

Global update on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

This monthly document summarizes key developments in the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Africa and the Americas. It features highlights captured by UNHCR and complements updates produced by UN and NGO partners across the globe.

OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

AFRICAN CONTEXT

Kenya

Kenya confirmed as CRRF country

In a welcome development, Kenya has joined the CRRF roll-out countries. The Government of Kenya officially announced its application of the CRRF with regard to refugee management in the country during the 68th Session of UNHCR's Executive Committee.

Ethiopia

Refugees' access to civil registration

In line with its pledges at the Leaders' Summit on Refugees (September 2016), the Ethiopian Government began accepting applications from refugees for **civil registration**. Since 27 October, refugees are able to have vital life events such as birth, death, marriage and divorce recorded in the national registry. This is a ground-breaking development for refugees' rights. More information can be found [here](#).

Jobs compact and access to work for refugees

UNHCR and partners are working on implementing the Government's pledge to make 30,000 jobs in industrial parks available to refugees once the new refugee proclamation has been promulgated. UNHCR is a member of the Government-led technical working group that is scoping locations and timelines for construction or expansion of industrial parks where jobs will be offered to refugees. This is in close partnership with the Ethiopian Investment Commission, the World Bank, the UK Department for International Development (DfID), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Union and the International Labour Organizations (ILO). The partnership with ILO will focus on ensuring that international labour standards are met for refugees and nationals working in the parks and specific protection needs are addressed.

Ongoing discussions on alternative to camps in Gambella region

Given the further influx of refugees from South Sudan in the Gambella region and the need to deliver immediate humanitarian assistance, refugees moved from Pamdong into the expanded camp at Ngunyyiel. Discussions on establishing a settlement as an "alternative to camps" in the Gambella region will continue.

Uganda

Additional support for education for refugees and host communities

A team from the New York-based *Education Cannot Wait* fund (ECW) travelled to Kampala to support the development of the ECW initiative in Uganda. The team met with the Government, refugee groups, UNHCR and other partners, as it develops its plan to accelerate education for refugees and members of the host community across the country, to be rolled out in 2018. The ECW fund has already provided US\$ 3.3 million for education for South Sudanese refugees in Uganda.

CRRF governance structure established

The **first CRRF Steering Group meeting was held on October 12**, chaired by the State Minister, Hon. Moussa Ecuere. Outcomes of the meeting included the establishment of the governance structure of the CRRF in Uganda and the adoption of the terms of reference and membership of the CRRF Steering Group and Secretariat. The Steering Group will be led by the Government and facilitated by UNHCR; its membership includes national and district authorities (including elected officials), refugees, donors, development actors, representatives from the

private sector and humanitarian actors. It will be the main policy-making body for the CRRF in Uganda, and will meet at minimum four times a year. The Secretariat will follow-up on the Steering Group meetings and update the initial road-map that was developed in June.

Youth consultations on CRRF

Throughout October, UNHCR held a series of youth consultations on the CRRF in refugee-hosting districts across the country. The purpose was to **discuss youth participation** at all levels of society and their levels of engagement. The meetings brought together local government officials, NGO partners on the ground, and UNHCR staff to share updates on activities affecting refugees and host communities. Among the concerns raised by youth are: restrictions on international movement and employment, delays in cash-based interventions, delays in food distributions, and road accidents and safety.

Somalia refugee situation

Engagement with the Ministry of the Interior and line ministries

Following the National Forum on Durable Solutions for Refugees, Returnees and IDPs in August, UNHCR Somalia is engaged in discussions with the Ministry of the Interior and National Commission on Refugees and IDPs (NCR) on the development of a national policy for refugee returnees, refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Consultations are also scheduled to take place on the development of a national action plan to implement the Government of Somalia's commitments under the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Nairobi Declaration and Comprehensive Plan of Action. Actors involved in the CRRF inside Somalia have encouraged Government leadership and ownership of the CRRF across line ministries, involving both the Federal Government of Somalia. Government coordination on the CRRF is supported through the deployment of a specialist Coordination Officer in the Federal Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, and the mainstreaming of the CRRF within the implementation architecture of the Somalia National Development Plan.

Support to regional administration towards refugees, returnees and IDPs

In a bid to strengthen outreach to host communities, UNHCR Somalia signed a **cooperation agreement with the Benadir Regional Administration and Mogadishu Municipality**, through which the office will support community-based regional administration initiatives, benefiting refugees, returnees, IDPs as well as the host communities. This includes initiatives to develop the capacity of the regional government to monitor forced evictions, which is key challenge among returning refugee and IDP communities residing in Mogadishu's informal settlements.

Engagement of UNHCR's Special Envoy for Somalia on education and the IGAD Regional Conference

As a follow-up to his meetings with the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Education of Kenya in July, and his mission to Djibouti to meet with the Minister of Education in October, the Special Envoy for the Somalia Refugee Situation, Ambassador Mohamed Abdi Affey, also met with the Ambassador of Djibouti to Kenya on 30 October. During these meetings, the Special Envoy stressed the importance of access to education, as well as the accreditation and recognition of educational certificates across the region. It was agreed that the IGAD Regional Conference on Refugee Education will be postponed to mid-December in order to ensure high-level participation from States and agencies, including the High Commissioner for Refugees. The Special Envoy was invited by the Djiboutian Minister of Education to mobilize support for the conference at regional level.

United Republic of Tanzania

The Verification, Registration and Intention Survey

The Verification, Registration and Intention Survey of the Burundian Refugees residing in the old settlements of Katumba, Mishamo and Ulyankulu since 1972 and the Congolese refugees residing in Mishamo old settlement since 1972 was completed in October. The exercise started in June 2017 as a result of the decision of the Government of Tanzania to complete naturalization of these Burundian refugees in Tanzania (one of the five commitments made by the Government at the Leaders' Summit on Refugees in 2016). The exercise was jointly conducted by the Government and UNHCR, and a total of 19,187 individuals were registered. A similar exercise will be conducted in the Kigoma Region, starting in mid-November 2017. The next phase will be the activation of the application process for all persons who opt to become Tanzanian citizens.

World Bank mapping of humanitarian and development responses in refugee-hosting regions

The initial review of the joint World Bank/UNHCR mapping was finalized, based on missions in Dar es Salaam and Kigoma. The mapping should support the CRRF Secretariat to provide technical oversight to the planning, implementation and stocktaking of the CRRF. By identifying existing mechanisms and initiatives to build on, as well as gaps and model initiatives, the mapping seeks to strengthen the Government's ability to deliver a comprehensive

response for refugees in the country. The mapping tool will be handed over to the CRRF Secretariat and discussions are underway regarding resources needed to turn it into a functional tool to support planning and monitoring.

Joint Assessment Mission in refugee camps

The Government, UNHCR, WFP and a number of other UN agencies carried out joint assessment missions in Nyarugusu, Mtendeli, and Nduta refugee camps in the last two weeks of the month. This year's missions incorporated a CRRF approach and 'host community' was included as a thematic area, with focus-group discussions with villagers near the three camps, as well as discussions with community and district leaders.

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

Belize confirmed as CRRF country

The Government of Belize has formally confirmed its participation in the CRPSF, bringing to twelve the number of CRRF roll-out countries across the globe.

Regional CRRF adopted in Honduras

The **San Pedro Sula Declaration** launched the regional iteration of the CRRF for Central America and Mexico, known as the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (CRPSF). The Declaration was adopted on 26 October at a high-level regional conference in San Pedro Sula, hosted by the Government of Honduras. The CRPSF puts forward concrete initiatives by countries in North and Central America to **strengthen protection and solutions for asylum-seekers, IDPs and refugees** through: improving reception conditions; strengthening asylum systems; creating opportunities for self-reliance and local integration of refugees; and supporting the resilience of host communities and communities at risk. States, civil society, the private sector and the international community added their pledges to support these initiatives. More information concerning the regional conference can be found on the CRPSF website, [here](#). A UNHCR press release can be accessed [here](#).

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

Regional CRRF meeting with MENA civil society

The IFRC/ICVA/UNHCR Reference Group - a group of international, regional and national organisations and networks dedicated to supporting the roll-out of the CRRF - met in Amman in September. The Group shared good practices relating to comprehensive responses in the MENA region and exchanged on past and current experience of the CRRF roll-out across various contexts and regions. The group visited community centres to hear directly from Syrian and Iraqi refugees and Jordanians on how greater inclusion of refugees in Jordanian society could be achieved.

68th Session of UNHCR's Executive Committee

The 68th plenary session of the Executive Committee from 2–6 October 2017 featured a special segment on the CRRF one year on. The panel included government representatives from Ethiopia, Germany, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and Uganda, representing CRRF countries and States that pursue policies and approaches reflective of the CRRF. The panel also featured the Vice-Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce and Secretary-General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women.

During the general debate which followed, nearly all 123 States taking the floor recalled the historic commitments made by Member States in New York Declaration and expressed appreciation and solidarity with the countries now actively applying the CRRF. At the same time, there was widespread **recognition of the need for enhanced burden- and responsibility-sharing**; for **political will to address root causes**; and **renewed efforts toward durable solutions**. Concluding the segment and general debate, ExCom Chair Ambassador Rosemary McCarney of Canada summed up: *"It is clear that we are at a crossroads in terms of turning the commitments that were made in the New York Declaration into action. We have, in the form of the CRRF and the global compact on refugees, a true opportunity to transform the ways in which we respond to large movements of refugees. We must not let it pass us by. We must find the political will to genuinely ease the pressure on host countries and communities and to help those displaced to rebuild their lives. We must translate our expressions of solidarity into practical policies and mechanisms. As one delegation said, this will be an exercise of humanity and solidarity the world has never witnessed before."* Statements made available have been posted [here](#); and video links to the special segment as well as all interventions in the general debate can be found [here](#).

Second and third thematic discussions leading to the global compact on refugees

GLOBAL CRRF UPDATE

OCTOBER 2017

Three of the five “thematic discussions” to discuss the key themes of the global compact and to exchange ideas for its programme of action have now been held. In mid-October, two days of discussion focusing on a range of issues that included:

- preparedness;
- the reception of large numbers of refugees (including those with specific needs) in safety and dignity;
- mobilizing more resources for humanitarian and development work to benefit refugees *and* host communities;
- the inclusion of refugees in national and local systems and services (including health, education, child protection and the rule of law); and
- promoting livelihood opportunities for refugees.

All three thematic discussions so far have benefited from constructive and active engagement of Member States, international organizations, civil society, refugees and others.

Preparations are underway for the fourth and fifth thematic discussions in mid-November (which will focus on solutions and cross-cutting issues) and the High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges on 12 and 13 December, which will serve as a stocktaking for the thematic discussions and the progress made to date in the operational roll-out of the CRRF.

Further information of the process leading to the global compact on refugees can be found at www.unhcr.org/refugeecom pact, whilst details on the thematic discussions can be found at www.unhcr.org/thematicdiscussions. UNHCR is encouraging all stakeholders to upload written contributions to the process at www.unhcr.org/writtencontributions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **10 November 2017:** CRRF panel discussion, co-hosted by the Estonian Presidency of the European Union and UNHCR: *“Collective Responses to Refugee situations: ensuring Complementarity between humanitarian and development interventions: Lessons learned and recommendations from the roll out of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)”*, Brussels
- **14 – 15 November 2017:** Fourth and fifth thematic discussions leading the development of a global compact on refugees, Geneva
Themes: “Measures to be taken in pursuit of durable solutions” and “Issues that cut across all four substantive sections of the framework, and overarching issues”
- **12 – 13 December 2017:** High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges, Geneva
Theme: “Towards a global compact on refugees”.

CONTACTS and USEFUL LINKS

- To contact the CRRF Task Team in Geneva, including to upload CRRF documents on the [CRRF portal](#), please write to: hqcr@unhcr.org
- Contributions from States, NGOs, international and intergovernmental organizations can be found [here](#).
- Other useful links: [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#), [CRRF](#), [Global Compact on Refugees](#).

UNHCR CRRF Task Team, Geneva
13 November 2017