



International
Labour
Office

Exploring public options for social health protection of refugees



UNHCR

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

ILO and UNHCR: a partnership formed in 2014

Improve access to social protection for refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR

- Jointly advocate for the promotion of the right of refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR to access social health protection as a key element of the decent work agenda
- Analyse national policies and social health protection systems to identify obstacles and opportunities
- Formulate, implement and follow up strategies aiming at the inclusion of refugees
- Document, share and disseminate good practices and lessons learned

1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable



3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

A multitude of obstacles

UNHCR assistance

- More than 70 million people have been displaced by force or affected by long-term crises
- Budgets are irregular and insufficient to support long-term health coverage
- Growing need for a gradual transition from humanitarian aid towards socioeconomic integration
- Turnover of partner NGOs is sometimes significant



Transition

Inclusion in social health protection systems

- Social health protection systems differ from country to country
- Shortcomings in technical capacities among mutual and community movements initially identified
- Administrative barriers to access social protection systems
- Fear among refugees regarding transition from assistance

A variety of situations

National systems not yet implemented

Substantive work must be done to support decision-making the creation of a national system

Community mechanisms could be considered as transition measures

Some countries have no option - direct assistance

National systems under construction

Advocate for refugees to be taken into account from the system design phase onwards

Prepare for the inclusion of refugees

National systems currently in operation and open to all population groups

Remind countries of their international commitments

Consider technical and financial arrangements

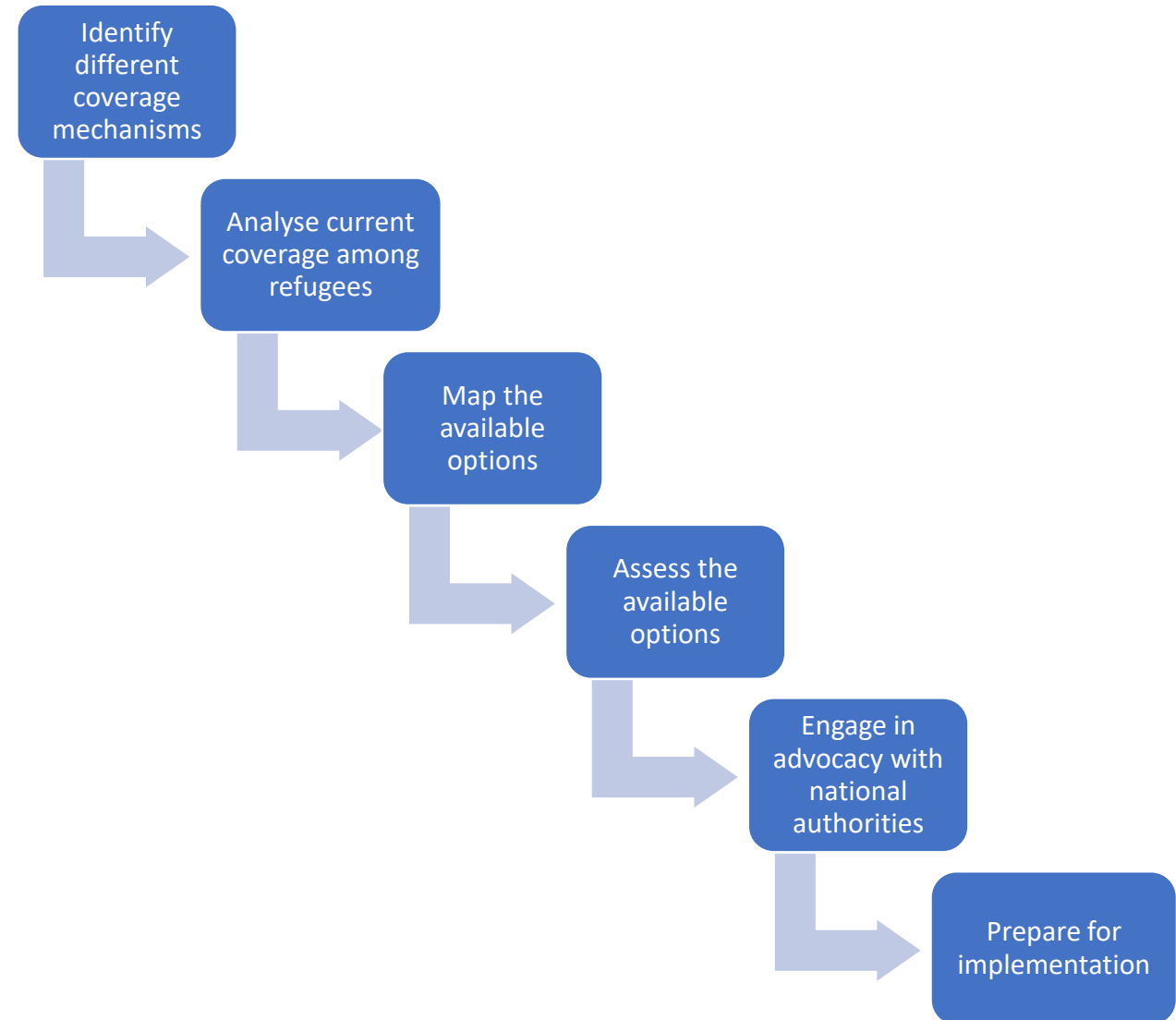
Key lessons

Formulate strategies in accordance with the maturity of national social protection systems

Bring together strategies concerning access to livelihoods and access to social protection

- Link to programmes aiming at the empowerment and economic integration of refugees
- Combine contributory and non-contributory mechanisms

Stages of the development of an integration strategy



Adapt UNHCR strategy to transition from assistance to integration into sustainable national solutions

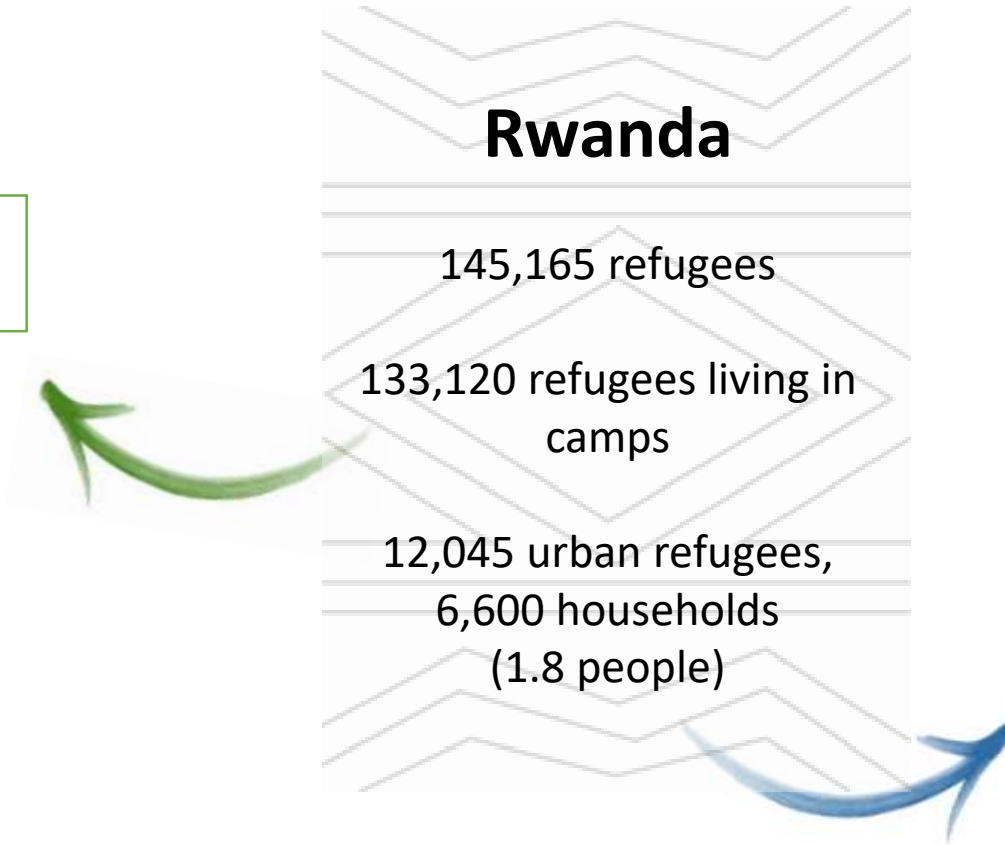
- Strengthen capacities
- Partnership with the ILO

Overcome administrative barriers by engaging in advocacy and reminding countries of their international commitments

- Equality of Treatment (Social Security) Convention, 1962 (No. 118)
- Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 (No. 205)
- Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202)

A promising example of integration

UNHCR
support



National Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI)

People working in the informal sector and agricultural sector

Membership:

- households
 - Compulsory family membership
 - Contribution: RWF 7,000, 3,000 or 0/year/person according to Ubudehe category
- specific groups
 - Contribution: RWF 7,000/year/person

Coverage for agreed public and private health facilities

- Primary: lump-sum co-payment (220 RWF)
- Secondary and tertiary: percentage co-payment (10%)

A promising example of integration

2017-18: preparatory phase

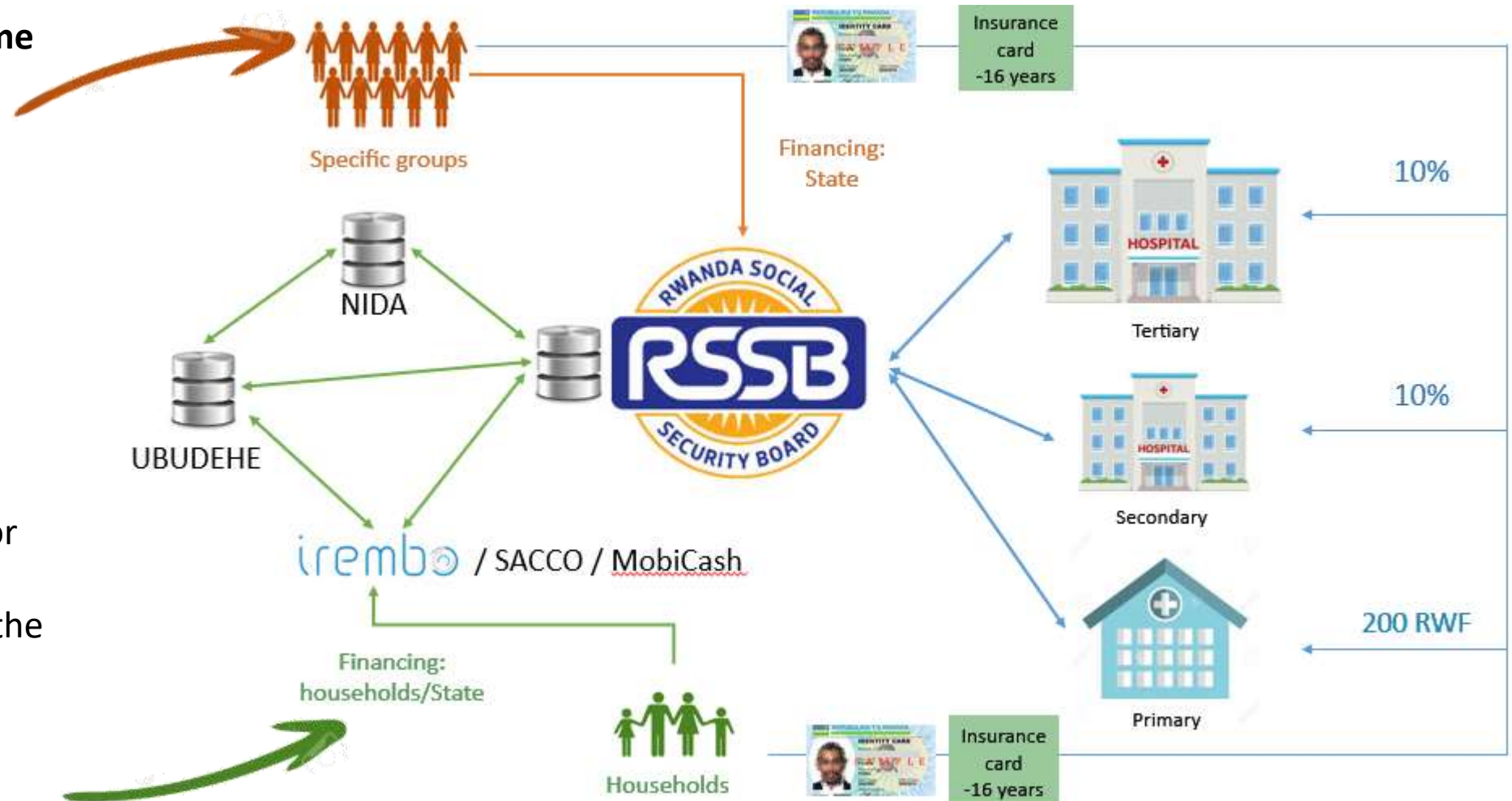
- Government decision in principle
- ILO-UNHCR joint feasibility study

2019-2020: pilot programme

- More than 6,200 individuals enrolled
- Target: 12,000 urban refugees
- Contribution paid by UNHCR (RWF 7,000/person/month)

Future years

- Create a specific categorization system for refugees
- Integrate refugees into the household contribution system
- UNHCR assistance to vulnerable individuals



Thank you

