ETHIOPIA FORCED DISPLACEMENT RESEARCH AND POLICY WORKSHOP SUMMARY REPORT

02 June 2023 (F1 11RESEARCH AND POLICY WORKSHOP

2. OPENING REMARKS

The workshop was officially opened following welcoming and opening remarks delivered by H.E Ato Tesfahun Gobezay, Director General of RRS, and Ms. Leslie Velez, Assistant Representative (Protection) at UNHCR Ethiopia. Both speakers thanked the organizers for creating this vital platform and bringing relevant stakeholders together to deliberate on forced displacement research and policy in Ethiopia.

anchored on the fundamental principle of humanity. He said that the workshop helps to understand real needs of the refugees and host communities as well as the challenges and opportunities to move from humanitarian to a more integrated and development-oriented response mechanisms. Ato Tesfahun also stressed that refugees can be agents of change if they are provided with the necessary opportunities, and to that end, he Bod@stane648.s?8

Ms. Velez on her part emphasized the growing number of forcibly displaced persons both globally and in Ethiopia. She referred to ongoing efforts in terms of contributing towards building the evidence base together with RRS including through the establishment of an academic network among Ethiopian public universities and conducting annual participatory assessments. She stressed the need to make sure that research works are driven by operational (formalized formalized formalized formalized formalized formal formalized formal formalized formalized

3. PRESENTATIONS

Following the opening remarks, which enabled setting the context for the workshop, the stage was open for presentations and discussions on key study findings and policy recommendations.

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PART C: KEY TAKEAWAYS

At the end of the workshop, concluding remarks were provided by Mr. Ewen Madeod, a forced displacement consultant at the World Bank (based in the UK) and former UNHCR staff member. His remarks form the basis of the below summary on key take-aways and the next steps.

1. KEY TAKEAWAYS

The volume of quality analytical works on forced displacement available compared to a few years ago when the program started is encouraging. The research presented during the workshop is relevant for programming and policy in Ethiopia and other contexts and fills important data gaps. Moving ahead, area and sector specific analytics are needed considering the diverse context and dynamic nature of the forced displacement situation in the country.

Refugee-hosting can be perceived as a burden especially as countries have their own socio-economic and political challenges. However, through adopting policies that enable refugee inclusion within the governments, with proper funding from the international community following the principle of responsibility and burden sharing, can allow displaced populations to make positive contributions to the economy. Refugees are often held responsible for natural resource degradation, for starting to be uncovered more systematically through analytical work and are key to take into account for programming purposes.

The research delivered interesting insights on work permits. Areas that remain open for further exploration are how perceptions of labor market competition or perceptions of inequality may affect social cohesion outcomes between refugees and hosts. It is important to note that the research confirms that there are legitimate concerns for the host community especially in the initial stages of displacement. The <u>social cohesion research</u> however shows that inclusive investments can help mitigate social tension and foster positive social relations among displaced and local populations.

Although not a traditional priority in a displacement crisis, early engagement in data collection is important to (i) establishing a baseline that allows comparative evaluation and analysis to be undertaken and (ii) to designing policy-focused analytical work in forced displacement situations.

LIST OF PARTICIPATING ENTITIES

In-person RRS UNHCR Warder Market (F6 11.0In Online