

Global update on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

This monthly document summarizes key developments in the implementation of the comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF) in Africa and the Americas. It features highlights captured by UNHCR and complements updates produced by UN and NGO partners across the globe.

Thirteen countries are applying the CRRF to date. The list of countries can be found on www.unhcr.org/crrf

OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

AFRICAN CONTEXT

First IGAD Regional Conference on Refugee Education in Djibouti

The first Regional Conference on Refugee Education was held from 12-14 December 2017 in Djibouti under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Among attendees were the Prime Minister of Djibouti and Ministers, the High Commissioner for Refugees, the Executive Secretary of IGAD, the UNHCR Special Envoy for the Somali Situation and the Regional Refugee Coordinator and Special Advisor to the High Commissioner for South Sudan. The conference brought together regional policymakers, academics, educationists, bilateral partners and civil society members from different IGAD countries, in line with the CRRF. Its objectives were to harmonize practices on quality education across the IGAD region, in line with the New York Declaration and the CRRF, by ensuring inclusive and universal quality education for all children (nationals and refugees) living in IGAD member countries, to establish a system for the recognition of education diplomas in the region, and to explore higher education opportunities for refugees both in hosting countries and in third countries. As an outcome of the meeting, IGAD member states established a strong foundation for improving standards not only for refugees, but for returnees and refugee-hosting communities. Commitments made by IGAD countries were endorsed at Ministerial level and resulted in the [Djibouti Declaration on Regional Refugee Education and its Plan of Action](#).

Djibouti

Milestone achieved as new refugee law comes into force

In a very welcome development, Djibouti's new refugee law has come into force, giving access to refugees to social services such as healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. On Friday 7 December 2017, President Ismail Omar Guelleh signed two decrees - one relating to eligibility procedures, the other granting more rights to refugees. The decrees were the final step towards the implementation of the law that was passed by Parliament in January 2017. The coming into effect of the law is in line with the CRRF and part of the pledges by Djibouti at the Leaders' Summit on Refugees in September 2016. Previously, refugees' access to healthcare was primarily assured through international NGOs, while employment opportunities were restricted to the informal sector. This landmark development follows another important milestone in August, when the Government and UNHCR signed an agreement for the provision of quality education to refugee children in the country, in line with the CRRF principle of fostering refugee self-reliance.

Ethiopia

Progress in realising governmental pledge on health for refugees

In line with the CRRF objective to ease the burden of refugee-hosting communities, UNHCR donated four haemodialysis machines to the St. Paul Hospital Millennium Medical College in Addis Ababa. This donation will help national health institutions serve Ethiopians and refugees better, helping the government to realise its nine pledges made at the New York Leaders' Summit on Refugees, among which one is to enhance access to basic services such as health for all refugees. The Deputy Director of the Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA), declared that the donation contributes to Ethiopia's plan to integrate refugees in the country within ten years.

First CRRF Steering Committee meeting held

The first Steering Committee of the CRRF meeting was held on 7 December 2017, chaired by H.E. Ato Solomon Tesfaye, State Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, and attended by government representatives, donors, the World Bank, UN agencies and representatives from international and national NGOs. During the meeting the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee was presented and approved. The CRRF governance structure was also a topic of discussion and the need for regional governance structures was highlighted in order to assist in implementing the Pledges at the local level.

Engagement with UNICEF

A working session between UNICEF and UNHCR in Ethiopia, which yielded common ground for UNICEF's participation in operational improvements in the context of the CRRF, especially through the joined-up Steering Committee, which includes ARRA, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation, and UNHCR. UNICEF has committed to co-facilitating two of the upcoming CRRF Technical Committee workshops in January, and participating in all.

New study on refugee inclusion in Ethiopia

The new UNHCR study provides deeper insights into the different ways refugees are progressively included in the national systems of Ethiopia. It is available [here](#).

Kenya

For the first time, the Kakuma County Development Plan will include refugees

UNHCR and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), together with the Turkana County Government, participated in a three-day workshop in mid-December to draft the County Integrated Development Plan which will guide all development activities in Turkana County from 2018 to 2022. For the first time, the county development plan will integrate refugees in the development plan, for example in including sustainable service delivery for refugees.

Progress on the Kakuma refugee camp market place study in preparation of project launches in 2018

The joint UNHCR-IFC Kakuma refugee camp consumer and market study, "Kakuma as a market place", enters its second phase of development. In this phase, the findings of the first phase are analysed and assessed in order to successfully launch projects in the spirit of the CRRF in Kakuma area going forward.

Somalia

Updates on the National Policy for Refugees, Returnees and IDPs

The consultation process on the National Policy for Refugees, Returnees and IDPs, which was drafted at the National Forum on Durable Solutions in September 2017, was completed in Jubaland, Puntland, and South West State. The Government's leadership on the CRRF and progress in drafting the National Action Plan were welcomed in the [communiqué](#) issued at the inaugural Somalia Partnership Forum that took place in Mogadishu, on 5 December.

High Commissioner for Refugees meets leaders of returnee areas

During his visit to Somalia last month, the High Commissioner met with the President and the Prime Minister of the Federal Government, and leaders of two largest returnee areas, Jubaland and Benadir (the latter includes Mogadishu). Among priorities identified by the Government for sustainable returns of Somalis from neighbouring countries are greater support in the areas of education and livelihood, and improved security. In the spirit of the CRRF, the High Commissioner highlighted the importance of including all stakeholders in finding solutions to the refugee situation and fostering a whole-of-society approach.

United Republic of Tanzania

First field mission of the CRRF Secretariat

The CRRF Secretariat conducted its first field mission with a view to strengthen the link between the national and regional/district levels for the implementation of the CRRF and to ensure an understanding and ownership of the CRRF among local authorities and partners. The group, composed of Secretariat members from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government, and UNHCR, visited Kigoma region. Regional and district officials underscored that all CRRF projects should be based on priority sectors for host communities, which are water, education, health, security, and environmental conservation. There was consensus among authorities that coordination structures of the CRRF at district levels are needed to ensure the successful implementation of the CRRF. The Secretariat also met with UN and NGO partners based in Kibondo,

who highlighted the need to strengthen the link between humanitarian and development activities in refugee and host communities, for the benefit of both populations.

Uganda

UNHCR signs multi-year agreement with German *Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)* Development Bank

UNHCR Headquarters signed a multi-year agreement with the German KfW Development Bank for €15 million over four years (2018-2021) for the South Sudan refugee situation in Uganda. The multi-year project under the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) focuses on the provision of water, education (permanent school infrastructure and equipment through Refugee and host population empowerment strategic framework (ReHoPE), teacher salaries, training and support); the installation of solar street lights, and peaceful co-existence between communities (specifically, the expansion of theatre groups to strengthen the delivery of messaging campaigns). In parallel, the Ugandan Government and the German Embassy in Kampala launched the KfW Refugee Response Fund project activities for the South Sudan refugee situation. The launch follows the establishment by Germany - through KfW - of a Refugee Response Fund of €10million, for an initial period of three years. The projects, which will be implemented by Save the Children and Oxfam in the districts of Arua and Yumbe, will focus on the education and water, sanitation and hygiene sectors.

Developments in the CRRF governance structures

In line with the principle of greater refugee inclusion, the Refugee Department in the Ugandan Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR are developing a refugee advisory board, building on the refugee welfare representation at settlement level. The Office of the Prime Minister has also asked UNHCR to support the process on secondments of development actors in the CRRF secretariat.

Expansion of the World Bank's Development Response to Displacement Impact Projects (DRDIP)

In light of the significant increase in number of refugees in Uganda in the last eighteen months, the World Bank is supporting a US\$ 50 million programme to improve access to basic social services, expand economic opportunities, and enhance environmental management for refugee-hosting communities. The World Bank is working with the Government to restructure and expand the project beyond the original four target districts, so as to cover all eleven refugee-hosting districts. In addition, the Bank is processing additional financing of between USD\$150 million to \$200 million to support infrastructure development for economic development, livelihood and environment projects in refugee-hosting districts.

Private sector engagement in midwest Uganda

The UNHCR office in Uganda is in discussion with leading companies in the banking, agriculture, telecommunication and oil / gas sectors in Midwest Uganda to explore how they can increase their support refugee and host community livelihood projects under the CRRF. Some of the projects relate to growing of cash crops, access to markets, improved communication and connectivity, access to banking services and employment.

THE COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK (CRPSF) in the NORTH OF CENTRAL AMERICA

Following the agreement on the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS in Spanish) at the San Pedro Sula Conference in October 2017, UNHCR offices in the region are finalizing the identification of a series of priority projects to focus on in the initial phase of implementing the MIRPS, subject to sufficient available funding. On the institutional side, UNHCR is working with the Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) on establishing a robust mechanism to ensure a sustainable follow-up of the process at regional level. Furthermore, the Central American Council of Ombudspersons met in Panama on 15 December to agree on a concrete programme of action to support the MIRPS for the period of 2018 to 2020. The programme includes joint border monitoring and advocacy campaigns in favour of forcibly displaced persons.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

Special Segment on the CRRF at the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges

This year's [High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges](#) "Towards a global compact on refugees", took place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 12 and 13 December 2017. It included a special segment on the lessons learned from the application of the CRRF, chaired by the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Mr Volker Türk. The event was attended by many Member State representatives, refugee representatives and NGOs,

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and included an [opening address](#) on the status on the CRRF, presented by the Director, Comprehensive Responses. In a structured discussion between the panel and the floor, Volker Türk invited representatives from each CRRF country – currently 13 roll-out countries – to share their experience of the CRRF and the lessons they have learned as a result of the application of the framework. The full session can be viewed [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **16 January:** Ethiopia's second meeting of the National Steering Committee of the CRRF, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- **31 January:** Uganda's second meeting of the CRRF Steering Committee, Kampala, Uganda
- **13 - 14 February:** First formal consultation with UN Member States on the draft global compact on refugees, Geneva

CONTACTS and USEFUL LINKS

- The CRRF Task Team in Geneva: hqcr@unhcr.org
- For queries on the formal consultations: hggovern@unhcr.org
- Contributions from States, NGOs, international and intergovernmental organizations can be found [here](#).
- Other useful links: [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#), [Global Compact on Refugees](#), [Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework](#).

*UNHCR CRRF Task Team, Geneva
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