

Global update on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

This monthly document summarizes key developments in the application of comprehensive responses worldwide.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Afghanistan announces application of the CRRF

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has officially announced its decision to “*join and support the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)*” as a country of origin. Comprehensive responses in Afghanistan are rooted in the *Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to Support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries (SSAR)*, established by the Governments of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan in 2012. The SSAR offers a comprehensive and integrated regional framework for joint interventions and cross-border initiatives aimed at facilitating the voluntary and gradual return of Afghan refugees and their sustainable reintegration, while providing assistance to their host communities and countries. For more information, visit [this page](#).

Refugees in Djibouti can now open bank accounts

To enhance the socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Djibouti, the Governor of the Central Bank announced in a bulletin dated 25 July that all refugees who hold a refugee ID card and earn an income can now access the banking system.



CHAD

Official launch of comprehensive responses advancing

Following the official announcement by the Government of the Republic of Chad (03 May 2018) of its application of comprehensive refugee responses, preparations are underway for an official launch of the CRRF at national level, scheduled for the week of 17 September. Led by the Government, the national symposium will seek to rally support for comprehensive responses in-country and agree on an action plan to take the CRRF forward.



DJIBOUTI

Strengthening efforts to include refugees in social development plans

An assessment of the development infrastructure built with the World Bank’s International Development Assistance (IDA)-17 funding (for the period 2016-2021) has revealed that in some refugee-hosting areas, refugees have benefited from use of the schools, boreholes and health centres funded through the IDA-17 allocation. UNHCR-Djibouti continues to advocate for the remaining funds under this allocation to further promote social cohesion through projects that the local population and refugees can both enjoy. In a separate development, the Djiboutian Agency for Social Development (ADDS) which is responsible for the disbursement of the IDA-17 allocation, has also confirmed that it is working to promote the gradual inclusion of women and young refugees living Ali Addeh, Holl Holl and Markazi settlements in training programmes. Meanwhile, the Government is also pursuing its efforts to include refugees in the new “Strategy for Growth and Acceleration of Employment” (SCAPE) for the period 2018-2022.

Agricultural and pastoral activities to benefit both refugees and their hosts

A survey of 200 agricultural projects was carried out in 15 localities in the Obock region, bringing together farmers, breeders and members of the host community. In the course of consultations for the survey, which was carried out with the support of UNHCR, the host community participants decided that two plots of land will be made available for refugees for joint farming and breeding. This project will benefit 2,500 members of the local community and refugees in the first phase of the project. Through this initiative, Djiboutian farmers expect to learn pastoral and farming techniques from refugees, and refugees will become more self-reliant through greater food supply and an additional source of income.



ETHIOPIA

Government comes together to work towards the Comprehensive Refugee Response Strategy

Under the auspices of the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), a workshop gathered more than a hundred government officials including line ministries, regions and city administrations from all over the country to validate the new CRRF strategy. Participants stated their appreciation for Government-driven efforts towards socio-economic inclusion of refugees. A second round of consultations is expected with humanitarian and development partners in August, following which a final draft will be presented to the Council of Ministers.

Enhanced engagement of regional actors in comprehensive responses

During a visit to refugee-hosting regions in Ethiopia, UNHCR's Special Envoy for the Somali refugee situation, Ambassador Mohammed Affey, and UNHCR's Representative in Ethiopia emphasized the need for greater involvement of regional (sub-national) stakeholders in the application of comprehensive responses, in particular in the regions that are the first to respond to refugee situations. In discussions with government officials, local authorities, private sector businesses, refugees and host communities in the Somali Region, the Special Envoy echoed the call made by the Humanitarian Advisor to the President of Ethiopia to establish a CRRF Steering Committee in relevant regions.

Consultations strengthen the CRRF at local levels

ARRA, local authorities and UNHCR conducted consultations in a *woreda* (district) in the northern region of Tigray. IOM, WFP, UNICEF, NGO partners and representatives of host and refugee communities formally agreed on a local programme of action that will prioritise areas of intervention benefiting both refugees and their hosts, with a particular focus on social services, the environment and natural resources, work and livelihoods. Local authorities will review the plans ahead of finalization.

New irrigation canal in southern Ethiopia benefits refugees and host communities equally

The recently completed irrigation canal in the Melkadida area near the border with Somalia can deliver a potential of 759m³ of water per hour, benefiting 200 refugee households and 200 local households. Irrigable land will also be allocated to local populations and refugee households as part of the project.



KENYA

Including refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya's education system

In line with the Government of Kenya's pledge to progressively include refugees in the national education system, the Ministry of Education carried out missions to Kakuma, Kalobeyei, and Dadaab.

Young Global Leaders of the World Economic Forum visit Kakuma to help find innovative solutions

A group of 14 Young Global Leaders from the World Economic Forum visited Kakuma to explore the reality of refugees' lives and learn more about comprehensive responses in the area. The group of next generation leaders, which regularly comes together to pursue innovative solutions on major global issues, learned about the integrated settlement in Kalobeyei and participated in a CRRF workshop with national and county government officials, donors, the World Bank, the International Financial Corporation (IFC) and UN agencies. The visit will inform their potential interventions in refugee and displacement contexts through a comprehensive lens.



UGANDA

Government of Uganda launches DRDIP projects to promote peaceful coexistence and social cohesion

The Government of Uganda has launched the Development Response to Displacement Impact Project (DRDIP), financed by World Bank in eight districts located in the West Nile and South West regions. The launch was presided by the Prime Minister and the first Prime Minister, and attended by the entire political and administrative leadership of the respective locations. All projects benefit both refugees and host communities and are financed through initial funding of US\$ 50 million. In discussions held in the context of the appraisal mission for additional financing under DRDIP, the

World Bank announced that its Board has approved the expansion of DRDIP funding for another year, with additional financing of US\$150million from the IDA 18 sub-window until 2023.

Fourth CRRF Steering Group meeting builds on momentum to ease pressure on refugee-hosting districts

The fourth meeting of the CRRF Steering Group on 03 July was co-chaired at Ministerial level by the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Local Government. Among key highlights were: i) the Ministry of Health presented the draft *Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan*, which includes refugees in health services delivered in refugee-hosting districts. All actors engaged in the health sector in those districts were urged to align to the response plan. ii) The Ministry of Water and Environment called upon both humanitarian and development partners to support the development of its response plan. The two plans presented by the Minister will be further developed ahead of the next CRRF Steering Group meeting in October. iii) The Government of Uganda committed to develop its plan to share the Ugandan experience on the practical application of the CRRF in order to showcase achievements to date in the discussions on the global compact on refugees due to be adopted later this year by the UN General Assembly.

The CRRF Secretariat advances Grand Bargain localization agenda

To accelerate progress towards the Grand Bargain commitment to channel 25% of international emergency funding through national and local responders by 2020, the CRRF Secretariat in Uganda has proposed mechanisms to increase such funding, both direct and indirect. The forum agreed to i) collect disaggregated funding data through an online tracking system, ii) create pooled funding for local and national responders, iii) urge international actors to align their policies and practices to promote funding for local actors and overhead costs, and iv) develop strategies to support local government capacity.



Somalia situation, including IGAD regional response

Significant commitments by Somali Government towards legislative changes on durable solutions for IDPs

At the Somalia Partnership Forum held in Brussels on 17-18 July, the Federal Government of Somalia committed to bring forward policy and legislative changes to achieve durable solutions for internally displaced persons in Somalia. The Government specifically committed to “ensure that the *National Eviction Guidelines, National Policy on Refugee-Returnees and IDPs, a Housing, Land and Property interim and time specific protocol and a Refugee Act are adopted within the next twelve months*” (para 66 of final communiqué, available [here](#)).

Follow up to the Djibouti Declaration on regional refugee education

A group of experts from Member States of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), UN agencies, international organisations and development agencies came together in Addis Ababa to discuss the key elements and implementation thus far of the *Djibouti Declaration on Regional Refugee Education* and its *Plan of Action* (adopted in December 2017). Participants shared experiences on how to include refugees in national education systems and agreed on a regional framework for quality standards for refugee education. The follow-up Ministerial meeting on regional refugee education *one year on* is scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa in December 2018.



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



BELIZE

New engagement with Belize's National Women's Commission

Following a briefing on the MIRPS national agenda, members of the National Women's Commission identified elements of common interest with UNHCR. They agreed to share information and join efforts to strengthen sensitization on refugee protection for the general public and policymakers.



COSTA RICA

Extension of visas for Nicaraguan asylum-seekers to guarantee safety amid continued unrest

In an effort to continue assisting Nicaraguan asylum-seekers in the country, Costa Rican migration authorities have extended the validity of tourist visas for Nicaraguans for the duration of the political conflict in their country. The measure also applies to Nicaraguans already residing in Costa Rica.



GUATEMALA

Senior government officials attend ICRC awareness-raising event on internal displacement

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) held a workshop on the guiding principles on internal displacement and opportunities to respond to forced displacement, in line with their commitments in the MIRPS. High-level participants included the General Directorate for Migration, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Ombudsman's Office, the Prosecutor General's Office, the First Lady's Secretariat for Social Welfare, the Secretary for Social Welfare, academics from the Rafael Landívar University, and the Central American Institute for Development and Social Studies (INCEDES).



HONDURAS

Supporting refugees and IDPs through multi-stakeholder cooperation

The National Statistics Institute delivered a three-day workshop to strengthen the capacity of its staff on the identification of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The training applied specifically to the 'characterization surveys', through which specific data on IDPs is collected to help tailor policies and programmes to their needs and find more appropriate solutions for them.

Community-led work plan to enhance protection of persons of concern

With the objective to analyse protection risks and provide protection to persons of concern in the community of Chamelecón in the city of San Pedro Sula, eighteen community leaders validated a comprehensive community work plan and prioritized a series of protection mitigation actions. UNHCR will support on monitoring the implementation.



MEXICO

Strengthening national mechanisms for self-reliance and livelihoods

Civil society organizations and UNHCR are working with the City of Mexico and the Ministry of Labour to establish a coordination mechanism for the referral of cases to national programmes on employment and self-employment.

Scholarship programmes foster refugee inclusion

The University of Cuauhtémoc in the city of Puebla has offered to include refugees in its scholarship programme and to promote projects that help raise awareness on the plight of refugees and shed a light on the contributions they can make to local communities.



PANAMA

Improving reception conditions of refugees at the border

The *Oficina Nacional para la Atención de Refugiados* (ONPAR) and UNHCR jointly held a training on protection principles and the national legal framework for the benefit of approximately 100 officials working in border areas, especially in airports.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

New posters on comprehensive responses in countries and regions

Updated posters on the application of comprehensive responses are available on the [Global CRRF Portal](#) – one for the [CRRF in Africa](#), one for the [MIRPS in Central America and Mexico](#). The posters provide a summary overview on the roll-out of comprehensive responses in the two regions. More documents are available on the Portal.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **1-5 August:** Visit of Global leaders from the World Economic Forum to Kakuma, Kenya
- **16 August:** CRRF Stakeholders Consultations in Kaoma District, Zambia
- **28-29 August:** National Stakeholders Consultations for CRRF/MYMPPSS in Lusaka, Zambia

CONTACTS and USEFUL LINKS

- CRRF Task Team, Division of Resilience and Solutions, Geneva: hqcrr@unhcr.org
- Useful links: [CRRF portal](#)
[New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#)
[Global Compact on Refugees](#)
[A New Deal for Refugees](#)

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