

Update on UNHCR's global programmes Executive Committee 2009

Part A: Introduction

This update reviews developments in 2009 and the progress made on selected aspects of UNHCR's global programmes. Global partnerships are covered in the *Update on coordination: strategic partnerships* (EC/60/SC/CRP/26) presented to the 46th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The four key aspects reported on in this update include: the High Commissioner's special projects on anaemia and water/sanitation; HIV and AIDS; education; and global programme analysis and support.

Part B: Progress on four key aspects of UNHCR's global programmes

Anaemia

- The consequences of anaemia and malnutrition can be irreversible and life threatening. In 2009, the High Commissioner allocated US\$4.5 million to projects aimed at reducing the huge burden of anaemia and improving the nutritional status for persons of concern in seven countries (Algeria, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nepal and Yemen).
- Operations in Bangladesh, Kenya and Nepal are currently distributing micronutrient powders to vulnerable individuals.
- Bangladesh is using lipid nutrient spreads in the fight against anaemia and malnutrition, and Algeria, Djibouti and Kenya will be doing so in the near future.
- Significant reductions in anaemia from 2008 to 2009 have already been recorded in Bangladesh (40 per cent decrease) and Nepal (18 per cent decrease).
- As part of the strategy to address anaemia, UNHCR has formed an expert anaemia reference group and established a technical alliance with the Institute of Child Health of the University College of London. The aim of the latter is to increase the quality and relevance of measures being taken to address anaemia. UNHCR also works closely with the World Food Programme on these issues.

Water and sanitation

- In the wake of the High Commissioner's 2007-2008 special project aimed at improving UNHCR's response to the needs of refugees and other persons of concern, in the areas of health, nutrition and sexual and gender-based violence, over US\$4 million were allocated in 2009 to improve existing water supply and sanitation (WatSan) systems in key UNHCR operations.
- So far 70 per cent of the planned activities have been completed in 15 countries. These include: water distribution systems (around 7-10 km of pipeline laid down, between 5 to 10 boreholes drilled, and 20-30 shallow-wells dug); sanitation facilities (around 350 latrines built); and waste disposal systems.
- These funds were also used to build local capacity by forming and training WatSan committees (around 400 to 500 people trained) in partnership with the refugee and host populations. The promotion of hygiene was another area of intervention, with materials to promote safe water and

disposal handling developed in several operations. The 2009 WatSan special project will be mainstreamed in 2010 in order to integrate water, sanitation and hygiene-promotion activities into the regular programmes.

HIV and AIDS

UNHCR's Strategic Plan for HIV (2008-2012) includes a strong emphasis on prevention and reinforces the link with protection.

- The latest data show 100 per cent coverage on essential HIV prevention interventions in refugee camp operations and 85 per cent coverage for refugees in need of antiretroviral treatment when this is available to surrounding host country populations. There is an ongoing effort to strengthen HIV protection and prevention programmes for vulnerable groups (women, girls, and youth) and link them with sexual and reproductive health programmes. Furthermore, programmes targeting at-risk populations (such as substance abusers, particularly those using injections, and sex workers) among persons of concern to UNHCR have been strengthened.
- As UNHCR assumes the lead within UNAIDS on the issue of HIV among displaced persons, the Office worked with partners to ensure that this population was included in the new UNAIDS Joint Action Results-Outcome Framework 2009-2011. The Office has also advocated for the sufficient inclusion of displaced persons in the global movement of scaling-up towards universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010.
- Despite encouraging progress in recent years, many challenges remain at national levels. In addition, HIV is not sufficiently addressed in the humanitarian reform cluster approach.
- In 2009-2010, UNHCR will continue to implement comprehensive HIV and AIDS protection, prevention, care and treatment programmes; tailoring programmes to focus on vulnerable and at-risk groups; strengthening partners' technical capacities; and intensifying advocacy for the inclusion of persons of concern in national HIV and AIDS strategic plans and funding proposals.

Education

- The education strategy for 2010-2012 focuses on 11 priority countries, identified through a consultative process with UNHCR's Regional Bureaux and country offices. It is based on a comprehensive analysis of UNHCR's Education Standards and Indicators, which revealed that while 67 per cent of refugee children aged 6-17 are enrolled at school, secondary school enrolment is only 20 per cent and gender inequality increases as grades advance.
- In piloting the strategy, UNHCR paid special attention to eastern Chad, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic – three operations which benefited from technical missions, focused guidance and the deployment of education officers. The main achievements for Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic have been the enabling of access to formal education systems; the enhancing of local absorption capacity; and the increased involvement of the refugee communities through education volunteers and outreach volunteers. A comprehensive approach to education has been taken by mainstreaming formal and non-formal education activities and providing material support to refugee families with school-age children. For eastern Chad an amount of US\$4 million was successfully raised to improve the quality of education and opportunities for post-primary education.

- In partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council and the International Rescue Committee, education officers have also been seconded to UNHCR in Bangladesh, Burundi, Central Africa, and Southern Sudan. Much effort has been put into promoting post-primary education. Funds have been raised through the ninemillion.org campaign, and support provided to five countries (Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda), with particular focus on the access of girls to post-primary education.
- At the post-secondary level, 1,800 refugee students benefit from the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund, or DAFI scholarship programme, in 34 countries worldwide; 40.6 per cent of the beneficiaries are female students. Under a new instrument called *DAFI for Return*, scholarships have been provided to Burundian and Mauritanian returnees in their home countries.
- The Community Technology Access Project aims to provide education and livelihood programmes to displaced communities, targeting youth in particular. This project is being piloted in Bangladesh and Rwanda, and UNHCR intends to replicate good practices in other operations.

Global programme analysis and support

- Three initiatives introduced globally in 2009 have considerably enhanced UNHCR's capacity for global programme analysis and support: the Results Framework, the Global Needs Assessment and the new software application, *Focus*.
- The Global Needs Assessment (GNA) provides a comprehensive assessment of needs of populations of concern to UNHCR and the plans, activities, and level of resources required to meet these needs. It requires all operations to do comprehensive needs assessments and comprehensive operation plans which together form the GNA for the Office as a whole.
- The Results Framework describes fully the results the organization is working to achieve and is the organizing framework for UNHCR's assessments, plans, reports and budgets. It is embedded in *Focus*, which was used in 2009 by all operations for their comprehensive assessments and planning for 2010-2011. All operations include baseline indicator information, and impact and performance targets for the objectives in their plans.
- The fact that assessments, plans and budgets are structured in a common manner and accessible in *Focus*, makes it possible to consolidate information provided at a country and regional level to provide comparative views by population, problem, objective, and across countries, regions and globally. This greatly enhances the capacity of the Office for global programme analysis and for ensuring support is provided to meet the greatest needs.
- To help realize the full impact of this potential, programme management, analysis and support functions provided by the Office of Organizational Development and Management (ODM) and the Division of Operational Services (DOS) will be integrated and co-located into a new Division for Programme Support and Management (DPSM).
- This merger will enhance the ability of Headquarters and the Field to regularly monitor, assess and evaluate needs, and to enhance the provision of guidance and technical support.
- The new Division will provide a means for more systematic and comprehensive global analysis, which will help improve operational performance and better inform resource allocation decisions.

- In parallel, in order to preserve and enhance independent programme evaluations, the Policy Development and Evaluation Service (PDES) will substantially restructure and augment its responsibilities for evaluation and monitoring of all UNHCR activities at Headquarters and in the Field to include both thematic and geographic evaluations and resulting policy recommendations.

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