



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED
AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Forced Displacement Working Group Meeting Notes – 08.03.16.

NGOs/UN Agencies Present

APRRN

ICMC

IDC

IRC

CWS

DRC

JRS

LWF

NRC

Oxfam

Save the Children

WV

LWF

UNHCR joined at the end

Inspector General Claire Bourgeois

Tiziana Clerico

Topic A: Preparations for the SG's 19 September High Level Summit on Large Scale Movements of Refugees and Migrants

a. March 30 Pledging Conference:

- Envisioned drafting schedule for the joint NGO statement:
 - By 11 March: Review and feedback
 - 16 March: 2nd draft will be shared
 - By 23 March: Second round of review and feedback
 - 25 March: Final version ready
- In parallel, briefing paper is being developed in MENA region on resettlement
- Side-event during SCOM 15 March related to the 30 March: one ICVA's member will be part of the panel in order to show NGO's role in providing alternative pathways. Could be the opportunity to raise concern on targets => Volunteers to come forward (DRC has kindly agreed to volunteer).
- 2 chances to meet Karen AbuZayd prior to 30 March:
 - o Friday 11 March in NY (details in Melissa's email on 07.03)
 - o Meeting on 29 March, 16:00 at ICVA's office

b. 19 September: (briefing by John K. Bingham (ICMC))

Two events at the General Assembly:

- One on refugees:
 - o Hosted by Obama
 - o On strengthening the international response to the refugee crisis (increased funding, increase livelihoods, increase resettlement and other admissions, inclusion and self-reliance)
- One on refugees and migrants = HL plenary meeting “addressing large movements of refugees and migrants”
 - o A result of 4 Feb London, 30 March, WHS and leads into the General Assembly meeting
 - o HL = heads of states or governments
 - o Actors: Karen AvuZayd, special advisor ; Ireland & Jordan = co-facilitators gvt process
 - o Not clear on what will be the outcome: a negotiated outcome? A summary of the chair to put ideas and steps forwards for governments to take?
 - o CSO’s involvement: Unclear at the moment – involvement a few months before or during the event itself is authorized but has not happened yet
 - ⇒ ICMC + 30NGOs sent a letter to ask place and format for CSO to be involved & offering to organize
 - ⇒ Ben (IDC): Need of space for us to put together some actionable, deliverable, frame the conversation and see how we can build upon.

Brief report from Coordination Meeting on International Migration 25-26 Feb: UN DESA meeting, in which 19 Sept was mentioned a lot:

- Karen AbuZeid made direct reference to the report for the Sept 19
- Report: 20pages max - see E. Ferris power point ; will go to the translator in April ; Welcoming written input (consulting everyone)
- CSO consultations with AbuZayd:
 - ⇒ 25-26 Feb: ICMC and ICVA + a lot of CSO on migrants issue
 - ⇒ 11 March (NY)
 - ⇒ 29 March (Geneva) – mostly refugee protection

Substance and politics of 19 September:

- o Peter Sutherland: the driving force
 - ⇒ Time to keep up and go forward from the collective failure ; time to reinforce 51 Convention with more resettlement plus broaden to other additional pathways + protection of other vulnerable migrants ; ties a lot to the SDGs (especially 10.7) ; talked about a Global Compact = not Convention but “mini-multilateralism works sometimes” ; the event = a stepping stone ; **nothing will go forward without CSO pushing in capitals**
- o Dep SG Eliasson + Karin AbuZayd
 - ⇒ Both also emphasized inclusion of migrants + central relevance of SDGs ; SG expected to refer to a “global convergence of approaches” (refugees + migrants both contribute to development ; need more states collaboration + responsibility sharing)

Overall:

- No definition of “Large movements of refugees and migrants”
- Refugees + migrants? Large movements? Connection/disconnection to “Obama” event?
- “Obvious” inputs: Nansen? MICIC? MIGOV? SDGs? OHCHR on border, transit? GMG: 4 prep events (3 by IOM, 1 by UNHCR)
- Everyone said: it’s important for gvt, agencies and CSO to realize we can’t say everything
- Civil society: need to include “both communities” (refugee protection + migrant rights). Way forward: ICMC letters to UNGA ; also with ICVA?

[If you wish to go further, here are some video clips and text from the “Coordination meeting on International Migration” that UNDESA organized at the UN in New York 25-26 February:

- <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/other-meetingevents/watch/1st-meeting-14th-coordination-meeting-on-international-migration/4774200104001>
 - UN SRSG Peter Sutherland: at 9:16 –27.02
[His written text:http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/coordination/14/documents/presentations/Peter_Sutherland_14CM.pdf]
 - UNSG Special Advisor for 19 September Karen AbuZayd: at 27.57 - 36.19
- <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/other-meetingevents/watch/3rd-meeting-14th-coordination-meeting-on-international-migration/4776035460001>
 - UN Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson: 1:25.50 - 1:40.21
 - Georgetown University professor Elizabeth Ferris (of the UNSG report drafting team): 1:50.21 - 1:58.08 [her 6 power point slides about the USSG report: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/coordination/14/documents/presentations/Elizabeth_Ferris_14CM.pdf]
 - IOM Director of International Cooperation and Partnerships Jill Helke: 2:07.45-2:15.36]

Reactions:

- JRS: Refugees to be used as an indicator for the success of the SDGs (education, equality and justice, ..) => several SDGs could be used as pathways
- CWS:
 - 2015 HC’s dialogue work could be a good way to think of how gathering CSO’ thoughts
 - Would be useful to share the mentioned documents

Ways forward:

- Time for NGOs on migrant- and refugee-issue to organize among themselves:
 - Messaging?
 - Formal interactive hearings and speakers?
- Working with 33 NGOs working on the migrants side & ICVA has a network of NGOs doing refugees-related work
 - ⇒ **A Core group will be created: Anyone willing to join should come forward**
 - ⇒ Something will be organized in July in NY ahead of 19 September.

Topic B: Update on discussions with UNHCR on procurement (Briefing by NRC's Therese Pankratov and Oxfam's Vafa Taghavi)

UNHCR having a consultative process with NGOs on the PQP process

Follow-up call: Oxfam, DRC, HI, Save the Children, IRC, NRC & ICVA

Updates from UNHCR on Progress to Date:

- 129 applications received ; expecting 100 more NGOs are expected to be in need of a PQP and are awaiting for applications.
- Guidance will be revised but the policy will remain the same. Revision of the guidance over the summer ; NGOs will be invited to provide feedback to the draft.
 - ⇒ Current UNHCR cut off point is too low and hampering some UNHCR offices. (The current threshold for UNHCR is 10.000 USD in the field and 30.000 at HQ level). The threshold will be raised, but at what level is a key international discussion for UNHCR.
- UNHCR looking at the possibilities of a unified UN approach to the PQP process (a PQP form one UN organization could be accepted by another). UNHCR has already approached UNICEF and WFP on this issue and will follow up with them in April during a global procurement meeting.

Next steps and timeline:

- Draft guidance note – will be available by end June and shared with NGOs for their feedback. A follow up meeting will be held at that stage.
- Further input on partner experience and challenges with other UN agencies will be useful. UNHCR will conduct a survey on this amongst NGOs.
- Grace period is valid for all 2016 projects. The October deadline has been set for the negotiations for 2017 projects for which a PQP will be a requirement
- UNHCR urge NGOs that have not yet applied for a PQP to apply.

Topic C: Discussion on the investigation specialists roster (UNHCR's new Inspector General Claire Bourgeois with DRC)

UNHCR's Inspector Claire Bourgeois:

- Looking for NGOs' views on the roster and other possibilities to respond to the needs of the possibility of fraud or sexual exploitation or abuse: Do we need a new system? The same?
- The roster:
 - 2 objectives:
 - Help NGOs to have some allegation of fraud and sexual exploitation and abuse
 - Continue to raise awareness about our accountability to the people and not to the donors
 - Question of investigation & the need of expertise: DRC accepted to host the roster
 - ⇒ DRC looking for a pool of investigators, will screen them in order to be part of the roster in the future
 - If NGOs cannot support the cost of the investigation, UNHCR can back up
 - So far, demand = very low (14 requests: 6 UNHCR, 8 NGOs)
 - Existing structure in NGOs?

- Lack of awareness?
- Question of responsibility & independence of the roster: If UNHCR does pre-selection of investigators, UNHCR taking some responsibility and roster losing some independence => important that the responsibility remains to the NGOs
- Other initiatives:
 - CHS Alliance: Paper on investigation
 - IASC: other initiatives?
- ⇒ If need of a new system, it should integrate already existing initiatives

DRC:

- Initiative born in 2012 – part of implementing the new PPA => originally coming out of the NGOs and the Inspector General
- Needs might have changed since – big discussion around accountability
- Roster: Link NGOs with an external investigator that has been pre-screened and selected by UNHCR and DRC
- Andrew: under strict confidentiality on NGO name, cases, etc.

WV:

- Question of the trust and success: Would be good to share anonymized lessons learned with colleagues => would help to build trust on the roster system.
- CHS Alliance – in consultation with them (trained auditors for verification of CHS standards? Should have good lessons learned)

LWF:

- Sharing good lessons-learned would be great
- Worked on the project 4y ago: Most of NGOs do not have the capacity to have their own investigations – especially for N/LNGOs
 - ⇒ Surprising to have such a small demand
 - ⇒ Explain the importance to keep raising awareness, nowadays, it is completely under reported.

JRS:

- Surprised with the 7%

ICVA:

- 14 requests is already good: it takes time for people to understand what are the implications of these new changes of the partnership framework. Roster takes into consideration this need for NGOs to get support to use the new tool
- In earlier discussion, NGOs wondered who would pay for the investigator.
- Question of neutrality / need to be better defined
 - Implications: what are other UN agencies doing related to fraud? => want to understand the different processes related to fraud / want make sure an NGO is not going to be black listed because it had one fraud issue.

UNHCR's reply:

- ⇒ Want to promote the transparency within and out UNHCR: Important to take actions,

adjust rules and regulations to make sure it doesn't happen again? Need to take appropriate measures according to what has been discovered

- ⇒ Ensure that NGO's work is very much for humanitarian work
- ⇒ To be black listed, it should be a major fraud to be black listed

WV:

- When looking at other existing initiatives, should look at Mango that offers finance consultants

ICVA:

- We should keep what we have now for the next year or two, increase awareness around what already exists and things of change in a later stage.
- UNHCR used to have a guide that explains who to reach out according to which problems you have => should work on having a similar document again.

LWF:

- Would be useful to go back to the NGOs that were involved 2-3 years ago and have a kind of 2nd stage training to build on NNGOs' capacity

Follow-up steps:

- UNHCR + DRC would very much appreciate to have space to discuss it
 - ⇒ UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations?
 - ⇒ ICVA's Annual Conference?
- Survey to have inputs from NGOs from everywhere – awareness + identifying needs/inputs