

Update on UNHCR's Global Programmes Executive Committee 2005

This update focuses mainly on the Office's work in pursuit of Strategic Objectives 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9, and the Agenda for Protection (AfP).

Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming Project

- Based on an evaluation in the first quarter of 2005, the "Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming Project" is now being expanded to a further 40 countries. A "UNHCR Tool for Participatory Assessment" has been developed to support this process. (*Strategic Objectives 3.2.1; 4.1.2; 4.3.1; AfP 6.1.6, 6.2.7*).

Education

- UNHCR is currently reviewing its education strategy. Further efforts towards data collection on education have allowed for the identification of priority countries which require technical support and additional efforts to achieve UNHCR's 2005 objectives (*Strategic Objective 4.5.1 & 2*).

Gender Equality and Refugee Women

- UNHCR has made contributions to the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to give effect to Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. To support its implementation, and as part of UNHCR's strategy to empower women, training modules on leadership and SC Resolution 1325 are being developed and tested in India, in partnership with an NGO (*Strategic Objective 4.3.1&2*).
- A Training of Trainers on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and response was conducted in May 2005 for UNHCR staff from Europe, CASWANAME and Africa. SGBV prevention and response projects have been initiated in 16 countries (*Strategic Objective 4.1.1; AfP 6.1.5, 6.2.5*).

Refugee Children

- Inter-agency collaboration on child protection has been strengthened through a number of initiatives in the course of the year: the ARC Evaluation currently being undertaken by an independent consultant for Save the Children; support to a consultancy on child soldiers in Thailand which resulted in the establishment of a UN Country Team Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict; and participation in the UN Study on Violence against Children (*Strategic Objective 4.3.1; AfP 6.1.6, 6.2.7*).

Registration and Project Profile

- The Project Profile team, together with the Population and Geographic Data Section (PGDS), has completed registration training and implementation of new tools in 37 country operations. Follow-up missions have been conducted in over a dozen operations, as well. Over 900 UNHCR staff members have received advanced training and are using new registration procedures. In addition, UNHCR has worked with offices in Malaysia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Guinea and Chad in planning for the issuance of individual ID documents (*Strategic Objective 3.1.1; AfP 1.11*).

Standards and Indicators (S&I)

- The publication of the 2nd edition of the "Practical Guide to the Systematic Use of Standards and Indicators in UNHCR Operations" is expected in December 2005; this edition will broaden the scope of the Guide to cover also urban refugees and returnees. (*Strategic Objective 3.3.1 & 2*).

Linkages between humanitarian assistance and longer-term development.

- The *Handbook for Planning and Implementing Development Assistance for Refugees (DAR) Programmes* has been finalized and disseminated to field offices in March. The *Handbook for Self-Reliance* has also been finalized and will be distributed in September 2005; the International Labour Organization (ILO) has been an active contributor to the contents of this Handbook.
- ILO experts were deployed to operations in Benin, Kenya, and Sri Lanka (tsunami-related IDPs). ILO has been supporting UNHCR in the area of microfinance; an ILO-UNHCR microfinance training workshop will take place in Colombia in November 2005 for the Americas region (*Strategic Objective 4.3.2*).

HIV and AIDS

- The UNHCR 2005-2007 Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS and Refugees, was finalized and the HIV/AIDS programmes tailored in line with the objectives outlined in the Plan. Technical and financial support to country programmes was expanded. Currently, Voluntary Counselling and Testing is available in at least 27 refugee camps in 10 countries encompassing over 917,000 persons and Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission programmes are available in at least five countries in 15 camps encompassing over 580,000 persons. Furthermore, a limited number of refugees are accessing antiretroviral therapy in at least 14 countries in Africa and Asia by a variety of informal and formal mechanisms (*Strategic Objective 4.4.1*).
- As a UNAIDS Cosponsor, UNHCR played an active role in the UNGASS review on the progress towards implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and has participated in numerous UNAIDS working groups. Through these endeavours, UNHCR has successfully advocated for the inclusion of refugees and internally displaced persons in several key documents (*Strategic Objective 4.4.2*).

Environment

- Revised UNHCR Environmental Policy Guidelines (1996) were published in September 2005 (*Strategic Objective 4.2.1*).