

# Executive Summary

## Report on National Consultations with Government and Private Sector on the IGAD Kampala Declaration

2023-2024

As convened in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya

The Refugee Investment Network (RIN), in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), convened senior private sector and government actors for a series of workshops in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya to advance progress toward commitments in the Kampala Declaration that deal with private sector engagement of refugees. The purpose was to create opportunities and explore collaboration between refugee agencies, investors and businesses to bolster investment in refugee-hosting areas.

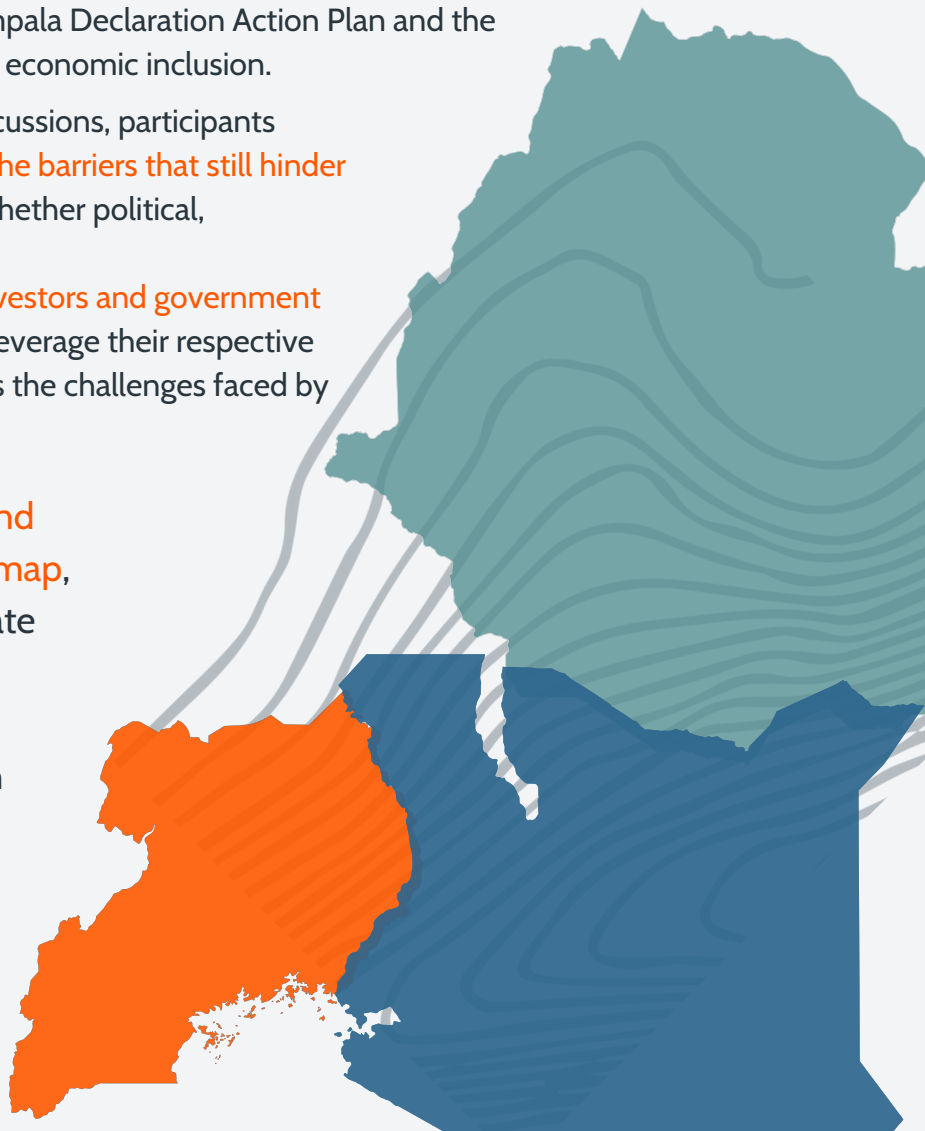
The consultations aimed to improve understanding between private sector actors and government counterparts about the Kampala Declaration Action Plan and the support they can provide to improve refugee economic inclusion.

Through a series of workshops and group discussions, participants from across sectors collaborated to **identify the barriers that still hinder private sector engagement with refugees** - whether political, economic, or logistical.

The consultations **encouraged businesses, investors and government agencies to form strategic partnerships** that leverage their respective resources, expertise, and networks to address the challenges faced by refugee and host communities.

At the conclusion of each event, **RIN and IGAD co-created a Policy Action Roadmap**, in collaboration with participating private and public sector actors, that outlines pathways to greater private sector engagement with refugees within each specific country context.

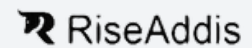
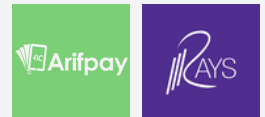
**The Kampala Declaration on Jobs, Livelihoods, and Self-Reliance** committed IGAD member states to advance livelihood opportunities and economic inclusion of refugees and seek durable solutions for protracted displacement situations and address associated socio-economic challenges affecting refugees, returnees and host communities.



# Ethiopia Policy Action Roadmap

The convening by RIN and IGAD in Bishoftu, August 1-2, 2023 was a first-of-a-kind opportunity for direct private/public collaboration on the economic inclusion policy of refugees in Ethiopia. Top priorities were the importance of documentation and IDs for refugees when engaging with the private sector; demand for Foreign Direct Investment policy adapted for refugee-hosting areas to encourage investment; and, the need for increased investment to enable the integration of refugees into markets. An overview of the challenges to private sector engagement with refugees in Ethiopia, and proposed policy roadmaps and outcomes, discussed throughout the course of the convening are presented in the chart below:

## Private Sector Partners



## Ideal Outcome

Greater RLI investment and market opportunities in refugee-hosting regions of Gambella and Somali, lessening humanitarian need in the long run

Increased number of refugee-owned and serving businesses

Refugees are able to access formal work in the private sector and travel freely to do business in local markets

## Proposed Solution

Create a separate categorization for refugees under laws to exempt them from capital requirements for foreigners

Lower minimum FDI capital required when investing in refugee owned/supporting businesses

Socialize refugee IDs to regional-level officials, businesses and financial institutions through information campaigns

RRS gains expanded issuing capacity and clears the backlog of applications

## Challenge

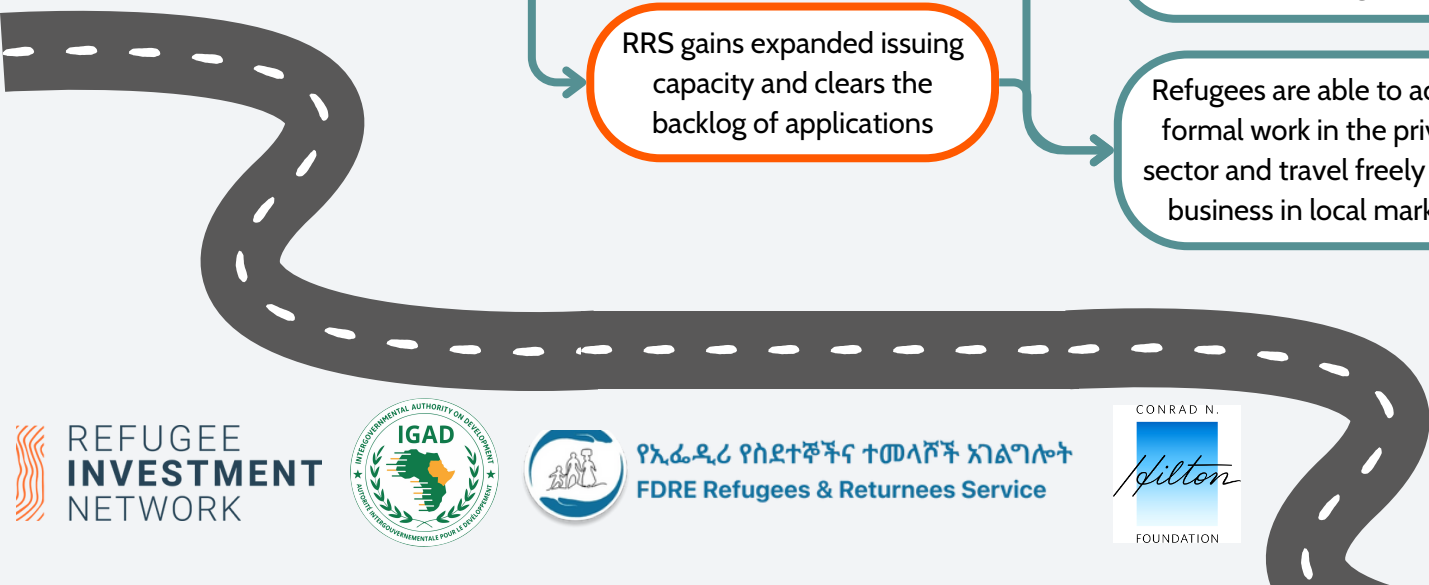
Refugees are categorized as “foreigners” under FDI laws and are rarely able to raise the 200,000 USD required to establish businesses

Foreign investors interested in supporting refugee-owned or serving businesses must invest a minimum of 200,000 USD – these enterprises are often too small to absorb this much capital

Low levels of coordination/socialization of refugee IDs outside of the federal level

Limited access to identification and permits to enable refugees to access formal work and have freedom of movement

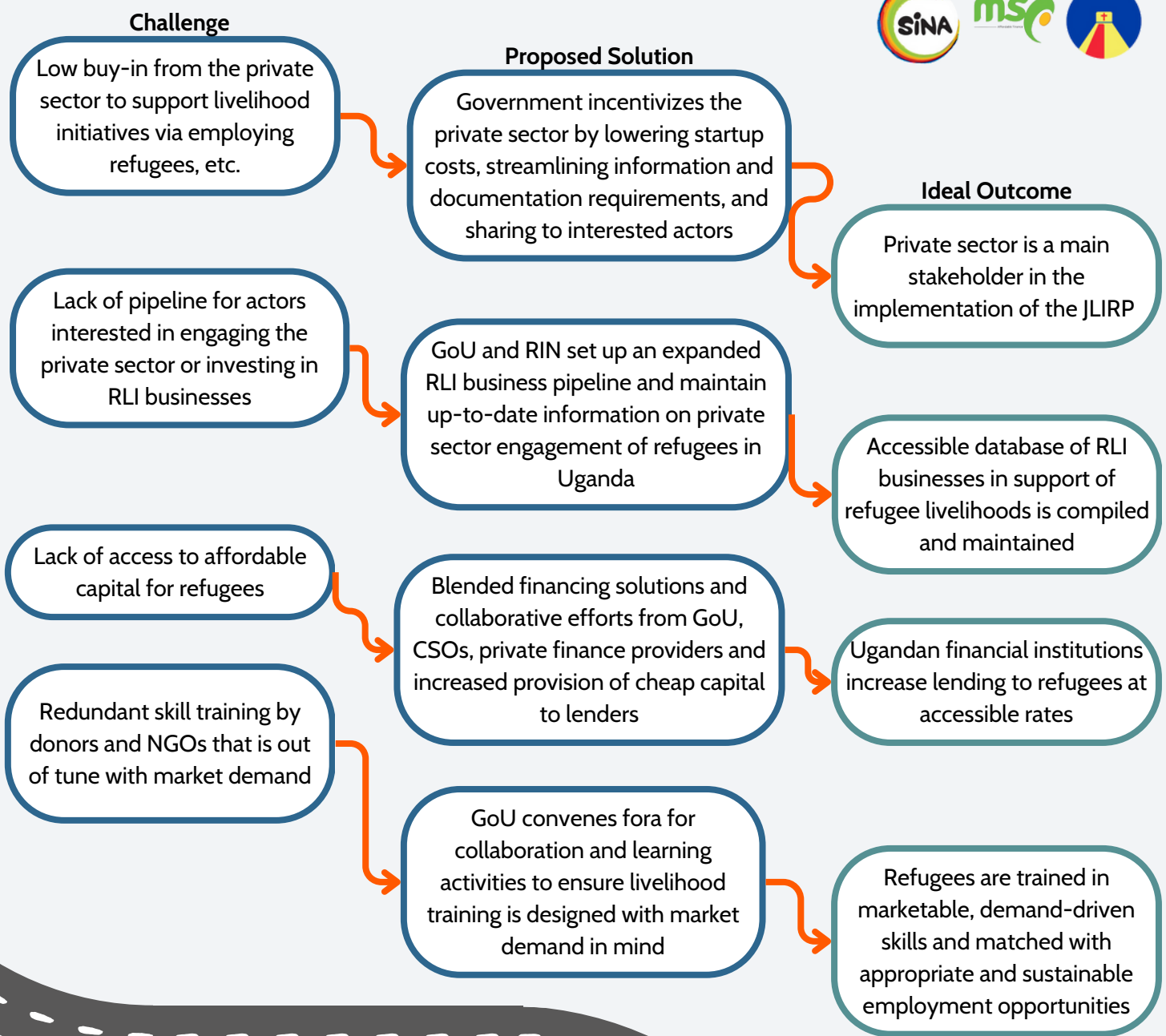
outcomes, discussed throughout the course of the convening are presented in the chart below:



# Uganda Policy Action Roadmap

RIN and IGAD convened the inaugural session of the National Consultation in Entebbe, September 21-22, 2023. With a long history of refugee self-reliance initiatives going back to the first formalization of refugee policy in the constitution of 1995, Uganda presents a unique and enabling environment for the engagement of the private sector in solutions to forced displacement. Representatives from the government attending the Entebbe meeting presented current response plans, including the Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities in Uganda (JLIRP). Highlighted barriers to the involvement of the Ugandan private sector in refugee economic integration are summarized in the chart below:

## Private Sector Partners



# Kenya Policy Action Roadmap

IGAD and RIN convened Kenyan private sector and government actors in Nairobi, Kenya, February 20-21, 2024, for an inaugural workshop to advance progress toward the commitments of the Kampala Declaration. The gathering aimed to promote refugee economic inclusion and generate pathways to private sector engagement of refugees. Major themes identified by the focus groups included bureaucratic and infrastructure barriers to private sector expansion into refugee-hosting areas; ongoing delays of the full implementation of the Refugee Act of 2021; and, a lack of skilled labor among refugees that can meet current market demands. Highlights from the discussions can be found in the chart below:



### Private Sector Partners





# Conclusion

RIN's partnership with IGAD was key for **building a culture of continued engagement between the private sector and government focused on refugee economic integration**. As one of the first events in the region where a broad spectrum of private sector actors were directly engaged on these issues, the consultations yielded valuable insights and budding networks that have established a foundation for progress toward the full implementation of the commitments of the Kampala Declaration.

**There are many potential synergies and solutions to challenges facing the implementation of the Declaration cited by participants, and valuable learnings from the experiences of private sector actors engaging refugees solutions to challenges facing the implementation of the Declaration cited by participants, in addition to valuable learnings from the experiences of private sector actors engaging refugees.**

Attendees noted that in order to track progress, private and government actors will need to be reconvened, illustrating that this should not be a limited engagement. To ensure progress can be measured, and to facilitate evaluation, **implementation benchmarks should be established for each roadmap outcome**. While these initial convenings were critical to identifying salient themes for refugee economic integration in each context, **future roundtables should take a targeted approach and hone in on specific barriers**. Taking a sector-by-sector approach within the policy engagement strategy provides a platform for a smaller group of stakeholders to collaborate on a more in-depth exploration of potential solutions.

Maintaining the momentum of these meetings and operationalizing many of the policy pathways requires continued engagement and consistent effort over a sustained timeframe.

RIN hopes to spearhead this effort and is currently seeking resources to implement future iterations of these important convenings.

Thank you to IGAD and our private sector partners for making these convenings possible.

## Top Barriers to Private Sector Engagement Across the Region

1. Supply of refugee skills is not meeting private sector demand
2. Low prior education recognition and recertification of refugees
3. A lack of infrastructure in refugee-hosting areas
4. Investors and private sector actors are unclear regarding the legal process of accessing refugee communities
5. Socialization of refugee rights and identification documents remains low