

SPCP - Zambia

April 2007

Update

Background

UNHCR introduced the Strengthening Protection Capacity Project (SPCP) in Zambia, starting in late January 2007 with initial financial contribution of USD 3 million from the Government of Denmark. It is being implemented with the full support and co-operation from the Government of Zambia, which has for decades been engaged in efforts to protect and assist refugees. In the first three months of this multi-year initiative, the following progress was made.

Achievements

Protection Gaps Analysis

The draft Gaps Analysis report, guided by the SPCP Protection Gaps Framework for Analysis, has been prepared on: the situation of refugees in Zambia; the main legislative and administrative institutions involved in their protection; refugees' access to essential services and adequate security; the availability of self-reliance opportunities and durable solutions. The draft is near completion to be shared with stakeholders prior to the National Consultations scheduled in June.

The SPCP process will also be benefitting from the Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) exercise, particularly in the context of analysing gaps in SGBV. UNHCR Lusaka Branch Office's Community Services team, in close consultation with UNHCR offices in the field, has prepared an action plan for implementation of capacity building activities to strengthening SGBV structures. One of the planned actions is to build on the ongoing participatory assessment exercises in the context of AGDM at refugee settlements in 2007. In this connection, a new multi-functional AGDM team has recently been established and SGBV training already undertaken at Meheba refugee camp in March 2007.

SPCP Technical Support

As the first step towards implementation of the SPCP, the recruitment process of the international consultancy (SPCP Project Co-ordinator) has commenced. The Terms of Reference were prepared, and a qualified candidate identified and the Lusaka Office is in the final stage of negotiation with the selected candidate on the contractual issues. The Coordinator is expected on board in time for the National Stakeholder Consultations planned in June and formulation of a multi-year action plan.

Similarly, UNHCR is currently evaluating candidatures for the recruitment of two other consultancies: 1) for the review of the national asylum and immigration framework, and 2) for the livelihood survey of urban refugees.

As a vehicle to facilitate coordination of the SPCP-Zambia, an informal Task-Force has been established by UNHCR and the Zambian Commissioner for Refugees. This platform will be opened to other stakeholder participation, including the donor embassies.

Identification of Implementing Partners

Discussions have been initiated by UNHCR Zambia with the national NGO, Legal Resources Foundation (LRF), to explore concrete areas of strengthened co-operation and in support of building national capacity for the protection of refugees. The areas of focus, in particular, are detention monitoring, participation in Mobile Court sessions at refugee settlements in Zambia, as well as legal counselling and assistance for the purpose of the asylum procedure. The aim is to conclude a UNHCR sub-agreement with the LRF, supported under SPCP, latest by mid-2007;

Improved Registration

In March 2007, an assessment mission was undertaken by Senior Regional Registration Officer, UNHCR Pretoria, to prepare for a comprehensive registration and profiling exercise of refugees in Zambia, including the introduction of a new registration system software "ProGres". This exercise is scheduled to be implemented as of June 2007, with priority on the refugee settlements of Mayukwayukwa and Meheba, accommodating the majority of Angolan refugees, and for the purpose of promoting durable solutions for this particular and other groups of refugees in Zambia;