

# **UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)**

## **Support to NEPAD**

**Period of Report: 2005 to 2006**

### **Support to the implementation of NEPAD**

A key element of UNHCR's support to NEPAD is in the form of chairing the Humanitarian Response and Post-Conflict Reconstruction Sub-Cluster, which is under the Governance, Peace and Security Cluster. This sub-cluster has two key responsibilities:

- Developing integrated projects to respond to humanitarian crises; and
- Promoting post-conflict recovery for countries in transition as well as those which have emerged from conflict situations.

This is a relatively new sub-cluster for which the first formal meeting was held in Addis Ababa on 30 March 2005. At this meeting it was agreed to prioritize support to the African Union (AU) through the development and dissemination of a Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework (PCRDF).

The PCRDF is an African Union project which evolved out of recognition by AU member states that the incidence of countries relapsing into conflict was high, and that one way to correct this was to devise sustainable post conflict recovery strategies. The AU's first meeting on this subject took the form of a brainstorming retreat of the organization's Peace and Security Council and other AU Member States in Durban, South Africa in September 2005. A proposed draft Framework on PCRDF in Africa was presented to the meeting by the AU Commission and a number of international organizations were invited to share their experiences and lessons learned from past/ongoing efforts in post-conflict recovery and development. The meeting endorsed the overall directions proposed by the draft Framework, including the proposed constitutive elements that such a Framework should embody – namely Security; Political Governance and Transition; Human Rights, Justice and Reconciliation; Humanitarian/Emergency Assistance; Reconstruction and Socio-Economic Development; and Gender. A meeting of international and African experts on PCRDF was convened at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa in February 2006 to review the proposed Framework. The draft Framework is now expected to undergo further revision, after which it will be reviewed by government experts of the AU Member States. It will then be presented to the AU decision making organs for endorsement later this year. Following the adoption of this Framework, the NEPAD sub-cluster will focus its efforts on dissemination and implementation of the provisions contained therein.

The sub-cluster also established a smaller and more agile Inter-Agency Technical Support Cell (IATSC) to serve as a core group of agencies to advance the sub-cluster's

agenda and its work plan. UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, ILO and IOM are members of the IATSC. Since March 2005, two working level meetings of the IATSC have been held to share information about each agency's activities relating to post-conflict reconstruction and development and to expedite implementation of the sub-cluster's work programme.

UNHCR has also initiated a project to compile preliminary analyses on post-conflict recovery and reconstruction in fourteen countries. These reports provide background information, analysis of causes of conflicts, past and on-going recovery and reconstruction activities and attempt to identify critical needs and gaps in past and on-going interventions. The first report, which pertained to Angola, was recently completed. Reports on Burundi, DRC, Sudan, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire are expected to be completed by mid-March. Subject to the availability of resources, preparation of next batch of countries will commence as soon as the current work is completed, which is anticipated to occur during the remainder of 2006. Primarily based on secondary information and desk study, these reports are expected to be used as background information for further/closer studies, consultation and development of concrete programmes and projects.

In terms of staffing, there are two UNHCR Officers dedicated to providing technical support to NEPAD. One is the NEPAD Programme Coordinator and the second is a Senior Technical Expert on Post-Conflict Recovery. These officers are based in the UNHCR Regional Liaison Office in Addis Ababa.

## **Funding**

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been a critical supporter of UNHCR's involvement with NEPAD. Since May 2004, JICA has seconded the above mentioned Senior Technical Expert on Post-Conflict Recovery to the UNHCR Regional Liaison Office (RLO) in Addis Ababa to support the NEPAD Sub-Cluster on Humanitarian Response and Post-Conflict Reconstruction. JICA funds have also been used to engage a local consulting firm, which is conducting the study of post-conflict recovery and reconstruction in the fourteen countries.

## **Challenges and constraints**

One of the main impediments in carrying out advocacy efforts and raising resources for NEPAD-related activities is the fact that the NEPAD vision has yet to be translated into concrete programmes which can lend themselves to planning and implementation of specific activities. There are also strong indications that views of even AU Member States differ on what NEPAD should and should not be. On this latter matter, there are plans to hold a discussion on NEPAD by member states later in 2006.

It is further worth noting the presence of dual structures at the level of member states themselves - the normal AU structures (PRC, Executive Council, Assembly of Heads of

State and Government) and the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee. These two structures run almost parallel in many cases.

At institutional level, there is still a need to clarify the relative role of the AU Commission in Addis Ababa and the NEPAD Secretariat in South Africa.