



National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI)

Lesson's Learned Workshop on **2019** GRF Pledges

20-22 May, 2024

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1. Executive Summary

The National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) hosted a lessons learned workshop between the 20th and 22nd of May on Somalia's 2019 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges, with the aim to improve the implementation of the 2023 pledges. The workshop gathered stakeholders from all Federal Member States (FMS), the Federal Government and UN as well as IDPs and Refugees, to discuss the progress, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the 2019 GRF pledges. Key findings highlighted significant variances in awareness levels, challenges in coordination and implementation, and the need for robust monitoring mechanisms. Recommendations were provided to raise awareness, enhance coordination, develop clear work plans, establish strong monitoring systems, mobilize resources, promote self-reliance and social cohesion, and mitigate climate shocks.

2. Introduction

2.1 Background

The National Commission for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (NCRI) presented Somalia's pledges to forced displacement solutions at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum (GRF). These pledges were shaped through extensive stakeholder consultations, emphasizing Relocation and Reintegration, the Creation of new jobs within 5 years, finding permanent solutions to the recurrent drought/flood cycles, and strengthening the provision of durable solutions. The lessons learned workshop objective was to reflect on the degree of awareness, coordination, and implementation of these pledges among all stakeholders to improve the implementation of the 2023 GRF pledges, focusing on sustainable solutions for IDPs, refugees, returnees, and their host communities.

2.2 Participants

High-level official, including Minister of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR), NCRI Commissioner, UNHCR Country Representative and Representatives from Federal Member States, UN agencies, civil society organizations and representatives from the Persons of Concern (PoCO) attended the workshop. The opening remarks by the Minister Ali Yusuf highlighted the importance of understanding and acting on the GCR principles to comprehensively implement Somalia's 2023 GRF pledges. Commissioner Safia and UNHCR Country Representative highlighted the significance of the collaboration within the GCR and CRRF principles in finding sustainable Solutions to Displacement crisis that's been hindering Somalia's progress for far too long.

3. Purpose and Objectives

3.1 Purpose:

The workshop aimed to take stock of the awareness, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the Somalia 2019 GRF pledges. It sought to identify lessons learned and to reflect on these lessons to improve the implementation of the 2023 GRF pledges.

Workshop Objectives

- Ensure all participants understand the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), and Somalia pledges.
- Develop a comprehensive picture of the progress made on the 2019 pledges.
- Develop recommendations for improved implementation of the 2023 pledges based on lessons learned from the 2019 GRF implementation.
- Develop an initial action plan for the 2023 GRF pledges.
- Identify key roles and responsibilities of stakeholders.

Workshop Design and Approach

The three-day workshop included interactive presentations, experience sharing, and group work with a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to gathering data. Delegates from six FMS and BRA, Federal line ministries, refugees, IDP, and international partners participated. The workshop themes were divided into smaller sessions with group discussions facilitated by consultants and co-facilitators, ensuring broad participation and in-depth analysis. The first theme focused on the awareness level of the 2019 pledges, followed by discussions related to the coordination of 2019 pledges, the implementation successes, and the monitoring of these pledges throughout the country.

4.1 Group Work

Group work was the main method used during the workshop to develop lessons learned. Participants were divided into smaller, mixed groups, to reflect on the level of awareness, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the 2019 GRF pledges. The discussions were structured around guiding questions to ensure each of the thematic areas were covered in detail. Each group included representatives from FMS, the federal line ministries, CSOs, IDP, and Refugees. Facilitators helped guide the discussions, ensuring that all voices were heard and key points were captured.

4.2 Panel Discussions

Panel discussions provided an opportunity for in-depth dialogue among key stakeholders, including the federal line ministries officials, FMS representatives and BRA Delegate members. These sessions allowed for the exchange of high-level insights and facilitated the identification of overarching challenges and strategic solutions. Each panel discussion was followed by a Q&A session, enabling participants to seek clarifications and contribute additional perspectives.

Survey Questionnaires

Survey questionnaires (see annex B) were distributed to 28 participants from all six FMSs, whereby each had 3 delegate members, 3 from BRA, 3 representatives from the IDPs and Refugees and 4 members from the CSOs. The surveys aimed to collect data on participants' experiences and perceptions regarding the 2019 GRF pledges. The questionnaires covered various aspects such as awareness levels, coordination effectiveness, implementation success, monitoring, developing of initial plan for the implementation of the 2023 pledges and the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders. The collected data were analyzed to identify trends and areas requiring improvement.

Data Analysis

Data from group discussions, panel discussions, and survey questionnaires were analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative data were categorized into themes and sub-themes, while quantitative data were tabulated and represented using charts and graphs to provide a clear visual understanding of the findings.

5. Workshop Proceedings

5.1 Awareness of 2019 Pledges

Awareness of the GRF pledges varied significantly across different levels of government, UN agencies, and communities. The federal level had higher awareness, while regional states and communities had lower awareness levels. Identified gaps included poor coordination, resource limitations, and lack of clear action plans.

Table 1: Awareness levels across stakeholders

Stakeholder group	High Awareness	Moderate Awareness (%)	Low Awareness (%)
Federal Government	70%		
Regional States		30%	
UN Agencies	90%		
CSO's			10%
POC's		35%	

Source: Survey

5.2 Coordination of 2019 Pledges

At the national level, NCRI committed an effort to coordinate the 2019 pledges. Coordination was deficient at the FMS level. Coordination efforts led by NCRI faced several challenges, including limited funding and insufficient involvement of all relevant stakeholders. The need for improved communication platforms and more frequent coordination meetings was suggested. Table 2 below shows the coordination effectiveness of the 2019 GRF pledges in different levels of government, other stakeholders' involvement, and resource allocation for the execution of the 2019 GRF pledges.

Table 2: Coordination Effectiveness

Coordination Aspect	Effective (%)	Somewhat Effective(%)	Ineffective (%)
Federal level	60%		
State level		32%	
Stakeholder involvement		16%	
Resource allocation			5%

Source: Survey questions and Group Discussions

5.3 Implementation of 2019 Pledges

The implementation of the 2019 pledges saw varied success, with some regions achieving significant progress in relocation and reintegration programs. However, the overall implementation was hampered by resource constraints and a lack of comprehensive monitoring. The federal government, FMS, UN Agencies, and CSOs made some progress against the pledges but it has proved difficult to measure this. Some of these achievements according to the participants include NCRI and MolFAR implementing biometric projects, FMS members including Sothwest State, Puntland, Jubbaland, Galmudug succeeded in allocating land for reintegration and resettlement programs. However, the exact figure of the people that achieved durable solutions under this relocation is unknown, necessitating robust coordination and MEAL system. Participants noted that the work required to implement the 2019 pledges was significantly underestimated.

Table 3: Implementation Success

Region	High success (%)	Moderate success (%)	Low success (%)
Federal level		40%	
Regional State Level		22%	
CSOs			10%

Source: Survey

5.4. Monitoring of 2019 Pledges

Monitoring efforts were found to be inconsistent across different regions and stakeholders. A significant gap in information sharing and reporting was identified, necessitating the development of a centralized monitoring system.

In terms of monitoring, some of the participants believed NCRI national, FMS commissions (some of them), UNHCR, Donors, Ministry of Planning have done some monitoring activities, they also underlined important stakeholders who were missing such as Local Authorities, FMS commissions, and civil society organizations, youth networks, and private sector. Some of the participants suggested a need for a clear monitoring system where everyone can contribute and which is transparent e.g. by using a dashboard that everyone can access which is disaggregated by state level. Participants recommend quarterly reports are produced to provide donors and key stakeholders regular updates on the pledges.

Table 4: Monitoring Effectiveness

Monitoring aspect	Effective (%)	Somewhat effective (%)	Ineffective (%)
Federal level		30%	
Regional level		25%	
Information Sharing			12%
Reporting mechanism			10%

Source: Survey

5.5 Developing an Initial Plan for the Implementation of the 2023

GRF Pledges

Developing initial plans and incorporating the GRF 2023 pledges into the national, regional and district-level development plans was suggested. In the group work some of the groups recommended clarifying stakeholders, developing ToRs and work plans, the inclusion of PoC in all aspects of the pledges, awareness, coordination, implementation and M&E and ensuring the government's leaders commitment.

Table 5: Developing an Initial Plan for the Implementation of the 2023 GRF Pledges

Level	Every Important (%)	Important (%)	Not Important (%)
Federal	90%		
Regional	85%		
District	89%		
CSOs	70%		

Source: Survey

5.6 What are the Roles and responsibilities in Initial Plan for the Implementation of the 2023 GRF Pledges

The National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) holds the primary responsibility for implementing the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges. Given NCRI's unique position within the government hierarchy and its mandate to protect, assist, and find solutions to displacement, as well as its international obligations under the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), it is well-placed to lead this initiative.

To effectively implement the GRF pledges, NCRI must engage and collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders. This approach ensures that IDPs and refugees receive the necessary support and protection, aligning efforts with the inclusive, whole-of-government vision.

Federal Member State (FMS) commissions and federal ministries have recommended that NCRI lead in raising awareness, coordinating, implementing, and monitoring the GRF pledges. NCRI will coordinate at the national level, while FMS commissions will handle state-level coordination, feeding their efforts into the national framework.

Line ministries, UN agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Persons of Concern (PoC), and other stakeholders are expected to contribute significantly to coordination efforts. They will also play crucial roles in the implementation and reporting processes.

Table 6: What are Roles and Responsibilities in the Initial Plan of the Implementation of the 2023 GRF Pledges

Roles	NCRI	State Commissioners/Ministries /CSOs	International Partners
Federal level	90%		
Regional level		85%	
CSOs		10%	
Technical and Financial Support			60%

Source: Survey

6. Conclusion

The workshop highlighted the critical areas requiring improvement in the awareness, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the GRF pledges. The recommendations aim to guide the planning and execution of the 2023 GRF pledges, ensuring sustainable solutions for displaced populations in Somalia.

6.1 Recommendations:

6.1.1 Raising Awareness

The awareness of GRF pledges by the Somali government should be widespread among the people of Somalia, particularly among stakeholders at all levels. To achieve this, the NCRI should implement awareness campaigns through various platforms, including training sessions, conferences, and media outlets. This will ensure all stakeholders are informed and engaged in implementing the GRF pledges.

6.1.2 Strengthening Coordination

It is crucial to enhance coordination among various levels of government, including both federal and state entities. The NCRI should establish a coordination mechanism that includes line ministries, regional states, international partners, and civil society organizations (CSOs). Additionally, it is essential to incorporate missing stakeholders such as IDPs, Refugees, Returnees and district and local authorities to ensure comprehensive and inclusive coordination efforts.

6.1.3 Developing Clear Work Plans

One of the key takeaways from the workshop is the need to develop clear and detailed work plans to implement the GRF 2023 pledges. Work Plans should be developed at the FMS and Federal level to ensure the pledges are rooted in local contexts. This requires the pledges to be refined into measurable objectives and activities with defined costs, resources, responsibilities and timeframes. This will provide a structured approach to achieving the pledges and ensure accountability. Where possible the work plans should be integrated or aligned with other work plans that contribute to the 2023 pledges e.g. National Transition Plan, National Durable Solutions Strategy etc.

6.1.4 Establishing Strong Monitoring Mechanisms

To measure progress and identify gaps, it is essential to undertake regular monitoring activities. This includes developing a comprehensive monitoring framework and conducting reflection events that allow for real-time evaluation of progress, bottlenecks, and challenges. A robust monitoring system will facilitate continuous improvement and ensure that the pledges are being effectively implemented. .

6.1.5 Mobilizing Resources for Implementation, Coordination and Monitoring

Implementing the GRF pledges requires significant resources in terms of budget, time, and expertise. The NCRI should advocate for budget allocations at each level of government and engage international partners and the business sector in resource mobilization efforts. This will help to ensure that the necessary resources are available to support the implementation of the pledges.

6.1.6 Promoting Self-Reliance and Social Cohesion

Promoting community participation is vital for creating an enabling environment where displaced populations can participate in decision-making processes. Enhancing self-reliance and social cohesion initiatives will support displaced populations and host communities in building sustainable solutions. The host communities should also be given greater consideration to ease the burden of protracted and recurrent IDPs.

6.1.7 Mitigating Climate Shocks

Climate shocks such as recurrent droughts and floods significantly contribute to forced displacement in Somalia. Developing climate shock mitigation mechanisms and conducting risk assessments are essential. Sustainable settlement planning should also be prioritized to address these climate-related challenges effectively. Implementing these measures will help mitigate the impact of climate shocks on displaced populations.

Appendices

Appendix A: List of Acronyms

- ▶ BRA: Benadir Regional Administration
- ▶ CRRF: Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
- ▶ CSOs: Civil Society Organizations
- ▶ FMSs: Federal Member States
- ▶ GCR: Global Compact for Refugees
- ▶ GIZ: German International Cooperation Agency
- ▶ GRF: Global Refugee Forum
- ▶ IDPs: Internally Displaced Persons
- ▶ NCRI: National Commission for Refugees and IDPs
- ▶ NGOs: Non-Governmental Organizations
- ▶ PoC: People of Concern
- ▶ UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- ▶ UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

Appendix B: Questionnaire

Survey Questions:

1. How would you rate your awareness level of the 2019 GRF pledges on a scale of 1 to 10?
2. To what extent do you feel the 2019 pledges were effectively coordinated?
3. What were the major challenges faced during the implementation of the 2019 pledges?
4. What recommendations would you give for improving the coordination and implementation of the 2023 pledges?
5. What monitoring mechanisms would you suggest when executing 2023 GRF Pledges, having in mind our previous 2019 pledges' implementation and monitoring effectiveness?
6. How important It is to Develop an Initial Plan for the implementation of the 2023 GRF Pledges?
 - Very important
 - Important
 - Not important
7. What are the roles and responsibilities of the following stakeholders in the implementation of the 2023 GRF pledges;
 - NCRI
 - FMS Commissioner/ministries of Interior and BRA
 - Local Authorities (District Administration)
 - CSOs
 - UN Agencies

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