



# BUILDING FUTURES:

THE EFFECTS OF THE EU TRUST FUND ON DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR  
REFUGEES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

*A THEMATIC NARRATIVE*

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## BACKGROUND

The Horn of Africa (HoA) has faced multiple and severe displacement crises since the 1990s. In the last decade, the region has experienced renewed conflicts and climate-related events. As a result, the number of refugees hosted in the region has doubled, with growing pressure on hosting countries, unable to maintain the protection of refugees.

Governments and international organisations have committed to supporting a comprehensive response to displacement crises, most notably through the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). As part of the global effort to support refugees, since 2015, the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) has made supporting durable solutions for refugee contexts one of its main priorities. This study examines *'how EUTF-funded programmes supported durable solutions for refugees in the HoA and what lessons can the European Union (EU) learn for future programming?'*.

Durable solutions are achieved when displaced people no longer have specific assistance and protection needs. The limited availability of solutions to displacement add to the pressure on hosting countries and their partners on providing protection of refugees. The three main types of durable solutions for refugees are **voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement**:



**'Voluntary repatriation and return'** to the place of origin. This solution is often considered as the preferred option for refugees.



**Resettlement** occurs when a refugee leaves their host country. Resettlement is a solution for vulnerable refugees who face specific risks in their country of asylum.



**Local integration** is a gradual process of integration of refugees within their country of asylum. This involves the realisation of rights by refugees and culminates in the obtention of citizenship.

This study uses the GCR Indicator Framework to situate EUTF results within broader international efforts to support refugees. The framework was designed in 2019 to showcase global progress on durable solutions using 16 globally recognised indicators aligned with the four GCR objectives, 1) Ease pressure on host countries, 2) Enhanced refugee self-reliance, 3) Expand access to third country solutions and 4) Support conditions in countries of origin for return.

## THE EUTF AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS

The EUTF funded 61 projects to support refugees and host communities in the HoA. This represents €345.6M, all of which contribute to GCR Objective 1: Ease pressure on host countries, which encapsulates all funding to support refugees and their host communities.

Most of this funding (83%) was allocated to 51 projects related to supporting refugees' self-reliance in their host countries (GCR Objective 2). Another 4% (one project) of EUTF displacement-related funding was allocated to supporting access to third-country solutions (resettlement and complementary pathways) for refugees (GCR Objective 3). Finally, the remaining 14% (allocated to nine projects) supported conditions for the return of displaced populations (GCR Objective 4). This thematic narrative includes the analysis of these 61 EUTF projects and a review of their outcome results. The key findings below are presented according to the four GCR Objectives.

## THE EUTF AND THE GCR: KEY FINDINGS

### GCR Objective 1: Ease pressure on host countries

**Outcome 1.1:** Resources and programmes are made available for refugees and host communities by an increasing number of donors

The EUTF accounted for €115.4M, or 5% of the €2.3B of ODA disbursed in the HoA for refugee situations in 2020-2021. Over the same period, the EU was the second largest global donor for refugee situations.

The EUTF acted as a catalyst for development funding to refugee contexts in the HoA, by encouraging other donors and other EU institutions to shift from humanitarian to development funding for refugees.

**Outcome 1.2:** National arrangements and coordinated refugee responses are supported

The EUTF channelled 13.2% of its refugee-related funding directly to national and local actors in refugee-hosting countries (governments and NGOs). This is below the global average for displacement-related ODA of 18.4%.

EUTF funding enabled the UNHCR to increase its development activities, aligning with the agency's goals to enhance collaboration with development actors and with its mandate to coordinate the response to refugee situations. The EUTF also supported partners who had not previously implemented refugee-focused activities to engage in refugee support.

### GCR Objective 2: Enhanced refugee self-reliance

Some EUTF projects supported advocacy and policy development on freedom of movement and employment, mainly at the local level. Capacity sharing and advocacy comprise 9% of EUTF displacement-related funding.

**Outcome 2.1:** Refugees are able to actively participate in the social and economic life of host countries

EUTF projects primarily focused on supporting livelihoods and job opportunities for refugees through direct programming. Some projects also helped to overcome practical restrictions to employment and freedom of movement, such as support to streamline refugee status determination and business registration procedures.

The GCR calls for inclusion of refugees in national education systems and a reduction in poverty rates. To this end, 46 projects (€272M) promoted self-reliance for refugees and host communities through basic service provision and livelihood activities.

**Outcome 2.2:** Refugee and host community self-reliance is strengthened

Several EUTF projects advocated for and supported policies for better inclusion of refugees in education systems, although most prioritised support to basic services through infrastructure development. Through 54 outcome indicators, advancements were also measured on WASH service provision, energy access, healthcare, legal assistance and other basic services. Funding has supported improvements on income generation and employment opportunities through access to skills, financial services and markets, although there is still limited evidence on the effects of these on improvements on poverty rates.

## GCR Objective 3: Expand access to third country solutions

**Outcome 3.1:** Refugees in need have access to resettlement opportunities in an increasing number of countries

The EUTF allocated €12.5M to evacuation and resettlement through the Emergency Transit Mechanism in Rwanda, which supported the evacuation of 1,000 people from Libya. 565 refugees were then resettled in a third country.

The ETM Rwanda resettled some refugees to Europe, but the EUTF did not pursue the promotion of resettlement numbers as resettlement decisions lie with the individual EU Member States.

**Outcome 3.2:** Refugees have access to complementary pathways for admission to third countries

The ETM Rwanda also aimed to provide evacuees with complementary pathways, which can include education, labour migration, family reunification or sponsorship schemes in third countries. However, the ETM Rwanda's efforts were limited by administrative and logistical challenges and few benefitted from complementary pathways.

Ultimately, the success of resettlement options and complementary pathways depends on the willingness of countries, including EU member states, to accept applications. It is important to note that access to resettlement was not a priority for the EUTF, and there was limited programming dedicated to this support.

## GCR Objective 4: Support conditions in countries of origin for return

The EUTF allocated €47M to projects aiming to support the return and reintegration of refugees. There were limited opportunities for viable and safe refugee returns in the HoA during the lifetime of the EUTF.

**Outcome 4.1:** Resources are made available to support the sustainable reintegration of returning refugees by an increasing number of donors

Most return funding was directed to Somalia, where it mostly supported the return of internally displaced people to their regions of origin, as fewer refugees returned to the country than was anticipated when projects were designed.

Funding for immediate return assistance and longer-term reintegration assistance focused on refugee returnees in Burundi and Somalia.

**Outcome 4.2:** Refugees are able to return and reintegrate socially and economically

EUTF outcome data indicates positive changes related to reintegration as a result of project activities. However, since most data is not disaggregated by beneficiary type, it is difficult to isolate findings on refugee reintegration from those related to returning internally displaced people.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recommendations for GCR Objective 1: Ease pressure on host countries



Maintain funding for refugee situations while leveraging the EU's influence to encourage additional donors and exploring alternative sources of funding.



Provide funding to support governments – through direct budget support or other flexible funding mechanisms – to implement policies that facilitate refugees' full economic inclusion.



Improve the effectiveness and sustainability of interventions by increasing the share of funding dedicated to national NGOs, CSOs and refugee-led organisations in each country.

## Recommendations for GCR Objective 2: Enhanced refugee self-reliance

Continue to support interventions enhancing refugees' self-reliance, guided by best practices and lessons learned from the implementation of the EUTF.

Reinforce efforts on policy support and advocacy to remove barriers and restrictions that prevent refugees from actively participating in the economic and social life of their host countries.

Continue to fund efforts to remove practical barriers to employment and economic participation by funding the implementation of progressive policies and supporting market systems development approaches.



## Recommendations for GCR Objective 3: Expand access to third country solutions



Collaborate with UNHCR and EU member states to review selection criteria and processes for resettlement, raise awareness on eligibility requirements and help streamline selection procedures.



Support projects that promote access to tertiary education, support the translation of documents, assist in skills recognition, and connect individuals with the Complementary Pathways Network, aiming to promote safe and legal migration options.

## Recommendations for GCR Objective 4: Support conditions in countries of origin for return

Support flexible funding mechanisms, such as contingency funds, to allow programmes to quickly adapt to changing circumstances in countries of operation, including in the event of a sudden influx of returnees.



## Cross-cutting recommendations



Improve M&E processes by securing dedicated funds and capacities, e.g. for training and support on baseline and endline report reviews.



Request new and ongoing projects to report on GCR indicators and encourage partners to measure effects using existing indexes like the Self-Reliance Index, enabling comparison of results across projects.



Ensure that funded projects align with the Global Compact on Refugees objectives and the pledges made at the Global Refugee Forums.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. BACKGROUND

The **European Union Emergency Trust Fund** for stability and addressing the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (EUTF or the Trust Fund hereafter) was launched in November 2015 **to address root causes of irregular migration and displacement**. Since its inception, the Trust Fund has allocated €1.8B (billion) to 231 operational projects<sup>1</sup> in its Horn of Africa (HoA) window. Projects were implemented in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda with regional projects covering Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Tanzania.<sup>2</sup>

Projects funded by the EUTF are guided by four Strategic Objectives: 1) Greater economic and employment opportunities, 2) Strengthening resilience of communities and in particular the most vulnerable, including refugees and other displaced people, 3) Improved migration management in countries of origin, transit and destination, and 4) Improved governance and conflict prevention and reduction of forced displacement and irregular migration.<sup>3</sup> In 2018, the European Commission, following a recommendation from the Trust Fund's Board, established six additional priority criteria for the EUTF, one of these being 'refugee management', particularly through support to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).<sup>4</sup> The EU's policy approach for the region also stresses the need for durable solutions for refugees, beyond immediate assistance or short-term support.<sup>5</sup>

The focus on refugee management remains a key priority within the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – “Global Europe”. Under this funding phase, 10% of the €29.2B budget allocated to Sub-Saharan Africa is designated specifically for the ‘management and governance of migration and forced displacement’.<sup>6</sup>

## 1.2. OBJECTIVE OF THIS STUDY

In line with the EU's continued commitment to supporting displacement-affected communities (DACs), this study aims to review **the effects EUTF-funded programmes have had on achieving durable solutions for refugees<sup>7</sup> in the HoA, with the objective of gathering insights and recommendations to enhance future programming**. The study highlights best practices, identifies lessons learnt and pinpoints missed opportunities, ultimately offering recommendations for the EU and other relevant stakeholders for future programming focused on durable solutions. For the purpose of this study, HoA refers to all countries where EUTF projects implemented activities.

To contextualise the EUTF's initiatives within the global movement towards durable solutions, **the effects of the EUTF are examined using the Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Framework** (hereafter GCR-IF or GCR Framework),<sup>8</sup> which encompasses 16 globally recognised indicators on durable solutions.<sup>9,10</sup> Details on the methodology and analytical framework can be found in annex 8.1.

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<sup>1</sup> This excludes 178 non-operational contracts accounting for €41M. These are mostly evaluations and audits, air services, mappings and plans, reports, communications and events. Administrative costs are also excluded from the analysis.

<sup>2</sup> For ease of reading the region is referred to as the HoA throughout this report.

<sup>3</sup> EU, 'Emergency Trust Fund for Africa - Our mission: Strategy', n.d. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>4</sup> EUTF, 'Minutes of the fourth board meeting of the EUTF for Africa', April 2028. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>5</sup> European Union, 'Emergency Trust Fund for Africa: Policy approach in the Horn of Africa', n.d. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>6</sup> European Commission, 'Global Europe – The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Factsheet', June 2021. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>7</sup> IDPs are excluded from this study, as the EUTF in the HoA undertook limited interventions on durable solutions for IDPs.

<sup>8</sup> UNHCR, 'Global Compact on Refugees: Indicator Framework', December 2022. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>9</sup> UNHCR, '2023 Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Report', Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>10</sup> The GCR-IF was designed in 2019 and reviewed in 2022, and two reports were published in 2021 and 2023, showcasing the global progress made with regards to the framework's indicators.



## 2. EXTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN THE HOA

The HoA has long been marked by significant displacement, both within and across national borders, largely due to conflicts and the impacts of climate-related events. By the end of 2024, the countries covered by the EUTF in the HoA were hosting 6.1 million (M) refugees.<sup>1,2</sup> Additionally the region faces a severe internal displacement crisis, with nearly 25.9M internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 2024.<sup>3</sup>

Since 2016, the number of refugees and asylum seekers in the HoA has nearly doubled, escalating from 3.1M to 6.1M by the end of 2024. This surge largely results from conflicts in Sudan, South Sudan, and Somalia. The primary host countries - Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda - have remained the same since the EUTF's inception. The HoA's position in the global displacement crisis has also remained stable. The region accommodated 14% of all global refugees and asylum-seekers in 2016 (3.1M out of 22.5M globally) and 16% in 2024 (6.1M out of 37.9M).<sup>4</sup>

Figure 1: Refugees in the HoA, December 2024

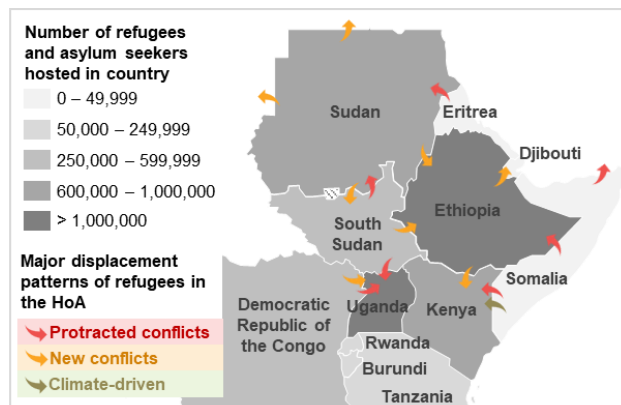
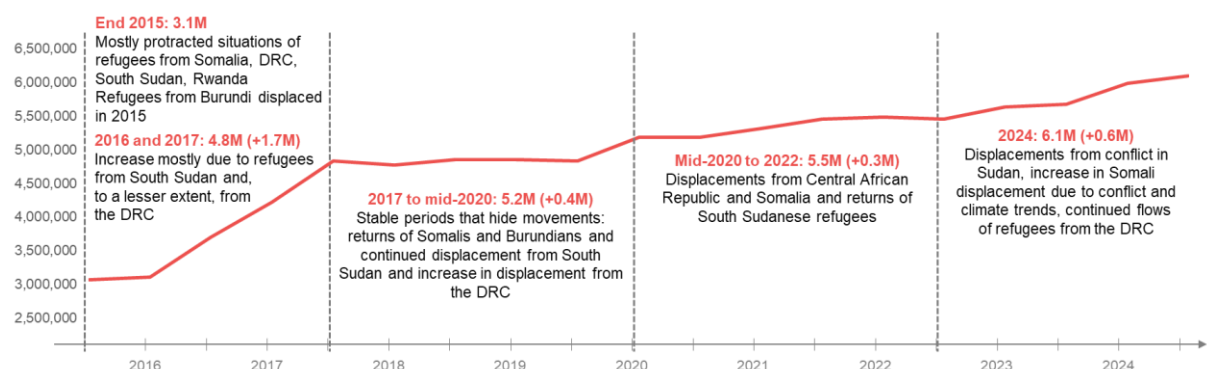


Figure 2: Displacement of refugees over the lifespan of the EUTF in the HoA, 2016 to 2024<sup>5,6</sup>



The rising number of refugees in the region highlights the ongoing challenges for those displaced in the HoA in achieving durable solutions. Many refugees living in the HoA face limited options for safe and voluntary return, resettlement or local integration. With conflicts persisting in the region, refugees are increasingly stuck in protracted displacement situations within their host countries. In addition, in hosting areas, refugees' circumstances have been worsened in the HoA as well as globally by cuts in funding for both international and local organisations that provide vital assistance.<sup>7</sup> The reductions have been driven by deteriorating global financial conditions, influenced by, inter alia, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate-related disasters in the region such as droughts and floods.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR, 'Country operational portals', accessed April 2025. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> This includes Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda (the countries targeted by the EUTF), as well as Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and Rwanda, where the EUTF implemented regional projects in an expansion of its geographic portfolio.

<sup>3</sup> IOM DTM, 'Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) – Data portal'. Retrieved on 25 April 2025 at <https://dtm.iom.int>.

<sup>4</sup> UNHCR, 'Refugee data finder', 13 June 2024, accessed 28 October 2024 at <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics>.

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR, 'Country operational portals', accessed April 2025. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR, 'Operational – Country operations – Somalia', 2024. Retrieved [here](#).




<sup>7</sup> WFP, '2023 in pictures: Ration cuts threaten catastrophe for millions facing hunger', December 2023. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>8</sup> IMF, 'World economic outlook update, January 2023: Inflation peaking amid low growth', January 2023. Retrieved [here](#).

## 3. DURABLE SOLUTIONS

### 3.1. WHAT ARE DURABLE SOLUTIONS?

Durable solutions are achieved when displaced people **no longer face specific assistance and protection needs tied to their situation**, allowing them to fully enjoy their human rights without discrimination stemming from their displacement.<sup>1</sup> The three main types of durable solutions that provide refugees with a sustainable and dignified life are **voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement**.

	Types of durable solutions	Of 40M refugees and asylum seekers worldwide in 2023
	<b>‘Voluntary repatriation and return’</b> is the sustainable reintegration of a person in their place of origin. This option is often seen as the most favoured by refugees. The decision to return must be voluntarily and with full awareness by those who are displaced. Refugees’ legal, material and physical safety must be guaranteed upon return.	<b>&lt;3% returned home</b> 1.1M refugees returned home through assisted and non-assisted (spontaneous) returns. <sup>2</sup>
	<b>Resettlement</b> refers to the process by which a refugee departs from their host country to establish a permanent and legal residence in a third nation. This option is particularly important for vulnerable refugees who are exposed to unique risks in their current country of asylum.	<b>&lt;0.5% were resettled</b> 158,591 refugees were resettled worldwide (only 8% of the 2M refugees identified as in need of resettlement). <sup>3</sup>
	<b>Local integration</b> is a gradual process through which refugees become citizens of their country of asylum.	<b>&lt;0.1% were locally integrated</b> 30,800 refugees acquired the citizenship of their host country and integrated locally. <sup>4</sup>

In recent years, the concept of **‘complementary pathways’** has emerged, offering more flexible solutions and being recognised as a fourth durable solution for refugees.<sup>5</sup> These complementary pathways encompass various temporary and permanent programmes aimed at facilitating education in a third country, labour migration and employment schemes, family reunification procedures, and humanitarian sponsorship schemes.

**The options available for refugees and asylum seekers remain limited as shown in the figure below.** The limited availability of solutions places a considerable strain on many low to middle-income countries where around 71% of refugees were hosted in 2023.<sup>6</sup> The resources in these countries are often insufficient to adequately support both protracted and newly displaced communities.<sup>7</sup> Opportunities for local integration in the host countries are infrequent, leaving many refugees in long-lasting “temporary” situations, where durable solutions are out of reach.

<sup>1</sup> IASC, ‘Framework: Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons’, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, ‘Global Trends Report’, 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

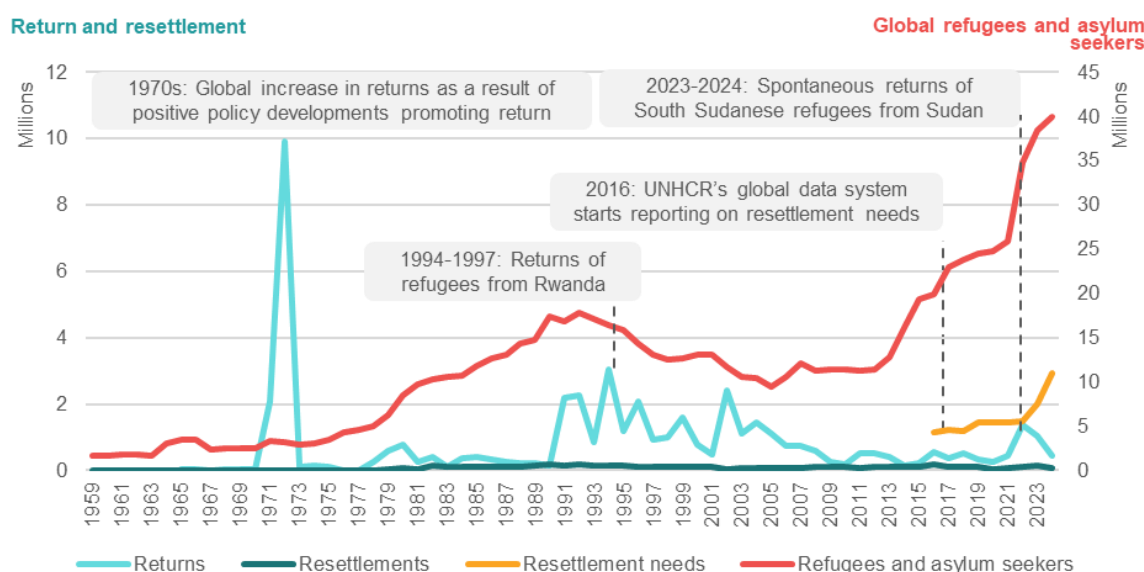
<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Asylum Insight, ‘Durable solutions’, accessed October 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR, ‘Refugee data finder’, 2024, accessed October 2024 [here](#).

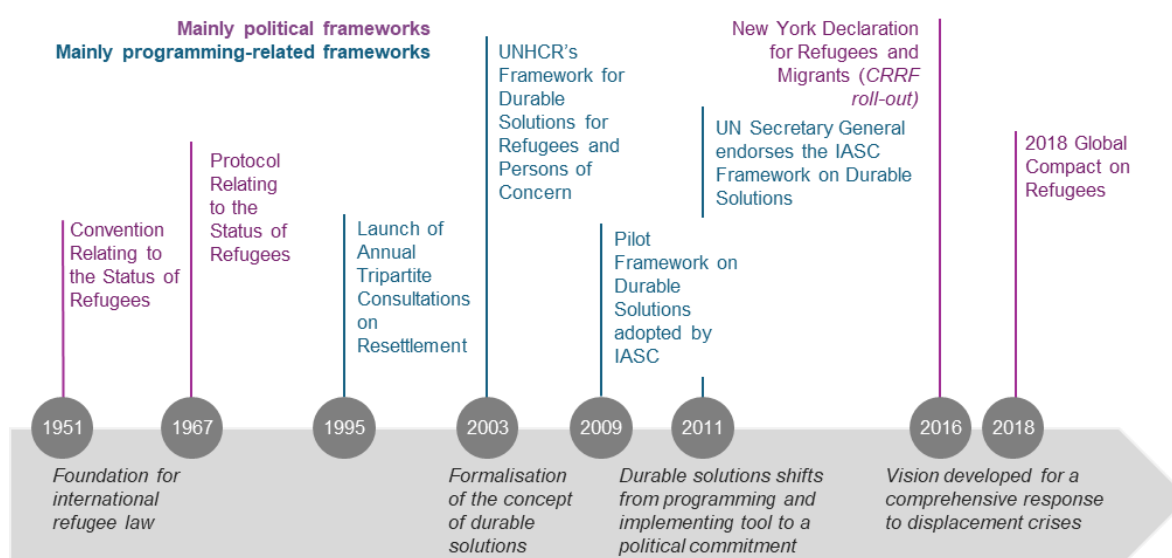
<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

Figure 3: Global refugee returns, resettlement numbers and needs, 1959 – 2024<sup>1</sup>



## 3.2. FRAMEWORKS ON DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Figure 4: Evolution of frameworks on durable solutions



During the initial era of modern refugee protection, from 1945 to 1985,<sup>2</sup> resettlement was the primary solution for refugees<sup>3</sup> as repatriation was not considered an option for people displaced by Cold War-related conflicts.<sup>4</sup> As the Cold War ended and refugee numbers grew, attention shifted towards facilitating the return of individuals to their home countries. Over time, the recognition that safe repatriation was not always possible and that permanent encampment was unsustainable led UNHCR and other practitioners to launch a reflection on local integration.

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR, 'Refugee data finder', 2024, accessed April 2025 [here](#); the UN database does not differentiate between assisted and spontaneous refugee returns, therefore making it difficult to assess states' support for refugee returns.

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, 'Convention and protocol relating to the status of refugees'.

<sup>3</sup> UNHCR Working Paper, 'From resettlement to involuntary repatriation: towards a critical history of durable solutions to refugee problems', May 1999. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>4</sup> UNHCR, 'The state of the world's refugees: rethinking durable solutions', 2006. Retrieved [here](#).

**The concept of durable solutions was formalised in the 2000s.**<sup>1</sup> In 2003, UNHCR introduced the Framework for Durable Solutions for Refugees and Persons of Concern, which included guidelines for implementing the 'Development Assistance for Refugees', '4Rs of Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction' and 'Development through Local Integration' initiatives.<sup>2</sup> In the same period, practitioners focusing on internal displacement developed a pilot Framework on Durable Solutions that helped clarify when people should no longer be considered internally displaced. The Framework was published in 2007<sup>3</sup> and endorsed by the United Nations (UN) Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) in December 2009. It has since become a reference for identifying durable solutions for all displaced populations.

In 2011, the United Nations Secretary General **endorsed the IASC's Framework for Durable Solutions**. The Decision tasked country UN Resident Humanitarian Coordinators with developing strategies for durable solutions in cooperation with various partners, to enhance the international and UN response to displacement. It also emphasised the critical roles of both the host states and countries of origin in supporting durable solutions.<sup>4</sup> The Secretary General's endorsement of the IASC Framework represents a significant transition, **recognising durable solutions not just as a programming and implementation tool but as a crucial political commitment**. This shift was further solidified when all 193 member states of the UN adopted the Framework at the General Assembly.

In 2016, the United Nations adopted the **New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants**, outlining a vision for a more predictable and comprehensive response to displacement crises and establishing the CRRF.<sup>5</sup> In 2018, **the GCR** presented an action plan for operationalising and implementing the CRRF, which included the creation of Support Platforms and Refugee Forums.<sup>6</sup> The primary objectives of the CRRF and GCR (see below) align with the three durable solutions on aiming to improve options for return (Objective 4), expand options for resettlement to third countries (Objective 3) or improving conditions in the host country and options for local integration (Objective 1 and 2). Progress on the implementation of the GCR is evaluated biennially on the basis of the Indicator Framework (GCR-IF).<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank, 'World Development Report 2011, Background note: The development challenge of finding durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced people', July 2010. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, 'Framework for durable solutions for refugees and persons of concern', Core Group on Durable Solutions, UNHCR Geneva, May 2003. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>3</sup> The Brookings Institution, 'When displacement ends: A framework for durable solutions', 2007. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>4</sup> UN Secretary General, 'Decision No.2011/20 on Durable Solutions', 2011. Retrieved [here](#).

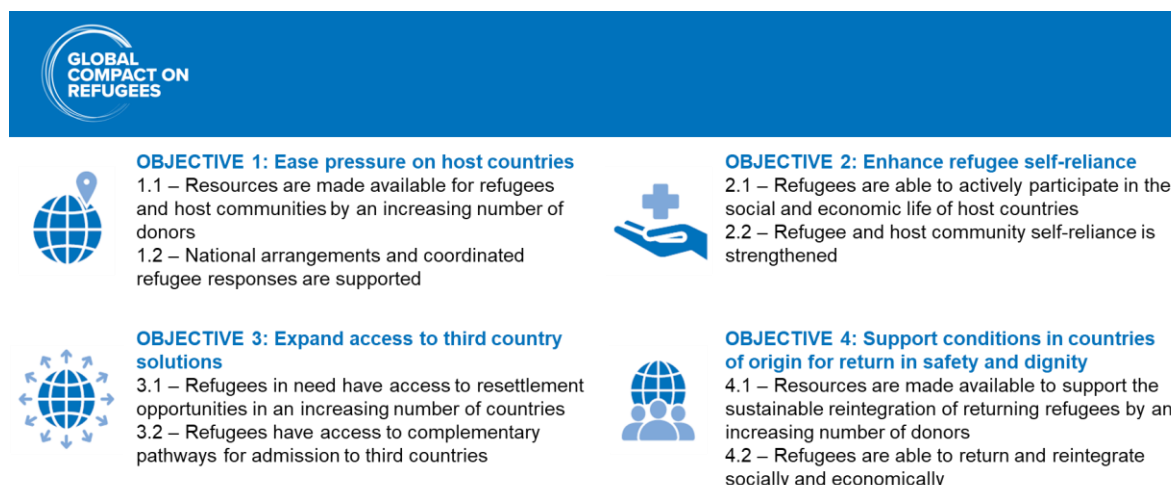
<sup>5</sup> UNHCR, 'The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework', accessed May 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR, 'The Global Compact for Refugees', accessed May 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>7</sup> The complete GCR-IF can be found in Table 1.



Figure 5: Main objectives and outcomes of the GCR-IF<sup>1</sup>



Since the introduction of the IASC Framework, there has been a notable increase in policies and frameworks on durable solutions, suggesting sustained momentum and support to the CRRF. However, it is also important to note that political commitments and policies should be accompanied by support to their practical implementation. When this application is delayed or limited, so is progress towards durable solutions. Some experts view the GCR and CRRF as protective measures that prevent regression, rather than as catalysts for significant transformation.<sup>2</sup>

### 3.3. DURABLE SOLUTIONS IN THE HoA

**Ongoing conflicts in the HoA significantly restrict the options available for refugees seeking to return home.** The 1990s were marked by substantial repatriation efforts, notably after the 1994 genocide in Rwanda when 1.2M people returned from the DRC, Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda.<sup>3</sup> While there was a noticeable rise in global return figures in 2023, with some 1.3M South Sudanese refugees returning from Sudan due to the conflict in that country, overall return rates have nevertheless decreased. The decline is largely attributed to persistent conflicts and deteriorating conditions in countries of origin. **The demand for resettlement consistently surpasses available options for refugees in the HoA.** In 2024, UNHCR estimated that 833,575 refugees from the HoA needed resettlement. Yet, only 28,048 were actually resettled in the first half of the year.<sup>4</sup> **This shortage of return and resettlement options places pressure on refugee-hosting countries to either facilitate local integration or continue hosting displaced populations for extended periods.** At the end of 2024, Uganda hosted almost 1.8M refugees, Ethiopia nearly 1.1M, and Sudan and Kenya more than 800,000 each.<sup>5</sup>

Most countries in the HoA<sup>6</sup> have adhered to several binding and non-binding global and continental instruments on refugee rights, protection and burden-sharing. These include the 1951 Convention, the 1967 Protocol, the 1969 Organisation of African Unity (now African Union, AU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, the 2016 New York Declaration, the CRRF (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia and Uganda) and the 2018 GCR, among others. These frameworks not only emphasise the responsibilities of host countries in protecting and

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR, 'Global Compact on Refugees: Indicator Framework', December 2022. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> International Journal of Refugee Law, 'The unfinished work of the Global Compact on Refugees', 2018.

<sup>3</sup> UNHCR, 'Refugee data finder', 2024, accessed October 2024 [here](#); the UN database does not differentiate between assisted and spontaneous refugee returns, therefore making it difficult to assess states' support for refugee returns.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

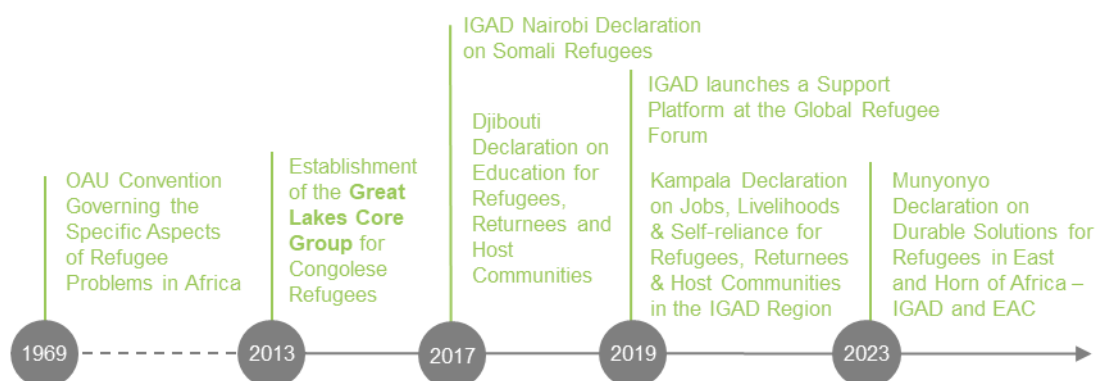
<sup>5</sup> UNHCR, 'Country operational portals', accessed October 2024 at <https://data.unhcr.org/en/countries/>.

<sup>6</sup> Eritrea has ratified none of the listed instruments; Djibouti has not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention; Somalia has signed but not ratified the 1969 OAU Convention.

assisting refugees on their soil but also call for high-income countries to support host countries through burden-sharing initiatives.

**Countries in East Africa have also adopted instruments that address displacement as a regional challenge.** UNHCR works closely with the AU, the East African Community (EAC),<sup>1</sup> the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)<sup>2</sup> to foster initiatives aimed at enhancing peace, security, stability and development in the region. IGAD has been especially active in promoting the adoption of various declarations on the implementation of the CRRF and the GCR in its member countries, as detailed in the figure below.

Figure 6: Evolution of HoA frameworks on durable solutions<sup>3</sup>



**In recent years, many countries in the HoA have updated their refugee-related policies, leaning towards more protective and permissive approaches.** Most HoA countries, with the exception of Eritrea, have established national procedures for determining refugee status,<sup>4</sup> as well as comprehensive policies concerning refugees and asylum seekers. Uganda stands out as one of the most progressive refugee-hosting nations in the world. Its 2006 Refugees Act grants refugees the right to work, freedom of movement, the right to start a business and to access social services such as education and health on par with nationals.<sup>5</sup> Kenya, which had been implementing an encampment policy since the 1990s, took a significant step in 2021 adopting a new Refugee Act, and the Shirika Plan in March 2025, encouraging a more integrated approach to hosting refugees.<sup>6</sup> In Ethiopia, a new Refugee Proclamation was adopted in 2019, broadening refugees' rights to movement and economic opportunities.<sup>7</sup> However, challenges remain, including the absence of regulations to implement the Proclamation, and the ongoing encampment policy, which hinder the full realisation of the rights it outlines.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Somalia is the latest member of the EAC (as of 4 March 2024).

<sup>2</sup> Established in the early 2000s, the intergovernmental organisation targets regional instability in its 12 member states: Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the DRC, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia.

<sup>3</sup> UNHCR, 'The history of resettlement: Celebrating 25 years of the ATCR', 2020. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>4</sup> In Somalia, RSD procedures are undertaken through UNHCR.

<sup>5</sup> Opono, S., and Ahimbisibwe, F., 'Protracted refugee situations and the shrinking durable solutions: Could there be a ray of hope in local solutions?', Cogent Social Sciences, Vol. 10. No. 1, 239546, 18 August 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>6</sup> The Start, 'Dadaab, Kakuma to be municipalities in Refugees Integration Plan', June 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>7</sup> Humanitarian Policy Group, 'The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework: Progress in Ethiopia', September 2019. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>8</sup> UNHCR, 'Refugee Policy Review Framework: Ethiopia', June 2023. Retrieved [here](#).

## 4. THE EUTF AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS

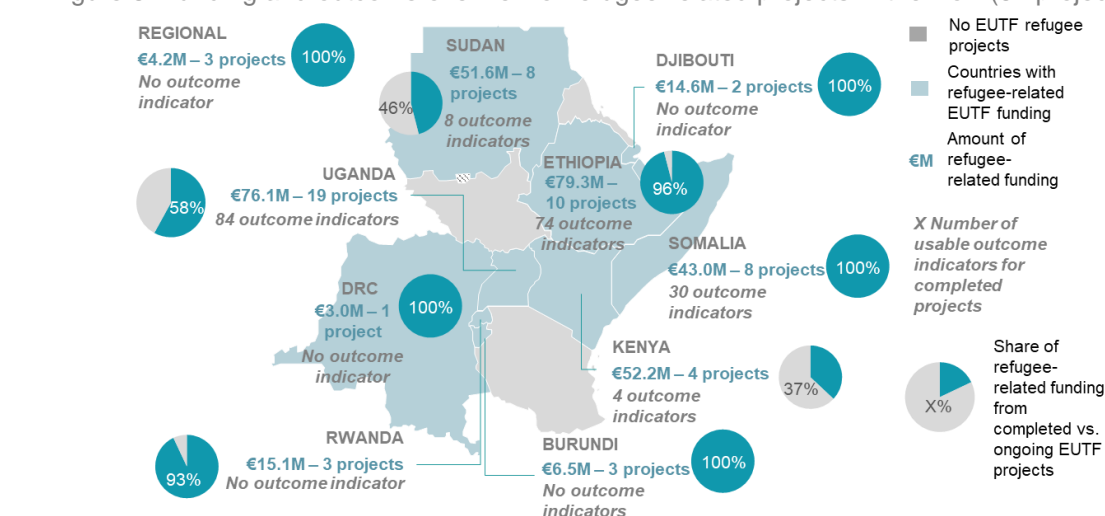
The EUTF has funded 61 projects totalling €345.6M in the HoA window to support refugees and host governments to achieve durable solutions. Fifty-one of these projects aimed to provide essential services to refugees in their host countries, aligning with Objective 2 of the GCR Framework. One project, the ETM Rwanda,<sup>1</sup> focused on resettlement options for refugees (Objective 3). Moreover, nine projects, eight of which were part of the RE-INTEG Somalia programme,<sup>2</sup> focused on aiding the return and reintegration of displaced persons (Objective 4).<sup>3</sup>

Figure 7: CRRF-related EUTF funding and number of projects in the HoA by GCR objective<sup>4,5</sup>

GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES	OBJECTIVE 1: Ease pressure on host countries	OBJECTIVE 2: Enhance refugee self-reliance	OBJECTIVE 3: Expand access to third country solutions	OBJECTIVE 4: Support conditions for return in safety and dignity
EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa	€345.6M 61 projects	€286.0M (82.8%) 51 projects	€12.5M (3.6%) 1 project	€47.0M (13.6%) 9 projects

From these 61 projects, the research team identified 200 indicators that are both relevant and usable in the analysis of outcomes of EUTF projects focused on durable solutions. Of the 61 displacement-related projects funded by the EUTF, 50 had been completed by the time of this analysis and 27 of these (50) projects had shared their endline reports with the research team.<sup>6</sup> These reports feature a total of 392 outcome indicators, of which 200 provide usable and comparable data (pertaining to 21 of the 50 completed projects) related to displacements situations.<sup>7,8,9</sup>

Figure 8: Funding and outcome overview of refugee-related projects in the HoA (61 projects)<sup>10</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The programme 'Enhancing protection, lifesaving assistance and sustainable solutions for evacuees from Libya through the Emergency Transit Mechanism in Rwanda' was implemented in Rwanda by UNHCR. T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-81-01.

<sup>2</sup> The programme 'Enhancing Somalia's responsiveness to the management and reintegration of mixed migration flows' was implemented in Somalia. The programme was composed of eight projects. T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03.

<sup>3</sup> Although the RE-INTEG Somalia programme aimed to support both IDP and refugee returnees, most of its beneficiaries were IDP returnees and IDPs. Available data provided limited disaggregation by status, making it difficult to assess how many refugees were actually supported to return.

<sup>4</sup> UNHCR, 'Global Compact on Refugees: Indicator Framework', December 2022. Retrieved [here](#): EUTF MLS data.

<sup>5</sup> The EUTF funding per objective does not add up to the total budget due to rounding. EUTF funding is as of September 2024.

<sup>6</sup> Some projects could have ended close to the research period and have not completed an endline in time for this study.

<sup>7</sup> Usable data is defined as outcome indicators (excluding outputs) with one or two comparable datapoints between the baseline, endline or midterm (if no endline or baseline was available), or a datapoint referring to an increase/decrease.

<sup>8</sup> Out of the 200 indicators, 76 have refugee and host disaggregation (meaning 38, or half, are unique indicators) and 14 have male/female disaggregation (meaning half, or 7, are unique indicators).

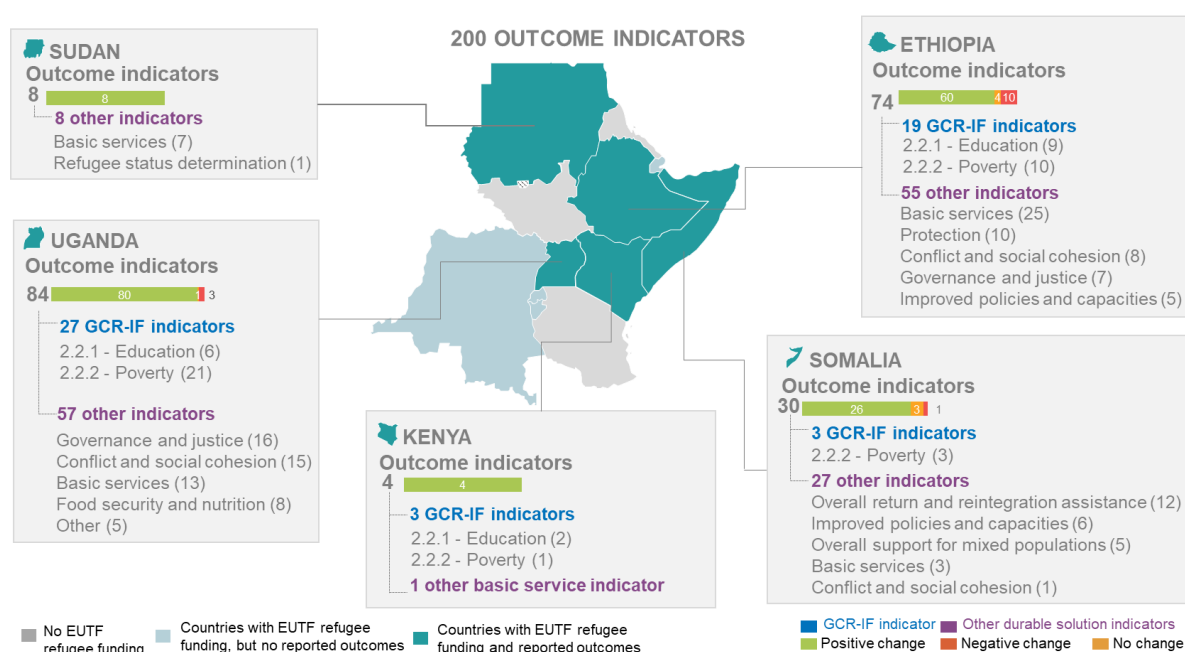
<sup>9</sup> Another 12 indicators are qualitative.

<sup>10</sup> The outcomes presented in the map only cover those reported by projects completed (as of November 2024). Outcomes from the regional projects' portfolio are split in their actual country of implementation in the map and outcome analysis.

The figure above summarises the available outcome data as well as the amount of EUTF durable solutions funding (both ongoing and completed) for each country. Countries with larger amounts of completed project funding tend to have more usable outcome indicators, given the greater availability of final reporting – but this is not always the case, as it can also depend on other factors, such as the M&E capacities of specific projects. As shown in the figure, **most outcomes were reported in Uganda** (84 outcomes, representing 42% of the 200 outcomes) **and Ethiopia** (74 outcomes, 37% of 200), **the two countries which received the largest shares of EUTF refugee-related funding**. Namely, €79.3M in Ethiopia and €76.1M in Uganda.

**The 200 outcome indicators are all related to one of the four GCR objectives, and 52 (26%) can be directly associated to one of the sixteen GCR-IF indicators.** The figure below shows the number of outcomes that can be directly associated to the GCR-IF and the outcomes that are related to the GCR-IF ('other indicators').

Figure 9: GCR-IF and other durable solutions-related outcomes, by theme and type of change



**The usable outcome indicators focus mainly on self-reliance** (184, representing 92% of 200 usable outcomes), **aligning with the EUTF's focus on GCR Objective 2 interventions in the Horn of Africa**. These indicators relate to activities supporting basic services, conflict resolution and social cohesion, governance and justice, improved policies and capacities, protection, food production and nutrition, mixed support, and refugee status determination (RSD) procedures. **The remaining 16 indicators (8%) relate to activities categorised under GCR Objective 4 (supporting conditions in countries of return)**, all of which were implemented in Somalia. **The changes are predominantly positive and** are further examined within each relevant GCR objective in the following section.



## 5. THE EUTF AND THE GCR

The table below summarises the EUTF's contributions to each of the GCR's 16 indicators and four objectives. The research team analysed the budgets of all the EUTF refugee-related interventions to understand the EUTF's contribution to burden-sharing (Objective 1), before using outcome data (complemented where needed by output data) and qualitative information (project evaluations, interviews conducted throughout the lifetime of the MLS and other research produced for the EUTF) to assess the EUTF's support to refugees' self-reliance (Objective 2), return (Objective 3) and resettlement (Objective 4). Projects in the HoA primarily focused on enhancing the self-reliance of refugees (Objective 2), which represents 83% of EUTF refugee-related funding and 184 out of the 200 usable outcome indicators gathered from EUTF projects. While return and resettlement were lesser priorities for the EUTF, a few initiatives supported related activities and are analysed below. The analysis is developed in the following section.

Table 1: Summary of the EUTF's contributions to the GCR

GCR Objective	GCR Outcome	GCR Indicator	Sources of information	EUTF support and key findings
Objective 1: Ease pressure on host countries	<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Resources supporting additional instruments and programmes are made available for refugees and host communities by an increasing number of donors	<b>Indicator 1.1.1:</b> Volume of official development assistance (ODA) for the benefit of refugees and host communities in the refugee-hosting ODA recipient country	EUTF budgets	<b>The EUTF has been a significant provider of development refugee-related funding</b> in countries where most ODA targeting refugees is emergency-related. The EUTF accounted for €115.4M, or 5% of the €2.3B of ODA for refugee situations disbursed in the HoA in 2020-2021. The EUTF represented 24% of refugee-related development funding in Ethiopia, 22% in Kenya, 20% in Sudan but 7% in Uganda, where 45% of the refugee-related ODA funding was already geared towards development activities.
		<b>Indicator 1.1.2:</b> Number of donors providing ODA for the benefit of refugees and host communities in the refugee-hosting ODA recipient country	Contextual data and qualitative information  Data on HoA limited	<b>The EUTF may have encouraged other donors, and other EU institutions to shift from humanitarian to development funding</b> for refugees. Of 48 donors reporting funding for refugee situations globally, five continue to provide 70% of the resources. <b>The EU is the second largest global donor for refugee situations.</b> When focusing solely on development funding (as opposed to emergency/humanitarian), the EU is the third largest donor, after the World Bank and Germany.
	<b>Outcome 1.2:</b> National arrangements and	<b>Indicator 1.2.1:</b> Proportion of ODA for the benefit of refugees and host communities channelled to	EUTF budgets and	<b>The EUTF allocated 13.2% of its refugee-related funding directly to national actors</b> , including both government and NGOs. Some of this localised funding supported <b>innovative and successful initiatives</b> , particularly in Uganda, which can provide valuable insights for future

	coordinated refugee responses are supported	national actors in the refugee-hosting ODA recipient country	qualitative information	endeavours to actively pursue localisation or facilitate the contractualisation of refugee-led organisations.
		<b>Indicator 1.2.2:</b> Number of partners in refugee response plans supporting the refugee hosting country	EUTF contracts and qualitative information	<b>The EUTF played a crucial role by providing funding that enabled partners to start or expand their activities aimed at supporting refugees.</b> Most EUTF partners in Ethiopia (89%) and Uganda (68%), where most EUTF refugee-related funding was directed, were involved with refugee response plans. UNHCR, which is mandated to coordinate the GCR's implementation, was the EUTF's main partner in refugee situations. EUTF funding also empowered UNHCR to increase its development activities.
<b>Objective 2:</b> Enhanced refugee self-reliance	<b>Outcome 2.1:</b> Refugees are able to actively participate in the social and economic life of host countries	<b>Indicator 2.1.1:</b> Proportion of refugees who have access to decent work by law	Outcome data and qualitative information	<b>Capacity sharing and advocacy make up a small portion of EUTF displacement-related funding (9%).</b> Many EUTF projects have focused on supporting livelihoods and job opportunities for refugees, primarily through direct programming rather than policy interventions. Certain EUTF initiatives successfully supported advocacy and policy development, particularly at the local level, including on employment. Legal progress is more often measured qualitatively, and no outcomes were reported on legal access to work for refugees. However, some EUTF projects supported the registration of enterprises in refugee-hosting areas.
		<b>Indicator 2.1.2:</b> Proportion of refugees who are allowed by law to move freely within the host country	Outcome data and qualitative information	<b>EUTF-funded projects advocated for and supported advocacy efforts on freedom of movement laws.</b> Some of the EUTF's implementing partners also reported that their advocacy efforts gained more legitimacy or prominence and attributed this to the role of the EU as a funding partner. Some projects worked to strengthen RSD in host countries, acknowledging that delayed determination prevents refugees from exercising their rights.
	<b>Outcome 2.2:</b> Refugee and host community self-reliance is strengthened	<b>Indicator 2.2.1:</b> Proportion of refugee children enrolled in the national education system (primary and secondary)	Outcome data and qualitative information	<b>A large portion (44%) of displacement-related EUTF funding aimed to directly enhance the self-reliance</b> of refugees and host communities, including through basic services provision. Promising gains were made through the EUTF on <b>integrating refugees into national policies</b> and systems, including through support to host countries. Seventy-one

				outcomes were reported on self-reliance, most showcasing positive improvements on basic service provision.
		<b>Indicator 2.2.2:</b> Proportion of refugee and host community populations living below the national poverty line of the host country	<b>Outcome data and qualitative information</b>	<b>Livelihood activities aiming to support self-reliance (46%) constitute the main part of EUTF refugee-related funding</b> in the HoA. EUTF projects implemented numerous activities that helped increase refugees and host community members' participation in economic life. Progress was reported on income-related outcomes through 35 outcome indicators, which means data is still limited in terms of offering conclusive reports on changes affected by the EUTF on poverty rates. However, another 77 outcomes were reported on other livelihood activities, most showcasing <b>positive changes on employment opportunities, skills development, as well as access to financial services, funding and markets.</b>
<b>Objective 3:</b> Expand access to third country solutions	<b>Outcome 3.1:</b> Refugees in need have access to resettlement opportunities in an increasing number of countries	<b>Indicator 3.1.1:</b> Number of refugees who departed on resettlement from the host country	<b>EUTF contracts Output data</b>	<b>The EUTF allocated €12.5M to resettlement through one project</b> , the ETM Rwanda. Through the project, UNHCR supported 773 applications for resettlement and 565 refugees were effectively resettled. Although the ETM Rwanda resettled some refugees to Europe, the EUTF did not pursue the promotion of resettlement numbers. Resettlement pledges and decisions lie with the individual EU Member States, not the EU itself.
		<b>Indicator 3.1.2:</b> Number of countries receiving UNHCR resettlement submissions from the host country	<b>Contextual data</b>	
	<b>Outcome 3.2:</b> Refugees have access to complementary pathways for admission to third countries	<b>Indicator 3.2.1:</b> Number of refugees admitted through complementary pathways from the host country	<b>EUTF contracts Output data</b>	<b>The ETM Rwanda also aimed to provide evacuees with complementary pathways</b> although administrative and logistical challenges complicated these efforts and only two people benefitted from complementary pathways through the EUTF project. The decision to offer complementary pathways is similarly outside the control of EU institutions. However, refugees can be supported to seek their own complementary pathways by promoting their access to education and labour opportunities in third countries by skilling them and ensuring recognition of their skills.
		<b>Indicator 3.2.2:</b> Number of countries offering safe admission and stay options through complementary pathways to refugees hosted in other countries	<b>Contextual data</b>	

<b>Objective 4:</b> Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity	<b>Outcome 4.1:</b> Resources are made available to support the sustainable reintegration of returning refugees by an increasing number of donors	<b>Indicator 4.1.1:</b> Volume of ODA for the benefit of refugee returnees in the ODA recipient country of origin  <b>Indicator 4.1.2:</b> Number of donors providing ODA for the benefit of refugee returnees in the ODA recipient country of origin	<b>EUTF budgets</b>	<p><b>The EUTF allocated €47M to projects aiming to support the return and reintegration of refugees.</b> Most of this funding supported the return of IDPs in Somalia, as fewer refugees returned to Somalia than was anticipated during the design of the project. Indeed, there were limited opportunities for refugee returns in the HoA during the lifetime of the EUTF. However, the EUTF did not allocate funding to support the return of former refugees to South Sudan, which could have been targeted as one of the only mass return movements to happen during the lifetime of the Trust Fund.</p>
	<b>Outcome 4.2:</b> Refugees are able to return and reintegrate socially and economically	<b>Indicator 4.2.1:</b> Number of refugees returning to their country of origin  <b>Indicator 4.2.2:</b> Proportion of returnees with legally recognized documentation and credentials	<b>Contextual data</b>	
			<b>Output data</b>	<p><b>EUTF projects did not directly support returns or report outcomes on the provision of identity documents to refugees to facilitate their return and reintegration.</b> However, EUTF funding <b>supported immediate return assistance and longer-term reintegration assistance</b> for refugee returnees in Burundi and Somalia. 62,784 returnees were provided with support upon arrival into Burundi by the CRRF Direct programme. 5,070 returnees received longer-term reintegration assistance in Burundi and some support was also provided to returnees in Somalia. Outcome data shows positive changes, although most data is not disaggregated by beneficiary type, making it difficult to isolate findings on refugee reintegration support.</p>
			<b>Output and outcome data</b>	



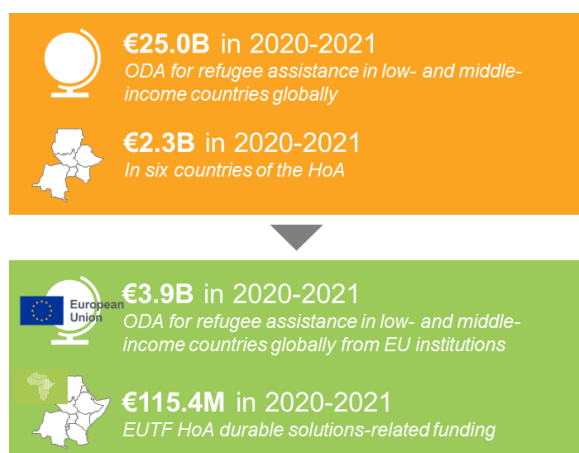
## OBJECTIVE 1: EASE PRESSURE ON HOST COUNTRIES

### OUTCOME 1.1 - RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE FOR REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES BY AN INCREASING NUMBER OF DONORS

#### KEY FINDINGS

- In 2020-2021, the EUTF accounted for 5% of official development assistance (ODA) spent on refugee issues in the HoA.
- Overall, development funding accounted for only 34% of the funding reported under refugee-related ODA. In 2020-2021, the EUTF represented 24% of development refugee-related funding in Ethiopia, 22% in Kenya and 20% in Sudan.
- Despite substantial ODA expenditure, the current annual funding levels would need to double to meet the subsistence needs of refugees worldwide (€21B). The lifting of employment restrictions would lead to a 25% increase in refugee incomes and therefore the complementary assistance needed could reduce to €11B per year, roughly similar to current funding levels (€12B).
- The EU is the second largest global donor for refugee situations. When focusing solely on development funding, the EU is the third largest donor, after the World Bank and Germany.
- The EUTF acted as a catalyst for development funding to refugee contexts in the HoA, by encouraging other donors and other EU institutions to shift from humanitarian to development funding for refugees.

#### Volume of official development assistance for the benefit of refugees and host communities in the refugee-hosting ODA recipient countries (Indicator 1.1.1.)



Over the 2020-2021 period, which is the latest timeframe covered by the GCR-IF report, ODA for refugee situations in low and middle-income countries<sup>1</sup> **amounted to close to €25B (\$26.4B).**<sup>23</sup> The figure is comparable to that reported for 2018-2019 (€25.1B), even as the global refugee population doubled between the end of 2016 and the end of 2022.<sup>4</sup>

Over this period, **the EU contributed €3.9B to ODA for refugees**, accounting for 16% of global funding.

<sup>1</sup> Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, high-income countries have hosted more refugees than in the past and the resources spent to host these refugees is included in the ODA. However, it is excluded of this calculation which remains focused on low and middle-income countries.

<sup>2</sup> Official development assistance is government aid that promotes and specifically targets the economic development and welfare of developing countries. It mainly consists of either grants or “soft” loans. Source: OECD, Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>3</sup> OECD, ‘Development finance for refugee situations, Volumes and trends, 2020-2021’, 2023.

<sup>4</sup> UNHCR, ‘Global Compact on Refugee: Indicator Report – 2023’, 2023.

**Six countries in the HoA were among the top 15 recipients of all refugee-related ODA over the 2020-2021 period,<sup>1</sup>** underscoring the significance of the displacement situation in the region. Collectively, these six countries received €2.3B. The EUTF allocated €115.4M for refugee-related funding during the same period, representing an estimated 5% of the total ODA funding directed towards refugee situations in the region.<sup>2</sup>

The top three recipient countries of refugee-related ODA in the HoA were Uganda, Ethiopia and Sudan, which were also the leading recipients of refugee-related EUTF funding. Specifically, the EUTF accounted for 3% of refugee-related ODA in Uganda, 5% in Sudan, 6% in Kenya and 9% in Ethiopia.

**However, development funding accounted for only 34% of the funding reported under refugee-related ODA.<sup>3</sup>** When focusing specifically on **development** funding, **the EUTF's contribution in the HoA countries was significant** during 2020-2021: the EUTF represented 24% of funding in Ethiopia, 22% in Kenya and 20% in Sudan. In Uganda, where 45% of funding is already geared towards development,<sup>4</sup> the EUTF represented 7% of development displacement-related funding.

**The substantial amount of ODA allocated to refugee crises still falls short of addressing the needs of the displaced populations.** In November 2024, the World Bank and UNHCR published a study detailing the 'global costs of meeting refugees' subsistence needs'.<sup>5</sup> Their findings indicate that the annual global cost to cover these needs stands at €60B. Of this total, €39B is already provided by refugees themselves through their work and economic contributions, a factor the World Bank and UNHCR term the 'host country contribution to global burden-sharing'. Consequently, the need for supplemental assistance from international partners is estimated at €21B worldwide, which is double the amount disbursed in 2020 and 2021, at slightly above €12B per year.

Figure 10: ODA and EUTF refugee-related funding, per HoA country, 2020-2021

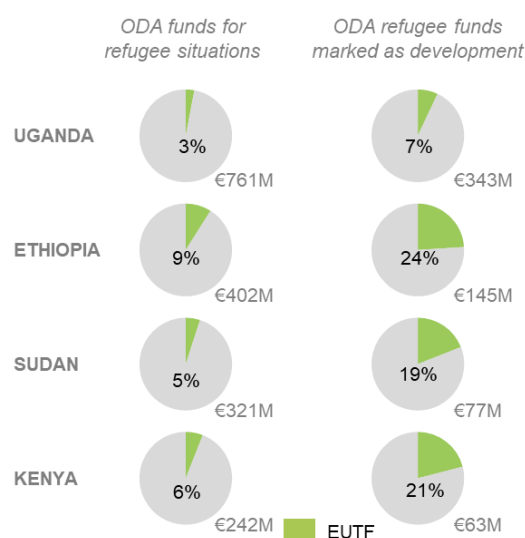
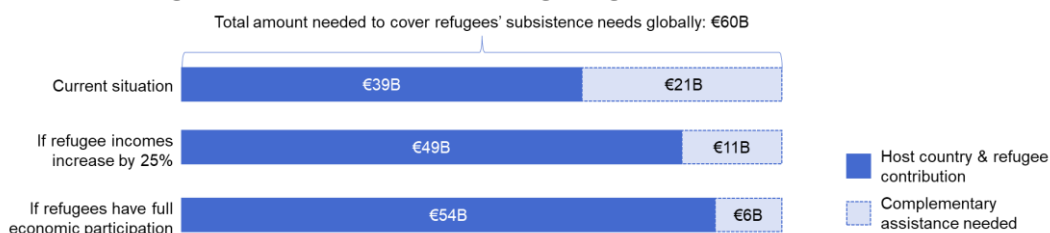


Figure 11: Global costs of meeting refugees' subsistence needs<sup>6</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The six countries are: Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, the DRC and Kenya.

<sup>2</sup> The EUTF funding is an estimation and was obtained by spreading the budget of relevant projects equally over the months of implementation. Data on ODA funding for refugee situations is only available per country for the six largest recipients (Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, the DRC and Kenya). It is compared here to the whole of EUTF funding for simplicity, but likely to be an overestimate.

<sup>3</sup> The remaining funding is humanitarian (55%) and peace (6%) related, with 5% being undefined.

<sup>4</sup> Compared to 26% in Kenya, 24% in Sudan and 36% in Ethiopia.

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR, World Bank, 'Economic Participation and the Global Cost of International Assistance in support of Refugee Subsistence Needs', November 2024.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

The research indicates that lifting employment restrictions for refugees could lead to a 25% increase in their income. If this were to happen, the required **complementary assistance could drop to €11B annually, aligning closely with current funding levels**. Furthermore, if refugees gained equal opportunities to participate in host economies, the need for complementary assistance (covering social aid comparable to that of host communities, and addressing specific challenges faced by refugees, such as limited physical assets) would reduce to just €6B, which is half of the existing annual funding.

**When examining the needs per refugee, the current funding requirement stands at €649 per refugee per year.** With full economic participation in their host countries, this amount could drop to €175 per year and per refugee. Implementing policy changes and removing barriers could enable refugees to fully engage in local economies, paving the way for durable solutions, even at a time when donor funding is increasingly scarce.

Figure 12: Costs per refugees of meeting subsistence needs<sup>1</sup>

Needs in current situation	Needs if refugee incomes increase by 25%	Needs if refugees have full economic participation
<b>649€</b> <i>Per refugee</i>	<b>324€</b> <i>Per refugee</i>	<b>175€</b> <i>Per refugee</i>

**How much funding per refugee does ODA spending represent?**

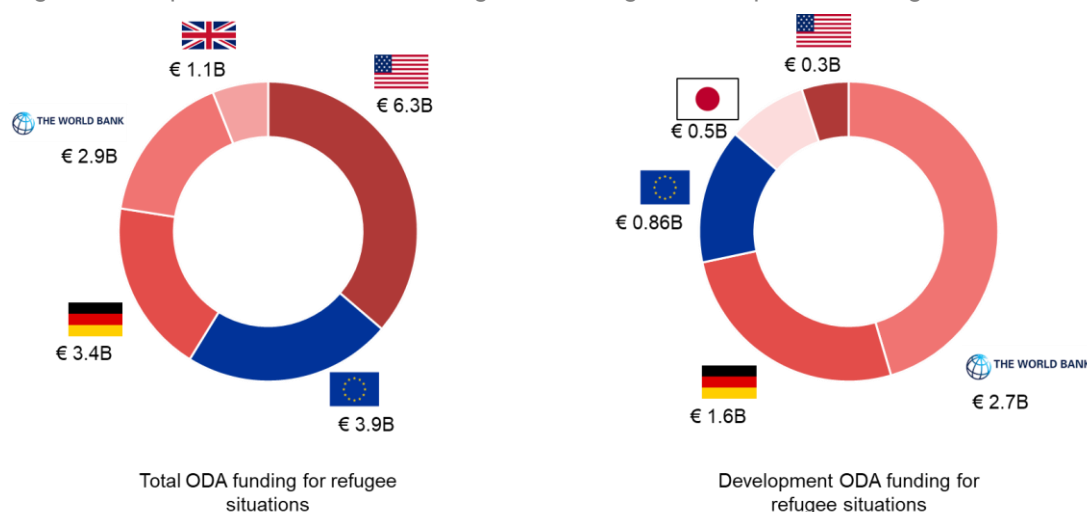
**How much funding per refugee does the EUTF spending represent?**

In December 2021, Uganda hosted 1.5M refugees.<sup>2</sup> For the 2020-2021 period, ODA support amounted to €505 per refugee over two years, or €252.5 per refugee per year. Ethiopia received the equivalent of €254.5 per refugee annually, Kenya €234 and Sudan €148.

EUTF funding for the same period represented €7.5 per refugee per year in Uganda, €20.5 in Ethiopia, €6.5 in Sudan and €12.5 in Kenya.

**Number of donors providing ODA for the benefit of refugees and host communities in the refugee-hosting ODA recipient country (Indicator 1.1.2.)**

Figure 13: Top 5 donors for overall refugee and refugee development funding, 2020-2021<sup>3</sup>



Between 2020 and 2021, 48 donors contributed financially to meeting the needs of refugees. However, 70% of this funding came from just five key donors: the United States, the EU, Germany, the World

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR, World Bank, 'Economic Participation and the Global Cost of International Assistance in support of Refugee Subsistence Needs', November 2024.

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, 'Country operational portals: Uganda', accessed October 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>3</sup> OECD, 'Development finance for refugee situations, Volumes and trends, 2020-2021', 2023.

Bank, and the United Kingdom.<sup>1</sup> The EU institutions were the second-largest overall source of refugee-related funding, following the United States, and ranked third in refugee-related development funding, behind the World Bank and Germany.<sup>2</sup>

Between 2018-2019 and 2020-2021, the number of donors funding displacement situations increased from 36 to 48. **The EUTF may have contributed to this increase, especially acting as a catalyst for the allocation of development funding to refugee contexts in the HoA.** Some respondents interviewed for the 2024 CRRF Case Study indicated that the EU's funding initiatives motivated EU member states to contribute development funds for refugee situations. Within the EU itself, the EUTF helped direct refugee funding from humanitarian to development activities. Delegations in Burundi, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda interviewed for the CRRF Case Study confirmed that, before the EUTF, all EU refugee funding was channelled through ECHO. With the EUTF, they began financing their first development projects aimed at durable solutions for displaced populations.

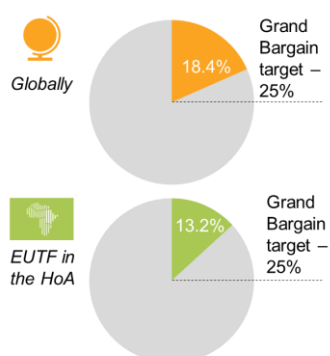
## OUTCOME 1.2 - NATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND COORDINATED REFUGEE RESPONSES ARE SUPPORTED

### KEY FINDINGS

- The EUTF allocated 13.2% of its refugee-related funding directly to national actors, including both government and NGOs. Some of this localised funding supported innovative and successful initiatives, particularly in Uganda, which can provide valuable insights for future endeavours to actively pursue localisation or facilitate the contractualisation of refugee-led organisations.
- The EUTF provided funding that allowed partners to start implementing or to scale-up activities in support of refugees. Most partners funded by the EUTF engaged with refugee response plans, which are tools established to enhance coordination of actors implementing refugee-related activities.
- The EUTF's support to UNHCR enabled the organisation to expand its development-related activities in specific countries. This is aligned with UNHCR's goal of better coordinating with development actors to foster durable solutions for refugees.

### Proportion of ODA for the benefit of refugees and host communities channelled to national actors in the refugee-hosting ODA recipient country (Indicator 1.2.1.)

Figure 14: Localisation of displacement-related funding<sup>3</sup>



**Localisation of displacement-related funding is limited.** In the period of 2020-2021, 18.4% of the €25B of ODA were distributed through national actors, including governments and NGOs.<sup>4</sup> **Comparatively, the EUTF allocated a slightly lower percentage - 13.2% - of its funds through national actors** (over the lifetime of the Trust Fund). This does not include sub-contracting agreements under which EUTF-funding was channelled through international organisations to national actors.

<sup>1</sup> OECD, 'Development finance for refugee situations, Volumes and trends, 2020-2021', 2023.

<sup>2</sup> This is likely to change considering recent policy decisions from the US to freeze ODA and USAID funding.

<sup>3</sup> The Grand Bargain target applies to humanitarian funding. However, it is used as a reference point here and in the Global Compact on Refugees Indicator report.

<sup>4</sup> UNHCR, 'Global Compact on Refugee: Indicator Report – 2023', 2023.



Most of the EUTF's localised funding was directed towards government entities at the local (the Koboko municipality in Uganda),<sup>1</sup> national (the Government of Ethiopia, and the Ministry of Justice of Uganda)<sup>2</sup> and regional (IGAD) levels.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, 2% of the funding was awarded to two Ugandan NGOs.<sup>4,5</sup>

**The EUTF did not amend its procedures to encourage localisation.**<sup>6</sup> Constraints imposed by contractual rules and requirements, along with the large budget size of most EUTF-funded projects may have created barriers for smaller organisations with limited financial and administrative capacity to apply for these funds.

**The projects that were implemented by national actors, however, have provided lessons learned for the EU's future funding.** One significant issue relates to the availability of human resources within government institutions to manage projects. During the EUTF-funded programme implemented by IGAD, there was no available project manager within IGAD for the first six months of the project, and when one was appointed, they were not fully dedicated to the project despite the position being entirely funded by the EUTF.<sup>7</sup> **While low financial management capacity may hinder national actors from accessing funding,** collaboration with various entities can enhance their capacity over time. For instance, in Koboko, the municipality was allocated the funds and received administrative support from the Italian NGO *Associazione Centro Aiuti Volontari* (ACAV). This pilot initiative notably improved the municipality's accountability and transparency practices by refining its financial management and reporting systems.

### **Number of partners in refugee response plans supporting the refugee hosting country (Indicator 1.2.2.)**

**Data from the GCR Indicator Report shows a notable increase in the number of partners involved in Refugee Response Plans (RRP) over the years,** rising from an average of 19 to 28 partners per RRP between 2012 and 2023.<sup>8</sup> The share of local partners within the RRP has also increased. The EUTF supported the increase in organisations involved in refugee responses, notably by creating opportunities for organisations that previously lacked experience in refugee situations, such as FAO in Kenya, to expand activities to refugee settings. EUTF funding also empowered new refugee partners, like UN-Habitat or Cities Alliance, to scale up their activities related to refugee support.

**In addition, many EUTF partners have engaged with existing coordination systems.** RRP are designed to support inter-agency planning, coordination and fundraising efforts, and to enhance support offered to governments to assist refugees.<sup>9</sup> They serve as essential tools within the Refugee Coordination Model.<sup>10</sup> A review of the partners of the Refugee Response Plans in 2020 (when most EUTF-funded projects were active) in Ethiopia<sup>11</sup> and Uganda<sup>12</sup> shows that most EUTF partners were

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<sup>1</sup> The project 'Inclusive Urban Development and Mobility in the Municipality of Koboko' was implemented in Uganda. T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-67-04.

<sup>2</sup> The 'Financing Agreement Ethiopia Job Compact Sector Reform and Performance Contract - Budget Support' was a budget support to the Government of Ethiopia. T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-60-01. The project 'Increased access to justice, improved security and protection of refugees and host communities in Northern Uganda' was implemented by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-68-02.

<sup>3</sup> The project 'Delivering Durable Solutions to Forced displacement in the IGAD region through the Implementation of the global compact on refugees (GCR)' is a regional programme. T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-80-01.

<sup>4</sup> The projects 'Advancing Peaceful Co-existence & Respect for Human Rights among Refugees & Host Communities in Northern Uganda' and 'Restoring and Conserving degraded fragile ecosystems for improved Community Livelihoods among the Refugee and Host Communities of West Nile Region and the mid-Albertine Rift' were implemented in Uganda by KRC and UBF. T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-68-07 and T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-83-02.

<sup>5</sup> The amount of funding from the EUTF actually being implemented by national NGOs and CSOs in countries of interventions is likely to be much higher, considering that many project subcontracted activities to other organisations.

<sup>6</sup> MLS, 'Assessing the EUTF's contribution to the implementation of the CRRF', 2024. Not yet published.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> UNHCR, 'Global Compact on Refugee: Indicator Report – 2023', 2023.

<sup>9</sup> UNHCR, 'Refugee Response Plans: 2025 Guidance Note', July 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>10</sup> UNHCR, 'Refugee Coordination Model – RCM', December 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>11</sup> UNHCR, 'Ethiopia Country Refugee Response Plan, 2020-2021'. January 2020. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>12</sup> UNHCR, 'Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan, 2020-2021'. September 2020. Retrieved [here](#).

involved with the RRP (89% in Ethiopia and 68% in Uganda). However, it should be noted that this does not necessarily imply that the EUTF actively encouraged organisations to engage with the Refugee Coordination Model and the Response Plans.

**Finally, the EUTF supported UNHCR, the main agency mandated to coordinate activities in support of refugees.** UNHCR's role includes supporting 'permanent solutions' since the agency's inception in 1950, with a focus on 'durable solutions' added in May 2003. The GCR recognised UNHCR as a facilitator for activities implemented by a wide range of partners, including national and local authorities, UN system agencies, civil society actors, and refugees and host communities themselves.<sup>1</sup>

**UNHCR was the EUTF's primary partner for displacement-related funding.** The agency executed ten refugee-related projects with EUTF support across eight countries in the HoA. Through this partnership, the EUTF supported UNHCR to implement more development-aligned activities, sometimes for the first time. In the Danish Refugee Council, project staff reported having gained skills and knowledge on development-like activities thanks to EUTF funding. Challenges persist however as, in interviews, EU project managers noted issues of delayed or insufficient reporting for all UNHCR-implemented projects, as a result of the lack of alignment between the tools and funding mechanisms utilised by development and humanitarian organisations.

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<sup>1</sup> UNHCR, 'The Global Compact for Refugees', accessed May 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

## OBJECTIVE 2: ENHANCE REFUGEE SELF-RELIANCE

### OUTCOME 2.1: REFUGEES ARE ABLE TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF HOST COUNTRIES

#### KEY FINDINGS

- Refugees face greater movement and work restrictions in the HoA compared to global averages. Many EUTF projects have focused on supporting livelihoods and job opportunities for refugees, primarily through direct programming rather than policy interventions. Capacity sharing<sup>1</sup> and advocacy make up a small portion of EUTF displacement-related funding (9%). Nonetheless, some EUTF initiatives have successfully supported advocacy and policy development, particularly at the local level. Through the presence of the EUTF in the HoA, the EU was also able to strengthen advocacy efforts in the region.
- Initiatives designed to enhance refugees' self-reliance heavily depend on supportive policies and their effective implementation, as restrictive policies can hinder refugees from fully engaging in the social and economic life of their host country. Advocacy initiatives through the EUTF were complemented by interventions to overcome practical restrictions to employment and freedom of movement, such as support to streamline refugee status determination procedures, as well as business registration procedures.

#### *Proportion of refugees who have access to decent work by law (Indicator 2.1.1.)*



#### Situation in the HoA

23% of refugees in the HoA could access formal employment without significant practical restrictions in 2023.<sup>2</sup>

**More than two-thirds of refugees in the HoA<sup>3</sup> face considerable constraints in accessing employment.** In 2023, only 23% of refugees in the region could access formal wage employment without significant practical restrictions, which is significantly lower than the global average of 67% who have full legal rights<sup>4</sup> to join labour markets.<sup>5</sup> In the HoA, 37% of refugees can register and operate a business, while 65% have access to entrepreneurship support and 94% can participate in TVET programmes.<sup>6</sup>

**Even where refugees have legal employment rights, they often struggle against practical barriers.** These include the absence of a recognised refugee status, challenges with diplomas and skills recognition, the isolation of camps and settlements, and restricted freedom of movement – which is essential to access job opportunities and goods<sup>7</sup> – and cultural and gender barriers.<sup>8</sup>

EUTF efforts to increase refugees' revenues focused on livelihoods programming and entrepreneurship support rather than policy support. However, some projects successfully accompanied efforts to address the legal and structural restrictions preventing refugees from accessing employment. While no EUTF project reported outcomes on supporting employment laws, EUTF projects did participate in high-level advocacy efforts, the design of implementation plans for economic inclusion as well as the reduction of administrative barriers to employment.



#### EUTF contribution in the HoA

<sup>1</sup> Capacity sharing is used to avoid using the formerly accepted formulation: 'capacity-building'. This recognises a shift in thinking and language that is fundamental to work together to end poverty and move away from top-down approaches. Read more about this in Oxfam's Inclusive Language Guide, [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, 'Data-driven support for refugee self-reliance in East, Horn and Great Lakes of Africa', 30 July 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>3</sup> The data includes all countries in this study except for the DRC.

<sup>4</sup> 'Full legal right' is defined as legal right to work, to be self-employed or find a wage-paid employment, as well as to obtain workplace protection.

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR, 'Global survey on livelihoods and economic inclusion report', December 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR, 'Data-driven support for refugee self-reliance in East, Horn and Great Lakes of Africa', 30 July 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>7</sup> REF, 'Mapping the refugee journey towards employment and entrepreneurship: Obstacles and opportunities for private sector engagement in refugee-hosting areas in Kenya', May 2021. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>8</sup> UNHCR, 'Data-driven support for refugee self-reliance in East, Horn and Great Lakes of Africa', 30 July 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

**During the lifetime of the EUTF, various policy developments in the HoA have encouraged refugees' participation in wage-earning employment.** Noteworthy examples include Ethiopia's 2019 Refugee Proclamation and Kenya's 2021 Refugee Act and 2025 Shirika Plan.<sup>1</sup> Regionally, the 2019 IGAD Kampala Declaration on Jobs, Livelihoods and Self-Reliance also sought to enhance refugees' access to job markets. These developments may have been, to some extent, connected to advocacy work carried out through EUTF projects and by EU delegations in host countries. Practical application and implementation of the majority of these frameworks, however, is still limited and may not have had an impact on EUTF partners' ability to support formal employment on the ground.<sup>2</sup>

**EUTF projects did not directly assist refugee-hosting countries to formulate or draft new or revise existing policies to help improve legal access to employment for refugees.** However, some EUTF-funded projects did support the implementation and devolution of national policies through support to local authorities' economic development plans. For instance, as noted in the 2024 CRRF Case Study, in Uganda, GIZ worked to develop Local Economic Development Strategies that included refugees. Another example can be found in Kenya (cf. below).

#### **Example from Kenya: Policy progress expanding labour market access for refugees**

Refugees in Kenya still face challenges in accessing employment due to restrictive encampment regulations and difficulties in obtaining work permits.<sup>3</sup> However, **recent policy changes include provisions that enhance the rights of refugees, including on employment.** The 2021 Refugee Act was designed to facilitate greater integration of refugees, granting them the right to work and access financial services. **This is a promising development and access to decent work by law can be formalised** with the government's adoption of its Shirika Plan (March 2025) to operationalise the 2021 Refugee Act.

Several **EUTF projects in Kenya** (the RDPP<sup>4</sup> and CRRF programmes<sup>5</sup>) **supported the development of plans to support the integration of refugees within their hosting communities, including through economic inclusion** (the Kalobeyei and Garissa Integrated Development Plans). These initiatives have shown progress in Kalobeyei, and efforts have so far concentrated on the inclusion of refugees into national systems like education and healthcare. The implementation in Garissa remains hindered by limited funding.

EUTF-funded projects also worked on addressing practical barriers to employment for refugees. **While there are no EUTF-reported outcomes on access to decent work for refugees**, two *output* indicators provide insight into these efforts. The two reported *outputs* are *direct* results of project interventions, not outcomes resulting from continued efforts and activities. The two outputs cover support to enterprises to register legally **in Ethiopia and Sudan**. In Ethiopia, an RDPP project implemented by DCA<sup>6</sup> supported five enterprises to be legally established in the refugee-hosting areas of Afar. The five enterprises, however, comprised only host community members, indicating the continued difficulty in improving refugees' access to employment.<sup>7</sup> In Sudan, the RDPP project

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<sup>1</sup> IOM, 'Labour mobility and regional integration in East and Horn of Africa', 2023. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> ILO, 'PROSPECTS, Review of national policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks and practice – Global synthesis report', 2023. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> The programme 'Regional Development and Protection Programme' was implemented in Kenya. T05-EUTF-HOA-KE-17.

<sup>5</sup> The programme 'Enhancing self-reliance for refugees and host communities' was implemented in Kenya. T05-EUTF-HOA-KE-69.

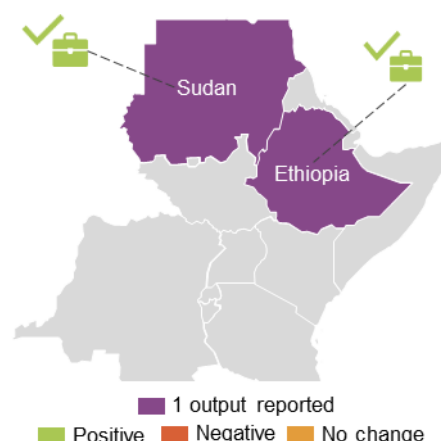
<sup>6</sup> The project 'Regional development and protection programme in Ethiopia-Bahrle and Aysaita areas' was implemented in Ethiopia. T05-EUTF-ET-15-04.

<sup>7</sup> The project 'Area-based livelihoods initiative Garissa: Enhancing self-reliance for refugees and host communities in Garissa County' was implemented in Kenya. T05-EUTF-HOA-KE-69-01.


implemented by UNHCR<sup>1</sup> facilitated business registrations for 300 refugees.<sup>2</sup> In Kenya, the ABLI-G project<sup>3</sup> also aimed to support access to business and entrepreneurship development through a one-stop shop for business services in Dadaab, Garissa County. The one-stop shop served more than 3,000 refugee and host community members through business advisory and development services. This initiative was sustained during the project period, but it was discontinued when transferred to the county government at the end of the project. In the second phase of the ABLI-G project funded through the NDICI, the Danish Refugee Council is providing advocacy support to the municipality to re-start the one-stop shop.

**EUTF-funded projects also supported the creation of formal employment opportunities for refugees**, particularly through the Kakuma Kalobeyi Challenge Fund in Kenya. This programme, which is implemented by the IFC, supports private sector businesses to establish themselves in Kakuma/Kalobeyi. Activities are still ongoing and achievements are yet to be consolidated.<sup>4</sup>

Figure 15: GCR 2.1.1-related outputs




### *Proportion of refugees who are allowed by law to move freely within the host country (Indicator 2.1.2.)*



**Situation in the HoA**

In the HoA, an estimated 86% of refugees and asylum seekers live in camps and settlements.<sup>5</sup>



**EUTF contribution in the HoA**

An estimated 86% of refugees in the HoA live in camps and settlements. This is slightly above the global average of 64%.<sup>6,7</sup> Major refugee-hosting countries, including Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan, legally restrict the freedom of movement of refugees. Uganda, which hosts the largest refugee population in the region, is an exception. However, even if refugees in Uganda are allowed to move freely, aid is tied to residency in one of several settlements and, in effect, some 91% of refugees live in settlements. **While restrictions persist, some progress has been made recently**, for instance in Kenya, where the 2021 Refugee Act expanded refugees' freedom of movement within 'designated areas'.<sup>8</sup>

**EUTF-funded projects advocated for greater freedom of movement for refugees although they engaged in limited direct policy support.** The funding allocated to advocate for freedom of movement in particular constitutes a small fraction of the 9% of EUTF resources devoted to capacity sharing and policy initiatives. **Beyond advocacy efforts, certain EUTF-funded projects also focused on enhancing refugee status determination (RSD) procedures in host countries** to eliminate administrative obstacles to freedom of movement. So far, one outcome related to this

<sup>1</sup> The project 'Strengthening protection services for refugees and asylum seekers in Sudan' was implemented in Sudan. T05-EUTF-HOA-SD-11-04.

<sup>2</sup> Source for this indicator is data reported to the EUTF HoA MLS.

<sup>3</sup> The project 'Area-based livelihoods initiative Garissa: Enhancing self-reliance for refugees and host communities in Garissa County' was implemented in Kenya. T05-EUTF-HOA-KE-69-01.

<sup>4</sup> REF, 'Mapping the refugee journey towards employment and entrepreneurship: Obstacles and opportunities for private sector engagement in refugee-hosting areas in Kenya', May 2021. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>5</sup> Estimate based on UNHCR refugee data: UNHCR, 'Country operational portals', accessed October 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR, '2023 Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Report', Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>7</sup> This represents an improvement compared to the 2021 GCR Report, but it is similarly difficult to attest to improvements as almost 18 million more refugees are covered in the 2023 report (data available for 29 million refugees and 109 countries).

<sup>8</sup> Refugees International, 'Lessons and recommendations for implementing Kenya's new refugee law', 1 August 2024. Retrieved [here](#).



has been reported through the EUTF. However, it is worth noting that progress on advocacy and policy is difficult to measure, and these types of outcomes are more often described qualitatively.

**EUTF-funded projects supported advocacy on freedom of movement in both ad-hoc and formal ways.** Leveraging the EU's influence, the EUTF helped UNHCR to lift refugee movement restrictions in Burundi. According to UNHCR, this support also resulted in a more favourable discourse on refugee issues by the Minister of Interior.<sup>1</sup> More formally, the Danish Refugee Council through the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) implemented the CRRF Direct<sup>2</sup> project and worked within the regional body, ICGLR, to advocate for policy changes. ReDSS noted that their advocacy efforts proved more effective due to the EU being the funder of the EUTF project. Since the beginning of the EUTF, several countries in the HoA have made notable legal and policy progress promoting greater freedom of movement, such as the new initiatives introduced in Kenya.<sup>3</sup> These positive developments could be partially attributed to the increased EUTF funding to operationalise the CRRF and GCR objectives in refugee-hosting countries, as well as enhanced partnerships between the EU and host countries in the region.

**Several EUTF-funded projects also worked on reinforcing RSD procedures.** Before being recognised as refugees, asylum seekers are barred from accessing refugee rights, including freedom of movement.<sup>4</sup> **Sudan's political frameworks place several restrictions on freedom of movement.** These restrictions include its reservations to the global 1951 Convention Related to Freedom of Movement and Sudan's 2014 Asylum Act, which reinforce limitations on the freedom of movement of refugees. Refugees are not allowed to leave designated areas without permits, which are only granted on extremely limited grounds.<sup>5</sup> The EUTF-funded Regional Development and Protection Programme project implemented by UNHCR in Sudan (2017-2020) supported the RSD of 9,554 asylum seekers in Khartoum and Kassala State.

It also trained 119 staff from Sudan's Commission for Refugees and other governmental institutions on RSD and sensitised 15,543 refugees and asylum seekers on RSD and other registration issues. Through these efforts, the project sought to empower refugees to assert their rights under domestic law.<sup>6</sup> While these activities indicated positive progress towards ensuring refugees' freedom of movement, the landscape has become considerably more complex following the 2021 military coup d'état and the outbreak of the country-wide conflict in 2023.

In Kenya, the CRRF Enhancing Self Reliance project<sup>7</sup> (2019-2024, implemented by UNHCR, FAO, UN-Habitat and WFP) also worked on improving RSD processes. This included training and support to Kenya's Department for Refugee Services, targeting the elimination of practical barriers that complicate refugee status determination, such as delays in registration that have led to significant backlogs. The project finished in 2024, and the effectiveness of these interventions will be assessed thereafter.

Figure 16: GCR 2.1.2-related outcomes



<sup>1</sup> UNHCR, 'Refugee Policy Review Framework: Burundi', 30 June 2023. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> The project 'CRRF Direct – Displacement responses through regional cooperation and technical exchange' was implemented regionally. T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-79-07.

<sup>3</sup> 2024 CRRF Case Study.

<sup>4</sup> IRRI, 'Freedom of movement for refugees', n.d. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR, 'Submission by UNHCR to OHCHR compilation report. Universal period review: Third cycle, 39<sup>th</sup> session: Sudan', March 2021.

<sup>6</sup> Samuel Hall and MDF Consultancy, 'RDPP – Country chapter: Sudan. RDPP in Sudan: Endline assessment', 30 April 2021.

<sup>7</sup> The project 'CRRF KE Enhancing self-reliance for refugees and host communities' was implemented in Kenya. T05-EUTF-HOA-KE-69-02.

## OUTCOME 2.2: REFUGEE AND HOST COMMUNITY SELF-RELIANCE IS STRENGTHENED

### KEY FINDINGS

- In the HoA, 46 projects accounting for €272M have aimed to promote self-reliance for refugees and host communities. Of the total EUTF funds dedicated to refugees (€345.6M), 44% were dedicated to basic service provision and 46% to livelihoods. These initiatives addressed basic needs, improved livelihoods, and fostered resilience. Eighteen of these projects reported overwhelmingly positive achievements in enhancing the self-reliance of refugees and members of the host community through 184 outcome indicators.
- Promising gains were made with EUTF support in integrating refugees into national policies and systems. Through advocacy and sensitisation efforts, as well as infrastructure construction and more direct support, EUTF projects improved communities' access to basic services and reinforced their self-reliance.
- Although these projects show promising potential for encouraging self-reliance, particularly in the short-term, the longer-term outcomes are more modest, with fewer project participants achieving sustainable and long-term self-reliance.
- The limited availability of data hinders the ability of key stakeholders to coherently track progress on self-reliance across projects, offering few avenues for substantiating long-term results and accomplishments.

### *Proportion of refugee children enrolled in the national education system (primary and secondary) (Indicator 2.2.1.)*



#### Situation in the HoA

Eight of ten countries grant refugees legal access to schooling.<sup>1</sup>

**In the HoA, eight out of ten countries provide legal access to education for refugees on par with nationals.** This is slightly higher than the global average, as 73% of countries worldwide grant refugees access to primary education.<sup>2</sup> **However, even with favourable policies in place, actual access to schooling remains a challenge and refugee enrolment rates for all school-aged children remain below 50%.** In some cases, students also attend parallel education systems often run by UNHCR rather than schools within the national education system of their host country.<sup>3</sup> The pursuit of higher education and skills recognition also remain difficult for most refugees.



#### EUTF contribution in the HoA

**Basic service provision accounts for a large portion (44%) of EUTF funding in the HoA.** This funding includes support to education through infrastructure construction, material support to schools and teacher training. Across the HoA, **71 outcomes related to self-reliance were documented, most of which report positive advancements in basic service delivery.** Seventeen of these outcomes reflect improvements in the enrolment of refugee children in national education systems, while another 54 outcomes highlight other basic service improvements.

**Several EUTF-funded projects advocated for effective education policies aimed at supporting refugees.** In Sudan, the IRCSES programme<sup>4</sup> worked with the Ministry of Education to promote the inclusion of refugee children in national schools. In Kenya, the CRRF Enhancing Self-Reliance programme included support for the drafting of the Refugee Education Policy, building on initial efforts

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR, '2023 Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Report', Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

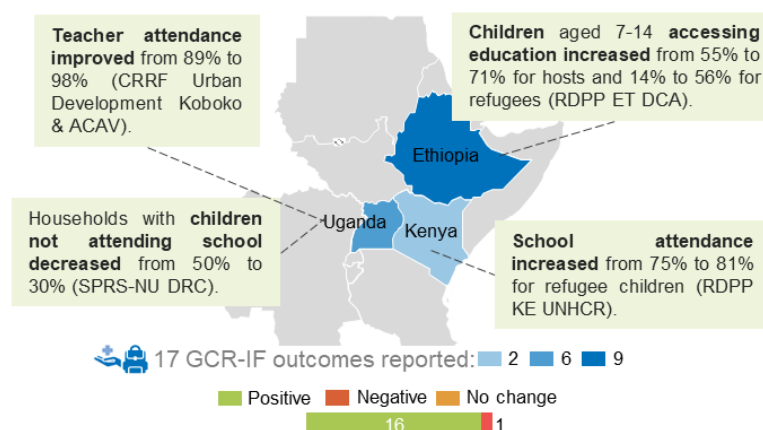
<sup>4</sup> The programme 'Integration and mainstreaming of refugee children into the Sudanese education system' was implemented in Sudan. T05-EUTF-HOA-SD-65-01.

by UNICEF under the RDPP programme, although this progress faced delays due to shifts in staff within government ministers.

**Generally, EUTF-funded projects prioritised support to basic services through infrastructure development.** EUTF projects funded the construction and rehabilitation of schools, educational infrastructure and learning facilities in the DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda. They also focused on improving the quality of education through teacher training initiatives and campaigns aimed at boosting school enrolment and attendance.

**Notable improvements were reported by EUTF-funded projects, although the data remains somewhat limited.** Seventeen outcome indicators report on the proportion of refugee and host children enrolled in the national education system (GCR indicator 2.2.1).<sup>1</sup> **The vast majority (16 out of 17) of these indicators highlight positive changes,**<sup>2</sup> reported by six projects<sup>3</sup> in Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya.

Figure 17: 2.2.1 GCR-IF outcomes and selected changes reported



Of these indicators, ten are directly tied to the increase in **enrolment rates of refugees and host communities across various education levels in Ethiopia and Uganda.** The remaining indicators are proxy measures related to attendance rates or dropout rates, as well as progress on quality of education reported by two projects in Kenya and Uganda (see example below).

### Examples from Ethiopia and Uganda: Interventions contributing to improved school enrolment and access to education

**Several important factors have contributed to increases in school enrolment and improved access to education,** as highlighted by the RDPP ET DCA, Plan<sup>4</sup> and IRC<sup>5</sup> projects in Ethiopia and the CRRF Inclusive Urban Development Koboko<sup>6</sup> and ACAV<sup>7</sup> and SRPS-NU Danish Refugee Council<sup>8</sup> in Uganda. Key activities included supplying educational materials and renovating or constructing school facilities, as well as training teachers, students and parents. These initiatives successfully reduced the average number of students per classroom and per desk. According to the RDPP ET DCA, engaging parents through initiatives like functional adult literacy training helped them

<sup>1</sup> Twelve of these disaggregate between host and refugee status and therefore comprise six unique indicators.

<sup>2</sup> The one negative change was reported by RDPP ET IRC and involved a decrease in refugees who had attended secondary or tertiary education (from 31% at midterm to 16% at endline) in the year preceding the survey.

<sup>3</sup> The six projects are: 3 RDPP projects in Ethiopia, one implemented by DCA (RDPP ET DCA), the second by IRC (RDPP ET IRC) and the third by Plan (RDPP ET Plan), one RDPP project implemented by UNHCR in Kenya (RDPP KE UNHCR), SPRS-NU implemented by the Danish Refugee Council in Uganda (SPRS-NU Danish Refugee Council) and a CRRF Inclusive Urban Development project implemented by the Koboko municipality and ACAV (these are two projects for which a joint endline was conducted, as the ACAV project supported the implementation for Koboko Municipality in Uganda).

<sup>4</sup> The project 'Regional development and protection programme in Ethiopia in urban areas of Addis Ababa and Shire' was implemented in Ethiopia. T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-15-05.

<sup>5</sup> The project 'Regional development and protection programme in Ethiopia – Shire area' was implemented in Ethiopia. T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-15-01.

<sup>6</sup> The project 'CRRF: Inclusive urban development and mobility in the municipality of Koboko' was implemented in Uganda through the regional portfolio. T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-67-04.

<sup>7</sup> The project 'Technical assistance to Koboko Municipality' was implemented in Uganda through the regional portfolio. T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-67-02.

<sup>8</sup> The project 'Support programme to the refugee settlements and host communities in Northern Uganda' was implemented in Uganda. T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-07-02.

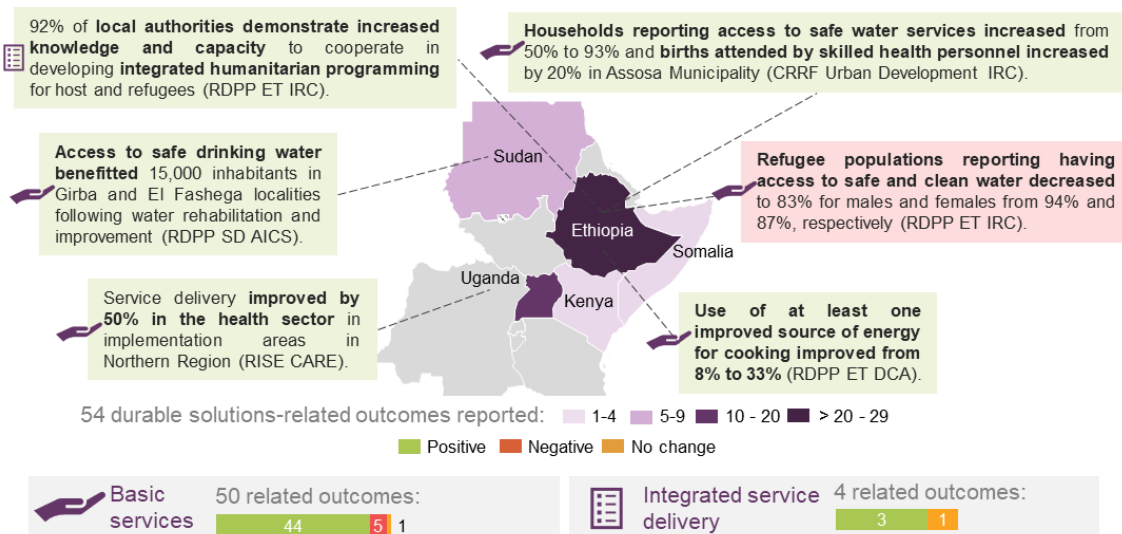
understand the importance of supporting their children's education. Nonetheless, despite these improvements, the **RDPP ET DCA project noted education indicators in the targeted refugee-hosting areas still lagged behind the national Ethiopian averages, underscoring a need for continued emphasis on educational access in these communities.**

**Both RDPP ET DCA and Plan undertook activities to foster inclusion in their programmes.** Gender clubs were established to raise awareness on gender issues and promote services designed to increase female participation in schools. Additionally, RDPP ET DCA took steps to support students with disabilities by providing cash transfers and adapted materials and by making schools in refugee-hosting areas more accessible.

**In Uganda, alternative learning programmes and vocational training provided by SPRS-NU Danish Refugee Council helped to successfully re-enrol former school dropouts,** and the proportion of households with children not attending school decreased from 50% to 30%. These efforts aligned with Uganda's 2018 Education Response Plan, which aimed to improve access to quality education and incorporate refugees into the national education system, an essential component of the GCR's self-reliance objective.

**Beyond education, EUTF projects also registered advancements through 54 outcome indicators related to basic service provision (93%) and integrated service delivery policies (7%).** Most outcomes were again reported in Ethiopia (54%) and Uganda (24%). Outcomes on direct basic service provision for displacement affected communities cover water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH, 62%), energy (18%), multi-sectoral support (10%), healthcare (8%) and legal assistance (2%). An overwhelming **88% of GCR-related outcomes on basic service provision reported positive changes, as well as three out of four indicators on increased cooperation and integrated service delivery.** The figure below presents selected outcome results.

Figure 18: GCR 2.2.1-related outcomes and selected changes reported




Only a few negative outcomes were reported, one of which by the RDPP ET IRC project. The negative change in refugee populations reporting having access to clean water was linked to reports by refugees and host communities' dissatisfaction with their water services. Respondents pointed to water shortages and malfunctioning water facilities due to poor management as key reasons for the inadequate quality.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> DAB, 'Endline evaluation report of project, "Enhanced integration of displaced and displacement affect communities in Ethiopia", September 2020; Pro-just Research and Training Center PLC, 'Mid-term evaluation, Enhanced integration of displaced and displacement affected communities in Ethiopia – Final report', August 2019.


**Additional reports on the EUTF's interventions in the HoA<sup>1</sup> highlighted that resilience-focused programmes effectively reduced vulnerabilities among host communities and refugees.** Long-term sustainability of these effects is challenged by the scale of the vulnerabilities faced by refugee and host communities, especially in protracted situations. More stable countries such as Kenya and Uganda showcased better outcomes in sustaining results and in including refugees and members of the host community in national and county services. The CRRF Urban Development Koboko and ACAV projects in Uganda are seen as good examples of effective refugee integration and the improvement of the quality of services accessed by refugees and host communities. This success can be partly attributed to the empowerment of local authorities by directly providing funding to the Koboko Municipal Council.<sup>2</sup>

***Proportion of refugee and host community populations living below the national poverty line of the host country (Indicator 2.2.2.)***



**Situation in the HoA**

60% of refugees in West Nile (Uganda)<sup>3</sup> and 68% in Turkana (Kenya) live below the poverty line.<sup>4,5</sup>



**EUTF contribution in the HoA**

In the HoA, existing reports shows significant variations in **poverty between refugees and members of the host community, depending on contexts and locations.** However, exact data on poverty is limited for the countries in the HoA and is only available for some areas of Uganda and Kenya. This is also the case in terms of availability of global data on poverty rates, which is critical to shape effective programming on refugee-related interventions.<sup>6</sup>

In Uganda's West Nile Region, refugees experience higher poverty levels than members of the host community (respectively 60% and 30% live under the poverty line). However, in Turkana County in Kenya, the local host population faces greater challenges, with a poverty rate of 72% compared to 68% for refugees. This contrast highlights the extreme poverty in Turkana, a remote and arid region that is especially impoverished compared to the rest of the country, where the national poverty rate stands at 37%.<sup>7</sup>

**Most of the EUTF funding for refugee assistance in the HoA (46%) focuses on livelihood initiatives.** Progress has been reported on 112 outcomes related to livelihoods in the HoA, 35 of these are directly related to GCR-IF indicator 2.2.2 on poverty. This is still relatively limited to offer conclusive reports on the effect of EUTF funding on poverty rates. However, another 77 outcomes were reported on livelihood activities and showcase positive improvements on livelihood and employment opportunities.

**In the HoA, many refugee-related initiatives supported income generation and employment opportunities.** This support includes assistance to small enterprises, access to financial resources (e.g. savings group), vocational training, entrepreneurship support, private sector development, and activities related to food production, like providing farming inputs and trainings. A total of 35 outcome indicators reported (33 indicating positive change) on **livelihoods improvements as per GCR indicator 2.2.2.**<sup>8</sup> These outcomes stem from ten projects<sup>9</sup> in Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya.

<sup>1</sup> The 2024 CRRF Case Study and the EUTF Thematic Evaluation on resilience: Particip, ECDPM and Tana, 'EUTF Thematic evaluation on strengthening resilience of vulnerable and displacement affected communities in the Horn of Africa – Final report Volume 1', 12 March 2025. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> EUTF MLS Case Study assessing the effects of the EUTF's pilot action in the municipality of Koboko (August 2024).

<sup>3</sup> World Bank, 'Informing the Refugee Policy Response in Uganda: Results from the Uganda Refugee and Host Communities 2018 Household Survey', 2019. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>4</sup> UNHCR, 'After three decades, how are refugees in Kenya's Kakuma refugee camp faring?', 2021. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>5</sup> Due to the limited available data for countries in the region, only data from Uganda and Kenya is included in this figure.

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR, '2023 Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Report', Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>7</sup> UNHCR, 'After three decades, how are refugees in Kenya's Kakuma refugee camp faring?', 2021. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>8</sup> Out of these, twelve disaggregate between host and refugee status and therefore only comprise six unique indicators.

<sup>9</sup> The ten project are: CRRF Inclusive Urban Development IRC, RISE ACF, SPRS-NU ADA and Enabel (Uganda), RDPP ET DCA, IRC, Plan, and SC (Ethiopia), RE-INTEG WV (Somalia) and CRRF ABLI-G (Kenya).

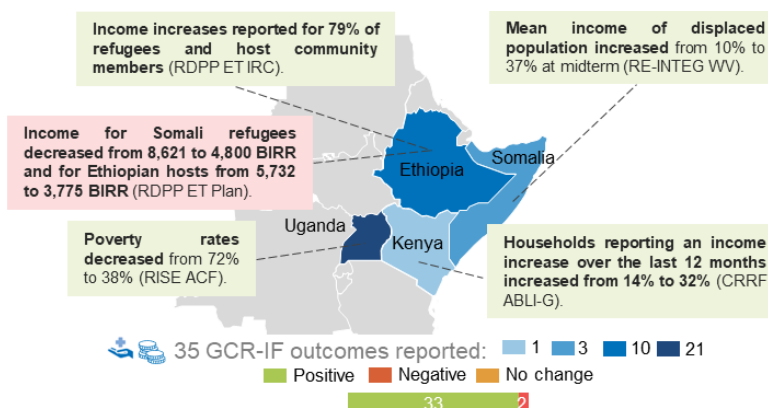


**Two specifically address improvements in the poverty rate**, while the majority (15 outcomes) reflect changes in income. Another five outcomes report on income-generating activities and welfare, alongside four reflecting labour market absorption through employment opportunities.

Two negative outcomes were reported, both of which by the RDPP project implemented by Plan in Ethiopia. The project reported a decline in the average monthly income of 1) Somali refugees and 2) Ethiopian host community members, whereas Eritrean refugees reported an increase in their monthly income. The decrease in income was attributed to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Eritrean refugees reported relying on

remittances and refugee support to make their living and mentioned living situations that enabled them to save more money, such as multiple people sharing a single room.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 19: 2.2.2 GCR-IF outcomes and selected reported changes



#### Example from Uganda: Decreased poverty rates reported by RISE ACF<sup>2</sup>

**Between the start and end of the RISE ACF project (implemented from 2019 to 2023), poverty rates in the three targeted refugee-hosting districts decreased from 72% to 38%.** Poverty rates fell in Adjumani from 72% to 39%, in Arua from 72% to 30%, and in Yumbe from 73% to 43%.

**The reduction in poverty is largely linked to improved incomes.** The relatively lower poverty rate in Arua was credited to a more established refugee community and more consistent long-term support aimed at improving livelihoods in the area. Throughout the project, 86% of refugees and 95% of host community members reported an increase in their income. Furthermore, 58% of refugees and 90% of host community members noted an improvement in the availability of adequate food for both consumption and sale within their households.

While EUTF programmes successfully assisted project participants in developing or expanding their income-generating activities, obstacles such as limited access to formal financial services, institutions and markets continue to hinder refugees – and members of the host community to less extent – from improving their livelihoods and income. Access to formal employment remains a key challenge for refugees, further exacerbated by legal constraints as described in the section on GCR Objective 2.1.1. In addition, refugees' resilience to various shocks remains constrained by numerous challenges such as COVID-19, a prolonged drought from 2020 to 2023 and reduced food rations.

#### Example from the Centre for Evaluation and Development's (C4ED) impact evaluation of the STEDE<sup>3</sup> project in Ethiopia

The impact evaluation highlighted improvements on livelihoods and employment achieved by the project. **The project's support to Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) effectively tackled financial exclusion and fostered economic development through entrepreneurship opportunities.** By using Sharia-compliant services and alternative forms of collateral such as group

<sup>1</sup> Karamare Consultancy Service, 'Final evaluation of regional development and protection programme (RDPP)', March 2022.

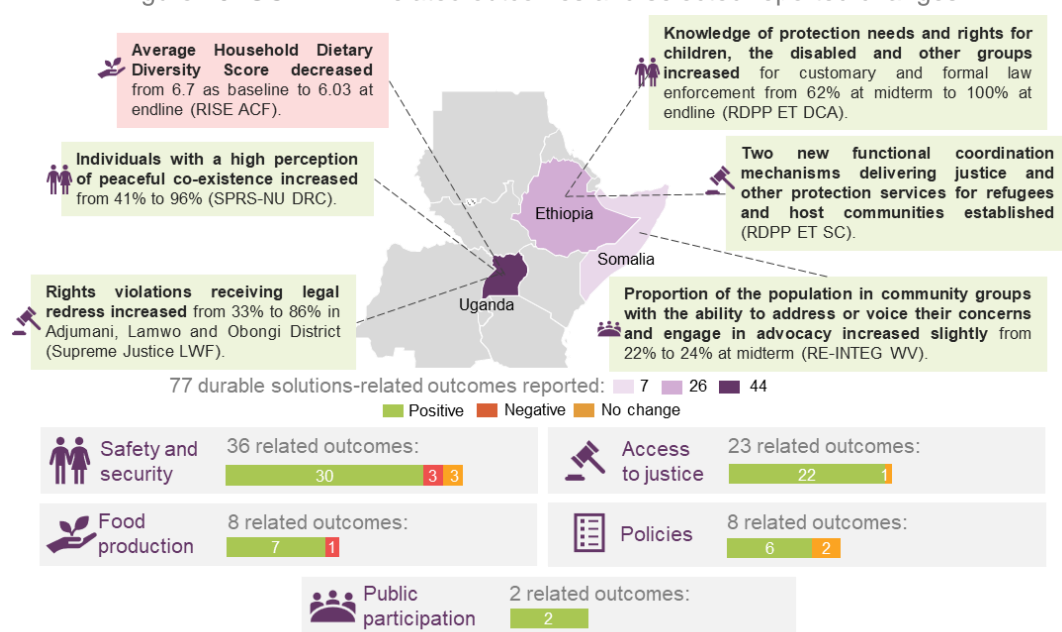
<sup>2</sup> The project 'Response to increased demand on government service and creation of economic opportunities in Uganda' was implemented in Uganda. T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-39-03.

<sup>3</sup> The project 'Strengthened socio-economic development and better employment opportunities for refugees and host communities' was implemented in Ethiopia. T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-39-03.

loans, the project improved accessibility to financial services for targeted refugees and host community members, particularly benefiting vulnerable groups like women. Overall, the intervention had a strong positive impact, leading to more stable employment and self-employment for women and refugees, which resulted in increased monthly income, revenue and profits. A key factor in this success was the integration of saving and loans associations into formal financial systems, although further strengthening of these partnerships is necessary to enable groups to access larger loans.<sup>1</sup>

To reduce poverty rates, EUTF-funded projects also sought to cultivate an environment conducive to fostering refugees' self-reliance. Beyond the 35 GCR indicators for indicator 2.2.2, **EUTF projects reported on 77 other relevant outcomes that cover** refugees' safety and security, their access to effective remedies and justice, food security and nutrition, and participation in public affairs.<sup>2</sup>

Figure 20: GCR 2.2.2-related outcomes and selected reported changes



These indicators also report overwhelmingly positive changes, as shown in the figure above, with the exception of four reporting negative changes. For instance, in Uganda, **RISE ACF observed a decline in the household dietary diversity score**,<sup>3</sup> which was mainly attributed to external factors at the time of implementation. The rising cost of living (driven by inflation and increasing community needs due to reduced rations) impeded household members' ability to diversify their diets. At the same time, RISE ACF also reported notable improvements, including improved food production and income levels, alongside greater consumption of more expensive and typically scarce food items such as vegetables, fish and fruits.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> C4ED, 'Research report 2024 – Impact evaluation of the 'Strengthened socio-economic development and better employment opportunities for refugees and host communities (STEDE) project', July 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> The majority of these outcomes are related to the IASC's framework on durable solutions. Namely, durable solutions are achieved when the eight following criteria are attained (whether in the host, origin or third country), as defined by the IASC framework: safety and security; adequate standard of living without discrimination; access to livelihoods; restoration of housing, land and property; access to documentation; family reunification; participation in public affairs; and access to effective remedies and justice. IASC, 'Framework: Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons', 2010.

<sup>3</sup> The household dietary diversity score is a global indicator used to show increased economic access to a varied diet for household members and reflects the household's ability to provide adequate diversity of food for its members.

<sup>4</sup> SEFO Analytics, 'Endline evaluation study report for response to increased demand on government service and creation of economic opportunities in Uganda (RISE) project', August 2023.

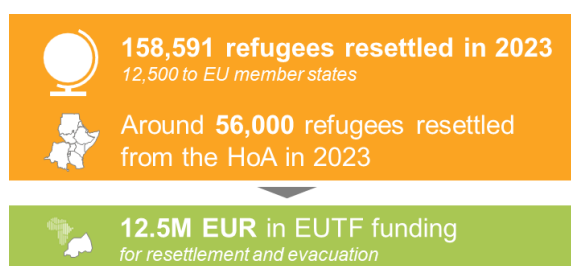
## OBJECTIVE 3: EXPAND ACCESS TO THIRD COUNTRY SOLUTIONS

### KEY FINDINGS

- The EUTF funded one project worth €12.5M project, which supported resettlement and complementary pathways for refugees: the “Emergency Transit Mechanism Rwanda” supported the evacuation of almost 1,000 migrants and refugees from Libya to a transit centre in Rwanda where they received support while awaiting durable solutions. 565 evacuees were resettled and two found complementary pathways between 2019 and 2022. The project faced challenges related to low acceptance numbers in third countries, stringent criteria for resettlement cases, as well as issues with logistics and case processing, especially since it was implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Ultimately, the success of resettlement options and complementary pathways depends on the willingness of countries, including EU member states, to accept applications. It is important to note that the EUTF Board members did not request the EUTF to assist in developing these options, resulting in limited related programming.

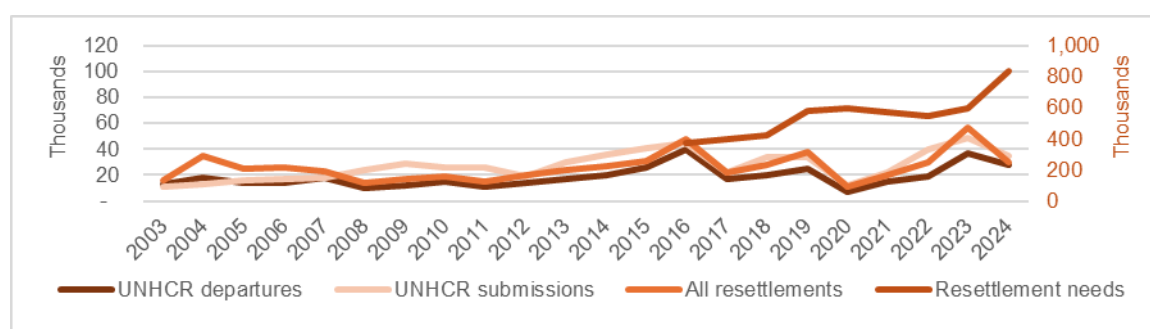
### OUTCOME 3.1: REFUGEES IN NEED HAVE ACCESS TO RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN AN INCREASING NUMBER OF COUNTRIES

*Number of refugees who departed on resettlement from the host country (Indicator 3.1.1) and number of countries receiving UNHCR resettlement submissions from the host country (Indicator 3.1.2)<sup>1</sup>*



In 2023, 56,000 refugees departed from the HoA to be resettled in one of the 35 countries which accept resettlement cases.<sup>2</sup> This remains limited compared to the resettlement needs of refugees hosted in the region, estimated at slightly above 600,000 people in the same year.

Figure 21: Resettlement of refugees and asylum seekers from the HoA, 2003 to mid-2024<sup>3</sup>



**One EUTF-funded project, the ETM Rwanda (€12.5M), supported resettlement for refugees from the HoA.** The initiative successfully evacuated nearly 1,000 refugees and migrants from Libya to an Emergency Transit Centre in Rwanda.<sup>4</sup> Established in partnership with the Rwandan Government and

<sup>1</sup> Working on countries offering resettlement options was outside the scope the EUTF and INTPA interventions.

<sup>2</sup> Murru, A. and Saïd, D. G. (UNHCR), 'Reference paper for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention: Resettlement policy and practice: evolution of a life-saving protection tool', 30 July 2021.

<sup>3</sup> UNHCR, 'Refugee data finder', 2024, accessed October 2024 [here](#).

<sup>4</sup> The Emergency Transit Centre was originally set up in December 2017 to evacuate the most vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers from Libya to Niger and was later expanded to Rwanda from September in 2019.

the African Union, the centre provides urgent assistance and a transitional shelter to refugees and asylum seekers who endured difficult conditions in Libya's detention centres or in the urban areas of Tripoli.<sup>1</sup> UNHCR supports evacuees in the centre to organise return to their country of origin, resettlement, or local integration in Rwanda. Between its inception in September 2019 and its conclusion in March 2022, **the project submitted 773 resettlement applications for evacuees from Libya** (of whom 64% were Eritreans and 27% Sudanese) and **565 evacuees (24% of whom were women) effectively departed**.<sup>2</sup> Although EUTF funding ended in March 2022, UNHCR evacuation efforts continued through other sources of funding, including, until 2026, through NDICI-GE funds.<sup>3</sup>

**The ETM Rwanda faced challenges related to resettlement criteria, transfer logistics and case processing**, which limited resettlements, according to the 2021 MLS Case Study on the Emergency Transit Centre in Rwanda:<sup>4</sup>

- **Limited pledges:** Numbers of resettlement pledges by the countries that accept resettlements remain low, and the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic further decreased the number of accepted resettlements.
- **Criteria mismatch:** A set of eligibility criteria for UNHCR and the host country (for example, protection needs, risks, vulnerability, etc...) determines the eligibility of an individual for resettlement. Mismatches between evacuees' profiles and eligibility criteria in host countries limited resettlement options.
- **Transfer logistics:** Lengthy screening processes, COVID-19 related travel restrictions, and the lack of availability in third countries' reception centres and accommodation facilities further slowed the resettlement process.
- **Case processing:** Challenges collecting complete and correct information from persons of concern, people eventually not qualifying for refugee status and few and intermittent interview missions for case management led to further delays.

**Globally, resettlement is hindered by similar challenges, such as limited hosting capacities, stringent criteria for refugee acceptance, complicated procedures, insufficient resources for UNHCR, and the increasing politicisation of immigration issues.**<sup>5</sup> Since the mid-1990s, global guidelines and frameworks have advocated for countries to tackle these challenges.<sup>6</sup> One significant initiative, the Agenda for Protection (2002-2010), urged states to increase resettlement numbers, broaden the types of refugees accepted, and introduce more flexible criteria, while also addressing gender-related risks. Recently, the EU renewed its commitment to resettlement,<sup>7</sup> through the new EU resettlement framework adopted in 2024, which aims to replace ad-hoc resettlement schemes with a structured plan that will specify the maximum number of persons to be admitted, outline member states' participation and shares, and highlight geographical priorities globally.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Mixed Migration Centre, 'Quarterly mixed migration update: East Africa & Yemen – Quarter 1 2022', April 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Data reported by the ETM Rwanda to the MLS.

<sup>3</sup> UNHCR, 'UNHCR Update – Libya – June 2022', 7 June 2022. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>4</sup> Altai Consulting for the EUTF, 'Case study: Emergency Transit Mechanism', June 2021. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR, 'Refugee data finder', 2024, accessed October 2024 [here](#).

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR, 'Policy framework and implementation strategy: UNHCR's role in support of the return and reintegration', August 2008. Retrieved [here](#); UNHCR, 'The history of resettlement: Celebrating 25 years of the ATRC', 2020. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>7</sup> Murru, A. and Saïd, D. G. (UNHCR), 'Reference paper for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention: Resettlement policy and practice: evolution of a life-saving protection tool', 30 July 2021.

<sup>8</sup> EU, 'A new EU resettlement framework', 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

## OUTCOME 3.2: REFUGEES HAVE ACCESS TO COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS FOR ADMISSION TO THIRD COUNTRIES

*Number of refugees admitted through complementary pathways from the host country (Indicator 3.2.1) and number of countries offering safe admission and stay options through complementary pathways to refugees hosted in other countries (Indicator 3.2.2)*

**As resettlement options continue to fall short in meeting needs of refugees, stakeholders turn to complementary pathways to offer a more flexible path to durable solutions.** These pathways encompass avenues like humanitarian admission, family reunification, sponsorship programs, and education- or employment-based mobility. Typically supported by UNHCR with support from host countries, these initiatives connect displaced populations with opportunities abroad. This approach not only benefits refugees but also alleviates the pressures faced by low- and middle-income countries hosting significant numbers of displaced people. Nonetheless, initiatives to support complementary pathways face challenges, particularly concerning sustainability and scalability. Sponsorship programmes demand substantial resources, coordination, and dedicated commitment from various stakeholders, including governments, civil society, educational institutions and businesses. Competition for limited funding often hampers these efforts and complicates the scaling of such initiatives.<sup>1</sup>

**In the context of the EUTF, efforts relating to complementary pathways also fell under the ETM Rwanda project.** Two people benefitted from complementary pathways such as training or employment, through EUTF funding.<sup>2</sup> UNHCR faced implementation challenges in supporting access to complementary pathways for refugees. Discrepancies between the skills required in host countries and those possessed by refugees, the risks of losing their refugee status when pursuing these pathways, and insufficient funds for basic accommodation and integration support upon arrival all limit viable options. Specifically for family reunification, challenges arise from the restriction of eligibility to the 'nuclear family' coupled with complicated administrative procedures and documentation requirements.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> COMET & MPI Europe, 'Complementary pathways: Key factors in future growth', December 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> Data reported by the ETM Rwanda to the Monitoring and Learning System, MLS, for the EUTF.

<sup>3</sup> Altai Consulting for the EUTF, 'Case study: Emergency Transit Mechanism', June 2021. Retrieved [here](#).



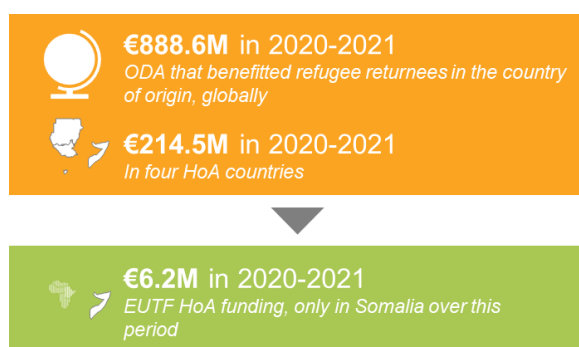
## OBJECTIVE 4: SUPPORT CONDITIONS IN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR RETURN IN SAFETY AND DIGNITY

### KEY FINDINGS

- The EUTF allocated €47M to supporting the return of displaced people, including refugees.<sup>1</sup> Most of this funding supported the return of IDPs in Somalia, as fewer refugees returned to Somalia than was anticipated during the design of the projects.
- Funding mostly supported immediate return assistance and longer-term reintegration assistance for refugee returnees in Burundi and Somalia. Outcome data shows positive changes due to project activities, although most data is not disaggregated by beneficiary type, making it difficult to isolate findings on reintegration support related specifically to refugees.
- There were limited opportunities for refugee returns in the HoA during the lifetime of the EUTF. However, the EUTF did not allocate funding to support the return of former refugees to South Sudan, which could have been targeted as one of the only mass return movements to happen during the lifetime of the Trust Fund.

### OUTCOME 4.1: RESOURCES ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THE SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION OF RETURNING REFUGEES BY AN INCREASING NUMBER OF DONORS

*Volume of official development assistance for the benefit of refugee returnees in the ODA recipient country of origin (Indicator 4.1.1) and number of donors providing official development assistance for the benefit of refugee returnees in the ODA recipient country of origin (Indicator 4.1.2)*



During the 2020-2021 period, the ODA directed towards global refugee return and reintegration amounted to **€888.6M, or 4% of all ODA related to displacement. This funding came from 32 different donors.**<sup>2</sup> In the HoA, €214.5M (24% of global return related ODA) was allocated to Burundi, South Sudan, Sudan and Somalia, which are amongst the largest ten recipients in the world. Over the same period, **€6.2M were disbursed by the EUTF in projects that targeted returnees** in the HoA, all for Somalia (including IDPs and Somali refugee returnees).<sup>3</sup>

Over the EUTF's lifetime, **€47M were allocated to nine projects that targeted IDPs and refugee returnees** in Somalia (eight projects of the RE-INTEG programme amounting to €43M) and Burundi (one €4M project). It is important to note that this figure might be greatly inflated, as the RE-INTEG programme targeted refugee returnees as part of a larger group of displaced people, in which internally displaced people outnumbered refugee returnees. On the other hand, other EUTF-funded projects may have provided support to refugee returnees without distinguishing them from other beneficiaries (few projects gathered information or disaggregated data by 'displacement status' of beneficiary).

**Somalia stands out as a leading recipient of both overall refugee-return ODA and EUTF funding, despite not being a primary country of refugee return.** When the RE-INTEG programme was

<sup>1</sup> As returnees are not always targeted as a distinct group within the population this number may be greatly overestimated

<sup>2</sup> OECD, 'Development finance for refugee situations, Volumes and trends, 2020-2021', 2023.

<sup>3</sup> This amount includes all funding for eight projects in Somalia that targeted returns, but as part of a larger group of displaced people targeted.

designed, there were indications that Kenya would close the Dadaab camps, which were then home to nearly 500,000 dominantly Somali refugees. The RE-INTEG projects were designed with the expectation that refugees would be returning from Kenya. However, Kenya ultimately decided not to close the camps and therefore few refugees actually returned to Somalia. Consequently, the RE-INTEG projects primarily supported internally displaced people and host community members within Somalia.

**Conversely, the EUTF did not allocate specific funding to support returnees in South Sudan.** Between the signing of the Peace Agreement in October 2018 and December 2022, nearly 630,000 South Sudanese refugees returned home.<sup>1</sup> These numbers have increased since the conflict in neighbouring Sudan began in April 2023 (after the EUTF stopped allocating funds) and by the end of 2024, an additional 805,000 South Sudanese refugees had returned, mostly from Sudan between 2023 and June 2024.<sup>2</sup> The EUTF projects' approach in South Sudan primarily concentrated on broad programmes that aimed to benefit all communities, without specifically targeting displacement-affected communities.

#### OUTCOME 4.2: REFUGEES ARE ABLE TO RETURN AND REINTEGRATE SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY

*Number of refugees returning to their country of origin (indicator 4.2.1) and proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials to support return (indicator 4.2.2)*

**There has been a slight uptick in returns since the establishment of the EUTF.** Returns increased from 96,807 in 2016 (3% of refugees hosted in the HoA), to 246,788 returnees in 2024 (4%), with a notable peak in 2023 when 582,939 refugees returned, representing 10% of all refugees hosted in the region at that time. Most were refugees hosted in Sudan until the beginning of the conflict in April 2023, who returned to South Sudan.<sup>3</sup>

EUTF projects did not directly support returns or report outcomes on the provision of identity documents to refugees to facilitate their return and reintegration (indicators 4.2.1 and 4.2.2). However, EUTF-funded projects supported returnees with a wide range of post-arrival and longer-term assistance to facilitate their reintegration.

**EUTF projects offered post-arrival assistance to refugee returnees in Burundi.** The EUTF supported UNHCR in its efforts to facilitate the return of refugees into the country between January 2022 and December 2023. UNHCR provided a package of humanitarian assistance to 62,784 returnees newly arrived in transit centres and organised shelters for the most vulnerable. In Somalia, the IOM-implemented RE-INTEG FLASH project supported migrant transit centres that provided immediate assistance to both refugee, migrants in transit and migrant returnees. However, the project had to redirect funding to adapt to the increase in migrants forcibly returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and not on refugee returnees.<sup>4</sup>

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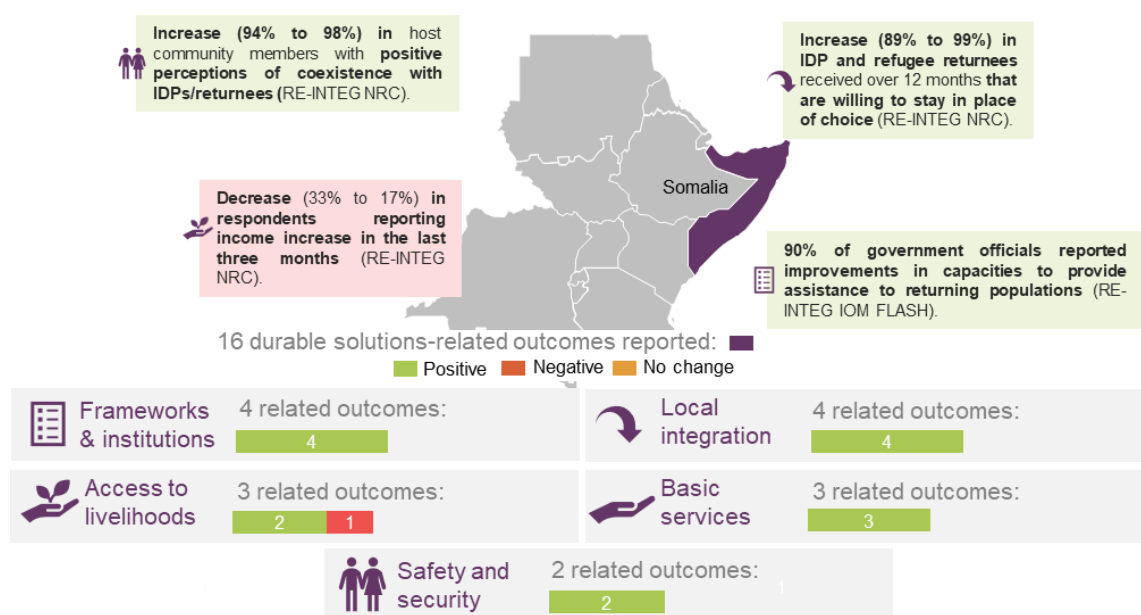
<sup>1</sup> UNHCR, 'Overview of spontaneous refugee returns', December 2022. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, 'Overview of spontaneous refugee returns', June 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>3</sup> UNHCR, 'Refugee data finder', 2024, accessed October 2024 [here](#).

<sup>4</sup> The RE-INTEG programme, as explained above, is included in these calculations because description of action of projects, and project reports specifically mention support to be supported to refugee returnees. However, it's likely that a large majority of the support benefitted migrants and internally displaced populations, rather than refugee returnees, as is the case of the IOM FLASH.

Figure 22: GCR objective 4-related outcomes and selected reported changes<sup>1</sup>



**EUTF-funded projects also supported longer-term reintegration assistance.** In Burundi, 5,070 returnees received psycho-social counselling and other types of longer-term assistance through the EUTF's support to UNHCR. In Somalia, RE-INTEG's support reached 130,022 people, the majority of whom were internally displaced people and host community members, with only a small portion being returnees. Because the RE-INTEG projects did not disaggregate outcome indicators by population group, it is difficult to draw specific conclusions regarding the experiences of (and effect on) refugee returnees. Nonetheless, outcomes from RE-INTEG projects are overwhelmingly positive. Notably, the RE-INTEG NRC project reported improvements in access to education for project participants due to the construction of seven schools. The project also highlighted favourable shifts in perceptions of coexistence among various displaced groups.

<sup>1</sup> The NRC project notes that the decrease in respondents reporting an income increase could be linked to the sample changing from baseline to endline.

## 6. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section outlines the study's main findings and presents recommendations to be used by the EU, other donors, implementing partners and other relevant stakeholders to better support durable solutions in the future. Recommendations for each GCR-IF objective are followed by cross-cutting recommendations.

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### OBJECTIVE 1 – EASE PRESSURE ON HOST COUNTRIES

#### **Recommendation 1. Maintain funding for refugee situations and durable solutions programming while leveraging the EU's considerable influence to encourage additional donors and explore alternative funding sources**

**Key finding – The EUTF allocated €345.6M to support refugees and host governments to achieve durable solutions over its lifetime.** This contribution accounted for 5% of the global ODA allocated to refugee situations in the HoA in 2020-2021. Overall, forced displacement situations remain largely underfunded: UNHCR highlights that current funding can only cover half of the existing needs.<sup>1</sup>

When focusing on development funding, the EUTF's contribution is more significant, representing up to 24% of refugee-related development funding in Kenya for instance. The EUTF also successfully encouraged other donors, other EU institutions and implementation partners to broaden their development initiatives and take innovative approaches in refugee settings.

**Recommendation –** The EU should aim to maintain or possibly increase funding directed towards displaced populations, in line with global burden-sharing commitments. Moreover, INTPA could play a valuable role by encouraging other donors to increase their durable solutions funding. INTPA could also support reflections to explore alternative funding avenues in response to current global funding constraints.

- The EUTF succeeded in attracting other donors to finance relevant interventions throughout the HoA. In light of diminishing resources, the EU has an opportunity to continue to facilitate programming by other donors (by co-implementing projects where the EU has expertise for instance), thus securing reliable funding for durable solutions. The prioritisation of interventions could bear into consideration the World Bank's and UNHCR's assessment, which suggests a need of **€649 per refugee per year**.
  - Donors could consider innovative funding strategies amid global funding cuts. For instance, The International Rescue Committee (IRC) has recently published a white paper on a Humanitarian Debt Swap, an approach that could help increase revenue for development in countries selected among those highly indebted and which host of large numbers of refugees. The IRC proposes that development finance institutions could assist in restructuring sovereign debt, focusing especially on bonds rated as 'speculative' or 'below investment-grade' by rating agencies, since these carry higher interest rates and place a greater financial burden on governments than highly rated bonds. Funds that would have gone to external creditors could then be used to complement existing aid to support durable solutions.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> UNHCR, World Bank, 'Economic Participation and the Global Cost of International Assistance in support of Refugee Subsistence Needs', November 2024.

<sup>2</sup> IRC, Airbel Impact Lab, 'Humanitarian Debt Swap Proposal'. Retrieved [here](#).

## **Recommendation 2. Champion and support the removal of policy obstacles that hinder refugees' economic participation and inclusion, a crucial lever to support self-reliance in the face of declining funding**

**Key finding** – The efficiency of EU funding for durable solutions is limited by barriers that prevent refugees from engaging fully in the economies of their host countries. This challenge has been identified consistently across the HoA, where refugees face complicated procedures and restrictions that limit their access to essential services and hinder their ability to achieve self-reliance. As supporting refugees achieving self-reliance in spite of these barriers comes at a considerable cost, improving the integration of refugees into local economies could potentially reduce the global funding requirements necessary to support displaced populations by half.<sup>1</sup>

**Recommendation** – The EU should provide funding to support governments, through direct budget support or other flexible funding mechanisms, to implement policies that facilitate refugees' full economic inclusion.

- The EU should continue to engage with host countries and allocate funding to address barriers that hinder improved labour market inclusion for refugees. In the region, priority could go to countries that actively support the economic inclusion of refugees.
- To manage risks associated with funding national entities, it is essential to implement safeguards by earmarking budgets to specific activities and budget line items. If possible funds could be allocated to projects that support recipient agencies with financial and administrative management, as was done with the Koboko municipality in Uganda.

## **Recommendation 3. Increase the effectiveness and sustainability of interventions by increasing the share of funding dedicated to national NGOs, CSOs and RLOs in each country, in line with GCR objective 1.2.1.<sup>2</sup>**

**Key finding** – Only 13.2% of EUTF funding was allocated to national actors, below the global average of 18.4%. This is likely due in part to funding (and speed) requirements which do not facilitate participation for small organisations, as well as perceived and real risks associated with this type of funding.

**Recommendation** – Donors, alongside recipient countries should establish a specific localisation target, particularly for their refugee programming. Efforts to achieve this target should include both encouragement and support for implementing partners to sub-contract national organisations, and direct funding by donors to national actors, including refugee-led and host-led organisations.

- The EU should consider following in its development efforts the Grand Bargain's target of channelling 25% of humanitarian funding towards national actors in each intervention country. According to the IASC, targeting these means into the hands of people in need would improve the effectiveness and efficiency of programming.<sup>3</sup> As much as possible, this funding could be directly contracted to national actors. The EU could complement these efforts by also making sub-contracting arrangements with local organisations, which already happen in many instances, a formal condition to its funding to international actors.
- The EU can facilitate, encourage and increase the effectiveness of sub-contracting arrangement by always setting aside adequate funding for overhead support, coordination and information sharing within projects implemented with local organisations. In the case of sub-contracting, adequate budget should be established to empower the main contractual body in

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<sup>1</sup> UNHCR, World Bank, 'Economic Participation and the Global Cost of International Assistance in support of Refugee Subsistence Needs', November 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Indicator 1.2.1. is the proportion of ODA for the benefit of refugees and host communities channelled to national actors in the refugee-hosting ODA recipient country.

<sup>3</sup> IASC, 'About the Grand Bargain', accessed May 2025. Retrieved [here](#).



responding to training requests of sub-contractors. This could be complemented by the inclusion of indicators within logical frameworks to measure the capacity-sharing happening between contractors and sub-contractors.

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## OBJECTIVE 2 – ENHANCE REFUGEE SELF-RELIANCE

### **Recommendation 4. Continue to build on the successes, lessons learned and best practices of EUTF's projects efforts to enhance self-reliance through initiatives focused on providing basic services and livelihood activities**

**Key finding – The EUTF made significant efforts to enhance the self-reliance of refugees by allocating €272M to 46 projects aimed at addressing basic needs and improving livelihoods.** This initiative represents the EUTF's most substantial contribution, all of which falls under GCR outcome 2.2 (refugee and host community self-reliance is strengthened). The activities primarily focused on creating employment through entrepreneurship, income-generating activities, improving access to finance, and providing basic services by promoting integrated service delivery and constructing necessary infrastructure, such as health facilities, schools, WASH facilities.

**Recommendation –** The EU should continue to support interventions to enhance refugees' self-reliance, guided by best practices and lessons learned from the implementation of the EUTF. The EUTF's MLS partners are working on a repository of lessons learned to capture this knowledge. Examples of best practices and lessons learned on access to basic services and livelihoods include:

- Infrastructure construction and rehabilitation improves access to basic services. Processes on handing over operation and maintenance of these to the government should be improved to ensure long-term sustainability. (2024 CRRF Case Study).
- In Kenya, partners built common farming areas, where farmers could work on individual plots to meet basic needs. This helped overcome challenges of limited land and plot sizes afforded to refugees. (2024 CRRF Case Study).
- Community members with existing skills and expertise can be engaged in income-generating activities and skills training activities to ensure that they can continue coaching and mentoring others once project activities end. (2024 CRRF Case Study). In addition, building on the existing skills of displacement-affected communities was also linked to more success for livelihood programming compared to programmes that built the skills of individuals in new sectors. (2021 Lessons Learned Phase II).
- Access to microfinance through alternative funding mechanisms, such as VSLAs, are key to overcome barriers of refugees' limited access to formal financial systems. (2024 CRRF Case Study).
- Building economic infrastructure, involving the private sector and increasing access to markets in refugee-hosting areas, which are commonly in isolated and underdeveloped areas, could also help improve livelihood opportunities. (2021 Lessons Learned Phase II). When completed, lessons from projects such as the KKCF in Kenya will be particularly relevant.

### **Recommendation 5. Continue to advocate for host country governments to revise and enact policies that ensure refugees' access to freedom of movement and employment by law, and fund projects aimed at creating a supportive policy environment for refugees to participate in the economic life in the host country**

**Key finding –** A relatively small portion of EUTF funds, specifically 9%, was allocated to policy development and advocacy. These funds do not cover the advocacy work done through the EU delegations that were not directly funded through the EUTF. Despite the smaller share of funding, the EUTF has contributed to policy changes through the engagement and advocacy of EU Delegations in

host countries, as well as through funding projects that supported some policy development. These efforts have contributed to host governments taking steps toward creating more favourable policy environments for refugees.

Policy support and advocacy are key priorities outlined in the Global Compact on Refugees, particularly in relation to removing policy barriers to employment and mobility. These efforts also depend on a conducive political and social environment in the host country. The EUTF primarily focused on implementing activities that enhanced the self-reliance of refugees through the provision of basic services and livelihood initiatives. These efforts would gain from being complemented by policy support to support refugees' access to greater legal rights, enabling their participation in economic, social and cultural life. **Without a supportive legal framework, initiatives aimed at promoting self-reliance risk placing the responsibility on individual refugees to achieve lasting outcomes.**<sup>1</sup>

**Recommendation** – Removing barriers and restrictions that prevent refugees from actively participating in the economic and social life of their host countries is essential. **This requires sustained efforts in policy support, advocacy work and capacity sharing with hosting governments.** Creating a more favourable policy environment can also help to reduce the funding needed to address displacement situations. Moving forward, the EU could prioritise allocating more of its funding and programmes to eliminating legal barriers. Namely, the EU could:

- Consider funding projects that create incentives for governments to revise or develop new policies, and encourage EU-funded projects to include policy support elements wherever possible. This could leverage the flexible mechanism component of NDICI-Global Europe, which was conceived in part as a political incentivising tool.
- Ensure its advocacy weight is coordinated with other actors. This could be done through the Refugee Coordination Model, which serves as the foundation for leading and coordinating refugee operations;
- Continue to support research efforts that demonstrate the benefits of policy changes aimed at promoting self-reliance. Through the EUTF, the Research and Evidence Facility studied refugees' access to employment and entrepreneurship in Kenya. The study also demonstrated the limitations faced by refugees due to the lack of legal access and rights to work and mobility. This support to research should continue in the future. In addition, the EU could also help facilitate knowledge-sharing mechanisms to share ideas and convince stakeholders and donors of the advantages of policy changes;
- Once favourable policies are established, the EU could continue to provide financial assistance for their implementation and ensure this is done systematically, as well as continue to fund national agencies to strengthen capacities, similar to the support to Koboko Municipality in Uganda. For example, through NDICI funding, the EU is continuing to fund implementation of the local policies developed with EUTF support in Kenya. The EU is also expanding its funding of national agencies and continuing the support given to Koboko Municipality in Uganda.<sup>2</sup>

**Recommendation 6. Continue to fund and encourage scaling of efforts to help refugees overcome practical and administrative barriers preventing them from participating in economic and social life (through education, employment, etc.)**

**Key finding** – Various initiatives under the EUTF aimed to remove practical barriers preventing refugees from engaging in economic and social life of host countries. Efforts were made to help refugees access employment, for example, by constructing one-stop shops to simplify and localise

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<sup>1</sup> Danish Refugee Council, 'Which Refugee Self-Reliance? Whose Durable Solution?', 2021. Retrieved [here](#); refugee self-reliance efforts rely heavily on supportive policies and their implementation, and self-reliance outcomes can be limited by restrictive policies that limit refugees' rights and realisation of self-reliance including on employment and mobility.

<sup>2</sup> Under the NDICI, the four-year partnership 'Supporting Urban Integration of Displacement-Affected Communities, SUIDAC' began implementation in 2025 and is currently supporting nine cities across the five countries in the HoA.

registration for businesses. Additionally, initiatives in Sudan through RDPP and CRRF support in Kenya helped assist refugees to obtain an official refugee status. Across the HoA, multiple projects were implemented to facilitate access to and enrolment in schools, including through enrolment campaigns and infrastructure development. These steps are crucial to remove practical obstacles faced by refugees and should be continued and expanded in scale, if funding permits

**Recommendation –** Continue to fund initiatives that address practical barriers preventing refugees from exercising the legal rights guaranteed to them under existing policies. Amid global drops in funding for displaced populations, **more formalised efforts are needed to lift remaining barriers and funding can benefit from being even more targeted.**

- Although the EUTF supported policy progress in some countries, most notably in Kenya through the 2021 Refugee Act and local development plans in Garissa and Turkana County, it is relevant to continue building on these efforts and increase this type of support in other countries in the region, where administrative and practical barriers for refugees to access employment and mobility still persist.
- Although the EUTF helped support progress on obtaining refugee status in countries like Sudan and Kenya, it appeared rather minimal in Sudan and still faces limitations in Kenya. Despite the efforts under the CRRF in Kenya, obtaining refugee status can still take several years. The EU is also continuing to fund this through the NDICI. Due to the restrictions faced by refugees across the HoA, it is relevant to ensure that these activities are continued and also pursued in other countries.
  - For instance, projects could continue efforts aimed at reducing delays in obtaining refugee status by improving capacities of authorities responsible for handling determination processes. Efforts could also improve access to information for refugees on how and where to obtain refugee status, and making movement permits more accessible by moving the services closer to where the refugees are hosted.
- The EU should continue supporting projects that examine the practical barriers to refugees' employment and livelihoods and focus on addressing these challenges. One effective approach in this regard is illustrated by projects that use Market Systems Development approaches, like the second phase the ABLI-G project in Kenya funded through the NDICI.

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## OBJECTIVE 3 – EXPAND ACCESS TO THIRD COUNTRY SOLUTIONS

**Recommendation 7. Support advocacy to EU member states to review their eligibility criteria for resettlement cases through collaboration with UNHCR**

**Key finding –** Resettlement numbers continue to exceed needs, and restrictive eligibility criteria further complicate resettlement processes. This was also the case for the EUTF-funded ETM Rwanda project, which encountered challenges in resettling evacuees.

**Recommendation –** In line with global commitments for sharing the burden of refugees, EU member states are important countries for resettlement. However, the numbers remain low, partly due to administrative and logistical challenges related to eligibility criteria set by these countries. The EU could consider collaborating with UNHCR and to work directly with member states to review and streamline their selection criteria and processes.

**Recommendation 8. Support, fund and promote initiatives that help forcibly displaced persons access complementary pathways**

**Key finding –** EUTF projects did not provide significant support to help refugees explore their own complementary pathways. In general, complementary pathways can serve as an alternative to

lengthy policy advocacy efforts aimed at encouraging countries to increase their resettlement numbers. While complementary pathways are crucial for expanding access to protection for displaced individuals, they often rely on unpredictable, project-based grants rather than concerted initiatives.<sup>1</sup>

**Recommendation** – If prioritising improved access to complementary pathways, funding could be directed towards projects that promote access to tertiary education, support the translation of documents, assist in skills recognition, or connect individuals with COMET. COMET, the Complementary Pathways Network, is a transnational partnership co-funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Its goal is to enhance opportunities for enrolment in European universities and facilitate other forms of safe and legal migration.

- **If supporting complementary pathways is a priority, a 2024 report produced by COMET and MPI Europe set out several recommendations for policymakers and institutions to effectively create and scale these pathways.** These recommendations include 1) engaging governments as core partners, as efforts are often only led by civil society and private partners, 2) encouraging communication and sharing of infrastructure for complementary pathway programmes that operate in the same environments or through similar channels, as programmes currently operate dominantly in silos, and 3) encourage sustainable and diversified funding, with costs shared among governments, UN agencies, other development organisations and NGOs.<sup>2</sup>
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## OBJECTIVE 4 – SUPPORT CONDITIONS IN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR RETURN IN SAFETY AND DIGNITY

### Recommendation 9. Review internal priorities on refugee return and reintegration and adapt programming in accordance

**Key finding** – Refugee return and reintegration did not appear as a priority through EUTF funding in the HoA, especially as there were few mass return opportunities in the region over the lifetime of the Trust Fund. However, no EUTF funds were directed to the main possible country of return, South Sudan.

**Recommendation** – In order to support refugee returnees, funding and programming needs to be highly flexible and able to adapt to changing circumstances (e.g. risk of and actual camp closures, political changes such as peace deals, among others). If return is identified as a priority:

- Projects in countries with resolution possibilities should have flexible funding mechanisms such as contingency funds, and review contexts regularly to adapt to needs and changes in contexts.
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<sup>1</sup> COMET & MPI Europe, 'Complementary pathways: Key factors in future growth', December 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

## CROSSCUTTING RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recommendation 10. Improve M&E procedures through conditional funding and targeted support

**Key finding** – Only 21 of 49 completed EUTF-funded projects conducted endlines with quality and comparable data.<sup>1</sup> In the context of funding cuts, it is increasingly important to direct funding towards partners and projects that can demonstrate effective and efficient support for and improve learning on durable solutions. This can be achieved through improved monitoring and evaluation that track progress and report sufficient evidence to improve future programming.

**Recommendation** – The EU can improve M&E processes, guided by institutional guidelines, by taking several steps from the outset. This could enhance data quality on outcomes, especially on complex indicators like self-reliance. For example, the EU could:

- Ensure that every project sets aside an adequate amount (for example, 5-10%) for M&E, covering human resources and data collection.
- Share simple guidelines or create new ones if they do not exist already for partners, especially those new to development or project-based funding, to help them design well-resourced M&E plans and ensure that these are followed.
  - Strengthen M&E of its partners by i) offering trainings on M&E and ensure partners are aware of these resources, ii) support project design documents and ensure project logframes and indicators are reviewed by specialists (possibly building on learning from the technical assistance provided by the MLS), iii) assistance in writing Terms of Reference for baseline and endline reports, iv) connect partners with and ensure they are aware of M&E contact points to access resources, similar to the support provided under the Result-Oriented Missions, and v) ensure that funding is sufficient to cover the costs of baselines and endlines.
- For innovative projects, ensure timely activity reviews and effective implementation of any recommended changes and corrective actions where necessary.

### Recommendation 11. Promote the use of common global frameworks and indicators for measuring progress on durable solutions

**Key finding** – Few projects used global, regional, or national indicators – such as the GCR indicators related to poverty or other food security indicators – as impact or outcome indicators. Employing these indicators could significantly help the EU assess its contributions to the GCR while easing the methodological burden on partners and enhancing M&E practices. Common indicators also facilitate knowledge sharing among donors and implementing partners, leading to better-informed decisions regarding self-reliance, food security and poverty, among others. Improved availability of data can be especially relevant in the displacement sector, where refugees often settle in specific areas. For example, greater transparency on the extent and distribution of poverty could enhance the design of sustainable interventions.

**Recommendation** – The EU should request new and ongoing projects to adopt common indicator frameworks and indicators (e.g. the GCR) and those resulting from the GRF pledges, to ensure effective monitoring of durable solutions (resettlement, return and local integration). For example:

- The EU could strongly encourage projects to report on GCR-IF indicators, which would also enable the EU to report more easily on GCR progress globally. This is currently the aim of the

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<sup>1</sup> As mentioned in the methodology, some projects only ended recently and therefore, more evaluation reports could be produced by these projects.



UNHCR-World Bank Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement,<sup>1</sup> which aims to collect and improve socioeconomic data usage to inform policymaking.

- The EU could adopt global indicators on food security, poverty, self-reliance and others, promoting their use in partners' M&E processes. Adopting tools like the Self-Reliance Index (developed by the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative)<sup>2</sup> can simplify M&E efforts for partners and help systematic data collection and sharing for the EU. The Self-Reliance Index questionnaire could be used by partners directly during baseline and endline surveys.
- If indexes do not exist, the EU could create guidelines detailing best practices on M&E including common indicators and templates for reporting, including relevant questionnaires and budgets to facilitate the work of M&E focal points.
- Encouraging the use of these frameworks should include adequate and dedicated funding from the EU and other funding agencies.

## **Recommendation 12. Ensure that projects funded by the EU align with the commitments made at the last Global Refugee Forum**

**Key finding – The EUTF was established before the GCR and its Indicator Framework. This timing explains why EUTF-funded projects often do not align with the GCR.** Out of the 200 outcome indicators used by EUTF projects, 52 directly match a GCR-IF indicator. Most EUTF projects focused on GCR Outcome 2.2 on overall self-reliance: of the total EUTF funds allocated to refugees (€345.6M), 44% supported basic service provision and 46% supported livelihoods, both of which are related to GCR Outcome 2.2. However, there was comparatively limited support for legal progress and policy (GCR Outcome 2.1), expanding access to third country solutions (GCR Objective 3) and improving conditions in countries of origin for return (GCR Objective 4).

The EUTF adopted the CRRF as a priority and EUDs had the freedom to make decisions based on needs in countries of implementation. While there was no specific strategy for durable solutions, many projects aligned with UNHCR's 2023 Framework for Durable Solutions for Refugees and Persons of Concern. In certain countries with large refugee populations, CRRF-related programmes were prioritised, but this was not systematic, even in countries where programming may have been relevant (for instance in South Sudan).

**Recommendation –** The EU should ensure that its funded projects align with the GCR indicators as well as Global Refugee Forum pledges and include ways to adapt to changing situations for displaced persons (for example, the crisis modifier under NDICI funding).

- For example, a portion of the 10% EU-funding allocated for migration and forced displacement under the NDICI could be earmarked to objectives of the GCR, which provide clear goals for achieving durable solutions.
- EU project managers should follow the CRRF/GCR. Since not all EUDs have staff with expertise in displacement, sharing or, if not already existing, creating a simple factsheet or internal learning guide can help share and clarify GCR objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> Joint Data Center on Forced displacement, Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative, 'Self-Reliance index, 3.0', Retrieved [here](#).

## 7. INDEX

### 7.1. ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AMIF</b>	<i>Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund</i>
<b>AU</b>	<i>African Union</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>Billion</i>
<b>CRCP</b>	<i>Consultations on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways</i>
<b>CRRF</b>	<i>Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework</i>
<b>DACs</b>	<i>Displacement-affected communities</i>
<b>DFID</b>	<i>Department for International Development (the UK, now FCDO)</i>
<b>(the) DRC</b>	<i>Democratic Republic of the Congo</i>
<b>EAC</b>	<i>East African Community</i>
<b>ECHO</b>	<i>Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations</i>
<b>ETM</b>	<i>Emergency Transit Mechanism</i>
<b>EU</b>	<i>European Union</i>
<b>EUTF</b>	<i>European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa</i>
<b>FCDO</b>	<i>Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (United Kingdom)</i>
<b>GCR</b>	<i>Global Compact for Refugees</i>
<b>GCR-IF</b>	<i>Global Compact for Refugees Indicator Framework</i>
<b>HoA</b>	<i>Horn of Africa</i>
<b>IASC</b>	<i>Inter-Agency Standing Committee</i>
<b>ICGLR</b>	<i>International Conference on the Great Lakes Region</i>
<b>IDP</b>	<i>Internally Displaced Person</i>
<b>IGAD</b>	<i>Intergovernmental Authority on Development</i>
<b>IRC</b>	<i>International Rescue Committee</i>
<b>M</b>	<i>Million</i>
<b>M&amp;E</b>	<i>Monitoring and evaluation</i>
<b>MLS</b>	<i>Monitoring and Learning System (for the EUTF)</i>
<b>NDICI</b>	<i>Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (EU)</i>
<b>NGO</b>	<i>Non-governmental organisation</i>
<b>OAU</b>	<i>Organisation for African Unity (now the AU)</i>
<b>ODA</b>	<i>Official Development Assistance</i>
<b>OECD</b>	<i>Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development</i>
<b>ReDSS</b>	<i>Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat</i>
<b>RRP</b>	<i>Refugee Response Plan</i>
<b>RSD</b>	<i>Refugee Status Determination</i>
<b>UN</b>	<i>United Nations</i>
<b>UNHCR</b>	<i>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</i>
<b>VSLA</b>	<i>Village Savings and Loans Associations</i>
<b>WASH</b>	<i>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</i>

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## 8. ANNEXES

### 8.1. STUDY METHODOLOGY

#### 8.1.1. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The thematic narrative is based on the following research questions:

##### 1. Context and policy – Displacement and durable solutions

- What is the displacement context in the HoA?
- Which external factors have affected the displacement situation since 2016 and how have these influenced integration, resettlement and return options for displaced populations in the HoA?
- What is 'durable solutions' and how has it evolved globally and nationally? How have regional institutions, governments and international partners engaged with durable solutions?

##### 2. The EUTF and durable solutions

- What was the aim of the EUTF on durable solutions? What type of programmes and which actors were involved in the durable solutions interventions?

##### 3. Effects of the EUTF on durable solutions

- Which effects and outcomes (positive/negative) on durable solutions have been reported by EUTF projects in the HoA through indicator data and other project documentation?
- How have EUTF projects improved durable solutions for refugees and members of host communities in the HoA with regard to (i) eased pressure on host countries, (ii) enhanced self-reliance, (iii) expanded access to third country solutions, and (iv) supporting conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity?
- What funding is expected to continue and/or be sustainable? Why were certain areas not a priority and were there any missed opportunities that can guide future interventions and funding?

##### 4. Best practices, effects, and sustainability of the EUTF

- What main successes, best practices and lessons learned can be identified from this support?
- Which effects remain after the completion of the projects? Which can be replicated? Which measures have been put in place to ensure sustainability?

#### 8.1.2. METHODOLOGY AND ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

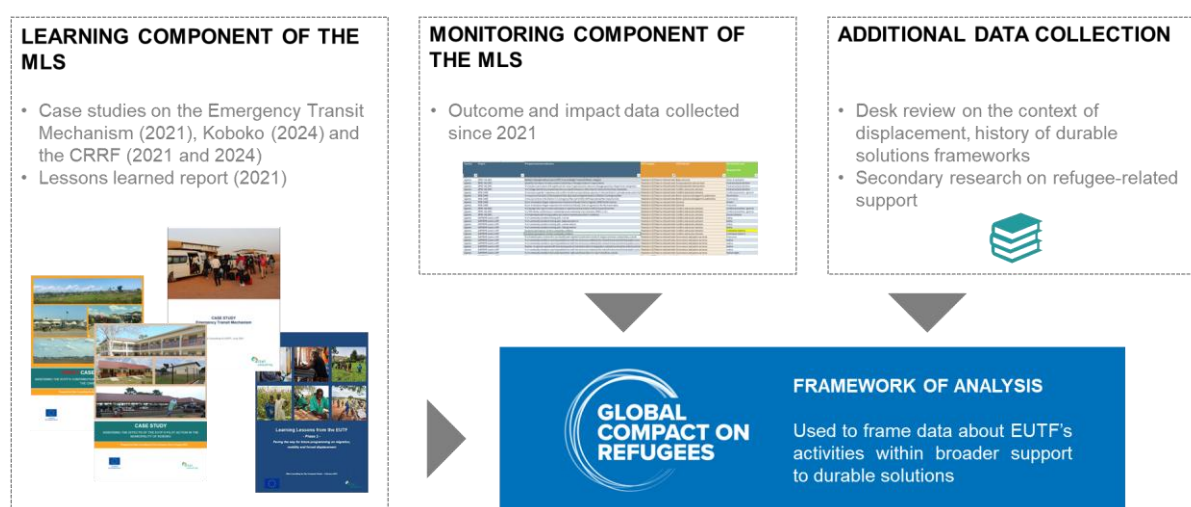
**This thematic narrative builds on eight years of monitoring and learning work done by the MLS to assess the EUTF's support to durable solutions for refugees.** EUTF effects are framed within the GCR Indicator Framework and its sixteen globally recognised indicators on durable solutions. This study focuses on durable solutions for refugees, as the EUTF in the HoA undertook more limited interventions on durable solutions for IDPs. The team drew findings from the learning and monitoring components of the MLS, as well as additional external sources. Research and analysis for this study took place between October and January 2025.

**First, this report used key findings from four case studies conducted since the beginning of the MLS:** both case studies on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF, 2021 and

2024),<sup>1</sup> the case study on the Koboko project in Uganda (2024)<sup>2</sup> and the case study on the Emergency Transit Mechanism (2021).<sup>3</sup> Findings from the EUTF Lessons Learned Phase 2 report (2021) also provided insights in the evolution of forced displacement-related programming in the Horn of Africa by offering comparisons from the situations and programming in the region up to 2021.<sup>4</sup> **The thematic narrative particularly builds on the findings from the CRRF Case Study from 2024, for which 41 key informants and 417 project participants were interviewed.**

The mapping of CRRF-related projects conducted for the 2024 CRRF Case Study provides the scope of projects studied for this analysis. The mapping identified 61 relevant projects, with a total of €345.6 million (M) funds contracted by the EUTF.<sup>5</sup> The study also used qualitative aspects from all case studies to provide background to the findings described in the sections below.

Figure 23: Summary of the thematic narrative methodology, data sources and analytical framework



In 2021, the EUTF MLS began collecting impact and outcome data (collectively referred to as 'outcomes' here)<sup>6</sup> reported by EUTF-funded projects in the HoA, to substantiate an analysis on higher-level changes effected by the EUTF. EUTF projects have reported outcome data across several thematic areas, including economic opportunities, basic services (WASH, health, education, energy), food security and nutrition, and conflict prevention. The research for this study analysed 200 outcome indicators<sup>7</sup> from 21 of 49<sup>8</sup> completed CRRF-related projects (out of the 61 identified during the CRRF study).

**Finally, a desk review complemented the internal data sources.** The desk review was particularly important to retrace the evolution of the concept of durable solutions, and how perceptions of the activities needed to support them have evolved.

<sup>1</sup> The 2021 Case Study, 'Lessons learned from the CRRF and EUTF projects involved in refugee programming in the Horn of Africa' can be found [here](#). The 2024 case study: 'Assessing the EUTF's contribution to the implementation of the CRRF' is not yet finalised.

<sup>2</sup> MLS, 'Assessing the effects of the EUTF's pilot action in the municipality of Koboko', 2024.

<sup>3</sup> MLS, 'Emergency Transit Mechanism', 2021. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>4</sup> MLS, 'Lessons Learnt from the EUTF', 2022. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>5</sup> This funding only concerns EUTF funds contracted to these projects, while some projects may have received more funding from other donors.

<sup>6</sup> While impacts are defined by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as the long-term effects produced by development interventions, outcomes are defined as the medium- and short-term effects, and since all results used in this report were measured at projects' endline, they can be defined as medium-term and can therefore be referred to as 'outcomes'.

<sup>7</sup> Two more indicators were reported on by the 21 projects, although for activities not relevant to durable solutions.

<sup>8</sup> The remaining 28 projects either have no endline reports, lack outcome indicators in endline reports, or were recently completed and have yet to complete and share their endline reports.



### 8.1.3. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

The reader should consider these limitations when reviewing the findings of this study:

- EUTF projects in the HoA **did not implement activities relevant to all sixteen indicators** of the GCR Framework. In cases where no or limited relevant programming/implementation took place, a qualitative assessment examines any missed opportunities for the EUTF. On the contrary, certain activities funded by the EUTF are not easily allocated to a single GCR framework indicator. In this case, an analysis of the results is still provided, outside of the frame of the GCR-IF.
- The analysis of outcome and impact indicators relied on the **availability and quality of data reported by different implementing partners of EUTF interventions**. In instances where projects had limited or no outcome data, qualitative documentation was used as far as possible. Outcome data was also triangulated with qualitative findings to ensure consistency .
- **Outcome and impact data reported on by projects funded by the EUTF were not set up with the purpose of allowing for an aggregated outcome analysis across all projects.**<sup>1</sup> The MLS has sought to overcome this by identifying commonalities for the reported outcomes, as well as by using the GCR indicator framework to guide the analysis. The analysis also used qualitative information to substantiate findings.
- Not every project conducted endlines, meaning that **available outcome information is not sufficient to allow for an exhaustive analysis**. In addition, analysis must rely on implementing partners' choices of indicators.

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<sup>1</sup> See: EUTF MLS, 'EUTF outcomes and impacts', October 2022. Retrieved [here](#).

## 8.2. LIST OF EUTF PROJECTS RELEVANT FOR DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEES IN THE HOA

Programme Name	EUTF ID	Project Name	Lead IP	EUTF Budget and Status <sup>1</sup>	Endline with outcome data	GCR Mapping
<b>Regional<sup>2</sup></b>						
<b>CRRF: Inclusive Urban Development and Mobility</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-67-01	CRRF Urban Development and Mobility: Promoting Inclusive Urban Development in Assosa town, Ethiopia (CRRF Urban Development IRC)	IRC	€3,724,872 (completed)	Yes	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-67-02	Technical assistance to Koboko Municipality (CRRF Urban Development ACAV)	ACAV	€1,000,042 (completed)	Yes (joint with Koboko)	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-67-03	CRRF Inclusive Urban Development and Mobility: Regional Networks and Dialogue (CRRF Urban Development Cities Alliance)	Cities Alliance	€600,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-67-04	CRRF: Inclusive Urban Development and Mobility in the Municipality of Koboko (CRRF Urban Development Koboko)	Koboko Municipal Council	€2,799,958 (completed)	Yes (joint with ACAV)	Objective 2
<b>Soutien aux réfugiés Sud-Soudanais et aux communautés hôtes en RDC</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-71-01	Soutien aux réfugiés Sud-Soudanais et aux communautés hôtes en RDC (Self-reliance of South Sudanese refugees in the DRC)	UNHCR	€3,000,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2
<b>CRRF: Displacement responses through regional cooperation and technical exchange (CRRF DIRECT)</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-79-01	Strengthening Resilience through Enhanced Local Disaster Risk Management Capacities (CRRF DIRECT Oxfam)	Oxfam	€1,400,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-79-02	Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Inclusive Natural Resources Management in Refugee Hosting Districts (CRRF DIRECT CARE)	CARE Denmark	€1,500,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-79-03	Protection, health and livelihood for refugees in Burundi (CRRF DIRECT UNHCR)	UNHCR	€500,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-79-04	Protection, health and livelihood for refugees in Burundi (CRRF DIRECT IRC)	IRC	€2,000,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-79-05	Dukorane Umurava – Upscaling Economic Inclusion of Refugees and Host Communities to Gicumbi District (CRRF DIRECT GIZ)	GIZ	€1,600,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-79-06	Sécurité et bien-être accrus des réfugiés du camp de Mahama et de leur communauté d'accueil, complémentarité socio-économique renforcée entre ces groupes (CRRF DIRECT Maison Shalom)	Maison Shalom	€1,000,000	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-79-07	CRRF DIRECT – Displacement responses through regional cooperation and technical exchange (CRRF DIRECT Danish Refugee Council)	Danish Refugee Council	€800,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-79-08	Protection and Assistance for Burundian Returnees – UNHCR (CRRF DIRECT Protection and Assistance)	UNHCR	€4,000,000 (completed)	-	Objective 4

<sup>1</sup> The contract status (budget and implementation status) is as of August 2024.

<sup>2</sup> In the budget and outcome analysis, the projects listed below under the regional portfolio have been distributed into their countries of implementation.

<b>Delivering durable solutions to forced displacement in the IGAD region through the implementation of the GCR</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-80-01	Delivering Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in the IGAD Region Through the Implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR IGAD)	IGAD	€2,800,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2
<b>Emergency Transit Mechanism</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-81-01	Enhancing protection, lifesaving assistance and sustainable solutions for evacuees from Libya through the Emergency Transit Mechanism in Rwanda (ETM Rwanda)	UNHCR	€12,500,000 (completed)	-	Objective 3
Sudan						
<b>Regional Development and Protection Programme in Sudan: Enhancing alternatives to first and secondary movement from Sudan (RDPP Sudan)</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-SD-11-01	Support Migrants and Host Communities in improving Access to Safe Water and Sanitation – Eastern Sudan (RDPP SD AICS)	AICS	€2,000,000 (completed)	Yes	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SD-11-02	RDPP in Sudan: Employment and entrepreneurship development for migrant youth, refugees, asylum seeker and host communities in Khartoum State (RDPP SD UNIDO)	UNIDO	€3,443,200 (completed)	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SD-11-03	RDPP in Sudan: Vocational training for refugees and host communities in Eastern Sudan (RDPP SD GIZ)	GIZ	€2,000,000 (completed)	Yes	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SD-11-04	RDPP in Sudan: Strengthening Protection Services for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Sudan (RDPP SD UNHCR)	UNHCR	€3,000,000 (completed)	Yes	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SD-11-05	RDPP in Sudan: RDPP SD Landell Mills	Landell Mills	€1,454,203 (completed)	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SD-11-06	RDPP in Sudan: RDPP SD RVO	RVO	€3,000,000	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SD-12-02	Strengthening Resilience for IDPs, Returnees and Host Communities in Al Geneina, Beida Sirba, Kerenik – West Darfur (Resilience Darfur SD IMC)	IMC	€4,719,200 (completed)	-	Objective 2
<b>Strengthening resilience for refugees, IDPs and host communities in Eastern Sudan (Resilience East SD)</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-SD-13-01	Strengthening Resilience for Refugees, IDPs and Host Communities in Eastern Sudan (Resilience East SD AICS)	AICS	€11,845,810 (completed)	Yes	Objective 2
<b>Integration and mainstreaming of refugee children into the Sudanese education system and improving the quality of education</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-SD-65-01	Integration and mainstreaming of refugee children into the Sudanese education system (IRCSSES) UNICEF	UNICEF	€24,850,000	-	Objective 2
Somalia						
<b>Enhancing Somalia's responsiveness to the management and reintegration of mixed migration flows (RE-INTEG)</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-02	Facilitating Sustainable Return Through Laying Foundations for Somalia in the Horn of Africa (RE-INTEG IOM)	IOM	€4,823,088 (completed)	Yes	Objective 4
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-03	Enhancing Somalia's responsiveness to the management and reintegration of mixed migration flows (RE-INTEG UNHCR)	UNHCR	€5,000,000 (completed)	Yes	Objective 4
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-04	Durable Solutions for IDPs and Returnees in Somalia (RE-INTEG CARE)	CARE NL	€9,000,000 (completed)	Yes	Objective 4

	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-05	'Wadajir' – Enhancing durable solutions for and reintegration of displacement affected communities in Somaliland (RE-INTEG WV)	World Vision	€3,911,922 (completed)	Yes	Objective 4
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-06	Innovative durable solutions for IDPs and returnees in Mogadishu through enhanced governance, employment and access to basic and protective services (RE-INTEG UN-Habitat)	UN-Habitat	€9,453,392 (completed)	Yes	Objective 4
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-07	Enhancing Integration of Displacement Affected Communities in Somalia (RE-INTEG CW)	CW	€4,000,000 (completed)	Yes	Objective 4
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-08	Durable Solutions and Reintegration Support to Displacement affected communities in Jubbaland state of Somalia (RE-INTEG NRC)	NRC	€3,988,007 (completed)	Yes	Objective 4
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-09	Supporting the development and implementation of policies for the return, reintegration and protection of IDPs and refugees (RE-INTEG IDLO)	IDLO	€2,884,702 (completed)	Yes	Objective 4
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-10	Amplifying Durable Solutions in Somalia (ADSS) With Africa's Voices Foundation (RE-INTEG AVF)	AVF	€150,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-13	Enhancing integration of displacement-affected communities in Somalia – Baidoa (RE-INTEG CW 2)	CW	€997,987 (completed)	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-15	Emergency operational response to COVID-19 in Somalia to support the prevention of large-scale community spread (COVID-19 Emergency Response WHO)	WHO	€5,000,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2
Ethiopia						
Regional Development and Protection Program (RDPP)	T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-15-01	Regional Development and Protection Programme in Ethiopia-Shire Area (RDPP ET IRC)	IRC	€7,939,115 (completed)	Yes	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-15-02	Regional Development and Protection Programme in Ethiopia-Dollo Ado Area (RDPP ET NRC)	NRC	€7,850,117 (completed)	Yes	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-15-03	Regional Development and Protection Programme in Ethiopia – Jigjiga Area (RDPP ET Save the Children)	Save the Children	€5,156,015 (completed)	Yes	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-15-04	Regional Development and Protection Programme in Ethiopia-Bahrare and Aysaita Areas (RDPP ET DCA)	DCA	€3,939,703 (completed)	Yes	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-15-05	Regional Development and Protection Programme in Ethiopia in Urban Areas of Addis Ababa and Shire (RDPP ET Plan)	Plan International	€3,437,562 (completed)	Yes	Objective 2
Stimulating economic opportunities and job creation for refugees and host communities in Ethiopia in support of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Ethiopia	T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-40-01	Capacity building and technical assistance to CRRF structure and Ethiopian government institutions (CRRF ET UNHCR)	UNHCR	€4,200,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-40-02	Strengthened Socio-Economic Development and Better Employment Opportunities for Refugees and Host Communities in the Jigjiga Area (CRRF ET Job Creation)	Mercy Corps	€10,000,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2
Shire Alliance	T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-51-01	Shire Alliance: Energy access for host communities and refugees in Ethiopia (Alianza Shire)	AECID	€3,050,000	-	Objective 2

<b>Ethiopia Job Compact</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-60-01	Financing agreement Ethiopia Job Compact sector reform and performance contract – budget support (Ethiopia Job Compact)	-	€30,000,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2
Uganda						
<b>Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP): Support Programme to the Refugee Settlements and Host Communities in Northern Uganda (SPRS-NU)</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-07-01	Support Programme to the Refugee Settlements and Host Communities in Northern Uganda (SPRS-NU Enabel)	Enabel	€7,900,000	Yes	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-07-02	Support Programme to the Refugee Settlements and Host Communities in Northern Uganda (SPRS-NU Danish Refugee Council)	Danish Refugee Council	€9,683,436 (completed)	Yes	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-07-03	Support Programme to the Refugee Settlements and Host Communities in Northern Uganda (SPRS-NU ADA)	ADA	€4,697,021 (completed)	Yes	Objective 2
<b>Response to increased demand on Government Service (RISE)</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-39-01	Response to increased demand on government service and creation of economic opportunities in Uganda (RISE GIZ)	GIZ	€10,000,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-39-02	Response to Increased Demand on Government Service and creation of economic opportunities - Emergency Preparedness (RISE CARE)	CARE	€935,074 (completed)	Yes	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-39-03	Response to increased demand on Government service and creation of economic opportunities in Uganda (RISE ACF)	ACF	€9,000,000 (completed)	Yes	Objective 2
<b>Security, Protection and Economic Empowerment (SUPREME) In Uganda</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-68-01	Strengthening, Protection and Economic Empowerment (SUPREME) in Uganda – Livelihood Component (SUPREME Livelihoods WV)	WV	€9,581,489	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-68-02	Increased access to justice, improved security and protection of refugees and host communities in northern Uganda (SUPREME JLOS MoJCA)	MoJCA	€4,707,262	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-68-03	Strengthening Safety, Protection and Peaceful Co-existence for Women and Youth in Northern Uganda (SPACE) (SUPREME SPACE IRRI)	IRRI	€750,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-68-04	Supporting a Peaceful and Safe Environment in Northern Uganda (SPESE) (SUPREME Justice LWF)	LWF	€648,000 (completed)	Yes	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-68-05	Promoting sustainable access to justice for socially deprived women and children in Northern Uganda (SUPREME Justice PRI)	PRI	€519,749 (completed)	-	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-68-06	Strengthening Integrated Systems to Accelerate Access to Gender, Child and Youth Justice (SUPREME JLOS IRC)	IRC	€750,000 (completed)	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-68-07	Advancing Peaceful Co-existence & Respect for Human Rights among Refugees & Host Communities in Northern Uganda (SUPREME JLOS KRC)	KRC	€643,500 (completed)	-	Objective 2
<b>Response to Increased Environmental Degradation and Promotion of</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-83-01	Response to Increased Environmental Degradation and Promotion of Alternative Energy Sources in Refugee Hosting Districts (RED Save the Children)	Save the Children	€5,100,000	-	Objective 2

<sup>1</sup> The endline for this project was received after the analysis for this study.



<b>Alternative Energy Sources in Refugee Hosting Districts (RED)</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-83-02	Restoring and conserving degraded fragile ecosystems for improved Community Livelihoods among the Refugee and Host Communities of West Nile Region and the mid- Albertine Rift (RED UBF)	UBF	€4,600,000	-	Objective 2
Kenya						
<b>Regional Development and Protection Programme in Kenya: Support to the Kalobeyei Development Programme (RDPP Kenya)</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-KE-17-01	Regional Development and Protection Programme in Kenya: Support to the Kalobeyei Development Programme (RDPP KE UNHCR)	UNHCR	€14,567,689 (completed)	Yes	Objective 2
<b>CRRF: Enhancing self-reliance for refugees and host communities in Kenya</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-KE-69-01	Area-based Livelihoods Initiative Garissa: enhancing self-reliance for refugees and host communities in Garissa County (CRRF KE ABLI-G)	Danish Refugee Council	€5,000,000 (completed)	Yes	Objective 2
	T05-EUTF-HOA-KE-69-02	CRRF KE Enhancing self-reliance for refugees and host communities (CRRF KE Self-Reliance)	FAO, UNHCR, UN-Habitat, WFP	€27,770,000	-	Objective 2
<b>Piloting private sector solutions for refugees and host communities in North-West Kenya (Kakuma Kalobeyei Challenge Fund)</b>	T05-EUTF-HOA-KE-58	Kakuma Kalobeyei Challenge Fund (KKCF IFC)	IFC	€4,850,000	-	Objective 2
Djibouti						
<b>Solutions pérennes pour les populations hôtes, les réfugiés et les migrants les plus vulnérables à Djibouti</b>	T05-EUTF-HoA-DJ-41-01	<i>Solutions pérennes pour les populations hôtes, les réfugiés et les migrants les plus vulnérables au Djibouti (Solutions pérennes WFP)</i>	WFP	€9,070,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2
<b>Appui aux réfugiés et communautés d'accueil à Djibouti (CRRF DJ UNHCR)</b>	T05-EUTF-HoA-DJ-70-01	<i>Autonomisation et épanouissement des réfugiés via l'éducation, l'accès aux services de protection sociale et les opportunités économiques (CRRF DJ UNHCR)</i>	UNHCR	€5,500,000 (completed)	-	Objective 2