
“Towards a global compact on refugees”

Thematic discussion two:

Measures to be taken at the onset of a large movement of refugees

– and –

Thematic discussion three:

Meeting needs and supporting communities

Palais des Nations (rooms XVII and XXIV), Geneva, 17 – 18 October 2017

Concept paper

I. Background

1. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (New York Declaration), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2016,¹ called for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in consultation with States and other stakeholders, to develop a global compact on refugees for inclusion in his annual report to the General Assembly in 2018.
2. The global compact on refugees will consist of two parts: (i) the comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF), contained in annex I to the New York Declaration; and (ii) a programme of action, which will underpin the CRRF and facilitate its implementation by building a platform of cooperation to enable more equitable and predictable burden- and responsibility-sharing.²
3. It is the purpose of these thematic discussions to develop proposals for the programme of action in a manner that ensures that the perspectives of all States and relevant stakeholders are heard and taken into account.
4. Following thematic discussion one in July 2017,³ which focused on past and current burden- and responsibility-sharing arrangements, thematic discussion two (17 October) will focus on measures to be taken at the outset of large movements of refugees (pillar one of the CRRF, “reception and admission”). Thematic discussion three (18 October) will examine mechanisms for meeting needs and supporting communities (pillars two and three of the CRRF, “support for immediate and ongoing needs” and “support for host countries and communities”).⁴
5. Thematic discussions two and three will involve a series of panels that pose key questions on how the programme of action can strengthen the international response to large movements of refugees and protracted situations - in particular by

¹ New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 September 2016, A/RES/71/1. For further information see: <http://www.unhcr.org/newyorkdeclaration>.

² UNHCR, “Towards a global compact on refugees: a roadmap”, 17 May 2017, available via: <http://www.unhcr.org/regugeecompat>.

³ Concept paper and summary conclusions for thematic discussion one are available from: <http://www.unhcr.org/thematicdiscussions>.

⁴ Further thematic discussions will take place on 14 November 2017 on pillar four of the CRRF (“measures to be taken in pursuit of solutions”) and on 15 November 2017 on issues that cut across all four pillars of the CRRF and on overarching issues. A stocktaking period will then take place which will culminate in the High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges on 12 and 13 December 2017. Formal consultations on a draft compact will commence in February 2018.

ensuring more timely and predictable support to receiving States and communities, as part of a comprehensive refugee response.

6. This paper sets out background information for thematic discussions two and three. It also contains some preliminary suggestions for the programme of action for discussion, drawing on the contributions of a wide range of stakeholders, as well as experiences in the roll-out of the CRRF to date. The suggestions are not intended to be prescriptive or exhaustive, but rather to inspire the process of reflection.

7. Participants are invited to provide feedback on these preliminary suggestions and to make new proposals, both during the thematic discussions and in the form of written contributions. UNHCR also invites suggestions regarding who might contribute to actionable commitments. Some specific actors have been suggested in the following examples, but they are intended to be illustrative only.

II. Thematic discussion two: measures to be taken at the onset of a large movement of refugees (17 October 2017)

(a) *Panel one: how can we ensure better preparedness for and rapid responses to large movements of refugees?*

8. Preparedness and contingency planning for large movements of refugees can save lives, time and money.⁵ This panel will consider ways in which the programme of action could build capacity to ensure rapid and predictable international support for receiving countries and regions as part of the initiation of a comprehensive refugee response, including through:

- (i) strengthened needs assessments, risk analysis, planning and preparedness, including mapping of local actors, national resources and host community capacities and needs;
- (ii) implementation of preparedness actions, together with contingency planning, for refugee emergencies under the leadership of States;
- (iii) more predictable standby mechanisms to reinforce staffing⁶ and mobilization of additional resources (including for local authorities); and
- (iv) support structures that engage a wide range of stakeholders.

Possible suggestions for the programme of action

Creation of a global refugee response group

To ensure a rapid and predictable global response capacity, UNHCR could host a **global refugee response group** to address large-scale movements of refugees.

The global refugee response group would include a broad range of stakeholders, including refugee-hosting countries, donor and resettlement countries, non-governmental organizations, multilateral humanitarian and development organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector and refugee organizations. Relevant mechanisms defining activation and other parameters would be established.

⁵ See further: UNICEF and WFP; “Return on investment for emergency preparedness study”, January 2015, http://www.humanitarian-preparedness.org/uploads/5/7/6/6/57661691/final_preparedness_roi_report.pdf.

⁶ The term “standby mechanism” refers to a roster or database of experts who can be rapidly deployed for short- to medium-term periods to provide additional capacity, technical advice and support.

The role of the **global refugee response group** could include:

- strengthening the capacity of local and national authorities to receive large numbers of refugees, including by supporting national and local readiness and contingency planning – this would ideally include line ministries, as well as a broad range of stakeholders such as development actors and the private sector;
- monitoring early warning signs to inform initiation of preparedness measures and bolster prevention activities;
- broadening existing and developing new partnerships, including with civil defence and States with proven response capacities;
- developing emergency response packages including technical support for refugee-hosting governments;
- identifying and preparing mitigating measures in advance to manage the impact of refugee emergencies on local communities and economies; and
- widening standby capacity to include development and other actors, including security experts, and ensuring complementarity and coordination between standby mechanisms.

Solidarity conference

A **solidarity conference** could be convened at the national, regional or international level to mobilize and coordinate support for the comprehensive refugee response at the earliest possible time. This could build on the models provided by conferences convened to address aspects of the Syria crisis, the solidarity summit in Uganda, the Nairobi Declaration of the IGAD special summit, and the Americas Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework.⁷

Such a conference could provide an opportunity to identify in more detail how the international community can provide adequate support to receiving countries, including through relevant follow-up mechanisms. Solidarity conferences have been most successful in the past when convened at a high level, with buy-in from heads of State both in and beyond the affected region, and high-level representatives from key international and regional organizations. Political declarations, action statements and/or pledging documents have been useful tools that have successfully led to resource mobilization and galvanized political will.

As part of this process, where appropriate and building on the global compact on refugees, context-specific agreements (or “compacts”) could be developed to address particular large-scale situations, involving diverse stakeholders and containing commitments to provide resources, policy changes and initiatives over a multi-year period for refugees and host communities, including contextualized, gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation plans to assess progress. The “Jordan Compact” provides an example in this regard.⁸

⁷ For further information see: <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/>; <http://solidaritysummit.gou.go.ug/the-summit>; <https://igad.int/summit>; <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/americas-comprehensive-regional-protection-and-solutions-framework.html>.

⁸ For further information see: <https://reliefweb.int/report/jordan/jordan-compact-new-holistic-approach-between-hashemite-kingdom-jordan-and>; www.data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=12008.

(b) *Panel two: how can we support States to receive large numbers of refugees in a safe and dignified manner?*

9. When large numbers of refugees arrive, resources and expertise are needed to support affected States to scale up arrangements to receive them in a safe and dignified manner. This panel will consider ways in which the programme of action could ensure adequate support for receiving States in this regard in a spirit of burden- and responsibility-sharing, with an emphasis on the critical role played by civil society and local authorities and communities.

10. Providing international protection and meeting the legitimate political, economic and social concerns of hosting countries and communities are complementary goals. Accordingly, this panel will also address mechanisms that could be included in the programme of action to support receiving States to ensure safety and security for refugees and their hosts. Maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum is critical in this respect.

Possible suggestions for the programme of action

Reception arrangements

Robust reception arrangements are central to respond to large-scale movements of refugees. As part of a comprehensive refugee response, receiving States could rely on UNHCR and its partners **to deploy resources and expertise** to support initial reception of new arrivals, particularly by local authorities. Actions could include:

- in close collaboration with the government, urgent identification of appropriate reception and transit areas as appropriate;
- in parallel, establishment of a settlement strategy as appropriate;
- support for the establishment of psycho-social assistance at reception areas; and
- provision of technical advice to set up appropriate reception sites, whether reception centres, other collective arrangements or individual/community-based accommodation, as well as for essential services.

Civilian and humanitarian character of asylum

While recognizing the responsibility of the hosting state to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, predictable support from the international community in fulfilling this responsibility could be provided through the **global refugee response group** together with interested and expert States, international agencies (such as the ICRC and relevant United Nations entities) and non-governmental organizations. Support could include resources and technical or expert assistance to:

- identify and separate combatants as early as possible, and to disarm all persons carrying weapons;
- prevent the use of refugee camps and settlements for purposes incompatible with their civilian character;
- maintain law and order, and to curtail the movement of arms into refugee camps and settlements; and
- run special programmes for protection and assistance of former child soldiers, particularly their demobilization and rehabilitation.

(c) *Panel three: how can we support receiving States to identify persons in need of international protection?*

11. When faced with large-scale situations, receiving countries may require support to scale up or establish appropriate procedures to ensure that those with international protection needs are recognized and/or provided with lawful status or

stay. These procedures provide important opportunities to gather information about new arrivals, and for receiving States rigorously and carefully to identify and assess the status of those on their territory. This panel will consider ways in which the programme of action could ensure support for receiving States with respect to the following mechanisms:

- (i) screening and referral on arrival;⁹
- (ii) identity management, including registration and documentation systems;
- (iii) group-based recognition;
- (iv) modalities for processing asylum claims; and
- (v) strengthening and building asylum systems.

Possible suggestions for the programme of action

An “ecosystem” for collaboration on identity management, including registration, documentation and biometrics

As part of a comprehensive refugee response, UNHCR would work with host governments, humanitarian and development actors and the private sector to establish a **digitally-enhanced “ecosystem” for collaboration in the area of identity management**, including registration, documentation and biometrics to:

- identify opportunities to enhance registration and documentation at the national level, with the aim of improving operational and financial efficiencies and preventing fraud;
- further deploy or improve existing biometric technology in refugee operations;
- explore opportunities to reduce licensing fees and other costs associated with the use of up-to-date registration technology;
- improve the collection and quality of registration data, which should be disaggregated by age, sex and disability; and
- ensure respect for data protection and privacy principles.

Asylum capacity support group

Receiving States could invite the support and assistance of an **asylum capacity support group** drawn from a global pool of asylum experts, selected and augmented as necessary for the particular situation.

Participants could variously include: host State authorities; asylum and migration authorities from other States in the affected region; relevant authorities from States outside the region interested in providing technical capacity or other resources; UNHCR and other international and non-governmental organizations with asylum systems expertise; and development actors to support building and strengthening institutional capacity/rule of law as a whole.

The **asylum capacity support group** could provide personnel and mobilize necessary resources to support receiving States, including through:

- recommending appropriate modalities for processing asylum claims or other ways to ensure recognition of international protection needs in the particular context;
- twinning and/or standby arrangements;

⁹ E.g. UNHCR, “Refugee protection and mixed migration: 10-Point Plan in Action”, 2016, chapter 5, <http://www.unhcr.org/the-10-point-plan-in-action.html>.

- caseload management tools (e.g. templates for interviewers and decision-makers, data storage and analysis capacity, document scanners, or country of origin information);
- ensuring processes are gender- and child-sensitive;
- providing advice on how to ensure legitimate security concerns are taken into account; and
- technical means for issuing fraud resistant certificates and documentation.

(d) *Panel four: how can we support receiving States to address specific needs within large-scale refugee situations?*

12. In any large-scale refugee situation, receiving States and communities may require targeted assistance to make provision for persons with specific needs, such as women at risk, children, especially unaccompanied children and children separated from their families, child-headed and single-parent households, victims of trafficking, victims of trauma and survivors of sexual violence, as well as refugees with disabilities and older persons. The purpose of this panel is to consider ways in which the programme of action could direct resources and expertise to support host States, including with respect to:

- (i) the “safe spaces” model;
- (ii) mechanisms to ensure protection of children;
- (iii) preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence;
- (iv) appropriate arrangements for those with disabilities; and
- (v) response mechanisms for elderly persons.

Possible suggestions for the programme of action

Incorporating guidance on specific needs

In order to ensure that specific needs are addressed (including as part of initial reception arrangements – see panel two above), hosting States would be able to rely on relevant international agencies and non-governmental organizations with expertise **to support the identification of persons with specific needs** and to establish **appropriate procedures and services**, including referral mechanisms as needed.

Relevant actors could variously include UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, ICRC, IOM, etc. and non-governmental organizations, including local organizations and faith-based organizations.

Actions may include:

- screening and referral, building on the “10-Point Plan of action for refugee protection and mixed migration”;¹⁰
- establishing networks of “safe spaces”;¹¹
- making specific arrangements for children, particularly those who are unaccompanied or separated, including alternative care arrangements for children outside of family care, guardianship arrangements, best interests determination, psycho-social support, and family tracing;

¹⁰ Above n 9.

¹¹ See e.g. UNHCR, “Guatemala offers respite from region’s gang violence”, 23 August 2017, <http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2017/8/599d9bde4/guatemala-offers-respite-regions-gang-violence.html>.

- establishing referral and support mechanisms for victims of trafficking;
- support measures to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence;
- providing counselling and medical assistance for survivors of torture or trauma, or those with other urgent medical needs;
- supporting specific reception arrangements for women at risk, persons with disabilities and older people that address their needs; and
- supporting the development of community-based care arrangements or alternatives to detention.

III. Thematic discussion three: meeting needs and supporting communities (18 October 2017)

(a) *Panel one: how can we mobilize more resources for humanitarian and development assistance to host States?*

13. The international community has recognized that large movements of refugees and protracted refugee situations pose simultaneous humanitarian and development challenges. Through mechanisms for increasing and better coordinating humanitarian and development assistance the international community can address these challenges in a manner that advances the development of hosting countries, while also supporting the protection of refugees and the search for solutions. This panel will notably consider how the programme of action can support measures to:

- (i) strengthen humanitarian financing, including in line with “grand bargain” commitments;
- (ii) mobilize substantive development support wherever possible for host countries and communities; and
- (iii) ensure greater complementarity between relief and development programmes.

Possible suggestions for the programme of action

Mobilizing more resources

As part of a comprehensive refugee response, hosting States will be able to rely on **additional humanitarian and development funding** for refugees through long-term and predictable partnerships between multilateral and bilateral humanitarian and development actors. Actors could variously include UNHCR, OCHA, the World Bank Group, the IMF, the OECD, UNDP, the WTO, UNCTAD and other relevant international and regional bodies, as well as bilateral donors.

Potential actions could include:

- building capacities to identify and address data and evidence gaps related to refugees and their host communities, including household-level data on welfare and poverty of refugees and local communities;
- a ‘mapping exercise’ to measure and assess the evolution of the needs, contributions and costs of hosting refugees to inform medium- and longer-term development and financial assistance;
- additional development assistance for refugee-hosting countries to address the development impacts of displacement on local populations, building on existing practices and tools (including the forthcoming guidance note for OECD-DAC members to improve development programming in situations of forced displacement);

- factoring the economic and social costs of hosting refugee populations into the programmes of international financial institutions, including in the conditions of financial lending schemes and grant-based assistance, building on existing models (including the World Bank’s International Development Association (IDA) refugee and local community sub-window and the Global Concessional Financing Facility, as well as the International Finance Corporation’s financing for the private sector);
- “beyond aid” approaches, such as preferential trade and investment arrangements, with the support of UNCTAD, the WTO and regional bodies;
- innovative financing mechanisms, such as social impact bonds; and
- dedicated climate financing for refugees and local communities living in climate change hotspots, through the development of new partnerships with the Green Climate Fund and other donors.

(b) ***Panel two: how can we support the inclusion of refugees in national systems and services?***

14. A growing body of evidence and experience suggests that, where possible, the inclusion of refugees in national systems and services (as opposed to the establishment of parallel structures) yields efficiency gains and leads to improved outcomes for refugees and host communities. In order to ensure these outcomes, however, the international community must support hosting States to strengthen national systems and services; doing so also contributes to burden- and responsibility-sharing. Against this background, this panel will discuss:

- (i) the potential benefits of including refugees in national and local development planning;
- (ii) measures needed to support the inclusion of refugees in national services such as those for health, education and child protection;
- (iii) development projects to improve infrastructure in refugee hosting areas;
- (iv) mechanisms to strengthen rule of law and core government functions; and
- (v) promoting economic and social inclusion.

Possible suggestions for the programme of action

Health¹²

As part of a comprehensive refugee response, host States could rely on the WHO and other international organizations with relevant expertise (e.g., GAVI, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria), development actors such as UNDP, international financial institutions such as the World Bank Group, humanitarian organizations such as UNHCR and non-governmental organizations to provide **technical advice or to deploy adequate resources and personnel** to:

- support the expansion of local health services or the creation of satellite health services in order to include refugees as soon as possible after arrival;
- support the inclusion of refugees in national health strategies, policies and programming;
- include refugees and host communities in donor proposals to ensure adequate quantities of medicines, diagnostics, and preventive commodities are available to refugees and hosting communities, and at lower rates; and

¹² See also, WHO, “Framework of priorities and guiding principles to promote the health of refugees and migrants”, 2017, http://www.who.int/migrants/about/framework_refugees-migrants.pdf.

- ensure that refugees who are or could be engaged as health workers have access to training opportunities leading to qualifications, professional support and appropriate remuneration.

Education

In order to expand and strengthen national education systems to include refugee children and youth (in line with sustainable development goal 4), host States would be able to rely on **early and sustained support** from relevant humanitarian, education and development actors. This could include UNICEF, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), UNHCR, UNESCO, the private sector, Education Cannot Wait, the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies, and other education alliances to:

- engage with the local education group, as relevant,¹³ to support local education authorities to expand facilities to ensure refugees are in school within three months of displacement;
- ensure the costs of refugee inclusion in national education systems are taken into account in the development of GPE-supported multi-year education sector plans;
- provide intensive language training where appropriate, in addition to tailored coaching for refugee children to transition successfully to the formal school system, in cooperation with local civil society organizations and language institutes such as the British Council or Alliance Française;
- establish accelerated education programmes for young people, including out-of-school host community youth, together with ministries of education and relevant non-governmental organizations (e.g. the Accelerated Education Working Group);¹⁴
- support innovative programming, including using technology to improve quality and content in classrooms, building on existing programmes such as Instant Network Schools;¹⁵
- ensure that refugee education data is included in national education management information systems, with support from UNESCO Institute for Statistics;¹⁶
- support refugees who are or could be engaged as teachers to have access to training opportunities leading to qualifications and appropriate remuneration;
- expand access to higher education through scholarships and connected learning digital programmes with support from the Connected Learning Consortium;¹⁷ scholarship programmes such as DAFI¹⁸ for higher education could also be a good model, including to ensure access to education for girls.

Child protection

In order to expand and strengthen national child protection systems to include refugee children, host States would be able to rely on **early support** from relevant humanitarian, child protection and development actors. This could include UNICEF, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, UNHCR, private

¹³ Consisting of major education supporters in-country (e.g. United Nations agencies, bilateral donors, the World Bank Group) and responsible for coordination of the GPE-supported education sector plan.

¹⁴ See: <http://www.unhcr.org/accelerated-education-working-group>.

¹⁵ Instant Network Schools currently works in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania, bringing digital content to classrooms. See: <http://www.vodafone.com/content/foundation/instant-network-schools.html>.

¹⁶ The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) is responsible for global education data management. UNHCR is developing a memorandum of understanding with UIS for inclusion of refugee data.

¹⁷ Over 6,500 refugees in 11 countries have participated in connected learning programmes, with diplomas offered by a range of universities. See: <http://www.connectedlearning4refugees.org/>.

¹⁸ See: <http://www.unhcr.org/dafi-scholarships.html>.

foundations and other private sector entities, the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, and other child protection coalitions to:

- identify tools to facilitate access by refugee children to legal documentation, including birth certificates e.g. by strengthening the linkages between civil registration authorities and health facilities, using mobile registration teams, and exploring mobile technology or online civil registration and vital statistics systems;
- facilitate inclusion of refugees in national child protection systems and social services e.g. national, local or district child protection coordination groups, national surveys and research, national action plans to end violence against children (in cooperation with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children), curriculum development for national social work programmes, and individual child protection case management (e.g. through support to deploy additional government social workers to refugee hosting areas);
- expand or adapt existing alternative care mechanisms to accommodate refugee children deprived of family care in line with the “Guidelines on alternative care for children” (A/RES/64/142);¹⁹
- support best interests procedures for refugee children, including through the separation of child protection and asylum/migration procedures and functions;²⁰
- strengthen the participation of children and adolescents in asylum and immigration procedures and other decisions that affect their lives (e.g. child-specific participatory assessments and surveys, and establishing child-appropriate feedback and complaints mechanisms); and
- support refugee children’s access to child-friendly support systems (e.g. guardianship systems, child protection focal points at border entry, registration and reception centres, qualified interpreters, and legal advice and representation where needed).

(c) ***Panel three: how can we enhance economic inclusion and promote livelihood opportunities for all refugees in a way that benefits host countries and communities?***

15. Facilitating access to economic opportunities by refugees – including those pursuing third country solutions, those intending to return voluntarily to their countries of origin once conditions permit, and those who already have voluntarily returned (returnees) – reduces dependence on assistance, ensures that refugees’ skills and knowledge are maximized, and can contribute to the economic well-being of the local community as a whole. This panel will consider ways that the programme of action can support strategies for economic inclusion of refugees, as well as enhance access to financial services and markets for refugees and members of local communities alike.

Possible suggestions for the programme of action

Livelihoods

In order to improve livelihoods for refugees and local communities, States – including host and resettlement States and countries of origin – will be able to rely on various key actors, such as the ILO, the World Bank Group, the OECD, UNHCR, workers’ and employers’ associations, microfinance institutions, academia and other

¹⁹ Available from: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4c3acd162.html>.

²⁰ See further: UNHCR, “Safe and Sound: What States can do to ensure respect for the best interests of unaccompanied and separated children in Europe”, October 2014, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/5423da264.html>.

relevant partners **to provide technical advice or to deploy resources and expertise** to:

- assist in the development of an enabling environment (e.g. legal and administrative) that promotes self-reliance;
- develop strategies to foster the self-reliance of refugees and returnees in a manner that supports local communities and takes into account the skills that refugees will require upon return or resettlement;
- gather evidence and promote the business case for private sector engagement with refugees, including by: (i) conducting consumer and market studies that show the potential of private sector engagement in refugee-hosting areas; (ii) encouraging companies to initiate or increase the hiring of refugees; (iii) developing financial products that suit the needs of refugee entrepreneurs; and (iv) establishing links with global supply chains for products made by refugees via local social enterprises;
- undertake market and value-chain analyses that consider the economic and employment environment for refugees and returnees (as applicable), and the communities in which they reside;
- promote and facilitate access to a range of financial services for refugees and vulnerable groups in host communities, including microfinancing opportunities;
- support the implementation in refugee settings of the “graduation approach”, which consists of sequenced, multi-sector interventions that support the poorest and most vulnerable households to earn income and move out of extreme poverty within a specified period;
- implement the International Labour Organization’s “Recommendation No. 205 concerning employment and decent work for peace and resilience” (2017) and the “Guiding principles on the access of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons to the labour market” (2016).²¹

(d) ***Panel four: how can we bring innovation to humanitarian assistance to achieve greater efficiency, effectiveness and accountability?***

16. Humanitarian assistance saves lives and ensures that essential needs are met. In order to achieve the best possible outcomes, it must be efficient, effective and delivered in a manner that is accountable to recipients, funders and all those whom it impacts. This panel will consider how the programme of action can ensure more effective and efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance including with respect to:

- (i) cash-based interventions;
- (ii) energy;
- (iii) securing connectivity for refugees;
- (iv) data collection and use; and
- (v) fostering innovative approaches more generally.

²¹ Available from:
http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:R205;
and http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/projects/WCMS_536440/lang--en/index.htm.

Possible suggestions for the programme of action

Enhancing the delivery of humanitarian assistance

To ensure **effective and efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance** which provides protection and assistance to refugees and also supports host communities, as part of a comprehensive refugee response UNHCR and other humanitarian partners will work to ensure that new and innovative approaches are trialed, assessed and implemented, such as:

- delivering humanitarian assistance through State-led social protection systems where possible (“adaptive social protection”), or other local or national services;
- ensuring consultative processes to enable refugees to assess their own needs and design appropriate humanitarian assistance programmes, which may also link to long-term solutions;
- working with cooperatives, banks and other financial service providers to enable refugees to open bank accounts, and to facilitate delivery of cash-based assistance;
- maximizing reliance on local partners; and
- continuing to explore arrangements with internet and mobile service providers to ensure low-cost access to mobile phone and internet subscriptions for refugees.

Energy and environment

In order to address the energy needs of refugees living in camps or settlements and nearby local communities, host States will be able to rely on **early support** from relevant humanitarian and development actors, international financial institutions and the private sector.

Contributors could variously include UNHCR, private sector partners such as the IKEA Foundation, the World Bank Group, the International Chamber of Commerce, UNDP, DEVCO or regional development agencies, and local and national energy providers.

Actions could include:

- supporting increased access to affordable, sustainable and modern energy in refugee camps and settlements and surrounding host communities, in line with national energy strategies and development plans;
- supporting upfront technical and financial investments in smart technologies that increase the use of renewable energy, and prevent the degradation of land, rivers and lakes near refugee hosting areas;
- collecting detailed data on energy use and waste pollutants, refugees’ consumer power and preferences, and equipment efficiencies and costs, to support informed decision making on energy access, waste management and recycling;
- developing business models for clean energy provided by the private sector that cater more effectively to refugee needs, and pursue clean, low-cost electricity systems in humanitarian settings;
- mobilizing adequate funding and technical capacity to strengthen these systems, including through specific development projects and the provision of personnel and technical expertise; and
- ensuring that arrangements for the development of infrastructure and related services made for refugee communities are sustainable and of benefit to host communities over time.

IV. Participation and organizational matters

17. Thematic discussions two and three will take place on 17 and 18 October 2017, from 10.00am to 6.00pm at the Palais des Nations (rooms XVII and XXIV) in Geneva. Thematic discussions two and three will be co-chaired by UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection and the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations Organization in Geneva.

18. In addition to the plenary and panel sessions outlined in Parts II and III above, side events will take place on the themes of protection at sea, integrating gender perspectives in comprehensive refugee responses, education and refugee voices during the lunch period on Tuesday 17 October 2017, and in the morning and during the lunch period on Wednesday 18 October 2017.

19. Invitations to participate in thematic discussions two and three have been extended to Member and Observer States of the United Nations, partners in the United Nations system, and key intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, refugees, academics, and other experts.

20. Plenary sessions and panels taking place in room XVII will be livestreamed on <http://webtv.un.org/>.

21. Written contributions to thematic discussions two and three are invited from all stakeholders, whether or not they are attending the thematic discussions in Geneva. Contributions may be sent to refugeecompact@unhcr.org for posting online at <http://www.unhcr.org/writtencontributions> and are strongly encouraged before, during and after the thematic discussions.

22. To ensure that the discussion is interactive, prepared formal statements are discouraged (but can be posted online if desired).

23. Speakers are requested to focus their comments on concrete suggestions and commitments that may be included in the programme of action.

24. Interpretation will be provided in English and French. A brief summary report will be made available at <http://www.unhcr.org/thematicdiscussions>.

25. Statements will not be attributed, and the summary will reflect the key points and overall conclusions of the discussion, with a focus on concrete ideas for the programme of action. This will, in turn, feed into subsequent thematic discussions and the stocktaking at the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges in December 2017.

UNHCR
9 October 2017