EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Thirty-Sixth Ordinary Session
06 - 07 February 2020
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

REPORT ON HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN AFRICA

REPORT ON THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN AFRICA

I.   Background

1.   This report represents a horizon-scanning of the humanitarian landscape in Africa during the period January-December 2019. The data used to inform the analysis of humanitarian issues and forced displacement patterns draws from information gathered by the African Union Commission (AUC) from Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the United Nations system and other partners. The context for this report is an auspicious one. It will be recalled that the AU Policy Organs declared 2019 as "The Year of Refugee, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa." Addressing forced displacement and humanitarian crises is central to the pursuit of the vision of the African Union as well articulated in Agenda 2063-The Africa We Want.

2.   Agenda 2063 propounds a vision of "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena". Agenda 2063 resonates well with the 2030 global agenda on sustainable development. Aspiration 3 of Agenda 2063 envisions "An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law". Aspiration 4 envisages 'A Peaceful and Secure Africa'. Both aspirations 3 & 4 dovetail neatly into the sustainable development goal (SDG) No. 16, which aims to "promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels". Evidently, the seven aspirations of Agenda 2063 and the seventeen sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the 2030 global agenda may not be fully realised if the African continent does not address the challenges posed by humanitarian crises and forced displacement.

II.   The Magnitude and Impact of the Humanitarian Crisis

3.   The scale of the forced displacement humanitarian crisis is a major cause for concern. It is worth noting that this problem has a global dimension too. The global population of forcibly displaced persons stands at a staggering 70.8 million people.[1] Of this, 41.3 million are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)[2], 25.9 million are refugees, of which 92,400 have been resettled, 3.5 million are asylum-seekers and 3.9 million are stateless persons. About 80% of refugees live in countries neighboring their country of origin. A total of 37,000 people a day flee their homes because of conflict and persecution. Globally, the top refugee producing countries are (a) Syria with 6.7 million refugees; (b) Afghanistan, 2.7 million; (c) South Sudan, 2.4 million; (d) Myanmar, 1.1 million; (e) Somalia, 986, 400; Sudan, 725,000 and (f) the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 720,300. The top refugee hosting countries worldwide are (a) Turkey, 3.7 million; (b) Pakistan, 1.4 million; (c) Uganda, 1.2 million; (d) Sudan, 1.1 million; and (e) Germany, 1.1 million.[3]

4.   A major cause for concern is that 25.2 million of forcibly displaced people (over a third of the global displacement) are in Africa. Of this, 7.8 million are refugees and

---

[1] UNHCR Global Trends 2019, June 2019

[2] Global Report on Internal Displacement 2019, May 2019.

[3] UNHCR Global Trends 2019, June 2019.

asylum-seekers and 17.4 million are internally displaced persons (IDPs). It is easy to understand why there are more IDPs today in Africa compared to refugees. During the Cold War era, there were more refugees in Africa as a result of inter-state conflicts. But with the collapse of the Cold War in 1989, inter-state wars have receded considerably. With the decline of inter-state conflicts, intra-state conflicts have begun to ravage the social fabric of Africa societies resulting in enormous amount of internal displacement. This trend is compounded further by climate-change induced disasters. Consequently, today, far more people are displaced within the boundary of their countries. The African continent accounts for 40 percent of the global number of internal displacement. It is currently facing unprecedented level of displacement which is caused by multiple and complex factors. The African countries hosting largest case load of internally displaced persons (IDPs) include (a) Ethiopia, 1.6 million[4], (b) DRC, 4.8 million[5], (c) Nigeria, 2 million[6], (d) Somalia, 2.6. million[7], (e) Central African Republic, 600, 136[8], (f) Burkina Faso, 560, 033[9] and (g) Cameroon, 679, 393. [10]

5.   It is important to unearth the structural causal factors for forced displacement world-wide in general and in Africa particularly. Four major structural factors are identifiable. The first relates to governance deficit, which includes human rights abuses and violations that lead to forced displacement. The second relates to protracted violent conflicts that undermine peace, security and political stability. This first and second factors have claimed a lion's share of forced displacement in Africa. The third relates to development failure marked by, inter alia, poverty, inequality, unemployment, which also generate governance and security challenges compounding Africa's displacement landscape. Additionally, the trend of mega-projects such as dams, roads and industrial parks, much as they are prudent development initiatives, have negative impact in terms of displacement of poor people if they are not implemented in compliance with international and regional standards. Last, but not least, the structural root cause of displacement in Africa relates to environmental degradation and effects of climate change. While no part of the continent is immune to this problem, the hardest-hit parts of the continent include the Horn of Africa, the Sahel and Lake Chad region, the Great Lakes Region and the Island states. There is a strong correlation and mutually reinforcing linkage between environmental degradation and violent conflicts.

6.   The vast majority of persons are displaced as a result of conflicts and violence. However natural disasters, health emergencies such as the Ebola outbreak, food insecurity, extreme poverty and other factors have also caused significant humanitarian problems. Unplanned urbanization, population growth, poverty and lack of proper mitigation and management strategies underpin peoples' exposure and vulnerability to disasters. The majority of disaster related displacement recorded in recent years indicate that floods have resulted in the vast majority of internal

---

[4] Ethiopia Displacement Data-Site Assessment, IOM, October 2019
[5] Democratic Republic of Congo: Situation Report, IOM, November 2019.
[6] Displacement Monitoring Matrix:28 Round, 1 August 2019, IOM. https://dtm.iom.int/nigeria.
[7][7] Somalia Situation Report, OCHA, 9 December 2019.
[8] Central Africa Republic Situation, UNHCR, 30 September 2019
[9] Burkina Faso: Humanitarian Snapshot, OCHA, 9 December 2019.
https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20191209_apercu_de_la_situation_humanit aire_bfa_en.pdf
[10] UNHCR Cameroon Data, November 2019. https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/cmr.

displacement accentuated by factors such as poverty, lack or urban planning, drainage systems and waste management and land degradation. The connection between disasters and effects of climate change on the one hand and conflicts and displacement on the other, including refugee influx has increasingly been an issue of concern.

7.   According to data from UNHCR, the most refugee producing countries in Africa include (a) South Sudan, 2.4 million, (b) Somalia, 986, 400, (c) Sudan, 725, 000, (d) DRC, 720, 300 and (d) Central African Republic, 545, 498. Africa has also demonstrated an enormous amount of solidarity in support of refugees in the spirit of Pan-Africanism and the values of Ubuntu (humaneness). The top refugee hosting countries are (a) Uganda, 1.4 million, (b) Sudan, 906, 600, (c) Ethiopia, 694, 506, (d) DRC, 536, 000 and Kenya, 471, 300.

8.   In its efforts to address the adverse effects of humanitarian crises and forced displacement on the continent, the African Union is armed with an arsenal of robust normative frameworks at its disposal. These include:

- The 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (last year, the African Union commemorated the 50th anniversary of this Convention);
- The 1981 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights which obligates state parties to protect and promote the rights of all persons including refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, IDPs and stateless persons ;
- The 2009 AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (last year marked the 10th anniversary of this Convention, which the AU celebrated in Kampala on 6 December 2019);
- The 50th Solemn Declaration on Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance (2013) which outlines the vision of African states and peoples in addressing among others the structural causes of ;conflicts and supporting post-conflict reconstruction and development;
- The 2016 Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness which consolidates the aspiration of Africans in strengthening humanitarian architecture at the global and regional level in order to make it fit for purpose in effectively humanitarian crisis in the continent.

9.   A total of 54 Member States have ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Only one is yet to ratify this Charter. The 1969 OAU Refugee Convention has been ratified by 46 Member States. Nine (9) AU Member States are yet to ratify this Convention. The 2009 AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons has been ratified by 25 Member States. Thirty (30) Member States are yet to ratify this Convention. All those Member States, who have not yet done so, are encouraged to ratify these key AU instruments governing the rights of displaced persons in Africa. All those Member States that have ratified these AU instruments are encouraged to domesticate and implement their provisions and report progress to the African Union Commission regularly.

10.   In addressing humanitarian crises and forced displacement, the African Union works through various partnerships including RECs and the international community. At the global level, the Inaugural Global Refugee Forum was held in Geneva, Switzerland in December 2019, a year after the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees. At the forum a total of 774 pledges and 418 good practices were submitted by state, international organizations, the private sector, sporting organizations and others. The African Union and its member states also made concrete pledges. The World Bank announced a new package of support under IDA 19 totaling 2.2 million people. [11]

11.   The international community also continued to take stock of the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. in an effort to redouble efforts towards dealing with the structural root causes of internal displacement and find durable solutions, the United Nations Secretary General has established and launched the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement to be co-chaired by Ms. Federica Mogherini (Italy) and Dr. Donald Kaberuka (Rwanda) and its advisory expert group. Despite these positive global efforts and commitments, the resource gap in support of humanitarian and development interventions in the continent has been a major source of concern.

III.   Regional Horizon-Scanning and Analysis

1.   Central Africa

12.   In Central Africa Republic, the government and its partners particularly UNHCR have reported the return of refugees back to their country. The African Union has facilitated peace talks among the parties which led to the signing of the Political Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation (APPR) in the CAR on 6 February 2019. The agreement signals the most serious attempt to unlock protracted political and security crisis in the country. Despite these efforts, the country continues to face major challenges. Some 600, 136 persons have been internally displaced. There are also 593, 733 CAR refugees who fled the country and are mainly hosted in Cameroon (292, 863), Democratic Republic of Congo (173, 185), Chad (94, 101) and others.[12]

13.   According to sources from the Government and WHO, the Democratic Republic of Congo is facing one of the most severe Ebola outbreaks in history. Since August 2018, more than 2,211 lives were lost and 3,351 cases were confirmed.[13] The government with its partners have been implementing an emergency response with strong support from the international community. The African Union, particularly through its Center for Disease Control, has stepped up its support to the government and communities. There are reports of significant new displacement in DRC. There were around 3.1 million IDPs especially in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu at the end of 2018 which also continued in 2019. Attacks by armed groups and the Government led counter offensive measures in the region of Beni, North Kivu led to displacement of large number of persons. The city of Beni, home to almost half a million people, is

---

[11] See https://www.unhcr.org/afr/pledges-and-contributions.html
[12] UNHCR: Refugees from the Central Africa Republic, 30 November 2019.
[13] Ebola Virus Disease: External Situation Report 72, 15 December 2019, World Health Organization.

struggling with a new wave of some 275, 000 persons who have been displaced to the area due to the recent tensions.

14.   The Burundian refugee situation is one of the main refugee challenges in the Central Africa region. As of 30 November 2019, some 328, 067 Burundian refugees were hosted in neighboring countries such as Tanzania (163, 629), Rwanda (72,932), the Democratic Republic of Congo (46,069) and Uganda (45,437). Since 2017 close to 80,000 refugees have returned back to Burundi the majority of them from Tanzania. The Commission supports the ongoing continuous dialogue between authorities in Tanzania, Burundi and UNHCR through the arrangement laid out by a Tripartite Commission. These efforts must fully involve refugees and returnees themselves.

15.   In Cameroon, the number of internal displacement and refugee influx has increased significantly due to the crisis in the Anglophone region. UNHCR reports that 45, 000 refugees have fled Cameroon into Nigeria.[14] There are also over 500, 000 individuals who are internally displaced. With the view to ease tensions and find durable solutions, the Government of Cameroon held a national dialogue from 30 September-5 October. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Secretary General of the International Organization of la Francophonie, H.E. Louise Mushikiwabo and the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, H.E. Patricia Scotland, undertook a tripartite visit to Yaounde, Cameroon, from 26 to 28 November 2019, in order to exchange views with the government and other stakeholders on the Situation in the country, the steps being taken to implement the recommendations of the Dialogue and the challenges faced by various actors.[15]

2.   Eastern Africa

16.   According to UNHCR, 4.4 million out of the 7.8 million refugees and asylum-seekers are located in the East and Horn of Africa. More than 82 percent of them are unfortunately located in refugee camps, often in isolated and remote areas. Somalia, Ethiopia and South Sudan host large numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The internal displacement and refugee influx in South Sudan presents grave humanitarian challenges in the region. The Revitalized Peace Process facilitated by IGAD has not been fully implemented. Peaceful resolution of their displaced situation and possibilities for long term solution remain elusive.

17.   Severe flooding caused by heavy rainfall have caused loss of life, major property damage, and displacement in a number of countries. There are reports of loss of lives and devastation in Somalia, South Sudan and Tanzania. More than 300,000 people have been displaced in Somalia particularly in the central district of Belet Weyne region which is one of the worst affected. More than 140,000 are hit by mudslides and flash floods in north-eastern and coastal regions of Kenya whereas

---

[14] UNHCR: West and Central Africa Update, 25 October 2019.

[15] Joint Final Declaration of the Tripartite Visit of the Chairperson of the AU Commission and the Secretaries General of the OIF and the Commonwealth, 28 November 2019, https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20191128/joint-final-declaration-tripartite-visit-chairperson-au-commission-and

more than 900, 000 are displaced in South Sudan Greater Bahr El Ghazal, Upper Nile and Equatoria regions.

18.   More than 200, 000 have also fled their homes particularly in Ethiopia due to flash floods whereas many have been displace due to heavy floods in Kinondoni district in Tanzania. Diluvium rains in several parts of Central Africa Republic has caused significant floods. The city of Paoua and its surroundings have been particularly affected.

19.   Since October, floods have affected more than 10,000 people in Dungu locality in Haut Uele province in north-east DRC. In South Sudan, CAR and Somalia floods related disaster are damaging infrastructure and livelihoods of people who have been affected by conflicts. The African Union Commission expresses its solidarity with the governments and people of Member States which are adversely affected by floods, a phenomenon exacerbated by climate change. These disasters underline the importance of Member States and partners working with communities to develop effective early warning systems, adaptation measures, strategies and approaches to build resilience. Within the framework relevant AU frameworks and policy instruments, the Commission is always ready and available to work with Member States, Regional Economic Communities and partners to develop better and improved mitigation and adaptation mechanisms.

3.   North Africa

20.   In Libya, the situations of stranded migrants and refugees remain a concern. According to UNHCR, there are 45, 762 registered refugees and asylum seekers[16] whereas IOM reports of existence of several thousands of African migrants. UNHCR also reports that 5, 200 refugees and migrants are in detention.[17] The trend in return of internally displaced persons has continued. Humanitarian actors in Libya state that between 2016 and 2019, some 447, 388 internally displaced persons have returned.

21.   The efforts of the AU/UN/EU Tripartite Task Force are yielding the desired result with a significant number of returns achieved since its inauguration. At a strategic level, the Task Force supported the voluntary return of some 48, 000 migrants to their country of origin and the humanitarian evacuation of more than 4, 000 refugees and asylum seekers. [18]

22.   Niger and Rwanda have shown exemplary solidarity by facilitating the humanitarian evacuation of stranded refugees and migrants from Libya. The African Union facilitated these process particularly in the context of Rwanda by signing a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Rwanda and UNHCR. The Commission supported strategic coordination and undertook advocacy for broader regional solidarity.

23.   The refugee situation of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic populations in Algeria remains protracted. Currently, more than 173,600 Western Sahara Refugees

---

[16] UNHCR Libya Update, November 2019,
[17] Update on UNHCR's Operation in the Middle East and North Africa , 27 September 2019.
[18] Joint Press Statement, Meeting of the joint AU-EU-UN Task Force, New York, 25 September 2019 .

live in 5 main camps in Aaiun, Dajla, Smara, Bojadour and Auserd,[19] The Algerian Government and UN agencies provide humanitarian assistance. This refugee crisis is one of the most protracted refugee situations in Africa which continually struggles to achieve international attention and resource allocation.

4.   Southern Africa

24.   For years the Southern Africa region has received below average rainfall leading to drought and related food insecurity in many areas. The entire region is experiencing severe drought, which is bound to adversely affect food security. No single country in Southern Africa is immune from the onset of extreme weather patterns and climate change, marked in the main by drought, floods, severe storms all if which have a devastating impact on agricultural and livestock production. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) predicts that drought in the Kingdom of Lesotho is fast approaching famine. A total of 500, 000 people, more than a quarter of Lesotho's population of 2.1 million, are facing severe food insecurity due to drought that is crippling the agricultural sector.[20] Consequently, UNOCHA has launched a humanitarian assistance appeal of USD34 million in support of Lesotho in order to avoid the onset of famine. In Zambia, severe drought and current below-average forecast will drive significant assistance needs in 2020, says Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS) supported by USAID. [21]

25.   In 2019 Cyclones Idai and Kenneth caused devastation of critical infrastructure, destruction of property and death in Madagascar, Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. The Cyclone affected more than 2.2 million people, triggered around 617, 000 new displacement in Mozambique (478, 000), Malawi (87,000), Zimbabwe (51,000) and Madagascar (500). [22] As is often the case, it is the poor and the most vulnerable who face the most significant impact of these disasters. The succession of the cyclones also heightened the vulnerabilities of those who are at higher risk.
In the recent past, a worrying trend in Southern Africa is the upsurge of intolerance towards foreign African migrants which has triggered violence in South Africa. As of December 2019, about 600 refugees had sought refuge within the precincts of the Methodist Church allegedly fearful of xenophobic attacks.

5.   West Africa

26.   The Sahel region continues to face major humanitarian crises and internal and cross-border displacement. But the scope of this crisis has expanded. During 2019 communal violence and terrorist attacks have increased sharply in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. These attacks have significantly escalated the humanitarian needs in those countries. The number of those who are internally displaced persons is now at 750, 000. [23]This number has seen a tenfold increase since 2018. Multiple factors including

---

[19] Western Sahara Red Crescent, January 2018.

[20] Lesotho: Tens of thousands 'one step away from famine' as drought impacts harvests and UN launches flash appeal, https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/12/1054081,.

[21] https://www.zambianobserver.com/there-will-be-worse-famine-in-zambia-and-other-countries-in-2020-due-to-poor-rains-says-usaid-project/.

[22] IDMC, Africa Report on Internal Displacement, December 2019, 24.

[23] Humanitarian needs has seen increase in Burkina Faso, Burundi and Niger, 19 November 2019.

terrorism, effects of climate change, inter-communal violence and extreme poverty compound the challenges of forced displacement in the region.

27. In recent months the number of refugees and asylum seekers in Nigeria has seen sharp increase mainly due to those fleeing from the political crisis in Cameroon. According to UNHCR, as of November 2019, the number of refugees and asylum seekers in the country is at 52,158, out of which 96 percent are from Cameroon. Nigeria also faces considerable internal displacement as a result of Boko Haram terrorist insurgency particularly in the North East region of the country which has been hosting some 1.6 million people.[24]

28. Niger hosts some 218, 261 refugees and asylum-seekers.[25] The country also faces significant number of internal displacement with 188, 372 uprooted from their homes and habitual residence. Burkina Faso has experienced major escalation of humanitarian needs throughout 2019 owing to increased insecurity related to terrorism. According to the United Nations, since the end of January until December 2019, the number of IDPs has increased by more than 500% from 87, 000 to 560, 000.[26]

IV. Towards durable solutions to forced displacement

29. Durable solution for forcibly displaced persons is achieved when the following is secured: (a) reintegration at the place of origin or return in safety and dignity, (b) sustainable local integration in areas where refugees or internally displaced persons take refuge (local integration); or (c) sustainable integration in another part of the country or resettlement in another third country.[27]

a. Return

30. In 2018 millions of IDPs and many refugees have returned. However not many have found durable solutions in the area of return or their displacement situation resolved. The AU legal and policy frameworks provide solid foundation for developing and implementing context specific policies and approaches to address internal displacement. While there have been some positive steps taken by AU Member States in developing policies on refugees and internal displacement, more needs to be done in establishing stronger linkage between refugee and internal displacement specific policies and broader development and economic programs. The important role of human rights and protection norms dealing with participation, freedom of movement, access to services and the right to work in facilitating an inclusive approach in addressing forced displacement must be recognized.

31. In Ethiopia more than 800, 000 internally displaced persons returned in 2019 but there are significant needs for assistance, protection and solution in the area of return. Governments and UNHCR has reported on return of refugees in South Sudan, Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia and Central African Republic. The Government of Tanzania

---

[24] North-East Nigeria Humanitarian Update, OCHA, October 2019.
[25] UNHCR Update, October 2019.
[26] Burkina Faso: Humanitarian Snapshot , OCHA, December 2019.
[27] IASC Framework on durable solutions for internally displaced persons, April 2010. See also
https://www.unhcr.org/solutions.html.

and Burundi have also held a tripartite consultation involving UNHCR on the repatriation of Burundian refugees. The Commission has encouraged parties and is in full support to ensure that these repatriation activities are in compliance with international and regional standards and norms.

32.   Many of refugees and IDPs returns are happening in areas of insecurity, lack of sufficient assistance and services and opportunity for livelihood. This calls for urgent and robust assistance for returnees. By piloting the Comprehensive Refugee Response Plan, several African countries have implemented progressive national refugee programs that aim at supporting inclusion and integration. At the first Global Refugee Forum countries have also made additional specific pledges. There have also been progress in the development of DRR, climate change adaptation and sustainable development approaches and programs.

33.   The Governments of Ethiopia and Uganda have instituted legislative and policy reforms to allow birth registration for refugees. Access to registration promotes legal recognition, reduces and prevents statelessness and facilitate access to key services, including health care and education. The government of Guinea-Bissau has granted citizenship to refugees living in a protracted situation and Zambia has also taken step in providing long-term residency to former Rwandan refugees.

34.   Progress also continues to be made in the area of addressing internal displacement. In 2019, Equatorial Guinea and South Sudan ratified the Kampala Convention have ratified the Kampala Convention and deposited the instrument of ratification. The Government of Somalia has also announced that the country has ratified the Convention. The Commission looks forward to receiving the instrument of ratification. Announcement is also made that the Council of Ministers of Ethiopia has passed a resolution to ratify the Kampala Convention.

35.   Countries are also taking major steps in domesticating the Kampala Convention. Niger has become the first state party of the Kampala Convention to have developed a compressive national legislation on internal displacement when its National Assembly adopted a comprehensive national law on internal displacement, in line with the provisions of the Kampala Convention. Ethiopia has also adopted a Durable Solution Initiative which aims to support the implementation of an area based development intervention on solutions anchored in strong national legal and policy framework, supported by national development plan and improved coordination between development and humanitarian partners. With the support of international partners such as the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of internally Displaced Persons and UNHCR, governments in South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali and CAR are carrying out activities to develop similar legislations on internal displacement. If supported through robust regional and sub-regional advocacy efforts, it is expected that more states will sign and ratify the Kampala Convention.

b.   Local Integration

36.   Local integration Local integrations is a complex process requiring multi-dimensional response across a long period of time. Countries such as Tanzania have a reputable tradition of granting nationality to refugees through naturalization process.

37.   According to UNHCR, in Cameroon, Rwandan refugees have been offered an alternative legal status following the application of the cessation clause. Some 1,700 applicants obtained a two-year residence permit. In 2018, around 310 naturalization certificates were provided to refugees from Sierra Leone by the Liberia Immigration Service and the Court for Sierra Leonean refugees. In Guinea Bissau, as a result of a presidential decree issued in December 2018, national identity cards were issued to some 7,000 refugees. During the first half of 2019, around 4,280 national identity cards were issued and some 4,100 refugee children were registered at birth. In Kenya, the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan was launched in Kakuma on 1 April 2019. While not geared towards legal local integration, the plan provided a framework to manage the presence of some 180,000 refugees (40 per cent of the population of Turkana West) in a manner benefitting both the refugees and host communities.[28]

c.   Resettlement

38.   According to UNHCR by the end of July 2019, some 18,160 refugees from Africa had been submitted for resettlement and over 12,700 refugees had been resettled. [29] At a part of the AY theme of the year 2019, the African Union also promoted resettlement opportunities both within Africa and beyond.

39.   670,000 refugees residing in 32 countries of asylum estimated to be in need of this solution.

V.   Partnerships and international cooperation

40.   The Global Compact offers a clear framework for enhanced partnership and burden sharing. Its success however is heavily dependent on the Compact's application. The Commission has carried out a global advocacy to call for greater and strengthen international cooperation. Throughout 2019 the Commission actively participated and engaged in global events to highlight the importance of burden-sharing and international cooperation. It co-organized a side event at the margins of TICAD7 held on 29 August 2019. The meeting underscored the inadequacy of traditional international cooperation which focused on humanitarian assistance and called for strategic partnership to support host countries and communities through stronger humanitarian-development linkages.

41.   The AU has coordinated and supported the involvement of AU Member States in the negotiation over the two Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees. It has advocated for the establishment of equitable and fair burden-sharing mechanism and arrangement. Whilst the two compacts are distinct and separate, the African Union recognizes their complementarity in the protection of African migrants as reflected in the African Migration Framework 2018-2030.

42.   The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) has been applied in eight countries in sub-Saharan Africa: Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda and Zambia. Similarly the CRRF was also applied in the regional situation of Somalia refugee crisis, thanks to a leading role played by the Inter-

---

[28] Update on UNHCR Activities in Africa , EXCOM, 30 September 2019.
[29] Update on UNHCR Activities in Africa , EXCOM, 30 September 2019.

Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and the Reintegration of Returnees is a pioneering regional framework to support the implementation of CRRF in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti and Uganda. Ethiopia, Malawi and Zambia are promoting "out of camp" solutions for refugees whereas Kenya and Djibouti are reforming their policy and approaches to encourage the integration of refugees in national education systems.

43.   The experiences gained from the piloting of CRRF in the African countries has contributed towards the development of the Global Compact on Refugees. Many countries have also actively participated in the negotiation over the Compact; a process culminated when the United Nations adopted the instrument on 17 December 2018. The Compact aims to ease pressures on host communities, enhance refugees' self-reliance, expand access to third country solutions and support conditions in country of origin for return in safety and dignity.

44.   The first Global Refugee Forum, proposed under the Global Compact on Refugees, was held on 17-18 December 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The forum aimed at mobilizing pledges and contributions, and review actions. Ethiopia was one of the co-co-conveners of the Forum. The African Union Commission collaborated with Zimbabwe chairing the African Group in Geneva (2019). Egypt which is chairing the African Union Assembly and the International Committee of the Red Cross organized on global partnership a spotlight session which examined strategies and approaches on easing pressure on refugee host countries; support to enhance self-reliance of refugees and their reintegration; lessons on resource mobilization and implementation of post-conflict construction, peace-building and development initiatives. The Commission took an active initiative to ensure that the outcome of the various AU theme of the year activities in 2019 fed into the deliberations and peer-exchanges at the Forum.

VI.   Conclusion and Recommendations

45.   The most sustainable approach to addressing humanitarian crises on the continent is through durable solutions. Such solutions should facilitate return, resettlement and local integration of displaced persons. Fundamentally such solution should also go to the root of the structural factors for forced displacement in the first place. A four-pronged strategy is recommended as a guide for policy responses to forced displacement and humanitarian crises. The first relates to governance reforms aimed at, inter alia, institutionalizing the respect, promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights in conformity with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The second relates to establishment and/or strengthening of the national infrastructures for peace which assist Member States to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts amicably with a view to maintain peace, security and political stability. The third relates to putting in place policies and strategies that address major development challenges such as poverty, inequality, unemployment, marginalization and exclusion in the process of nation-building. Finally, Member States have to put in place policies and strategies that mitigate against the adverse effects of environmental degradation and climate change.

46.   The Commission recommends the following:

A. On Root Causes of Forced Displacement

1. Member States should implement pledges and recommendations that they have been made in the context of the activities of the 2019 theme of the year including by establishing stronger linkages with the 2020 theme of the year on *Silencing the Guns.*

2. Member States should redouble efforts towards inculcating a culture of human rights, justice, constitutionalism and the rule of law.

3. Member States should put in place mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of election-related violent conflicts.

4. Member States should strengthen and/or establish national infrastructures for peace with a view to ensure reconciliation, social harmony and cohesion in the process of nation-building.

5. Member States should tackle development challenges that breed such social ills as poverty, inequality, unemployment, exclusion and marginalisation.

B. On Early Warning and Prevention

6. Member States should strengthen their national systems on disaster related displacement, disaster risk and reduction and early warning in line with the Sendai Framework, the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for the Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa.

7. Member States ought to put in place sustainable mechanisms aimed at mitigating the adverse effects of environmental degradation, extreme weather patterns and climate change.

8. The early warning mechanisms of the AU, RECs and Member States should include detection of early signs of natural disasters (not just conflicts) to facilitate early response and early recovery.

C. On Durable Solutions

9. The AU, RECs and Member States should facilitate the development and implementation of initiatives aimed at addressing forced displacement and promote peer exchange on lessons learnt and best practices in respect of return, resettlement and local integration.

10. The AU, RECs and Member States should ensure that policies, strategies and mechanisms for addressing forced displacement reinforce the inextricable nexus between and among governance, peace, development and climate change.

D. On Partnerships and International Cooperation

11. The AU should strengthen its partnership with RECs, Member States and other non-state actors in its response to forced displacement on the continent;

12. International partners are urged to ensure the availability of adequate, flexible and predictable resources to help address the enormous challenges posed by forced displacement and humanitarian crises in Africa and to ensure multi-year, flexible funding that transcends the emergency relief with a view to address the humanitarian-development nexus.

13. Concerted efforts should be exerted by AU, RECs and Member States to fully utilize the unexploited opportunities of mobilization of resources from non-traditional donors and the private sector in Africa and beyond, including the philanthropy sector.

E. On Implementation of AU Normative Frameworks

14. Member States that have not yet signed or ratified the 2009 Kampala Convention should do so, and those that have ratified the instrument should take steps to fully incorporate it into domestic laws and policies to allow for its effective implementation at the national and local levels. States Parties to the Kampala Convention should also consider holding the second Conference of State Parties in 2020 as provided for in the Kampala Convention and recommended by participants at the Continental Consultative Meeting on the Implementation of the Kampala Convention held on 2-3 December 2019;

15. Member States that have not yet signed or ratified the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention should sign or ratify the Convention and take steps to fully domesticate the same in their national laws; and ensure that their implementation strategies and approaches are in line with the African Union policy framework and policy, the Global Compact for Refugees.

16. Member States that have not yet done so, are encouraged to ratify the 1981 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the 2007 African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance in order to further entrench the culture of democracy, human rights, constitutionalism, justice and the rule of law.

F. On Solidarity with Displaced Persons

17. Member States are encouraged to demonstrate solidarity in support of forcibly displaced persons in the spirit of Pan-Africanism.

18. Member States are encouraged to put in place laws, rules and regulations that criminalise xenophobic attitudes and actions as part of inculcating a culture of non-discrimination and tolerance.

G. On Cross-Cutting Issues

19. Member States and partners need to enhance their support and assistance to returnees though area based interventions and programs in return context by fully and meaningfully involving persons concerned.

20. In addressing forced displacement situations, member states are encouraged to pay particular attention to the special needs of marginalised and vulnerable social groups such as women, children, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons.

2020-02-07

Report on Humanitarian Situation in Africa

African Union

DCMP