

**71st meeting of the Standing Committee
6–8 March 2018**

**Agenda item 5 (b)
Oral update on the comprehensive refugee response framework**

The Deputy Director for Comprehensive Responses in UNHCR's new Division of Resilience and Solutions, Mr. Mamadou Dian Balde, will deliver an oral update on the application of the comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF), with a focus on developments that have taken place since the last update provided by the Office during the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee in September 2017. The key areas to be covered in the statement are outlined below.

1. Update on comprehensive approaches in Africa and the Americas

- Four new countries – Belize, Kenya, Rwanda, and Zambia – are applying the CRRF, bringing the total number of CRRF countries and regions to thirteen (as of 28 February 2018).
- In the San Pedro Sula Declaration of October 2017, the Governments of Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama requested the assistance of UNHCR, in cooperation with other stakeholders, to support the implementation of the “Comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework” (commonly referred to by its Spanish acronym, “MIRPS”). Thirty priority projects have been designed to progress the implementation of the MIRPS at both the national and regional levels.
- In line with the commitments made in the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action in March 2017, the Member States of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have adopted a roadmap and results framework to support their collective efforts to pursue a comprehensive regional approach to deliver durable solutions for Somali refugees. In December 2017, IGAD, together with the Government of Djibouti, hosted the first ever regional meeting of education ministers, with a view to improving access to and the quality of education for refugees and host communities. UNHCR welcomed this initiative, as well as the recent call by the Executive Council of the African Union for its Member States to include refugees, internally displaced persons and those at risk of statelessness in civil registration and other vital statistics systems.
- Other key areas of progress in Africa in the last six months include the entry into force of the new refugee law and implementing decrees in Djibouti to streamline refugee status determination procedures and facilitate better access to social services, including healthcare, education and employment opportunities; and an amendment to legislation in Ethiopia, which has allowed refugees to register vital life events such as births, deaths, marriages and divorces directly with national authorities. In the last quarter of 2017, roadmaps containing short- and long-term frameworks for planning and concrete deliverables for the application of comprehensive responses were adopted by Governments and their partners in Djibouti, Ethiopia and Uganda. Initial implementation of comprehensive approaches has started in each of the countries applying the CRRF.

2. Working in partnership

- UNHCR welcomes the growing engagement of multilateral and bilateral development partners in the application of comprehensive refugee responses. The Office is working closely with a number of these partners to enhance mutual understandings of budgetary allocation and planning cycles, emergency operations and areas of comparative advantage.
- UNHCR's relationship with the World Bank Group and its institutions has continued to grow, including through a joint mission to Kenya to consider options for financing through the International Development Association (IDA) sub-window for refugees and host communities. In addition, an agreement has been reached to establish a joint data centre on forced displacement, which will help ensure even greater complementarity between the work of humanitarian and development actors.
- UNHCR also continues to collaborate with other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the context of the CRRF. The theme of this year's Annual Consultations with NGOs is “Putting people first”. One day of these discussions will be dedicated to sharing experiences and reviewing collective efforts as part of comprehensive responses.

3. Looking ahead

- The first inter-ministerial stocktaking meeting in follow-up to the Nairobi Plan of Action will take place in Addis Ababa in March 2018. This meeting is a key milestone in terms of reviewing progress to date to make international responses to refugee movements more equitable, predictable and comprehensive.
- A new Division of Resilience and Solutions has been established to guide UNHCR's efforts to pursue solutions for persons of concern to the Office. The Division will also sustain the work of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Task Team in operationalizing the CRRF and applying the approach throughout operations. The new Division is led by the former Director for Comprehensive Responses, Mr. Daniel Endres.

UNHCR, 2 March 2018
