

UNHCR's 10-Point Plan in Central America, Western Africa, Eastern Africa and Asia – a three-year project¹

UNHCR's *10-Point Plan of Action on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration* (10-Point Plan) has been met with great interest by States and other key stakeholders. The Plan was issued by the Office in 2006,² to assist States in developing comprehensive and “protection-sensitive” migration strategies. During the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges,³ which took place in December 2007, participants acknowledged the direct relevance of the areas covered in the 10-Point Plan for the better management of refugee protection and international migration.

UNHCR has initiated a number of follow-up activities to the High Commissioner's Dialogue. One of these is a project on the 10-Point Plan entitled “UNHCR's 10-Point Plan in Central America, Western Africa, Eastern Africa and Asia”, designed by the Office's Division of International Protection. The implementation of the project started in 2008, thanks to the generous funding UNHCR received from the European Commission, and will be completed in 2010. The project consists of two inter-related components: the development of implementation strategies for the 10-Point Plan in four different regions through regional stakeholder conferences; and the further development and elaboration of the 10-Point Plan as a tool through expert roundtables and a published Compilation of practical examples.

1. Stakeholder conferences - development of regional implementation strategies

UNHCR, in cooperation with Governments and other key partners, organizes a series of five regional conferences on refugee protection and international migration.⁴ Building on the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, these 2-3 day conferences aim at sensitizing key stakeholders to the protection challenges arising from situations of mixed migration. Based on an analysis of the particular migration situation in the region, its challenges and opportunities for persons of concern to UNHCR, the conferences also aim at building a regional consensus on key elements of the implementation of a “protection-sensitive” migration strategy. The following four conferences already took place and focused on refugee protection and international migration:

- in the Gulf of Aden, Sana'a, Yemen, May 2008.⁵
- in West Africa, Dakar, Senegal, November 2008. The conference was jointly organized with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).⁶
- in the Americas, San José, Costa Rica, November 2009. The conference was jointly organized with the Organization of American States (OAS) and IOM.⁷

¹ The initially two-year project was extended to a third year.

² The document is available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4aa7a4bd9.pdf>

³ Further information on the Dialogue is available at <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a12a6286.html>

⁴ Four conferences are funded by the EC project and a fifth by other funds.

⁵ Conference report and documentation are available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4a252c786.html>

⁶ Conference report and documentation are available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4a27be466.html>

- from the East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region to Southern Africa, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, September 2009. The conference was jointly organized with IOM.⁸

The last conference, scheduled to take place in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 15 and 16 March 2011, will focus on mixed migratory movements in Central Asia. It will be jointly organized by UNHCR, IOM and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

2. Further development and elaboration of the 10-Point Plan

2.1. “Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration: The 10-Point Plan in Action” – a Compilation of practical examples

The EC-funded project has enabled UNHCR to complete and issue a Compilation of around 100 practices and tools from different regions that are relevant to the implementation of the 10-Point Plan. The publication was provisionally released in June 2009 to allow Governments and partner agencies to review and propose additions and/or changes.⁹ Based on the comments and feedback received, the publication has been reviewed and the final version will be published at the beginning of 2011.

2.2 Expert Roundtables

UNHCR convenes four 2-3 day expert roundtables on the action points of the 10-Point Plan. Around 30 experts from Governments, international agencies, academia and civil society are invited to attend. The roundtables provide a forum for an in-depth discussion on the different action points of the 10-Point Plan and offer the opportunity to gather additional practical examples.

- The first roundtable, co-organized with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, addressed the issue of refugee and human rights protection in the context of border and entry management (Geneva, November 2008).¹⁰
- The second roundtable, co-organized with IOM and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), focused on cooperation mechanisms used for the identification and protection of persons with specific needs in a mixed migration context (Tunis, July 2009).¹¹
- The third roundtable, co-organized with IOM and the International Labour Organization (ILO), considered the return of non-refugees and alternative migration options (Geneva, November 2009).¹²
- The fourth roundtable, which took place in South East Asia in November 2010, considered cooperation among key partners and secondary movers in South-East Asia.

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⁷ Conference report and documentation are available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4bfbe2ad9.html>

⁸ Conference report and documentation will soon be available on the UNHCR website.

⁹ The provisional Compilation “The 10-Point Plan in Action” is available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4aae18649.html>

¹⁰ Roundtable report and documentation are available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4a27bf566.html>

¹¹ Roundtable report and documentation are available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4ae6cb069.html>

¹² Roundtable report and documentation are available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4b9f99f7148.html>