

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION



SECRETARIAT EXÉCUTIF
CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE
SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS

ICGLR

DISPLACED PERSONS & HOST COMMUNITIES PROJECT FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF
REFUGEES**

Speke Resort, Munyonyo

March 05-07, 2019

Project Objective and Coverage

Objective: *To support regional learning & research on development responses/durable solutions to forced displacement*

Countries covered: *Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia*

Development responses/approaches to displacement

Focus: the medium-term socio-economic dimension of the crisis – to help both the forcibly displaced and their host communities

- Self-reliance and access
- Government led: inclusion in the nation systems
- Focus on host communities
- Reduce poverty and address inequality as part of the National Development Agenda

Support to the displaced and their host communities

The displaced: help offset the specific vulnerabilities that distinguish them from other poor and migrants, both while in exile and through long-term solutions

- Loss of assets, trauma, lack of rights, lack of opportunities, short horizon

The host communities: help them to pursue their own development agenda in a transformed environment

- Inflow of people as a shock, outcome depends on initial conditions, size/nature of shock, and the response

The project components

- 1. Regional Learning Events:** Facilitating policy dialogue on development responses/durable solutions to forced displacement by conducting learning events (ICGLR Secretariat/PCU)
- 2. Regional Research:** Conducting research on development responses/solutions to forced displacement (LMRC)
- 3. Project Management and Capacity Building**



Topics: identified through a participatory process

Learning Events

- Review of **government, institutional and governance arrangements** for development responses /solutions to forced displacement in the region
- Harmonisation of the **legal framework on local integration**: nationality laws, civil registry, framework for the economic and social status of displaced population
- Connecting **livelihood and displaced persons to wider national and regional markets** (Livelihoods), displaced populations as economic actors, issue of mobility and sources of growth in the region
- Harmonisation of **data**, data collection and analysis relating to local integration
- **Land** issues – Support to the Technical Sub-Committee on Land
- Attracting **donor and private sector funding** for development responses to forced displacement
- Implementing **sustainable return & reintegration** processes
- Implementing **alternative to camps** approach in GLR: Constraints and opportunities



Topics: identified through a participatory process

Research Initiatives

- **Quantifying the impact** of displacement on host communities and on social cohesion
- Documenting **good practices** across the region (knowledge banking)
- **Land** issues – Study to support the Technical Sub-Committee on Land
- Analysis of **local integration legal frameworks** (documentation, naturalisation, ‘model law’)
- **Labour intensive sources of growth** in the region (urban/rural, migrants/refugees)
- Impacts of forced displacement on **women, youth, children** and other vulnerable groups and development strategies for protection
- Harmonisation of **data**, data collection and analysis relating to local integration
- Implementing **alternative to camps** approach in GLR: Constraints and opportunities

First workshop: Institutional Arrangements

- **Location and timing:** Dar es Salaam, January 2019
- **Participating countries:** Burundi, DRC, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia
- **Parts of governments involved:** Refugee Commissions, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of finances, Local Governments
- **Objectives:**
 1. Present and share experiences of their institutional and governance arrangements for development response to forced displacement,
 2. Make comparisons on what has worked/is working and what has not worked,
 3. Identify policies and decisions that account for what has worked,
 4. Identify common features, challenges and positive lessons,
 5. Identify best practices from one another to take home with.
- **Rationale:** Growing number of displaced and policy shift towards whole-of-government responses to forced displacement

Government Responses

Similar responses

- Strong legal framework, with a focus a domestication of international and regional instruments
- Strong collaboration framework with UNHCR
- Acknowledgement of the new global policy framework
- Willingness to include displaced population to some local planning structures
- Different categories of displaced populations call for different strategies
- At the local level, easier to develop solutions jointly, and coordinate
- Clearly defined roles and responsibilities at the national, regional and local levels

Unique responses

- Open social protection programs to displaced populations by targeting the district hosting most displaced populations, and include them in a participatory process
- Coordinate all sectors through the refugee agency in the areas hosting them, at the national and local level
- Design and implement quickly a development response after three months on arrival of the displaced population, fully coherent with the local development plan, involving and benefiting both the displaced and host populations in an area that desperately need development investments in all sectors.

Similarities but different stages of institutional integration

- **Common:** Lead Ministry in charge under which a technical authority is directly responsible for displaced populations and whose primary responsibility is to determine the refugee status and manage their assistance
- **Differences:** Need to create new coordination structures, encompassing both displaced populations and development institutions of the country

All participants agreed that an integrated approach appears to be the most effective and appropriate, including integration to national development plans and national budgets.

Main challenges identified

- **Coordination between the various part of government** to plan and deliver assistance to displaced and host communities not effective especially due to the multiplicity and diversity of actors
- Planning for displaced assistance is **not consistent or integrated between the national processes** and the process used for refugee assistance
- **Information** about needs, development investments and humanitarian projects **not flowing timely** and to the right institutions
- **Data** on displaced populations and host communities not consistent, accurate or adequate (also sensitive)
- **Uneven political and high-level commitment** to address displaced populations needs differently: will, interest and attention
- **Limited resources:** financial (national budget) and funding (attracting donors)
- **Unclear legal framework**, mandates and policies leading to confusion and rivalries
- **Capacity not adequate**, especially when refugee-hosting areas are isolated, very poor and under stress
- **High scale** of displacement increases the complexity significantly, especially in relation to the proportion of the host population
- **Land** scarcity or difficult land allocation policies and processes

Best practices identified and new topics

Best practices:

- Whole of government coordination in Zambia
- Case of Matapala in Zambia
- Social Fund in DRC
- Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project in Uganda

New topics:

- How to define and implement a **new formula for allocation of resources to local governments** that are affected by the displaced population (considering the scale, the trends and the risks)?
- How to better equip local governments with “**elastic management**” tools allowing them to plan for different scales of populations?

Way forward for the Project - 2019

1. **Land** priority will be addressed through the project support to **ICGLR Sub-Committee on Land**, reviving of the monitoring of the ICGLR Protocol
2. **Draft concept notes for the following research** pieces will be shared to Member States for inputs:
 1. Analysis of local integration legal frameworks
 2. Harmonization of data, data collection and analysis relating to local integration
 3. Implementing alternative to camps approach: Constraints and opportunities
 4. Labor intensive sources of growth in the region (urban/rural, migrants/refugees)
3. Based on priorities identified during these consultations, a **workshop** on one of these topics will take place in **November 2019**

Conclusion

- Through conducting research on development responses/solutions to forced displacement and facilitating policy dialogue, the ICGLR project: *“Displaced Persons and Host Communities Project to the Great Lakes Region (GLR)”* will provide a **follow up to this important meeting**
- Member States and Strategic partners should see this project as an opportunity for governments to;
 1. share their experience,
 2. promote their effective policies, and
 3. find common solutions to common problems.

This project is the Member States’ project. It can become a viable collaborative vehicle for effective interventions to address the plight of the displaced, both benefiting the hosting communities and the displaced.