

Global update on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

AFRICAN CONTEXT

Uganda

- A team from the New York based *Education Cannot Wait* (ECW) fund met with senior members of the Government, including the Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Museveni, UN agencies and education actors as well as donors. The ECW fund will provide an additional US\$ 3.3 million for education for South Sudanese refugees in Uganda, helping to enhance their self-reliance.
- **Follow-up to the Uganda Solidarity Summit:**
 - To ensure that pledges will be honoured, the Government and the Resident Coordinator's Office discussed the consolidation of the information relating to pledges, and agreed a plan of action for bilateral engagement with countries that made pledges.
 - In an effort to ease pressure on host countries and to meet the immediate needs of refugees, France, which had not committed funds at the time of the Summit, has mobilized €300,000 additional emergency funding to support the South Sudanese refugees. This contribution supplements the US\$ 412 million pledged at the Summit. €200,000 will go toward lifesaving food assistance, while €100,000 are for the critical provision of drinking water through water trucking in Adjumani and Arua districts.
- The Office of the Prime Minister, UNHCR and the non-governmental organization *Give Directly* have signed an agreement to support one-off cash transfers to households, fostering refugees' self-reliance. *Give Directly* helps families in East Africa that live in extreme poverty by making **unconditional cash transfers** via mobile phone. The project amounts to some US\$ 2.5 million in 2017.
- The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has engaged an assessment team to undertake a social infrastructure survey in key sectors in Uganda's West Nile refugee-hosting districts to support the implementation of the comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF). This work will carry through until early December. The assessment will focus on ten projects in the sectors of health, education, roads, and water and sanitation, and will explore if there are disparities between refugee settlements and host communities. The survey is linked to the comprehensive resilience requirements that the Government developed for the Solidarity Summit which are in line with its Settlement Transformation Agenda.

Ethiopia

- In Addis Ababa, refugees are being registered with an advanced system, which includes fingerprints, biometric scans and issues a **Proof of Registration document**. They will be able to use this Proof of Registration to access rights provided pursuant to the Government's commitments at the Leaders' Summit on Refugees (New York, September 2016). This type of registration will start shortly in field locations.
- Amendments to the Ethiopian **Proclamation** regarding "Vital Events and Registration" will allow the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) to begin issuing civil documents to refugees, further strengthening refugees' rights and protection. These amendments were confirmed by Parliament in July 2017, supporting the realization of the Government's Leaders' Summit commitment to provide birth certificates to refugee children.
- UNHCR's **Education** team is currently working with counterparts from ARRA to ensure that a maximum number of refugee children are able to enrol for the next academic year, in line with the Government's commitment at the Leaders' Summit. In Gambella, the expansion of classrooms is being considered to foster greater inclusion of refugee children while benefitting local children.

Djibouti

- Following the commitments made by the President of the Republic of Djibouti at the Leaders' Summit last year, a new Refugee Bill was passed in January, providing refugees access to education, legal assistance and the justice system. Decrees to implement the law are being prepared with the support of UNHCR.
- As part of the Government's "Action Plan on Education" (2017-2019), the Djibouti national education curriculum will be translated into English for English-speaking refugee children. Building on the memorandum of understanding signed by the Ministry of Education and Professional Training and UNHCR on August 28th, the Government, in collaboration with thirteen partners including the Embassy of the United States, UNICEF and the World Bank, is developing a work plan for the implementation of the Action Plan on Education.

THE COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK in the NORTH OF CENTRAL AMERICA

Regional developments

Visit of the High Commissioner for Refugees to Central America and Mexico

In August, High Commissioner Filippo Grandi visited five of the six countries participating in the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework (CRPSF).

Regional conference in San Pedro Sula, Honduras

Preparations are underway for the regional conference in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, from 26-27th October 2017 on the application of a comprehensive refugee response framework that responds to the displacement situation in the region. The conference is co-organized by the Government of Honduras, the Organization of American States, and UNHCR. It will validate and launch the CRPSF, with participation of governments from across North and Central America, civil society members, the private sector, regional actors, and the development and humanitarian communities. The presentation of the CRPSF will include the following components:

- a national operational plan for each participating country that establishes the strategies, programmes, and actions needed to strengthen protection and solution measures; and
- concrete responsibility-sharing initiatives presented by other States and regional actors cooperating with the CRPSF process to support these national plans.

Operational updates

- **El Salvador** has formally joined the CRPSF roll-out and is defining next steps in the process, with the support of UNHCR.
- **Panama** joined the CRPSF roll-out in July 2017. In its capacity as the technical secretariat for the process, the Regional Office in Panama has been discussing process and methodology of the national consultations with the *Oficina Nacional para la Atención de Refugiados* (ONPAR), UNHCR's main government counterpart..
- To support development of the CRPSF national chapters, **national consultations are underway** in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Mexico. In the case of **Costa Rica**, two rounds of consultations were led by the Vice-President, and resulted in the approval of 64 recommendations. In **Guatemala**, three rounds of consultations are underway, the most recent with UN agencies, development and financial actors, donors and civil society organizations. A review of the budget lines of key ministries is expected to be completed by the end of August. In **Mexico**, six departmental consultations were carried out (Coahuila, Tabasco, Veracruz, Mexico City, Chiapas and Jalisco) with the support of the States' governments. Their outcomes will contribute to national dialogue in September.
- In parallel, consultations are taking place with **regional organizations and institutions**, such as the Inter-American Court on Human Rights, the Regional Conference on Migration, the Inter-American Bank, the Network of Ombudsmen, the Network for Latin America and the Caribbean on Migration, Asylum and Trafficking (CLAMOR), and church organizations.
- Government institutions in **Honduras** have taken stock of progress and gaps in responding to the situation of forced displacement in the country. Consultations with groups of internally displaced persons and persons at risk of displacement were completed; these will feed into consultations to be held by national institutions and line

ministries, civil society, the international community, and academia. Furthermore, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs launched the application of two survey tools, one for Hondurans with protection needs living abroad, and one for returnees who seek assistance from one of the two operational Centres for Attention for Returned Migrants.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

First Thematic Discussion towards the global compact on refugees

- On Monday 10 July, UNHCR organized the first of five thematic discussions of the **process leading to the global compact on refugees**, which focused on burden- and responsibility-sharing. The main panel which was co-chaired by Ambassador Pedro Comissário, Permanent Representative of Mozambique, and UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Volker Türk. The session was marked by the active engagement of Members States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, with approximately eighty interventions over the course of the day. More detail on the discussions can be found here: www.unhcr.org/thematicdiscussions

Meeting with IGAD Executive Secretary

- UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Operations George Okoth-Obbo met with the Executive Secretary of the Inter-Governmental Agency Development (IGAD), H.E Mr. Mahboub Maalim. The [Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia](#) and its Annex, [Nairobi Comprehensive Plan of Action](#) for Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees, were endorsed by IGAD Heads of State in March 2017 and constitute the regional application of a comprehensive response to the Somalia refugee situation. The Executive Secretary and Mr. Okoth-Obbo reaffirmed both organizations' commitment to supporting the CRRF in the region and to sustain efforts to implement the Nairobi Plan of Action.

Discussions with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)

- The Director of Comprehensive Responses met with Professor Kennedy Gastorn, Secretary-General of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) to discuss AALCO's involvement in refugee issues and possible contribution to the follow-up on the New York Declaration.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 18 September:** Briefing by the UNHCR Director of Comprehensive Responses and the Director of the Americas Bureau to UN Member States, international organisations and NGOs on the CRRF, with a specific focus on the roll-out in the Americas, Geneva, Switzerland.
- 20 September:** "The New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants - One year on", co-chaired by High Commissioner Filippo Grandi and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration, Louise Arbour, New York.
- 21 - 22 September:** Meeting of the Standing Committee of UNHCR's Executive Committee, Geneva, Switzerland.
- 27 - 28 September:** Regional meeting of civil society spearheaded by the Regional Network of Civil Organizations for Migration ([RROCOM](#)), which will include UNHCR and IOM, to work on a regional contribution to both compacts, San Jose, Costa Rica.
- 2 - 6 October:** 68th annual session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, including a special segment on the comprehensive refugee response framework, Geneva Switzerland
- 17 - 18 October:** Second and third thematic discussions on "measures to be taken at the onset of a large movement of refugees" and "meeting needs and supporting communities", Geneva, Switzerland.
- 26 - 27 October:** Regional conference to validate the regional CRRF in the Americas/ CRPSF, San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

CONTACTS and USEFUL LINKS

- The CRRF Task Team in Geneva: hqccr@unhcr.org
- Contributions from States, NGOs, international and intergovernmental organizations can be found [here](#).
- Other useful links: [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#), [Global Compact on Refugees](#), [Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework](#).