

Strengthening Protection Capacity Project March 2008



The Strengthening Protection Capacity Project (SPCP) is in its fourth year of working with UNHCR field offices and partners to strengthen State and community capacities to protect refugees and other populations of concerns. It continues to work from an initial analysis of protection gaps to building consensus among all key stakeholders, including host governments, international and national partners and persons of concerns on measures needed to remedy gaps. It then supports the development and implementation of projects to address gaps and expand access to rights, livelihoods and solutions over the medium and longer term.

Partnership

To be successful the SPCP requires an approach which is multi-sectoral, participatory, and collaborative. It relies on partnerships and continuing participation from stakeholders, including:

- Persons of concern and host governments through participatory assessments, joint prioritization of pressing protection gaps and ongoing consultations. The results of participatory assessments form the very basis of the protection gaps analysis, enabling a nuanced analysis of protection concerns for different groups of persons of concern.
- International and national partners to address gaps in a coordinated manner.
- Technical expertise from internal UNHCR technical sections (legal, registration and documentation, health, education and livelihoods) as well as external experts. For instance, a technical partnership with the International Labour Organization has been central to the development of appropriate livelihood strategies that benefit refugees and hosting communities.
- Donors to support the projects developed to remedy gaps. To the extent possible, the projects are incorporated in to the annual plans of UNHCR and partners, however, annual budgets are often not sufficient to meet all unmet needs.

Comprehensive Action Plans

The SPCP is currently active in eleven countries (See Table). In some countries, like Kenya, Thailand, Zambia, detailed gaps analysis have already been published, consensus reached on means to address gaps and projects developed which are either being implemented or are ready to be implemented once the necessary financial support is identified. In other countries, the process of gaps analysis, the consultative process and the project development are at varying stages of completion. For more on the specific country developments see www.unhcr.org/spcp.

Country/ Regional Focus

Completed Pilot

	Funding USD	Implementation Period
Benin, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Tanzania	1,024,000	2005-06
Total	1,024,000	

Current Initiatives

Africa: Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia	8,000,000	2007-09
Asia: Thailand	1,000,000	2007-09
Europe: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia	800,000	2007-08
Middle East: Egypt, Yemen	2,000,000	2008-09
Latin America: Bolivia	-	2007-08
Total*	11,800,000	

Future Planned Initiatives

	Projected cost USD	Implementation Period
Latin America: Ecuador	215,000	2008-09
Total		

*These amounts represent additional contributions and do not include the USD 2.2 million received from the High Commissioner's Special Projects fund nor the amounts dedicated to the SPCP as part of the annual programme.

Organizational Development

The SPCP Protection Gaps: Framework of Analysis for refugee situations has informed the Results Based Management Framework adopted by the Office in 2007 and the subsequent redesign of the Annual Protection Report. The Framework is now also available in Arabic, French, Russian, and Spanish for wider use by UNHCR field offices and partners.

Lessons learned from the use of the Framework have also fed into the development of a parallel framework for IDP situations Protection of Conflict- Induced IDPS: Assessment for Action presently being field-tested by the Inter Agency Standing Committee Protection Cluster Working Group.

Additionally, the SPCP methodology is advancing the Global Needs Assessment initiative, which aims to illustrate more systematically unmet needs, their protection consequences, projects necessary to remedy them and the funding needed to do so. In this way the SPCP will assist in Office-wide efforts to enhance advocacy, improve protection planning and expand funding to meet unmet needs.

Sample SPCP projects

Legislation

Assist in **drafting** new refugee act and regulations; translation of international refugee instruments; **advocacy** strategies on development of legislation; assisting in harmonizing legislation impact refugees

Admission and Registration and Documentation

Training border guards, police and other government on refugee protection principles; drafting **screening procedures** in line with international standards; new registration procedures and provision of technical hardware and training to support new systems; **ID cards** and other **civil documents** to all camp-based refugees; official birth registration system for refugees

Refugee Status Determination

Training, equipping, providing premises, and access to country information for **government RSD**; establishing **appeals** committee for asylum appeal cases

Security from violence and exploitation

Improving supervision, training and material support to **security** personnel in refugee camps; **SGBV prevention and response**: establishing new reporting and follow-up procedures; awareness raising campaigns; drug and alcohol addiction programmes; constructing and maintaining SGBV safe-houses; firewood distribution; enhancing self-reliance of women through training and income generating opportunities; deployment of additional child protection officers and training and enhanced best interest procedures; workshops and training in conflict resolution; strengthening civil structures to ensure **civilian nature of camps**; education programme on **trafficking**; rehabilitation of prison and police cells

Health Services

Improved health **infrastructures** and training and remuneration for health workers; **medical care** to urban refugees; creating a **child and adolescent health programme** and strengthening **mental health interventions**; awareness raising to **prevent stigmatization** of psychiatric illnesses; comprehensive **HIV/AIDS** programme; **reproductive health services**; Health messenger magazine for refugee children; training of **refugee medics**; construction of training centre and training for **refugee addiction workers**; development of avian flu **preparedness plans** in refugee camps; distribution of **water containers** and other non-food items; medical care and public health advocacy for asylum seekers; conducting **nutritional survey** in refugee camps

Education

Constructing and repairing **school** buildings and provision of teaching **supplies** and teacher **stipends**; **girl retention projects**: tutoring; school uniforms; separate washrooms; **school libraries** in refugee camps; nursery schools; care and **education to disabled children** and youth; **skills development** for school drop-outs and long term unemployed; expanded **vocational training** and scholarships for higher education

Access to Justice

Establishing **legal aid centers** in refugee camps and **training** of community paralegals to address the legal assistance needs of refugees and asylum seekers; working with **alternative justice mechanisms** in the camps to ensure they respect rights of victims; providing refugees with **legal counseling**, assistance when in police custody, representation in court, and prison visits and developing a pro bono lawyer's network to protect refugee rights; creating **community newspaper** and radio station to better provide information to refugees; constructing **community information centers**; creating an information kit for refugees & asylum seekers

Ability to Achieve Self-Reliance

Development of **comprehensive livelihoods strategy**; **income generating activities** (posho mill grinding; food catering; fly traps; dairy farming, frog farming; agro-forestry; water for livestock; water containers; tailoring; micro-finance; veterinary assistance; fair trade enterprises; home gardening; small services shops; weaving, sewing and clothing distribution; broom making); **skills development and literacy training** for refugee women serving as domestic workers; **vocational training**: in health sector; for librarians; henna, manicuring and hairstyling; computer; agro-forestry; micro-finance and small industry;

Community Development

Capacity building for Community-Based Organizations; **engaging refugee youth** in meaningful activities; **Workshops and training** in conflict management and peace-building; establishing youth association in refugee camps; increased **recreational and sports activities** in refugee camps to address the needs of refugee children; **engaging civil society** to advance policy environment regarding refugees' right to work; **internet access** to camp based refugees; **community radio** in refugee camps