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**Update on global programmes****A. Introduction**

UNHCR's global programmes aim to ensure protection and solutions for refugees and other persons of concern and are guided by five-year strategies in the areas of public health<sup>1</sup>, HIV/AIDS, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); nutrition; food security; education; settlement and shelter<sup>2</sup>; energy<sup>3</sup> and environment; and livelihoods<sup>4</sup>. The programmes are implemented in collaboration with partners, including governments, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), foundations and the private sector.

Through the "Policy on alternatives to camps"<sup>5</sup>, UNHCR advances the objectives of the "Policy on refugee protection and solutions in urban areas"<sup>6</sup> and the use of cash-based interventions<sup>7</sup> (CBIs), as well as the inclusion of refugees in national structures and collaboration with development actors in line with the comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF). The High Commissioner's Strategic Directions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals provide an overall framework for sectoral activities and are governed by an age, gender and diversity approach.

**B. Updates on technical sectors****Public health**

UNHCR's strategy for public health sets the priorities for the public health and WASH programmes. In 2017, timely interventions and regular monitoring ensured that UNHCR and over 240 partners were able to provide life-saving assistance to some 7.3 million people in camps and other displacement settings.

Between December 2013 and mid-2017, over one million South Sudanese refugees sought safety in Uganda. In line with the CRRF, concerted efforts by UNHCR, the Government of Uganda and other partners have sought to ensure that quality health care services are provided to both refugees and host communities. In Angola, UNHCR and key partners, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP), supported the provision of essential public health, WASH, food and nutrition assistance to over 32,000 refugees from the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In Kenya and Sudan, UNHCR continued to coordinate with national and local authorities, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, NGOs and other partners to

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.unhcr.org/530f12d26.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.unhcr.org/530f13aa9.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.unhcr.org/530f11ee6.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.unhcr.org/530f107b6.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.unhcr.org/5422b8f09.html>.

<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4ab8e7f72.html>.

<sup>7</sup> See <http://www.unhcr.org/581363414.pdf>.

prevent and control acute diarrhoea outbreaks. At the global level, UNHCR also continued to advocate the use of the oral cholera vaccine as an effective means of preventing cholera transmission in humanitarian settings, together with WHO, Gavi<sup>8</sup> and the Global Cholera Task Force.

In Djibouti and Rwanda, initial assessments have informed planning towards the inclusion of refugees in national health care systems. Over the next two years, UNHCR will continue to work with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to consider multi-year plans aimed at integrating refugees in national health care systems in six to eight countries with existing social protection mechanisms, such as health insurance schemes.

### *Reproductive health and HIV*

UNHCR's HIV and reproductive health programmes are delivered within a framework of public health, protection and community development. In Minawao camp in Cameroon, UNHCR and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supported community-based interventions and peer educators on reproductive health for young people aged 13 and above. In Jordan, Kenya and South Sudan, UNHCR and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation continued to strengthen maternal and new-born health care through high-impact and low-cost interventions, such as thermal care for babies with low birth weight.

With the support of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNHCR continued HIV and reproductive health-related interventions in multiple countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. This included comprehensive interventions for high-risk populations, prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission programmes, advocating the rights of refugees living with HIV, and facilitating access to life-sustaining antiretroviral therapy. Together with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNHCR supported the Government of Rwanda in delivering HIV prevention initiatives and antiretroviral therapy to Burundian refugees. A toolkit to increase access to sexual and reproductive health services among adolescents is also being piloted in Rwanda. With the support of the Global Fund, UNHCR and its partners are ensuring that HIV, tuberculosis and malaria services are provided to all Burundian refugees in Rwanda and covering a gap in malaria services in Sudan. A Global Fund multi-country grant also allows UNHCR and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to offer similar services to refugees in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan.

### *Nutrition and food security*

In a number of countries, the food security of refugees was severely affected by reductions in rations. UNHCR and the WFP continued to limit the impact of this lack of resources by providing the most vulnerable persons with cash and in-kind food assistance to cover their basic needs. UNHCR remains deeply concerned by the long-term effects of poor nutritional status on refugees, especially refugee children. In 2016, the level of global acute malnutrition (GAM) was acceptable in only 57 per cent of surveyed refugee sites. Avoidance of stunting among children under five met the standard in only 26 per cent of the surveyed sites, while 76 per cent of surveyed sites showed a critical level of child anaemia, another indicator of an increasingly desperate situation.

In an effort to address malnutrition, UNHCR continued to promote low-cost, high-impact interventions and prioritized assistance to families with infants. The multi-sectoral infant and young child framework, developed in collaboration with Save the Children, was expanded to three additional countries in the East and Horn of Africa.

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<sup>8</sup> The international vaccine alliance.

### *Water, sanitation and hygiene*

UNHCR continued to strengthen its emergency WASH response capacity through increased coordination, implementation and monitoring. In Bangladesh, the Office delivered WASH services for newly arriving Rohingya refugees; in Uganda, hydrogeological studies helped identify water sources and informed the design of long-term water supply systems. In Angola, WASH support was provided both in the emergency phase of the arrival of Congolese refugees from the Kasai region and in the longer-term design of water systems. UNHCR also supported the sustainable management of groundwater aquifers in Bangladesh, Jordan, Kenya and Uganda.

UNHCR adopted cost-efficient and environmentally-sustainable technology solutions, encouraging the integration of WASH services for refugees within national development plans, in line with sustainable development goal (SDG) six and the CRRF. The cost of long-term WASH services in protracted refugee situations is being reduced through the expanded use of solar energy for water pumping in Chad, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The development of waste-to-value projects has also reduced the cost of sanitation services and generated useful by-products for refugees in Ethiopia and Kenya. Plans are underway to use cash to deliver WASH assistance.

In June 2017, UNHCR released a briefing note that describes the Office's five principles linking WASH, protection and accountability. The note highlights the protection and accountability challenges that relate to WASH issues in refugee contexts and provides a checklist that can be used to improve safety and security.

### **Education**

In line with SDG four and the CRRF, UNHCR continued to advocate the inclusion of children and youth in national education systems, noting the key role that education plays in reducing protection risks and improving self-sufficiency. Of the 71 countries in which access to education was assessed, 64 presented no legal obstacles to the inclusion of refugee children in national education systems and seven countries allowed partial inclusion.

UNHCR has developed and is beginning to roll out a refugee education management information system. This will provide UNHCR and partners with better data to plan, implement and monitor education programming with greater evidence, accuracy and responsiveness.

With support from the Educate a Child programme, UNHCR continued to expand access to primary education for children. Based on projected enrolments, UNHCR expects to meet its 2017 target of 150,000 newly enrolled out-of-school children. In June 2017, multifunctional teams from 12 countries enhanced their technical education, finance and programming skills in relation to enrolment and retention of out-of-school children.

UNHCR also provided flexible certified educational opportunities for displaced children and youth through accelerated education programmes. Under UNHCR's chairmanship, the accelerated education working group, which includes United Nations agencies, NGOs and other partners, has developed guidance and principles that aim to strengthen the quality of accelerated education programming to increase certified education for displaced youth.

Connected learning programmes have been expanded to facilitate greater access to higher education. Some 6,500 students are in the process of completing blended online courses, which combine digital media with traditional classroom methods in Afghanistan, Chad, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Thailand. In collaboration with the University of Geneva, UNHCR is coordinating a connected learning in crisis consortium with 11 partners to facilitate further growth in this initiative. Through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI), over 5,000 refugee students are attending university in 50 different countries in 2017.

### **Shelter and settlement**

The global strategy for settlement and shelter provides a framework for all operations to ensure access to dignified and secure settlements and shelter for refugees. UNHCR ensures access to shelter for the most vulnerable displaced persons in over 46 countries in camp and out-of-camp contexts.

To ensure the technical integrity of its shelter and settlement responses and meet the needs of persons of concern in a timely and sustainable manner, UNHCR has worked with partners to deploy experts from the onset of emergencies. To date, 22 shelter and settlement experts have been deployed to 11 operations, including in Angola, Bangladesh, Colombia, Iraq, Nepal and Uganda.

Continued development of innovative approaches remains a priority. Over the past year, UNHCR has engaged in research and development work to improve the refugee housing unit, develop a new self-standing family tent and enhance core relief items. Long-term efforts also include the use of the master planning approach, which aims to better link the initial site planning process with the reality of long-term habitation of sites. New principles, practices and skills are being developed, incorporated and mainstreamed across operations so that settlements can be successful in the longer-term and develop flexibly as contexts change. Partnership with the private sector and academia strengthen both the research and technical approaches that UNHCR uses in the field, as well as overall cost-efficiency.

Thirty-two physical site planning toolkits were deployed to field operations to assist UNHCR operations to design safe settlements and shelters. In parallel, technical design support was provided to field staff through coaching, a community of practice and peer-to-peer support. Overall, 28 sectoral experts improved their technical skills through training in the theoretical and practical application of settlement planning.

Developing the capacity to respond and systematize urban interventions remains a priority, given the growing prominence and complexity of urban displacement. UNHCR has begun consolidating good practices in urban shelter and settlement responses, with a view to informing the further development of tools and methodologies.

UNHCR co-leads the global shelter cluster. It coordinates and provides technical backing to national coordination mechanisms through its Global Support Team. In 2017, UNHCR led 12 of the 27 active shelter clusters, coordinating the work of over 380 partners.

### **Information management, statistics and needs assessment**

UNHCR worked to ensure more robust data management processes across the full programme cycle. A needs assessment handbook providing guidance for undertaking an assessment in a collaborative manner in all situations and coordination contexts was issued, accompanied by a toolkit and direct support to field operations. The coverage of operational data portals was extended to 64 countries and 15 active displacement situations. UNHCR aims to include all operations in the future.

Work began on the development of an integrated framework for conducting household surveys, with a sampling toolkit, data scripts and an indicator library to be completed in 2017. Household surveys and other information management processes benefited from the growing use of mobile data collection through the KoBo tool, which has become the norm for these types of humanitarian data collection processes. The tool helps inform needs-based targeting and contributes to improved coordination with partners. Data-sharing continued to be improved through collaborative efforts with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Economic Forum, the World Bank, UNICEF, the International Committee of the Red Cross, WFP and the United Nations Global Pulse to establish a common framework for data collaboration within the humanitarian context.

In partnership with Eurostat and Statistics Norway, UNHCR continued leading the work of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics. Recommendations containing detailed guidance on collection methods for data sources, indicators, and statistical definitions and systems have been prepared and will be adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2018, together with a technical report on statistics relating to internally displaced persons.

### **Registration, identity management and biometrics**

By the end of July 2017, the updated web-based registration and case management database proGres v.4 had been rolled-out in 29 countries, helping UNHCR, partners and host governments to further standardize registration and case management practices. By the same date, over 3.8 million refugees and asylum-seekers had been biometrically registered by 39 operations using either UNHCR's biometric identity management system or IrisGuard, the iris scanning equipment used across operations in the Syria situation. The development of a Global Distribution Tool (GDT), which uses biometrics to verify identities at food-distribution points, was completed and the tool piloted in Burundi and Kenya. The GDT, which ensures a more secure and efficient distribution process will be further rolled out to other operations to track the distribution of assistance.

Technical capacity for emergency registration was strengthened through the training of staff in 20 country operations on registration in emergency contexts. This capacity was used to deploy registration experts to support emergency responses in Angola, Bangladesh and Uganda. Training on strategic approaches to registration strengthened the skills of 11 operations in Asia, in addition to webinar training for over 100 protection and registration staff members globally.

UNHCR is increasing its work with States and deepening its collaboration with the World Bank and other key partners to build States' civil registration and national identification capacity, ensuring the inclusion of displaced, marginalized and vulnerable population groups, particularly refugees and stateless persons. The Office has also advised governments in the Americas and western Balkans on the development of protection-sensitive asylum registration and case-management tools.

Further, UNHCR is looking to leverage technology in the development of a digital identity capacity to benefit refugees and stateless persons who may otherwise be unable to prove their identity or access services. Such a system will empower individuals by providing them with access to, and agency over, their identity information, and increasing opportunities for self-reliance and economic participation.

### **Livelihoods and self-reliance**

UNHCR is committed to working in new ways to include and empower refugees and other people of concern, building on their resilience, knowledge and skills, and recognizing them as agents capable of contributing to the development of the communities in which they live. Building on previous years' results, UNHCR expanded its work to increase the economic empowerment and inclusion of refugees, in line with its global livelihoods strategy and the High Commissioner's strategic directions for 2017-2021.

UNHCR continued to reinforce institutional capacity to implement market-driven approaches by establishing 20 new livelihoods positions in country operations and building the capacity of staff and partners to design and undertake market-based livelihood programming, together with ILO. Market and value-chain analyses that form the basis of market-based livelihood interventions were completed in four countries, while a tool to measure the impact of livelihood programmes was rolled out in 17 countries.

A key part of the livelihoods strategy is to develop sustainable economic inclusion models. UNHCR initiated a global collaborative initiative aimed at linking refugee artisans with local, regional and international markets through the development of inclusive global value

chains. Refugee-made product lines were developed in partnership with local social enterprises in seven countries and underwent market-testing at the “Maison et Objet” trade show in Paris. Product lines from are being developed in four other countries for launch in February 2018.

Together with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNHCR worked on joint agriculture development programmes in 12 countries and collaborated with the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas and the World Bank on a hydroponic production systems study in the Middle East and North Africa region. A new partnership with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) was forged to set up a technical assistance fund for financial service providers in 10 countries. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and UNHCR continued to promote access to local labour markets for refugees and brought together 36 private sector employers to develop recommendations to overcome barriers to the employment of refugees.

### **Energy and environment**

Consistent with commitments undertaken as part of the SDGs, UNHCR is focused on addressing the environmental hazards that threaten refugees and host communities and mitigating environmental damage, such as the depletion of forests. Together with the Green Climate Fund, UNHCR supported refugees and host communities in building their resilience in the context of climate change in Cameroon, Niger, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania. As part of the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), UNHCR took its first steps towards climate neutrality by offsetting Headquarters emissions for 2016. In collaboration with FAO, UNHCR pursued the production of new biomass, conducted forest assessments and devised environmental management plans in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. In northern Cameroon, a private sector partnership with Land Life Company helped a large-scale reforestation project using innovative technologies.

Progress was made in terms of providing safe and sustainable energy options. In May 2017, and with the support of the IKEA Foundation, Azraq camp in Jordan became the first refugee camp to be powered by renewable energy. The two-megawatt solar power plant will be upgraded to five megawatts, saving over \$4 million per year in costs and reducing emissions by six tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum. A 12-megawatt solar power plant will also be completed in Zaatari camp, Jordan, in 2017.

UNHCR collaborated with multiple United Nations and NGO partners to update and standardize environmental impact assessment approaches in emergency settings and develop indicators to measure impact in environment programming. Partnerships were strengthened with FAO, the World Bank, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Schneider Electric, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the IKEA Foundation, Philips Lighting, Eurelectric, Practical Action, Mercy Corps, and Engineers Without Borders to increase capacity, expertise and innovation.

## **C. Other initiatives**

### **Alternatives to camps**

UNHCR’s policy on alternatives to camps seeks to empower refugees to live as independent and active members of their communities. In order to identify progress and areas for improvement in the implementation of the policy, a diagnostic tool was used to analyse data from UNHCR operations, covering some 10 million refugees. It showed that 69 per cent of refugee populations currently reside outside of camps. The 2017 diagnostic tool results reflect increased efforts in areas such as advocacy and communication with both

refugees and host communities, as well as UNHCR's growing engagement with national authorities. Nevertheless, there is scope to strengthen collaboration and to remove some of the obstacles that refugees continue to face in participating in the local economy.

### **Humanitarian-development synergies**

UNHCR and the World Bank significantly strengthened their cooperation through the operationalization of a global concessional financing facility in the Middle East. The World Bank's International Development Association's (IDA) financing programme for countries receiving large numbers of refugees (IDA18), is being rolled out in Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Djibouti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger, Pakistan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. In addition, UNHCR and the World Bank planned eight training sessions to familiarize staff in key countries on the World Bank's mandate and response to forced displacement.

Together with ILO, UNHCR has drawn up a joint action plan on the access of refugees to labour markets, rights at work and livelihoods. UNHCR concluded a series of dialogues with the OECD in Europe and North America, resulting in a joint action plan for engaging employers on the subject of refugee employment. While continuing operational engagement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office also sought to identify further strategic areas for collaboration. UNHCR has been involved in preparations for the International Conference on Social Protection in Contexts of Fragility and Forced Displacement, which will take place in Brussels in September 2017 to strengthen partnership opportunities with development stakeholders in order to link cash-based and social protection interventions.

As a sign of increasing donor interest, the Government of Denmark has renewed its support for innovative solutions-oriented programming until 2021. The Government of Luxembourg has also allocated a specific contribution to support UNHCR's strategy to engage with a broader range of development partners while preserving and upholding humanitarian principles.

### **Cash-based interventions**

UNHCR has achieved its grand bargain commitment on cash-based programming and provided cash assistance to 2.5 million persons of concern in 60 operations in 2016. Cash assistance increased from \$325 million in 2015 to \$688 million in 2016, exceeding in-kind assistance for the first time.

Cash is used for a wide range of purposes, including protection, basic needs and livelihoods. The majority of CBIs took the form of multi-purpose cash grants, providing people with the dignity of choice. UNHCR transferred \$145 million in cash to assist returning refugees and delivered cash assistance for specific protection needs in some 30 operations.

UNHCR trained over 2,000 staff and partners on CBIs, and made tools and systems available to the humanitarian community. Through common cash delivery mechanisms, UNHCR negotiated and established cash transfer services that are managed by the private sector but available to all partners under the same terms and conditions. UNHCR and WFP signed an addendum to the previous memoranda of understanding to include cash assistance to refugees.

Field operations are able to implement effective and efficient cash assistance through UNHCR's "focus country" approach. Strong financial management and accountability will be further strengthened through the roll-out of the new monitoring framework for cash.

Improving rapid cash assistance is essential for preparedness in emergencies. Partnerships remain crucial for sharing knowledge, systems and tools and pursuing common approaches for cash delivery.