

Global update on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

This monthly document summarizes key developments in the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Africa and the Americas. It features highlights captured by UNHCR and complements updates produced by UN and NGO partners across the globe.

OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

AFRICAN CONTEXT

Djibouti

Quality education in English begins for refugee children

Following a Memorandum of Understanding on education between the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training and UNHCR, students of Ali Addeh, Djibouti's largest refugee camp with over 15,600 inhabitants, began benefitting from classes in English. Under the agreement, the Djiboutian curriculum will be translated into English, teacher and school administration personnel will benefit from bespoke training, and previously-earned school certificates are set to be recognized. This new measure is in line with the pledge made by the President of Djibouti at the September 20th, 2016 Leaders' Summit on Refugees in New York.

Ethiopia

Efforts to expand complementary pathways continue, in line with the third objective of the CRRF (to expand access to third-country solutions). The launch of a "humanitarian corridor" is expected in October, aimed at facilitating the movement of approximately 500 refugees from Ethiopia to Italy in cooperation with several faith-based organizations. Staff from *Caritas Italiana*, *Comunità di Sant'Egidio* and UNHCR are finalizing the selection process, based on vulnerability. Different to resettlement, persons selected will benefit from a facilitated move to Italy, where they will go through an asylum interview. Assurances regarding suitability for admission were received for all individuals prior to travel. Inclusion efforts will be led by the diaspora in Italy, with the support of Italian authorities.

The ongoing influx of refugees from South Sudan in the Gambella region has prompted the Government's Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) to consider implementing an "**alternative to camps**" for this group. A joint assessment team comprising of UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and IOM travelled to the region to consider the suitability of Pamdong as a possible settlement site, and the practicalities of implementing an approach that fosters an alternative to camps.

Uganda

The **first refugee youth consultations on the CRRF** took place in Kampala, involving twenty-two youth leaders. Some of the principal conclusions were that youths should be more involved in decisions relating to their protection; there is a need for greater funds for youth-led initiatives and for more information for new arrivals in urban areas, including how and where they can access services. There was also a call for more scholarships for those who are beyond advanced secondary level age. Two young refugees, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan, based in Uganda, will join the upcoming thematic discussions on the global compact on refugees and the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges in Geneva in December.

In the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, Lord Mayor of Kampala, Erias Lukwago, urged leaders to stand together as they implement their commitments under the New York Declaration. Mr. Lukwago made the call

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at the 2017 Global Mayors Summit on refugees and migrants, which was hosted by New York mayor, Bill de Blasio, and attended by mayors of several cities, business leaders and civil society representatives from Germany, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, France and the United States among others. The mayor of Kampala **called for more international guidance and support to Uganda as the country continues to apply the CRRF to its refugee situations.**

Somalia situation

A three-day **Government-led National Forum on Durable Solutions for Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** was held in Mogadishu under the auspices of the Somali Ministry of Interior and the National Commission on Refugees and IDPs (NCRI). This forum represents a **milestone in the roll-out of the CRRF** for the Somali refugee situation: for the first time, it brought together government officials and persons of concern to discuss durable solutions. The forum was a testament to the widespread commitment within Somalia to support solutions to displacement. Attendees included the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia, line ministries of the Federal Government, Ministers from Federal Member States, civil society organisations, the international community, the DSRSG/HC/RC, experts, as well as refugees, returnees, and IDP representatives. Numerous participants recognized that this was the first time in over thirty years of conflict and unrest where Somalis themselves – through their government, civil society and community leaders – were leading the discussion on displacement and how to resolve the challenges at national, regional and community levels. The extent of Government leadership and participation in this event has sent a **strong signal of support for durable solutions.** The explicit recognition of durable solutions as an objective under the National Development Plan (NDP) was highlighted as a landmark development in Somalia. As a result of the deliberations during the forum, a **draft National Policy for Refugees, Returnees and IDPs** with its National Action Plan, drafted by the Government, was presented to support implementation of the Nairobi Declaration at national level. The policy will be the subject of wide-reaching consultations with stakeholders in the coming months, to be led by the Ministry of the Interior and NCRI.

Nairobi Plan of Action on durable solutions for Somali refugees and reintegration of returnees in Somalia: Representatives from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Member States coming from refugee agencies and ministries responsible for planning, local government and foreign affairs met in Addis Ababa to **validate the roadmap and results framework**, both of which are the backbone of the CRRF for the Somali situation. Development actors such as UNDP and the World Bank have joined the core group to support the implementation of programmes aimed at stabilizing Somalia and enhancing self-reliance, access to services and assistance for Somali refugees as well as host communities across East Africa and the Horn of Africa.

United Republic of Tanzania

The **first meeting of the CRRF National Steering Committee (NSC)** was held on 7 September in the political capital Dodoma, representing a milestone in the development of the CRRF in Tanzania. The meeting was co-chaired by the Deputy Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), and enjoyed strong engagement of participants including Government line ministries, regional authorities, the Ambassador of Denmark, the UK's Department for International Development (DfID), the Country Representative of WFP also acting as Resident Coordinator, the World Bank, NGOs Plan International and Asylum Access, and representatives from academia, namely the Centre for the Study of Forced Migration at the University of Dar es Salaam. The terms of reference for both the NSC and the Secretariat were officially endorsed at the meeting; next steps include populating the work plan, a process that the Secretariat will lead in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The next meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss implementation modalities – including funding and delivery mechanisms – and to review the Communications and Engagement Strategy. The NSC agreed to hold quarterly meetings in Dodoma.

The **launch of the UN Joint Programme for Kigoma** took place in Nyarugusu camp, Kigoma region. The area-based **UN joint programme cuts across multiple sectors to improve development and human security** throughout the region. It involves sixteen UN Agencies and was developed in cooperation with the regional and district authorities based on the development needs of Kigoma and the capacities of the United Nations in Tanzania. By focusing on both the host population and refugees, the programme supports and forms an integral part of the CRRF in Tanzania. Expanding and increasing the support to host communities will help to decrease tensions and misunderstandings between the refugees and the host population. The launch also featured a new community youth centre, next to the Nyarugusu market, which will be used both by refugees and host populations.

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

Ahead of the regional conference in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, the CRPSF was presented to the *Red-LAC*, the **network of protection-oriented NGOs and UN organizations** that are active in Latin America and the Caribbean. Partners' input on the protection gaps and recommendations for the regional conference were collected. These complement the consultations undertaken with **persons of concern** on the gaps and priorities to be included in the CRPSF. A total of six focus group discussions in **Panama City** and Colon have taken place so far - organized by HIAS and the Panamanian Red Cross. These will inform the regional conference to be held on October 26 – 27, at which the regional CRRF (CRPSF) will be adopted.

Further realizing the **whole-of-society approach** of the CRRF, a **regional roundtable** with academics, entitled "Towards a Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework - a Contribution by Academics" brought together 25 academic experts, including from Belize, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, and the United States. The independent expertise relating to the challenges, solutions, and areas of further exploration on the CRRF pillars was valuable to the process. The roundtable ended with a set of **concrete proposals** within the CRPSF (e.g. training, monitoring studies) which will be included in the regional framework.

ICRC and UNHCR sign a joint letter on engagement on the CRRF in Central America and Mexico: Regional Directors of the ICRC and UNHCR in the Americas committed to sharing analysis of the prevailing humanitarian situation (including reasons for and conditions of displacement) in countries of origin, transit and destination; to identify areas within the four pillars of the CRRF in which both organizations can work closer together in a complementary and harmonized manner; and to exchange information and views on the progress made in the preparation of the two global compacts, with a view to identify areas of common issues of concern and complementary advocacy. The letter invites offices from both organizations in the region to join efforts to ensure specific humanitarian issues are known and understood by major stakeholders.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

Briefing on the CRRF to Member States and International Organizations at the *Palais des Nations*: As part of regular briefings by UNHCR to key CRRF stakeholders on the progress on the CRRF application, on 18 September the Director for Comprehensive Responses, the Director for the Americas and the Head of the Evaluation Service shared latest developments on the CRRF to a room of more than seventy participants. The panel on the Americas also featured two Ambassadors and a representative from the Permanent Missions of Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras. They presented updates on the Comprehensive Refugee Protection and Solutions Framework (CRPSF), the regional iteration of the CRRF. Their briefing by the Ambassadors emphasised national ownership and government leadership of the CRPSF – a key feature of comprehensive responses.

New York Declaration One Year On: Joint event by the High Commissioner for Refugees and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration, New York: The high-level event on 20 September, which marked the first anniversary of the adoption of the New York Declaration, was attended by over a hundred and thirty participants from Member States and other stakeholders involved in the CRRF. The event was co-chaired by the High Commissioner and SRSG Louise Arbour, with the participation of Director General of IOM, William Swing. In his opening address, the UN Secretary-General recognized the challenges of the processes leading to agreement on the two compacts; he underscored the critical need to re-establish the integrity of the refugee protection regime and to balance national sovereignty with protection obligations; and recalled the imperative to create more opportunities for regular, safe and legal migration, recognizing that migrants make an overwhelmingly a positive contribution to the communities that they join. The President of the General Assembly called on Member States' to turn their commitments into action, and for strong leadership and ambition to achieve results, noting that the two compacts are a top priority of his tenure. The High Commissioner and the SRSG appealed to Governments to ensure both compacts are robust, that they stand the test of time, and that they feature the rights of people on the move at their core. They called on Member States to sustain the exceptional expression of political will they demonstrated through the adoption of the New York Declaration. Comments from the floor included expressions of support – including financial - for the implementation of the CRRF and the process towards

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the refugee compact, with reference to progress made so far, including focus on local authorities, commitment by development actors, especially the World Bank and the International Labour Organization, and renewed engagement by civil society and the private sector. Some panellists underscored the important distinction between refugees and migrants. Full texts of the speeches can be found [here](#).

Briefing by NGOs to Member States: To mark the first anniversary of the New York Declaration, NGOs, under the auspices of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), organized a briefing to reflect on the commitments in the New York Declaration and discuss achievements so far, as well as processes underway to deliver on pledges. Four panelists from the Quakers United Nations office, the Mixed Migration Platform, the Danish Refugee Council in Tanzania and Uganda and the *Comisión de Acción Social Menonita* (CASM) in Honduras providing field perspectives, and discussed the human rights implications of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration; mixed migration and the global compact on refugees. Specific examples and references were also made to the MENA region. The overarching consensus on key steps to be taken towards the successful adoption of the two compacts is to ensure complementary between both compacts, and broadening private sector engagement.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **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

- To contact the CRRF Task Team in Geneva, including to upload CRRF documents on the [CRRF portal](#), please write to: hqcr@unhcr.org
- Contributions from States, NGOs, international and intergovernmental organizations can be found [here](#).
- Other useful links: [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#), [CRRF](#), [Global Compact on Refugees](#).

UNHCR CRRF Task Team, Geneva
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