



NATIONAL PROTECTION WORKING GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Operational Context

Uganda is hosting 1.4 million refugees and asylum-seekers from various countries of the sub-region, mainly from South Sudan (with over 1 million), Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Somalia, Rwanda, Eritrea, etc. Most of them (90%)¹ live in refugee settlements², where they are given plots of land for dwelling and farming³. A smaller number live in urban centres, namely in Kampala City⁴.

Refugees enjoy various rights enshrined in several international legal instruments, including the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol relating to the status of refugees, the 1969 OAU Convention governing specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa to which Uganda is a party. Besides, Uganda has a very progressive asylum policy and legal instruments inspired by the international Protection standards, namely the National Constitution, 1995; the Refugees Act, 2006; the Refugees Regulations, 2010 and various other acts and regulations providing for various rights and freedoms, which refugees and asylum-seekers do enjoy, namely freedom of movement, freedom of residence, right to gainful employment, access to public services, etc.

As part of its international obligations, the Government of Uganda (GoU) ensures refugee protection, assistance and management through the Department of Refugees at Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in cooperation with various Government ministries (including the Ministry of Disaster, Emergency Preparedness and Refugees), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with its implementing and operational partners, and other relevant actors, namely in connection with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), the whole society approach adopted by the United Nations General Assembly through the 2016 New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants.

As a matter of fact, the Uganda Multi-Year Multi-Partner (MYMP)⁵ Protection and Solutions Strategy (2016-2020), which was adopted by Protection Stakeholders in Uganda Operation, has been updated to better reflect these new innovative approaches, changes and dynamics. Further, the Uganda Sub-national Protection Dialogue conducted in April/May 2018 adopted specific protection objectives to be implemented in the immediate- midterm⁶.

¹ Of whom 83% are women and children,

² Located in West Nile, Mid-West and South-West of the country

³ Most of them being from rural background

⁴ About 100,000 refugees and asylum-seekers reside in Kampala

⁵ Uganda Multi Year Multi partner protection and solutions strategy 2016 - 2022

⁶ Uganda Sub-national protection dialogue April/May 2018.

2. Justification

The National Refugee Protection Coordination is established in line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM)⁷. The Protection Coordination organigram comprises an umbrella National Refugee Protection Working Group (NRPWG) in Kampala. NRPWG has the linkage with the sub-working groups/sectors/tasks teams for SGBV, Children Protection, and Peaceful Coexistence. Education in Emergencies working group is independent but works closely with the NRPWG.

Notably, OPM, UNHCR and various other stakeholders are working hand-in-hand to deliver protection services, humanitarian assistance and solutions to refugees in Uganda Operation through various operational arrangements and coordination mechanisms. Protection systems involving relevant stakeholders are effective in all refugee settlements and at Kampala level besides, the PWG and sub-working groups. OPM and UNHCR coordinate bilaterally on matters pertaining to Legal Protection, Registration, and Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and other pertaining to refugee management. Moreover, OPM, UNHCR and its implementing partners coordinate actions on urban refugee protection in Kampala.

The formation of the NRPWG is critical in facilitating solutions on complex protection issues that require high-level advocacy and intervention at the national level and also to guide on strategic response and policy considerations. The NRPWG also has an important role to play in ensuring a comprehensive and coherent implementation of the protection and solutions strategy. The main roles and responsibilities are outlined below.

3. Roles and responsibilities

In view of the foregoing and without overlapping or duplicating the activities of existing sub-sector PWG's⁸, the NRPWG will perform the following tasks:

- Coordinate Protection related activities in Uganda Operation in liaison with relevant Stakeholders
- Develop and review of the national protection and solutions strategy
- Ensure implementation of the Uganda's MYMP Protection and Solutions Strategy (2016-2020) and relevant action plans
- Ensure protection principles are mainstreamed through all aspects of operations and the Comprehensive Refugee Response (CRR) programming
- Ensure cohesive synergy with relevant Sub-working groups and task teams
- Ensure cohesive synergy with Regional/District/Field level Protection Working Groups
- Follow-up on Protection gaps, constraints and challenges arising from the field and guidance and timely support to the field teams, as deemed appropriate
- Lead joint periodic assessments and compile related analytical reports outlining critical gaps and response measures
- Ensure monitoring and reporting on protection
- Lead/guide public advocacy on refugee issues

⁷ Refugee Coordination Model

⁸ Such as Child Protection, SGBV, PSN's, Education

- Provide protection briefings to broader stakeholders

4. Chairmanship and Secretariat

The NPWG will be chaired by OPM (DoR) and co-chaired by UNHCR Protection lead who will assist in calling for the meetings, establishing attendance sheets, taking and sharing the minutes, and in following up on action points.

The Chair will provide guidance on coordination and policy related matters and therefore link up with relevant Stakeholders whenever deemed necessary.

5. Membership

Membership of the NRPWG is open to all agencies and partners participating in protection response and protection delivery for refugees in Uganda.

Participating agencies are expected to designate at least one permanent representative who could be either the Head of Protection Agency or Lead Protection staff.

Members are required to register their details and mailing addresses, in the master contact list for the NRPWG.

6. Meeting schedule

The NRPWG will hold its ordinary meetings once a month on the day and time (Last week of the month) for the initial six months beginning June 2018 and thereafter the periodicity will be reviewed and determined by the members. However, ad hoc meetings may be held whenever deemed appropriate to attend urgent matters.