

Talking points on EC/72/SC/CRP.4 UNHCR's programme in the United Nations: proposed programme budget for 2022

Thank you, Ms. Chairwoman,

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to present EC/72/SC/CRP.4 UNHCR's programme in the United Nations: proposed programme budget for 2022. This paper has been reintroduced on the Standing Committee workplan since last year as an annual item.

Distinguished Delegates,

As you know, the UN's Regular Programme Budget funds a small portion of UNHCR's management and administration costs. The document before you is the advance copy of the proposed programme for UNHCR's 2022 proposed UN's Regular Programme Budget – the "Fascicle".

In 2022, UNHCR will continue to support more predictable and equitable burden-and-responsibility-sharing and will advocate for and support measures that enhance the protection, well-being, and solutions for forcibly displaced and stateless persons. UNHCR will strengthen protection and assistance for persons of concern, while advocating for greater inclusion of refugees and others of concern in strengthened national systems, with a planned 22 million individual records registered in UNHCR's population registration and identity management ecosystem (PRIMES). The Office will continue to step up its protection and assistance to IDPs and advocate for the prevention and reduction of statelessness, with some 90,000 individuals acquiring their nationality or having it confirmed.

UNHCR will also respond to emergency situations with life-saving measures, and it will strengthen communication and feedback mechanisms for persons of concern and host communities. Support for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) will be strengthened, with access to healthcare, psychosocial support, safe shelter, and legal aid.

The Global Compact on Refugees will continue to steer the work of the Office, providing a powerful tool for broadening the base of support for refugees and their host countries and communities, strengthening protection, advancing inclusion and pursuing solutions through the realization of the Compact's four key objectives.

UNHCR will also leverage its newly rolled out approach for planning, budgeting monitoring and reporting, named COMPASS, to develop more transformative plans for persons of concern, where we more effectively link our results with those of our partners and national stakeholders.

Drawing on lessons learned from its 2020 and 2021 response to COVID-19, UNHCR will continue to mainstream COVID-19 in its 2022 plan to address lingering socioeconomic and protection impacts of the pandemic.

Excellencies,

Allow me to briefly turn back to our COVID-19 response so far. Indeed, the pandemic has ushered in a global emergency unlike any other emergency seen throughout UNHCR's 70-year history.

For 2021, we have mainstreamed COVID-19 extensively throughout our programme, including in health, WASH, shelter, camp coordination and camp management and protection sectors. We have also taken various preparedness measures, such as procuring health materials and equipment, to preposition ourselves to respond to new outbreaks or virus variants. In parallel, UNHCR has also focused limited activities to address exceptional socio-economic and protection needs.

In our 2020 response, we committed to 'stay and deliver', drawing on our strength in emergency response to ensure continuity of essential protection and assistance services to refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless persons. We adapted our modalities to account for changing operational contexts, adjusted our programmes to mitigate the virus' impact. UNHCR introduced measures to afford more flexibility for partners and to ensure the health and wellbeing of our and our partner's personnel. UNHCR's newly established regional bureaus played a vital role, helping assess the needs of persons of concern and allocate resources more swiftly, and ensuring a high implementation rate – reaching 89.5%.

Alongside the pandemic, UNHCR also responded to new and growing displacement crises in the Sahel, northern Mozambique and Ethiopia's Tigray region. UNHCR continued to deliver life-saving assistance and protection in coordination with partners in complex humanitarian and operational environment. UNHCR used its early warning, risk monitoring analysis and preparedness system to review and oversee the adequacy of preparedness and assess the capacity of country operations to respond to emergencies.

In parallel, UNHCR's internal transformation process have advanced under multiple streams, including results-based management (RBM) as mentioned previously, human resources, data and digitalization, as well as business transformations to the way we manage partnerships, finances, risk, and supply chain.

Distinguished Delegates,

As you know, last year's Secretary General's reform proposals for programme planning and budgeting have included a shift in the budget cycle from biennial to annual¹ for a trial period that will end in 2022, when the UNGA will take a final decision on the matter.

The UN regular budget and the UNHCR annual budget submission cycles run in parallel, but with a slight delay. The 2022 UN regular budget fascicles will be disseminated to member states in April. The Fascicle's programme content will be reviewed by the United Nation's Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) in May, and the figures will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) in June/July. Both Committees will report to the 5th committee of the UNGA to help shape its 2022 budget resolution. The programmatic aspects reflected in the UNRB fascicle will be further elaborated in UNHCR's Annual Programme budget for 2022 that you will review and deliberate upon as part of the process leading to approval at the seventy second regular session of the Executive Committee in October 2021.

We thank you for your support and look forward to our continued collaboration to ensure that UNHCR can meet the needs of persons of concern effectively and efficiently.

My colleagues and I stand ready to address any question that you may have on this agenda item.

¹ A/72/492/Add.1 of 26 September 2017 "Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: improving and streamlining the programme planning and budgeting process".