

## Supporting migrants, refugees, and host communities in the Horn of Africa and Nile Valley region

NIRAS supports the Regional Migration Fund with its aim to create economic opportunities, improve living conditions, and promote social cohesion among the high number of displaced people in the region, as well as locals affected by their arrival.

- #5 Gender equality
- #8 Decent work and economic growth
- #9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- #16 Peace, justice and strong institutions



The two towns of the same name - Moyale in Kenya and Moyale in Ethiopia - are located on the main transport route from Addis Ababa to Nairobi, and make up a vibrant transport, trade, and services hub.



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The Horn of Africa and Nile Valley region comprises the countries of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda and has a population of more than 250 million people. Together, these eight countries have established the trade bloc the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Its aim is to assist and complement Member States’ national efforts through increased cooperation, enhanced food security an environmental protection, improved peace and security and humanitarian affairs; and promotion of economic cooperation and integration.

Among the greatest challenges facing the IGAD Member States is the issue of migration, particularly ‘irregular’ migration which takes place outside of laws and international agreements governing movement of people. The migration is triggered by political and ethnic persecution, civil wars and conflicts between states, poverty and the search for better economic opportunities. With nearly 12 million displaced persons, it is an issue that impacts the IGAD countries in different ways.

In response to this challenge, IGAD has set up the Regional Migration Fund (RMF) with support from the German development bank, KfW. The RMF aims to create economic opportunities, improve living conditions, and promote social cohesion among refugees, migrants, and host communities in the IGAD region by promoting inclusive, participatory investment planning, and implementation in selected areas.

In order to operate, continuously develop, and manage the Fund, NIRAS has been contracted to establish a Fund Management Unit (FMU). NIRAS operates the

FMU, which is responsible for the setup, operation, and management of the RMF, the preparation and selection of specific interventions, and support to individual measures at project level.

RMF projects take place within two investment windows. Investment Window 1 (IW1) aims to promote local economic development and employment growth, improve migrant and host community livelihoods and strengthen social cohesion, e.g. though dialogue forums, conflict resolution mechanisms, youth centres, sport facilities, or other types of infrastructure that facilitate cooperation. Projects under IW1 aim to provide economic infrastructure, access to finance for employment-intensive business, value chain development, and skills trainings.

11.3 million

Number of internally displaced people and refugees in the IGAD region

Investment Window 2 (IW2) aims to promote economic and socioeconomic inclusion and development in protracted refugee settlements and adjacent host community areas to improve refugee and host community livelihoods, connect and upgrade the settlement and host community areas, and strengthen social cohesion.

### NIRAS’ approach

A participatory, holistic area-based development ap-

#### Client

KfW Development Bank

#### Location

Horn of Africa - Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda

#### Contract value

€3,248,417

#### Duration

2019-2023



The Lycée Technique vocational and technical training college in the Ali Sabieh region will be upgraded as part of Investment Window 2, which focuses on skills development.

proach is applied to investment planning in cross-border areas along major migration routes and in protracted refugee settlements with most populations in close proximity and significant economic growth potential. This approach is accompanied by support to formulation of budgets for area investment and overseeing tendering, contracting, and implementation of large-scale projects.

By using the area-based approach with a focus on selected areas in project implementation, two types of interventions are combined, namely:

- **Rapid cycle projects:** small-scale, use local resources, have a quick turnover, and are strongly learning-oriented; and
- **Catalytic projects:** larger-scale, longer-term and have impacts within and across economic sectors, and establish structural conditions for sustained and inclusive economic growth.

To ensure sustainability, the RMF places local communities at the centre of the development process and they play a key role in the development of investment plans and decision-making on a selection of priority measures. Gender analysis is also integrated, as gender inequality issues are prevalent in the region, and efforts are made to ensure equal participation and representation of women, as to guarantee that investments are favorable for all. With regards to environmental and social issues in the region, the RMF sets up relevant safeguards to address these.

### Areas for implementation

From 2019 to 2020, a number of verification missions were completed for each Investment Window in order to assess eligibility and suitability of selected areas. Pertaining to IW1, missions conducted in Metemma-Gallabat (Sudan-Ethiopia border) and Moyale-Moyale (Kenya-Ethiopia border) led to identification of a range of potential investments.

Following a number of verification missions under IW2, the region of Ali Sabieh, including the refugee settlement and village of Ali Addeh, close to the Djibouti-Somalia-Ethiopia borders, was selected for implementation. The verification mission highlighted three areas of potential investments in the region:

- **Skills development:** upgrade of the area's vocational and technical training college;
- **Facilitation of mobility:** rehabilitation of the road linking one of the settlements to Ali Sabieh;
- **Enhanced agricultural activities** through market systems development and support for improved farming and grazing methods.

With the outbreak of the COVID19 pandemic, investment identification has taken into account what the effect of the pandemic is having on refugees, migrants, and host communities.