

REFUGEE AND PROTECTION AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS
IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

A. INTRODUCTION

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is not a development agency, nor does it have a mandate regarding international migration management. UNHCR's mandate is to provide international protection to refugees and find durable solutions to the problem of refugees, in accordance with its statute and international standards *inter alia* set out in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. The United Nations General Assembly gave UNHCR a formal mandate to prevent and reduce statelessness and UNHCR has also assumed responsibilities with regard to internall6 709.86 Tes (esp with

relevance of the Ten-point Plan for better management of refugee protection and international migration.

UNHCR initiated several follow-up activities at regional and global levels. One is a three-year project entitled “UNHCR’s Ten-Point Plan in Central America, Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Western Africa,” which received funding from the European Commission and has been implemented since 2008 and will end in 2010. The project consists of two interrelated components: the development of implementation strategies for the Ten-Point Plan in four different regions through regional stakeholder conferences, and further development and elaboration of the Ten-Point Plan as a tool through expert roundtables and a publication entitled *Best Practice Handbook*.

Two regional conferences have been convened thus far; the first one on refugee protection and international migration in the Gulf of Aden in Sana’a, Yemen, from 19 to 20 May 2008. The second, dealing with refugee protection and international migration with a special focus on reviewing protection dimensions respecting intra-regional movements in Western Africa, was held in Dakar, Senegal, from 13 to 14 November 2008. The third will address refugee protection and international migration in the Americas and will take place in Central America in mid-November 2009; while the fourth will be held in Asia. The aim of these conferences is to support pragmatic regional strategies which would respond comprehensively and in a protection-sensitive way to the challenges of mixed migration flows drawing from elements in the Ten-Point Plan.

UNHCR has also convened a series of expert roundtables. The first one was held in cooperation with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, titled “Controlling borders while ensuring protection,” held in Geneva from 20 to 21 November 2008, the second one co-organized with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) titled “Different people, different needs” focusing on cooperation mechanisms for identification and protection of persons with specific needs in a mixed migration context held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 6 to 8 July 2009. A third one will be held in cooperation with ILO and IOM on the return of non-refugees and alternative migration options at the end of November 2009; and a fourth will be convened in 2010 focusing on cooperation among key partners in relation to secondary movements.

The compilation of practical examples related to the Ten-Point Plan aims to complement these efforts. The provisional release of the *Best Practice Handbook* draws from over 100 examples and many tools from different regions that are relevant to the implementation of the Ten-Point Plan. The book will be finalized after comments and feedback are received from Governments and partner agencies.

D. COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

UNHCR engages in activities to promote good practice in development and migration. Working with the European Commission (EC), ILO, IOM, UNDP and UNFPA, the organization is active in the European Commission-United Nations Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI). The overall objective of this initiative is to support civil society organizations and local authorities seeking to contribute to linking migration and development. The Joint Initiative also aims to (a) set up and reinforce networks of actors working on migration and development, and (b) identify good practice in this field and share information on what actually works at the local and international levels among those who are active in this field with a view to feeding into policy-making on migration and development.

E. CONCLUSION