

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

## **Support to NEPAD**

**Period of Report: July 2007 to June 2008**

### **Collaboration with other UN agencies**

During the reporting period UNHCR played an active role in the strengthening of the Cluster on Peace and Security which was established following the 7<sup>th</sup> RCM in November 2006, activities of its three sub-clusters<sup>1</sup> including leadership of the Sub-Cluster on Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD). The Sub-Cluster on PCRD chaired by UNHCR reviewed progress in implementation of its work plan adopted in 2005 and charted a strategic direction for 2008 and 2009. Continued support for implementation of the African Union (AU) Policy on Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development, and Development of an AU humanitarian framework were two of the main priorities planned for 2008 and 2009.

Progress on implementation of the AU PCRD Policy during the reporting period included policy dissemination seminars for African Civil Society, a regional high-level workshop organized in cooperation with COMESA, development of draft Terms of Reference for the establishment of the AU Standing Multidimensional Committee on PCRD (AUSMC) – the intergovernmental body that will guide implementation of the PCRD Policy, preparation of draft guidelines on AU assessments in post conflict countries and an AU PCRD Fund. The AU Commission has also initiated close collaboration with the Peacebuilding Support Office of the UN with a view to expediting implementation of its PCRD Policy. A visit of the ASG for the UN Peacebuilding Support Office during the first quarter of 2008 is expected to strengthen the UN-AU cooperation on PCRD and peace building. The AU Commission requires further human resource support to boost its capacity for the implementation of its PCRD related initiatives.

### **Advocacy work in support of African Development**

UNHCR's advocacy in regard to Africa's development focused on three main areas:

- 1) Encouraging comprehensive and integrated post-conflict reconstruction and development that gives due attention to the needs of conflict affected communities and, facilitates the sustainable return and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced populations. UNHCR encourages the early engagement of development partners and multilateral financial institutions such as the African Development Bank and the World Bank in the recovery, reconstruction and development process.

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<sup>1</sup> The Cluster on Peace and Security has three sub-clusters: Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development, Justice Human Rights and Reconciliation and Peace and Security Architecture chaired by UNHCR, OHCHR and DPKO respectively.

- 2) Supporting the prevention of forced population displacement, strengthening the protection of displaced populations and opportunities for durable solutions for their problems. In this connection, UNHCR is working closely with other partners to support the AU's effort in the organization of its first ever special Summit on forced population displacement planned to take place in November 2008.
- 3) Promoting measures that enable refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to achieve self-reliance while in exile/displacement and help them better prepare for durable solutions. Such measures would include incorporation of the needs of refugees, returnees and IDPs in national development policies and programmes. UNHCR also encourages and supports effective implementation of AU, UN and other international treaties, decisions and declarations that aim to improve the situation of displaced populations as well as the development of new policies, strategies and programmes.

Advocacy activities during the reporting period included collaboration with the AU, Regional Economic Communities and other African and regional organizations. Such collaboration includes participation in AU summits and conferences, informal interactions with member states' representatives, support to AU organs, activities of the AU Technical Task Force on Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs, preparation and targeted distribution of concept papers, reports and proposals, as well as the compilation of four new post conflict country assessment reports (Uganda, Rwanda, Somalia and Chad) in addition to eight completed earlier.

### **Impact of UNHCR's support activities to NEPAD**

The advocacy and support activities of UNHCR and the Sub-Cluster it chairs (Sub-Cluster on Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development) have played a crucial role in advancing implementation of various programmes of the African Union including the dissemination implementation of the AU Policy on Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development, preparations for the first AU Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs, currently ongoing development of an AU convention on internal displacement as well as an AU Policy on Post-Primary Education for Refugees that was adopted during the 10<sup>th</sup> AU Summit in January 2008. The reporting period has also seen completion of the preparation of twelve post conflict country assessment reports - Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. A comprehensive Africa-wide report on post conflict recovery and reconstruction has been initiated at the beginning of 2008 and is expected to be completed during the first half of the year.

### **Financial and institutional support to AU**

UNHCR continued to make available the full time services of two staff members (One P-4 and one G-2 support staff) to the Division of Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons in the AU Commission's Department of Political Affairs. A package

of information systems equipment, including a network server, desktop and laptop computers, printers, photocopying and photographic equipment costing approximately US\$15,800 was also provided to support the work of the Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons Division in the AU Commission. In addition, UNHCR has extended the services of a consultant and one administrative support personnel to the above-mentioned division as part of its support to strengthen the capacity of the AU Commission in the preparation of the first AU Special on Summit on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs planned to take place in September 2008. Staff of the UNHCR Regional Liaison Office in Addis Ababa also routinely work with concerned departments of the AU Commission, including by providing support in the preparation of analytical reports, concept and conference papers, coordinating inputs, organizing consultations and field visits.