

Background

The Strengthening Protection Capacity Project began in Tanzania in September 2004, with an initial grant from the European Commission, and three co-funding states: Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The initial project money enabled the SPCP to:

- (i) conduct and publish a comprehensive analysis of protection gaps in Tanzania;
- (ii) undertake a comprehensive assessment of present livelihood strategies of refugees and propose means to improve self-reliance
- (iii) convene a national consultation with all concerned stakeholders to prioritize the gaps identified and recommend measures to remedy them;
- (iv) subsequently work with partners to develop projects necessary to implement an agreed upon Plan of Action for the coming years;
- (v) implement a number of quick impact projects and;
- (vi) continue to engage donors in the funding of initiatives necessary to fully implement the Plan of Action.

Achievements

The SPCP-Tanzania initial project funding ended in April 2006, by which time all the objectives noted above had been achieved. The National Consultations resulted in the adoption of a comprehensive plan of action, and subsequently the development of projects to remedy the gaps identified. The SPCP-Tanzania entered the phase of implementing these projects as specific

Specific SPCP activities are summarized in the attached table for a comprehensive overview of their current status:

Favourable Protection Environment: Legal, Political and Social

Translations

- A number of key refugee law instruments translated from English to Kiswahili

Improvement of Policy, Legislation and Standard Operating Procedures

- Standard operating procedures developed for newly established District Ad Hoc Committees (District Level Refugee Status Determination Bodies)
- A Refugee Policy Workshop (Kigoma, November 2006) conducted for policy makers, Senior Refugee Administrators, Senior UNHCR Managers and Donors
- A revised Refugee Bill in compliance with international standards drafted, together with the supporting Cabinet Paper in January 2007 at a retreat of the Task Force of government bodies and experts

- Refugee literature acquired and distributed to resource centre in North-western Tanzania

Public Outreach: Promotion of Positive Attitudes towards Refugees

- Radio Kwizera and the Southern Africa Human Rights NGO (SAHRINGON) have implemented a number of advocacy activities at local and national levels as part of the DANIDA-funded 2-year project (September 2006 commencement).

Improvement of Physical Infrastructure and Provision of Equipment for Government Partners

- Office premises constructed for: the Kigoma Zonal Officer of the Refugee Department; Immigration, Police and Customs at Kibirizi entry/departure port.
- Living quarters constructed/rehabilitated for the Settlement Officer at Lugufu and Makere
- Construction of office premises of joint Immigration, Police and Customs at Kibirizi entry/departure port near completion.
- Office equipment – computers, photocopiers, printers and fax machines – and new vehicles procured and distributed to various offices of the Refugee Department and the Immigration Departments
- Construction of the joint Immigration, Police and Customs Office at Kibirizi in Kigoma begun during this period and it is at advanced stage.
- Radio Communication equipment for all border posts in refugee hosting districts have been procured to be handed over in the course of April 2007.

Admission

Training

- Training of 120 Village Executive Officers, Ward Executive Officers and Divisional Secretaries from border areas (who function as refugee reception officers) on Access to Asylum completed in November 2006.

Equipment

- Radio Communication equipment has been ordered for all immigration posts along the Tanzania-DR Congo/Burundi/Rwanda Border as well as cars and office equipment for the Immigration Department in Kigoma and Ngara. District Immigration officers have also received training on reception of refugees.

Legislative Framework for Determining Protected Status

Operating Procedures

- Standard Operating Procedures developed on refugee status determination for Congolese and Burundian Asylum seekers

Training

- Members of the Ad Hoc Committees (District Level refugee determination bodies) in all four refugee hosting districts trained on refugee determination procedures.

Construction and Equipment

- Office and resource centre for the national and district eligibility committees constructed and equipped in the main refugee hosting districts of Kibondo and Kigoma

Protection from Violence, Coercion and Deliberate Deprivation

Training

- Senior Prison Officers in Dar es Salaam trained in 2005 on the treatment of refugee prisoners.
- Two training courses provided through the East Africa School on Refugees and Humanitarian Affairs (EASRHA), University of Dar es Salaam to professionals working in the refugee field within government agencies, international organizations and NGOs. (Sept 5-16, 2005 & Aug 22- Sept 1, 2006)
- 36 government officials including Immigration and Refugee Officers, Settlement Commandants and Police from all four refugee hosting districts trained on Refugee Protection and Administration (12th and 14th September 2006).

Profiling

- Dar es Salaam urban refugee survey/profiling completed.

Equal Benefit and Protection of the Law

Legal assistance

- A practicing lawyer was retained for three months in 2005 to provide legal assistance to all refugee prisoners in four districts of Kagera Region

Access to justice programme

- An NGO implementing partner, the National Organization for Legal Assistance (NOLA) conducted the following activities in the Northwestern Tanzania targeting both refugees and local populations.
 - Camp based legal aid clinics in Ngara town and Lugufu camps
 - Legal awareness campaigns in Lugufu
 - Stock taking of refugees in prisons in Kigoma, Kagera, Mwanza and Tabora Regions.
 - Training of Judicial Officers (Magistrates, Prosecutors, State Attorneys, Police, Immigration and Prison Officers) from Kigoma and Kagera regions, Bukoba, November 2006.
 - Four legal sensitisation sessions for refugees conducted, covering the provisions of the law relating to breach of peace and security, destabilisation of public order, assault, making false allegations that would destabilise the community, attempt to cause grievous bodily harm and inciting public unrest.

Mobilisation of Resources for SPCP Activities

A number of the above project activities were implemented from the SPCP pilot project budget. Many more were able to commence and/or are in the pipeline due to the generous contribution from the following donor schemes:

DANIDA

A contribution of \$2.5 million from DANIDA was agreed upon in February 2006 to start the first phase of the SPCP implementation. Key activities financed are: (i) review of legislation; (ii) combating negative attitudes towards refugees; (iii) combating sexual and gender based violence; (iv) provision of documents confirming civil status; and (iv) Improving Access to Justice

UK-Home Office Funding

In October 2006, the UK Home Office and UNHCR signed an Agreement under which the former would support a number of SPCP activities in Kenya and Tanzania. In Tanzania, the supported activities are: (i) Women Craft-a Social Enterprise; (ii) Engaging Youth in Meaningful Activities; and (iii) Enhancing Health Services in Refugee Hosting Areas in Kasulu and Kigoma Rural Districts. UNHCR is now processing these projects for implementation.

AENEAS 2005

On 19th December 2006, the EC and UNHCR signed an Agreement whereby the former will provide EUR 1,565,145, 26 to support SPCP activities over three years commencing 1st January 2007. As per the AENEAS rules, that amount represented 80% of the total budget for the action which is EUR 1,956,431,58. Thereafter, Belgium and Netherlands pledged EUR 60,000.00 and 45,000.00 respectively towards meeting the 20% co-funding requirement.

UNHCR is now processing the funding ready for the implementation of the projects.

AENEAS 2006

In November 2006, UNHCR RO Dar es Salaam forwarded a Concept Note on funding under the AENEAS Programme for 2006 and was accepted. A fully developed proposal, worth 1,171,297.00 EURO has now been submitted to the EC. It covers the following activities:

- Strengthen the capacities of Tanzanian officials and institutions to protect refugees;
- Ensuring access to protection for refugees and asylum-seekers in mixed migration flows;
- Enhancing equal benefit and protection of the law for refugees; and
- Support voluntary repatriation with mass information strategies and tools.

The outcome will be known in the second half of 2007.

Furthermore, the 2006 High Commissioner's Carryover Funds is currently financing the activity to support school uniform provision.