

Migration & displacement in the Horn of Africa

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

The challenge

The Horn of Africa faces numerous challenges due to fragile statehood, internal and cross-border conflicts, and climate change. In 2020 alone, more than 4.6 million refugees and around 8.1 million internally displaced persons (IDP) have fled armed conflict, individual persecution, and natural disasters throughout the region.

The goal

The project aims to strengthen the capacities of IGAD to implement migration policies in its member states more effectively.

The objective

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) supports its member states in fostering peace and advancing regional integration. It also promotes the implementation of migration policies in its member states which are simultaneously countries of origin, transit and destination for migrants, refugees, and IDPs.

IGAD was the first regional organisation to agree on a Regional Migration Policy Framework and subsequent Migration Action Plan in 2012. It is one out of only three regions worldwide promoting a regional approach to implement the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). Under the Nairobi Process, member states have adopted progressive policies on refugee education, jobs and livelihoods, and health. The adoption of the Protocol on Free Movement and Transhumance in February 2020 laid the cornerstone for increased regional integration.

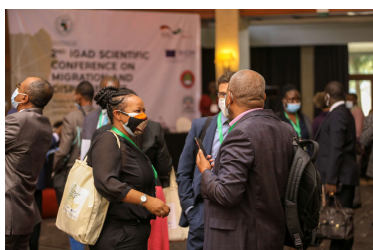
Project name	Strengthening the Capacities of IGAD and its Member States to support Regional Migration Policies in the Horn of Africa (SIMPI)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	IGAD member states: Djibouti (HQ), Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Eritrea (suspended since 2007)
Partner organisation	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
Budget	EUR 18 million
Duration	01.04.2018 - 31.12.2022

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

1. Implementation of regional migration and displacement policies in IGAD member states
2. Strengthening capacities of local administrations for better service delivery to migrants and host communities in one cross-border region
3. Improving learning processes and harmonizing regional migration data

By supporting the activities of the Global Programme Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change (GP HMCCC), SIMPI also addresses the impact of climate change on regional migration movements.

The sustainability of the project relies on the mutual strengthening of its fields of action: lessons learned from migration policy implementation in member states and cross-border regions, as well as on harmonized regional migration data are collected and shared. Both inform the



Photos (left): German cooperation staff and IGAD at 2nd IGAD Scientific Conference on migration and displacement in the context of COVID-19 (February 2021).

Photo (center): Working Group discussion at Regional Migration Data Workshop in Addis Ababa (August 2021).

Photo (right): IGAD at the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva (December 2019).



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Photo (left): Brainstorming session at Teacher Training in Gambela/Ethiopia (August 2021).

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).

formulation of evidence-based policies on migration and displacement and improve cross-border collaboration.

Our achievements

- The **IGAD Support Platform at the Global Refugee Forum in 2019** was launched with support from the German development cooperation. It galvanizes additional support for various IGAD Declarations that translate the provisions of the Global Compact on Refugees into regional and national policies. As such, IGAD is one of three regions worldwide that enables the implementation of the GCR through a regional approach.
- The **2017 Djibouti Declaration on Refugee Education** and its Plan of Action created a momentum. With German support, several member states have formulated national plans to fully integrate refugees in their education systems, increase quality education and promote mutual recognition of certificates. The Teacher Training Initiative translates this regional policy into actions that benefit the communities on the ground. In 2021, **over 300 secondary school teachers** in refugee camps and host communities in Uganda, Ethiopia and Sudan have received training in pedagogy, socio-psychological skills, life skills and ICT.
- Under the Nairobi process, IGAD member states have adopted the **Kampala Declaration on Jobs, Livelihoods and Self-Reliance** in 2019. This will allow refugees to open bank accounts and receive working permits in their host country.
- In **Moyale-Moyale** at the Ethiopian-Kenyan border, the project backs **IGAD's cross-border cooperation** and empowers local administrations to improve **basic service delivery** for migrants, refugees and host communities. To this end, it supports the construction of an **IGAD cross-border office**.

- The **Cash for Community Cohesion initiative** supports **1627 households** in the Kenyan-Ethiopian border city of Moyale with targeted cash transfers for social activities. The initiative aims to relieve the negative impact of the **Covid-19 pandemic** and to improve **social cohesion** through joint engagements by migrants and host communities in the border region.



Graph 1: The border region Moyale-Moyale at the Ethiopian-Kenyan border is located on the main migration route to the South.

- Accurate and reliable **Migration Data** are key to inform evidence-based migration policy and enhance regional migration management. This project supports IGAD and its member states to establish guidelines and a system to harmonise the collection and analysis of regional migration data. One practical example is having established an **IGAD Regional Technical Working Group on migration statistics (RTWG)**. Composed of representatives from different ministries and national agencies, the RTWG fosters regional harmonisation of migration statistics by developing and applying common definitions, standards, and concepts.

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