

SPCP Tanzania

June 2008

Background

The SPCP-T has been implemented through three main phases. The first involved a comprehensive analysis of the situation of refugees and hosting communities in Tanzania, highlighting the main protection risks they face. The second phase involved reaching agreement with all stakeholders on a plan of action to remedy gaps in protection in ways that would benefit refugees and hosting communities. The third phase which is presently ongoing, involves implementing the initiatives agreed upon, and gradually mainstreaming them in the annual activities of UNHCR and partners.

Implementation of Capacity Building Projects

Between 2006 and 2008, a number of capacity building initiatives have been implemented through the SPCP-Tanzania process with generous additional financial support from the European Commission and the Government's of Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. These efforts have been aimed at improving:

- administrative capacity through training; technical support and enhanced infrastructure;
- registration;
- security in refugee hosting areas;
- access to legal aid and services for refugees;
- public understanding a tolerance of refugees;

as well as towards

- supporting voluntary repatriation through mass information; and
- expanding resettlement as a durable solution.

It is widely acknowledged that the implementation of the SPCP in Tanzania has significantly contributed towards the improvement in the political-legal environment for refugee protection as well as on the ground in the form of capacity to receive and protect refugees.

New SPCP Focus

The SPCP-Tanzania was initially introduced in 2004. Since that time the situation in Tanzania has changed considerably. Specifically, the number of refugees in the northwest has dropped dramatically as peace in neighboring countries, most notably Burundi, has enabled thousands of refugees to return home. In contrast, the number of refugees and asylum seekers entering Tanzania from the Horn of Africa for protection-related reasons has increased. These persons enter through border regions in north-eastern Tanzania where UNHCR and the Refugee Department have no presence. As a result, asylum seekers who enter the country through these regions, often in mixed migration situations, can be unable to access asylum.



UNHCR therefore intends to use the SPCP methodology to reexamine gaps remaining in the northwest as well as to analyze and support collaborative work towards addressing new and critical challenges in the northeast.



UNHCR acknowledges the generous support of the European Union for this project. The contents of this update do not reflect the views of the European Union.

In particular, the protection situation of remaining refugees in the northeast for whom a durable solution is not currently foreseeable. It will be examined and recommendations made on how best to orient work with the Government and with all relevant partners to address unmet needs.

To address current gaps in the capacity of the government to respond to new and emerging migration flows, the SPCP methodology will also be engaged. This will entail an analysis of present gaps in migration management; reaching consensus on how to improve it in a manner that also ensures access to asylum for those in need of international protection; and the development of a long term strategy. In this regard the SPCP –T will provide the primary support for the implementation of the High Commissioner’s 10 Point Action Plan on Protection and Mixed Migration Flows (2007).

An initial step in the reorientation of the SPCP-Tanzania has been made. As one of the pilot countries for the Global Needs Assessment initiative, UNHCR and partners provided a summary of total needs of refugees in Tanzania, highlighting the consequences of needs that are unmet and, as well, developed a number of specific interventions that if funded would address several of those critical protection deficits. These include projects to:

- provide training and technical assistance immigration, border, asylum and security officials;
- improve the capacity of the government to respond to a sudden influx of refugees;
- facilitate repatriation efforts and to review and
- assess the protection risks and needs of refugee populations in the northeast.

Other initiatives are also envisioned such as ongoing and enhanced efforts to ensure that all relevant government officers have a sound knowledge on protection regardless of where they were trained or are deployed. Part of these efforts will support universities as well as immigration, police and prison academies. to offer as part of their regular curriculum relevant training previously conducted directly by UNHCR so as to mainstream and institutionalize capacity building in Tanzania.



Moreover, as part of it regional approach to strengthening protection capacities, UNHCR will use the SPCP methodology to ensure relevant Protocols currently under development in the East African sub-region adequately address protection issues including the protocols concerned with freedom of movement; facilitation of regular migration within the sub-region and the planned East African Bill of Rights.

More information on the SPCP-Tanzania is available on the SPCP website at www.unhcr.org/spcp