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UNHCR Executive Committee
Assembly Hall, Palais des Nations, Geneva
1 – 5 October 2018
UNICEF STATEMENT

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Excellencies, ladies and Gentlemen,

UNICEF would like to thank UNHCR for its leadership during the consultations for the Global Compact on Refugees and appreciates the attention given to children in the compact, and for bridging the gap between the refugee convention and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

UNICEF is actively working with UNHCR and partners towards the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees. In all the countries where the CRRF has been rolled out, we have redoubled our efforts to support district coordination and capacity building initiatives for front-line service providers. UNICEF is also supporting policy reforms and the preparation of strategic plans for refugee children in close coordination with Government line ministries. The most significant investment and progress to date has been in Education.

In Uganda, a three years costed-Refugee Response Plan (2018-2021) has been finalized and a road map for the full inclusion of refugee children in the national education system has been established. Uganda has also initiated plans to develop similar plans for Health, Child Protection and WASH.

In the Eastern and Southern Africa region, UNICEF and UNHCR have finalized a mapping and guidance on the inclusion of refugee children in national Child Protection and welfare systems.

UNICEF has also increased its investment in long-term structures for service provision that benefit both host and refugee communities, including our support to:

1. The major water schemes in refugee hosting districts in the Zambia, Uganda, and Ethiopia;
2. Creation of Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in Rwanda and Uganda;

And

3. The establishment of One-Stop-Centres for children survivors of violence in five refugee hosting areas in Ethiopia; and youth centres in Zambia.

Important progress has been made to expand birth registration for refugees, especially in Uganda and Ethiopia. In both countries, legislative and policy frameworks now allow birth registration for refugees, which is a critical step to ensure legal recognition of children's existence, to prevent statelessness and to guarantee access to national services.

UNICEF is also supporting the improved access to birth registration services in refugee settlements.

Looking ahead and within the framework of CRRF implementation, UNICEF will:

- Engage with planning and finance authorities in refugee hosting countries to work towards the inclusion of refugee children and their families in national planning and budgeting cycle;

UNICEF will also:

- Strengthen the capacity of local governments to provide integrated services for refugee and host community children and their families;
- Explore ways in which social protection systems can be expanded to include vulnerable refugee children and their families;

UNICEF will continue to:

- Support the strengthening of cross-border cooperation and regional partnerships in a continuum of protection, care and services for at risk children;

And

- Support empowerment and participation of refugee and host community children and young people.

Successful implementation of the Global Compact will also largely depend on complimentary funding and investments. In that regard, UNICEF welcomes commitments made by Member States and calls for predictable, multi-year and flexible funding. The CRRF is the opportunity for all partners to strengthen their multi-stakeholder approaches, including with the World Bank and the private sector.

UNICEF welcomes the initiative by the World Bank and UNHCR to set up a joint data centre with the generous support of Denmark. In this regard, and to ensure that children have the right protection and services they need, UNICEF would like to emphasise the importance of disaggregated data including age, gender and other demographic and socio-economic characteristics to appropriately guide the policies and programmes, and to monitor the impact of measures taken.

UNICEF looks forward to a much stronger relationship with UNHCR and partners in the roll-out of the CRRF across the asylum landscape.

Thank you.