

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

DJIBOUTI

US\$26 million additional funding for quality education for refugee and host communities

Djibouti's national Education Action Plan (2010-2019) will receive additional funding from the World Bank Group (US\$15 million), the Global Partnership for Education (US\$10 million), and UNICEF (US\$1 million). The funding will improve school infrastructure and equipment and support training of teachers, benefiting all children in Djibouti, including refugees, as envisaged in the Government's [CRRF roadmap](#).

First CRRF Steering Committee meeting held in Djibouti

The Secretary-General of the Ministry of Interior convened the inaugural meeting of the CRRF National Steering Committee, the mechanism designed to facilitate the application of the CRRF. It brought together the Executive Secretary of UNHCR's main counterpart, *l'Office National d'Assistance pour les Réfugiés et les Sinistrés*, ONARS, line ministries (including the Ministries of Interior and Health, and the State Secretary for Social Affairs), the Djiboutian Chamber of Commerce, UN representatives among which the UN Resident Coordinator and UNHCR as co-chair, international and national NGOs, and refugee and donor representatives. Steering Committee members reviewed the terms of the Committee and agreed on monthly meeting; they also agreed on priority areas for the implementation of the [National Action Plan](#) in the first semester, including bringing a sustainable water source for refugees and their hosts in Ali Addeh and Holl Holl areas).

Chamber of Commerce mobilises private sector support for refugee employment

The President of the Djiboutian Chamber of Commerce, has given its full support to mobilise private sector entities to provide job opportunities to refugees in Djibouti. The Chamber of Commerce has committed to facilitate a sensitization workshop with all key private enterprises of Djibouti in May, during which it will encourage businesses to develop job and training opportunities specifically for refugees.

The Protestant church supports vocational trainings for refugees

The Protestant Church and UNHCR have launched a new vocational training programme in electricity and solar energy that will benefit 23 refugees. With a new refugee law that promote greater socio-economic inclusion of refugees, vocational training is among the operational priorities towards comprehensive responses in Djibouti.

KENYA

Efforts to include refugees in Kenya's new UN development framework and in County Development Plans

Work is underway to reflect the needs of refugees and stateless persons in Kenya's 2018-2022 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which itself is aligned with Kenya's national development priorities. In a similar development relating to stronger collaboration for the benefit of refugees and their hosts, UNHCR Kenya's operational planning meetings for 2019 included government officials and development partners. Central and county governments are in the process of including refugees in the Turkana and Garissa 2018-2022 County Integrated Development Plans, representing a major step in the inclusion of refugees in the Government's development strategies.

Progress on Kenya's IGAD National Action Plan, CRRF roadmap, and refugee education policy

The Government is finalizing the drafts of both the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and the country's roadmap guiding the application of comprehensive responses in Kenya. Building on the [Djibouti Declaration on Regional Refugee Education](#) and its [Plan of Action](#) (December 2017), the Ministry of Education is also developing a Refugee Education Inclusion Policy.

International Finance Corporation (IFC) plans further support for self-reliance projects in Kakuma

The International Finance Corporation announced an allocation of US\$20 million for the Kakuma-Kalobeyei Challenge Fund (KKCF) that will benefit social entrepreneurs and local entrepreneurs including refugees and the host community. The Fund, expected to be launched in the second half of 2018, is based on the findings of the IFC's new study, "[Kakuma as a Marketplace](#)".

A new cash-based interventions model for shelter is designed to boost economic situation in Kalobeyei

The new model for cash-based interventions (CBI) for shelter in Kalobeyei Settlement is an innovative approach aimed at empowering refugees and host communities and improve the economic situation in Kakuma and Kalobeyei areas. It was informed directly informed by refugees, the host community, shelter committees, local traders, and government officials. The project will enable refugees and the host community to decide what shelter project best suits their needs, be responsible for the various stages of construction, and manage financials aspects of the process. It will initially be tested by 112 refugee families, thereafter it will be fully rolled-out.

UGANDA

Milestone decisions taken at the third meeting of the CRRF Steering Group

In its third meeting, the CRRF Steering Group (SG) took a number of important decisions towards strengthening the implementation of CRRF in Uganda. Henceforth, the Ministry of Local Government will co-chair future the CRRF Steering Group together with the Office of the Prime Minister, establishing a fundamental shift to share leadership at the central level to further the goal of refugee inclusion in the national service delivery systems. The Steering Group agreed to optimize coordination at the local level, within the existing frameworks and without compromising effectiveness (for instance, by integrating the refugee sector working groups (RCM) in the development sector working groups, so as to broaden coordination and communication flows). The Group decided that water will be its next priority focus, and it committed to enhance transparency and accountability by tracking all financial support to Uganda's refugee response, moving beyond the pledges made at the Solidarity Summit in June 2017.

The city of Kampala launches strategic response in an effort to localize the CRRF

In a major development that will positively impact urban refugees living in and around Kampala, the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) has launched a comprehensive response strategy (2018-2022) that seeks to localize the CRRF at the city level through strengthened coordination, evidence-based and long-term planning, building institutional capacity and resilience, greater livelihoods support for migrants and host communities, integration and peace-building.

Northern Uganda: handover of completed 2017 Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) projects to district local government begins

The UNHCR office in Adjumani district is handing over infrastructural facilities constructed under the 2017 ReHoPE strategy to local government, starting with the doctor's residence in the Adjumani hospital. Similar handovers are expected to take place in line with full government ownership of services dispensed to refugees.

An "early solutions" study for South Sudanese refugees begins in Northern Uganda

The Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) is consulting widely ahead of its study entitled "*Durable Solutions Analysis: Early solutions for South Sudanese refugees in Adjumani settlement*". The study will explore how current responses to the needs and vulnerabilities of South Sudanese refugees in Adjumani have taken into account early solutions and social cohesion analyses and have supported area-based programming involving host communities and local authorities.

New study focuses on enhancing political participation of refugees

A new report entitled "*Political participation of refugees: Bridging the Gap*", proposes recommendations for greater political inclusion of refugees. The report was launched by the International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI) and the International Institute of Democracy and Electoral Assistance at a workshop attended by government representatives. It is based on focus group discussions with refugees in 13 countries – both countries of origin and countries of asylum – including Uganda and can be accessed [here](#).

SOMALIA SITUATION – IGAD regional CRRF

Continued awareness-raising on the comprehensive responses in the Somalia situation

UNHCR Somalia is holding discussions on the CRRF for government officials, NGOs, civil society and development partners with a view to ensure that the CRRF is fully embraced and understood across national and UN frameworks and platforms. Efforts are also underway to synchronise UN contributions to Somalia's National Action Plan in line with the [Durable Solutions Initiative](#) (DSI) focusing on the integration of returnees.

High-level meeting with Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia

In a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia, the High Commissioner's Special Envoy for the Somalia Situation and the Representative in Somalia discussed how the Government and UNHCR can better work together to achieve robust solutions and comprehensive responses. They agreed to prioritise the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and its Comprehensive Plan of Action to focus on joint humanitarian and development efforts to deliver quality access to services for refugees, returnees and IDPS.

Advocacy for closer collaboration between diaspora, private sector, Somali institutions, and civil society

The Special Envoy for the Somali Refugee Situation attended the International Somali Awards 2018 in London, highlighting the achievements of young Somali entrepreneurs and recognising role models in the field of sports, entertainment, education, innovation and business. The event enabled the Special Envoy to showcase talents from the Somali community from across the globe, present this year's 'Outstanding Contribution to the Community' Award to Abaarso School, a non-profit school changing the lives of children in Somaliland, and seek support for Somali refugees and returnees, as highlighted in the Nairobi Declaration. More information can be accessed [here](#).

Regional authorities release plans to address forced evictions in areas of return

Protecting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and addressing housing, land and property needs are critical to inclusive urban development plans that foster durable returns of returnees and IDPs. The Banadir Regional Administration has shared findings of the investigation it carried out related to the December 2017 evictions of IDPs, and released the region's plans to address such forced evictions as part of its durable solutions and urban development strategy. The Forced Evictions Report can be accessed [here](#).

Government of Somalia exploring options for schemes for sustainable returns

The Government is examining different schemes for affordable housing for the urban poor, including returnees and IDPs. It has announced plans to build 300 units of low-rent housing for returnees and IDPs in Mogadishu, and to undertake socio-economic profiling of IDPs to ensure a needs-based approach to addressing sustainable returns. Much of this is supported by the EU Reintegration Programmes, though much more funding is still needed.

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

Regional developments

Creation of a MIRPS support group led by the Organisation of American States (OAS)

The OAS is setting up a support group comprised of the MIRPS countries and cooperating States to facilitate the negotiation of the resolution on the follow-up mechanism for the regional CRRF in the Americas. The group will help convene an annual progress review meeting on the MIRPS in 2018, one year after the adoption of the [San Pedro Sula Declaration](#).

UNDG LAC joint initiative addresses root causes of forced displacement

The UN Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC), along with the Resident Coordinators of countries in the region, is developing a comprehensive approach to significantly reduce levels of violence by 2030, with a focus on prevention, protection, law enforcement and access to justice. Work is underway to develop a violence reduction index to measure progress, a common UN strategic approach to support countries in addressing chronic violence and a roadmap to encourage and increase flexible funding.

Norway supports MIRPS through legal assistance project

Following the visit of the Prime Minister of Norway to a shelter in Mexico City, Norway announced an additional US\$ 270,000 for a regional legal aid project to assist persons with international protection needs in the region.

National highlights

Panama begins implementation of its MIRPS commitments

Panama has begun the application of projects focusing on vocational training of displaced persons, gender-based violence programmes, and engagement with the private sector. An action plan with a prioritization of commitments in 2018 is underway.

Honduras: Task force following up on National Chapter

A multi-functional task force, which includes the Human Rights Secretary, the Migration Institute, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is evaluating progress on the application of the MIRPS in Honduras thus far, and defining a quantification methodology for resources that are necessary for further implementation.

Guatemala: Referral system set up with the national Secretariat for Social Welfare

The Guatemalan Secretariat for Social Welfare and UNHCR have agreed to a referral system for the identification and referral of persons in need of protection (including children returnees, victims of violence, adolescents in social reinsertion programmes) for psychological support, educational and career tutoring.

UNDP and the Inter-American Development Bank support the quantification of MIRPS national action plans

Following UNHCR's request, UNDP is joining the IDB to provide support to cost MIRPS national action plans to address forced displacement, and to identify funds within national budgets and international cooperation to finance the MIRPS commitments. A first draft of the guidelines for this quantification exercise was developed by the Inter-American Development Bank and shared with the regional offices of UNHCR and UNDP for review.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

African countries commit to include refugees and IDPs in their education systems

The Pan-African High-level Conference on Education (PACE), which was held in Nairobi from 25 to 27 April around the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal number 4, saw the commitment of Member States to include refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in their educational systems. Art. 4. g. of the Declaration – the outcome document of the Conference - reads: “*We commit to (...) making our educational systems more responsive, flexible and resilient to include refugees and internally displaced people, and increasing investment for Education in Emergencies and Crises.*” Next steps will include monitoring implementation ahead of the next PACE in 2020.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **8 May:** Ethiopia's fifth CRRF Steering Committee meeting (Addis)
- **8 May:** Djibouti's second CRRF Steering Committee meeting (Djibouti-Ville)
- **8-10 May:** Fourth formal consultation on the draft global compact on refugees (Geneva)
- **30 May – 1 June:** Regional workshop on the inclusion of Persons of Concern in National Development (SDG) Plans and UNDAFs (Quito)

CONTACTS and USEFUL LINKS

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

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