



Bringing the New York Declaration to Life

Applying the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)

“We invite UNHCR to engage with States and consult with all relevant stakeholders over the coming two years, with a view to evaluating the detailed practical application of the **comprehensive refugee response framework** and assessing the scope for refinement and further development. This process should be informed by practical experience with the implementation of the framework in a range of specific situations. The objective would be to ease pressure on the host countries involved, to enhance refugee self-reliance, to expand access to third-country solutions and to support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.”

- New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, A/RES/71/1, Annex 1, para. 18 (19 September 2016)

Significance of the New York Declaration

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (New York Declaration), which was adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on 19 September 2016, is aimed at improving the way in which the international community responds to large movements of refugees and migrants. It is a **milestone for global solidarity and refugee protection at a time of unprecedented displacement**. The set of commitments agreed by Member States reflect that the protection of those who are forced to flee, and the support for the countries that shelter them, are a shared international responsibility – a responsibility that must be borne more equitably and predictably. For further information on the New York Declaration, see <http://www.unhcr.org/newyorkdeclaration>

In the New York Declaration, the General Assembly set out the **key elements of a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)** that is designed to ease pressures on countries hosting large numbers of refugees, to enhance refugee self-reliance, to expand access to third-country solutions, and to support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity. The key elements of a comprehensive response include: a) rapid and well-supported reception and admissions; b) support for immediate and on-going needs (such as protection, health and education); c) assistance for local and national institutions and communities receiving refugees; and d) expanded opportunities for solutions. For further information on the application of the CRRF in various contexts, see <http://www.unhcr.org/crrf>

The New York Declaration calls upon UNHCR to **develop and initiate the application of the CRRF in various situations**, in close coordination with relevant States, other UN agencies and stakeholders. The Declaration envisions that the practical application of the CRRF in different countries and contexts. The practical application of the CRRF will inform the preparation of a global compact on refugees, to be included in the High Commissioner's annual report to the General Assembly in 2018. For more information on the global compact on refugees and UNHCR's preparation in the lead-up to it, see unhcr.org/refugeecom pact

A multi-stakeholder, whole-of-society approach

"A comprehensive refugee response should involve... national and local authorities, international organizations, international financial institutions, regional organizations, regional coordination and partnership mechanisms, civil society partners, including faith based organizations and academia, the private sector, media and refugees themselves."

[New York Declaration, Annex 1, para. 2]

Implementing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

The High Commissioner established a **dedicated Task Team to help develop and initiate the CRRF in a range of situations**. The Task Team includes UNHCR staff as well as team members from civil society, the private sector and the development community.

The development of the CRRF can be understood as a cycle with three aspects:

1. **Consultation** with relevant stakeholders
2. **Practical application** in a range of countries and situations
3. **Assessment** and refinement, with a view to inform the global compact on refugees.

1. *Consultation with relevant stakeholders (September 2016 – ongoing)*

Since September 2016, UNHCR has initiated broad consultations on the CRRF with Member States, civil society, private sector, UN agencies, development partners, international financial institutions and other stakeholders.

Existing refugee response models and consultative networks will continue to be used as much as possible at the local, national, regional and global levels. This reflects the nature of the CRRF, which is not a new coordination mechanism, but rather builds on existing mechanisms such as humanitarian response plans (HRPs), refugee response plans (RRPs), the Refugee Coordination Model, as well as development processes pursued by the UN (such as the UN Development Assistance Frameworks), by Member States, regional organizations and international financial institutions.

UNHCR convenes regular briefings on both the CRRF and the global compact on refugees with Member States, international organizations, NGOs and UN agencies in Geneva, in New York and in the field. The CRRF Task Team, though based at the UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva, regularly travels to countries where the CRRF is being applied, and engages with UN Member States through nominated focal points.

In addition, an informal Advisory Group – consisting of past, present and future Chairpersons of UNHCR's Executive Committee – shares guidance and expertise in the development of the CRRF and supports regional consultations.

In parallel to these ongoing global consultations, UNHCR has engaged in in-depth consultations at the national level in confirmed countries and situations where the CRRF is being rolled out, including with central and local governments and development actors on the ground.

In 2017, UNHCR's Annual Consultations with NGOs, in June, the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection challenges, in December, and a series of five specially-organized thematic discussions, between July and December, were dedicated to the CRRF, its implementation, and the development of the global compact on refugees. Throughout the application of the CRRF and preparations for the global compact, UNHCR ensures close coordination with New York-led processes and seeks opportunities for discussion in relevant fora, including major events convened by civil society, the private sector and the development community.

2. Practical application of the framework in a range of specific countries and situations (December 2016 – ongoing)

UNHCR is working with Member States and its national, local and international partners to apply the CRRF in a range of specific contexts. To date, the CRRF is being applied in thirteen countries and situations: Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama have come together under a regional approach, the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (CRPSF, or MIRPS in Spanish). In Africa, seven countries are applying the CRRF, namely: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda and Zambia. It is also applied as a regional response to the Somalia refugee situation under the leadership of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). To ensure geographical diversity, UNHCR and Member States continue to explore opportunities in other countries and regions.

While the New York Declaration does not specify how countries and situations are to be selected, relevant factors include:

- The agreement and active engagement of the State/s in question;
- The potential for progress and lessons learned toward one or more of the objectives of the CRRF;
- The diversity of civil society actors (e.g., development and humanitarian NGOs, private sector, academia, media) to contribute to the design and implementation of the pilot; and
- The “range of situations”, including regional diversity and a variety of phases (new emergency, established situation, protracted situation).

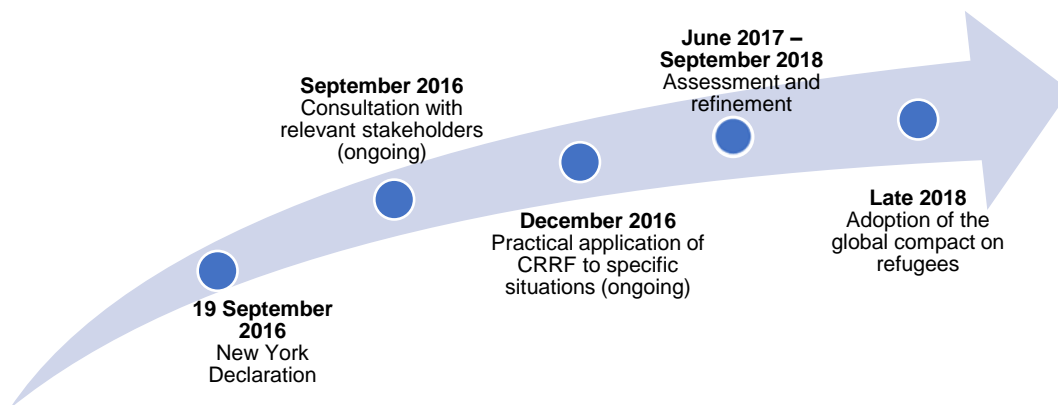
3. Assessment and refinement (June 2017 – September 2018)

As it continues to be applied in various contexts, UNHCR is currently assessing and refining the CRRF in collaboration with Member States, key partners and stakeholders. Starting in the second quarter of 2017, the process of assessment and refinement supports real-time adjustments and the continued progress of the application of the CRRF in various contexts.

Recognizing that important work on many of the elements of CRRF is already underway in many other contexts – for example, prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence,

or innovation in the delivery of assistance, such as cash-based interventions – UNHCR has sought to include key thematic lessons learned from countries that are not formally identified as a roll-out countries, when assessing and refining the CRRF.

This process of assessment and refinement is key to the development of the global compact on refugees. The good practices and lessons learned will form crucial components of the thematic discussions, the process of stocktaking and the drafting of the High Commissioner’s proposal for the global compact on refugees, as outlined in the Roadmap towards a global compact on refugees, please see: www.unhcr.org/refugeecom pact. Starting in February 2018, a series of Formal Consultations with Member States will be held in Geneva to discuss the Programme of Action that will form a critical part of the global compact on refugees. The roadmap for the formal consultations can be found here: www.unhcr.org/formalconsultations



For more information, please contact the Task Team on Comprehensive Responses, based at the UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva: hqcr@unhcr.org

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