



Memorandum of Understanding between UNDP and UNHCR - regional cooperation on the Syria and Iraq situations

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (hereinafter referred to as UNHCR), taking into consideration the complex humanitarian and development challenges generated by the conflicts in the Syria Arab Republic and Iraq and the consequent massive external and internal population displacement within the region and beyond, confirm their commitment to working cooperatively together throughout the displacement cycle from emergency to stabilization/ resilience and development.

2. In working to give effect to the present regional agreement, UNDP and UNHCR are and will remain mindful of existing and future coordination arrangements with national authorities, as well as the responsibilities, competences and contributions of other agencies of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society organizations. They will, to the best of their ability, support and cooperate with other agencies in the discharge of their respective mandates.

II. PREAMBLE

3. The speed, scale and complexity of the Syrian and Iraqi conflicts and the displacement of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) have had an unprecedented impact on the region. The immediate, medium and long term consequences and costs are still evolving and require both early action and continuing assessment. A comprehensive and coordinated response by humanitarian and development actors will be required in order to stabilize the situation, build capacities for resilience at household and national level, and prepare the ground for sustainable recovery and development.

4. The spill-over effects of the Iraqi and Syrian conflicts, including the massive and continuing internal and external displacement of refugees and IDPs, have had unprecedented political, economic and social consequences. These continue to reverberate across the region carrying particularly high costs for local communities and authorities hard pressed to manage the crisis. Moreover, the circumstances of refugees

already in exile continue to deteriorate posing additional challenges for social stability and cohesion.

5. The need for a country driven, regionally coordinated approach to the many dimensions of the current situation has been widely recognised. Operationally, complementary responses are required that draw on the comparative advantages of humanitarian and development organizations in order to address the range of needs on a timely basis and at an appropriate scale. These must be crafted to respond to the individual context and specific challenges apparent in the most affected countries and prioritized to assist the most vulnerable communities and populations. There is agreement that the continued delivery of assistance through humanitarian response mechanisms must be accompanied by substantive investment in medium and longer term programmes that enable communities and governments to cope, recover, and regain development momentum

6. The unprecedented gravity of the crisis and its implications for the region requires the delivery of timely, effective and coordinated responses. In recognition of the importance of system wide coherence, UNDP and UNHCR are committed to working together to design complementary humanitarian and resilience based development approaches, and mobilizing resources that draw on appropriate financing mechanism and pathways. To that end, they will identify programmes and projects that prioritize and address immediate vulnerabilities, strengthen social cohesion, build the resilience of people, communities, institutions, as well as social and public services, and restore and develop economic opportunities. The scope of cooperation will cover the immediate, medium, and longer term challenges posed by the regional situation and correspond to the emergency, stabilization/ resilience-based development/solutions requirements.

III. OBJECTIVES

7. The principle objectives of this regional Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Syrian and Iraqi situations shall be to:

(a) consolidate cooperation between the two organizations in addressing the complex challenges of securing stabilization, enhancing recovery, and restoring development in the most affected countries and communities across the region caused by the conflict and the mass displacement of refugees and IDPs;

(b) Exercise joint leadership for, and provide through, the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) initiative, an operational framework within which complementary humanitarian and resilience-based development interventions will be pursued by the two organizations throughout the displacement, stabilization/recovery and development/ solutions phases of the Syrian conflict;

(c) Help country offices address issues relating to programmatic linkages and complementarity so as to ensure coherence and effective coordination between refugee and IDP protection and resilience-building interventions.

IV. BASIC OPERATING PRINCIPLES

8. The resilience-based approach is grounded in the UN's core principles and universal values such as equity, participation and human rights. The following basic principles shall guide UNDP/UNHCR cooperation in the implementation of this regional MoU:

- (a) Subsidiarity: Practical and flexible operational procedures, with authority delegated to Country Directors/Representatives and offices for planning, management, and implementation, will be pursued;
- (b) Functional: Cooperation will be based on a practical and complementary partnership that identifies opportunities where humanitarian and development interventions are mutually reinforcing, and are pursued on the basis of each agency's basic mandate and comparative advantage;
- (c) Verifiable: Collaboration between the two organizations should produce tangible and measurable results for the beneficiaries (refugees, host communities, and IDPs);
- (d) Cost Effective: The cooperation will demonstrate and deliver value for money through well designed targeting and cost effective management and implementation;
- (e) Equitable: The design and delivery of assistance will strive to ensure balanced results for the beneficiaries in order to promote social cohesion and stability.
- (f) Relevant: The design and targeting of programmes will be evidence-based and will aim to make optimal use of data and information pertaining to populations of concern to identify the most vulnerable, including women, children, the elderly, and the disabled;
- (g) Sustainable: The UNDP-UNHCR partnership will aim to enhance national ownership at the appropriate level in the design and conduct of both humanitarian and development interventions.

V SCOPE OF COOPERATION

9. The two organizations will commit to coordination and cooperation at three levels:

Regional

10. UNHCR and UNDP will establish a consultation mechanism at regional level, hereinafter referred to as the UNDP/UNHCR Joint Secretariat, to coordinate action with respect to ongoing and emerging strategic and geographical priorities throughout the displacement cycle. The two organizations will ensure that their actions are coordinated with and communicated to other development and humanitarian

organizations that are part of the overall regional response to the Syrian and Iraqi situations.

11. More specifically, the UNDP/UNHCR Joint Secretariat will provide guidance and support to UNDP and UNHCR country offices insofar as the Syrian and Iraqi situations is concerned as follows:

- (a) complementarity and coordination between humanitarian programmes and immediate, medium and longer term resilience based development programmes, under the Regional Response Plans and relevant national plans and processes.
- (b) preparation of strategic policy and research to address knowledge gaps at the regional level on the interface between humanitarian and resilience based development programme planning under the aegis of the 3RP initiative;
- (c) consolidation of data and information at the regional level pertaining to populations of concern to underpin decision-making on geographical, sectoral, and resource allocation priorities
- (d) technical support as needed for country offices with respect to programme design, implementation modalities, and funding mechanisms;

National

12. UNHCR and UNDP will develop tailored, country specific operational frameworks that will set out the key objectives, target beneficiaries, sectoral priorities, and locations. The country level agreements will spell out intervention strategies, coordination and management arrangements, delivery/implementing procedures, and technical and financial data.

Programme

13. UNHCR and UNDP will coordinate with respect to programming, technical design and financial allocations so as to ensure complementarity and synergies between humanitarian and development actions. They will establish regular meeting schedules and consultations at regional and field level.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU

14. In order to advance their operational cooperation, the two organizations will strive to:

- (a) identify and analyze specific consequences of refugee and IDP concentrations on local populations and formulate programmes to meet their requirements;

- (b) share information and consult each other through the design, planning and implementation of their respective programmes;
- (c) undertake joint assessment, planning, and programming missions to strengthen operational linkages;
- (d) agree on the most appropriate form of cooperation with the national and local authorities and the respective communities on the design and delivery of their respective programmes;
- (e) coordinate their approach to the involvement and development of local civil society and the private sector in partnership with international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
- (f) collaborate on reporting to the national and local authorities on progress and results and periodically report to local donor representatives on progress, constraints, and emerging issues

VII. RESOURCE MOBILISATION

15. Interventions for effectively responding to the critical needs of host country communities affected by the refugee presence will require substantial resources additional to those available under UNHCR and UNDP's regular budgetary allocations. When seeking additional budgetary resources for such programmes, the two organizations shall make use of events such as round table and consultative group meetings, as well as regional or local donor meetings, to attract and mobilise resources for jointly designed programmes in the areas such as social cohesion, housing, livelihoods and employment generation, water and sanitation, effective public service provision including waste management, community infrastructure, and institutional and capacity strengthening in refugee impacted communities.

VIII. VALIDITY

16. This agreement shall remain valid from the date of its signature and shall remain in force for one year unless the two organizations agree on an extension of the terms of the agreement. After one year this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be subject to a general review by the two organizations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties affix their signatures below.

FOR UNDP

Helen Clark

Administrator of the United Nations
Development Programme

Date:

17/9/2014

FOR UNHCR

António Guterres

United Nations High Commissioner for
Refugees

Date:

17/9/2014