Forced Migration Working Group

Online
29 April (11:00-12:30)


Agenda:
1. Global Refugee Forum follow-up
2. Discussion on the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement
3. AoB

1. Global Refugee Forum follow-up
   • Update and collective exchange on the recent meetings held by UNHCR:

Energy & Infrastructure
   • The energy infrastructure group was one of the co-sponsorship groups that have prepared pledges for the GRF and resulted in the announcement of the Clean Energy Challenge.
   • The Challenge has been under the leadership of Norway and France.
   • The Challenge looks at 1) refugees have access to clean energy by 2030, a reinforcement of the SDGs through a variety of measures, infrastructures, funding measures. 2) policy-level to push for more carbon neutrality and make sure we support the emission reduction. This part is in the interest of Act Alliance and why we have signed on the Challenge.
   • Concerns about the way pledges were shaped around reducing the carbon footprint in humanitarian operations and wish to push more than that.
   • The Action Group had its first meeting on February 5. On 9 April it was the second one and there should be a meeting every two months.
   • New team at UNHCR, with a more UNHCR centric approach.
   • ToRs of the Action Group are available.
   • A Steering Committee of the Action Group will look at moving forward.
   • Seems bilateral conversations happening between UNHCR-Member States, UNHCR-private sector.
   • Most of the discussion was focused on what the Group can do, which initiatives can be supported. There were a lot of discussions on how we roll-out infrastructures’ projects. Idea to first define the parameters of which initiatives we want to support and looking for funding to make it happen. We should also pursue opportunities for funding that are there and make it fit within our concepts.
   • UNHCR is working with the Global Plan of Action (GPA) on access to energy within the SDGs, Energy for all. Unclear on how other stakeholders may contribute to the work and it is very data focused.
   • Seems very focused on getting the private sector on board, finding investors for this but no discussion for examples on standards to apply and how we make sure there is a human rights-based approach, and how to lead project including refugee participation.
**Jobs & Livelihoods (ICVA)**

- On 16 April there was the first meeting of the year, with a summary presentation of pledges and outcomes on Jobs & Livelihoods. About 130 pledges under the topic, mostly on job creations and legal changes fostering economic inclusion. The presentation was focused on factual data, on the number of pledges made, pledges entity, pledges by receiving regions.
- Beyond factual data there was a bit of analysis with a presentation of the need for matching pledges, e.g. with four stakeholders that notably need financial support, among the four entities there were one for a State, one for the Poverty Alleviation Coalition.
- Then a joint pledge was presented (ILO, Denmark, UNHCR, UNICEF) to improve sustainable living conditions for refugees and host countries in 8 countries in MENA and in Africa.
- Finally, there were few comments on the future of the co-sponsorship group: it will continue and UNHCR still has a primary coordinating role. Next meeting will be in May but there was no discussion on the frequency of the future meetings and on the composition of this group.
- It was a briefing rather than a meeting due to time constraints/management.
- Interestingly, UNHCR will contact some partners to arrange presentations in future meetings on the progress of their pledges. So this group could be a way to follow-up on some pledges. Unclear which and how pledges will be selected by UNHCR but there may be opportunities for NGOs to push UNHCR to focus on some pledges or ask for support if needed.
- On pledges follow-up, one information that UNHCR reiterated, and it is not only on Jobs & Livelihoods, is that it should begin at the country level.
- So, NGOs can contact UNHCR individually at country level to look for information on specific pledges. Also in case NGOs want to have a role in mobilizing or matching on a specific area or geographical area.
- COVID-19 was briefly tackled with some remarks that it will have implications and may foster adapted approaches in some pledges.
- UNHCR will be producing a short summary of the COVID-19 impact on refugees and displaced population, using relevant data from the World Bank.

- ICVA will send asap an update to our GCR/GRF mailing list with a number of documents, notes, and PPT to share.

**Self-reliance Initiative**

- Self-reliance Index is a new tool to measure refugee progress toward self-reliance. It will be launched next month by the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI).
- RSRI is a coalition of 25 NGOs, States, UNHCR, Academics, and others with the goal to promote self-reliance for refugees with a particular focus on 1) improving self-reliance programming 2) improving the methods of measuring self-reliance 3) advocating with refugees. They should have the rights and the freedom they need to achieve self-reliance.
- The Index is a short holistic assessment tool that scores refugee assets and vulnerabilities across twelve different domains, housing, food, education, health care, health status, safety, employment, financial resources, assistance, debt, saving, and social capital. These twelve domains are aggregated into a collective self-reliance score and completed with a user guide. Materials are available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Swahili.
- Developed through a three-year multi-stakeholder process involving various stakeholders.
- It is tested by partners in a variety of contexts, including in Kenya by IRC and RefugePoint, in Jordan by DRC and Mercy Corps, in Mexico by Asylum Access, in Ecuador by HIAS.
- Women’s Refugee Commission and RefugePoint have been the co-leaders of the project.
- It has been validated by academics.

*Notes for ICVA Members only – not to be circulated to other parties*
• It can be a snapshot of household current situation. It can be used to score a family progress towards self-reliance overtime.
• It can be used to give a sense of which components of programmes are working well and which are critical and less critical.
• RefugePoint recently tweaked its food programmes with the Index.
• Hope that the tool can be used as a global comparative analysis of refugee self-reliance in different contexts and build the evidence-base for allowing for self-reliance in more places.
• Virtual launch of the Index on 20 May followed by a full month of events with geographical focus.
• The RSRI made a pledge at the GRF to reach 250,000 refugees through the work of five partner agencies in five countries.

Solutions
• Anything related to the third-country solutions is about the 3-year Strategy in which some work has been done by UNHCR. The Global Action Plan for the 3-year strategy is finalized. It is a list of detailed activities that stakeholders have undertaken to do in relation to the objectives of the 3-year Strategy.
• ATCR is maintained although instead of an in-person meeting in mid-June, it will happen through a series of online meetings in May-June. Focus on how to make sure the 3-year strategy goes despite the difficulty of COVID.
• So third country solutions will be covered through ATCR and the 3-year strategy rather than the co-sponsorship group.
• On local integration, and local solutions, there seems to be some thinking about having a sub-group that may continue, meeting not frequently.
• VolRep seems a bit dropped.
• Overall, the Solutions group should not continue as it is now.

Briefing by UNHCR Regional Bureau for the East, Horn of Africa on the pledges in the region
• UNHCR presentation of an interesting analysis of the pledges made by actors in the region and relevant to the region, disaggregated by who made the pledges and on what, etc.
• There was a presentation by other stakeholders, the World Bank, the EU, the private sector, ReDSS.
• It was useful and wonder if it was an initiative by this Bureau and if others will do the same.

Q&A
• The Energy & Infrastructure Action Group in theory also includes actors or pledges focused on health. Wonder if, with reference to COVID-19, were there discussions on how to adjust or introduce pledges that specifically focus on the response to the pandemic?
• It is urgent that we see the GRF outcome document.
• On Jobs & Livelihoods meeting, it was interesting to hear UNHCR present some of the pledges and the structures around the matching of different pledges together, and identify gaps. It is an interesting approach.
• One agenda item of the meeting on Jobs & Livelihoods was on the future of the co-sponsorship group. Not time to discuss about it.
• We have the co-sponsorship groups going on Solutions, Energy. Other meetings for the other areas?
• Education group continues. On Burden- and responsibility-sharing and Protection capacity groups remembered that it will not continue.
• What plan UNHCR country teams have in terms of follow-up and how they will communicate with NGOs or what is their approach and analysis to the pledges at the country level? What capacities do they have?
• Information that this is done at Bureau level and trickled down to country offices.
• Concern on how the cross-cutting issue have been addressed in the efforts of UNHCR to follow-up?
• About the 3-year strategy, what is the analysis of the conversation around targets set and possibly adjusting them because of COVID? What is the leadership around these targets?
• There was a workshop on the Global Action Plan, organized at the very beginning of the lockdown and before travel restrictions. So there was no discussion on COVID impact.
• The chair of ATCR, Canada, Canadian NGOs, UNHCR hosted a meeting, and UNHCR reminded that it is a 10-year strategy.
• On health pledges and COVID: point raised on 1-2 occasions at UNHCR meetings. It looks like the perspective is COVID-19 impacts more on the socio-economic aspect than on health. Although there is acknowledgement that not having health among the GRF themes was somewhat of a mistake and should be corrected for the next GRF.

2. Discussion on the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement
• IDMC GRID report is launched.
• Notes of the meeting with the HLP and NGOs, Member States, other stakeholders of 20 April were shared and accessible here. Positive feedback from stakeholders and that we should do it again. If there is an interest, we will be happy to organize it again.
• Deadline for the written submission to send to ICVA is on 7 May.
• What is the status of the written submissions?
• Do not have clarity on the Secretariat methodology to review these written submissions.
• The Secretariat will read the written submissions and provide feedback to all stakeholders.
• The written submissions will be reviewed before giving an analysis to the Panel.
• Important to focus on the ‘how’ in the written submissions, what is going to be useful for the Panel in generating recommendations, how to prevent and find solutions for IDPs.
• The Secretariat has six workstreams at the moment, prevention, political will, the nexus, innovative financial instruments, data and evidence, and private sector engagement. These will also frame how they approach the submissions.
• Encourage NGOs to highlight in their written submission what you want to do with the recommendations, what you will plan in the next months.
• On the question to sign on the Platform on Disaster Displacement submission, they had a meeting with the steering group, there is no possibility to add names but welcome NGOs sending an email mentioning support for the PDD submission.

3. AoB
• No update on the UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations: remind that UNHCR decided to cancel the mid-June event. No official communication on this yet; No clear indication either as to whether it will take place later in the year or be fully cancelled.
• Ongoing discussion on ICVA role at UNHCR-NGO weekly meeting on COVID-19 with the idea that since the Annual Consultation is not happening, we have discussion with UNHCR on what we do.
• We heard of plans for the next weeks, this afternoon will be focused on FBOs. Next would be on localization with a presentation by Jeremy, our colleague based in Asia. In the pipeline for the next one PSEA, GRF, Sports, Inter-Agency/IASC.
• Starting planning for the next UNHCR Standing Committee (7-9 July). It is maintained and will probably take place online or partly online at least.
• Statements agenda items (see themes to be covered by the July SCOM on the work program) and below:
  - Update on budgets and funding (2019, 2020-2021), we usually do not do a statement on that but we welcome novelty.
  - Note on international protection. We always have one statement on it.
  - Resettlement and complementary pathways (incl. update on the implementation of the 3-year resettlement strategy). There is a statement made by NGOs at ATCR and maybe we could adapt use this statement. On other Solutions, we could include Update on voluntary repatriation, and self-reliance and inclusion into the NGO statement on Protection.
  - Oral update on internal displacement, possibly in the light of the HLP, and how COVID-19 is affecting internal displaced people.
  - Oral update UNHCR’s coordination efforts to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees. An important topic but NGOs have not been involved in the process. It is more a UNHCR, States, World Bank process.
• To summarize there could be three statements, one on international protection, one on solutions, and one on internal displacement.
• The expression of interest to draft the NGO statement will come a in the mid-May.
• Save the date: WB consultation with ICVA members on a new Refugee Policy Review Framework that the WBG has been asked to develop as part of the IDA 19 commitments: 8 May, 2pm GVA time, online.
• Usual UNHCR partnership survey conducted every year by UNHCR and InterAction. Deadline to complete the survey is on 8 May. They need more answers. Encourage multiple staff from an organization/office to participate.