

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

Chad announces it becomes a CRRF roll-out country

In a *note verbale* sent by the Minister of Territorial Administration, Public Security and Local Governance to UNHCR on 3 May 2018, the Government of the Republic of Chad announced it will begin applying the CRRF, building on the commitments of the September 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and the pledges made at the Leaders' Summit on Refugees. The generous pledges made by the Chadian Government include, among others, to improve refugees' access to secondary and tertiary education; to facilitate access to arable land for 236,000 refugees; to establish a system of the regulation of civil status including issuing birth certificates for about 140,000 refugee children; and to adopt a National Law aimed at positively impacting all refugees living in Chad. The full pledges made by Chad and other countries at the 2016 Leaders' Summit are available [here](#).

DJIBOUTI

Economic and business actors commit to including refugees in their workforce

The Chamber of Commerce of Djibouti and USAID organized a workshop dedicated to the employability of young people, gathering business owners in the sectors of construction, logistics and trade. UNHCR and ONARS were invited to inform participants about the [new refugee law](#) and encourage them to offer work opportunities to refugees. Despite high unemployment rates in Djibouti, representatives of the private sector committed to consider including refugees in their workforce and agreed to respect the non-discrimination policy in employment. This call was echoed by the President of the Chamber, who personally encouraged private businesses to open the labour market to refugees.

Second CRRF Steering Committee meeting

The second CRRF Steering Committee was co-chaired by the Ministry of Interior and UNHCR, and attended by a wide range of participants such as line ministries, the UN Resident Coordinator, donors and NGO representatives. The group endorsed the TORs of the CRRF Steering Committee and discussed progress on the National Action Plan.

ETHIOPIA

New comprehensive Refugee Proclamation endorsed by the Council of Ministers

In a promising and significant step towards more dignified lives for refugees in Ethiopia, the revised Refugee Proclamation has been endorsed by the Council of Ministers and is expected to incorporate a set of additional rights for refugees including the right to engage in wage earning employment, the right to acquire and transfer property, to obtain drivers licenses and access banking as well as telecommunication services. These rights, amongst others, will contribute to increased integration of refugees within Ethiopia. The text is now expected to go to Parliament for final approval.

69% increase in third country solutions signal ongoing commitment to meet NY Declaration commitments

Following UNHCR-Ethiopia's continued advocacy for increased complementary pathways for refugees, 147 persons departed on family reunification and private sponsorship to Canada and the UK. Additionally, the quota for resettlement places for refugees in Ethiopia has increased over the course of 2018. Additionally, UNHCR's initial resettlement submissions of 2,500 persons increased to a new target of 4,240 (a 69% increase) with new commitments from Canada (800 places), Sweden (250 places), and with New Zealand working to resettle refugees in Ethiopia with family links in the country.

CRRF launches in Regions raise awareness of Ethiopia's CRRF commitments and progress

The CRRF was officially launched at local level in the Assosa, Gambella, Mekelle, Jijiga and Samara regions of Ethiopia. The launches aim at facilitating the dissemination of information from the federal level to the regions on the Leaders' Summit pledges made by Ethiopia towards enhancing lives of refugees and hosts, and on progress made to date. The

launches also seek to garner support from district officials and regional bureaus to further progress the implementation of the relevant pledges at regional level. Each launch was attended by refugees, host communities, donors, NGOs, development partners, district officials and the regional president.

Building on the CRRF Roadmap, the Government issues its draft CRRF vision strategy

The Government's National Comprehensive Refugee Response Strategy is designed to provide a common perspective on the refugee response and outline collaboration and co-ordination mechanisms. The document is intended to complement the [Government's CRRF Roadmap](#), which was issued in November 2017, by providing a **longer-term vision** of how the Government intends to make refugees and host communities self-reliant and socio-economically active by 2027 and to phase out of refugee encampment over a 10 year period. The draft strategy is scheduled to be finalised by August 2018 and will serve as a guiding document for the implementation of the CRRF.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) interested in connectivity support for refugees A International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is exploring support for local cloud-based connectivity in Gambella region, to provide expanded access to educational opportunities using ICT, for example digital skills training and distance learning opportunities that offer tailored and transferable skills to refugees.

Advancing on the pledge to document refugees' life events under the national registration office

Government agencies - including the Federal Vital Events Registration Agency, the Federal Transport Authority, the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (the largest in the country) and ARRA - together with development partners, NGOs, refugees and UNHCR took stock of the progress made to date on the registration of Vital Events of refugees (*NB: implementing one of its nine pledges made at 2016 Leaders' Summit, the Government passed a [new law last November](#), allowing refugees to have their vital events such as birth, marriages, and divorces documented by the national registration agency*). Ways to address the challenges of implementation and coordination structures were discussed to make progress on the implementation of refugees' new documentation rights.

KENYA

NGO-led consultations explore how to advance the "whole-of-society" approach to refugee responses

The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and the Refugee Consortium of Kenya hosted a regional NGO consultation workshop on the theme of "Understanding and maximizing the whole-of-society approach in the CRRF roll-out in Kenya". The Kenyan Government and fifteen NGOs from the region (Kenya, Djibouti, Somalia and Uganda) shared their experiences in applying whole-of-society approaches to refugee situations. Some of the recommendations include: convening early discussions among diverse actors; focusing on the value-add of partners rather than traditional partnerships and ways of working; high-level discussions at global level need to be informed by the experience of applying the CRRF on the ground; and greater efforts must go towards bridging the disconnect that can occur between central governments and decentralized institutions at local level.

UGANDA

Refugees and host communities can access microfinancing services

Setting an example of availing financial services to refugees and host communities that are isolated from the mainstream economy, the Rural Finance Initiative (RUFi), a microfinance institution established in South Sudan, is now operating in Uganda. In July 2016, when RUFi saw 90% of its clients flee across the border to Uganda, it followed its clients and opened a branch in Koboko, northern Uganda, in March 2018. The branch now serves almost 400 clients in the area, both South Sudanese refugees and Ugandan locals.

Additional US\$360M from the World Bank towards development of infrastructure in municipalities

The Directors Board of the World Bank Group has approved an additional US\$360M for the *Uganda Support for Municipal Infrastructure Development Project*, designed to enhance the performance of municipal local governments to improve urban service delivery in 22 districts, including 8 refugee-hosting districts. US\$60M of the additional funds are from the World Bank's IDA18 sub-window to finance improvements of physical planning and infrastructure to mitigate the impact of the new refugees from South Sudan and ease the pressure on local infrastructure and service delivery.

Refugees benefit from multi-partner programme to revitalise agricultural value

The new *Agricultural Revitalization and Transformation (START)* facility supports small and medium-sized enterprises to boost their agricultural value. It offers affordable financing and seed capital in the form of concessional loans and grants to beneficiaries in 33 districts in northern Uganda, including 7 refugee-hosting districts. START is a joint

programme of the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), Uganda's main private sector body and the Uganda Development Bank Ltd, and is funded by the EU.

Strengthening the CRRF with district officials at local level

Two workshops were held in Adjumani and Kitgum Districts in northern Uganda to streamline stakeholders' understanding of the CRRF and to discuss their specific roles in its application. Government officials highlighted that local governments' existing coordination models should be the entry point for the CRRF to strengthen these models so they can effectively address the needs of refugees and host communities from the start of an emergency.

ZAMBIA

First CRRF field consultations in district most affected by influx from the Democratic Republic of Congo

Consultations on the CRRF were held in the northern district of Nchelenge that has received the majority of new arrivals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), bringing together the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, the District Commissioner's Office, line ministries, UN agencies and NGOs. Participants highlighted that the current emergency response mirrors the new way of working under comprehensive responses. They mapped out short-, medium- and long-term interventions needed in the areas of protection, livelihoods, WASH, education, and health. Similar consultations will be held in two other districts, helping to inform the national CRRF consultation to be held in Lusaka at the end of June 2018.

Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) for the DRC seeks to boost comprehensive response

The Zambian country chapter of the RRRP for the DRC was launched, appealing for USD 74.2M in 2018 to address critical needs of new Congolese refugees and to assist the communities that host them. Over 5 UN Agencies and multiple NGOs are working with local government to address the ongoing influx in Nchelenge district, in line with the CRRF.

SOMALIA SITUATION – IGAD regional CRRF

The first follow-up meeting on the Djibouti Declaration maps out next steps for refugee education in the region

Following the milestone agreement by IGAD Member States to include refugees in their national education plans by 2020 (among other measures adopted in the [Djibouti Declaration](#) and [Plan of Action](#) of December 2017), the first technical experts' meeting on the implementation of the Declaration and Plan brought together donors and education experts from 16 organisations and institutions, who adopted a work plan to guide collective action to improve refugee education in the Region over the next five years. The four areas for immediate action are: 1. including refugees in national education systems, 2. setting minimum standards and targets, 3. regional mechanism to recognise qualifications, and 4. strengthening the capacity of IGAD's Secretariat to coordinate implementation. A detailed action plan with clear activities was developed with a five year budget.

Direct Aid offers 20 scholarships to Somali refugees and returnees

Following a recent meeting between the Special Envoy for the Somali situation and the Director General of [Direct Aid](#) in Kuwait, the NGO has offered education scholarships to 20 Somali refugees and returnees at Umma and Simad Universities (in Kenya and Mogadishu, respectively), starting 2019. The NGO has also expressed interest in supporting micro-financing opportunities in agriculture and a pilot programme on education for Somali Refugees in Dadaab, which would subsequently be expanded across the region, in Djibouti and Ethiopia.

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

Regional developments

Partnership strengthened with Central American Integration System

The cooperation agreement between UNHCR and the Central American Integration System (SICA) was renewed including through a work plan focusing on the implementation of SICA's commitments made in the [MIRPS](#). The Plan of Action includes capacity-building of strategic national institutions, advocacy and support for regional policies (migration, security) and greater operational cooperation.

National highlights

Mexico takes steps to improve access to education for refugees and asylum-seekers

In line with Mexico's national commitments within the [MIRPS](#), the Ministry of Education and UNHCR have agreed to coordinate several joint actions to improve access to education for asylum-seekers and refugees. The UNHCR Office in Mexico and its main counterpart, the *Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a Refugiados* (COMAR), have jointly designed a brochure that provides information on how persons of concern can access this right. At the local level, the Ministry of Education in the decentralized Chiapas Region facilitated school enrollment of asylum-seeking children by removing the requirement of having to present documentation from their country of origin. 154 children were thus enrolled in the 2017-2018 academic year.

Refugees and asylum-seekers contribute to the review of Agenda2030 implementation in Mexico

In alignment with the Agenda 2030 to reach "the furthest behind first", the UNHCR Office in Mexico undertook consultations with refugees and asylum-seekers from El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Venezuela with a view to reflect their feedback and priorities in Mexico's 2018 Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the progress made in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The VNR report also captures how refugees and asylum-seekers can contribute to achieving the SDGs, and the linkages between Agenda2030 and asylum/integration.

Strengthening the relationship with the Honduran National Institute of Migration in border areas

A new agreement between UNHCR and the National Institute of Migration of Honduras includes provision for the local integration of current refugees, in line with the [MIRPS commitments](#) towards naturalization and access to employment. The agreement underlines the tangible joint efforts of both institutions towards more effective identification of refugees and persons of concern and their access to international protection, specifically in border areas.

The MIRPS is presented to high-level Government officials of Belize

The UNHCR Office in Belize briefed a meeting of Belize's vice-ministers on the status of the implementation of the MIRPS, highlighting new opportunities under the MIRPS, in particular multi-stakeholder collaboration and the mobilization of additional resources. The vice-ministers were also briefed on the creation of technical working groups to lead priority activities under Belize's [MIRPS chapter](#), scheduled in June 2018.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

The new version of CRRF Global Digital Portal is launched

A new version of the CRRF Global Digital Portal has been launched and is available on www.globalcrrf.org. The Portal enables actors from across the globe who are involved - or wish to get involved - in comprehensive responses to access and contribute information. The portal includes pages for each of the roll-out situations, good practices, documents (such as roadmaps and action plans), events and news. The overall objective of the portal is to foster greater information sharing on developments in roll-out countries and regions to enhance coordination among actors and encourage further engagement, especially of new partners. One of the key new features of the Portal is the **good practices page**, where all stakeholders are invited to submit good practices (those submitted thus far can be accessed [here](#)).

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation workshop raises awareness of the CRRF

UNHCR's Special Envoy for the Somali Situation and the Director of UHCR's Division of Resilience and Solutions participated in a workshop on the CRRF co-convoked by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. 45 OIC Member States attended the event held in Jordan, which aimed at raising awareness about the CRRF and the global compact on refugees among OIC Members and identifying possibilities for increased support to the CRRF roll-out.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **12 – 13 June** : Fifth formal consultation on the draft global compact on refugees (Geneva)
- **19 – 21 June**: Meeting of the Standing Committee of UNHCR's Executive Committee (Geneva)
- **20 June**: Side event at the Standing Committee: *"The MIRPS: A whole-of-society response to displacement - The regional application of the CRRF in Central America and Mexico"*
- **20 June**: World Refugee Day
- **27 – 29 June**: UNHCR's Annual Consultations with NGOs (Geneva)

CONTACTS and USEFUL LINKS

- CRRF Task Team, Division of Resilience and Solutions, Geneva: hqcr@unhcr.org
- Useful links: [Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework](#), [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#),