



ODM | December 2008

A Quick Guide for partners to UNHCR's Global Needs Assessment

The Global Needs Assessment (GNA) is...

- A way for UNHCR to fully express the needs of refugees and others of concern.
- A means of developing plans to address needs more comprehensively based on the question: "If we had adequate funds what could we do?"
- Part of a fundamental shift by UNHCR to communicate and advocate more clearly for what it needs to fulfil its responsibilities.
- Showing what is not being done and what are the human consequences.
- Strong cooperation with partners. A key element of the GNA is participation by host governments, partners, refugees and people of concern.

• Not a new assessment methodology.

The Global Needs Assessment is important for...

- Bolstering protection, funding and advocacy. UNHCR needs to more accurately and compellingly present the needs of its beneficiaries to improve our basis for advocacy and attract resources to strengthen protection.

A Global Needs Assessment pilot in eight countries in 2008 showed...

- Disturbing gaps in protecting people of concern
- 30 percent of needs not met
- A third of unmet needs were for basic and essential services
- UNHCR already involved but not to levels needed
- A rough estimate by all UNHCR field operations showed that UNHCR has about half the funding it needs to carry out its responsibilities

What does the GNA mean for partners?

- The GNA is UNHCR's internal means of planning, budgeting and reporting more comprehensively to meet needs.

- The regular UNHCR timeline and planning process remains unchanged.
- Partners, as in regular practice, are an integral part of consultations and the planning process.
- UNHCR's partner consultations will more systematically address interventions and budgets for unmet needs.

GNA TIMELINE

- **Dec 08**
UNHCR planning instructions issued
- **Jan-March 09**
GNA training in field and bureaux
- **Consultations with partners**
- **End-March 09**
Country operations plans for 2010-2011 completed in Focus
- **April-June 09**
Annual Programme review at HQ
- **October 09**
Budget 2010-2011 presented to ExCom, Geneva

How does the GNA work?

The GNA will be rolled out worldwide by UNHCR in early 2009 as part of its 2010-2011 biennial planning exercise. Every UNHCR office will be required to develop:

- A Comprehensive Plan and budget of what UNHCR would implement directly or indirectly through its partners to meet its responsibilities.
- A Prioritized Plan – based on the Comprehensive Plan.

What impact will the financial crisis have on the GNA?

- It's more important than ever in this tough financial climate that UNHCR clearly shows what the needs of its beneficiaries are, and the negative consequences of not meeting those needs.

The GNA in IDP situations

- In IDP situations, whether formally under the cluster approach or not, GNA Comprehensive and Prioritized Plans will outline the needs and actions within UNHCR's agreed responsibilities.
- This also includes actions which UNHCR must undertake to fulfil its operational and lead responsibilities including that of "provider of last resort". ■

For more information on the GNA pilot visit www.unhcr.org/gna

