

UNHCR's 10-Point Plan in Central America, Western Africa, Eastern Africa and Asia – a three-year project¹

UNHCR's *10-Point Plan of Action on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration* (10-Point Plan) has been met with great interest by States and other key stakeholders. The Plan was issued by the Office in 2006², to assist States in developing comprehensive and "protection-sensitive" migration strategies. During the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges³, which took place in December 2007, participants acknowledged the direct relevance of the areas covered in the 10-Point Plan for the better management of refugee protection and international migration. Participants however, also pointed out that the Plan needs further elaboration and clarification of some of its content and terminology. In addition, there was an agreement for the 10-Point Plan to be an instrument of action, implemented on a regional basis.

UNHCR has initiated a number of follow-up activities to the High Commissioner's Dialogue. One of these is a project on the 10-Point Plan entitled "UNHCR's 10-Point Plan in Central America, Western Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Asia", designed by the Office's Division of International Protection Services. The implementation of the project started in 2008, thanks to the generous funding UNHCR received from the European Commission, and is expected to be completed in 2010. The project consists of two inter-related components: the development of implementation strategies for the 10-Point Plan in four different regions through regional stakeholder conferences; and the further development and elaboration of the 10-Point Plan as a tool through expert roundtables and a published Compilation of practical examples.

1. Stakeholder conferences - development of regional implementation strategies

UNHCR, in cooperation with Governments and other key partners, has begun to convene a series of four regional conferences on refugee protection and international migration. Building on the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, these 2-3 day conferences aim at sensitizing key stakeholders to the protection challenges arising from situations of mixed migration. They also serve to familiarize the key stakeholders with UNHCR's 10-Point Plan as a possible framework for the development of a "protection-sensitive" migration strategy.

Based on an analysis of the particular migration situation in the region, and its challenges and opportunities for persons of concern to UNHCR, the conferences will serve to build a regional consensus on key elements of the implementation strategy.

¹ The initially two-year project was extended to a third year.

² The document is available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4aa7a4bd9.pdf>

³ Further information on the Dialogue is available at <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a12a6286.html>

The first conference, held in May 2008, targeted the mixed migration situation in the Gulf of Aden⁴. The second conference, jointly organised with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), discussed protection challenges and opportunities arising from intra-regional migration in West Africa.⁵ The outcomes of these conferences and all relevant material are available on the UNHCR website.

The final two conferences are scheduled to take place in:

- Central America (San José, Costa Rica), on 19-20 November 2009
- Central Asia (Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan), in May 2010

2. Further development and elaboration of the 10-Point Plan

2.1. “Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration: The 10-Point Plan in Action” – a Compilation of practical examples

The EC-funded project has enabled UNHCR to complete and issue a Compilation of around 100 practices and tools from different regions⁶ that are relevant to the implementation of the 10-Point Plan. The publication was provisionally released in June 2009 to allow Governments and partner agencies to review and propose additions and/or changes. Based on the comments and feedback received, the publication will be reviewed and finalized in 2010, and made available in different languages.

2.2 Expert Roundtables

UNHCR has also begun convening four 2-3 day expert roundtables on the action points of the 10-Point Plan. Around 30 experts from Governments, international agencies, academia and civil society are invited to attend. The participants are chosen on the basis of their knowledge of, and practical experience in, the topic of discussion. Representation of different regional practices will be ensured. The roundtables provide a forum for an in-depth discussion on the different action points of the 10-Point Plan and offer the opportunity to gather additional practical examples. Recommendations made and outcomes achieved through the roundtables are represented in the publication mentioned above.

The first of these roundtables, which took place in Geneva on 20-21 November 2008, addressed the issue of refugee and human rights protection in the context of border and entry management.⁷ The second roundtable, which was held in Tunis from 6-8 July 2009, focused on cooperation mechanisms used for the identification and protection of persons with specific needs in a mixed migration context.⁸

- The third roundtable, which will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, in November 2009, will focus on the return of non-refugees and alternative migration options.

⁴ The Conference took place in Sana’a, Yemen, on 19-20 May 2008. Conference report and documentation are available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4a252c786.html>

⁵ The Conference took place in Dakar, West Africa, on 13-14 November 2008. Conference report and documentation are available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4a27be466.html>

⁶ The Compilation “The 10-Point Plan in Action” is available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4a855cd52e.pdf>

⁷ Roundtable report and documentation are available at <http://www.unhcr.org/protect/495df1a52.html>

⁸ Roundtable report and documentation will soon be available on the UNHCR website.

- The fourth roundtable, expected to be held during the first semester of 2010, will discuss cooperation among key partners and secondary movers (solidarity and burden sharing aspects).

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