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## Update on UNHCR's global programmes and partnerships - 2011

This update presents examples of challenges, progress and new developments since the last strategic overview presented to the Executive Committee in 2010. It covers a range of global programmes and includes a brief summary of specific partnership arrangements related to each programme. In view of the diversity of issues reported on, it does not follow the same structure as the regional updates.

### A. Public health

Increasing the provision of technical support to UNHCR operations in urban settings, and subsequent lessons learned, have led to the development of operational guidance for urban public health programming for refugees and asylum-seekers. The guidance provides practical steps for integrating persons of concern into existing government health services. Health insurance schemes as well as other measures for ensuring access to Government health systems are being pursued. In 2011 UNHCR will look at the quality of public health programmes in protracted refugee camp settings, including laboratory and drug management issues; at addressing high rates of communicable diseases as well as rarer but more serious problems, such as multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis; and at the surveillance and treatment of chronic diseases such as diabetes, as well as cardiovascular and renal illnesses. With the establishment of the web-based health information system (WebHIS: <http://his.unhcr.org/>), access to and the timely interpretation of data will help prioritize action in refugee settings. Training on public health issues, WebHIS and medical resettlement is being developed for UNHCR staff and partners.

#### *Partnerships in public health*

UNHCR continues to receive support from the “Nothing but Nets” campaign. Evaluations of the impact of bed-net usage in refugee camps have begun in countries that received bed-nets in 2010. An agreement was established with the Novartis pharmaceuticals corporation in 2010 to provide emergency supplies of anti-malaria medication for countries that had run out of stocks, or for use in emergency situations. New techniques, such as the use of smart phones for bed-net retention surveys, employed in 2010, have proved to be a quicker and more efficient way to collect data. Through contributions from the United Nations Central Fund for Influenza Action Programme, UNHCR has improved its own and its partners' capacity to prevent and respond to epidemics. Interventions have also focused on improving existing health infrastructure in refugee camps. UNHCR continues to participate in the health, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH) clusters. In Pakistan,

UNHCR helped to develop a web-based health information system and a scorecard for public health response. These innovative developments will serve as models for future emergencies.

## **B. Reproductive health and HIV/AIDS**

In 2010, UNHCR played an active role as a UNAIDS co-sponsor and contributed to the development of the 2011-2015 UNAIDS Strategy. As outlined in the Strategy's Division of Labour, UNHCR and the World Food Programme will co-lead efforts in "Addressing HIV in Emergency Situations". Together with other partners, the Office will develop and implement an operational plan to improve the HIV response for displaced populations. Strong linkages with the IASC humanitarian cluster process will help ensure complementarity and avoid duplication.

In 2010, UNHCR continued to work on strengthening the linkages between sexual and reproductive health programmes and HIV programmes. In 2011, the Office will improve access to quality maternal and newborn care and work towards achieving relevant Millennium Development Goals. It will ensure continued quality and sustainable HIV programmes and work with partners to provide prevention programmes for at-risk groups, including sex workers and drug users. In addition, UNHCR will work on expanding the family planning and sexually-transmitted-infection components of its programmes.

### *Partnerships in reproductive health and HIV/AIDS*

Funding from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development/World Bank, and the Danish Government, has allowed UNHCR and its partners to ensure comprehensive HIV prevention, care, support and treatment programmes in most refugee camp settings. UNHCR is also working with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to advocate for the inclusion of displaced persons in future Global Fund country grants.

## **C. Nutrition and food security**

UNHCR has continued to improve nutrition programmes by providing more direct technical support, organizing training for UNHCR and partner staff, and developing standardized nutrition survey modules specific to refugee situations. In 2010, almost 60 nutrition surveys were conducted in 21 countries; the majority of these also measured levels of anaemia. The data from these surveys is invaluable for improving programmes and monitoring their impact.

UNHCR works closely with numerous nutrition and food security partners worldwide including the Emergency Nutrition Network. The 2010 Memorandum of Understanding between UNHCR and WFP reflects joint collaboration in many fields, including nutrition and food security.

Significant funds have been allocated in 2011 to nutrition, including anaemia and other micronutrient deficiencies, highlighting UNHCR's commitment to making improvements in these lifesaving areas. Projects targeted Algeria, Bangladesh, Chad, the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nepal, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda and Yemen. There will also be increased emphasis in 2011 on food security in urban areas, including cash and voucher programmes.

## **D. Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH)**

A three-year strategic plan (2011-2013) formed the basis for the additional \$25 million allocated to WASH in 2011 for refugee camps primarily situated in Africa. This funding will

ensure improved services for millions of refugees through increased technical support, rehabilitation and/or the creation of water and sanitation infrastructure, and hygiene promotion.

New ways of monitoring and evaluating WASH programmes have been developed. As mentioned in section A above, WebHIS will allow UNHCR and its partners to make a better analysis of the link between WASH and the morbidity and mortality of refugee populations. UNHCR is also urging that site planning, shelter and public health sectors be designed to be complementary to WASH programmes.

## **E. Shelter and physical planning**

In 2010, UNHCR's shelter programmes emphasized the importance of access to suitable shelter in camps, outside camps and in urban spaces, ensuring compatibility with local conditions and cultures. Significant physical planning and shelter support has been provided for operations in Georgia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Pakistan and Yemen. Two physical planning and shelter workshops were conducted for UNHCR and its partners.

In 2011, a strategy on providing guidance on UNHCR's shelter priorities for the next three years will be finalized. Twelve priority countries have been identified as being most in need of support in 2011: Afghanistan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Georgia, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

In 2010, UNHCR continued to work closely with key technical partners, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on the development of an improved family tent, and the Formens Hus Foundation (IKEA) on developing a self-supporting, light-weight frame. In 2011, UNHCR will work with its partners on the development of shelter for urban contexts, winterization of the new family tent, and solar lighting.

## **F. Emergency shelter cluster**

In 2010, UNHCR led the emergency shelter cluster in three additional countries: Benin (natural disaster), Kyrgyzstan (conflict-induced emergency), and in two provinces in Pakistan after the floods. In Kyrgyzstan, the Office assisted internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees, and in Benin and Pakistan, UNHCR assisted IDPs and refugees affected by flooding.

In 2010 UNHCR held two training sessions for its staff and partners in the three clusters, including emergency shelter, with participants from a range of operations in Asia and Africa. The training will be replicated in four locations in 2011, including Indonesia and Turkey. Collaboration with cluster partners and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) resulted in enhanced capacity and coordination. A new Tri-Cluster Leadership training, targeting coordination skills, is being developed - also for implementation in 2011.

## **G. Environmental projects**

The promotion of fuel-efficient stoves and renewable energy in refugee camps continues to receive attention from UNHCR, as both are strongly linked to protection, especially for women and children. In 2010, UNHCR's pilot project for solar lighting and fuel-efficient stoves was rolled out in seven countries in Africa. Nearly 50,000 refugee households benefited from this project. Given its positive impact, the plan for 2011 and beyond is to expand this programme to other operations. UNHCR recently launched a private sector fundraising campaign for the energy needs of half a million refugees in 12 refugee camps.

## **H. Livelihoods**

There is a growing need for livelihood programming, in particular in urban areas. Since 2008, UNHCR has been introducing multi-year livelihood strategies for key urban refugee operations. The aim is to stimulate more creative partnerships and interventions that also support national and local development plans. Programming and policy guidelines for urban livelihoods and the right to work have been developed, and a training programme will be rolled out to UNHCR's regional hubs in collaboration with partners, notably the Women's Refugee Commission, the Norwegian Refugee Council, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

### *Microfinance*

Microfinance received much attention in 2010 through a global partnership with ILO, which provided technical expertise to UNHCR field operations in Africa, the Americas, and the Middle East. Guidance on microfinance is being provided to several operations, including Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and Mauritania. New programming guidelines on microfinance for refugee situations have been developed: these highlight the importance of partnering with established microfinance institutions, and establishing quality monitoring procedures.

### *Entrepreneurship*

In 2011, UNHCR will place greater emphasis on strengthening entrepreneurship within refugee communities. Small businesses created by refugees generate income for the refugee populations, and create employment opportunities for local and refugee populations alike. UNHCR has been supporting several pilot projects on entrepreneurship training in 2010 and will continue to expand its efforts. Local partners and refugee communities in both urban and camp settings will be trained, drawing on ILO's global network of certified entrepreneurship training providers, with special attention given to refugee women and youth.

### *Community Technology Access (CTA)*

The Community Technology Access (CTA) programme has been rolled out to 13 countries across the world. A total of 31 centres have been set up, which are used for certified computer literacy classes, formal education, e-learning, skills training, establishing contacts with families, job searches, business development, and skills development/distance learning. For instance the CTA projects in Rwanda and Mauritania also provide support for the formal education of refugee children while in Georgia, emphasis is put on enhancing job opportunities for internally displaced persons. Likewise, in Uganda, a CTA centre promotes training in data-entry skills development in order to help prepare refugees for clerical jobs, which are available in the country.

## **I. Linking relief to development**

UNHCR has promoted community-based projects in the context of reintegration and local integration. Several protracted refugee operations in Africa, Asia and Europe have aligned their activities with a development-oriented approach. Following evaluations of the operations in Serbia and the United Republic of Tanzania, preliminary reports indicate that the High Commissioner's initiative on protracted situations has had a positive impact in terms of new efforts to secure sustainable solutions, with UNHCR playing a catalytic role in engaging development partners.

### *Peacebuilding*

UNHCR co-chairs, with UNDP and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), a reintegration working group as a follow-up to the *Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict* (A/63/881-S/2009/304). UNHCR has identified protection, the rule of law, coexistence, basic needs and livelihoods as areas of comparative advantage for contributing to peacebuilding through the return and reintegration of displaced populations. In October 2010, UNHCR organized a workshop to strengthen the Office's engagement in UN peacebuilding efforts.

### *Partnership*

In partnership with UNDP and the World Bank, UNHCR embarked upon the Transition Solutions Initiative in 2010. The purpose of the Initiative is to work towards including displacement-related needs on the developmental agenda. This field-driven initiative promotes collaboration between humanitarian and development, bilateral and multilateral actors. It aims to attract additional bilateral and multilateral transition and development assistance, dedicated to supporting an integrated approach that targets both displaced, returnees, and local populations. Ten countries were initially assessed for potential collaboration. Joint UNDP/UNHCR field missions will be conducted in 2011 to develop programmes for promoting solutions.

Also in partnership with UNDP, the Office continues to advocate for joint programmes in post-conflict and protracted displacement situations – both bilaterally and within the framework of the early recovery cluster, for development support for refugee-hosting and affected areas, and for reintegration programmes. Under the framework of the Transitional Solutions Initiative, UNDP and UNHCR conducted joint missions for potential cooperation in the United Republic of Tanzania and in eastern Sudan. In September 2010, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and UNHCR conducted a stocktaking exercise of their 10 years of partnership, working together in 30 countries with 57 projects in protracted refugee situations and in the areas of reintegration and support to host communities.

## **J. Education**

In 2010, UNHCR focused on three main complementary education objectives, namely increased education access and enrolment, improved quality, and enhanced protection. UNHCR's professional capacity was strengthened through field-based staff training including on establishing safe learning environments. A review of education for refugees in urban settings was conducted in four countries and recommendations were incorporated in a guidance note for the Field. The Office targeted 12 priority countries with technical support missions and the development of education strategies. Nine countries benefited from secondments of education professionals. Through the DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) scholarship programme, the Office provided 1,800 students with the opportunity to continue studies at university level. The ninemillion.org campaign fundraised more than USD 2.2 million in 2010, increasing access to education, sports and technology activities for more than 460,000 children and young people in 20 countries.

In 2011, UNHCR will continue with targeted field support, including the roll-out of existing education tools, and will update the Education Field Guidelines. Areas of focus will include: expanding the recognition of refugee education certificates, access to secondary education, and the retention of girls. A broader tertiary education strategy will also be developed.

*Partnerships in Education*

Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) were revised and updated and will be operationalized in 2011; a new MOU was developed with the Refugee Education Trust. UNHCR ensured that refugee needs were incorporated in the three-year strategic plans currently under development by the education cluster and the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies. An evaluation of field education programmes was initiated together with the University of Neuchatel and results are expected early in 2011. A scheme for the secondment of education experts to support field programme implementation will be expanded with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in 2011.

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