

**BMZ - UNHCR partnership programme**

**Pillar:** (2.) support for immediate and ongoing needs; (3.) support for host countries and communities and (4.) durable solutions

**Objectives:** (1) to ease pressure on the host countries involved; (2) to enhance refugee self-reliance; (4) Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity

**Country:** global

**Actors involved:** BMZ, UNHCR, GIZ, national and international NGOs

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is supporting UNHCR and its partners in the implementation of the CRRF. Although CRRF is a new framework, approaches key to CRRF have been implemented in earlier cooperation patterns between BMZ, UNHCR and partner countries.

From 2005 to 2011 BMZ and UNHCR worked jointly through the 'BMZ-UNHCR Partnership Programme', implemented by GIZ. It is one of the early examples of programmes bridging immediate humanitarian aid and long-term development objectives in support of forcibly displaced persons and their host communities. Therefore, experiences and lessons learned from this programme can be of interest in the light of the implementation of CRRF.

**The history:** In 2005, UNHCR and BMZ agreed on a partnership between the two organisations providing the reference framework for cooperation in development-oriented refugee and returnee programmes through a joint declaration of intent and a joint implementation paper.

**The aim:** The aim of the partnership was to:

- Build bridges between relief and long-term development objectives,
- Improve the living conditions of the refugees, returnees and other persons of concern
- Make use of synergy effects that result from combining the comparative advantages of the respective aid instruments and
- Maximise effectiveness in significantly improving the situation of refugees in developing countries.

**The approaches:** The partnership programme led to the development of a variety of projects and approaches, amongst them the '**Rehabilitation, Reconciliation, Reintegration (ReACT)**' approach, which is a community-based multi-sectoral rehabilitation approach, applied for example in West Africa for refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities including at regional level. The programme was implemented in Chad, DRC, Burundi, Ruanda, Afghanistan, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and South Sudan.

**Examples from the field:**

**Uganda:** An innovative **water supply system** with maintenance and user groups was developed in refugee settlements and still exists up to date.

**Kenya:** The **urban refugee programme** aimed at avoiding parallel systems and provide refugees with access to existing national systems, such as schools, health facilities etc.

**DRC:** Returnees participated in officially certified trainings in areas of reconstruction. Refugees were included in activities of **reconstruction**; Ex-combattants were included in **reintegration** activities; Local decision-making structures and community development committees were reactivated.

**Core messages:**

- The approaches developed through the programme cut across three pillars of the CRRF: support for ongoing and immediate needs, support for host communities and conditions of safe and dignified return by partners from the humanitarian and development sector.
- Through joint coordination structures, the programme aimed at **strengthening links** of refugee programmes with long.-term development cooperation programmes
- The programme promoted innovative **partnerships** by working with national and international NGOs, UNHCR, development partners and the private sector.
- The programme focused on the **self-reliance of communities**, including refugees, returnees and host communities
- The approaches are widely **replicable**, if adapted to the local contexts.

**Selected results:**

- Up to 1.5 million Refugees supported in camps per year
- Approx. 3 million refugees supported with return
- Approx. 2 million IDPs supported
- Approx. 200.000 shelters provided for returnees
- Approx. 1.700km of roads built or reconstructed
- Approx. 5.700 basic infrastructures constructed
- Approx. 650 small projects supported for reintegration in communities
- Approx. 35.000 persons received livelihoods/technical and vocational training