The Horn of Africa hosts an estimated 4.6 million refugees and asylum seekers. This represents close to one sixth of all refugees and asylum seekers worldwide. The European Union has been at the forefront of the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees in the region. The Global Compact on Refugees sets the frame for a new burden sharing refugee management system. It bridges the gap between traditional refugee management and the inclusion of refugees in national policies and programmes, mitigating the causes of secondary movements.

The Global Compact on Refugees aims to improve basic services and enhance self-reliance by fostering livelihood opportunities for both refugees and host communities. Part of its approach is to promote social cohesion and to improve conflict prevention and management. The programmes supporting its implementation aim to secure better conditions for returnees and to bolster host governments’ capacity building efforts, with a focus on translating the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees into national policies.

Under the leadership of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), countries in the Horn of Africa have set an example to the rest of the world by taking a regional approach to the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees. Through the Nairobi Declaration and its accompanying Plan of Action, these countries have adopted strong commitments with regard to the integration of refugees, with a focus on access to education and livelihoods.

First to implement the approach were Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti, but currently all countries in the region have made national level commitments. These include improving refugee access to education and livelihoods, enhancing refugee management policy and generating new legislation, all while responding to new situations of forced displacement. Furthermore, countries are now developing national action plans or roadmaps for the integration of refugees.
COMPREHENSIVE REFUGEE RESPONSE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

24 actions 20 national and 4 regional

Regional
EUR 45.2 million

Ethiopia
€ 111 M

Kenya
€ 37.8 M

Somalia
€ 50 M

Sudan
€ 64 M

Uganda
€ 62.3 M

Djibouti
€ 23 M

2

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EUR 45.2 million

24 actions 20 national and 4 regional

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Kenya
€ 37.8 M

Somalia
€ 50 M

Sudan
€ 64 M

Uganda
€ 62.3 M

Djibouti
€ 23 M
The European Union, principally through the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, has taken the lead in providing continued and tangible support to this process at the policy, financial and operational levels. To date, over €383 million has been invested in activities related to forced displacement and supporting the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees in the Horn of Africa. However, the process needs further consolidation and funding, so as not to jeopardize current progress in a region that has thus far set the example for the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees worldwide.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the Region

Main Countries of Origin

- **South Sudan**: 2,339,000
- **Somalia**: 905,000
- **Ethiopia**: 905,000
- **Kenya**: 500,000
- **Sudan**: 1.1 million
- **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**: 27,000
- **Uganda**: 1.2 million
- **Djibouti**: 500,000

Results of Programmes Funded by the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa in Support of the Implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees

- 449,000 People reached by information campaigns on resilience-building practices and basic rights
- 13,000 Jobs created
- 93,000 People assisted to develop income-generating activities
- 2,339,000 Basic social services delivered

International Cooperation and Development
In 2017, when the war engulfed his home area in South Sudan, Alison fled with his mother and sister to Uganda. Life in Uganda was difficult at first. Alison found it hard to depend on aid organisations for basic things like food and water. ‘I wanted to acquire skills that would help me to earn a living, not only here in the settlement but also after I return home,’ he said. Ever since Alison joined the beekeeping training organised by the Belgian development agency Enabel under the Support Programme for Refugees and Host Communities in Northern Uganda (SPRS-NU), he has been able to envision a brighter future for himself and his family. Beekeeping is good business in this part of Uganda. The demand is high. The honey from Arua (in Northern Uganda) is sold in supermarkets in the capital and even exported. At the end of the training course, Alison and his colleagues will receive start-up kits to set up their own businesses. They will also be trained in entrepreneurship to ensure that their new businesses are well managed.

With over 1.2 million refugees, Uganda is the largest refugee hosting community in Africa. Despite the challenges generated by the influx of refugees, it has one of the most progressive refugee protection policies in the world. The Emergency Trust Fund for Africa supports the government in its efforts.
The government of Djibouti is strongly committed to ensuring that refugees and asylum seekers receive the same treatment as its own citizens. It has adopted legislation that guarantees them equal access to social services, justice, education, and professional training. The European Union, through the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, supports these efforts.

One project (Solution pérennes sociales pour les populations hôtes, les réfugiés et les migrants les plus vulnérables sur le territoire djiboutien), implemented by the World Food Programme in close cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity (MASS), promotes the inclusion of refugees in the national health system while supporting Djibouti’s national strategy on social protection. A new programme is being put in place that will support the integration of refugees in the national education system and provide livelihood opportunities to refugees and host communities.
KALOBEYEI TRADERS PROGRAMME FOSTERS BUSINESS SKILLS AND CREATES NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOST COMMUNITIES IN KENYA

Susan Amekwi is one of 17 Kenyan host community traders who manage Bamba Chakula (Swahili for ‘get your food’) shops in the Kalobeyei refugee settlement. These shops are operated under the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and financed by the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. They receive monthly loaned goods from wholesalers, helping to provide refugee and host communities with high quality and nutritious food at affordable prices. The programme gives food assistance to the 38 000 refugees in Kalobeyei in the form of cash transfers, which can be redeemed at shops like the one operated by Susan. The programme stimulates the local economy, creates livelihood opportunities for traders and promotes the cohesion of refugee and local populations. Last year, traders also took over the distribution of corn soya blend — a nutritious flour given to refugees to prevent or treat malnutrition. This further fosters the business. As Susan explains: ‘The shop is busy during porridge distribution time. When collecting porridge, some customers decide to buy other food items as well.’ The programme also helps its network of local Kenyan traders to develop their business skills. They are given training on good customer relations, financial management, bookkeeping and stock management.

KENYA

51,000 People assisted to develop income-generating activities

31% Refugees

69% Host communities
Tafari Zewde is a farmer and father of six from Galcha Suke village in Ethiopia. He has received training, livestock and machinery through REAL projects that are part of the Resilience Building and Creation of Economic Opportunities in Ethiopia (RESET II) programme. This multiple support approach has lifted Tafari’s family from poverty and had a positive impact on the local community. Tafari regularly teaches other farmers agricultural methods such as compost use or irrigation. REAL projects place an emphasis on complementary actions. In the case of Tafari, after he dug a well, the project gave him microfinance loans for an irrigation machine. He became the first farmer to sell vegetables, a much needed food supply, to his village. At the same time, his wife attended a training course where she learned how to maximise the vegetables’ nutritional value. Tafari also provides other services to his neighbours. He received a bull of a higher quality breed that he can keep once it has inseminated a hundred cows from the village. But Tafari is determined to keep helping his community with his bull as long as needed.