

Global update on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

This monthly document summarizes key developments in the implementation of the CRRF in Africa and the Americas. It features highlights captured by UNHCR and complements updates produced by UN and NGO partners across the globe.

OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

AFRICAN CONTEXT

DJIBOUTI

Awareness-raising campaign on the new refugee law

The Government of Djibouti, supported by UNHCR, is undertaking an awareness-raising exercise to sensitise various actors on the rights of refugees – in particular the right to employment - under the new refugee law. The sensitisation is directed at private businesses, refugees and host communities, and lines ministries including the Ministries Labour and Decentralisation. The campaign will continue throughout February and March.

Ongoing handover of education programmes for refugees to the Ministry of Education

An agreement was signed between the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MENFOP) and the Lutheran World Federation, enabling LWF to continue supporting education programmes throughout this school year, thereby ensuring a smooth transition to the Ministry.

Cooperation agreement with Ministry of health to include refugees in national health systems

Following the coming into force of Djibouti's new refugee law (December 2017), the Ministry of Health and UNHCR have signed a cooperation agreement for the inclusion of refugees in national health systems. The handover will be made progressively.

ETHIOPIA

Second meeting of the CRRF Steering Committee held

The issues discussed at the meeting included the upcoming refugee legislation, the process to establish the CRRF Secretariat, the organigramme for the National Coordination Unit (NCU), and participation in Technical Committee workshops. The latter, scheduled to take place this month, have been postponed for a short time to ensure optimal preparations of partner and federal Government entities.

Release of a study on refugee inclusion in national systems

The new UNHCR study provides deeper insights into the different ways refugees are progressively included in the national systems of Ethiopia. It is available [here](#).

Refugee ID cards ensure foster greater connectivity for refugees

Ethio-Telecom and the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) have agreed to include the refugee ID card as a valid document to obtain SIM cards, significantly improving connectivity for refugees.

KENYA

Updates on the roll-out of the CRRF

The Government's Refugee Affairs Secretariat has prepared a draft of its National Action Plan, which is part of the regional response to the Somali refugee situation under the leadership of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and a document laying out the conceptualisation of the roll-out of the CRRF in Kenya. The draft action plan will be subject to internal consultations with various line ministries and counties, followed by stakeholder consultations, which will also include external actors. Prior to these developments, Kenya had made substantial efforts in applying comprehensive approaches, namely through its plan to include refugees in the Turkana County Integrated Development Plans, a planned scoping mission for the World Bank's IDA18 refugee

sub-window, and the inclusion of refugees across key pillars of the upcoming United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which is aligned with Kenya's national development priorities.

UGANDA

Second meeting of the CRRF Steering Group in Kampala

The meeting in Kampala was attended by line Ministries, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, development and humanitarian partners, the UN Country Team, NGOs, refugee and host community representatives. Uganda's CRRF roadmap was unanimously endorsed, with agreement that it be reviewed periodically (the roadmap comprises the following five pillars: admission and rights, emergency response and ongoing needs, resilience and self-reliance, expanded solutions and voluntary repatriation). Next steps include the tracking of resources and mapping of actors in refugee-hosting district. It was also agreed to set up coordination mechanisms at the district level to reconcile existing local frameworks.

UNDP and KOICA collaborate on women's empowerment in Arua's refugee settlements

Based on gaps in the current response, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) has identified initial entry points for its collaboration with the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in Uganda's refugee hosting districts. The joint projects aim at creating an enhanced environment to support women's economic empowerment. A feasibility study by KOICA is to follow.

Implementation of World Bank DRDIP projects begins

Districts in the West Nile sub-region of Uganda have established priorities to be considered under the World Bank's Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP*). The priorities focus on education, health and WASH, and seek to foster alignment with priority projects under the ReHOPE strategy. [**DRDIP projects aim to improve access to social services, expand economic opportunities and enhance environmental sustainability for host and refugees. Projects are underway in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya.*]

Government reaffirms commitment to the Djibouti Declaration on Refugee Education

Following the first IGAD Regional Ministerial Conference on Refugee Education in Djibouti (December 2017), the Government of Uganda has urged local and international partners to integrate the education of refugees and returnees in national education sector plans by 2020, and to provide increased support for skills development, particularly in refugee-hosting areas.

World Bank video clip on ID documentation for refugees

The World Bank has released a short video on the importance of supporting ID documentation for refugees. The video clips highlights the story of Fardowsa Mohamud Ali, a young refugee woman from Somalia who grew up in Uganda's Nakivale settlement. The 1'37 video can be found [here](#) on YouTube.

SOMALIA SITUATION

Follow-up on the Nairobi Declaration

Experts from the Core Group, composed of IGAD, the European Union, UNDP, UNHCR and the World Bank, met in Nairobi to review the first biannual progress update report on the implementation of the Nairobi Plan of Action in each IGAD participating country (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Uganda). The technical meeting precedes the IGAD Inter-Ministerial stocktaking meeting, to be held from 20-22 March. The Core Group has agreed to organise a thematic conference on livelihood, self-resilience and freedom of movement (tentatively June 2018).

TANZANIA

On 23 January, Tanzania notified UNHCR that it has withdrawn from the implementation of the CRRF during the current roll-out phase. High-level discussions are underway to clarify reasons for the announcement and the way forward.

THE COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK (CRPSF) in the CENTRAL AMERICA and MEXICO (MIRPS in Spanish)

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Preparation of priority projects

UNHCR and partners are finalizing the development of the first set of priority projects to implement the MIRPS. The list of projects, which has gone up from an initial list of twenty to thirty-two, covers the entire region and all four pillars of the CRRF and reflect the whole-of-society approach.

Discussions with the Organization of American States (OAS) on follow up mechanism to MIRPS

Progress is underway on the follow-up mechanism for the MIRPS, which the OAS was mandated to lead in the [San Pedro Sula Declaration](#) (26 October 2017).

Ombudsmen meet to agree concrete action plan to support MIRPS

The Central American Council of Ombudspersons met in Panama to agree a concrete programme of action to support the MIRPS for the period 2018-2020. The programme includes joint border monitoring and advocacy campaigns for forcibly displaced persons.

COUNTRY UPDATES

Efforts to strengthen the institutionalization of the MIRPS in Costa Rica

In order to ensure that the MIRPS adequately represents national policy, efforts are underway to strengthen the institutionalization of Costa Rica's national MIRPS chapter, the MINARE, through the adoption a Presidential Decree.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

Launch of the UNHCR Global Youth Advisory Council (GYAC)

Following the launch of the UNHCR Global Youth Advisory Council (GYAC) in December 2017, the Council has submitted written recommendations, which can be accessed [here](#), and published a short video ([here](#)).

UN High Commissioner for Refugees and CEO of Schneider discuss solutions for refugees

High Commissioner Grandi and the CEO of energy specialist company Schneider, Jean Pascal Tricoire, signed an agreement focusing on the training of electricians in CRRF countries where refugees have the right to work, and on possible technical support to UNHCR for lighting, water pumps, and micro-grids in refugee settings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **February 9th**: Joint EU Presidency - UNHCR meeting: *Rolling out the CRRF in Central America and Mexico* (Brussels)
- **February 13th – 14th**: First formal consultations on the draft global compact on refugees (Geneva). *More information on the first two formal consultations is available [here](#).*
- **February 15th**: *Towards a Global Compact on Refugees: the Experience in Central America*, UNHCR/Club de Madrid (Madrid)
- **February 16th**: Member State briefing by UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Volker Türk, on the first formal consultations on the global compact on refugee (New York)
- **February 19th – 20th**: Government of Brazil/UNHCR consultation meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean as a regional contribution to the global compact on refugees (Brasilia)

CONTACTS and USEFUL LINKS

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