



**UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES  
STRENGTHENING PROTECTION CAPACITY PROJECT**

Co-Funded by the European Commission and the Governments of Denmark, the Netherlands and the UK

**Strengthening Refugee Protection, Assistance and Support to  
Host Communities in Kenya  
And  
Comprehensive Plan of Action for Somali Refugees**

**Follow-Up Report**

**Nairobi, Kenya  
Conference Room, UNHCR Branch Office  
19 July 2005**

*The views expressed in this report are those of its author and can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Commission, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, or the United Kingdom*

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## **(I) Introduction**

### **(a) Summary**

The meeting held on 19 July 2005 at UNHCR Branch Office was a follow-up meeting to the National Consultation held on 17 and 18 May 2005. The National Consultation was attended by a wide range of stakeholders. The Government of Kenya was represented by the Head of the National Refugee Secretariat, Officers from other Government Ministries, District Commissioners and District Officers, Councillors from refugee hosting areas, and other senior government officials from different Ministries. Other participants included representatives of diplomatic missions; UN agencies; NGOs; refugees; and UNHCR staff from Headquarters, Branch Office Kenya, and Branch Office Somalia.

At the National Consultation, participants agreed that a smaller working group be struck to focus on three tasks: (1) to prioritize the recommendations; (2) to sign off on projects supporting refugee and host community protection and assistance; and (3) to assist in securing financing for implementation.

In preparation to this follow-up Working Group meeting, correspondence was sent to NGOs, the Government of Kenya, and Core Group Donors inviting them to participate in the Working Group. Nine organizations responded stating that they wished to be part of the Working Group. It was agreed to convene the first meeting on 19 July 2005. The list of participants is attached.

### **(b) Welcoming Remarks by the Assistant Representative (Protection), Ms. Rossella Pagliuchi-Lor**

Ms. Pagliuchi-Lor opened the Working Group meeting by thanking the organizations for their interest in participating in the third phase of the SPC/CPA project, which is to transform the recommendations that came out of the National Consultation into projects that in the short and long term will benefit refugees and host communities. While she recognized that it will not be possible to address all the gaps and concomitant recommendations in this or subsequent meetings, it should be possible to agree to a number of proposals that could be implemented by the end of this year, while other proposals could be placed into funding streams for implementation in subsequent years.

Ms. Pagliuchi-Lor stated that the SPC/CPA is moving ahead at a time even less favourable to refugees living in Kenya than when these projects were conceived. Refugees living in the urban areas and in the camps are facing uncertainties. For example in the camps, the WFP food pipeline is under stress and may affect thousands of refugees living in the camps. On the other hand, the deadline set by the Government of Kenya for undocumented foreigners to register or be expelled has caused great anxiety among the urban refugees and asylum seekers.

Over the last couple of months, UNHCR has been in constant dialogue with the Government of Kenya in order to seek clarification concerning the Government's planned action after the deadline of 15 August 2005. Further, efforts are underway to negotiate a joint mechanism with the Government of Kenya to screen the 10,000-strong caseload composed of genuine asylum seekers and undocumented migrants who registered with Branch Office Nairobi in May and

June. UNHCR is in the meantime working at setting up a special operation to expeditiously adjudicate this group.

Coming to the substance of the present meeting, it was suggested that the Working Group's discussion be organized around four prominent cross-cutting themes: refugee welfare in camps *vis-à-vis* material assistance and services, refugee issues in urban areas, assistance to local communities, issues dealing with refugee governance.

### **(c) Camp Focused Discussion**

The discussion on refugee welfare in the camps was introduced through a briefing followed by a discussion on the looming food crisis.

WFP already has cut food rations in anticipation of a break in the food pipeline sometime in September 2005. As a precaution, rations were cut by 250/300 calories per person in order to stretch the pipeline to the end of the year. This crisis is a result of the unexpected withdrawal of Germany and Japan's funding commitment and other donor countries have not yet stepped in to cover the deficit. USAID has shown interest but has not yet committed. If USAID does come through, WFP will have enough food to last until the end of the year.

After the briefing, the discussion revolved around possible strategies to counter this food shortage, which included options such media campaigns targeting the German and Japanese governments to reinforce the need for continued support, and the possibility of creating a parallel food pipeline, which would not be in competition with WFP but would complement its output through European emergency funds.

The discussion closed with the general recognition that this crisis must be monitored closely, and that participants would be kept abreast of developments, particularly with regard to USAID's possible contribution.\*

Nutritional deficiencies, which were highlighted in the gaps analysis and were the object of specific recommendations by the National Consultation, have now become an even greater priority. There was particular recognition of the fact that food availability is directly related not only to health and physical/psychological wellbeing, but also to protection and to the enjoyment of other rights. Dadaab, unlike the Kakuma camp, has not had a complementary food project for over two years. In both camps supplementary food program for lactating mothers should be considered a priority, though the manner in which this should be administered needs to be looked at (consumption of food outside one's home in an institutional setting is regarded by the Somalis as stigmatizing). Participants endorsed a project aimed at improving the nutritional status of the refugees.

Vocational training and income generation had been identified in the National Consultation as a means to improve access to basic necessities in country of asylum, to improve the quality of life through a greater sense of self-worth, and to prepare for successful reintegration upon repatriation. Two ILO consultants have been deployed to Kakuma and Dadaab to look at existing strategies and gaps, and to produce concrete recommendations. The Dadaab-based ILO consultant stated that one of the gaps identified was a lack of proper vocational training that can lead to possible self-reliance. Directed vocational training can improve the welfare and

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\* Note: Subsequent to this meeting, USAID has, indeed, followed through with its pledge and provided additional funding to the support the current food pipeline to the end of 2005.

protection of refugees in the camps and strengthen the opportunities for a successful reintegration upon repatriation.

It was suggested that there is a need for quick impact projects (QIP) to address the general disenchantment with the lack of vocational opportunities especially evident among school dropouts and the youth. This attitude is particularly pronounced after the Microsoft project failure, which has resulted in a serious credibility gap in perception, as refugees believe that UNHCR and partners are incapable of assisting them in their future wellbeing. Together with CARE, the ILO consultant presented a number of camp based projects. These are small projects which, though part of a larger strategy, can be regarded as “modules” capable of immediate implementation with very limited funding.

An initial project presented was the training of additional tailors capable of following-up the Nike project. Currently there are an insufficient number of tailors able to cut and use the stitch required for the sports clothing to fit properly. This project will include people from the local community, and the training will have a business skills component – with a view, if possible, to expand the marketability of the garments (a specially designed set of sportswear for Somali girls) beyond the camps.

Similarly, another QIP designed specifically for women also was proposed. This project is to train women in traditional henna and hairstyling services. Focus group meetings with women refugees identified that many women have to undertake lengthy and potentially risky journeys outside the camps for such services – which have a specific place in the context of weddings and important celebrations. At the same time, many women indicated their willingness and some knowledge of the craft, but are not in possession of actual skills and business know-how.

On the livelihoods side, the issue of a lack of grinders in Dadaab was raised. The food ration includes grains that require grinding for consumption. Some refugees have been given grinders, which they use for income generation. Minority groups have emphasized that they are particularly vulnerable to extortion because they do not have direct access to the grinders. They are forced to rely on the whims of majority clan members who charge them a greater portion of grains than normally charged to others to use the equipment they possess. This results in the loss of a portion of the already meagre ration and heightens food insecurity of minorities. This project could combine the provision of grinders with training in maintenance and repairs, and build capacity within minority groups.

For Dadaab, it was recognized that a longer term priority is to enhance the opportunities for youth on a vocational level but on realistic terms. This implies the provision of skills that be used locally as well rather than skills strictly focussed on repatriation. Additionally it was recognized that providing the youth with realistic skills now will increase their confidence in their ability to support themselves, and therefore, a greater likelihood that they will return home in the future. It was in fact observed that, unlike their parents, the youth have expressed the greatest interest in returning home. This is surprising because many have never seen their home country, or were very young when they left. Giving skills to the youth will not only help them with possible work in the camps but also in their home country.

In both camps explorations are being made to partner with the Ministry of Education to set-up training facilities, which will benefit refugees and host communities. At this meeting, it was too early to discuss the extent of the Ministry’s interest and what sort of projects could arise out of such a partnership. It was agreed, however, that training for refugees and host communities remains a priority, and therefore, continued contacts with the Ministry are to be encouraged.

With respect to a project specifically focused on Kakuma, but that has implications for Dadaab as well, a project was proposed to enhance medical care for SGBV survivors. While a number of programmes already are in place, there is a need to reinforce the overall SGBV programming in order to close the current systemic and operative gaps. The proposed project intends to achieve two major objectives. First, by increasing the capacity of the health care system to provide compassionate, thorough and high quality health care to SGBV survivors and second, by reducing the vulnerability of high-risk groups.

Finally, with respect to camp matters in general, it was recognized that basic education, in particular for girls continues to be a priority. Especially in Dadaab, retention of girls in school has been a challenge, and one that needs continued attention. Girls and education are tied together with livelihood issues, as it is girls who are required to stay home to take care of the needs of the family. Rather than out of practical necessity, it seems that cultural preferences appear to be by far the greatest influencing factors in requiring girls to remain at home. While this issue clearly is a complex one (approaches taken in the past were analyzed at some length), it was felt that it remains an important challenge that needs sustained action. A possible project was proposed, which it was agreed, would be shared once it was crafted more fully.

### **(c) Urban Focused Discussion**

The National Consultation concluded and the Working Group echoed that much more work on urban refugees needs to be done. The report identified serious gaps in protection and assistance for urban refugee. The animated discussion at the National Consultation and the resultant recommendations on urban refugee issues reflected the urgency of giving immediate attention to their needs. A key gap identified was the continuing lack of information/knowledge of procedural and substantive issues related to asylum among those dealing with refugees, and among asylum seekers and refugee community leaders themselves.

It was observed that the Branch Office already is implementing some of the recommendations on its own, as they coincide with the Office's own strategy to strengthen the protection of urban refugees. Consequently, the Office is involved in training modules for immigration officers, and police, and is now branching out to the Court system and prison staff.

RCK, in particular, is carrying out a considerable number of training programmes for the police and immigration, and for refugees and asylum seekers themselves. The desirability of more coordination between training providers was discussed as a way to maximize effectiveness. It was, however, also remarked that the police, which remains a primary target for training, has a large force whose members rotate. It was therefore proposed that the SPC be a vehicle to seek additional resources to strengthen the delivery of existing training modules and tap into hitherto under utilized assistance networks.

NGOs at the meeting also emphasized that refugee and asylum seekers need to know what their rights are, as often they are arrested and charged with the offence of being illegally in the country when, in fact, they have the right to be here given their status of an asylum seeker or refugee. While the need for greater information on refugee rights was recognised as an important element, it was also observed that training for the police and immigration officers has greater priority.

#### **(d) Refugee Governance**

It was recognized that while capacity building for the new Refugee Secretariat and assisting in the drafting of the Refugee Bill regulations in theory is a priority, given that the passing of the Bill does not seem imminent, due to competing priorities, a more immediate priority should be the proper registration and documentation of asylum seekers and refugees.

A project was discussed to provide all refugees with an identification card. There are a multitude of documents that GOK and UNHCR have issued over the years. This has created, to a certain extent, some confusion for the refugees and government officials, and many camp based refugees have no documents at all. Consequently, there is a need for a sustainable identification card that contains full bio data, biometrics, and security features.

It was recognized that the cost implication of such a project puts it into another envelope. The Working Group agreed that it was a priority with the caveat that this project, given its high cost implication, should not drain funds from any of the other proposed projects. It was assured that this would not occur and that alternative and creative funding solutions will be explored to finance this project.

#### **(d) Next Steps**

It was agreed that the proposals presented at the meeting would be fine-tuned, and that additional time is allotted for organizations to provide additional project proposals. Those proposals will be circulated electronically for comments and suggestions, and once agreed will be submitted to Geneva along with those already discussed.

There is already some funding available that can be spent already in 2005. This is however limited to some 50/60,000 dollars, which cannot cover what has been proposed. There is however a commitment from UNHCR HQs to assist with the identification of complementary funding, and a strong expectation of additional funding being made available in 2006.

Rossella Pagliuchi-Lor concluded the meeting by thanking the Working Group members for the thinking and work they have devoted to preparing project ideas, and participating in the discussions. She observed that this had been a useful and productive meeting as the SPCP is moving towards what it was envisioned to do, namely on a concrete level strengthening protection of refugees and assisting host communities. The proposals presented not only indicate where the priorities in refugee protection lie but also what specifically and realistically can be done to achieve those goals in the short, medium, and long term.

## SPC & CPA PROJECT PROPOSALS

### *Project Proposals at a glance*

#### **Projects under the SPC**

##### **Training of Trainers for Providers of Income Generation Activities (IGA) and Skills Development. (Implementation date: 2005)**

A project designed to address the reality that after vocational training few opportunities exist to utilize the learnt skills, and therefore, business acumen should be taught to allow for income generation. The training is geared to teach much needed business skills, which can be used not only in a camp setting, but also be used upon repatriation.

##### **Income Generation Activities and Skills training in preparation for repatriation for vulnerable groups. (Implementation date: 2005)**

A project designed to empower refugees and host communities with skills training in Income Generation Activities to enable them to become self sufficient both in the camp and upon return to their home country.

##### **Empowerment of refugee women through training in henna manicure and hairstyling. (Implementation date: 2005)**

A project to teach a highly sought after service but one that is currently unavailable in the camps and surrounding areas. Women have indicated their willingness to be trained and learn business skills, as they know that many women travel long distances to obtain the manicure and hairstyling. Teaching the technical aspects of manicure and hairstyling and also business knowledge empowers women to generate income within the camp and host community. Additionally that knowledge, upon repatriation, will allow them to best translate the acquired skills into income generation activities.

##### **Enhanced medical care for SGBV survivors in Kakuma. (Implementation date: 2005)**

Gender based violence, especially domestic in nature, continues to be a serious problem in Kakuma. The project will assist women in their basic needs immediately after SGBV, through post-exposure prophylaxis services and through the training of health care staff in handling forensic evidence.

##### **Capacity building in catering and cooking. (Implementation date: 2005)**

Currently refugees are working in the kitchen at the UNHCR compound in Dadaab, but are not receiving any structured training, nor are those working capable of training others. This project will use available facilities to institute an organized training programme to capacitate the current refugee cooking staff to train others. After completion of the programme, they will have a skill set that is sufficiently versatile to allow them to train others, or if desired, to allow them to work both in the camp and also upon return to their respective home country.

##### **Skills upgrading in the tailoring sector. (Implementation date: 2005)**

Nike began a project that assisted in designing sports clothing particularly in order for Muslim girls/women to participate in sport activities. This particular style of clothing is not available in the region, including Somalia, and there is an expectation that the clothing could be sold through an outlet in Nairobi, and eventually in Somalia; consequently, it has the potential to become a widely marketable product. While the knowledge is available to tailor, the skill level needs to be improved to stitch the clothing to quality standards. The additional skill sets learnt will allow tailors greater versatility and thereby marketability, as upon return.

**Comprehensive medical care for GBV survivors in Kakuma liaising with Dadaab. (Implementation date: 2005 - 2006)**

SGBV remains a problem; therefore, a comprehensive and well rounded approach to protecting those violated not only will help the victim but also will educate the community as a whole. A project to provide better protection to survivors of SGBV through an improved programmatic response to SGBV. Training, education of health care professionals and also of the general population, in addition to improving the physical space and forensics is foreseen.

**Coaching Upper Primary Girls. (Implementation date: 2005 - 2006)**

A project to help girls obtain sufficiently high grades to transfer to secondary School, which currently limited due to their requirement of working at home. The project is an effort to empower young women to become educated and to contribute to their fullest potential. It is the youth who not only wish to return to their country of origin but also it is the youth who will rebuild the country.

**Posho Mill Grinding Machines. (Implementation date: 2005 - 2006)**

Posho is a staple in the camps and requires grinding; yet, there are insufficient grinding mills. Those currently in operation are run by groups who favour their own, which in turn means that disenfranchised groups have to use more of their grain as payment to have their food ration ground. The project will provide for a greater balance within the communities, which should decrease food insecurity and at the same time transfer technical and business skills to previously disenfranchised and vulnerable refugees.

**Strengthen RSD Capacity. (Implementation date: 2005 – 2006)**

The Government of Kenya's intention to take responsibility for refugee status determination has not yet come to fruition, with few signs that it will anytime soon. Consequently, the responsibility remains with UNHCR; yet at the same time UNHCR does not have the capacity to adjudicate asylum seeker claims within a reasonable period of time. While asylum seekers wait, their ability to access protection and assistance services is severely limited. The project will increase the capacity of UNHCR to make decisions faster, and thereby, able to protect and assist the refugee community in a more satisfactory manner.

**Refugee Identification Card. (Implementation date: 2005 - 2006)**

Most refugees in Kenya do not have a secure identification card, which confirms their status in Kenya. The lack of a secure identification card results an inability for refugees to prove their status, and therefore, their entitlement to remain in Kenya. This project will provide a document that will give security and safety to refugees.

**Support and training of Community Paralegals in addressing the legal assistance needs of refugees and asylum seekers in Nairobi. (Implementation date: 2006)**

Refugees living in urban areas in low income areas and have limited access to legal services, and those services that they do attempt to access often are not familiar with refugee and human rights issues. UNHCR and NGOs provide such services but realistically the majority of refugees and asylum seekers do not have access to them. The project will access existing legal networks willing to serve the refugee community but require capacity building.

## **Project shared under the SPC & CPA at 50% each**

### **Complementary Food Assistance. (Implementation date: 2005 - 2006)**

In both camps, the malnutrition rates due to nutritional deficiencies is unacceptably high causing a general degradation in health standards, which in turn decreases the capacity of refugee communities to improve their overall standard of living. The project will provide additional nutritional supplements to raise the general health and welfare standard in the camps, which in turn will assist in the overall viability of the refugee community to concentrate on income generation projects for both their immediate needs in the camps and future needs upon return.

## **Projects under the CPA**

### **Water for livestock use in Dadaab camps. (Implementation date: 2006 - 2007)**

The project is designed to separate human and livestock use of water. Currently water destined for human use is diverted to livestock use creating a water deficiency for refugee communities and creating unsanitary conditions around the boreholes. Further, tensions exist with the host community when scarce water supplies are directed to livestock. As a result, the project will increase access to water for human consumption, and thereby, decrease tensions with the local communities. At the same time, because the project is not designed as a donation but rather as an income generation project, the skills learnt will be of assistance well beyond the camp boundaries.

### **Increasing access to tertiary Technical and Vocational Education. (Implementation date: 2006 - 2007)**

While many students graduate from Secondary School in the camps, comparatively few students are able to further their education. The project will support and permit a selected number of Secondary School graduates to continue with their studies at the vocational level. Students will be selected based on their academic qualifications and that the field of study is one, which will enhance their capacity to repatriate and reintegrate.

### **Support to skills development and income-generating activities in Dadaab camps. (Implementation date: 2006 - 2007)**

There are a multitude of programmes operating in Dadaab all designed to improve and enhance skills development, income generation and micro-financing. However, there is an insufficient degree of strategic thinking and integration between the numerous programmes resulting in skills and business development not being utilized to its fullest potential. The project, through the hiring of a specialist, will address this weakness in service delivery and enhance the ability for refugees to be self sufficient, and globally address the needs of refugees to acquire the right mix of skills to successfully reintegrate upon return.

## **Follow-up Meeting to the National Consultation**

### **(Project Design)**

**19 July 2005  
Nairobi, Kenya**

#### **Tuesday July 19, 2005**

08:45 – 9:00 Arrival and Registration

09:00 – 09:10 Welcoming Remarks by Ms. Rossella Pagliuchi-Lor, Assistant Representative (Protection)

09:10 - 09:20 Opening Remarks by Mr. Eddie Gedalof, Deputy Representative

09:20 - 11:20 Camp Focused Discussion

- *Current critical concerns*
- *Issues specific to Kakuma and Dadaab*
- *Recommendations from the National Consultation*
- *Priorities*
- *Project Discussion*

11:20 – 11:45 Coffee/Tea Break

11:45 – 13:45 Urban Focused Discussion

- *Current critical concerns*
- *Issues specific to Kakuma and Dadaab*
- *Recommendations from the National Consultation*
- *Priorities*
- *Project Discussion*

Wrap-up and discussion of next steps

### *List of Participants\**

1.	Simon Naioka	CARE International
2.	Andreas König	UNHCR/ILO Consultant
3.	Marangu Njogu	CARE International
4.	Tracy Vaughan Gough	International Rescue Committee
5.	Natalia Tapies	FilmAid International
6.	Mohammed Qazilbash	CARE Kenya
7.	Rossella Pagliuchi-Lor	UNHCR
8.	Eddie Gedalof	UNHCR
9.	Anne Wambyou	HIAS
10.	Monique van Es	UNHCR
11.	Joel Harding	IRC/UNHCR
12.	Emily Mutui	RCK
13.	Eunice Ndonga	RCK
14.	Irene Wanew	RCK
15.	Bediako Buahene	UNHCR

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\* WFP, GTZ, and NCCCK intended to participate but at the last minute indicated their regrets of not being able to attend the working group meeting. The organizations continue to participate via email.