



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

**National Capacity-Building Workshop on Promoting Migrant and Refugee
Entrepreneurship in Uganda
9 – 10 February 2021**

Statement from IOM: Sharing perspectives
Presented by Ms Odette Bolly (LHD Programme Manager)
On Behalf of the IOM Uganda Chief of Mission

**The Commissioner for Refugees, Office of the Prime Minister (OPM),
Colleagues from the United Nation System,
Distinguished Participants, all protocols observed,**

Warm greetings from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) mission in Uganda.

On behalf of our Chief of Mission, we would like to thank UNCTAD for having included IOM in the deliberations on this highly important topic, which helps us to fulfil our mandate of “Leaving No One Behind”.

For us, there is no doubt that this project is both critical and timely.

At IOM, we recognize the importance of designing and implementing entrepreneurship policies and initiatives that would foster the socio-economic integration of migrants into the local economies of the destination countries. That is why from 2016 to 2020, IOM Uganda implemented a project funded by the European Union, entitled “Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum Populations' (SSCoS)”

One of the strategic areas of that project was to provide employment opportunities and basic social services to migrants, urban refugees and youth from Kampala slums. By the end of the project last August, more than 2,116 youths and women had benefited from vocational training, small business start-ups (SBS), cooperatives employment creation support, or were employed after completion of their internships. The majority of the beneficiaries (88%) are currently engaged in an Income Generating Activity (IGA). Among those involved in IGA, 98.5% are self-employed.

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

The current covid-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impacts on populations in general, and those in mobility in particular, calls upon us to come up with more innovative approaches and solutions regarding the entrepreneurship of refugees and migrants.

Several studies conducted within migrant communities have shown that a great number of migrants active in informal entrepreneurship have lost almost half of their incomes due to the lockdowns many countries have had to go through, including Uganda.

Hence, there is need for us to help them build back better their livelihoods and income generating activities.

At IOM, we are currently exploring several avenues to address not only the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic on our migrant' communities, but also to come up with longer-term entrepreneurship opportunities for our migrants.

Furthermore, we need to join our efforts to put in place sustainable and sound entrepreneurship policies and approaches, to support migrants and refugees to be more resilient to shocks and disasters that can have direct impact to their livelihood.

It is our sincere hope that this two-day workshop will allow us to come up with strong partnerships and innovative strategies to better support our migrants and refugees, mainly in the field of entrepreneurship.

I thank you for your attention.