



47th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Agenda Item 5: Programme/Protection Policy

Oral Update by
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High Commissioner's 2009 Dialogue on Protection Challenges

***Theme: Challenges for Persons of Concern in
Urban Settings***



High Commissioner's Dialogue

- 2009 Urban Dialogue
- Brief updates on previous Dialogues
 - 2008 Protracted Situations
 - 2007 Asylum-Migration



Follow up of all Dialogues

- **A team effort within UNHCR**
- With active involvement of the Executive Office, Regional Bureaux, DIP, DPSM, PDES and DER

2009 Urban Dialogue – Follow up

- **'Pilot cities' where UNHCR will make a special effort to engage with partners**
- **'Global pilot sites' in 2010**
 - ✓ Nairobi
 - ✓ Desamparados (San Jose)
 - ✓ Kuala Lumpur
 - ✓ Dushanbe
 - ✓ Moscow and St Petersburg
 - ✓ Cairo

2009 Urban Dialogue

- **Conduct Real-Time Evaluations in such 'pilot sites' in order to identify good practices**
- Late 2010: Policy Development and Evaluation Service will conduct a series of real-time evaluations in these pilot sites
- Plus cross-functional lessons learned workshop, to analyze urban policy implementation in broader number of urban programmes

2009 Urban Dialogue

- **Slight amendment to UNHCR's urban refugee policy to benefit from the many valuable observations and suggestions made during the Dialogue**
- Amended version to be issued in the second half of 2010
- Operational guidance has begun
 - ✓ combating xenophobia and racism (issued)
 - ✓ pocket guide on working with communities and local authorities (in pipeline)
 - ✓ urban livelihoods (in pipeline)

2009 Urban Dialogue

- **Compile and share good 'urban' practices in a range of areas**
 - Compilation has begun and will be discussed further during NGO Consultations (June)
 - RTEs and lessons-learned workshop will shed light on other good practices
 - UNHCR will seek broader IASC engagement through 'humanitarian challenges' task force

2009 Urban Dialogue

- **Advocate jointly with Walter Kälin, RSG for the Human Rights of IDPs and members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, for a common approach for non-camp and/or urban-based IDPs**
 - We have already begun exploring the issue with RSG Kälin
 - We agree that more can be done to reach out to IDPs living outside of camps, whether in host family arrangements or in cities
 - To be on the agenda of one of the forthcoming IASC meetings

2009 Urban Dialogue

- **Other**
 - Finalization of a joint study on potential cooperation on urban displacement issues between UNHCR and the Cities Alliance: Completed – now with Cities Alliance for publication

2009 Urban Dialogue

- **Other**
 - UNHCR-UN Habitat Side event at the World Urban Forum in Rio (22-26 March 2010)
 - Urban Refugee Policy will be part of the planning process for 2011



2008 Protracted Situations Dialogue

- Addressing Protracted Refugee Situations (PRS) is a **central policy priority** for UNHCR

2008 Protracted Situations Dialogue

○ **Impact**

- Demonstrably rekindled interest in and galvanized action on protracted refugee (and IDP) situations
- Bureau presentations over this week have highlighted progress in attaining solutions
- Informal update summarizing action taken in follow-up to the Dialogue is available in back of the room



2008 Protracted Situations Dialogue

- UNHCR is equally committed to improving, to the extent possible, the situation of refugees in many PRS, not just the five situations encompassed in the 2008 High Commissioner's Initiative on Protracted Refugee Situations.



2007 Asylum-Migration Dialogue

- **Follow-up** to the HC's first dialogue on Protection Challenges has variously included:
 - Activities under the 10 Point Plan on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration (rev. January 2007);
 - Research and development of policy papers on various topics;



2007 Asylum-Migration Dialogue

- Addressing the protection challenges in the context of rescue-at-sea operations in which refugees and migrants are involved, and
- Activities related to refugee protection and human trafficking.

2007 Asylum-Migration Dialogue

○ **Impact**

- Much more awareness and interest among stakeholders of protection challenges in the context of mixed migration
- Much closer inter-agency cooperation, coordination and understanding with IOM, OHCHR, UNICEF and UNODC
- IOM: more strategic dialogue and cooperation