

- PRESENTATION NOTES -

*By Elijah Okeyo, International Rescue Committee*  
2015 Africa Prosperity Summit, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
Panel: Personal Safety and National Prosperity  
May 2015

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**STATEMENT**

My name is Elijah Okeyo, I am the country director for International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Tanzania. I would like to apologize for not being able to attend this worthy summit on Africa prosperity.

Please allow me to share few perspectives on personal safety and national prosperity. African citizens are increasingly facing myriad of challenges regarding their human security. Urbanization crisis facing sub-Saharan Africa present in itself socio-economic problems resulting into unmet demands for key services. We are witnessing mushrooming of slums and slum dwellers in almost each city. Crime rates are in the rise as African cities are struggling to cope with unplanned population bursts. Violent internal conflicts resulting into population displacements are in the rise.

Africa's next generation is posed to face significant security challenges such as youth bulge which is a recipe for continued insecurity and potential future state failures. Next generation will be exposed to increased pressure of radicalization and extremism leading to potential armed conflict. Continued inadequate social protection systems to provide safety nets for unemployed persons will widen.

Education will play a key role in addressing security problems in Africa. Investment in education by African governments will increase personal security of the citizens. Educated people are better protected from threats of disease, hunger, unemployment, crime, social conflicts, political repression and environmental hazards.

Impact of insecurity in a country is not confined within its borders. We are increasingly witnessing movements of forcefully uprooted populations streaming to neighbouring peaceful countries resulting into regional tensions and burden sharing. Receiving countries are often

affected by new demands, new constraints and new competitions brought along by displaced populations. Depletion in natural resources, tension between refugees and host communities and potential insecurity and political threats are some negative impacts of displacements to a hosting government.

Humanitarian actors constantly seek to address human rights challenges and prosperity issues facing refugees and displaced persons. Inequality, rape, violence, exploitation, child marriages, early pregnancies, marginalization, etc are some of the right abuses facing refugees. Actors like International Rescue Committee seek prosperity outcomes such as safety, improved education, economic wellbeing, improved health and freedom to exercise choices and decisions for this population. However, main challenges are often around restrictive host government policies (restricted movements and lack of employment opportunities), donor fatigue for protracted refugees caseloads and negative perceptions by host communities including insecurity concerns.

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