



Strengthening Protection  
Capacity Project  
June 2008

## Expanded application

In 2008 the SPCP has expanded its application and now is working with country offices across five continents and within twelve country operations. It is being used to address not only the needs of refugees but also of internally displaced persons and stateless populations. SPCP initiatives are active in the following countries:

### Africa

Burundi  
Kenya  
Tanzania  
Zambia

### America

Bolivia  
Ecuador

### Asia

Thailand

### Europe

Armenia  
Azerbaijan  
Georgia

### Middle East

Egypt  
Yemen

## Addressing Gaps Collaboratively

The SPCP is predicated on a comprehensive analysis of gaps and national consultations with all concerned stakeholders to agree on a plan of action to address those gaps. It then moves to the development of targeted initiatives to remedy the gaps identified as well as resource mobilization to secure the funds necessary for those interventions that cannot be covered by UNHCR and/or partner annual budgets. The focus of the work in each country depends on the gaps identified and the areas that partners identify as needing additional capacity building support.

## Lessons learned

Among the key lessons learned in the application of the SPCP, is the value of ensuring an inclusive approach; one that partners effectively with host governments and donors but as well with national and international partners and persons of concern to ensure full ownership of the process and the most effective remedies.

Another important lesson is the value of ensuring coordinated technical advice from UNHCR in tackling specific and often persistent problems. Within UNHCR this means active involvement of the relevant Bureau as well as colleagues with Department of International Protection Services (in areas of legislative reform, administrative capacity building and improving refugee status determination procedures); with the Department of Operational Services (enhancing registration, documentation, addressing basic needs and ensuring essential services, and enhancing livelihoods) and within the Department of External Relations (advocacy and resource mobilization).

SPCP activities have also benefited from the engagement of international partners such as the International Labour Organisation and the Danish Refugee Council in the development of self-reliance strategies to enhance food and non food security and to reduce the many problems associated with the absence of such opportunities including violence within communities and illegal employment with its attendant risks of arrest, detention, possibly refoulement, various forms of exploitation, sexual abuse and trafficking.

## Way forward

In 2008 the SPCP provided support to the Deputy High Commissioner's Global Needs Assessment (GNA) initiative and specifically in a targeted examination of the unmet needs of persons of concern in six pilot countries. This involved a comprehensive analysis of gaps in protection including assistance, a concise presentation of these unmet needs, agreement among all stakeholders on how to remedy the gaps and the development of proposed programmatic interventions with clear cost implications. The aim of the GNA is to provide an effective means to demonstrate the needs of people of concern, to present more precisely the funding required to address those needs and thereby strengthen priority setting and resource mobilisation.

The ambition to continue the GNA initiative, and ensure its application across UNHCR operations worldwide, provides an important vehicle for the further mainstreaming of the SPCP methodology.