

SCPC – YEMEN

Update March 2008



Boat from Bossaso

Background

The SPCP has been recently launched in Yemen with a generous financial contribution of € 1,454,902 from the European Commission.

The aim of the SPCP-Y is to strengthen both government and communities protection capacities in the areas of reception, registration, accommodation, self-reliance and enhanced gender based violence (GBV) prevention and response mechanisms.

Activities

Gap Analysis

An initial analysis of protection gaps in Yemen is being undertaken relying on participatory assessments with refugees, asylum seekers and government and non governmental partners as well as other relevant documentary materials. This analysis will be finalized in the second quarter of 2008 and provide an important reference point and guide for ongoing collaborative work in Yemen.

Improved Reception

Migration to and through Yemen is steadily increasing each year with new arrivals approaching 30,000 persons in 2007, and more than 8,000 persons arriving during the first two months of 2008. To help the government manage this migration movement in a protection sensitive manner,

SPCP-Y is investing in improving reception of refugees and asylum seekers including enhanced profiling capabilities at Reception Centres, which receive some 67% of the new arrivals. In addition, training is being undertaken of Cadets and Coast Guards Officers on international human and refugee law principles and those pertaining to rescue at sea.

Enhanced Continuous Registration

Registration is a key protection tool and an essential administrative measure in migration management. SPCP-Y therefore is working to strengthen registration and documentation procedures. A technical assessment has been undertaken to analyze current gaps and recommend measures to remedy the gaps in anticipation of the eventual transfer of the registration responsibility to the Government. One of these measures is the recently constructed Registration Centre in Aden and renovated Centre in Sana'a. Four other registration centres are planned to be opened in urban areas. Other improvements supported by the SPCP-Y are the provision of the necessary technical equipment and the funding of a Registration Officer to provide technical and supervisory expertise to the enhancement of registration in Yemen.

Adequate Shelter

A long recognized protection gap has been the shortage of suitable accommodation and the derelict condition of existing ones.



Living conditions in Basateen

SPCP-Y is working closely with the Government to address this problem first by conducting a joint participator assessment in March followed by the development and implementation of improvements in concert with relevant legal, social and economic Ministries.

Towards a self-reliance strategy

The chronic lack of livelihoods has contributed to a number of prevalent and serious protection risks including ill health, low school attendance, and work in the informal sector in insecure and often exploitative conditions. The SPCP-Y is supporting the development of a self-reliance strategy which will include a comprehensive survey on employment and self-reliance opportunities and concrete projects to implement the livelihood strategy of benefit to refugees and hosting communities. This work is being done in partnership with the International Labour Organisation.

In addition to the development of a broad self-reliance strategy, a particular focus of one aspect of this initiative is improving opportunities for refugee women who are often at heightened risk. Existing vocational initiatives as well as activities such as straw weaving, sewing and tailoring are already being enhanced.



Straw weaving by women at Kharaz Camp

Accurate Profiling and Risk Assessment of Refugee Women

UNHCR Yemen is in the last stages to sign an agreement with INTERSOS to assist in the implementation of the profiling and risk

assessment by using the *Heightened Risk Identification Tool* (HRIT). This tool was developed to enhance UNHCR's effectiveness in identifying refugees at risk by linking community-based / participatory assessments and individual assessment methodologies.

Profiling is considered a top priority as an entry point to assess and identify protection risks which will lead to determine appropriate protection and durable solution interventions.

Enhanced gender based violence prevention and response

A key component to ensuring appropriate responses to survivors of GBV or those most at risk of GBV is the application Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in accordance with appropriate international standards. Currently, an independent GBV evaluation mission is in Yemen to assess current practice and recommend means to improve the application of SOPs and enhance GBV prevention and response more generally.



Launching 16 days of activism against gender violence at Kharaz Camp

More information on the Strengthening Protection Capacity Project, including the SPCP-Yemen initiative, can be found at www.unhcr.org/spcp