

**47th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
(2-4 March 2010)**

STRATEGIC PRESENTATION SUMMARY

Global Programmes and Partnerships

Part A: Introduction

- This paper provides a brief overview of selected aspects of UNHCR's global programmes. It includes updates on the following areas: registration and profiling; public health and HIV and AIDS; water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion; education projects; the environment; and linking relief and development.

Part B: Selected Global Programmes

Registration and profiling

- UNHCR continues to expand its capacity to collect and analyse both individual and population level data about persons of concern. UNHCR now has demographic information regarding age and sex breakdowns for 76 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers, and 75 per cent of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Information on stateless populations continues to improve.
- Since 2004, UNHCR's registration software for refugees and asylum-seekers, *proGres*, has been rolled out in more than 75 countries and contains records of more than 5 million persons, of which 3 million have active cases.
- Currently in its third generation, *proGres* will be redesigned in 2010 and 2011 in order to meet increasing demands to share both registration processes and basic information about persons of concern with partners. This is essential in bringing about enhanced protection and solutions for persons of concern.
- In January 2010, UNHCR held its first global workshop on the use of biometrics in operations. The aim of the workshop was to conclude a global policy on the use of biometrics and to explore the potential for wider use of this technology by UNHCR. While biometrics has proven useful in enhancing programme integrity, additional data safeguards are needed to protect all forms of personal data collected from persons of concern, including biometric information.
- Advances have been made at both the policy and the operational level, on profiling for internally displaced persons (IDPs). UNHCR does not advocate for the systematic registration of IDPs on an individual basis, but rather for a combination approach of profiling populations while gathering more detailed individual information for specific groups. In 2009, UNHCR established a Joint Profiling Service, an inter-agency resource housed within UNHCR, supported and managed jointly with the Danish Refugee Council, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The Joint Profiling Service provides support on IDP profiling to all agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working with IDPs, with priority given to activities for conflict-affected populations.

Public Health and HIV/AIDS

Malaria

- In 2009, UNHCR engaged in a partnership with the United Nations Foundation's "Nothing but Nets" initiative, a global grassroots campaign that raises awareness and funding to combat malaria.

Together, the two organizations raised in excess of USD 8 million in order to provide African refugees with life-saving, long-lasting insecticide bed nets (LLINs). The project has already been implemented successfully in 5 countries with 11 more scheduled for roll-out in 2010.

- The project's objective is to raise the level of LLIN usage among refugee populations at risk of malaria to full coverage (i.e. 1 net for every 2 persons to sleep under), a target that without the help of the UN Foundation, UNHCR would lack the resources to reach. LLINs are particularly effective in preventing malaria transmission in a community if used consistently and widely. LLINs retain the active insecticide for 3 to 5 years without the need for re-impregnating. Bed nets together with early diagnosis and access to effective treatment, are the essential malaria control components to achieve a durable reduction in malaria cases and to avert deaths from the disease.

Anaemia

- Significant achievements were made in 2009 towards reducing anaemia in children in the camps in Bangladesh and in Nepal, where 40 and 17 per cent reductions, respectively, were observed. Algeria and Djibouti both undertook formative research into products to prevent and treat anaemia. The findings of this research were instrumental in guiding programme planning. Kenya continues to be the largest receiving country of micronutrient powder and much work has been accomplished in investigating the underlying causes of the problem. These lessons have been invaluable in feeding into the planning of interventions in other locations, particularly for the Somali populations in Ethiopia and in Yemen.
- Plans for 2010 include the roll-out of anaemia programmes in Algeria, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Yemen, and further development in Kenya. Evidence-based field guidance established on the basis of experiences gained so far, will be field tested and finalized, facilitating the roll-out to other countries. Some detailed technical challenges remain, such as which form and what quantity of iron to use in malaria areas, which UNHCR aims to resolve during the course of 2010. Furthermore, as these are pioneering interventions for UNHCR, quality data collection and management is essential. In 2010, UNHCR will strive to facilitate and improve the quality of monitoring and evaluation, as well as to document the impact of its interventions.

Epidemic preparedness and response, including to pandemic influenza H1N1

- In 2009, epidemic preparedness and response (EPR) projects were implemented in 22 countries with a total budget of nearly USD 1.5 million. These projects included a wide range of interventions such as raising outbreak awareness, improving the water, sanitation and hygiene programmes, rehabilitating basic health infrastructure, developing contingency plans, building isolation wards, stockpiling essential medicines and laboratory tests, and improving infection prevention and drug management.
- The 2009 pandemic influenza H1N1 brought increased focus on the need for surveillance, in conjunction with UNHCR's Health Information System and operational response. Although individual H1N1 cases were recorded among refugees, no major outbreak was observed in refugee communities in 2009.
- In 2010, UNHCR will document, country by country, the actual level of operational preparedness and response towards local epidemic threats. The major gaps identified will be addressed. After this review, it is expected that UNHCR should be able to monitor and maintain readiness to respond to epidemics.

HIV and AIDS

- UNHCR's HIV and AIDS programmes continue to address the link between HIV prevention and protection among persons of concern, in line with the Office's Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS (2008-2012). In 2009, UNHCR developed key policy and programme actions to strengthen the link between sexual and reproductive health and HIV and AIDS programmes, as well as to incorporate young people in HIV and AIDS programmes. UNHCR, together with the World Health Organization

(WHO) and the Joint UN Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), published a policy statement on provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling for refugees and IDPs in health facilities. This policy statement provides guidance which aims to ensure that access to HIV testing is available in a supportive social, policy and legal framework. UNHCR continued to advocate for access to national HIV prevention and treatment programmes. By the end of 2009, approximately 87 per cent of refugees in need of antiretroviral treatment (ART) had access to treatment programmes when available to surrounding host populations, whereas 75 per cent had access to prevention of mother-to-child transmission programmes. UNHCR expanded its programmes to address multi-sectoral HIV responses embedded in protection, health, community and livelihood support.

- UNHCR continued to be an active UNAIDS co-sponsor and contributed technical expertise and support to address HIV and AIDS in humanitarian situations. This included participating in the 2nd Independent Evaluation of UNAIDS, the UNAIDS Outcome Framework, and the UNAIDS Action Framework on Addressing Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV.
- In 2010, UNHCR will focus on ensuring the quality and sustainability of its HIV programmes. The Office will continue to ensure that global guidance is adapted to the operational context in which UNHCR is operating. The revised division of labour established under the UNAIDS umbrella, will hopefully allow UNHCR and other organizations to improve their response to HIV and AIDS in the cluster process.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

- In 2009, programmes for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) benefited from the High Commissioner's special project, aimed at improving UNHCR's response to the needs of refugees and other persons of concern in these areas. Uganda has been one of most successful programme funded by the special project in 2009, benefiting approximately 28,000 individuals living in 21 villages. This intervention increased the water supply by 15 per cent. Similar achievements were reported in the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya, accommodating approximately 300,000 refugees, where additional boreholes were drilled with funding from the special project; this led to an increase in water supply of 35 per cent for each of the 3 camps.
- For 2010, UNHCR will focus on 10 priority countries, providing support in the form of technical advice, field support, training, and some additional funding to improve the situations related to WASH in these camps. Hygiene promotion guidelines were being developed in 2009 and will be finalized and rolled out in 2010. UNHCR will strengthen its existing partnerships with NGOs and donors, and create new ones with universities and research centres, with the aim of providing a more innovative approach to issues such as WASH in overcrowded camps and resource management. The collection and sharing of information is another area that will be strengthened in 2010. Specific and standardized indicators for WASH will be collected and added to UNHCR's Health Information System (HIS).

Education projects

- Access to quality education in a safe environment, for persons of concern to UNHCR, remains a major challenge. In 2009, two-thirds of primary school-aged children were enrolled in school, whereas the enrolment rate for secondary education was only 30 per cent. For both primary and secondary education, gender parity was not achieved, with enrolment rates for girls significantly lower than that of boys.
- In 2009, eleven programmes (Algeria, Bangladesh, eastern Chad, Jordan, Dadaab in Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritania, eastern Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and Yemen) have been identified as priorities to receive technical support and assistance including in the promotion of safe schools and learning environments and the deployment of education specialists. A study on education in urban

settings was also undertaken, with a view to take stock of good practices and provide guidance to operations in urban areas.

- In partnership with Nike and Microsoft, the ninemillion.org campaign raised over USD 1 million, benefiting 200,000 children in 15 countries, in the areas of education and sports. Special attention was given to girls and out-of-school youth. Sports is a focus of the campaign, used as a protection tool to strengthen social ties and community networks.
- The DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) programme assisted more than 2,400 students in 38 countries with full or partial scholarships. Two-thirds of the students sponsored are in Africa, as well as in Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. More than 40 per cent of DAFI students are female. The DAFI returnee project, piloted in 2008, continues to support higher education for returnees.
- UNHCR's education strategy for 2010-2012 focuses on three objectives: increased access, improved quality and enhanced protection. The strategy aims at achieving universal primary education and creating increased opportunities for post-primary education (e.g. secondary, vocational training, non-formal, and distance learning), with special emphasis on out-of-school youth, in particular girls in protracted situations and urban settings.
- The Office's partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council related to the deployment of education specialists, is instrumental in enhancing the quality of UNHCR's educational programmes. Participation in the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies and the education cluster, allowed for the development of technical tools and advocacy. UNHCR's also contributes to the Annual Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, which in 2010 will focus on the theme of education for refugees, asylum-seekers and migrant populations.

Environment

- In 2009, UNHCR's efforts focused on strengthening environmental management, agro-forestry, the promotion of environment-friendly construction materials, domestic energy, and land and forest management around refugee camps. Environmental approaches were also integrated in policy and operational guidance. Attention was given to using environmental practices and tools, such as solar lighting, alternative fuel, and fuel-efficient stoves, which contributed to reducing protection risks in refugee and IDP camp settings. A project for solar lighting was piloted in Chad and a project on renewable energy is underway in Kenya.
- In 2010, UNHCR will further strengthen environmental policies and practices, working with partners to address common challenges and ensure that the principles of environmental sustainability are integrated in projects and programmes. Environmental approaches will be designed to benefit not only persons of concern but also local hosting communities, which are often equally vulnerable. In 2010, UNHCR will intensify its support for environmental management in the Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and in Bangladesh, and Thailand.

Linking relief and development

- Partnerships with development actors are essential in protracted refugee situations and in attaining sustainable durable solutions. UNHCR is actively participating in UN joint programming processes such as the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the "Delivering as One" initiative. In 2009, partnerships with development actors such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), have resulted in support for sustainable reintegration in areas hosting displaced populations in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, through strategy development, capacity building and community development and livelihood projects. UNHCR is also an active member of the UN early recovery cluster and the UN Working Group on Transition.

- In 2010, these efforts will be supported by a global programme for durable solutions, livelihoods and partnerships. The programme will enable UNHCR to provide technical support to the Field in designing, implementing and monitoring solution-oriented programmes. The programme will also assist field operations in developing strategies on self-reliance and durable solutions, where cooperation with development partners and measured disengagement are outlined. UNHCR will continue to work with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Grameen Bank on livelihood issues. UNHCR will also reinforce its partnership with the World Bank and the UN Development Programme (UNDP). UNHCR will continue to advocate for the needs of people of concern in global fora working on linking relief and development.

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UNHCR
24 February 2010