summit commitments.
- The US government will continue to provide support until VolReps are possible.
- We must also anticipate that there will be more refugees in the region, for ex. from South Sudan. While we work to solve the conflict there, we commend the hospitality of host countries in the region.
HRH Prince Mohammed bin Nawaf Al Saud, Saudi Arabia:
- Echo appreciations to UNHCR and host countries; thank NGOs for their participation.
- We have received refugees that we label as ‘guests’, bulk of whom are from Yemen.
- Our support consists of billions of USD provided to the UN and other organizations.
- We will continue to provide support and we echo the recommendations of today related to developing human rights, durable solutions, resilience, etc. There is also a need for programs to support women and children.
- We should also deal with the issue of access to IDPs so that they can receive support.

HE John Feakes, Ambassador to Somalia, Australia:
- Need to invest more in conflict prevention, against poverty, instability and into innovative development targeting those who would otherwise move irregularly.
- Important to ensure there is access to assistance as close to home as possible, either in countries of origin or in the first country of asylum. However, host countries’ generosity should not be taken for granted. We should provide support.
- Australia is providing multi-year funding and complementary pathways.
- Australia welcomes the momentum and look forward to continuing working with UNHCR on the implementation of the CRRF and to deliver on commitments.
- Internal displacement is also a major challenge for the region.

HE Mette Knudsen, Ambassador to Kenya, Somalia, Eritrea and the Seychelles, Denmark:
- Commend IGAD and countries in the region for important and progressive results of 25 March Summit. Some of the principles included in the Nairobi Declaration are not easy to sell domestically. We need to show respect for doing so.
- It is up to us to align behind those decisions, beyond verbal commitments to NWoW.
- More humanitarian funding is needed but when we see that humanitarian funding for Somalia is 5 times that of the Somali government budget, it means something is wrong in terms of using money in a long term perspective.
- Bilateral partners can do a lot and do things differently.
- Denmark has scaled up its support but also looks at how to support the principles enshrined in the IGAD Summit Declaration. For ex., we look at water provision schemes that can have long term effects and also benefit host communities.
- The Durable Solutions Initiative already brings together actors on such approaches.

HE Helena Rietz, Ambassador/Deputy Director General, Head of the Africa Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden:
- Share concerns on number of refugees and displaced increasing again in the region due to conflict and drought. Collective approaches to root causes are needed, with conflict prevention and resolution. Also need to involve diaspora communities.
- We need to safeguard refugee rights and asylum space. Sweden is a top donor for emergency in Horn of Africa; also provide unremarked funding to many organizations.
- We work with partners to close the gap between humanitarian and development operations and support the IGAD regional response.

HE Oljan Bekar, Ambassador to Somalia, Republic of Turkey:
- Commend IGAD for the 25 March Summit result and support the UN, including CRRF.
- Turkey hosts world’s largest refugee population and maintains an open door policy.
▪ Call on all stakeholders to share responsibility and burden. Geographical proximity should not be the indicator for this. Responsibility and burden sharing should be based on our shared humanity.
▪ Our duty is to provide options for legal migration to those with the right skills.
▪ Refugees are becoming scapegoats, victims of the rise of xenophobia.
▪ In the region, the drought will continue to have a negative impact on socio-economic development that needs to be addressed by the international community.

HE Tijmen Roosenboom, Deputy Ambassador to Somalia, Netherlands:
▪ We lead the Regional Development and Protection Program in the region, which promotes access to basic services and employment for refugees and communities.
▪ The CRRF should help bridge the gap between humanitarian and development approaches and include the private sector.

Dr Andreas Jacobs, Senior Policy Officer, Federal Republic of Germany:
▪ Support UNHCR on CRRF, including through funding and seconding staff to Task Team and CRRF Secretariats and on methodology and the collection of good practices.
▪ Germany provided 20M Euros to IGAD in support to refugees and host communities in the region. Returns in safety and dignity are part of the solution and we work for Somalia’s stabilization and welcome the hospitality of countries in the region.
▪ We support the NWoW in the refugee response although we highlight that we should not forget humanitarian principles in the process.

Ms Patricia Danzi, Regional Director, ICRC:
▪ In today’s world, such the region’s level of hospitality should not be taken for granted.
▪ ICRC’s main response in the region is for millions of refugees. They don’t make it to the border and lack protection. States have responsibility to provide this protection.
▪ Lack of respect for international humanitarian law that leads to internal displacement.
▪ ICRC launched a review of the Kampala Convention showing that many good practices are applicable to refugees, especially with regard to durable solutions.

Dr Jerome Elie, Senior Policy Officer – Forced Displacement, ICVA:
▪ Commend initiatives which demonstrate political will and resolve to maintain asylum space and strive for long-term solutions. Countries in the region lead by example; their efforts should be emulated and supported, in line with responsibility sharing.
▪ Welcome Nairobi Summit’s emphasis on increasing collaboration with broader range of partners, including NGOs. They are vital partners for successful CRRF application.
▪ NGOs work directly with refugees and host communities. National NGOs are in effect part of host communities. They bring critical contributions to e.g., inclusion, resilience, self-reliance through concrete programs and advocacy.
▪ As such, NGOs, particularly NNGOs should be further supported. NGOs are being proactive and getting mobilized at the national, regional and global levels. They also welcome opportunities to continue being associated to the design and implementation of CRRF in countries and regionally.

Mr Gregory Barrow, Head of Office in London, WFP:
▪ We work jointly with UNHCR to restore dignity for refugees through livelihood programs in the region, based on a joint strategy.
- Bringing forward the agenda will be challenging but UNHCR and WFP share the same vision working towards solutions and dignity for refugees.

Mr George Graham, Save the Children Director of Conflict and Humanitarian Policy, ReDSS:
- See ReDSS brief and talking points [here](#).

Mr Dominique Burgeon, Director, FAO:
- Work with IGAD to build resilience in support of displaced and host communities, towards durable solutions and to promote innovative agricultural practices.
- In the vast majority of crises, most people remain where they are, therefore FAO works to support those as well.

**Conclusions:**

Mr. Stephen O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA:
- This event is a building block and encouraging although there is a big ‘but’: whether we can all come together to translate this into action and be focused on results.
- We need NWoW at all levels. We need joint analysis, collective and more durable planning and programing, including multi-year plans and funding.
- We also need to ensure IDPs are not left out.

Mr. George Okoth-Obbo, Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, UNHCR:
- We highlight the compelling nature of what we face and commonality of imperative.
- We have the obligation to adhere to and comply with human rights principles.
- We heard a lot about NWoW, which can help developing creative policies, linking to development efforts and livelihood work. It is also important to work on prevention.
- UNHCR will work to organize the way forward to ensure:
  - Momentum is not lost and attention and focus on Somalia itself is maintained.
  - The links between cross-border and internal displacement is looked at.
  - Solidarity is maintained and expanded, through donors but also with other means.
  - The Uganda Solidarity conference contributes to the CRRF implementation.

Rt Hon Priti Patel, UK Secretary of State for International Development, UK:
- The challenges are enormous and we know many are struggling. This is not just a humanitarian issue. Long term development should also be addressed. Priority is to build a more secure and stable Somalia.
- There is a clear need to focus on private sector, which can provide contributions in terms of funding, long-term economic development, inclusiveness, job creation, etc.
- We know the shared challenge, objective and will. We need to step-up and work together in a logical way.