



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

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Elements for UNHCR's oral update to the 2013

Substantive

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(ECOSOC)

**Statement by Mr. Daniel Endres, Director, Division of
External Relations**

.....Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and
Gentleman,

Responding to emergencies

I would like to provide the update on this year's theme of coordination, our work with partners, governments, local, national and international NGOs; UN agencies and inter-governmental organizations and most importantly, refugees, stateless persons and IDPs, through the lens of our various operations. As you know, numerous and sometimes concurrent emergencies have forced more people to flee across borders in 2011 and 2012 than in the previous seven years combined. Earlier this month, UNHCR released its annual Global Trends Statistics report - it shows that during 2012 some 7.6 million people became newly displaced, with 1.1 million of them as refugees and 6.5 million as internally displaced. This means that 15 people were forced from their homes every minute of every day. As the HC stated, "these are truly alarming numbers; they reflect individual suffering on a huge scale and they reflect the difficulties of the international community in preventing conflicts and promoting timely solutions for them,"

Together with our partners we had to respond to emergencies in DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Myanmar, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt

and of course, Syria. In addition earlier crisis such as the Somalia situation required continued support to large numbers of refugees.

To meet the enormous challenges in the Syria situation, UNHCR strengthened the coordination structures for the inter-agency response for refugees with the establishment of the function of a Regional Refugee Coordinator and a dedicated capacity at senior levels for inter-agency coordination in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. UNHCR has also coordinated a regional appeal for refugees (RRP). More than 100 partner organizations have been involved in the Refugee Response Plan for which we have requested 3 billion USD based on needs. The unprecedented number of crisis has stretched the financial resources and the operational capacity of all humanitarian actors considerably.

UNHCR is grateful and humbled by the extraordinary hospitality, the expressions of humanitarian solidarity by Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey in maintaining open borders for those fleeing violence or persecution. The same can be said for the countries in the Sahel region. It is of utmost importance that host Governments and host communities receive not only recognition but strong support.

UNHCR also shored up its internal rosters and strengthened its cooperation with emergency standby partners to better respond to the many crisis situations and to contribute and strengthen the Transformative Agenda.

In view of the importance of effective and well-supported coordination mainly in IDP operations, UNHCR continues to strengthen the capacity of the Protection, Shelter and the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Clusters, the latter two clusters being led at global level in partnership with IFRC and IOM, respectively.

The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) is led by UNHCR. It coordinates and provides inter-agency policy advice and guidance on the implementation of the cluster approach to 26 Protection Clusters in the field. At the country level, UNHCR leads 17 Protection Clusters and new Cluster Coordinator positions were created in Yemen (1), Somalia (1), the Democratic Republic of Congo (2), Sudan (1) and Pakistan (1).

The Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster coordinates Cluster activities and

provides support to 23 active CCCM clusters or cluster-like coordination bodies in the field.

With the support of Cluster partners, UNHCR has deployed 18 cluster coordinators to country-level clusters and has enhanced its capacity through the establishment of a Rapid Response Team (RRT) and a CCCM Roster. The Global Shelter Cluster supports 21 clusters and cluster-like coordination bodies in the field. Ten of them are dealing with conflict situations of which seven are led by UNHCR

The Global Shelter Cluster has also established surge capacity to provide rapid support to country-level clusters.

UNHCR's implementation of the Transformative Agenda

UNHCR has been actively involved in shaping the outcomes of the IASC's Transformative Agenda, and the High Commissioner is committed to contributing the Office's expertise to continued humanitarian reform efforts.

By the end of 2012, the Protocols and guidance underpinning the transformative agenda were officially endorsed by the Principals. UNHCR helped develop this

new guidance including on the cluster approach to enable the more strategic establishment, management and de-activation of clusters. UNHCR participates extensively in the joint development of Humanitarian Programme Cycle tools (for joint and coordinated needs assessment, planning and, monitoring) aimed at providing more effective tools for the Humanitarian Country Team to provide strategic leadership. UNHCR wants to support the HCT to integrate protection into the fabric of humanitarian response and is offering its own protection expertise and that of the Global Protection Cluster.

UNHCR is a key partner in the IASC's establishment of an Inter-Agency Rapid Response Mechanism (IARRM). At this very moment, we are heavily engaged in the simulation of a sudden onset Level 3 emergency where the IARRM is an integral part. The lessons learned from the simulation will further strengthen the inter-agency L3 response in particular and, the Transformative Agenda in general.

As part of UNHCR's implementation of the Transformative Agenda, the organisation has strengthened and consolidated training and capacity in

leadership, coordination and information management. UNHCR is fully committed to providing experienced senior managers to discharge cluster lead responsibilities and the over-all management of UNHCR's operations, including for Level 3 system-wide emergencies. At the end of 2012, ten senior and experienced UNHCR staff were on the HC roster. This is a significant achievement given that the organization also needed to retain strong leadership in the various on-going refugee emergencies.

Looking ahead, UNHCR wants to see the Transformative Agenda bring benefits to field operations. This means strategic engagement in Humanitarian Country Teams by the Representative, active participation in joint assessment and planning with inter-agency partners, and discharging UNHCR's responsibilities for effective cluster leadership.

It is important to note that the Transformative Agenda is focused on inter-agency response under the leadership and coordination of Humanitarian Coordinators, usually involving the cluster approach and addressing the needs of IDPs and locally affected populations. Emergency response for refugees is led and coordinated by the High Commissioner, who has taken Transformative Agenda as

an inspiration and further incentive to improve UNHCR's refugee leadership of a multi-sectoral response. Strengthening leadership skills, expanding information management capacity, improving the quality and speed of emergency deployment, better coordination and communication and more inclusive and partner-friendly approaches are all part of this effort.

Transition efforts, protracted situations and durable solutions:

Our responsibilities go beyond refugee emergencies, UNHCR remains mindful that protracted situations and the search for solutions also demand our institutional engagement. The dilemma we have faced over the past year has been to adequately fund these programmes and cooperate with development actors when faced simultaneously with multiple emergencies. With the support of the development community and partners we have been able to effectively engage in the Transitional Solutions Initiative to cultivate self-reliance strategies among affected populations in Eastern Sudan and Colombia; the Sarajevo Process and Regional Housing Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, and in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan with the Solutions Strategy for Afghan

Refugees. All of these initiatives provide a unique opportunity to strengthen and enrich inter-agency partnerships in the search of solutions. UNHCR benefits tremendously from its collaboration with the Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery (CWGER), led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Group, as it enables us to advocate and promote the inclusion of displaced persons in development initiatives.

In close coordination with IOM, UNHCR assisted with resettlement of close to 70,000 refugees in 2012, an increase of 12 per cent compared to 2011. IOM and UNHCR worked closely under the comprehensive solution strategy for the return of over 20,000 Angolan refugees.

Partnership coordination with non-governmental organizations (NGOs):

UNHCR has been working with an ever increasing number of non-governmental organization (NGOs), particularly national NGOs. In 2012, UNHCR funded and worked with more than 760 NGO partners from across the globe - 600 national and 160 international

NGOs. More than a third of UNHCR's total expenditures (34%) is implemented through NGO partners. UNHCR continues to provide financial assistance and technical support to its NGO partners, especially those working in the deep and remote areas in the field. The organization works closely with many NGOs as operational partners and is increasingly collaborating in the area of advocacy.

The High Commissioner launched a joint review of the quality of UNHCR's partnership with NGOs which culminated in a Structured Dialogue event in December 2012, and a number of recommendations to strengthen operational collaboration in the field through stronger mutual respect and trust, and a culture of transparency and shared responsibility. This initiative will be carried forward to the field in 2013.

In closing, I would like to reflect on the enormity of the challenges both in refugee and humanitarian emergencies in the past year and the equally challenging year ahead. UNHCR firmly believes that in these times the value of effective coordination and strong leadership as well as a greater focus on field presence and delivery will be critical in meeting these challenges. I would also like to repeat our advocacy for a strong and sustained

engagement by the international community in solidarity with those countries who are in the frontlines of an emergency.

Thank you.

UNHCR

26 June 2013