

GLOBAL CONCESSIONAL FINANCING FACILITY

Strengthening Dialogue on Refugee Policy and Protection Priorities

Technical Note

Endorsed by the GCFF Steering Committee on March 28, 2024.

The process and accompanying provisions outlined in this Technical Note are intended to facilitate informed dialogue within the Steering Committee on refugee-related policy and protection priorities in GCFF supported Regions and Benefiting Countries and to effective calibration of GCFF support. This Technical Note was endorsed by the GCFF Steering Committee as an addendum to the Operations Manual on March 28, 2024.

Background

The GCFF Steering Committee (SC) agreed in July 2023 on the need for constructive and principled dialogue and engagement with GCFF Benefiting Countries (BCs) in the context of significant and/or emerging refugee policy and protection developments. As per the Refugee Policy and Protection Review (RPPR) Framework¹ approved by the SC in June 2021, and in accordance with Articles 9 and 47 of the GCFF Operations Manual, the GCFF SC approved a process for the review of refugee policy and protection priorities in all BCs every two years on an alternating regional basis.

Objectives

The objective of the proposed process is to facilitate a regular review of opportunities, challenges, and priorities related to support for refugees in GCFF BCs, and to facilitate dialogue and decisions by the SC on the future of GCFF engagement and support. The expected outcomes of this process would include decisions on ensuring that GCFF engagement and support is effectively calibrated, including through adequate financing through appropriate funding modalities (concessional support, private sector operations and exceptional grant allocations) and the dialogue and coordination provided through the Facility.

Periodic Regional Reviews

A review of all regions and corresponding BCs will be conducted every two years on an alternating regional basis. The Regional Review(s) will be informed by the preparation of country RPPRs by UNHCR,² as well as a process of in-country dialogue and consultation between the BC and country level GCFF stakeholders where possible. The scheduling of these Reviews will be coordinated by the GCFF Coordination Unit (CU) in collaboration with

¹ [Technical Note: GCFF Refugee Policy and Protection Review Framework](#), December 16, 2021.

² The GCFF in June 2021 endorsed a framework for conducting RPPRs to guide eligibility to the GCFF but also to provide a forward-looking analysis of policy opportunities and challenges for both new and existing BCs.

UNHCR and presented to the SC for approval.³ On an exceptional basis, where there have been notable developments in the refugee policy and protection environment in a given BC and based on a consensus decision of the SC and the agreement of the UNHCR, an out of cycle country RPPR and review may be undertaken. Out of cycle RPPRs and country reviews will follow the same procedure as the regularly scheduled Periodic Regional Reviews.

UNHCR will be requested to prepare RPPRs for those countries included in the regional review plan in accordance with the process and timeframe of 12-16 weeks as provided for in the RPPR Technical Note. All necessary information and data will be drawn from the UNHCR-led process to serve as a basis for an informed and structured dialogue within the SC. The RPPR may also be discussed at the country level in the context of the Country Coordination Committees (CCC) which may also provide advisory input to the discussion in the SC. Similarly, the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), as a platform to support the decision-making responsibilities GCFE SC, may also discuss the RPPR and provide advisory input(s) to the deliberations of the SC.⁴

The Regional Review(s) will be convened by the SC Co-Chairs and could in principle be organized during the in-person meeting of the SC held once a year, as part of regularly scheduled SC meetings or as a separate meeting of the SC. The Co-Chairs may invite observers and additional GCFE stakeholders at their discretion. The Regional Review(s) will discuss current developments in the BCs and take decisions on how GCFE engagement and support can be most effectively calibrated going forward. Decision-making on future GCFE engagement and support will follow the arrangements outlined in the Operations Manual (paragraphs 50 and 52).

Overview of the RPPR preparation process

- *Week 1:* Regional RPPRs reviews requested by the GCFE Steering Committee commence with established timelines for completion.
- *Week 2:* UNHCR and BCs discuss and decide process, timelines, and outputs of the reviews. (GCFE CU to facilitate if required).
- *Week: 3- 8/10:* UNHCR team drafts review reports, consulting with relevant stakeholders and discussions with the Country Coordination Committees as needed.
- *Week 10- 11/14:* UNHCR team shares draft review reports with Benefiting Country for comments prior to finalization.
- *Week 15- 16:* Final reports are circulated to the Steering Committee by the Coordination Unit.

³UNHCR Refugee Policy and Protection Reviews (RPPR) was institutionalized by the GCFE Steering Committee in June 2021. For more details, please see GCFE Technical Note: [Refugee Policy and Protection Review Framework](#)

⁴ The Steering Committee on July 26, 2023, endorsed the establishment of the Country Coordination Committees (CCCs) and Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to enhance GCFE governance.

RPPR final reports will be presented to the GCFE TAG for a technical discussion⁵ and then forwarded to the GCFE SC for deliberations. The reports will be tabled as an input note for the Regional Review Meetings.

Expected Outcomes

- In-depth understanding of refugee related policy opportunities, challenges and priorities, and analysis of regional and country dynamics/trends.
- Consensus among all SC members on the calibration of future GCFE engagement and support in the Region/BC under consideration.

Calibration of GCFE support as an outcome of Regional Reviews (possible areas of focus):

- Definition of priorities for dialogue with BCs within the GCFE framework on specific policy and protection priorities identified in the RPPR.
- Identification of country priorities defined through dialogue against which to align / prioritize future GCFE financial support (including through the preparation of BC project pipelines in the GCFE Funding Plan).
- Consideration of which GCFE financing modalities (concessional financing, private sector, exception grants) and MDB financing instruments (policy, investment operations) are best suited to address priorities in BCs.
- Discussion and review of GCFE funding targets for specific BCs, including decisions on whether to scale up or scale down financing against recent country developments, priorities and needs.

⁵ The TAG may provide additional technical input to the SC. However, such input will not be incorporated into the UNHCR report and will be shared with the SC separate from the report.