

# Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

## UGANDA

### *Translating New York Declaration Commitments into Action*

#### Globally

The New York Declaration has mandated UNHCR to develop and initiate, through a multi-stakeholder approach, a comprehensive refugee response that protects and promotes the rights of refugees as enshrined by international law, whilst easing the pressure on the country of asylum.

The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) is detailed in Annex One of the 19 September 2016 New York Declaration, and will be informed by the practical application in different countries in an effort to develop and adopt a Global Compact on Refugees by 2018.

#### **CRRF's global objectives**

- ✓ Ease pressure on the host country
- ✓ Enhance refugee self-reliance
- ✓ Expand access to third country solutions
- ✓ Support conditions in countries of origin

#### CRRF's key features

- ✓ *Protection-driven*: the mandate to initiate and develop the framework rests with UNHCR, in close coordination with relevant states;
- ✓ *Holistic*: it covers everything that happens from the time of displacement until a durable solution is found: local integration, resettlement or voluntary repatriation;
- ✓ *A multi-stakeholder approach*: it involves mobilizing the comparative advantage of other stakeholders;
- ✓ *Human rights oriented*: it seeks to protect the rights of refugees under international law and enhance opportunities and solutions;
- ✓ *Responsibility-sharing*: it aims at easing the pressure on the country of asylum, including by supporting host communities. It articulates the necessity of providing sustainable support to refugees and host communities alike;
- ✓ *Addressing root causes*: it seeks to enhance support to the country of origin.

#### CRRF in Uganda

In Uganda, given its long history of providing asylum, a comprehensive response is already being pursued under the leadership of Government and UNHCR, and the country is applying many of the principles set out in Annex I of the New York Declaration.

#### **CRRF's objectives in Uganda**

- ✓ Support Government policy and protect asylum space
- ✓ Support resilience and self-reliance of refugees and host communities
- ✓ Expand solutions, including third country options
- ✓ Support Uganda's role in the region and invest in human capital and transferrable skills

#### The Uganda CRRF Secretariat

A multi-stakeholder Secretariat supports the application of CRRF, under the leadership of the Government. The Secretariat serve as a knowledge hub and platform for strategic discussions, building on refugee structures and initiatives already in place to manage and find solutions for refugees.

#### The five pillars of the CRRF in Uganda

The CRRF in Uganda encompasses five mutually reinforcing pillars and covers support provided to refugees, host communities, the government and the countries of origin, as outlined by the global objectives: Admission and Rights, Emergency Response and Ongoing Needs, Resilience and Self-reliance, Expanded Solution and Voluntary Repatriation. Documentation of the CRRF in Uganda will be key to identify strengths and challenges throughout its implementation.

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### ***Pillar one - Admission and Rights***

- ✓ This pillar covers the rights provided under international law and domesticated in Uganda through the 2006 Refugee Act and 2010 Refugee Regulations. This involves key aspects of the CRRF, including access to territory, provision of individual documentation, freedom of movement, and the right to work.
- ✓ Support needed for the full implementation of the laws and policies provided includes, among others, registration, documentation (e.g. birth registration) and advocacy with employers on the right of refugees to work.

### ***Pillar two - Emergency Response and Ongoing Needs***

- ✓ This pillar covers protection and humanitarian assistance to address the immediate needs of the refugees, in addition to supporting host communities and government affected by the influx.
- ✓ It includes registration, provision of food and non-food items, shelter and water and other community services.
- ✓ Ensuring that the humanitarian response is fully funded is critical and so is exploring medium and long-term solutions from the onset of a crisis – for example by investing in infrastructure and integrated service delivery. Medium and long-term development investments and humanitarian interventions are to be pursued simultaneously.

### ***Pillar three - Resilience and Self-Reliance***

- ✓ This pillar provides the key entry point for development interventions, in so offering an opportunity for refugees and host communities to be self-reliant. This primarily consists of livelihood initiatives, enhanced service delivery and activities to promote peaceful coexistence.
- ✓ Building resilient institutions and investing in skills development is essential to help communities better cope with future shocks.
- ✓ Development actors play a critical role in supporting this pillar. The Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) framework is a prime example of delivering on this pillar.

### ***Pillar four – Expanded Solutions***

- ✓ This pillar primarily focuses on solutions in third countries, with resettlement being the main option within the Uganda context.
- ✓ In an effort to expand solutions, other opportunities such as work placements and scholarships will be explored.

### ***Pillar five – Voluntary Repatriation***

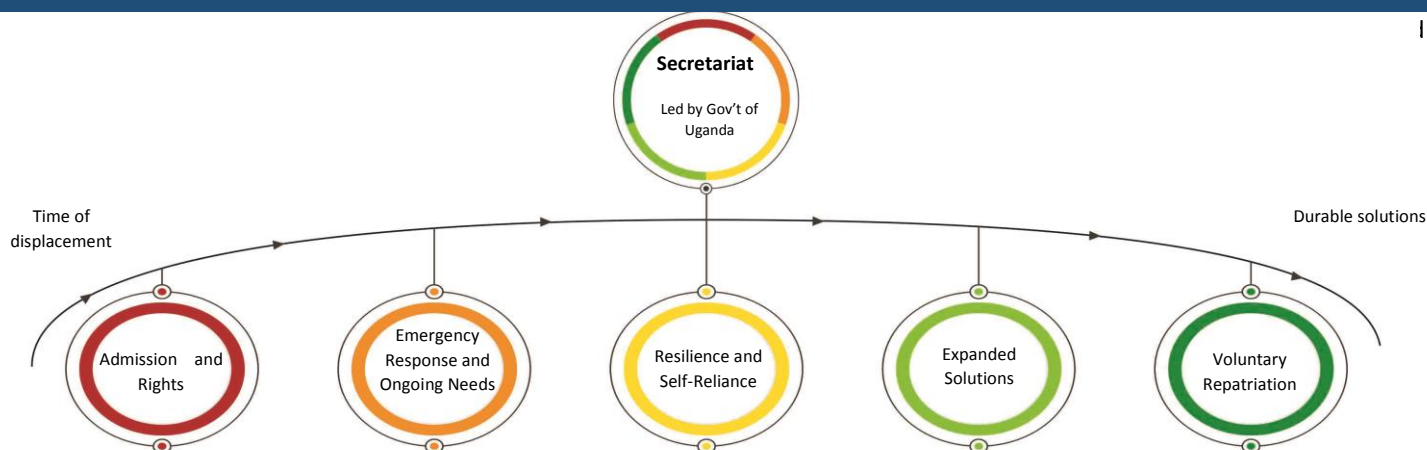
- ✓ This pillar covers voluntary repatriation of refugees, which can be successfully realized through skills development activities in pillar three.
- ✓ When conditions in the country of origin become conducive to return, this pillar will be key in providing support to reintegration in the country of origin. Enhanced development support will be necessary to host communities once refugees return.
- ✓ Support to the country of origin is critical to ensure that voluntary repatriation be a realistic option. Supporting this pillar means enhancing Uganda's role in the region in relation to peace, security and development.

### **Positioning existing frameworks and policies within the five pillars**

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The development of the CRRF provides an opportunity to consolidate ongoing initiatives and build on existing frameworks and policies on refugee protection, management and solutions to foster stronger cooperation among a broad array of stakeholders, including humanitarian agencies, development actors, private sector, academia, civil society and many more. Furthermore, it serves as a platform to map out gaps and needs, both in terms of partnerships and funding.

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## 2006 Refugee Act and 2010 Refugee Regulations

### ***Supports all pillars***

The CRRF outlines a broad range of policies and rights to be implemented in response to mass displacement. The majority of these rights are addressed by the 2006 Refugee Act and the 2010 Refugee Regulations, including: access to territory and the principle of *non-refoulement*, provision of individual registration and documentation, access to social services including education and health, the right to work and the right to establish business.

## Humanitarian Response Framework

### ***Supports Pillar one and two and lays the foundation for all other pillar interventions***

Pillars one and two receive support in relation to the humanitarian response, which is coordinated by UNHCR through the Refugee Coordination Model.

The objective is to ensure dignity and access to asylum whilst meeting immediate humanitarian needs.

As the pillars are mutually reinforcing, it is critical that the humanitarian response is fully supported to ensure the delivery and results on the other pillars.

## Settlement Transformation Agenda

### ***Supports Pillar three, with indirect support to Pillars two, four and five***

The inclusion of refugees in national development plans is one of the policy actions indicated in the New York declaration. The Government of Uganda included refugees in its Second National Development Plan through the Settlement Transformative Agenda (STA). This decision provides a clear entry point for a range of actors to support the objectives of refugee self-reliance through development interventions and contributes to easing the pressure on the host country and communities.

## Refugee and Host Population Empowerment Strategy (ReHoPE)

### ***Supports Pillar three, with indirect support to Pillars two, four and five***

ReHoPE is a self-reliance and resilience initiative led by the UN and World Bank. It is a key building block to deliver on the CRRF in Uganda, given its multi-stakeholder approach spanning the humanitarian-development divide.

ReHoPE is integrated into the UN Development Assistance Framework and represents the combined development response of all UN agencies to the refugee hosting districts.