

**Global Concessional Financing Facility:
Refugee Policy and Protection Reviews**

1. Objectives: As per the Technical Note approved by the SC in June 2021, and in accordance with Articles 9 and 47 of the GCFF Operations Manual which define the eligibility criteria for Benefiting Countries (BC) and the role of UNHCR in the GCFF Steering Committee, respectively, UNHCR will provide reviews of refugee frameworks and a forward-looking analysis of opportunities and risks, based on and aligned with the overall approaches of the IDA Refugee Protection Assessment (RPA) and the Refugee Policy Review Framework (RPRF). These reviews will be provided as advisory inputs to the GCFF Steering Committee to inform decisions related to the eligibility of newly added BCs, and to provide an analysis of policy opportunities and risks for both new and existing BCs.

2. Use cases: a refugee policy and protection review will be provided by UNHCR:

- a) initial review prior to a BC being confirmed as eligible to receive GCFF support (12 weeks notice)
- b) as requested by the GCFF Steering Committee with a predictable timeline (12 weeks notice). In order to regularly gauge progress and impact, updates for a specific BC may be requested by the SC once every two years, or on an ad hoc basis if concerns or questions arise about significant or material changes to a host country's refugee policy and protection environment since the last UNHCR review or update.

3. Scope: The scope of the reviews will be aligned with the issues and policy dimensions covered in the RPA and RPRF, notably:

- i. Four RPRF policy dimensions comprised of 17 sub-dimensions will be utilized as the basis for the UNHCR provided review (including cross-cutting sections on gender and social inclusion). For **countries being reviewed for the first time**, all policy dimensions and sub-dimension will be covered in order to provide a comprehensive review.¹
- ii. For **reviews serving as updates to an initial review**, this scope will be defined in relation to policy changes that have occurred highlighting impacts on refugee protection and access to socio economic development opportunities and viable solutions pathways.

4. Approach: The preparation of the baseline analysis will comprise a desk review by UNHCR based on data and information available to them regarding the country's policy environment and refugee protection framework, to be supplemented by consultations with relevant stakeholders, in line with UNHCR established approaches. This methodology will draw on the approaches utilized in the RPA and RPRF, adapted to the specific objectives and outputs of the GCFF review. The review will cover the following elements:

- **Brief overview of the refugee situation in the country** (including demographic data, map on refugee flows/diagram as identified)
- **Dimension 1:** Overview of the country policy framework related to host communities. This analysis requires specific input from relevant ministries, from ISAs, and other key actors. For BCs for which eligibility is assessed, this will focus on an analysis of the policy framework, in accordance with the scope defined above. For already eligible countries, any updates would complement the original review of policy framework, with focus on notable developments, i.e., changes since the previous review.
- **Dimensions 2 -3- 4:** Analysis of the current baseline, opportunities and risks across policy dimensions, articulated around two underlying questions:

¹ For the policy dimensions of the Refugee Policy Review Framework developed in the context of the IDA Window for Host Communities and Refugees, see: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/159851621920940734/pdf/Refugee-Policy-Review-Framework-Technical-Note.pdf>

- What are **enabling and hindering factors (in terms of policies and/or implementation)** for refugees to access their rights / socio-economic development opportunities / solutions pathways?
- What are potential **areas and priorities for support**?
- Confirmation of the adequacy of the refugee protection framework, and opportunities for the improvement of the policy framework, for the purposes of the GCFF, drawing on the methodology and criteria outlined in the RPA and RPRF.

Using the exact formulation below, while adjusting the text in brackets to the country context:

“UNHCR is satisfied that the account of the protection situation set out in this document reflects the current circumstances to the best of its knowledge. Whilst noting that the delivery of protection typically remains work in progress in many refugee situations, UNHCR is of the view that the relevant protection framework [is / is not] adequate in [country] for the purpose of the GCFF.”

5. Process: *[timeline: approximately 12 weeks]*

- Week 1: Reviews triggered by eligibility process for a potential BC or at the request of the GCFF Steering Committee with predictable timelines
- Week 2: GCFF CU facilitates meetings with representatives of potential BC and UNHCR to discuss process, timelines, and outputs of the review.
- Week: 3- 8: UNHCR team drafts reviews, consulting with relevant stakeholders as needed
- Week 9- 10: UNHCR team shares draft reviews with candidate or existing Benefitting Country for comments prior to finalization.
- Week 11- 12: Draft review is finalized and shared with the GCFF Steering Committee.

6. Output: The review will take the form of an 8-10-page (maximum) country review.

“7. Disclosure: Review reports will be presented as confidential, in line with article 43 of the GCFF Operations Manual. UNHCR, in consultation with the Steering Committee, may decide to make parts one and two public. In line with established polices, part three containing the adequacy determination will remain confidential.”

SUGGESTED TEMPLATE

PART 1: SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF REFUGEE SITUATION IN COUNTRY X (as per RFPRF Summary)

(Key data / refugee flow/ map)

- Background on each country: population; number of refugees and their disaggregation by age, gender, etc.
- countries of origin; location (geographical areas, camps versus non-camp dwellings, etc.);
- eligibility for the GCFF and corresponding operations.

PART 2: RPRF POLICY DIMENSIONS²

Assessment of dimensions guided by the two questions (as designated above):

- What are **enabling and hindering factors (in terms of policies and/or implementation)** for refugees to access their rights / socio-economic development opportunities / solutions pathways?
- What are the **key areas and priorities for support**?

1. Host Communities	1.1 Support for communities in refugee hosting areas 1.2 Social Cohesion 1.3 Environmental Management 1.4 Preparedness for refugee inflows
2. Regulatory Environment & Governance	2.1 Normative framework 2.2 Security of legal status 2.3 Institutional framework for refugee management & coordination 2.4 Access to civil registration & documentation 2.5 Justice & Security
3. Economic Opportunities	3.1 Freedom of movement 3.2 Rights to work and rights at work 3.3 Land, housing & property rights 3.4 Financial & administrative services
4. Access to National Public Services	4.1 Education 4.2 Healthcare 4.3 Social protection 4.4 Protection for vulnerable groups
5. Cross-sectors	5.1 Gender 5.2 Social Inclusion

ANNEX: PART 3: CONSIDERATIONS ON THE ADEQUACY OF THE REFUGEE PROTECTION FRAMEWORK (same methodology approach as RPA)

In order to inform the adequacy decision, UNHCR typically answers the following questions:

- (i) Is the country party to international or regional instruments without reservations, and/or has it adopted national laws, policies, practices that are broadly consistent with international refugee protection standards?
- (ii) Are there systematic and systemic violations of international refugee protection standards – for example, systematic and systemic denial of access to asylum, largescale refoulement, or systematic and systemic denial of access to basic services (whether they be provided by the government or humanitarian partners)?
- (iii) Recognizing that refugee hosting environments are often imperfect, is there a willingness within government to address shortcomings in policies/practices, including through any kind of institutional arrangements?

Using the exact formulation below, while adjusting the text in brackets to the country context:

“UNHCR is satisfied that the account of the protection situation set out in this document reflects the current circumstances to the best of its knowledge. Whilst noting that the delivery of protection typically remains work in progress in many refugee situations, UNHCR is of the view that the relevant protection framework [is / is not] adequate in [country] for the purpose of the GCFF.”