

March 2018 Global update on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

This monthly document summarizes key developments in the application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Africa and the Americas.

OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

DJIBOUTI

Continued awareness-raising on new refugee law and consultations on the CRRF in the field

As part of ongoing sensitisation on the new refugee law and the wider set of rights it grants refugees, the Djiboutian government body responsible for refugees (*Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et aux Sinistrés*, ONARS) and UNHCR jointly visited locations hosting refugees outside *Djibouti-ville* to raise awareness and conduct consultations with communities affected by these changes. 200 participants attended the consultations, including local authorities, community leaders and youth representatives from refugee and local community groups. They emphasized their desire to participate in initiatives that foster greater socio-economic inclusion of refugees. Copies of the new law (available [here](#) in French) and its implementation decrees ([here](#)) were handed to authorities and community leaders.

Partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for the benefit of refugees and their hosts

In addition to projects already implemented for refugees by the FAO (i.e. livestock farming), discussions are underway between the FAO and UNHCR concerning additional joint projects such as honey production in the Obock region. Honey from Yemen is one of the country's finest products and thus represents an opportunity for the host communities of Obock and refugees to learn and benefit from each other.

ETHIOPIA

114 refugees depart to Italy under Italy's humanitarian corridors programme

The group of 114 refugees from Eritrea, South Sudan and Somalia is the second group to depart from Ethiopia to Italy. Many of them are persons with specific needs, with some having previously been held captive in Libya. The "[humanitarian corridor](#)" project is in line with [Italy's pledges](#) made at the 2016 Leaders' Summit on Refugees and relates to the third objective of the CRRF.

First two CRRF Technical Committee workshops on education and basic social services are held

The Ethiopian Government's nine pledges made at the Leaders' Summit on Refugees were divided into six thematic areas, namely: out of camp policy; education; work and livelihoods; documentation; social and basic services, and local integration. Six Technical Committees were created around these thematic areas to advance the implementation of the pledges. The two workshops on Education and basic services held in March were attended by representatives from the Federal Ministries of Education and Health, the Regional Bureaux for Education and Health; the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, and representation of district officials, donors and UN organisations. Lines ministries present called for greater inclusion of refugees in national services as a way to gradually put an end to parallel delivery of services for refugees. Recommendations emerging from the workshop await endorsement of the CRRF Steering Committee, which is due to meet in April.

Update on the World Bank's engagement in Ethiopia

The World Bank Group has committed \$200 million (of which \$166.67 million is from the IDA 18 sub-window for refugees) through an instrument called *Program for Results*, which the Government of Ethiopia intends to utilise, *inter alia*, to provide economic opportunities for refugees and nationals through formal entrepreneurship and employment, including in the new industrial parks that will create 30,000 job opportunities for refugees. In acknowledgement of the diversity of refugees' skill sets, this instrument is a broader scope of engagement than the initial proposal of employment opportunities solely in industrial parks. In a parallel development, the Multi-Donor Trust Fund created by the Bank has received investments of \$250million from the European Investment Bank and \$80million from DfID, out of a \$500million target. The Fund combines both loan and grant money and aims at facilitating industrial growth that will employ Ethiopians and refugees; it also seeks to foster an enabling investment climate to attract and retain viable investors in such projects.

Host communities were invited to inform next community-based protection strategy

A community-based protection workshop, which brought together refugee and host community representatives, helped shape the Operation's community-based protection strategy for 2018-2020.

KENYA

Progress on Kenya's National Action Plan, CRRF roadmap, and refugee education policy

The Kenyan Government's Refugees Affairs Secretariat is finalizing the drafts of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration (March 2017) and the country's roadmap guiding the application of comprehensive responses for refugees in Kenya. Building on the Djibouti Declaration on regional refugee education (December 2017), the Ministry of Education is also developing a Refugee Education Inclusion Policy.

Refugees included in planning for Kenya's new UN development framework

Work is underway to reflect the needs of refugees and stateless persons in Kenya's 2018-2022 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). In line with the principle of "leaving no one behind", refugees will be included under the political, social and economic pillars. The UNDAF seeks continued alignment with Kenya's national development priorities.

IFC plans further support to comprehensive response projects in Kakuma

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) announced an allocation of US\$20 million for the Kakuma-Kalobeyei Challenge Fund (KKCF) that will benefit social entrepreneurs and local entrepreneurs including refugees and the host community. The Fund, expected to be launched in the second half of 2018, is based on the findings of the IFC's "Kakuma as a Marketplace study", which is due to be released shortly.

UGANDA

Endorsement of new Education Response Plan (ERP) for refugees and host communities

The new national Education Response Plan, adopted in March, aims to ensure that all children and adolescents from refugees and host communities have access to quality education at all levels. The ERP covers the period from January 2018 to June 2021 and will benefit over 675,000 children per year.

New local partnerships with district government foster sustainable responses

In Southwest Uganda, UNHCR is establishing small-scale partnership agreements with four refugee-hosting districts. The budgets intend to strengthen coordination for humanitarian and development interventions in education, health, water and sanitation, livelihoods and infrastructure development. Under the partnerships, roads in the settlement and host communities will be rehabilitated and maintained, and environmental issues – such as tree planting, wetland demarcation, and the promotion of energy-efficient stoves - will be jointly addressed.

Launch of local and national NGO Humanitarian Platform

A Humanitarian Platform has been set up by a group of local and national NGOs with a view to strengthen coordination of local and national organisations in response to the humanitarian situation in Uganda, in particular refugee movements. The Platform's work will be connected to CRRF efforts through the Uganda National NGO Forum, itself a member of the CRRF Secretariat.

The mid-term review of the National Development Plan includes the refugee response

The mid-term review of Uganda's national development plan (NDPII) covering the period 2015/16-2019/20 has begun, with inputs from partners including UNHCR. The Government has committed to use the mid-term review of the NDPII to guide the partnership dialogue and further integrate the refugee response in longer-term national planning, in line with the CRRF roadmap.

SOMALIA SITUATION – IGAD regional CRRF

First inter-ministerial meeting on the Nairobi Action Plan on Durable Solutions

Twelve months after they committed to pursue a regional approach to the Somali refugee situation, Member States of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) came together in a high-level stocktaking meeting in Nairobi. Reaffirming their commitment to taking practical steps towards comprehensive responses guided by the CRRF, they underscored the critical role of the Federal Government of Somalia to foster effective coordination

between government line ministries and federal states, and to ensure coherence at policy and technical levels in finding solutions for IDPs, returnees and refugees, in line with [Somalia's National Development Plan](#). IGAD Ministers presented their CRRF national roadmaps/national action plans and agreed to finalize them by the end of 2018. Furthermore, following the first successful regional thematic conference on refugee Education (held in Djibouti in December 2017), Ministers committed to hold the second regional thematic conference within six months on the subject of livelihoods and economic growth in refugee-hosting areas. The official communiqué from the meeting can be accessed [here](#).

Somalia hosts a national consultative meeting on the IGAD Protocol on Free Movement of Persons

The consultations in Mogadishu brought together national stakeholders and experts on migration governance, who discussed opportunities associated with the free movement of persons, existing barriers to free movement within the IGAD region and possible mechanisms to reduce them. It will be followed by national consultative meetings in other IGAD Member States, moving towards the finalization of the draft protocol, expected in late 2019. The adoption of the Free Movement Protocol, similar to the existing [ECOWAS Regional Free Movement of Persons Protocols](#), would be a milestone contribution to the key commitments contained in the Nairobi Action Plan.

London Conference: High-level event for the humanitarian situation in Somalia

The event aimed to draw urgent attention to the humanitarian crisis in Somalia. The United Kingdom's Secretary of State for International Development and Somalia's Minister of Planning, Investment and Economic Development highlighted the importance of early and sustained funding complemented by a broader resource base to ensure greater predictability, coherence and effectiveness of aid, translating Grand Bargain commitments into actions to deliver concrete dividends for the Somali people. Representing High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, the Special Envoy for the Somali situation Ambassador Mohammed Abdi Affey called for stronger links between relief, recovery and development efforts as critical underpinnings for Somalia's resilience to extreme shocks. The event included a pledging component, during which 6 countries (the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Italy, the UK and Switzerland) made pledges to address the humanitarian situation in Somalia.

ZAMBIA

Government and partners contribute to operational planning for refugees for 2019

Line ministries, funding partners, NGOs and refugee leaders joined the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees and UNHCR to take part in planning consultations for Zambia's country operational plan for refugees. The objective is to ensure ownership and active participation of all partners in the roll-out of the CRRF in line with the multi-stakeholder approach of comprehensive responses to refugees.

THE COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK in the NORTH OF CENTRAL AMERICA (MIRPS in Spanish)

National highlights

The World Health Organization delivers additional support for refugees and migrants in Guatemala

As a concrete follow-up of the priorities identified in the Guatemalan MIRPS national chapter, the WHO has mobilized an additional US\$ 200,000 for emergency health responses for refugees and migrants in transit in the region of Petén. In parallel, it continues to advocate for the strengthened capacity of the Guatemalan ministerial department that is responsible for migrants.

Belize sets up a national follow-up mechanism

A national mechanism has been set up to oversee the implementation of Belize's national MIRPS chapter. The high-level body aims to support the government to develop a national action plan on protection and solutions.

Regional developments

Monitoring the CRRF

A monitoring and evaluation framework for the MIRPS is under development. It includes a tracking tool for each of the commitments made in the San Pedro Sula Declaration, with benchmarks for evaluation until 2021, and a regional commitment dashboard as per the four strategic axes, plus a regional cooperation strategic axis. The framework will be presented to MIRPS countries and tailored to capture the specificities for each country in the region.

Work plan with Inter-American Development Bank in progress

Following-up on the commitments made by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) towards the MIRPS, an initial work plan has been developed, including provisions for technical assistance projects to apply the MIRPS.

Inclusion of MIRPS in UNHCR country operational plans (COP)

As part of UNHCR's country planning for 2019 planning, each MIRPS country presented progress achieved with regards to institutionalization, coordination, quantification of resources (needs and gaps) to implement comprehensive responses, visibility of the MIRPS, and resource mobilization.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

CRRF update at 71st meeting of UNHCR's Standing Committee

The UNHCR Deputy Director for Comprehensive Responses provided an overview of the application of the CRRF, including key developments in the thirteen roll-out countries, growing engagement of multilateral and bilateral partners, and shared thoughts on the way forward. The Deputy Director made a call to Member States to pursue all four objectives of the CRRF with equal vigour, and recalled that hosting countries need to see dedicated, predictable funding as a measure of global responsibility-sharing. In response, several Member States and NGOs voiced their appreciation for the increased engagement of development actors and commended roll-out countries for undertaking ambitious journeys towards inclusive policies benefitting refugees and their hosts. The Deputy Director's full statement is available [here](#).

Side event on bilateral development contributions to the CRRF

In the margins of the second formal consultations on the global compact on refugees, UNHCR organised a side-event featuring representatives of bilateral development actors and host countries who spoke about the role of development aid to comprehensive responses. The panellists featured representatives from the Governments of Kenya, Germany, and Japan, and the European Union, who showcased the substantial contributions of development actors to refugee-hosting countries and communities. They commended the growing translation of the New York Declaration into concrete action on the ground, exemplified not only by roadmaps and multi-actor facilitation mechanisms in roll-out countries but also by favourable policy changes in host countries. The panellists (representing DEVCO, BMZ and JICA) have alone contributed over US\$ 500 million towards comprehensive responses.

High-level advocacy for comprehensive responses in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

During his visit to the UAE, the Director of the Division for Resilience and Solutions (DRS) engaged with a wide range of actors, ranging from political, business, academic and civil society leaders, who expressed interest in comprehensive responses, including through setting-up refugee scholarships and supporting educational and vocational programmes inside and outside the UAE. The Emirati Government has shown interest in working with UNHCR to permit the 15,000 Syrian refugees whom it pledged to welcome at the September 2016 Leaders' Summit on Refugees to benefit from opportunities that exist in UAE through complementary pathway initiatives.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **10 – 11 April:** Third formal consultation on the draft global compact on refugees, Geneva, Switzerland
- **11 – 13 April:** Planning workshop for Kenya's UNDAF, Nairobi, Kenya
- **30 April – May 4:** Joint World Bank–UNHCR mission IDA18 refugee sub-window eligibility mission to Rwanda.
- **8 May:** Ethiopia's fifth CRRF Steering Committee meeting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

CONTACTS and USEFUL LINKS

- CRRF Task Team, Division of Resilience and Solutions, Geneva: hqcr@unhcr.org
- Useful links: [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#), [Global Compact on Refugees](#), [Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework](#).