



Australian Government



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

Partnership Framework

Between

**Australian Agency for International Development and the
Department of Immigration and Citizenship on behalf of the
Commonwealth of Australia**

**(hereafter known as
“the Australian Government”)**

AND

**The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
(hereafter referred to as “UNHCR”)**

2013-2016

Agreement Number 64576

I. PURPOSE OF FRAMEWORK

1. The Australian Government is strongly committed to supporting the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in its mandate to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and find durable solutions for refugee situations worldwide.
2. The purpose of this Partnership Framework is to describe and confirm a strengthened relationship between the Australian Government and UNHCR with regard to UNHCR programmes financed by the Australian Government through voluntary contributions of core and non-core funding to UNHCR.
3. This Partnership Framework assists both parties to build on and strengthen the existing relationship between the Australian Government and UNHCR, and to collaborate on shared priorities to achieve humanitarian outcomes and strengthen the international protection system including through finding durable solutions for refugees.

II. PARTIES TO THE FRAMEWORK

4. The Parties to the Partnership Framework are defined as “The Australian Government” - as represented by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) - and “UNHCR”.

III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

5. In entering into this Partnership Framework, the parties mutually acknowledge their commitment to:
 - a. The protection and assistance of refugees in accordance with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.
 - b. The protection and assistance of stateless persons, in accordance with the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
 - c. The protection and assistance of internally displaced people in accordance with *The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*.
 - d. Working in partnership, along with international partners, including countries of first asylum, to explore comprehensive and coordinated responses to refugee situations that take into consideration all durable solutions.
 - e. The pursuit of humanitarian reforms to improve the effectiveness and predictability of humanitarian response, including under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Transformative Agenda and the role of UNHCR as the designated global lead agency for the Protection Cluster, including protection, assistance and durable solutions and co-lead for the Emergency Shelter, and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Clusters in conflict-related internal displacement settings, and the additional cluster roles UNHCR undertakes for internally displaced people.

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- f. The delivery of humanitarian action in accordance with international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law.
 - g. The implementation of programs and policies in accordance with the United Nations' *Delivering as One* principles, including national ownership, coordinated assessments and implementation of coherent systems.
 - h. The need to ensure to the greatest possible extent, adequate participation and involvement of refugee and displaced populations in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian action, when monitoring and evaluating the overall outcomes to which the Parties have contributed.
 - i. The delivery of effective aid in line with the *Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship*.
 - j. Exploring new partnerships and enhancing existing partnerships with the non-government organisation sector with a view to utilising the expertise and reach of these organisations in accessing and providing humanitarian assistance.
 - k. An understanding that if the Parties deem it necessary to do so, the Parties may reach additional and specific arrangements on co-operation on issues of protection, assistance to refugees and other persons of concern, and durable solutions.
6. The Australian Government underscores the multi-faceted role of resettlement as a tool to address immediate and long term protection needs and as a tangible demonstration of responsibility sharing and solidarity with countries of first asylum.

IV. SHARED OBJECTIVES

7. The Parties agree to the following shared objectives:

Overarching Global Objectives

- a. Enhance the protection and assistance of persons of concern to UNHCR in accordance with UNHCR's Global Strategic Priorities.
- b. Seek durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced people, especially those in protracted refugee situations, including voluntary return, local integration and resettlement, as well as strategies to stabilise displaced populations.
- c. Encourage states to become signatories to the Refugees Convention and to establish resettlement programs.
- d. Engage closely with UNHCR's Resettlement Service in an effort to:
 - o position resettlement as a strategic protection tool in deliberations on international protection;
 - o maintain strategic oversight of resettlement policy and operations in the areas of planning, coordination and delivery;

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- focus on maintaining momentum in relation to progressing priority situations and protracted refugee situations;
 - within its mandate assist states in addressing issues that impact the viability and efficacy of the international system of protection;
 - work with emerging resettlement countries to encourage and support establishment of resettlement programs to bridge the gap between resettlement need and number of places.
- e. Continue strategic dialogue and advocacy on emerging and priority issues including: UNHCR's role in clusters coordination, effective partnerships and advancement of specific humanitarian reform objectives, including the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Transformative Agenda, broader UN reform efforts, transition, civilian-military interactions, and protection and assistance to internally displaced people inside its mandate.
- f. Advance gender equality and the empowerment of women within all UNHCR programs and policies, including UNHCR staffing, in line with the UN system-wide policy on gender equity. Australia will encourage full implementation of UNSCR 1325.
- g. Inclusion of refugees with disabilities and other persons with disabilities in line with the 2010 EXCOM 'Conclusion on refugees with disabilities and other persons with disabilities protected and assisted by UNHCR'.
- h. Support the inclusion of child protection policies in line with the UN System wide policy on child protection and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- i. Implement transparent processes and efficient management of funding, ensuring the mandated core functions of UNHCR are met.
- j. Capitalise on communication and public diplomacy to build on public support for the partnership.

Regional Objectives

In the Asia-Pacific region:

Through mechanisms such as the Core/Contact Groups, work pro-actively along with international partners to pursue a comprehensive solutions strategy.

- a. Support countries and regional bodies to develop coherent approaches and build capacity to manage the protection and assistance of displaced populations, including through enhanced legal protection and support for durable solutions.
- b. Encourage local integration and voluntary return opportunities as well as international efforts to provide durable solutions to refugees and displaced persons in the region.
- c. Support the operationalisation of the Regional Cooperation Framework to strengthen the management of irregular migration and the protection space, as agreed by the Ministers at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and

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Related Transnational Crime, including the establishment of a Regional Support Office.

- d. Participate actively in regional fora on asylum, protection and migration management issues, in particular the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime.

In the Middle East region:

- a. Support countries and regional bodies to develop coherent approaches to the protection and assistance of displaced populations, including through enhanced legal protection and support for durable solutions, including the implementation of the *Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to Support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries* jointly developed by UNHCR, Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, including through the Core/Contact Groups set up for Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan respectively.

Country Objectives

- a. Strengthen program activities in target countries, in particular in enhanced programming for gender-based violence prevention and response, child protection, and protection for persons with disabilities who are persons of concern to UNHCR.
- b. Encourage harmonisation of activities at the country level with other partners.
- c. Encourage cooperation between UNHCR and resettlement partners to ensure coordinated approaches to protracted refugee situations including targeted resettlement strategies.
- d. Support countries to implement initiatives under the Regional Cooperation Framework

These shared objectives will be achieved by:

- a. The Australian Government providing UNHCR with core and thematic financial contributions from AusAID.
- b. Additional funding for UNHCR country and regional programs on a case by case basis.
- c. The Australian Government may also provide project specific funding to UNHCR through DIAC's Displaced Persons Program, Settlement Programs and Capacity-Building Programs that will be subject to the terms and conditions of funding agreements to be negotiated separately to this Partnership Framework.
- d. An on-going undertaking by the Australian Government to strategic engagement with UNHCR through the Standing Committee meetings and UNHCR Executive Committee meetings and resettlement meetings including the Working Group on Resettlement, Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement and Core/Contact Group meetings.

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- e. Strengthened strategic dialogue between the Australian Government and UNHCR on current and emerging humanitarian priorities for the protection of refugees and internally displaced people through annual high level consultations with the Protection and Operational areas of UNHCR.
- f. Consultation with UNHCR regarding the planning levels and priority countries for consideration under the Australian Government's Humanitarian Program managed by DIAC.
- g. Renewed commitment to work with UNHCR and resettlement partners in relation to strategic approaches to current and emerging resettlement priorities including through the use of Core/Contact Groups to come up with practical strategies that address specific situations.
- h. The Australian Government's support for UNHCR's role in advocating for adequate, timely and flexible humanitarian financing; mainstreaming of UNHCR's role as cluster lead on protection, emergency shelter and camp coordination and camp management for internally displaced people and strengthening UN system-wide reform of staff security.

V. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND PAYMENTS

- 8. The Australian Government is committed to provide earmarked and unearmarked funding to UNHCR in support of its Annual Budget, guided by UNHCR's Global Strategic Priorities, as approved by UNHCR's Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme ("the Executive Committee") and highlighted in UNHCR's Global Appeal, and in support of supplementary Budgets and New or Additional Activities – mandate related such terms as defined in the Financial Rules for Voluntary Funds Administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees A/AC.96/503/Rev.10 (hereinafter referred to as "the UNHCR Financial Rules").
- 9. Additional earmarked funding as determined by the Australian Government from time to time and related to individual projects may also be provided.
- 10. The contributions of the Australian Government are all together hereinafter referred to as "the Contribution".

AusAID FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS

- 11. AusAID's funding to UNHCR's Annual Budget (as defined in UNHCR's Financial Rules) shall be comprised of "core funding" and "thematic funding", as described in paragraphs [12] to [14] below. The nature of AusAID's funding for UNHCR and payment instructions is described in paragraphs 12 to 19 below.

CORE FUNDING

- 12. AusAID is committed to the provision of core funding to its main partners within the UN System. Subject to relevant annual budgetary appropriations by

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the Australian Government, AusAID will endeavour to provide unearmarked contributions to UNHCR's Annual Budget for the period of 2013-16 as per the table below:

Year	2013 AU\$m	2014 AU\$m	2015 AU\$m	2016 AU\$m	Total AU\$m
Core	19	21	23	30	93

MULTI-YEAR THEMATIC FUNDS

13. Subject to relevant annual budgetary appropriations by the Australian Government, AusAID will endeavour to provide dedicated funding for UNHCR's work in the area of sexual and gender-based violence protection activities identified in UNHCR's 2011 Strategy '*Action Against Sexual and Gender Based Violence*', as per the table below:

Year	2013 AU\$m	2014 AU\$m	2015 AU\$m	2016 AU\$m	Total AU\$m
Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Activities	2	2	3	5	12

**Note this funding must be used to support sexual and gender-based violence activities identified in the above strategy.*

TOTAL FUNDS

14. AusAID will endeavour to provide UNHCR with total funding (up to), as per the table below:

Year	2013 AU\$m	2014 AU\$m	2015 AU\$m	2016 AU\$m	Total AU\$m
Core	19	21	23	30	93
Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Activities	2	2	3	5	12
Total AU\$m	21	23	26	35	105

15. AusAID will endeavour to provide all core funding and thematic funding in one annual payment in the first quarter of each calendar year, with any initial first payment disbursed in the first quarter of 2013.

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SIGNED in duplicate in GENEVA on the 21ST day of SEPTEMBER 2012



Senator the Hon Bob Carr
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Australian Government

High Commissioner Antonio Guterres

**For the Office of the United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

