

## Global update on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

This monthly document summarizes key developments in the application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Africa and the Americas.

### OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

#### CHAD

##### **108 schools located in refugee camps and settlements declared official Chadian schools**

The Chadian Government through the Ministry of Education has announced that 108 schools located in 19 camps and refugee sites across the country will become official Chadian schools. This landmark measure enables refugee children to study alongside Chadian students. The Government has already assigned 307 teachers to these schools and facilitated training to qualify an additional 439 refugee community teachers. The concerned schools were funded through the US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migrants, and education partners *Educate A Child*, the Global Partnership for Education, and *Education Cannot Wait*.

#### DJIBOUTI

##### **US Agency for International Development's (USAID) vocational training programmes extended to refugees**

The Education Development Center (EDC) – the body commissioned by USAID to implement vocational trainings programmes – has announced that refugees who are enrolled in the Government's unemployment registry can now benefit from its training programmes. The trainings are primarily in the area of soft skills (such as interpersonal communication and behaviour at work), with trainings on entrepreneurship to follow.

##### **Socio-economic profiling of refugees designed to match them with employment opportunities**

UNHCR Djibouti has undertaken the socio-economic profiling of about 450 refugees, capturing their level of education, skills and aspirations related to trainings and employment. With the profiling complete, the subsequent analysis of data will aim to match refugees' profiles with employment and self-reliance opportunities in Djibouti. The data results will be shared with potential employers including the Djiboutian Chamber of Commerce.

#### ETHIOPIA

##### **The Chinese Embassy in Ethiopia commits to supporting refugees**

The Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia has designated a focal point for the CRRF within his Embassy, and confirmed he would support enhancing refugees' self-reliance through the employment opportunities that are foreseen in the industrial parks planned under the World Bank's *Ethiopia Economic Opportunities Programme*.

#### KENYA

##### **TEDx Kakuma promotes key messaging on inclusivity and resilience, in line with comprehensive responses**

The world's first ever [TED event in a refugee camp](#) took place in Kakuma camp on June 9<sup>th</sup>, where local and international speakers - refugees, academics, students, government officials and activists - explored the theme *Thrive* through innovation, education and inclusivity. They shared their experience of resilience and creativity of refugees, highlighting stories of refugees turned poets, athletes, models and teachers that uplift and inspire communities that host them and the entire world. Over 20,000 Tweets discussing and highlighting the event reached a 106 million audience. The event was covered by [media](#) outlets such as BBC, CNN, MSN, Al Jazeera, Reuters, Deutsche Welle, and the Turkish State News Agency. Watch the full event [here](#).

##### **Kenya's new UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) includes refugees**

In line with what comprehensive responses and the "leave no one behind" principle of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Kenya UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2018-2022 was finalised in June and includes the status

and needs of refugees, stateless persons and migrants alongside those of local communities. This also aligns with [Kenya's Vision 2030](#), the [Big Four Agenda](#) and the Government's "[Medium Term Plan III](#)".

### **Key CRRF implementers including the Government discuss socio-economic inclusion of refugees**

Kenya's Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS), the International Finance Corporation, academia, the European Union and UNHCR came together to discuss refugee inclusion as a tool for protection and more sustainable solutions. Among the key outcomes of the discussion were the RAS' commitments to align the timing of the movement passes for study in institutions outside refugee camps with the Kenyan education calendar/school term. RAS also confirmed that private sector entities are free to do business in the refugee camps of Dadaab and Kakuma.

## UGANDA

### **Pilot project for the financial inclusion of refugees**

An independent non-for-profit company committed to promoting greater access to financial services among low-income earners has expressed interest in piloting a project for refugees in Kyangwali settlement, western Uganda. The company, called *Financial Sector Deepening Uganda* (FSD-U) has called for expressions of interest from financial service providers with whom they will develop and fund bespoke financial products for refugees. FSD-U is funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID); the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has also expressed interest in supporting this initiative.

## RWANDA

### **The Government of Rwanda officially launches the CRRF roll-out**

Following its February 2018 announcement that Rwanda will apply the CRRF, the Government of Rwanda led a workshop on June 4 to mark the official launch of the CRRF and discuss the way forward. The participation of 50 government officials from seven line ministries, five autonomous Government agencies, and six mayors sent a positive sign as regards a "whole-of-government" approach to comprehensive responses in Rwanda. Confirming that its [four pledges at the Leaders' Summit](#) are the foundation for the CRRF roll-out; the Government also took note of encouragements to further expand on the pledges and consider applying more principles of comprehensive responses, including greater refugee inclusion pending durable solutions. It was agreed to align the application of the CRRF with the *Strategic Framework for Refugee Inclusion*, which is a costed plan for the inclusion of refugees in different sectors that identifies the required policy changes and a funding strategy, currently under development by the Ministry of Finance and with support from the World Bank. As next steps, the Government announced the creation of a task force to produce a roadmap to guide the application of the CRRF; and participants agreed to convene a meeting with development partners and hold consultations with refugees and host communities with the help of Mayors at local level.

## ZAMBIA

### **Ongoing consultations in the field as part of initial stages of CRRF roll-out**

Following consultations on the CRRF held in the north of Zambia in May, the national Office of the Commissioner for Refugees has led similar consultations on the CRRF in the northwest district of Kalumbila, where the Meheba refugee settlement hosts about 20,485 individuals (including refugees and host communities). The consultations brought together members of the District Development Coordination Committee (comprising various line ministries), UNDP and UNHCR, Lumwana Mine (a private sector representative), members of civil society and refugees. A plan for short-, medium- and long-term interventions needed for protection, livelihoods and energy, WASH, education, and health interventions was mapped, including discussions on contingency measures should a new influx from the DR Congo occur in this area prone to high risks of refugee movements.

## SOMALIA SITUATION – IGAD regional CRRF

### **New funding for objective 4 of the CRRF: supporting conditions in countries of origin conducive to return**

The Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF) has approved a USD 3million extension for a peacebuilding project for voluntary returns in the south-west state of Somalia that receives the largest number of returns through cross-border operations. The programme will enhance Somali returnees' prospects for economic revitalization, peace and community reconciliation and will boost the creation of local employment and economic development. Partners involved in the project include the Federal Government of Somalia, Kenyan officials, and international NGOs.

THE COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK  
in the NORTH OF CENTRAL AMERICA (MIRPS in Spanish)

Regional developments

**The Organization of American States endorses MIRPS' follow-up mechanism**

In approving the omnibus Resolution on the *Promotion and Protection of Human Rights*, the Council of Ministers of the Organization of American States (OAS) has also approved the section on “Strengthening the mechanism for protection and solutions in the context of the human rights of refugees”. This entails the OAS’ recognition of the [San Pedro Sula Declaration](#), through which the six countries affected by displacement in the region - Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama - adopted the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS in Spanish) as a regional application of the CRRF. The Resolution instructs the OAS Committee on Juridical and Political issues to lead the follow-up and reporting on an annual basis, with the support and technical assistance of the General Secretariat of the OAS and UNHCR. This will include an annual meeting to measure progress on regional cooperation and delivery on commitments made under the MIRPS, as envisaged in the San Pedro Sula Declaration.

**Discussion on the role of “whole-of-society” in the implementation of the MIRPS**

A side event the whole-of-society response to displacement in the North of Central America was held in the margins of the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of UNHCR’s Standing Committee. It brought together a panel composed of the Government of Honduras, the OAS, the Mexican Human Rights Commission, the network on Migration, Displacement, Asylum and Human Trafficking and the Latin America Episcopal Council. Panellists called for a legal, ethical, moral and humane response to the rising number of displaced people in the region and the need for a comprehensive approach to it. This [explanatory video](#) on the MIRPS was broadcast at the side event.

National highlights

**Promising steps towards greater inclusion of refugees in Mexico**

The Government of Mexico has announced new regulations to issue asylum-seekers with a National Population Registration number. When fully implemented, this policy will significantly improve their access to rights, including work, education and health. In a separate development, the National Council to Prevent Discrimination (CONAPRED) has agreed to include refugees in its advocacy work to promote the national Regulation on Labour Equity and Non-Discrimination. In a final development, Mexico City’s newly appointed officials in the Ministry of Labor have confirmed their will to include asylum-seekers and refugees in public programmes, as agreed with the previous administration in August 2017.

**Belize’s national priority activities for the application of the MIRPS**

The Belizean Immigration Vice-Minister and the Head of the Refugee Department have agreed to focus on three priority areas for the implementation of the MIRPS in 2018: i. profiling and data collection, ii. quality of asylum procedures, iii. livelihoods and social development in communities. Three inter-ministerial working groups have been created this month to take this work forward.

**Strengthening partnership with the Protestant Church in Honduras**

The Episcopal Conference of Honduras and UNHCR have agreed to a series of joint collaboration projects to support the MIRPS, including trainings for pastoral teams on international refugee law and on the protection of land and housing, setting-up dispensaries that foster social bonds, and creating measures to address root causes of internal displacement. Both organisations have also agreed to undertake advocacy efforts in the region and globally through the Episcopal Conferences in other countries in the region.

## GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

**Workshop on the inclusion of persons of concern in National Development Plans and UNDAF**

UNHCR is working to strengthen its knowledge and understanding of how persons of concern can be included in national and UN development planning frameworks (UNDAFs) so as to foster greater socio-economic inclusion of refugees. To this end two regional workshops were organised in Quito, Ecuador, and Nairobi, Kenya, bringing together UNHCR staff from more than thirty countries in both regions, government officials, the UN Development Operations Coordination Office (UN DOCO), staff from the UN Development Programme, Resident Coordinator’s offices, and the EU’s DEVCO as donor representative. The workshops focused on i) the why and how of inclusion of persons of concern in national and UN

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development planning frameworks; ii) implications of the 2030 Agenda and the new generation of UNDAFs and; iii) soliciting experience and good practices to develop lessons and guidance for greater inclusion of refugees.

### **Refugees in Mozambique build classrooms for the host community**

With their own funding and of their own initiative, the Rwandese refugee community in Mozambique has built 4 classrooms in a public school in the outskirts of the capital Maputo. With the 2000+ pupils mostly serving the local communities, the primary school is attended by only a handful of refugees. The USD 33,000 self-funded project is a notable example of refugee communities' contributions to their host country.

### **Updated CRRF posters available**

Updated posters on the application of CRRF are available on the [Global CRRF Portal](#) – one for the [CRRF in Africa](#), one for the [MIRPS in the North of Central America](#). These posters provide a snapshot of the roll-out of the CRRF and are updated on a regular basis.

## CONTACTS and USEFUL LINKS

- Useful links: [CRRF Global Portal](#), [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#), and [Global Compact on Refugees](#).
- CRRF Task Team, Division of Resilience and Solutions, Geneva: [hqcr@unhcr.org](mailto:hqcr@unhcr.org)

*CRRF Task Team, Division of Resilience and Solutions  
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