

ASSESSING THE UNMET NEEDS OF POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

1. For over a decade, UNHCR field offices have undertaken needs assessments which have informed the development of regional and country operations plans. In recent years, the Office has also tried to capture the results of the needs assessments in financial terms so as to provide an indication of the funding that would be required to meet the comprehensive needs of persons of concern. These financial estimates have suffered from inconsistent criteria and a lack of clarity on exactly what was required. In many cases, estimates were influenced by constraints, real or imagined, that the authors assumed would eventually guide the allocation of resources.
2. The Global Needs Assessment initiative seeks to improve the quality of these assessments and strengthen UNHCR's ability to set clear and justifiable priorities, to support its advocacy efforts and to expand its funding base. The first phase of the Global Needs Assessment initiative will comprise two components.
3. First, UNHCR's recently issued annual programming instructions provided improved guidance to field teams on how to document, cost and present the needs of populations of concern as part of the annual reporting and planning exercise. Country operations, in close cooperation with all stakeholders, have been asked to estimate total financial needs, including unmet needs, focusing on each population planning group or theme, as depicted in the country or regional plan. These financial assessments will be reviewed during the 2009 Annual Programme Review in April/May 2008.
4. Second, eight country operations (Cameroon, Ecuador, Georgia, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Yemen and Zambia) are currently undertaking a more comprehensive and targeted process of developing interventions to remedy identified gaps, and of providing firm budgets for the implementation of those interventions.
5. This part of the Global Needs Assessment exercise is based on specific project development rather than on estimates. To the fullest extent possible, the countries selected for this part of the exercise are ones for which the Strengthening Protection Capacity Project (SPCP) has been piloted, in order to take advantage of the work undertaken to date and the methodological rigour being applied through the SPCP process.
6. The SPCP starts with a comprehensive analysis of gaps in protection and solutions, and their consequences, relying on protection reports, standards and indicators data, as well as other credible sources. Through a consensus-building process engaging all stakeholders, it develops a comprehensive plan with concrete project interventions and firm budgets to remedy identified gaps. The methodology enhances the Global Needs Assessment process by articulating the gaps in needs and providing a firmer costing of what would be needed to address them.

7. This methodology has, to date, relied principally on additional funds for its implementation. For this reason, the countries selected for the presentation are relatively few and are at various stages in the process. By the time of the June 2008 Standing Committee Meeting, all eight of these operations will have completed a comprehensive assessment. Some, however, will have more comprehensive project and budget submissions for the unmet needs than others, depending on when they begin utilizing this particular methodology.

8. Using the new Budget Structure/ Results-Based Management Framework, the results of this exercise will be captured in tabular format as per the Annex to this paper. Each objective relating to the needs of populations of concern will be covered, including those related to a favourable protection environment, security from violence, basic needs and essential services including food, nutrition, water, shelter, health, education, self-reliance and durable solutions. The table will be accompanied by a narrative summary of the protection and solutions gaps and their consequences.

9. The results of the Global Needs Assessment initiative will be presented to the 42nd meeting of the Standing Committee in June 2008. On the basis of feedback received from the Standing Committee in June, as well as on an internal lessons-learned review, UNHCR will determine how to improve and expand this effort.

Annex

Global Needs Assessment Country Matrix of Unmet Needs and Programmatic Responses

Background: The Global Needs Assessment is a new initiative intended to strengthen UNHCR's presentation of the agency's funding requirements to address the protection and solutions needs of populations of concern in a manner which is not self-limited by funding expectations, and to support mobilization of additional funding for UNHCR and its partners. The Global Needs Assessment also informs the setting of the Global Strategic Objectives and supports other advocacy efforts which UNHCR carries out to strengthen protection and solutions for refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and stateless populations.

Directions: The following document, which is organized on the basis of the New Budget Structure, provides the template for the country summary sheets for UNHCR's Global Needs Assessment. Directions for the content to be included in each section of the table are included below.

Summary of Unmet Needs and Funding Requirements for _____

Programme/ Population of Concern: *The needs of all refugees in the country should be pulled together in one sheet. Separate sheets should be completed for IDPs and stateless populations*

Area of Concern/ Protection and Solutions Gaps	Programme/ Project Response	2009 ExCom Approved Budget for the Areas of Concern	Additional Requirements for 2009
For each "Rights Group" and area of concern as relevant, provide a concise summary (one or two sentences/ phrases per relevant area of concern maximum) of the protection and solutions gaps as experienced by women, men, girls and boys within the population of concern, given the current situation and the likely evolution of the situation up until the end of 2010. Areas of concern for which the situation is not conducive to addressing the protection gaps should not be included. The summary should reflect the results of participatory assessments carried out by multi-functional teams, the Annual Protection Report, Standards and Indicators data as well as other sources of credible information (including public sources).	Summarize the programme interventions required or under way but inadequately resourced.	Include all UNHCR costs including staffing and support costs ¹for UNHCR as well as all implementing partner costs	Include all UNHCR costs including staffing and support costs for UNHCR as well as all implementing partner costs

¹ UNHCR's new RBM Software Focus will provide an easy-to-use tool for apportioning staff and support costs to results; however, as Focus is not yet ready, UNHCR teams will need to estimate the UNHCR staffing and administrative support costs to results for each "Rights Group". To do so, UNHCR teams should assume within the new Budget Structure that 20% of UNHCR staffing and administrative support costs should be apportioned to Operational Support. The remaining 80% should be apportioned to each "Rights Group" so that all of UNHCR's requirements are reflected in the table.

Favorable Protection Environment			
Area of Concern/ Protection Gaps	Programme/ Project Response	2009 proposed budget in US\$ in response to gaps	2009 additional requirements to effectively address the gaps
• International and Regional Instruments • National Legal Framework • National Administrative Framework • Policies Towards Forced Displacement • National and Regional Migration Policy • Prevention of Displacement • Prevention of Statelessness • National Development Policies • Public Attitudes Towards Persons of Concern • Access to Territory • <i>Non-Refoulement</i> • Environmental Protection			

Fair Protection Processes and Documentation			
Area of Concern/ Protection Gaps	Programme/ Project Response	2009 proposed budget in US\$ in response to gaps	2009 additional requirements to effectively address the gaps
• Reception Conditions • Registration and Profiling • Access to Asylum Procedures • Refugee and Stateless Definitions • Fair and Efficient Status Determination • Family Re-unification • Individual Documentation • Civil Status Documentation			

Security from Violence and Exploitation			
Area of Concern/ Protection Gaps	Programme/ Project Response	2009 proposed budget in US\$ in response to gaps	2009 additional requirements to effectively address the gaps
• Impact on Host Communities • Effects of Armed Conflict • Law Enforcement • Community Security Management System • Gender-Based Violence • Protection of Children • Freedom of Movement • Non-Arbitrary Detention • Access to Legal Remedies			

Political Participation			
Basic Needs and Essential Services			
Area of Concern/ Protection Gaps	Programme/ Project Response	2009 proposed budget in US\$ in response to gaps	2009 additional requirements to effectively address the gaps
- Food Security - Nutrition - Water - Shelter/ Other Infrastructure - Basic Domestic and Hygiene Items - Primary Health Care - HIV/AIDS - Education (including health education) - Sanitation Services - Services for Groups with Specific Needs			

Community Participation and Self-Management			
Area of Concern/ Protection Gaps	Programme/ Project Response	2009 proposed budget in US\$ in response to gaps	2009 additional requirements to effectively address the gaps
- Participatory Assessment and Community Mobilization - Community Self-Management and Equal Representation - Camp Management and Coordination - Self-Reliance and Livelihoods			

Durable Solutions			
Area of Concern/ Protection Gaps	Programme/ Project Response	2009 proposed budget in US\$ in response to gaps	2009 additional requirements to effectively address the gaps
- Durable Solutions Strategy - Voluntary Return - Rehabilitation and Reintegration Support - Resettlement - Local Integration Support - Resettlement of IDPs Elsewhere in the Country - Reduction of Statelessness			

Total Requirements to address Unmet Needs in _____	2009 proposed budget in US\$ in response to these gaps	2009 additional requirements to effectively address the gaps

This table shows UNHCR's proposed budget for _____ for 2009 as well as the total requirements for 2009 were funding made available to address the unmet needs as described in the tables above.	2009 proposed budget in US\$ in response to these gaps	Total requirements to effectively address unmet needs/ protection gaps for 2009
UNHCR proposed Budget for _____ for 2009 in _____		
• Favourable Protection Environment		
• Fair Protection Processes and Documentation		
• Security from Violence and Exploitation		
• Basic Needs and Essential Services		
• Community Participation and Self-Management		
• Durable Solutions		
• Operational Support – 20%		