

**The Refugee Task Force** is held on a monthly basis and serves as the primary national forum for inter-sector coordination in Ethiopia, jointly chaired by ARRA and UNHCR. The below minutes reflect interventions by the Chairs, all sector chairs/co-chairs, and invited participants, together with agreed action points.

**Location:** UNHCR Branch Office, Main Conference Room

**Time and Date:** 3.30pm, 13 December 2017

**Chairs:** ARRA and UNHCR

**Action Points:**

Reference	Action Point	Who	By When	Status
13.12.17 #1	CRRF Roadmap to be shared with RTF members following CRRF Launch on 28 November.	ARRA/UNHCR	10.1.18	Pending

**Opening presentation: CRRF Technical Workshops.**

- The workshops will support preparatory discussions on the pledges and the approach to the formation of the technical committees. All actors that have a stake in the implementation of the pledges and the CRRF, who are working within related sectors and issues, are welcome to participate. This includes key government ministries and agencies, representatives of refugees and host communities, key partner governments, I/NGOs, academia and the private sector – at the technical level.
- All effort will be made to extend invitations to include all relevant stakeholders. As six workshops will be organized to cover all the pledges, a maximum of 80 participants per workshop are expected. The workshops are convened by ARRA and MOFEC, in the spirit of their leadership of the Steering Committee, with the support of UNHCR. Partners are invited to co-facilitate/support these workshops as well as to expand the list of potential participants. Self-selected organizations are invited to step in to support the facilitation. It is expected to have a different core organizing group for each workshop. Donor interest to participate and contribute is high.

CRRF Technical Workshops will follow the same structure as the Technical Committees:

Related pledges	Technical Committee	Preparatory Workshop
Pledge 1	TC on Out of Camp Policy	Preparatory Workshop on the Out of Camp Policy
Pledge 6	TC on Local Integration	Preparatory Workshop on Local Integration
Pledge 4	TC on Education	Preparatory Workshop on Education
Pledge 9	TC on Documentation	Preparatory Workshop on Documentation
Pledges 2, 3, 5, 7	TC on Work and Livelihood	Preparatory Workshop on Work and Livelihood
Pledge 8	TC on Access to services	Preparatory Workshop on Access to services

**Tentative Timing & Location**

Wednesday January 17, 2018	Work and Livelihood	8:30am – 5pm
Thursday January 18, 2018	Basic and social services	8:30am – 5pm

Tuesday January 23, 2018	Documentation	8:30am – 12pm
Tuesday January 30, 2018	Education	8:30am – 5pm
Wednesday January 31, 2018	Local integration	8:30am – 5pm
Thursday February 1, 2018	Out of Camp Policy	8:30am – 5pm

- The workshops are convened by ARRA and MOFEC, in the spirit of their leadership of the Steering Committee, with the support of UNHCR. The workshops will be held at ILRI. The workshops will have a short plenary part and then move into break-out groups to discuss the way forward, including alignment to existing coordination structures, technical implementation etc. Outputs of each workshop will be provided as feedback to the Steering Committee.

### General Announcements

- ARRA reiterated its intention to close all 26 refugee camps in its territory over the next 10 years and integrate residents into local communities. This vision is enshrined in the pledges made by the Government of Ethiopia during the Leaders' Summit in September 2016 and the roll-out of the CRRF in Ethiopia. The first meeting of the CRRF Steering Committee took place on 7 December 2017.
- A workshop was organised in Kampala, Uganda on the new way of working. UN, INGOs and donors were present and discussed a.o.:
  - What are comparative strengths and advantages and how to approach humanitarian and development problems in the world, and plan effectively to address shocks.
  - How to work more efficiently together, with limited resources, and break down silos and share knowledge.
  - How to plan jointly for the medium and long term, with appropriate sequencing and how to ensure collective outcomes.
  - How to implement a whole of society approach and be inclusive.
- DRC, SAVE, CARE, WHO, OCHA, office of RC, UNDP and UNHCR present.
- Moving forward there will be workshops around collective planning and discussion of needs at country level. Link with CRRF should be ensured.

### A. Registration

- As of 30 November, Ethiopia hosted 893,938 Registered Refugees and Asylum-seekers comprising of 246,794 households. Since January 2017, 106,092 refugees arrived in the country, mainly from South Sudan (over 74,400), Eritrea (over 22,700) and Somalia (over 6,600).
- The roll out the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) country-wide continues. Refugees are able to have their biometrics taken at registration centres, including iris scans and 10-digit fingerprints. Refugees are asked to provide information on their educational and professional skills, as well as family members located in other countries. This improved data collection system will support the expansion of additional opportunities for refugees, including the right to live outside of the camp or to advance their education. In some instances, the data will be important in reunification of family members abroad. Registration will help the refugees to access services while helps partners to increasingly tailor assistance to the needs of refugees. A formal presentation on the BIMS will be provided in the New Year.

**B. Protection**

- Further to the outcomes of the RPWG Retreat held in September, the RPWG would welcome further discussion to assess its role within the forthcoming technical workshops and the related implementation of the CRRF coordination structure. Recommendation by the RPWG were discussed on 07 December and will be shared with the Task Force for input.
- In the past 3 months, the Urban and Kenya Borena Sub working group has focused on harmonization of the approach to delivery of protection and solutions to refugees living in Addis Ababa, to ensure maximized use of resources and to ensure that partners understand and implement programs in line with the CRRF approach. In this regard, there have been detailed discussions with all the partners working with refugees in Addis Ababa, on the modalities of engagement with refugees in the urban context in a manner that enhances and encourages refugee self-reliance and inclusion within the national structures. As a result, the partners have drafted jointly two documents, which will form as the basis/ reference document for future programs within the urban context. The documents are the “Guidelines on the protection and solutions strategy for urban refugees in Ethiopia” and the “Inter-agency guidelines on incentive payments to refugees in Addis Ababa”. The documents are in the final stages of revision and once they are approved by ARRA, they will be shared also with the Refugee Protection Working Group.

**C. Health**

- To date in 2017, 813,416 persons benefited from consultations in health facilities across all refugee camps, 8.5% of whom were from the host communities. The health facility utilization rate stands at 1.2 consultations per refugee per year and is within the standard of more than 1 consultations per year. The mortality rate in children under five is 0.2/1000/month and remains within the expected range in all camps. 97% of all deliveries were conducted with the help of skilled birth attendants.

UNHCR, ARRA and partners gathered from 14. – 16. November for the annual public health workshop. The workshop was attended by more than 60 participants, more than half of the participants were from field locations. During the workshop the team focused on reviewing the implementation of public health programmes in the various regions and getting familiarised with new approaches including CRRF. A large part of the workshop focused on introduction to new initiatives which will be rolled out in the various locations in 2018, including among others the use of the Last Mile Mobile Solution for improved nutrition beneficiary data management, roll-out of UNHCRs Infant and Young Child Feeding framework and enhanced treatment for non-communicable diseases. Half a day was used to advance the discussion with health, nutrition and WASH partners on revising the SOP for the outreach workforce to enhance the efficiency of the community based work and avoid overlaps.

The nutrition causal analysis for Gambella is completed, the team is currently finalising data analysis and the debriefing is planned January in Gambella and Addis. These will be multi-stakeholder and dates will be circulated to partners.

**D. Food and Nutrition**

- In 52% (11/23) of the camps assessed so far, the prevalence of global acute malnutrition below the WHO emergency threshold (15%). A total of 25,534 under 5 children have so far been treated for acute malnutrition since January.
- The IYCF-e framework orientation for managers at country level was completed for health and nutrition partners and UNHCR senior managers from all the Sub offices in Ethiopia. This is a global initiative to mainstream Infant and young child care and feeding practices in all sectors in the refugee camps. Ultimately, survival, healthy growth and development of infants will be protected and promoted through creation of an IYCF friendly environment. The rollout in Dollo Ado and Gambella operations is planned before the end of December. This will encompass engagement of other sectors in selection of activities that protect pregnant, lactating mothers and infants thus promote optimal care and feeding of these infants in an effort to reduce the high prevalence of global acute malnutrition.
- New arrival screening for children with acute malnutrition is ongoing in Dollo Ado. Since the month of September 2017 when the prevalence of GAM was 13% among children aged 6-59 months, no other cases have been identified showing that children are arriving in a better nutrition status than previously.
- Combined data from all the feeding centers in the camps in Ethiopia shows a recovery rate of 90.0% and 88.1% was achieved (SPHERE standard: >75%) for children with moderate and severe malnutrition. All children aged 6 to 24 months continued to receive super cereal plus under the blanket supplementary feeding programme in all camps in order to compliment the general food ration with high energy and nutrient dense foods appropriate for optimal growth and development.
- WFP reports expected pipeline break from March 2018 for all commodities including cash unless additional funds are secured. Refugees should be sensitized timely and be kept well-informed. A joint fundraising exercise between WFP, UNHCR and ARRA should be organized in the New Year, closely involving donors.
- Super cereal in general food distribution will be increased to 1 kg per person per month from the current 0.5 kg starting January 2018 particularly in camps where the global acute malnutrition is above the emergency threshold (Gambella, Afar and Dollo).
- Cash transfer rate is under review for all camps receiving cash combined food assistance, however, the modality is in a serious challenge for Somali camps since cereal prices in Jijiga camps have increased by about 30% this quarter alone compared to the previous quarter. Sensitization toward refugees is important that transfer rates are dependent on market prices and therefore will be subject to changes.

## **E. WASH**

- On average, refugees receive 18.5 litres of water per person per day (lppd), with 13 of the 26 refugee camps meeting the UNHCR minimum standard of 20 lppd. Of the 10.9 million litres of water supplied daily, 5% is through harnessing solar energy for pumping, this is expected to

increase once the ongoing solar installations are commissioned. The host population receives approximately 15% of the total daily water output.

- 35% HH latrine coverage (not meeting the standard). Efforts undertaken to discuss what type of latrines: dischargeable latrine. Need to consider costs, durability etc. to see what type of latrine is most sustainable and cost effective (some are 500- 600-800). Also, piloting dry toilets, but costs also high. Looking into ways to engage refugees in construction to keep costs low (Nguenyiel and Jewi).

#### **F. Education**

- 517 refugee students have newly enrolled in university in Ethiopia for the 2017-2018 year. This is the highest refugee enrolment number recorded. They join the approximately 2000 persons who were already enrolled from previous years. 253 of the students completed secondary school in Ethiopia and passed the Ethiopian Education Entrance Exam. 264 students completed a special placement exam, based upon secondary education completed outside of Ethiopia. All will receive a scholarship either from UNHCR's DAFI Programme, or the Ethiopian government.

#### **G. Shelter**

- A Shelter Gap analysis is currently being finalized. A joint shelter mission between ARRA and UNHCR took place in Dollo Ado and Gambella; to review shelter options as per national Shelter Strategy, and inform the roll out and subsequent drafting of the TS-Guidelines. Planned shelter missions to Assosa and Shire/Afar will take place in January. Jijiga and Melkadida completed and informed partnerships for 2018. For Gambella, a feasibility study will be undertaken to further review options.
- All implementing partners are part of Shelter Working Group and closely involved in operationalization of the strategy.

#### **H. Energy and the Environment**

- No updates

#### **I. Livelihoods**

- Still discussing way forward and operationalization of the livelihood strategy, hence there is no call for interest for livelihood partners yet. The CRRF working group on work and livelihood should guide these discussions. In Assosa and Melkadida some small-scale livelihood activities will continue.

#### **J. UNHCR Partner Selection and year-end closure**

- All IPs were requested to submit interim financial reports by 10 Dec. Urgent request to submit ASAP.
- Discussions with selected partners ongoing regarding budget revisions. 14 Dec is close of system, so should be finalised.

- Sub-agreement should be signed to allow for disbursement
- Retention selection: partners who are retained have already received a letter. Partners who are not retained will receive letter in next few days.
- Selection of partners is ongoing and will be reviewed jointly with ARRA. Messaging will take place in week of 18 December.
- For partners that are not retained a handover period might be put in place to ensure a smooth transition.

**K. AOB**

- Request to share minutes of the Steering Committee meetings with the RTF. Will be conveyed to the SC. The coordination unit/secretariat are not yet in place, but they will be responsible for dissemination of information.
- Survey to harmonise the salaries for local staff is under way. On Tuesday 19 December at 10AM there will be a presentation on initial results (UNHCR office).
- Refugee incentives: there will likely be an increase in the incentive payment. This will be communicated shortly, so it can be considered for budgeting for 2018. Regarding broader discussions on changing the system around refugee incentives and rewards, there has not been an agreement in the RTF. A review document developed in 2016 will be shared for renewed discussion/endorsement by the RTF.

**The next Refugee Task Force Meeting will take place on 10 January 2017 at 3.30pm.**

**Attendance List**

Org	Name	Title	Telephone Numbers	Email	Signature of attendance
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