

68th Standing Committee meeting,
Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme
Introductory Remarks by Kelly T. Clements, Deputy High Commissioner
Item 7 – Update on Budgets and Funding
Room XVIII, Palais des Nations
14-16 March 2017

Mme. Chairperson,

Excellencies,

We have a number of colleagues, from our Division of Financial and Administrative Management and Division of External Relations, ready to update you on UNHCR's budgets and funding. I will therefore keep my remarks here brief.

Our final annual budget for 2016 was over US\$ 7.5 billion, which is almost a billion dollars higher than the original budget approved by the Executive Committee at its 66th session in October 2015 and constitutes a historic high. Total funds available in 2016 also reached a historic high, at close to US\$ 4.5 billion.

What these figures don't show is the impact of the 40% of needs which remained unmet. This has meant refugees making do with substandard amounts of potable water; children being denied access to education, and; asylum seekers remaining in legal limbo. All of these have

potentially devastating consequences on individuals, families and communities. This also has an impact on the host populations who are so often compelled to share their own scarce resources, further affecting countries on the front lines of today's displacement crises.

While marginally lower than our 2016 budget, our current budget for 2017 stands at over US\$ 7.4 billion. This reflects the historically high levels of displacement we continue to see throughout the world and the substantial needs of displaced populations, some of which were captured through recently approved supplementary budgets for the Nigeria and South Sudan situations.

Mme. Chairperson,

Ms. Rossella Pagliuchi-Lor, Director of the Division of External Relations, and her team will brief you on funding efforts for this year and beyond. I also would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Paul Stromberg, the new Head *ad interim* of the Donor Relations and Resource Mobilization Service, who has recently assumed this position.

While our funding situation remains unpredictable, the persistence of conflict in a number of countries, including in

Nigeria, Yemen, South Sudan and Syria, remains sadly predictable. During the first half of 2016, our field operations reported the new displacement of some 3.2 million people, 1.5 million of these across state borders. Meeting the needs of displaced populations will remain a challenge for the foreseeable future and we count on your support in this endeavor.

Thank you.