



NL views on implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) – November 2017

1. The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), annexed to the New York Declaration, is being put into practice in a number of refugee hosting countries. The process is initiated by UNHCR with the engagement of donors, host countries, other UN agencies and the World Bank.
2. This new model demands engagement from a large number of stakeholders, ranging from central and local governments and municipalities, UN agencies, humanitarian and development organisations, to private companies, regional planning experts and knowledge institutes.
3. This paper sets out NL's initial views on the implementation of the CRRF. This document should be read alongside the NL non-paper on the Global Compact on Refugees, which sets out the high-level principles to underpin the approach.
4. CRRF envisions a new model, which should give refugees and people who are forcibly displaced more opportunities to live and work outside of camps as part of the local host population. Only then can refugees and displaced people build a decent living that also benefits the local economy. But this should not put pressure on the local host population, which could lead to new tensions or shortages of resources. To this end, the new model aims to benefit the local host population as well as refugees and other displaced people, by improving services (energy, water, education and health) and employment opportunities for all.
5. CRRF works closely with governments hosting refugees and displaced persons. It should focus on expanding the capacities of local governments to deliver services to both the local host population and refugees and displaced people. To promote work opportunities for all, CRRF should stimulate local entrepreneurship, vocational training which responds to demands of the labour market, and investments from local and international companies.
6. There are a number of areas that will be critical to delivering a transformed approach that is able to generate change. These areas could potentially be addressed during the implementation of the CRRF pilots to set a precedent for the long-term success of the Global Refugee Compact. These areas include:
 - i. **Access to work**

The CRRF pilots should provide refugees with opportunities for sustainable livelihoods such as agriculture, trade or salaried employment. Economic development programming should provide work permits to refugees and those with permanent residence ID in the areas permitted for foreign workers, such as the Jobs Compact in Ethiopia and the Jordan Compact. The CRRF pilots in each country should develop a joint strategic framework (similar to the ReHope framework in Uganda) which incorporates and builds on initiatives of development and humanitarian actors.

ii. Access to education

CRRF pilots should first consider service delivery, which utilises national programmes, and systems, followed by complementary systems, rather than develop parallel delivery channels. This might include social protection and safety nets, health and nutrition, education, WASH and business and skills training. Where possible national systems should be expanded and strengthened as part of the programme modality to ensure sustainability in the long term. National structures need to be supported and be accessible for both host communities and refugees.

iii. Increasing private sector development

Through private sector-led development, entrepreneurs will gain additional skills, networks and investment opportunities and refugees and un(der)employed groups of the host community will be actively included in economic activities by gaining job-specific skills, access to associations and match making tailored to the benefit of various social positions. In Ethiopia, there are large opportunities to stimulate industrial partners to build industrial parks to employ up to 100,000 individuals, with 30 per cent of the jobs reserved for refugees. In addition, 10,000 hectares of irrigable land will become available, to enable 20,000 refugees and host community households (100,000 people) to grow crops.

iv. Improved data and national registration systems

Identify opportunities to enhance registration and documentation at the national level, with the aim of improving operational and financial efficiencies and preventing fraud, further deploy or improve existing biometric technology in refugee operations, explore opportunities to reduce licensing fees and other costs associated with the use of up-to-date registration technology, improve the collection and quality of registration data, which should be disaggregated by age, sex and disability; and ensure respect for data protection and privacy principles. NL has provided these benefits in Ethiopia, and fulfilled the first pledge of CRRF to issue birth certificates to refugee children born in Ethiopia, and the possibility of opening bank accounts and obtain driving licenses.

v. Strengthen innovation and evidence

The evidence base is weak, particularly regarding generating employment for refugees. Impacts, outcomes and value for money are not systematically or comparatively reported. CRRF pilots should have robust monitoring and evaluation and knowledge sharing mechanisms to build the evidence base and learning. The CRRF framework should push for innovation and new thinking. In this regard, several pilots need to be rolled out to fully understand how refugees could obtain access to good well-paid jobs and education systems.