The UN Secretary General highlighted today that refugees continue to face serious threats to their health, livelihoods and rights.

Countries like Yemen are severely affected; Venezuelans are particularly at risk; and there are confirmed cases among refugees in places like Bangladesh.

More than ever then, strong partnerships are needed and NGOs wish, again, to commend UNHCR for fostering an open and regular dialogue, allowing to address crucial parameters of our cooperation.

This, however, needs to go hand in hand with adequate resources made available at the right time and where they are most needed – on the ground. We therefore highlight the following:

1. Most NGOs still face major funding challenges and indicate having received little additional funding from UNHCR so far. A transparent and accountable process should be put in place to clarify how much of GHRP funding reaches partners. Could UNHCR also indicate how much it is planning to allocate to NGOs, including National NGOs?

2. NGOs are also concerned by the results of recent pledging conferences: Despite the impact of COVID-19, pledges at yesterday’s Yemen conference fell far short of what is needed, while a large part of funds pledged at the Venezuela conference were loans rather than grants.

Funding will be crucial to launching additional COVID interventions. As mentioned in a recent UNHCR paper on the Global Compact, it is also vital to keep regular programming on track. NGOs welcome the three key principles prioritized in this paper (responsibility-sharing, protection, and inclusion) and hope to see Durable Solutions included in an updated version.

We reaffirm the importance of working on solutions, also keeping regular programming on track in this area and maintaining stakeholder engagement. In particular, all efforts must be made to ensure resettlement and complementary pathways resume normal processing as soon as possible.

Finally, we reiterate protection concerns linked to border closures, suspended asylum procedures and GBV risks.

A detailed version of this statement is available on icvanetwork.org

Thank you.