

GLOBAL RIGHTS DEFENDERS

2024 - 2026 STRATEGY CONCEPT NOTE



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GLOBAL RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Advocating for Refugees & Human Rights Worldwide

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Advocating for Refugees & Human Rights Worldwide

Global Rights Defenders (GRD) is a Canadian Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that advocates for refugee and human rights worldwide. Through research, policy analysis and advocacy and community engagement, GRDs mission to empower displaced populations to achieve socio-economic independence and self-reliance, and to build their capacities to ensure that their rights, freedoms and dignities are being upheld and valued.

Through the activities of our board, volunteers, and committees, our organization focuses on three key areas:

- Migration Governance
- Self-reliance and Community Engagement
- Institutional Capacity Building

GRD engages in research, policy and advocacy, and community engagement to further refugees' ability to achieve self-reliance. We focus on understanding the barriers to achieving self-reliance, making recommendations to strengthen and improve migration governance, adhering to international legal instruments which protect and promote the rights of displaced persons, and capacity sharing activities.

Our aim is to partner and convene with expert entities to facilitate opportunities to enhance self-reliance:

- Development Actors
- NGOs
- Academic institutions
- Governments
- UN Agencies
- Financial service provider
- Private sector

Our current projects are:

- Research project at Kakuma Refugee Camp focused on socio-economic integration for refugees
- Capacity training activities for refugee-led organizations (RLOs) focused on institutional capacity building to assist RLOs in transitioning from small enterprises into medium enterprises. This includes but is not limited to: Project Management, Resource Mobilization, Leadership, Monitoring & Evaluation and related. It also consists of building internal policies for RLOs such as bylaws, constitutions and other frameworks which will enable RLOs to grow from small enterprises to medium enterprises
- Collaborations with other NGOs on human rights issues





VISION

To determine durable solutions to the global refugee crisis through strengthening migration governance measures as established in the Global Compact for Refugees.

GOALS

To empower displaced populations to achieve socio-economic independence and self-reliance, and to build their capacities to ensure that their rights, freedoms and dignities are being upheld and valued.

MISSION

To create an inclusive society for all, where displaced populations can be safely protected within host societies and be shielded from discriminatory practices as defined and prohibited in the 1951 Refugee Convention, its 1967 Protocol and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



PURPOSE OF THE 2024 - 2026 STRATEGY CONCEPT NOTE



This 2024 - 2026 Strategy Concept Note presents a framework for Global Right Defender (GRD) operations on livelihoods and economic inclusion programs for refugees. Our work is guided by the tenets within the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). The objectives of the GCR are to:



1. Ease pressure on host countries
2. Enhance refugee self-reliance
3. Expand access to third-country solutions and
4. Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity



By focusing on empowering refugees to achieve self-reliance, GRD intends to promote livelihood opportunities and enhanced service delivery for refugees and host communities, which in turn will improve socio-economic opportunities, enhance capacities, reduce over-dependence on humanitarian aid, and support refugees to achieve durable solutions. This development-oriented approach signifies notable progress within the international development and humanitarian landscapes to tackle refugee issues by advocating for comprehensive and sustainable strategies that benefit both refugees and the communities hosting them.





RATIONALE FOR ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Economic inclusion for refugees includes the process of integrating them into the official economy of the countries that are hosting them, allowing them to participate in economic endeavors at the same level as the local community[1]. This encompasses facilitating individuals' access to education, employment, entrepreneurial prospects, financial services, vocational instruction, language training, and other essential resources that are crucial for realizing self-reliance and socio-economic inclusion. Understanding the significance of economic involvement for refugees is crucial, as it enables them to fulfill essential requirements while fostering self-reliance and flexibility, hence decreasing dependence on humanitarian assistance. It is essential to promote economic engagement from the beginning of refugee displacement. This not only benefits refugees but also improves host countries economies by leveraging their talents and abilities to stimulate growth and innovation[2]. Host governments have a crucial role in giving priority to economic inclusion for refugees. This shows their dedication to humanitarian principles and their ability to use human resources for inclusive economic development[3].

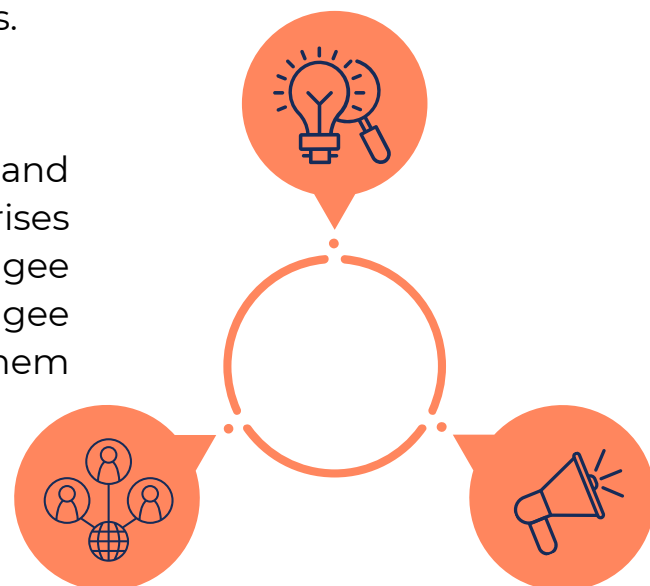
Economic inclusion involves a range of policies and programmes aimed at integrating refugees into the hosts' economy and promote their involvement in economic activities. A few examples of economic inclusion measures include:

Labour market integration programmes:

These programmes give refugees job placement, vocational training, language classes, and skills development programmes suited to local labor market needs.

Entrepreneurship support:

Microfinance, business training, coaching, and networking can help refugees create enterprises and boost local economies. The Refugee Investment Network (RIN) connects refugee entrepreneurs with investors and helps them begin and develop their businesses.





Financial inclusion:

Banks, savings accounts, and microcredit assist refugees manage their finances, acquire assets, and invest in their futures.

Public-private partnerships:

Governments, NGOs, enterprises, and community groups may collaborate on resources and skills to create jobs and facilitate refugee economic participation.

Skills recognition and certification:

Recognizing refugees' home-country qualifications and credentials can help them enter regulated professions and industries, reducing barriers to employment and maximizing their potential contributions to host economies.

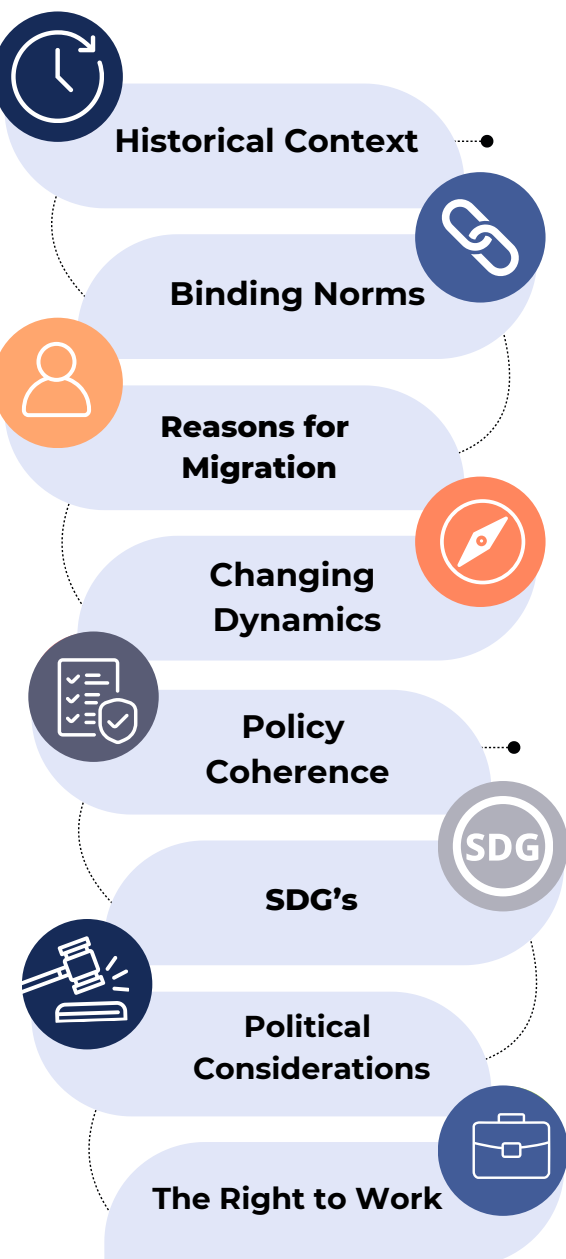


Due to restrictive laws and integration measures, refugees face unequal access to lawful jobs, education, financial services, health services, and related. Additionally, discrimination in the labour market and within society imposes additional limitations on their career aspects and ability to learn national or local languages which further prohibit their ability to integrate or gain comprehensive vocational training. Moreover, issues such as ongoing conflict and instability in their countries of origin, or host regions, worsen economic and psychosocial vulnerabilities, impeding their ability to recover or properly integrate, and results in a prolonged cycle of poverty and dependence[4].

These issues are worsened by inadequate infrastructure, highlighting the necessity for cooperative endeavors between governments, international organizations, civil society, and companies to implement inclusive policies, eliminate structural obstacles, and empower refugees to actively engage in society and the economy. By incorporating refugees into the economy, host nations may utilize their talents and contributions to enhance labour markets, innovation, and sustainable economic development, hence promoting resilient and inclusive societies[5].

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE AND THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Migration governance can be defined as the norms and organizational structures that regulate and facilitate states and other actors responses to migration. Its purpose is to ensure that states work cohesively with one another to enable them to fulfill their objectives, as compared to if states acted alone. Specifically, migration governance refers to the set of laws, policies, frameworks and institutions that control and regulate the movement of people between countries. Its main goal is to promote safe and well-organized migration while safeguarding the rights and well-being of migrants[6].



The process encompasses a range of activities and mechanisms pertaining to admission, visas, border control, labour migration, refugee safeguarding, integration, and assistance for return and reintegration. Efficient migration governance aims to achieve a harmonious approach to integrating transient populations, considering a nation's legal authority and security considerations while advocating for human rights, labour standards, and global collaboration[7].

Nevertheless, current frameworks frequently give greater priority to labour migration and family reunification rather than addressing the specific requirements of displaced populations such as asylum-seekers or refugees who are escaping persecution or violence. This prioritization creates difficulties for refugees in terms of accessing protection and assistance[8]. Incorporating explicit measures for displaced populations into the management of migration is essential to tackle their distinct susceptibilities and guarantees adherence to global refugee legislation, thereby improving the security and welfare of refugees within a country's boundaries.




Historical context[9]: Transregional human mobility is not a new phenomenon. Migration governance became more established as western state sovereignty became more clearly defined. Migration governance pre-twentieth century was contoured around the needs of those societies at the time. Post world wars, migration governance evolved to address security measures, which led to the creation of global institutions to facilitate international cooperation. In 1919 when the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrations from Europe (PICMME), now known as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), chartered a clear institutional separation between refugees and other migrants. In 1919, the International Labour Organization (ILO) was created by the Treaty of Versailles 1919, which marked the starting point for migration as a global policy issue. The ILO was instituted to address labour concerns, primarily with migrants. Between 1925 – 1930 the ILO assumed operational responsibility for refugees, and temporarily offered small business loans to help in their integration in their new destinations. Refugee policy at the time greatly reflected economic inclusion of displaced populations driven by development concerns.

Following the death of Fridtjof Nansen, the High Commissioner for Refugees for the League of Nations in 1930, now known as the United Nations, states created a series of temporary organizations to continue his work with refugees. It was not until 1947 following the end of the second world war that efforts materialized into formidable operations, such as the creation of the International Refugee Organization, which is now known as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). UNHCR as we know today is mandated to govern refugees.

Although new actors have joined international efforts to govern migratory populations, the ILO, UNHCR and IOM continue to be the three international organizations specifically mandated to deal with matters related to population movements.





Binding norms^[10]: Previous to the Second World War, the movement of an individual between different territories was not considered as international migration. As countries gained independence and Europe required workers for its post-war reconstruction, the concept of governing international labour migration became increasingly important. This challenge was complicated by global decolonization which shifted the balance of power in the global system. The UN was founded on multilateral principles, for sovereign equality of states, and due to gained independence and decolonization, new states became members which made it increasingly difficult to reach an agreement that aligned with the interests of the greater diversity of states.

In terms of the norms of migration, states historically have divergent views. Different state actors view migration differently, and value different aspects of migration as opposed to others. As a result, universally binding norms in the area of migration have been difficult to ascertain and efforts were refocused from international to regional cooperation. The 1990s marked a new decade of excitement for multilateral cooperation which led to the era at the turn of the twentieth century when migration became a focal point for all UN systems and beyond. This can be observed at the creation of the 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDG) which provided advocates a bridge to further efforts for international cooperation and to develop norms to govern migration at the international level.

2001 – 2015 became the era of migration and development where various forums and agreements were underway. This includes the successor to the MDGs which materialized into the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



2015 – 2018 marked the era which we are now living in which was triggered as a result of two global compacts: one on responsibility sharing; and one on safe and orderly migration. Following the 2015 European refugee crisis, the adoption of the New York Declaration established a roadmap for the two global compacts now known as the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Both compacts reflect the nature of migration governance where refugee and migrants were divided. Though neither of the compacts are legally binding, both won majority votes and were adopted by the UN General Assembly. The non-binding nature of the Compacts establishes that states accept migration to be part of the UN’s mandate though are unwilling to adhere to legally binding norms.



Diverse reasons for migration: Migration is influenced by a wide range of circumstances, including economic opportunities, a need to reunite with family members, educational opportunities, and environmental conditions[11].

Changing dynamics: Migration drivers and patterns change. Countries may have built migration governance based on historical or regional tendencies. Thus, migration control may have been prioritized over refugees and displaced people. The 2015 refugee crisis saw a sharp rise in persons fleeing conflict, persecution, and violence in the Middle East and North Africa to Europe. Between 2015 – 2016, over 1 million asylum seekers reached European shorelines. The European refugee crisis prompted international cooperation, where world leaders convened in New York in 2016, and eventually established the New York Declaration. This led the UN to adopt refugee protection and management systems and in December 2018 UN General Assembly Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) was released. The GCR supports solidarity, responsibility-sharing, and refugee rights to increase international collaboration and refugee burden-sharing. The GCR uses the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) to holistically[12] and sustainably address refugee issues. The UNHCR developed the CRRF with governments, international organizations, and civil society to improve refugee and host community resilience and self-reliance and promote inclusive and comprehensive refugee responses. Multi-stakeholder collaborations, local ownership, and long-term planning help refugees integrate into host communities and return or resettle.






Policy coherence: In order to accomplish common goals and maximize benefits, migration policies must be coherent across sectors and government levels. Comprehensive migration governance integrates various migration issues, requires primary research, and evidence-based information or recommendations. Holistic governments establish comprehensive frameworks to address migration's varied needs and challenges. Countries use migration governance policy coherence to achieve aims. It ensures policies complement each other, reducing redundancy and improving migratory responses. Recognizing refugees' interconnectedness, a holistic migration policy may boost labour market integration and social inclusion. Policy coherence is established within SDG 17, Partnership for the Goals, as policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) whereby governments and stakeholders must diverge from traditional policy silos and prioritize the integrated nature of the SDGs.




Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Though non-legally binding, the SDGs represent the important role that internationally agreed upon frameworks employ in global governance. The SDGs require multilateralism and international cooperation, which strengthen allies and partnerships in pursuit of a unified goal. Migration was not reflected in the SDGs predecessor the MDGs, and so human rights advocates pushed for it to be reflected in the SDGs. This includes in the preamble (para 29) and within four of the SDG targets such as 8.8, 10.7, 10.c and 17.18. Moreover, some believe migration is implicit across the entire development agenda.



Political Considerations: The framing of migration policies can be influenced by factors of politics. It is possible for governments to choose to place an emphasis on particular aspects of migration that are in line with their political interests. Nevertheless, this may not always result in policies that are explicitly designed to assist refugees and those who have been displaced. Refugee integration can be a contentious subject matter, as each country or nation has its independent right to decide who is fit to integrate within its borders. Refugee migration governance measures are deeply rooted in international affairs, such as the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and its corresponding 1967 Protocol, as those are the official instruments which define refugees.



Despite the international legal framework safeguarding refugees, 50% of asylum countries prohibit formal employment[13]. Even when refugees have the legal right to work, several impediments prevent them from formally participating. These barriers go beyond statutory limits and include a lack of enabling rights and basic services for sustainable livelihoods. Refugees struggle to find work due to a lack of fundamental rights like freedom of movement, education, housing, and property rights, as well as language barriers, financial assistance, vocational training, social protection, and employment registration. Numerous studies have linked these hurdles to political economy dynamics, structural challenges in host nations labour markets, discrimination, and xenophobia. Other issues such as limited resources, skills in high income jobs, opportunity, and living within isolated refugee communities refugees struggle to fully integrate. As a result many work in the informal economy, where they risk exploitation, discrimination, legal consequences, and other maltreatment.



The Right to Work: Creating an environment that promotes economic inclusion, the right to work, and access to necessary resources and services is crucial in assisting the integration of refugees into economies. The legal basis for refugees' right to work principally lies in Articles 17-19 and 24 of the 1951 Refugee Convention[14]. In addition, other international and regional agreements on human rights, such as Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and ILO Recommendation 205, specify the rights related to employment and labour. Furthermore, Article 6 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights[15] establishes a legally enforceable duty on nations to safeguard the entitlement of every person to secure a means of earning a living through employment.



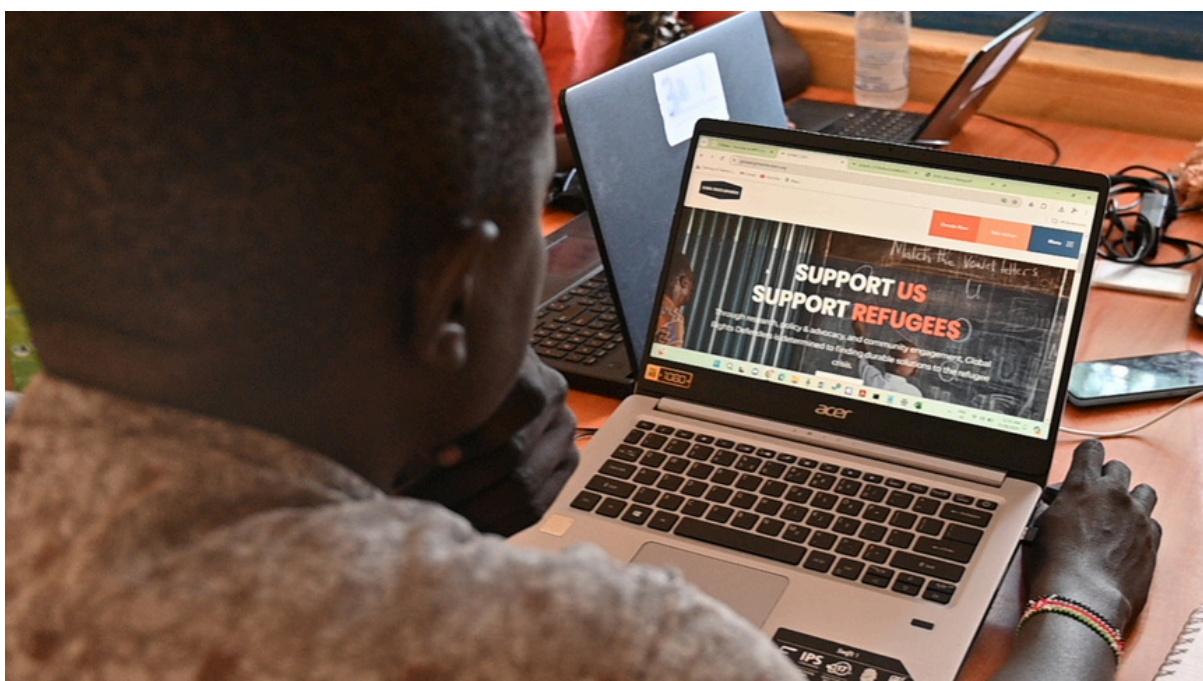
CONSEQUENCES OF LACKING MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

Lacking migration governance can have long-term negative impacts for displaced populations. Without proper integration and governance, refugees are at risk of human rights abuses and exploitation. Refugees without proper protection, such as recognized legal status, are vulnerable to the host society's regulations whether lawful or otherwise. Oftentimes, displaced persons are exploited and can be subject to human trafficking, arbitrary arrests and detentions, harassment, and more. According to UNHCR (2021) in 2020, 34,400 refugees and asylum-seekers were arbitrarily detained globally, many in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions without legal representation or due process[16]. Forced disappearances by state or non-state actors are a further concern for refugees. In 2020 alone, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported 2,132 missing refugees and migrants, emphasizing the need for improved protections and accountability[17]. Without adequate migration governance, refugees are vulnerable to human trafficking for forced labour, sexual exploitation, and organ trafficking. The IOM estimates that 1 in 4 victims of human trafficking worldwide are refugees or displaced persons, emphasizing the need for improved migration governance to protect refugees' rights and dignity[18]. These numbers emphasize the need for comprehensive legal frameworks and processes to protect, promote, and serve refugees and migrants, as well as global migration governance activities.

Integration is crucial for numerous reasons. Firstly, it fosters social harmony and inclusivity by promoting active engagement and mutual understanding between migrants and host countries[19]. Integration facilitates the employment of migrants, stimulates economic growth, and addresses labour shortages. Additionally, it offers migrants access to healthcare, education, and training, thus promoting public health and social equity. From a cultural perspective, integration fosters tolerance, recognition of diversity, and an embrace of many ideas and civilizations. Additionally, it enhances the ability to recover from challenges, fosters a sense of belonging within the group, and diminishes prejudice, thereby guaranteeing enduring stability and safety. From an economic perspective, displaced populations in the long run often enhance the host country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as they pursue entrepreneurial activities or fill gaps within the labour market, endeavouring in jobs the host population has either aged out of or is disinterested in doing.

Lastly, whether countries have integrative measures or not, there are 95 countries which host displaced populations, whereas over 69% are hosted in low- or middle-income countries[20] which face their own challenges of inflation or lack of resources. As a result, refugees are confined to camps and are dependent on humanitarian aid, which is considered a short-term solution and puts undue pressure on the international and host communities.

Integration is essential for the establishment of inclusive and affluent societies, in which both migrants and host populations can flourish. Nonetheless, the absence of integration can result in detrimental consequences, such as the continuation of poverty, marginalization, and breaches of human rights, while impeding social cohesion, economic development, and public trust. Thus, the promotion of integration yields advantages for both migrants and host communities, generating a sense of harmony, productivity, and solidarity. By implementing migration governance measures which promote self-reliance, it enables an individual to provide for themselves and their families which will benefit those who are experiencing displacement, the host country and community, and the international community.





Need for Research & Advocacy

Research is vital for understanding the obstacles that refugees experience while attempting to access employment opportunities. This is because research provides empirical evidence and data-driven insights into the underlying causes and intersectional dynamics of these issues. It contributes to the evaluation of the efficacy of interventions and policy measures, the informing of decision-making processes, and the refining of strategies to facilitate the integration of refugees into the labour market. Research is supplemented by advocacy, which helps to raise awareness, mobilize support, and drive legislative change in order to remove identified hurdles. Advocacy initiatives contribute to the creation of a more inclusive and equitable environment for refugees to obtain work opportunities[21]. This is accomplished by elevating the voices of refugees and campaigning for their rights.



FIRST PROJECT: KENYA



**UNDERSTANDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC
BARRIERS FOR REFUGEES IN KENYA:
CHALLENGES WITH REGISTRATION
AND DOCUMENTATION AT KAKUMA
REFUGEE CAMP**

UNDERSTANDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC BARRIERS FOR REFUGEES IN KENYA: CHALLENGES WITH REGISTRATION AND DOCUMENTATION AT KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP

Global Rights Defenders is committed to understanding gaps and challenges within migration governance measures, so we can provide evidence-based information to enhance global efforts. **Our first project seeks to explore one reported barrier to economic inclusion, namely the challenges of acquiring necessary documentation, in Kakuma refugee camp** in Turkana County, Kenya. It will particularly focus on the process of acquiring different documents in the camp, the challenges involved, documentation-

related rights, and the socio-economic implication of possessing or lacking certain refugee documents in the camp.

The project objectives are to:

- Expand the broader understanding of the experiences refugees and asylum seekers endure when becoming registered and obtaining identification at Kakuma refugee camp and Kalobeyei settlement;
- Establish a relationship between realizing full socio-economic rights & self-reliance;
- Identify gaps in the research to enhance migration governance measures in Kenya and beyond;
- Address root causes of the global refugee crisis; and
- Raise awareness about the plight of the refugee crisis, especially as it pertains to protraction.



By identifying key barriers and suggesting policy improvements, the research will contribute to more effective migration governance and support efforts to alleviate the challenges faced by displaced populations in Kenya and globally.

This initiative aims to increase knowledge within the forced migration, international development and humanitarian sectors, raise awareness about refugee issues, especially as it pertains to barriers to achieving socio-economic independence.

The research report will focus on global migration governance frameworks to address gaps in the refugee protection system such as the lack of legal protections in host countries, confinement to refugee camps, restricted movement of refugees in host countries, the inability to access formal employment, and understanding root causes of displacement. In lieu of adequate support from host countries, long-term refugees are in protracted situations, and rely heavily on international humanitarian assistance for their survival. Limited third country solutions such as resettlement or complimentary pathways, inability to return displaced individuals to their country of origin due to unstable or deteriorating humanitarian situations, donor fatigue, and other complexities have pushed humanitarian actors to look for solutions elsewhere.

Our goal is to provide evidence-based research to improve migration governance measures in Kenya, establish meaningful relationships with displaced populations, and encourage avenues of self-reliance in GCR countries regarding successful measures and practices.

The study's findings are expected to highlight the critical role of documentation in facilitating socio-economic integration and self-reliance for refugees. By identifying key barriers and suggesting policy improvements, the research will contribute to more effective migration governance and support efforts to alleviate the challenges faced by displaced populations in Kenya and globally.





SDG 17: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

As stated in Sustainable Development Goal 17, Partnership for the Goals, Partnerships are crucial for promoting Global Rights Defenders (GRD) initiatives because it helps facilitate the collaboration of diverse expertise, resources, and networks to address intricate difficulties. The collaborative effort created by the collaboration among development actors, NGOs, governments, academia institutions, and UN agencies can greatly enhance the effectiveness of initiatives aimed at promoting and safeguarding the protection of human rights on a global scale.

Here is how the abilities and institutions of each partner may enhance and support each other:





Development Actors

Global Rights Defenders efforts can improve human rights promotion and protection by working with development actors to access financing, training, and advocacy platforms. GRD can use its networks, experience, and influence to advocate through meaningful changes to enhance the lives of those most vulnerable. Strategic alliances with development actors can boost GRD activities' effect, increase support for human rights concerns, and create lasting good change worldwide.

NGOs

Non-governmental organizations (NGO) possess grassroots networks, specialized expertise, and the ability to promptly address instances of human rights violations. They have the ability to mobilize communities, provide immediate aid to victims, and advocate for policy reforms. NGOs also contribute a powerful advocacy voice, advocating for responsibility and increasing public knowledge about human rights concerns.

Academic institutions

Academic institutions, such as universities and research centres, play a crucial role in human rights advocacy and policymaking by providing research, analysis, and evidence-based insight. Researchers as well as scholars offer specialized expertise in the fields of human rights regulations, socio-political situations, and effective intervention strategies. Academic institutions have the capacity to carry out research, generate reports, and provide training programmes that educate advocates for rights and policymakers. Their meticulous methodology and intellectual qualifications enhance the credibility of human rights advocacy endeavours.

Governments

Governments have the power, resources, and diplomatic influence to pass laws, enforce them, and put in place policies that safeguard human rights. They have the ability to offer financial resources, organizational assistance, and legal structures that are essential for advancing and maintaining human rights principles. Engaging in partnerships with governments can facilitate the incorporation of human rights projects into national plans and provide the required political support.

UN Agencies

United Nations agencies function as worldwide platforms for organizing and executing human rights initiatives on a global scale. They offer specialized knowledge, influential networking capabilities, and established guidelines to assist in the efforts of those who support human rights. UN agencies engage in the facilitation of conversation among numerous parties involved, closely monitor the state of human rights, and offer support and assistance in regions affected by conflict. Partnering with United Nations agencies amplifies the prominence, credibility, and effectiveness of initiatives advocating for human rights.

Financial service provider

Collaborations with financial and business-related service providers are essential for developing the efforts of GRD. Partnering with these organizations provides access to crucial financial resources, such as financing and microfinance services, that are vital for funding the advocacy work of human rights defenders and providing financial inclusion to refugees. In addition, the partners offer business development support, including seminars and mentorship programmes, to empower rights defenders with the essential skills to efficiently oversee their operations and enhance their influence. By utilizing the knowledge and assets of financial and business development service providers, GRD programmes can improve their efficiency, scope, and long-term viability, thereby encouraging stronger safeguarding and advancement of human rights globally.

Private sector

Along with financial and business development service providers, private sector participation is essential for GRD programmes. Financial backing, knowledge, and technical innovation from the private sector can boost rights defenders' advocacy efforts. GRD initiatives can expand their advocacy campaigns, protect human rights, and promote social justice by partnering with corporations, organizations, and social enterprises to acquire funds, pro bono services, and technology. Private sector collaborations can also raise awareness, modify policy, and increase responsibility for human rights violations by utilizing corporate influence and networks. GRD initiatives may leverage business and civil society strength to advance their goal and improve communities worldwide through smart engagement with the private sector.

Through collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, advocates for human rights can utilize their unique abilities to tackle widespread violations of human rights, encourage responsibility, and cultivate lasting transformation. Collectively, they have the ability to generate synergistic effects, pool resources, and enhance their combined influence in promoting the global human rights agenda.



BENEFICIARIES AS KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Global Rights Defenders helps refugee communities become self-reliant by understanding their histories, environments, and integration issues. Since establishing a non-profit in November 2022, we have focused on research, policy and advocacy and community engagement with the vision of strengthening migration governance measures and enhancing self-reliance.

Our work is exemplified through our three pillars:

Global Refugee Research Program

GRD is committed to understanding gaps and challenges in migration governance measures and will produce research to inform inclusive policies.

Global Migration Governance and Advocacy Program

Through our research, we will identify/highlight gaps and challenges in migration governance measures such as policies, laws or frameworks and provide recommendations within the contexts we work in. We will partner with local organizations, institutions, and practitioners which advocate for policy reform within their local context to supplement their efforts where possible we will provide our research, share our campaigns with our global audiences, and serve as a support system with our evidence-based information.

Global Community Engagement Program

GRD is committed to supporting the communities we serve. We do so through community engagement activities such as capacity trainings, seminars, online engagements, events, and institutional operations and more. We focus on institutional capacity trainings to assist Refugee-led Organization's to transition from small enterprises into intermediate enterprises.



Capacity Building Activities Within Our Communities

Global Rights Defenders acknowledges that refugees require access to high-quality education in order to acquire the essential skills and competencies needed for successful integration into the economy. To ensure that younger generations acquire the necessary cognitive, interpersonal, social, and digital literacy skills for the employment market, it is important to integrate refugees into national school systems, technical and vocational training, and higher education programs. Though GRD will not endeavour in providing formal education, we are committed to providing training to facilitate skill development to assist working aged refugees in vocational retention. This includes strengthening capacities of RLOs within the project cycle such as project design, program development, risk assessment, resource mobilization, monitoring and evaluation, leadership, and related.

TERMS

Assimilation

The process whereby individuals/groups adopt the cultural norms, values, and practices of the society in which they live, often resulting in a loss/suppression of their own cultural identities.

Beneficiaries

Individuals or groups who receive benefits, aid, or services due to a certain program, policy, or effort.

Community-Based Organization (CBO):

Nonprofit organizations or groups that operate at the local level and are governed by members of the community they serve. CBOs address community needs and promote grassroots development.

Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF):

A global framework established by the United Nations to improve the protection and assistance provided to refugees, encourage their self-reliance, and assist host governments and communities in refugee situations.

Economic Well-Being:

The level of financial security, stability, and prosperity experienced by individuals, families, or communities. It is based on characteristics such as income, employment, access to resources, and standards of everyday life.

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR):

An international agreement adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. Its purpose is to strengthen the global response to refugee crises, enhance the protection of refugees, promote international collaboration and the sharing of responsibilities for displaced populations.

Integration:

The process whereby individuals or groups become fully incorporated into the social, economic, and political life of a society, often involving participation in the daily life of the host community, labour market, access to social services, and engagement in civic and community activities.

Local Integration:

The process whereby refugees or displaced persons settle and become integrated into the local communities and societies of their country of asylum, often leading to the acquisition of legal residency, rights, and access to services.

TERMS

Migration governance:

Set of laws, policies, regulations, and institutional frameworks that guide the management and regulation of migration processes within and between countries.

New Wave of Humanitarianism

A contemporary approach to humanitarian action that emphasizes principles of localization, community engagement, resilience-building, and empowerment of affected populations, moving beyond traditional aid delivery models.

Protraction

The state of lasting for a long time or lasting longer than necessary. Refugees are often protracted as they are ordered to live in refugee camps, thereby do not integrate into the host society and birth children into the cycle of displacement.

Refugee-Led Organization (RLO)

Nonprofit organizations or groups that are led and managed by refugees themselves, often advocating for refugee rights, providing services to refugee communities, and promoting self-representation and empowerment.

Self-reliance

The capacity of individuals or groups to independently fulfill their own needs and establish sustainable lives without being primarily dependent on external aid or support.

Socio-economic Inclusion

The systematic effort to provide equitable opportunities, access to resources, and engagement in economic, social, and political spheres for individuals or groups who may face marginalization or disadvantage due to characteristics such as income, race, gender, or disability.

Stakeholders

Individuals, organizations, or entities that have a vested interest or role in a certain issue, policy, or decision-making process. This typically includes governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups, affected communities, and commercial sector actors.

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