

Update on coordination issues: Strategic partnerships

Remarks by Daniel Endres, Director, Division of External Relations

Mister Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the face of unprecedented displacement resulting from multiple crises, insufficient budgets, and a proliferation of humanitarian actors, UNHCR is more than ever striving towards inclusive leadership, effective and strong coordination as well as sustained partnership.

[Refugee Coordination Model and OCHA/UNHCR Joint Note]

A key priority in 2014 and 2015 was to establish clarity of responsibilities in terms of inter-agency coordination and to focus our efforts on results and delivery. For this purpose UNHCR continued to roll out and implement the inclusive and delivery oriented Refugee Coordination Model in all major refugee situations throughout 2014. The OCHA and UNHCR missions related to our Joint Note on Mixed Situations were carried out until the middle of last year. More recently OCHA agreed to resume such missions as both Agencies see the importance in providing strong cooperation and a clear framework for leadership and coordination especially in complex humanitarian emergencies. In our ongoing dialogue with OCHA and our other partners we agree that UNHCR's refugee response is an **integral yet distinct** element in the overall humanitarian coordination architecture.

In order to provide the right level of leadership, the High Commissioner has designated **five Regional Refugee Coordinators**, for the CAR, South Sudan, Syria/Iraq, Great Lakes and, most recently, Nigeria refugee situations. They lead operational planning and resource mobilization, and use Regional

Refugee Response plans to provide UNHCR and partners with common platform for planning, delivery and fundraising. Since 2014, we have launched 4 **Regional Refugee Response Plans**, which include a totality of 233 partners and cover 16 refugee hosting country operations.

In line with our **Joint Note**, UNHCR worked with OCHA and others to include the refugee response as a distinct chapter in Strategic Response Plans. We continue to work with OCHA on refining modalities of the SRPs to ensure coherence and transparent accountability for our Mandate, financial resources and to our persons of concern is maintained.

In 2014 we also launched the 2015-Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), developed jointly with UNDP. The 3RP illustrates our approach to resilience and solutions and is evidence of the greater collaboration we seek with development actors.

The **roll-out strategy for the RCM and Joint Note** has included missions to refugee operations including those with mixed population groups; development of technical guidance, capacity building; review and improvement of practices and broader incorporation into related policies and practices. In addition to the inter-agency roll-out missions undertaken to Pakistan, Afghanistan and Democratic Republic of Congo, UNHCR inter-divisional missions took place to Uganda, Ethiopia, Cameroon and Iraq.

The RCM and Joint Note have been included in 6 flagship leadership and coordination training and capacity building programmes for Representatives. Technical guidance on refugee coordination has been included in the forthcoming Emergency Handbook.

[Strengthening partnerships]

Continuing the strengthening of our Partnership, UNHCR undertook broad consultations with NGO partners for the implementation of its *Enhanced Framework for Implementing with Partners*. We also worked closely with partners through the established partnership and coordination arrangements at the global and field levels of the **clusters** of protection, shelter and, camp coordination and camp management.

UNHCR and **WFP** held a high level meeting to discuss the Refugee Coordination Model and the Joint Note on mixed situations; we worked closely with UNICEF in revising our guidance for country level collaboration; and together with **IOM, OHCHR** and the **International Maritime Organization**, we issued a joint statement on *Protection At Sea*. We also continue our collaboration with **ICRC** on protection issues.

[Partnering for solutions]

UNHCR believes that **displacement is also a development challenge** and we are working closely with relevant humanitarian actors who are actively engaged in the post-2015 sustainable development process to advocate that support for displaced persons is critical to sustainable development. We collaborate with OCHA, IOM and other IASC partners to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals include refugee and forcibly displaced persons as a category of concern.

In this vein, this year's **Annual NGO Consultations** will focus on the theme of solutions and we are very much looking forward to constructive discussions on this ever more important area of our work.

[Other multilateral processes]

We are also actively participating in selected multilateral processes, including the World Humanitarian Summit, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the Chief Executives Board and its related bodies, the Sendai process and others. Our overriding objectives are to safeguard protection and humanitarian principles; improve how we deliver together; and to draw the development, financial and private sector communities towards refugee issues.

In process leading to the **WHS**, UNHCR has advocated to make protection central to humanitarian response; engage and empower affected populations; pursue concrete actions to strengthen the accountability to affected populations; achieve a stronger commitment and engagement between development and humanitarian actors; counter further politicisation of humanitarian aid; strategically invest in innovation; and address the growing gap between needs and available resources by rethinking today's financing mechanisms.

We also continued to pursue initiatives to address **statelessness**. These initiatives, jointly implemented by governments and NGOs, resulted in the acquisition and or confirmation of thousands of nationalities in Central Asia and Malaysia.

Lastly, and in line with previous messages touching on **impact of the financial situation on our operations budgets**, including the ones implemented by partners, both Governments and NGOs, I would like to emphasize that UNHCR is fully committed to undertaking the difficult task of achieving cost savings in the fullest spirit of transparency and consultation as the limited time available for the exercise will permit.

Mister Chair,

Thank you for your attention; I look forward to answering any questions you may have.