
UNHCR – UNDP Joint Programming

On the Refugee Response Plan for the DRC Situation

THE DRC SITUATION

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is in the middle of one of the world's most complex crises. On-going conflict continues to cause internal and external displacement and as of end May 2018, some 772,000 Congolese are in asylum in neighboring countries. Nearly 55% of refugees are children, many crossing borders unaccompanied, or separated from their parents. Existing camps and sites in a number of asylum countries are saturated, and the situation is compounded by broader development challenges in a region where half the population lives below the poverty line; literacy rates are below 50%; almost all countries have a low human development index, and most countries are expected to still be Least Developed Countries by 2030.

Countries of asylum have been generous, however protracted displacement continues to deplete already limited national and international resources. The DRC situation requires adequate resources and proactive collaboration by all partners to achieve a holistic approach to humanitarian and development needs. **Global and regional engagement** in that direction is imperative, given the strong leverage that this could have on the efforts to promote peaceful solutions. The [Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework Pillar 3 on Mobility](#) seeks to address this imperative and this joint workshop was a strong effort to push forward GLRSF implementation.

STRENGTHENING UNDP – UNHCR COLLABORATION

The first **UNHCR - UNDP Joint-Programming Workshop** on the Refugee Response Plan to the DRC Situation was held on 02-03 July, at the United Nations Office in Nairobi. The workshop was organized by the Offices of UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator for the DRC Situation, Ann Encontre, and UNDP Sub Regional Platform Coordinator, David Clapp, and follows the UNHCR High Commissioner's and UNDP Administrator's message of 30 October 2017 on strengthening collaboration. The level of attendees, the degree of engagement, and the concrete results of the workshop demonstrate the eagerness of both agencies to put the global agreement into action in the sub-region.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the principle of "**Leaving No One Behind**", as well as the Global Compact on Refugees and its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) approach, provided an important framework for this collaboration.

The main objective of the workshop was to identify and start developing joint humanitarian, development and peace programming in the 5 thematic areas to be reflected in the 2019 RRRP for the DRC situation. The agencies started to agree on work plans and explored the concrete mechanisms and structures needed to overcome roadblocks to joint implementation. They also started to outline resource needs, including technical support requirements from HQ and regional service centres.

5 KEY THEMATIC AND OPERATIONAL AREAS

highlighted in the UNHCR-UNDP 2017 commitment for strengthened collaboration.

1. SDG implementation as it relates to "leaving no one behind", including advocacy for the inclusion of refugees and IDPs in national and local development programmes;
2. Enhanced partnerships in rule of law, human rights, access to justice, community security and local governance to better respond to protection priorities and durable solutions;
3. Analytical work on protracted displacement situations (joint-analysis);
4. Targeted early recovery and livelihoods programming;
5. Investment in early warning and crisis response.

KEY OUTCOMES

JOINT-ANALYSIS ON REGIONAL REFUGEE AND DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

UNHCR and UNDP jointly presented an overview of the context, including a review of the situation on the ground in asylum countries, and regional and national conflict and displacement trends with a focus on the DRC. This was contextualized within the **regional development context**. Participants recommended that the agencies collaborate on similar joint analysis at the national level.

UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER

In order to reach a **common understanding of each organization's** structures, mandates, programmatic approaches, UNHCR explained their protection mandate and UNDP sustainable development. The factors that favor and challenge UNDP-UNHCR collaboration were discussed. Participants expressed an interest in repeating these learning exchanges in country operations.

JOINT-LESSONS LEARNED

Key lessons were drawn from UNHCR and UNDP in Zambia, Uganda, Angola and other contexts outside the region, including using area-based approaches to avoid siloes, and integrating refugee response, resilience and sustainable development approaches in one programme rather than in separate pillars.



POSSIBILITIES FOR JOINT-PROGRAMMING

Discussions focused on areas where **UNHCR-UNDP can co-design and carry out joint-programming systematically**:

- **SDG implementation**, starting with inclusive baseline assessments;
- The inclusion of all refugee hosting area residents in **national development plans**;
- **Local governance & crisis preparedness**;
- **Protection**, including what can be achieved through **rule of law** programming on access to justice, community oriented policing, and support for civil and land registries and other key functions;
- **Livelihoods & local economic development**;
- **Early recovery**, where collaboration can support the initiation of full Development programming in humanitarian environments;
- **Environment, and peacebuilding**.

Building on this, UNHCR-UNDP teams worked together to identify opportunities for collaboration on collective outcomes relevant to their country contexts.

JOINT-RESOURCE MOBILISATION

UNHCR and UNDP exchanged and compared their **resource mobilization approaches and strategies**, as well as field level programming methodologies. The two organisations agreed to coordinate and develop joint proposals that can be presented together at country, regional and global levels.





JOINT-PROGRAMMING PLANS

UNDP-UNHCR Country teams identified and are now working on the following joint-programming ideas for inclusion in country level refugee response plans, and in the revision of the 2019 Regional Refugee Response to the DRC Situation (RRRP):

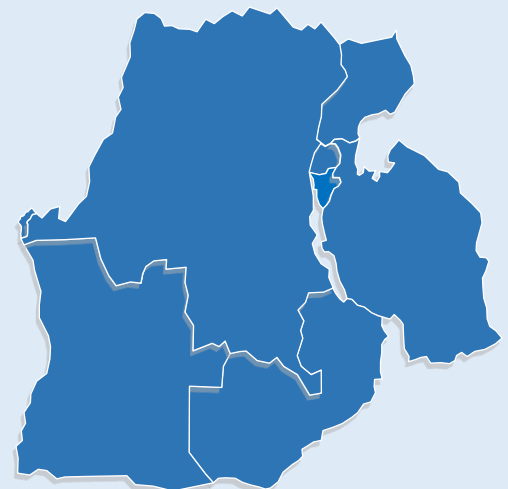
- ✓ Joint assessments and analysis in line with “New Way of Working” to understand the challenges on the ground, identify priority projects, actions and sectors. This includes a joint Justice Perception Survey in DRC and in countries of asylum that can better illustrate justice and security-related impediments to return, key to inclusive rule of law programming in the DRC and for cross border interventions.
- ✓ Area-based and development approaches in districts hosting refugees and IDPs, looking at displacement-specific needs as well as socio-economic (HDI and MPI) indicators for host communities.
- ✓ Joint local governance programming to support national leadership in refugee hosting areas without resorting to camps or other parallel systems – taking into account needs such as waste and water management, local revenues and conflict resolution.
- ✓ The use of joint evaluation missions to review UNHCR programming for opportunities to connect better to existing development work, and to national systems more generally – to lay the foundation for a response approach more consistent with the CRRF.
- ✓ Joint programming on rule of law to achieve protection objectives, including community policing and access to justice, land and civil documentation administration.
- ✓ Collaboration on improved food security and access to services through livelihoods programming and local economic development.
- ✓ Systematic engagement of UNHCR in broader environment and energy initiatives.
- ✓ Preparedness programming with local authorities to strengthen local leadership during chronic or recurrent crises, including support for population movement management, and for infrastructure that can reinforce community resilience in times of crises.
- ✓ Build on existing UNDP and/or UNHCR existing projects and programmes to be more inclusive, and to strengthen private sector engagement in targeted areas for the benefit of all residents.

BROADER PARTNERSHIPS

The UNHCR-UNDP joint programming aims **to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian and development assistance** in areas hosting refugees, IDPs and returnees. A key requirement is to start the process of identifying other potential partners, including national and bilateral actors, as well as international and multilateral humanitarian, development and peacebuilding organizations. Private sector engagement will also be critical to ensuring sustainable solutions.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

The initiative is now operational in 6 Congolese refugee hosting countries, Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, as well as in the DRC. 58 colleagues from UNHCR (30) and UNDP (28) attended the joint workshop, joined by technical teams from HQ and Regional offices. Participants committed to working together to develop and implement joined up **humanitarian-development-peace interventions** to deliver predictable refugee and host community responses in the immediate, medium and long term. It is expected that the good practice developed in the sub-region will support wider initiatives on the humanitarian development nexus from the beginning of responses.



WAY FORWARD

Joint coordination - Monthly calls with country operations chaired by Ann Encontre and David Clapp; Regional focal points for any questions/follow up (UNHCR- Stylianos Kostas; UNDP- Silke Hollander), and Country focal points (Heads of Offices/CDs to nominate official focal UNHCR/UNDP focal points).

Joint Communication – Joint communication tools to brief UNDP-UNHCR colleagues and donors, including key elements from the country proposal booklet and joint programming tools.

Joint Programming - Operations are now working on joint evaluations and programme design, which will be outlined in a booklet with figures on populations of concern, budgets, and the key areas of collaboration included in NDPs, UNDAFs, HRPs and RRP.

Joint Resource Mobilization - Donors will be involved at every phase of programme design. Workshop outcomes for which there is evidence of concrete action to be reflected in UNHCR’s Global Appeal and in the DRC RRRP (and potentially in the RRRPs for the South Sudanese and Burundi situations if programming extends to other national groups). Resource mobilization efforts using one-page programme outlines will be prepared jointly at all levels to facilitate global and regional support for in-country efforts.



INFORMATION

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