

Global update on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

This monthly document summarizes key developments in the implementation of the 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

Zambia confirmed as CRRF country

In November 2017, Zambia joined the CRRF as the seventh roll-out country in Africa and the first country in the Southern Africa region. Zambia has generously hosted large numbers of refugees for the past decades, and applies a policy of granting refugees a number rights, further institutionalized in the new Refugees Act adopted in 2017. The application of the CRRF fosters the application of lessons learnt from the local integration process of former Angolan and Rwandan refugees in the ongoing emergency response for refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Since August 2017, over 8,800 refugees have arrived in the Luapula province of northern Zambia, with over 12,000 country wide. The Government of Zambia is preparing to adopt a settlement approach for these refugees, enabling them access to livelihoods and integrated service delivery with the host community. An inter-ministerial workshop facilitated by the Permanent Secretary, Home Affairs, and the Commissioner for refugees in November allowed for an initial exchange of views on the areas of priority and next steps for the CRRF roll-out in Zambia.

Djibouti

Donor mission to Djibouti

Representatives from eleven countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Luxemburg, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America) and the European Union participated in a donor mission to Djibouti. The donor representatives were well-versed with the objectives of the CRRF and priorities of the refugee response in Djibouti; and discussed strategies in place to achieve social inclusion as well as progress already made on the CRRF. Donors expressed strong interest in how the CRRF is changing the way partners and all stakeholders work in refugee contexts. Throughout their mission, donors enquired about how the CRRF aims to bolster durable solutions for refugees. Donor representatives lauded the significant strides made by the Government of Djibouti with regard to education, namely with the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Ministry of Education in August this year. They asked about the areas of interest and fields that are in demand in the labour force, and how refugees can be supported in developing these skills. Moreover, donor representatives reiterated their support to the imminent adoption of the two decrees that will extend labour rights to refugees, stating it would crystalize the progress made by the Government with regard to the education and skills development for refugees, and their social inclusion.

Ethiopia

Official launch of the CRRF in Ethiopia

On 28 November 2017, in a ceremony led by Ato Solomon Tesfaye, State Minister from the Office of the Prime Minister, the Government of Ethiopia formally launched the CRRF, reconfirming its commitment to the nine pledges made by Ethiopia at the Leaders' Summit on Refugees in September 2016. The ceremony was attended by approximately 190 participants, representing a wide range of stakeholders, including donors, a refugee representative, and UNHCR's Director for Comprehensive Responses. The Government called upon all actors to remain engaged in supporting the implementation of the pledges, and distributed the road map which will serve as a guiding document for the implementation of the CRRF in Ethiopia.

Donor mission to Ethiopia

Following their visit to Djibouti, the delegation of donors visited Ethiopia, joined by three additional donor representatives (the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden). During their visit country representatives focused on the emergency response to the South Sudan situation. The delegation visited camps in Gambella (western Ethiopia) and met with a wide range of actors including the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation, the World Bank, UN Agencies, and development partners. Donors

continued to demonstrate keen interest in the CRRF and obtained first hand insights into the operational challenges of its application, and the need for additional and predictable funding.

Joint UN project on security, protection and access to justice for refugees and host communities

UNDP, UNICEF and UNHCR discussed the follow-up on their engagement in the “Community Security, Protection and Access to Justice” project, which is joint initiative in four districts and seven camps in Gambella, western Ethiopia. UNDP confirmed its participation in the area of peacebuilding conflict resolution activities, community security and community policing as well as supporting mobile justice and legal aid. UNICEF agreed to review the work plan and propose areas particularly related to juvenile justice to which it could contribute.

Italy starts to deliver on Leaders’ Summit pledge as the Humanitarian Corridor programme begins

Following through on its commitment to resettle 1,000 persons through the “Humanitarian Corridor” programme by the end of 2017, the Government of Italy, jointly with UNHCR, the Italian Bishop’s conference, and the Community of Sant’Egidio Movement, officially launched the humanitarian corridor programme. In total, 500 of the 1,000 refugees selected for relocation will be from Ethiopia; the first 25 – who are from Eritrea, Somalia and South Sudan – have now departed from Addis Ababa to Rome. Among them were survivors of violence and torture, women at risk, persons with significant medical needs and several refugees who had previously attempted the dangerous journey across the Sinai. Upon their arrival in Italy, faith-based organisations and the diaspora will support the integration of refugees. The refugees will be given a visa of limited territorial validity, restricting movement to within Italy only for the first year. Meanwhile, full access to services by the Government of Italy will be provided, including health and education. Permanent residence can be followed by citizenship, should the participants choose this option. In line with the spirit of greater global responsibility-sharing of the New York Declaration, refugees admitted under this programme are in addition to Italy’s resettlement quota for 2017 and 2018.

Uganda

Government workshop ahead of Refugee and Host Community Survey

In the coming months, a survey comparing the living conditions of refugees and host communities to those of the general population will be conducted by the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ugandan Bureau of Statistics, with support from the World Bank. The survey, which will be based on the Ugandan National Household Survey 2016/17, will support a better understanding of how the Government’s refugee approach is being implemented in different areas of the country.

District Planning meeting in the South West

The budgeting and planning processes for local government authorities for the financial year 2018/2019 have begun in refugee hosting districts in the South West of Uganda. All partners working within the respective local governments of refugee hosting areas were invited to present their proposed planned activities for 2018, which will be incorporated into the local governments’ work plans and budgets. The reforms recommend that partners engaged in humanitarian responses adopt the CRRF as well as the Settlement Transformative Agenda (STA) and ReHOPE strategies in their engagement. UNHCR will organise orientation workshops for political and technical staff in local government to strengthen refugee programming.

Director, Comprehensive Responses, visits Uganda

UNHCR’s Director for Comprehensive Refugee Responses was in Kampala to discuss progress on the implementation of the CRRF and the follow-up to the Solidarity Conference. Ministers Onek and Ecweru from the Office of the Prime Minister confirmed their strong commitment to the application of the CRRF, exemplified by the fact that the CRRF Secretariat is at the level of the Under-Secretary within the Ministry. Both Ministers emphasized that the Solidarity Summit (June 2016) generated a lot of expectations and that there was a need to show results on the ground. Whilst humanitarian actors had delivered on a considerable number of projects, the work of development actors was mostly in the planning phase. The Secretariat will refine the existing mapping of projects and actors and enhance the mobilization of development actors and the private sector in host communities.

Somalia situation

Ambassador Affey visits the State of Qatar

The Special Envoy for the Somalia situation, Ambassador Mohammed Affey, travelled to Doha, Qatar, on an advocacy mission and to participate in the 2017 *World Innovation Summit on Education* (WISE). The Special Envoy met with Sultan Ahmed Al-Aseeri, Country Programme Manager of the *Qatar Fund for Development* (QFFD), and with the UN Humanitarian Envoy H.E. Dr Ahmed Al Meraikhi to advocate for and mobilise resources for projects in the Somalia refugee situation. Partners in Qatar suggested that a high-level conference on Somalia next year would

be a critical platform to convene all relevant stakeholders to discuss priority areas of intervention for the Somali situation, including funding and sustainable coordination.

Tanzania

Verification, Registration and Intention Survey of the 1972 Burundian refugees

The Verification, Registration and Intention Survey of the 1972 Burundian refugees residing in the Old Settlements of Katumba, Mishamo and Ulyankulu, including the 1972 Congolese refugees residing in Mishamo Old Settlement, was completed. The exercise, which lasted five months, resulted from the decision by the Government, in collaboration with UNHCR, to naturalize the former Burundian refugees residing in Tanzania, in line with one of the five pledges made by the Government at the Leaders' Summit on Refugees in September 2016. A total of 9,415 households/19,187 individuals were registered during the exercise. The UNHCR team is planning the next phase of the naturalization process and will conduct a similar exercise starting in the Kigoma Region, where approximately 25,000 of the 1972 Burundian refugees are living in villages. Following the completion of the Survey in Kigoma, the next phase will be the activation of the application process for all persons who opt for becoming Tanzanian citizens.

Tanzanian Government visit to Uganda to learn lessons from its refugee model

A second delegation from the Government of Tanzania traveled to Uganda to learn from the Ugandan refugee model, particularly in relation to the implementation of the CRRF. In light of Tanzania's pledge to review its Refugee Policy (2003) and Act (1998), the mission drew useful lessons for Tanzania in its management of refugee affairs, in particular as Tanzania seeks to move away from an encampment policy. In the course of the week-long visit, the delegation visited refugee settlements in Kiryandongo and Adjumani, where they met refugees and host community village leaders and paid visits to schools and health facilities. In both locations, the delegation met with the District Local Government and observed how refugees are mainstreamed in the delivery of services by the Government.

Next steps on the review of the Refugee Policy (2003) and Act (1998)

The Government of Tanzania has appointed a Specialist Facilitator for the 'Refugee Policy and Legislation Review Project' to assist the Ministry of Home Affairs in the review of the Refugee Policy and Act by the end of 2018. The assignment will be split in two phases: the first (September - December 2017) will focus on preparations for the review project, including developing project, terms of reference, identifying key policy areas for the review in consultation with all stakeholders, and developing the project delivery plan and budget; the second phase (January - June 2018) will focus on the draft of the new policy and its implementation.

Second meeting of the CRRF National Steering Committee (NSC)

The National Steering Committee (NSC) of the CRRF in Tanzania agreed a set of measures and way forward:

- Final endorsement of the Roadmap, terms of reference of the National Steering Committee and Secretariat, and the CRRF Communications and Engagement Strategy;
- The Secretariat will refine the results-based framework to support the practical implementation of the CRRF
- The technical working groups were approved, including the establishment of a working group on resource mobilisation.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

NORTH OF CENTRAL AMERICA and MEXICO:

Update on the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (CRPSF)

Following the adoption of the San Pedro Sula Declaration in Honduras on 26 October, participating governments are fine-tuning their national action plans of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (CRPSF, also known as "MIRPS" in Spanish). With UNHCR and partners' support, the six participating countries in Central America and Mexico are quantifying the resources required for the implementation of country chapters. Priorities now include further developing the engagement and commitments made by international and regional organisations, networks and financial institutions; stepping up cooperation with the Organisation of American States (OAS) to ensure the establishment of a robust follow-up mechanism for the implementation and monitoring of the MIRPS; and identifying the necessary additional resources to finance the ambitious actions laid out in the country chapters. The latter is central to the credibility and sustainability of the CRRF and implies the progressive engagement of both traditional donors and new cooperating States as well as all CRRF stakeholders.

AFRICA

African Union's Humanitarian Symposium on the New York Declaration

On 25 to 27 November, the African Union (AU), supported by UNHCR, hosted its fifth Annual Humanitarian Symposium, which focused on the New York Declaration, entitled "*A Common Vision and Perspective for Protection, Solidarity and Solutions for Protracted and Large Scale Refugee Movements in Africa*". UNHCR's Directors for the Regional Bureau for Africa and of Comprehensive Responses attended the Symposium and presented updated on the application of the CRRF in African countries. Uganda's Interim Head of the CRRF Secretariat, who is also Under-Secretary for Refugees and Disasters in the Office of the Prime Minister, presented progress made on the CRRF in Uganda. With a view to inform the development of the common AU position, Uganda communicated to other African nations its commitment to open borders and a settlement approach even at times of influx.

African Union meeting on data collection and reporting

Representatives from fourteen African Union States, the United Nations and Ugandan NGOs held a two-day meeting in Kampala on the theme of "*Strengthening the Collection, Analysis and Use of Forced Displacement Disaggregated Data and Reporting in Africa*". Attendees discussed the importance of standardising the data collection methodology and developing a toolkit of innovative methods to promote data analysis and dissemination towards policy formulation and effective humanitarian response in Africa. They also discussed developing benchmarks for the integration of forced displacement data in continental, regional and national planning processes, which should as far as possible reflect internationally accepted quality standards and best practice. UNHCR-Uganda highlighted the importance of effective data collection and analysis on sustainable approaches and national planning, which integrates both host and refugee communities, in line with the principles of the CRRF.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

Panel discussion on the CRRF in Brussels, co-chaired by the Estonian Presidency and UNHCR

On 3 November, the Estonian Presidency of the European Union (EU) and UNHCR's Director, Comprehensive Responses and co-chaired two panel discussions on the CRRF at an event in Brussels entitled: "*Collective Responses to Refugee situations: ensuring complementarity between humanitarian and development interventions*". Participants came from all EU Member States and Institutions, CRRF roll-out countries, the World Bank and NGOs. The Director highlighted achievements to date, including additional support by the EU, and stressed the critical role of the EU in further supporting countries hosting large numbers of refugees. The Director also called on the EU and its Member States to continue to set the standard as an exemplary international actor in pursuing a 'whole-of-institution' approach, and that the EU should seize the opportunity to sustain their engagement and translate forward-looking policies into action on the ground, and ensure concrete, additional and predictable funding. All participants recognized the need for systematic engagement of humanitarians, development cooperation and political action.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **11 December 2017: Meeting on the global refugee response group, Geneva.** This informal meeting will bring together representatives of host and donor countries, international organisations, NGOs, think tanks and academia. According to the initial suggestion made by the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany at the July thematic discussions leading to the global compact on refugees, a global refugee response group or platform could ensure "rapid, better coordinated and comprehensive response to large refugee movements; ideally before the situation evolved into a protracted refugee crisis", and would facilitate global responsibility sharing in refugee situations.
- **12 – 13 December 2017: High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, Geneva.** Theme: "*Towards a global compact on refugees*". More information on the Protection Dialogue, including the estimated schedule, can be accessed [here](#).
- **12 - 14 December 2017: Regional Conference on Refugee Education in IGAD Member States, Djibouti.** Theme: *Regional Quality Education Standards and Inclusion into National Systems for Refugee Children in Line with CRRF, SDG4 and Agenda 2063 on Education.*

CONTACTS and USEFUL LINKS

- The CRRF Task Team in Geneva: 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](#), [Global Compact on Refugees](#), [Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework](#).

*UNHCR Task Team on Comprehensive Responses, Geneva
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