

FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

FOR THE

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION (CPA) FOR

SOMALI REFUGEES

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CONTENTS

Part I – Building Consensus Among Stakeholders

Introduction.....	3
Objectives of the CPA.....	3
The Need for responsibility and burden sharing.....	4
The Role of the CPA in the context of the Somali Peace Process.....	5
The Process for arriving at the CPA.....	5
Conclusion.....	6

Part II

Indicative Areas of Activity under the Comprehensive Plan of Action: Areas for Commitment

Areas for Commitment	7
Durable Solutions in the Country of Origin:	
<i>Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration.....</i>	7
<i>Enhancing protection and the well-being of returnees and IDPs:</i>	
<i>Legal and physical safety issues.....</i>	8
<i>Food security.....</i>	8
<i>Increased access to safe water.....</i>	9
<i>Housing, land, property and shelter.....</i>	9
<i>Sanitation.....</i>	9
<i>Health and HIV/AIDS.....</i>	9
<i>Education.....</i>	9
<i>Livelihoods.....</i>	10
Durable Solutions and Protection in Countries of Asylum:	
<i>Local integration.....</i>	11
<i>Resettlement.....</i>	11
<i>Enhancing the quality of protection of refugees in countries of asylum:.....</i>	11
<i>Legal framework and institutional capacity.....</i>	12
<i>Legal and physical protection.....</i>	12
<i>Enhancing the well-being of refugees.....</i>	13
<i>Adequate standard of living:.....</i>	13
<i>Education.....</i>	13
<i>Health.....</i>	13
<i>Protection of groups with specific needs.....</i>	13
Development Assistance for Refugees for the Promotion of Self-Reliance.....	14
Assistance to Host Communities through Environmental and Infrastructural Rehabilitation.....	14

Part I
Building Consensus Among Stakeholders

Introduction

1. In 1991, following the overthrow of the military regime of Siad Barre, the State of Somalia collapsed as civil war engulfed the capital, Mogadishu. Conflict and instability has plagued Somalia since. At the height of the civil conflict, over 3 million people - nearly half the population - were displaced internally or sought refuge, mainly in the neighbouring States. Since then, voluntary repatriation, mainly to Somaliland and Puntland, has reduced the number of Somali refugees still in exile to 389,000 at the end of 2004. Approximately 250,000 of these refugees live in the neighbouring host countries of Djibouti (14,386), Ethiopia (10,370), Kenya (156,000), and Yemen (63,511). Despite the continued generosity of the host States, the situation continues to be one of the most problematic and protracted in Africa, largely because of the ongoing insecurity in Central and Southern Somalia and the absence of adequate support for the reintegration of returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the north. For those remaining in exile, the inadequacy of existing protection and assistance and the lack of access to durable solutions represent a source of both human and state insecurity, and a cause of onward movements.

2. Based on the concepts developed in UNHCR's Convention Plus initiative, the Somali Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) represents a 'road map' for mobilizing international support and cooperation to address the situation of Somali refugees, returnees and IDPs. While the broader Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-led Somali Peace Process represents a very positive development and offers hope that voluntary repatriation to Central and Southern Somalia may be possible in the future, the CPA is based on the current realities in the protection of displaced Somalis.

Objectives of the CPA

3. The aim of the CPA is to foster and sustain multilateral commitment among interested States and other stakeholders, to enhance the provision of quality protection for Somali refugees in the region and to find durable solutions, in a spirit of burden and responsibility sharing.

4. The specific objectives of the CPA are:

- to identify and pursue appropriate **durable solutions** applicable to each group of Somalis and each host country as part of a comprehensive and strategic approach;
- to make the option of voluntary repatriation more attractive for refugees still in exile and to ensure the **sustainability of reintegration** in the country of origin by providing adequate access to protection, including basic services and income-generation opportunities;
- where durable solutions are not immediately available, to identify and pursue measures to **enhance the quality of asylum** in the respective host countries, particularly through interventions to ensure better legal and physical protection and improved well-being;
- to promote refugees' **self-reliance** in order to improve the quality of protection enjoyed and enable them to contribute to the development of their host

communities, while at the same time preparing them for eventual voluntary repatriation; and

- to further address the challenges posed to host countries through **rehabilitation and development** of areas affected by the presence of refugees.

The need for responsibility and burden sharing

5. All stakeholders have a clear interest in working together, in a spirit of burden and responsibility-sharing, to meet the objectives of the CPA. Only through a common commitment to provide political and financial support can the welfare of displaced Somalis be improved while furthering the ultimate objective of seeing peace and stability restored inside Somalia. Chief among these common interests and concerns are the following:

- the need for the international community to support the ongoing peace process in order to restore stability inside Somalia and, ultimately, to facilitate resolution of the problem of Somali displacement, whether internally, externally in the region or beyond;
- the urgent need to address existing inadequacies in protection and durable solutions for Somali refugees in asylum countries of the region, as highlighted by the Gaps Analyses undertaken in the context of the Preparatory Project for the CPA and the Strengthening Protection Capacity Project (SPCP), and confirmed by the findings of the Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies' survey on 'Movements of Somali Refugees and Asylum-seekers' and State Responses thereto';
- the potential human and regional security risks, including that of renewed outflows, associated with the lack of adequate protection, assistance and durable solutions for Somali refugees, returnees and IDPs;
- the recognition that an effective strategy to achieve lasting solutions can only be devised through a combination of durable solutions which take account of the specific circumstances of each refugee, returnee or IDP situation;
- the need to enhance self-reliance opportunities in order to realize the potential contribution of refugees to their host communities through their skills and other resources, and of returnees and IDPs to the rebuilding of their country of origin; and
- the repeated acknowledgment made in many international fora, that the often-neglected needs of Africa should become a renewed priority for the world's richer States.

6. Given these interests and imperatives, which should underpin all stakeholders' commitment to resolving the situation of displaced Somalis, this document serves as a basis on which to engage in a participatory dialogue concerning the ultimate components of the CPA and of the role of all stakeholders at national, regional and international levels in its implementation.

The role of the CPA in the context of the Somali Peace Process

7. At the time the CPA was conceptualized in late 2003, the Somali National Reconciliation Conference was far from reaching a conclusion. Since that time, however, the peace process has gained considerable momentum and resulted in a number of important developments, chief among them being the establishment of the Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in late 2004 and its institutions. The Somali TFG has welcomed the Preparatory Project for the CPA and the opportunity it offers to mobilize support for the Somali TFG while addressing the needs of Somali refugees and displaced persons.

8. Clearly, there will be mutual complementarity between the CPA and initiatives which may evolve under the Somali TFG to address the dire needs of the Somali people and to end their massive internal and external displacement. One such area of complementarity is the Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) which is being jointly prepared and led by the United Nations Development Group and the World Bank on behalf of the Somali TFG. The objective of the JNA is to help Somalia begin to achieve sustained reconstruction and development and to deepen the continuing peace process. Following an assessment of needs and prioritization of strategies, the JNA will result in a Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) which will be used to mobilize resources.

9. Some of the work which is being carried out under the CPA will contribute to and support the JNA - particularly the JNA clusters on 'Livelihoods and solutions for the displaced' and 'Social services and protection of vulnerable groups'. Notwithstanding, the focus of the CPA remains firmly on those areas that are realistic and implementable in the short to medium term. The successful resolution of the peace process will open the way for voluntary repatriation to Central and Southern Somalia. In the meantime, however, there is considerable work to be done to consolidate reintegration and rehabilitation for the more than 1 million who have already repatriated to northern regions of the country.

The process for arriving at the CPA

10. This document is intended to serve as a basis for dialogue between all stakeholders in the process of building consensus on the programme strategies and components which will form the core of the CPA. The document highlights the main areas to be addressed in order to enhance the enjoyment of quality protection, including rehabilitation and reintegration, self-reliance and development. It further outlines some of the main interventions through which sustainable durable solutions are to be achieved for Somalia's uprooted populations.

11. The proposed interventions outlined in this document are based on the outcome of the gaps analyses as well as the national consultations which have taken place in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Yemen, and Somalia, under the CPA Preparatory Project. Convened jointly by the respective national authority and UNHCR in each case, the national consultations offered the opportunity for intense dialogue and exchanges with a wide range of stakeholders. These included local and central government officials, other United Nations Agencies, refugees, international and national NGOs and representatives of the sponsoring institution and co-sponsoring governments. Subsequently, these stakeholders have continued to meet at the national level to translate the recommendations which resulted from the consultations into

programme strategies and interventions for inclusion in the respective country chapters of the CPA. A first round has been completed in Kenya and Somalia and a series of project and programme proposals have already been formulated. A similar process is under way in Djibouti and Ethiopia, to be followed by Yemen towards mid-October.

12. In order to mobilize the widest possible political and financial support while finalizing the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA), the following next steps in the consultative process are envisaged:

- 12.1. consultations with prospective donor States in Geneva during September and October 2005, including Members of UNHCR's Executive Committee (ExCom), followed by consultations with regional stakeholders;
- 12.2. the outcome of these various consultations will be incorporated into a first draft of the CPA which will be distributed for further discussion during the High Commissioner's Forum in November 2005;
- 12.3. based on the consolidated outcome of all of the above, UNHCR's Representatives in the region, together with their government counterparts, will review and finalize their respective country chapters of the CPA, including indicative financial requirements; and
- 12.4. it is anticipated that the final CPA will be ready for presentation to an international donor conference in early 2006. Thereafter, based on commitments and pledges made during the international conference, detailed specific programmes and projects will be formulated by the relevant agencies/authorities for funding and subsequent implementation.

Conclusion

13. The Declaration of States Parties, adopted unanimously at the December 2001 Ministerial Meeting of States Parties to the 1951 Refugee Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol, recognizes that the refugee protection regime is enhanced through committed international cooperation in a spirit of responsibility and burden sharing among all States.

14. Asylum countries have for long borne the brunt of the heavy responsibility and burden for receiving and caring for refugees and asylum-seekers. The above-mentioned Declaration, as well as the Agenda for Protection, raised expectations of a more equitable sharing of the burden. Considerable interest and anticipation have been further generated by the continuous dialogue during the course of the gaps analyses and subsequent national consultations. The CPA provides an important opportunity for the international community to demonstrate its commitment to international solidarity, burden and responsibility sharing in a concrete way.

Part II

Indicative Areas of Activity under the Comprehensive Plan of Action

Areas for Commitment

15. The underlying rationale for the CPA is that it should be rights-based, needs-based and solutions-driven. Reflecting this logic, the programmatic strategies to be included in the CPA are designed to achieve durable solutions for Somali refugees and IDPs and, where a durable solution is not immediately available, to improve the quality of asylum in the current host country.

16. Essential data have been provided by the CPA Gaps Analyses, the Strengthening Protection Capacity Project, National Consultations and the survey of “Movements of Somali Refugees and Asylum-seekers and State Responses thereto”. The areas of intervention outlined below have been identified and agreed on by the stakeholders most directly concerned, including refugees and host country governments.

Durable Solutions in the Country of Origin

Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration

17. Between 1990 and 2005, it is estimated that there were over 1 million returnees to Somalia, half of whom were assisted by UNHCR while the others returned spontaneously. Some 700,000 are believed to have returned to Somaliland and at least 150,000 to Puntland (largely spontaneously), although the Puntland authorities put the number closer to 400,000. By contrast, returns to South and Central Somalia have been limited, due to ongoing insecurity.

18. For the estimated 250,000 refugees remaining in neighbouring countries, UNHCR is currently preparing a Regional Operations Plan which will complement the CPA and lay the groundwork for their voluntary repatriation and reintegration, once conditions permit. The purpose of this regional plan is to map out the necessary operational details of how the voluntary repatriation programme will be conducted and reintegration supported. Partners in the preparation and implementation of this plan will be concerned Governments, UNHCR staff, refugees, donors and operational partners (UN, NGOs, etc.). The plan will also serve as a programme, budgeting and implementation tool for actions in asylum countries as well as in the country of origin.

19. It should be noted, however, that the overwhelming majority of refugees remaining in the region originate from Central and Southern Somalia. While the Draft Transitional Federal Charter recognizes the obligation of the Somali TFG to “make necessary efforts to resettle refugees and displaced persons”, present circumstances do not allow the sustainable return or reintegration of refugees and IDPs. Consequently, while the Regional Operations Plan and some preparatory work can be put in place, actual repatriation and implementation of reintegration activities will depend on the restoration of peace, stability and governance in the central and southern regions of the country. To achieve this, the Somali TFG will require the sustained political and

financial support of the international community to ensure its effective establishment and functioning.

20. As noted above, northern regions of the country of origin have already seen the voluntary repatriation of most of their people. Massive returns have occurred despite the prevailing less-than-ideal conditions and the concern often expressed by the authorities in Somaliland and Puntland that they lack capacity to receive more returnees. This is a strong indication of the wish of Somalis to return home. The priority in these northern regions must therefore focus on the consolidation of reintegration activities in order to ensure sustainability of returns.

21. The national consultations which have taken place in the different regions of Somalia have identified protection, basic services and livelihoods as the three main priority areas for reintegration activities. With some variations to meet the specificities of each region, the proposed interventions set out below have been proposed for all regions of the country.

Enhancing protection and the well-being of returnees and IDPs

22. ***Legal and physical safety issues:*** In the absence of protection and human rights mechanisms, access to justice, basic services and employment opportunities for vulnerable groups is greatly reduced. Improvements in the protective environment are necessary to enable self-reliance and livelihood support to occur meaningfully. Lack of protection is also the main deterrent to IDPs and minorities accessing services and opportunities on an equal footing. Furthermore, having lost their assets and livelihoods, the social dislocation of IDPs further deprives them of support and social safety nets, making them vulnerable to discrimination and other human rights violations. Their vulnerability is compounded by the fact that they are often far from their clan base and thus less able to benefit from community support. In the area of protection, attention will therefore focus on the following areas:

- adoption and promotion of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;¹
- clarification of the status and rights of IDPs;
- profiling and verification of IDPs and returnees;
- physical and legal protection of IDPs, returnees and vulnerable groups;
- exploration of durable solutions for IDPs;
- reducing the incidence of human trafficking, and
- establishment of a Legal Framework for Voluntary Repatriation (*Note:* the latter two activities relate specifically to Central and Southern Somalia).

23. ***Food security:*** This area has the objective of improving the nutritional status of vulnerable people, especially women and children and this activity will seek to provide:

- food aid to vulnerable groups in emergency situations;
- food-for-work targeting workers in community-based recovery activities;
- food-for-training targeting adults in literacy and skills training, and
- school feeding for children.

¹ While the authorities in Somaliland are committed to adoption and promotion of the Guiding Principles, they have entered the caveat that only 'nationals' of Somaliland can be recognized as internally displaced.

24. **Increased access to safe water:** Poor water supply and facilities both in urban and rural areas continue to be a major concern. Vulnerable groups find it difficult and costly to access safe water for drinking and domestic use. The recurring drought has contributed to loss of livestock assets for many pastoralists, leading to an increase in displacement. Activities under this sector will therefore be directed to the provision of safe water to displaced communities for drinking and domestic use through:

- emergency delivery of water to displaced persons;
- construction of water systems in urban and rural areas, and
- rehabilitation of urban and rural water supply systems.

25. **Housing, land, property and shelter:** Returnees and IDPs occupy squalid settlements in and around urban areas that are crowded and lack basic necessities. They live in rudimentary structures made of sticks and scavenged materials and constantly face the risk of eviction. Land disputes in South and Central Somalia are one of the major causes of conflict. A mechanism for addressing such disputes and for the restitution of land and other property to the legitimate owners is therefore crucial. Activities under this area will focus on:

- land management, mapping and, in particular, assisting in property registration and the settling of disputes over land ownership, restitution; and
- the provision of land and shelter for displaced persons and returnees.

26. **Sanitation:** Where they exist, sanitation and personal hygiene facilities are communal and are usually located outside the shelters occupied by returnees and IDPs. Sewage systems are non-existent in the settlements and the poor conditions in most settlement areas breed diseases which spread easily and rapidly through communities. The main objective will therefore be to improve environmental sanitation in IDP and returnee settlements.

27. **Health and HIV/AIDS:** Somalia is reported to have one of the worst health indicators in the world with life expectancy of less than 50 years. Access to health services is a major concern for IDPs and returnees. With their meagre resources, they cannot afford to pay for health care and medicines, which are mainly provided through private facilities. The results of a survey conducted on IDPs and returnees in Bossasso, for example, reveal that all the respondents reported health care as their top priority. In this area, attention will focus on:

- prevention and control of communicable diseases;
- improving maternal and reproductive health care;
- enhancing child health-care services;
- raising awareness of the harmful effects of female genital mutilation;
- improving mental health care for vulnerable groups, and
- creating a protective mechanism for populations vulnerable to and infected by HIV/AIDS.

28. **Education:** The gross enrolment ratio for primary school children in Somalia remains the lowest in the world. Statistics only reflect a fraction of the needs of IDP and returnee children, since they cannot afford to pay school fees. The enrolment of girls in any form of schooling is far below that of boys due to the fact that boys get priority for any educational opportunities while girls play are expected to serve as

helpers in the household. The provision of educational services will therefore be aimed at:

- increasing access to education for IDP and returnee children, particularly girls;
- providing non-formal education and vocational training for IDP and returnee youth to build their capacity;
- providing functional literacy and life skill education to illiterate and semi-illiterate youth;
- providing formal primary education with an emphasis on the enrolment of girls, and
- encouraging participation of communities through the establishment of education committees.

29. **Livelihoods:** One of the three main goals of the Somali Aid Coordination Body is to “promote the sustainable development of livelihoods within an environment of peace and sustainability”. Improving livelihoods has also been designated one of the Strategic Operational Areas of Activity by the United Nations Country Team. Since returnees and IDPs are the most vulnerable groups of the population, the promotion of self-reliance will serve to increase their independence, reduce dependence on humanitarian aid and allow them to be contributors to the economic and social development of their communities and to the country at large. The main thrust will be to promote self-reliance through skills training and the provision of basic tools for livelihood activities as well as employment opportunities. Community-based interventions are recommended, as far as possible, in order to ensure sustainability through capacity building as well as inclusiveness and the creation of improved economic opportunities for communities. The active participation of women in all initiatives will be ensured. Particular areas of focus will be:

- territorial diagnosis and institutional mapping to assess opportunities for livelihoods, optimizing local resources, reviving local markets and promoting ownership and partnerships within the community;
- a labour market survey of supply and demand to obtain information on needed skills and vocations;
- adult literacy, business development services and vocational skills training to provide IDPs and returnees with literacy and numeracy skills as well as basic crafts training;
- the setting up of local economic development communities to promote job and livelihood opportunities for the community, with a focus on vulnerable groups;
- labour-intensive works to provide livelihoods and absorb unemployed returnees and IDPs; and
- creating sustainable livelihood interventions in the livestock sector, agriculture, natural resource management, fisheries, beekeeping and other small-scale, alternative interventions.

Durable Solutions and Protection in Countries of Asylum

Local integration

30. The prospects for local integration in all four host States are constrained by a combination of legal and *de facto* obstacles which have serious negative consequences on freedom of movement, employment opportunities, etc. These constraints are influenced largely by host government concerns about the poor economic situation in their respective countries, the scarcity of available land, infrastructure and other resources, as well as the expectations of their own nationals. In addition, most refugee camps are situated in semi-arid and sparsely populated areas, further limiting prospects for meaningful economic activity, whether inside or outside the camps. In short, refugees are not able to develop their human potential and to contribute positively to the economy and society of their host country.

31. While, for the most part, host governments are tolerant of Somali refugees who settle outside the camps, they do not consider local integration as a viable option at the present time. This is so even in Ethiopia and Djibouti which now host very small Somali refugee populations. A focus on self-reliance through Development Assistance for Refugees (DAR) - and for the host communities - will therefore be a priority area through which the economic and social independence of refugees can be improved while in exile, which in turn will serve to enhance the sustainability of any future durable solution.

Resettlement

32. With the exception of Kenya, out of which over 16,000 Somali refugees have been resettled over the last few years, the use of resettlement as a durable solution has been limited, in other asylum countries, to those refugees falling within the physical protection and women-at-risk categories. The constraints can in large part be attributed to the lack of registration of the population, adequate facilities and staff to undertake this labour-intensive activity and to ensure the integrity of the process. Furthermore, voluntary repatriation to the northern regions of Somalia has been a priority to date and has required considerable human and other resources.

33. With this phase of voluntary repatriation drawing to a close, the opportunity offered by the CPA for greater strategic use of resettlement will be more fully explored. A verification of the population is currently under way in Kenya and registration and profiling are scheduled to take place in Ethiopia and Yemen, to be followed by Djibouti, all of which will greatly facilitate an expansion of resettlement opportunities. Potential recipient countries will also have the opportunity, during the ongoing consultations, to indicate their willingness and readiness to accept Somali refugees for resettlement.

Enhancing the quality of protection and well-being of refugees in countries of asylum

34. The areas of protection which have been shown to require increased intervention and improvement are largely similar in the four main countries of asylum which form the focus for the CPA Preparatory Project. While not exhaustively

covered in the sections below, the main areas requiring action have been identified and agreed as the following:

35. ***Legal framework and institutional capacity:*** The national legislative and institutional frameworks of the host States need to be developed and/or strengthened to incorporate basic standards of refugee protection, as outlined in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol, the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention, and other relevant international refugee protection and human rights instruments. Host countries have for long relied on an *ad hoc* series laws and decrees in their management of refugee affairs. However, one country has recently adopted a national refugee law while others are in the process of doing so, or have committed to action in this direction.

36. There remains, nevertheless, scope for ensuring that the wording, safeguards and spirit of the relevant international instruments are fully reflected in national laws and are fully implemented in practice. External technical and financial support are therefore required to build the institutional capacity to achieve these objectives.

37. In all four host States, there is also need for immigration officials and border guards to be provided with relevant training and written guidelines on the protection principles and on the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers. Furthermore, greater coordination is required between the respective governments, UNHCR and other partners to ensure adequate and effective monitoring of entry points.

38. Increased training in refugee law, protection and refugee governance, particularly in areas relating to refugee status determination, registration and data management, is also proposed as a way of building the capacity of government officials and empower them at all levels to ensure improved standards of protection.

39. ***Legal and physical protection:*** Support is also required to ensure the issuance of identity and other documentation which are a crucial element of protection. In all four host States the mechanisms for registration, identification and the issue of identity cards need to be established and/or strengthened. Systematic and regular registration and documentation is required to ensure that refugees are not arbitrarily arrested and detained. It is also important in ensuring that they are able to register births and marriages and to enjoy other basic rights such as freedom of movement, access to education, the labour market, etc.

40. While physical security in camps has been generally improved, particularly in the Dadaab camps in Kenya, much remains to be done. Support for the recruitment and deployment of more female police and security staff by national governments is recommended as one way to encourage the reporting of acts perpetrated against women in particular, and thereby improve women's access to legal recourse. Similarly, support for community-based security networks can help to overcome cultural barriers that prevent access to justice. These measures have been identified as particularly important for the camps in Ethiopia and Kenya, although they have relevance in all camp environments.

41. Public perception remains a problem for Somali refugees, who often face discrimination and stereotyping. Even where refugees are generally tolerated,

competition over scarce resources can pose difficulties with the local population. In some instances, there is increasing public hostility towards refugees because they are confounded with economic migrants, who are often associated with criminality and the transmission of HIV/AIDS. Improved public information campaigns, through a coordinated media strategy and information in schools, are therefore proposed to counter public prejudice, to increase understanding of the situation of refugees and to facilitate co-existence.

Enhancing the well-being of refugees

42. Significant improvements in material assistance in a number of areas are also proposed in order to enhance the protection of refugees and improve their standard of living. These include:

43. ***Adequate standard of living:***

- improved water and food supply;
- increased access to non-food items: for example, GTZ's firewood distribution project has had a significant impact in reducing SGBV in Dadaab, but still falls short of meeting all needs; and
- adequate shelter, which is a particular problem in the camps in Kenya, Ethiopia and Yemen. Greater support is therefore required for initiatives such as the CARE International housing project in the Dadaab camps of Kenya, and for replicating similar activities in camps in other countries.

44. ***Education:*** In all four States, refugees' access to education requires improvement, particularly with a view to ensuring access to education for girls and that more girls complete their primary education and continue on to secondary school. Cultural barriers to enrolment are to be addressed through parental awareness campaigns. In recognition of the importance of education as a foundation for sustainable reintegration in the context of repatriation, the practical constraints of the costs to families of sending their children to school are also to be addressed through income generation activities.

45. ***Health:*** Access to health care facilities is seriously in need of improvement. In particular, facilities and services for refugees with HIV/AIDS need to be established in all four host States.

Protection of groups with specific needs

46. Host States currently have very little or no capacity to provide protection to vulnerable groups or individuals with specific protection needs. In particular, there are inadequate measures to deal with the prevention of SGBV including female genital mutilation (FGM), to investigate and prosecute the offenders, to provide child-focused social services, to ensure the protection needs of the elderly and handicapped, or to facilitate family reunification for these as well as other groups of refugees. All of these areas require donor support and enhanced cooperation between host governments, UNHCR and its implementing partners.

Development Assistance for Refugees for the Promotion of Self-Reliance

47. Examples of self-reliance in Uganda and Zambia highlight the significant role that refugees can play as “agents of development”, pending repatriation or other durable solutions, if they are empowered to do so. Self-reliance activities in these two countries have been undertaken in the context of a community-based approach to development. Self-reliance is critical to the sustainability of any future durable solution, particularly voluntary repatriation and reintegration.

48. By targeting development assistance to promote self-reliance, the thrust of the activities will be the development of skills training programmes, the creation of income-generating activities and livelihood options. These activities will be informed by the conclusions and recommendations of the in-depth analysis undertaken in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps in Kenya by two ILO livelihood experts.

49. The scope of the self-reliance activities will not be limited to refugees but will also benefit host communities. Host States will need to work in close cooperation with UNHCR, other UN agencies, NGOs and donors to remove the obstacles to refugee self-reliance, including restrictions on freedom of movement and the right to work, and where applicable, promote their eventual local integration and ensure an integrated approach in the implementation of this programme. An integrated approach will be further enhanced by the inclusion of refugee issues in national, regional and UN development agendas such as the UNDAF, PRSPs and implementation of the MDGs.

Assistance to Host Communities through Environmental and Infrastructural Rehabilitation

50. The hosting of large refugee populations in camps over a long period of time has placed considerable pressure on the infrastructure, facilities and natural resources in host States. A programme of rehabilitation of refugee-affected areas has been identified as one of the critical areas for support by the international community. Such support would represent an important expression of solidarity and burden sharing with countries of asylum as well as a channel through which host communities can be supported, particularly following repatriation.

51. While UNHCR supports rehabilitation programmes in the main host countries, these remain under-funded and far from adequate. Programme proposals to be incorporated in the CPA will therefore focus on environmental and infrastructural rehabilitation in all the main countries of asylum.