

**Executive Committee of the
High Commissioner's Programme**

23 September 2016
English
Original: English and French

Sixty-seventh session
Geneva, 3-7 October 2016

Update on global programmes**A. Introduction**

UNHCR's global programmes aim to ensure protection and solutions for refugees and other people of concern, by supporting technically sound, cost-effective interventions and sustainable services, both in emergencies and protracted situations. Through its global programmes, UNHCR promotes harmonized approaches, innovation and good practices. Unless specified, this paper will update on progress made between 1 January and 30 June 2016.

This year marks the midpoint of UNHCR's five-year global strategies for [public health, settlement and shelter](#), [livelihoods and safe access to fuel and energy \(SAFE\)](#). It also marks the final year of the [education strategy](#). Implemented in collaboration with partners including governments, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), foundations and the private sector, these strategies guide the organization's programming in their respective areas. The "[Policy on alternatives to camps](#)", which incorporates UNHCR's 2009 [policy on refugee protection and solutions in urban areas](#), the expanded use of cash-based interventions and the strengthened collaboration with development actors informs the holistic implementation of global programmes.

B. Updates on technical sectors**Public health**

The "Global strategy for public health 2014-2018" provides the overall framework for addressing the challenges faced by refugees in the area of public health, including nutrition and food security; reproductive health and HIV; and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). In the first six months of 2016, UNHCR's life-saving health interventions helped maintain acceptable under-5 mortality rates in 138 of the 143 reporting sites, or 96.5 per cent of its operations.¹

UNHCR strengthened access to integrated prevention and control of non-communicable diseases through the launch of clinical training and management tools for hypertension, diabetes and asthma. UNHCR continued to train clinical health care workers to build their capacity in addressing non-communicable diseases at the primary health care level.

In Bangladesh, an interactive learning project improved the clinical and consultation skills of practitioners, helping them to cope with pressure and stay motivated. UNHCR successfully integrated treatment for mental health problems into refugee health care and community outreach services in Bangladesh, Jordan and Kenya; while the capacity to

¹ Details available from twine.unhcr.org.

treat mental health illnesses was also strengthened by interventions in Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Republic of Tanzania.

UNHCR continued efforts to improve survival rates among children by developing a tool to monitor the quality of immunization programmes. An outbreak of yellow fever reported in Angola in December 2015 caused some countries in the region to enforce strict entry requirements, which affected asylum-seekers and refugees.² UNHCR assisted governments to respond by procuring over 26,000 vaccines. The Office also helped reconcile health and safety measures so that those seeking asylum had access to the territory and could be included into the national yellow fever outbreak response, community engagement, risk communication and surveillance efforts in Kenya, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Nutrition and food security

Difficulties in securing resources for food assistance and the subsequent reduction in rations affected many refugees. Malnutrition, one of the greatest risks of food insecurity, has a particularly negative impact on children below two years of age. UNHCR and the World Food Programme continue to target the most vulnerable through cash and in-kind food assistance. Out of 25 sites surveyed, only 16 (or 64 per cent) demonstrated acceptable standards for global acute malnutrition (GAM).³ In an effort to address the complex causes of malnutrition, UNHCR promotes low-cost, high-impact interventions, including exclusive breastfeeding in birthing facilities and prioritized assistance to families with infants. In collaboration with Save the Children, UNHCR revised the multi-sectoral infant and young child framework (IYCF) in order to improve the nutritional status of children through expanded prevention activities.

Reproductive health and HIV

Access to quality reproductive health services can drastically reduce the number of women who die during or after childbirth. Education on reproductive health for adults and young people is also key to raising awareness about a range of issues including sexually transmitted infections and HIV. UNHCR is working with the International Medical Corps to address reproductive health issues for persons of concern through community-based interventions for youth aged 13 to 17 years. In the Kakuma refugee camp, in Kenya, the “my health, my choice programme” aims to promote safe practices by raising awareness of the risks associated with early sexual activity. The programme further provides refugee youth with access to clinical services, such as family planning, counselling, screening, treatment and psychosocial support.

Globally, UNHCR advocated for the inclusion of HIV programmes in humanitarian emergencies within the UNAIDS 2016-2021 strategy, calling for greater attention to issues such as treatment disruption for individuals living with HIV and flexible funding for HIV services in emergencies.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

UNHCR continued to invest in maintaining existing and developing new water systems. Increased numbers and the subsequent need in the United Republic of Tanzania required UNHCR and partners to upgrade or establish additional WASH services and infrastructure. In this context, the Organization strengthened the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence by including refugees in the design and

² In particular, mandatory confirmation of yellow fever vaccination upon entry.

³ Monitored through Standardised Expanded Nutrition Surveys (SENS) conducted across the majority of operations.

installation of communal sanitation facilities, while UNHCR foresees the use of solar energy in the new camps. Globally, refugees receive an average of 26 liters of water per day and per person,⁴ which marks an increase from 22 liters per day for the same period in 2015. UNHCR is carrying out operational research to find more cost effective and sustainable latrine options as slower pit latrine replacement rate in 2016 led to an average of 26 persons sharing a latrine.⁵

Education

In 2016, UNHCR made progress towards including refugees in national education plans in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 4. In 15 of the 25 countries where UNHCR implements its education strategy 2012-2016, refugee children attend public schools, and are included in national education plans in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and South Sudan. UNHCR supported these efforts through the deployment of education experts. In addition, UNHCR and UNESCO developed a policy on the inclusion of forcibly displaced children and youth in national education plans.

Education programmes are an integral part of the regional response strategies for the Central African Republic, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic emergencies as well as in the response to the Burundi refugee situation. Over 5,000 refugees in 40 countries are participating in higher education programmes, benefitting from scholarships and connected e-learning strategies.

The Educate a Child and UNHCR partnership launched a USD 58 million three-year initiative in 2015 which is currently providing access to education for many refugee and internally displaced children in Africa, Asia and the Middle East who were previously out of school. Paying specific attention to education for displaced adolescents and youth, UNHCR and partners are looking to strengthen accelerated education programmes, setting norms and standards to provide certified education opportunities. New partnerships have increased learning opportunities for refugees in 14 countries⁶ through technology and innovative programme design.

Shelter and settlement

UNHCR's global strategy for settlement and shelter (2014-2018) provides a framework for all operations to ensure dignified and secure access to settlements and shelter for refugees.⁷ UNHCR aims to implement comprehensive strategies that guide operations to progress timely from emergency shelter interventions to more sustainable solutions that benefit both refugees and host communities.

Skilled technical support from the onset of an emergency is key to ensuring that shelter needs are met in an environment that is secure and that protection risks are mitigated. In the first six months of 2016, UNHCR deployed 20 experts and 19 field missions to support ongoing emergencies, including Greece, the Syria situation, Uganda and Yemen. UNHCR also established a new surge capacity model for the Global Shelter Cluster which allows for the deployment of roving cluster coordinators within 72 hours, for up to 4 months.

The design of technically sound shelter responses requires appropriate tools. UNHCR is in the process of deploying the physical site planning toolkit which will make advanced

⁴ UNHCR minimum standard for provision of water in protracted situations is 20 liter per day/person.

⁵ UNHCR minimum standard for latrine is 20 persons per latrine in protracted situations. In the same period in 2015, latrine access stood at 22 persons per latrine.

⁶ Burundi, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Greece, Jordan, Lebanon, Kenya, Malaysia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

⁷ These operations respond to shelter needs warranting programmes with a value superior to USD 1 million.

design software and other resources available to all UNHCR shelter and settlement experts. In 2016, as in 2015, UNHCR will hold two site planning training workshops in collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) which complement the recently released settlement and shelter e-learning programme.

Information management, statistics and needs assessment

UNHCR continues to expand and improve its operational data web portals on emergencies and key situations, with the release of an updated portal for the Horn of Africa region. Having finalized procedures and concepts to support more robust joint needs assessments, UNHCR is currently developing tools and revising guidance to support assessment activities in refugee operations and situations of internal displacement, consistent with the directions of “The grand bargain: a shared commitment to better serve people in need”.

UNHCR is committed to supporting inter-agency and joint information management activities, including the development of Kobo data collection tools⁸ together with the [Harvard Humanitarian Initiative](#). Principles for data protection and tools and standards for profiling internally displaced populations are under development with partners. The second inter-agency workshop on protection information management confirmed the conceptual framework for this critical new area of work and was followed by four training workshops for protection cluster staff.

Together with Eurostat and Statistics Norway, UNHCR is leading the expert group tasked by the United Nations Statistical Commission to produce authoritative guidance on statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons. A key objective of the group is to develop guidance on the collection and reporting of asylum, refugee and IDP statistics for the national authorities.

Registration, identity management and biometrics

During the first half of 2016, UNHCR provided emergency registration support in Greece; technical capacity for verification exercises in Mozambique and Zimbabwe; and assisted in building a case load verification exercise strategy in Turkey. The organization has also developed a stand-by roster for the rapid deployment of experienced registration officers, building on its enhanced capacity following a second training on emergency registration.

The Organization continued the development and deployment of “proGres in partnership”, UNHCR’s updated registration and case management system, which is now in use in ten operations. Its biometric identity management system (BIMS) was rolled-out to five operations,⁹ expanding its use to 15 operations with over 855,000 refugees successfully enrolled in the system by the end of August 2016.

Livelihoods and self-reliance

Through the “Global strategy for livelihoods 2014-2018”, UNHCR seeks to ensure that persons of concern are able to meet their basic needs through a safe and sustainable income that enables self-reliance. UNHCR has increasingly invested in expertise to design, implement and monitor interventions in the field, in compliance with its minimum criteria for livelihoods programming. As of July 2016, UNHCR had engaged over 45 experts in the field.

⁸ Please see for more information: <http://www.kobotoolbox.org/>.

⁹ The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Zimbabwe as well as in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya.

UNHCR is also expanding collaboration with the private sector to support livelihood opportunities. In Malaysia, the organization's social enterprise partner employed 35 refugee tailors and clothing designers, mostly from Afghanistan. In Japan, the clothing retailer, UNIQLO, hired refugees to work in its outlets and plans to hire more in Korea, North America and Europe.

Linking refugee artisans to national and global value chains is a key element of UNHCR's livelihoods work. UNHCR has scaled up these efforts through partnerships with small and medium local enterprises interested in developing unique product lines in Egypt, Kenya, Malaysia, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Thailand. In partnership with a fair trade company, in Egypt, UNHCR provides training to refugee and host community artisans to assist them in understanding market-driven product development. Moreover, students at the German University of Cairo are ensuring the participation of refugee women in the product design process.

In order to address the particular challenges refugees face in accessing business start-up capital, UNHCR has concluded a credit guarantee facility agreement with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) to support the financial inclusion of refugees. This will reduce risks for financial service providers and enable refugees to access loans for small and micro-enterprises.

Energy and environment

UNHCR's global strategy for safe access to fuel and energy (SAFE) 2014—2018, promotes the increased use of green energy options in field operations. As part of efforts to achieve climate neutrality, The Office is working with other agencies to develop alternatives to generators with latest renewable energy technologies and innovative financing mechanisms to provide power in both emergencies and protracted crises.

UNHCR has recently launched, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a new handbook that provides a methodology for assessing and mapping the needs of fuel for cooking in displacement situations, as well as the ability to access it in a way that reduces environmental damage and promotes peaceful coexistence. This methodology was tested in the Kule and Shimelba refugee camps in Ethiopia. In Niger, UNHCR replaced 25,000 expensive wood stoves with clean, affordable bottled gas, resulting in lower monthly fuel costs and greatly improved air quality. It also reduced protection risks, and freed up time which could be used for income generating activities and attending school.

C. Other initiatives

Alternatives to camps

UNHCR's policy on alternatives to camps seeks to ensure that refugees are able to live with greater dignity and independence as members of the communities in which they live. In 2016, UNHCR used its [Diagnostic Tool](#) for alternatives to camps to analyse the policy implementation of 90 operations supporting some 15.7 million refugees. The results highlighted many positive developments, including the increased use and coverage of cash-based interventions to provide assistance and protection for refugees and internally displaced persons, but also showed an increasing trend, in certain States, of policies that inhibit refugees' to access basic services.

Humanitarian-development synergies

UNHCR has increased its efforts to support governments in including refugees in national development planning and services. In Uganda, the Organization worked closely with partners, including the World Bank, to develop a multi-year, multi-sectorial development-

oriented strategy to facilitate the inclusion of refugees in the National Development Framework II for 2015/16-2019/20. This strategy¹⁰ is grounded in existing development plans and focused on strengthening the self-reliance and resilience of refugees and host communities alike. In Chad, UNHCR is developing the foundations for a multi-year, multi partner strategy and implementation plan to integrate refugees from several camps into host communities. In Rwanda, where refugees have recently been integrated in national education systems, UNHCR is facilitating, together with the Government, a national stakeholder consultation aiming to increase the contributions of refugees towards local economic development. UNHCR has been working with the Government of Japan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and UNDP to develop programmes in Cameroon, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Serbia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine and Zambia. Throughout 2016, the organization has continued to work towards achieving solutions for the forcibly displaced, through processes such as the Solutions Alliance Roundtable, the Wilton Park forum on new approaches to protracted forced displacement and the World Humanitarian Summit, all of which emphasized the need for greater international cooperation.

Cash-based interventions

This year, UNHCR began the implementation of a five-year strategy for the institutionalization of cash-based interventions (CBIs). The strategy aims to build the capacity of the organization to implement CBIs where appropriate and ensure that UNHCR's systems, tools, processes and procedures are fit for purpose. To this end, Divisions, Services and Bureaux across UNHCR are working together to make the necessary adaptations. During 2016, UNHCR provided operations in 12 "focus countries" with targeted technical support as they consider whether to use CBIs and develop and implement programmes. The Rwanda and Iran operations, for example, have created a dedicated multi-functional team that are currently working to convert in-kind assistance to CBIs.

The number of operations establishing or scaling-up CBIs continues to grow while operations with large CBI programmes continue to pioneer new approaches. A common cash facility has been established in Jordan and Lebanon for example, allowing UNHCR and partners to channel cash assistance through the same means, e.g. bank card, while each maintaining their own relationship with the financial service provider. In Lebanon, UNHCR is using CBIs to address emergency protection needs through a one-off cash grant, and longer-term protection support to address or mitigate protection risks.

UNHCR also launched a dedicated CBI e-learning training and piloted a CBI learning programme in June 2016. Efforts are also underway to develop market assessment tools to support operations in determining whether CBIs are an appropriate modality of assistance in each specific context, which will be tested in the field in 2016.

¹⁰ Refugee Host Population and Empowerment (ReHoPE) Strategy.