

Annual UNHCR-NGO consultations 2018
**Measuring the progress of Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
(CRRF)**

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16:30-18:30

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Moderator: Farida Bena, Director, Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy, IRC



Thank you Farida for inviting me to this panel; thank you dear panelists; Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen; RCK is a member of ICVA and an IP of UNHCR

What is your view of CRRF roll-out in East Africa?

My view of the roll out is informed largely by inputs made by key stakeholders during a workshop held this may by ICVA and RCK on understanding and maximizing WOSA approach in CRRF roll out in Kenya and the region. It brought together RAS, UNHCR, IGAD, ReDDS, DRC, CRRF Countries in the region (Djibouti, Ethiopia), refugees and host communities etc. I will not dwell on Uganda since it is a case study.

- **Roll out process is at formative stages** in some countries/ at different stages in different countries; There is commendable progress, however let me mention that we still have a long way to go

- **Formation of structures and institutions:** Some Countries such as Kenya are still forming the CRRF structures and institutions;
- **Kenya has formed a national technical working group/ steering committee** to develop the national CRRF framework and national action plan. It is government led through the Refugee Affairs Secretariat with support from UNHCR. It brings together all relevant government Ministries and departments.
- RCK and DRC were invited to represent national and INGOs respectively. Commendable for the government to recognize the complementary role of key actors including NGOs- We can say there is a shared vision, planning and analysis.
- Some Countries such as Ethiopia have already finalized the development of the CRRF strategy, which outlines short term and long term objectives. Relevant government agencies are involved in the development of the strategy
- In line with CRRF requirements, Djibouti has developed a new refugee law

What has worked? What can be done better?

- **Inclusive CRRF strategy development-** All relevant ministries and government departments; involvement of NGOs is also commendable- they are recognized as partners with expertise, than mere implementers (representative role); this however has been strong at national level.
- **High level political support-** However a lot more needs to be done. We also need to sustain political support
- **Enhancing refugee self- reliance-**has seen some great impetus- Kalobeyei settlement scheme in Kenya, increased focus on supporting vocational skills relevant in COA and home countries, introduction of cash based interventions to restore dignity to refugees; enhancing refugee incorporation into national plans (national education and health system (Kenya, Djibouti)- of course the numbers are still small and there is greater room for improvement; The Ted^x in Kenya within a refugee camp; victory stories of dignified refugees who were given a chance to be who they should be- human beings.
- **Increased private sector involvement-** An area that is still largely unexploited- what we need is to define their role very clearly.

Key takeaways from the workshop on the whole-of-society approach that was held in Nairobi last May?

- ✦ Promoting protection of refugees and host communities must remain central to all interventions including development programming.
- ✦ **WG&SA with clear government leadership and Coordination** was hailed as very important- its continuation is necessary for CRRF to work fully. The role of UNHCR in supporting the government was underrated,
- ✦ **Collective engagement / Importance of NGOs/ civil society as equal partners than mere implementers** Important though to understand who needs to be at the table when? -; complementarity important
- ✦ **Inclusion principle must remain high on the agenda;** moving the debate from national to the affected persons and general public-may require mapping of all relevant stakeholders and how/ when to be involved.
- ✦ **Need for increased awareness** of CRRF and role of different actors-this came out clearly during the workshop
- ✦ **Greater involvement and clear role of the private sector**-key questions to ask, should their involvement be purely philanthropic or is there room to conduct business, and if yes, how can this be done? Should we provide risk incentives, tax rebates? What about ensuring laws and policies to protect / cushion them?
- ✦ **Long-term financing;** Bringing in development actors to ensure long term funding; new donors.
- ✦ **Roll out / implementation:** should happen as soon as possible-sometimes a lot of effort is put on developing documents/ frameworks and the work ends there or takes so long to implement- losing momentum
- ✦ **Risks;** Important to recognize and address risks at every stage- more or less taking stock and learning as the process is on-going.
- ✦ **Accountability** to refugees and host communities- put in measures for collecting views and feedback; results monitoring and learning
- ✦ **Anchor CRRF in national laws and plans-Advocating for legal solutions and/or legal policy reforms** with regard to refugees inclusion in development including social and economic integration; for instance, RCK working with Task Force on review of Refugee law in Kenya and development of Refugee Policy- the CRRF pillars will continue to guide this work.
- ✦ **Refugees continue to lack documents including access to work permits, critical to self- reliance and resilience building.** This must be addressed if the objectives of CRRF especially the one on increasing self- reliance is to be achieved. This must be supported by a robust legal policy framework, which should address rights issues such as freedom of movement- where relevant align existing policies to the CRRF frameworks

- ✚ **Funding gaps and minimal donor engagement** despite the high government commitment
- ✚ **Limited capacity within government** and line ministries to cope with the scope of work
- ✚ **Strengthen host/ refugee community relations and promote peaceful co-existence**
- ✚ We need to see how to better involve/ consult local/ County government, refugees and host communities