

*We invite UNHCR to engage with States and consult with all relevant stakeholders over the coming two years, with a view to evaluating the detailed practical application of the **comprehensive refugee response framework** and assessing the scope for refinement and further development. This process should be informed by practical experience with the implementation of the framework in a range of specific situations. The objective would be to ease pressure on the host countries involved, to enhance refugee self-reliance, to expand access to third-country solutions and to support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.*

New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. A/RES/71/1. Annex 1. para. 18 (19 September 2016)

## Significance of the New York Declaration

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (New York Declaration) is a milestone for global solidarity and refugee protection at a time of unprecedented displacement. The set of commitments agreed by Member States reflect that the protection of those who are forced to flee, and support for the countries that shelter them, are a shared international responsibility – a responsibility that must be borne more equitably and predictably.

The New York Declaration calls upon UNHCR to develop and initiate the application of the **Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)** in particular situations, in close coordination with relevant States, other UN agencies and stakeholders. The CRRF specifies key elements for a comprehensive response to any large movement of refugees. These include rapid and well-supported reception and admissions; support for immediate and on-going needs (e.g. protection, health, education); assistance for local and national institutions and communities receiving refugees; and expanded opportunities for solutions.

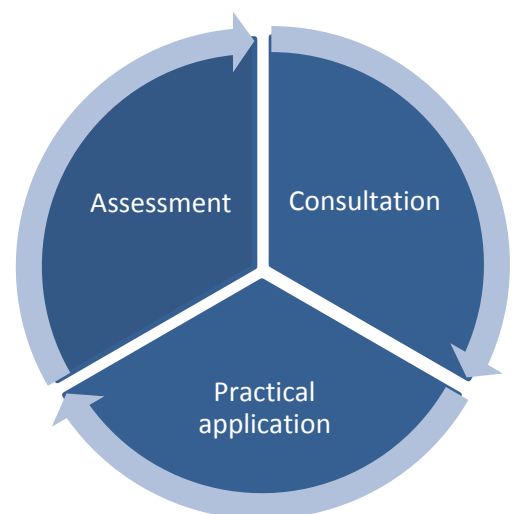
The practical application of the CRRF will inform the preparation of a global compact on refugees, to be included in the High Commissioner’s annual report to the General Assembly in 2018.

## Implementing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

The High Commissioner has established a dedicated Task Team to help develop and initiate the CRRF in a range of situations. The Task Team includes internal staff and secondees from civil society, the private sector and the development community.

Development of the CRRF can be reflected as a cycle with three aspects:

- *Consultation* with relevant stakeholders
- *Practical application* in a range of countries and situations
- *Assessment* and refinement



## Consultation with relevant stakeholders

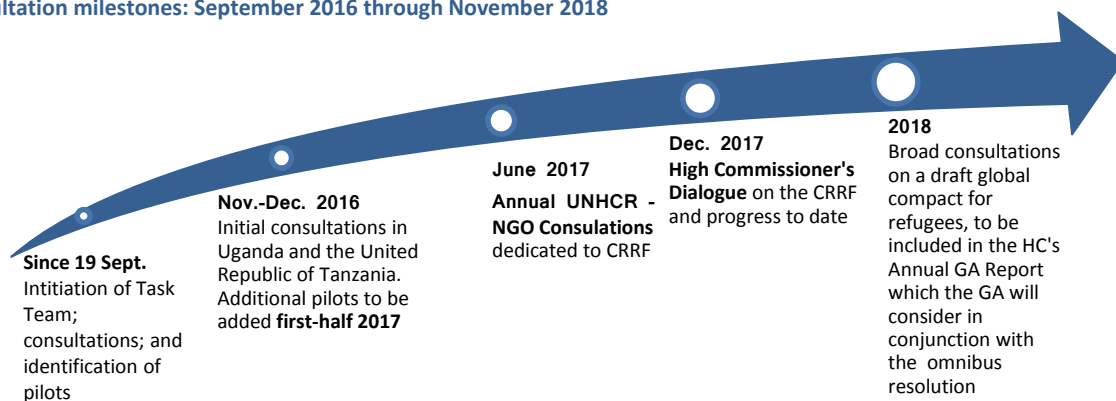
UNHCR has embarked on broad consultations with Member States, civil society, private sector, UN agencies, development partners, international financial institutions and other stakeholders. In October and November, within its two first months of existence, the Task Team consulted over interlocutors bilaterally.

Existing coordination mechanisms and consultative networks will also be used as much as possible at the local, national and global levels. This reflects the nature of the CRRF, which is not a new coordination mechanism, but rather builds on existing mechanisms such as humanitarian response plans (HRPs), refugee response plans (RRPs) and the Refugee Coordination Model, as well as development processes pursued by the UN (such as the UNDAF), Member States, regional organizations and international financial institutions.

UNHCR will convene regular briefings with Member States, international organizations, NGOs and UN agencies in Geneva, in New York and in the Field. The Task Team will also engage with UN Member States through nominated focal points. In addition, an informal Advisory Group -- consisting of past, present and future Chairpersons of UNHCR's Executive Committee -- will share expertise in the development of the CRRF and support regional consultations. In parallel to these on-going global consultations, UNHCR has commenced consultations at the national level in confirmed CRRF pilot situations.

In 2017, both the annual UNHCR-NGO Consultations and the High Commissioner's Dialogue on International Protection will be dedicated to the CRR Framework, its implementation, and the development of the global compact on refugees. Throughout the application of the CRR Framework and preparations for the global compact on refugees, UNHCR will ensure close coordination with New York-led processes and will seek opportunities for discussion in relevant fora, including major events convened by civil society, the private sector and the development community.

### Key consultation milestones: September 2016 through November 2018



### A multi-stakeholder, whole-of-society approach

"A comprehensive refugee response should involve . . . national and local authorities, international organizations, international financial institutions, regional organizations, regional coordination and partnership mechanisms, civil society partners, including faith based organizations and academia, the private sector, media and refugees themselves."

- New York Declaration,  
Annex 1, para. 2

## *Practical application* of the framework in a range of specific countries and situations

UNHCR will work with Member States and our national, local and international partners to begin piloting the CRRF in a range of specific contexts. Based on consultations to date, UNHCR anticipates that the CRRF could be implemented in a number of countries and situations. Three governments in Africa -- Somalia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania -- have already expressed interest in participating in a pilot, and UNHCR is exploring opportunities with countries in Asia and Latin America. Further consultations will be conducted to apply the CRRF to new emergency situations and contexts beyond the specific pilots.

While the NY Declaration does not specify how the pilot situations are to be selected, relevant factors include:

- The agreement and active engagement of the affected State, as well as the support of the donor community
- The potential for progress and lessons learned toward one or more of the objectives (easing pressures on host countries; enhancing refugee self-reliance; expanding access to third-country solutions; supporting conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity)
- A diversity of civil society actors (*e.g.*, development and humanitarian NGOs, private sector, academia, media) to contribute to the design and implementation of the pilot
- “A range of situations” among the pilots, including regional diversity and a range of phases (new emergency, established situation, protracted situation)

## *Assessment* and refinement

UNHCR will seek opportunities to assess and refine the implementation of the CRRF in collaboration with Member States and key stakeholders. Periodic stock-taking will facilitate real-time adjustments and support each pilot’s evolution. Stock-taking will also generate lessons learned, which collectively will inform the development of a proposed global compact for refugees.

Recognizing that important work on many of the CRRF’s elements is already underway in many other contexts – for example, prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence, or innovation in the delivery of assistance, such as cash-based interventions – UNHCR will seek to include key thematic lessons learned from countries that are not formally identified as a pilot.

*CRR Task Team*

*5 December 2016*