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Annual Report

2016





Solutions Alliance

2016 Annual Report

Background

Forced displacement has been on the rise for several years; by the end of 2015, over 65 million persons were either internally displaced or refugees.ⁱ The vast majority are in protracted displacement with few prospects of returning home. The scale and duration of current displacement crises, as well as recent movements towards Europe, has prompted something else unprecedented; a concerted effort to address the needs of the displaced by identifying comprehensive responses that build on a collaborative approach between humanitarian and development actors.

Building on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a series of events in 2016 further strengthened the call for collaborative approaches. The High Level Panel Report on Humanitarian Financing, the Wilton Park Forum, the Secretary General's Agenda for Humanity and World Humanitarian Summit, the Africa Union's Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness, the September Summits and the New York Declaration,ⁱⁱ which includes the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF),ⁱⁱⁱ are key events that are redefining the agenda on displacement responses.

The European Union^{iv} and the World Bank Group^v have also endorsed new policies and created innovative financing mechanisms that illustrate their prioritization of forced displacement as a development issue. Most importantly, a few host nations such as Colombia, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine and Somalia are beginning to include displacement within their development plans while ensuring needed humanitarian assistance.

The Solutions Alliance is uniquely poised to enhance and carry forward these collaborative efforts among humanitarian and development actors. As a multi-stakeholder network of like-minded actors, the Solutions Alliance advances a shared vision and mission about how to better respond to the needs of displacement-affected populations. The Solutions Alliance supports local initiatives that enable interested stakeholders to work collaboratively to inform and strengthen the formulation of policies, strategies and programs for improving the lives of displacement-affected populations while pursuing durable solutions.

"The willingness of nations to work together not just for refugees but for the collective human interest is what's being tested today, and it's this spirit of unity that badly needs to prevail."

*Filipo Grandi,
UN High Commissioner for Refugees^{vi}*

Activities

2016 Roundtable

The 2016 Solutions Alliance Roundtable, held in Brussels, Belgium, in February 2016, acted as a catalyst for several notable advancements for the Solutions Alliance. A governance reform process was finalised and approved, bringing about several important changes. Firstly, the vision, mission and guiding principles for the Solutions Alliance were clarified. This framework now guides the partners of the Solutions Alliance as they pursue a collaborative, long-term response to forced displacement that supports resilience and enables solutions.

Vision: All displaced persons find a solution to their displacement that respects their rights, upholds their humanity, and meets their needs.

Mission: The Solutions Alliance aims to improve the lives of displaced persons – and the communities that host them – by responding more collaboratively to displacement and contributing to durable solutions.

Guiding Principles:

- Be open and inclusive;
- Respect affected populations;
- Respect country ownership;
- Plan and prepare for sustainable results;
- Use evidence as the basis for context-specific planning;
- Consider the legal framework; and
- Be predictable and engage for the long-term.

Secondly, the governance reform saw the formalisation of the leadership of the Solutions Alliance into a six-member Governing Board, with a new space for an international financial institution. This facilitated the arrival of the World Bank Group on the Governing Board as of March 2016, in line with the Bank's growing focus on responding to the impact of forced displacement.

Beyond the governance reform, the 2016 Roundtable also saw partners commit to explore new relationships, including through the creation of new locally grown initiatives. The Roundtable closed with partners confirming their continued support of the Solutions Alliance and recognising its added value as the platform for local collaborative action in support of solutions to forced displacement.

National and Thematic Groups

The Solutions Alliance remains anchored in support for local processes, encouraging them to take on their own form in the advancement of a comprehensive approach to displacement that is locally relevant. Over 2016, the **Somalia National Group** reflected on its relationship to the numerous local initiatives in the region and chose to move its secretariat from the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) in Nairobi to UNHCR in Mogadishu. Partners have since decided to consolidate their support around the local efforts of the Special Envoy on the Somali Refugee Situation, Mr. Mohamed Abdi Affey.^{vii}

Following commitments made during the 2016 Roundtable, the **Tanzania National Group** was launched in June 2016, to assist with the local integration of approximately 200,000 naturalised Burundian refugees present in Tanzania since 1972.^{viii} Partners recognise the hospitality of the Government of Tanzania towards refugees and are exploring means to support the Local Integration Strategy and other Government-led responses to displacement. The Tanzania National Group has laid the groundwork to include a pilot of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), and partners have made sustained efforts towards this agenda. Participants of the 2016 Roundtable also discussed the added value of the Solutions Alliance approach in **Uganda**. After considerable reflection, humanitarian and development partners built on their local collaboration and launched a CRRF pilot initiative.

The **Zambia National Group** continues to take the form of the National Advisory Group on the local integration of former Angolan and Rwandan refugees. In December 2016, leadership of the local integration programme transitioned from UNHCR to UNDP, and from the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees to the Department of Resettlement.

In **Myanmar**, numerous Solutions Alliance partners support a local and comprehensive Solutions Alliance-inspired initiative to better address displacement. The initiative works on collective leadership and action, and has developed a joint narrative and framework for operations and dialogue.

The series of 2016 global events revealed a need to review the direction of the Solutions Alliance and recalibrate activities. The 2017 Interim Strategy will provide guidance on the work of the Thematic Groups. In the interim, the **Engaging the Private Sector Thematic Group** held their 2016 Business Consultation in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in June 2016. The Consultation built on the *Creating Shared Value* approach to explore concrete business opportunities that could benefit both displaced persons and their host communities.

New Activities

The Solutions Alliance pursued several new opportunities for promoting a comprehensive approach to displacement in 2016. The Solutions Alliance and the Government of Japan collaborated on a World Humanitarian Summit side event in May 2016, entitled, “Strengthening the Humanitarian-Development Nexus – Collaborative Approaches to Find Solutions for Forcibly Displaced Persons.” The event showcased several country-level examples of effective partnership between humanitarian and development partners, notably in the response to the crisis in Syria.

The Solutions Alliance additionally responded to multiple requests for technical expertise in comprehensive approaches to displacement. The Solutions Alliance was called on to provide an interactive workshop for the Royal Danish Embassy in Kampala, Uganda, in October 2016. The workshop supported the Embassy’s efforts to ensure that their 2018-2022 country development programme became sensitive to displacement challenges. Similarly, the Solutions Alliance led discussions during a workshop in October 2016, entitled, “Forced Displacement and Development,” organised in Ankara, Turkey, by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). Approximately 40 Turkish officials were provided an opportunity to better understand and plan for the inclusion of displaced persons in their country development planning.

Structure

The Governing Board met twice in 2016, implementing significant process reforms that enable the Solutions Alliance to provide better support for the work of its partners. During their meeting in June 2016, Governing Board members further refined the identity of the Advisory Board, clarifying that it should be composed of distinguished personalities that will serve as ambassadors to local Solutions Alliance initiatives and as strategic political advisors to the Solutions Alliance in difficult operational environments. The creation of the Advisory Board will be pursued in 2017.

During their December 2016 meeting, the Governing Board recognised that 2016 saw a rapid shift in global discourse on the response to forced displacement. Working towards a three-year strategy, the Governing Board tasked the Secretariat to produce an interim 2017 strategy that will allow the Solutions Alliance the time necessary to calibrate effective, long-term approaches relevant for this new context. The Governing Board also agreed that Solutions Alliance support should be tailored to context and provided in response to any locally driven demand, regardless of format. The Solutions Alliance will now move away from the formality of discussing where to create new National Groups, towards responding to local, demand-driven interventions.

A new Head of Secretariat was welcomed in August 2016, marking the entrance of the Solutions Alliance into a more operational phase. Niels Harild comes with a balanced view on the policy and operational challenges of forced displacement, with decades of experience in key efforts to bring together humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors.

Strategic Way Forward

The Solutions Alliance will continue to build on the momentum provided by the numerous new policies and initiatives endorsed in 2016, particularly the creation of a USD\$2.0 billion sub-window for refugees in the World Bank IDA countries, recognizing that this has been a long-standing issue for many countries hosting refugees. The Solutions Alliance will additionally seek to improve its mechanisms to inform, support and innovate solutions to displacement. Key events and partnerships in 2017 will be used to implement these advances. The Solutions Alliance will pursue strategic linkages with the pilot initiatives of the CRRF and adjust to complement and support its implementation. The Solutions Alliance will work closely with UNHCR in this endeavor. While the 2016 Roundtable helped to consolidate Solutions Alliance governance processes, planning will begin in 2017 to ensure that the 2018 Roundtable facilitates concrete progress towards comprehensive approaches to solutions for forced displacement and gathers knowledge and lessons learned from the achievements of 2016 and 2017.

The Solutions Alliance’s multi-stakeholder, context-specific and comprehensive approach to solutions for displacement will continue to be capitalised upon to support shared approaches between humanitarian and development actors.

The Solutions Alliance 2017 Interim Strategy will aim to practically apply the Solutions Alliance approach at the field level. This strategy will translate the vision and mission of the Solutions Alliance operationally to have a stronger collective impact in concrete displacement situations. Adopting an incremental approach, the Interim Strategy for 2017 constitutes the first phase of a Three Year Strategy (2017-2019), which will be finalised at the end of 2017.

Reconfirming the identity and added value of the Solutions Alliance, Governing Board members have restating their commitment to support local initiatives that aim at improving collaboration and contributing to the mission of the Solutions Alliance.

The Solutions Alliance Governing Board,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey



World Bank Group



International Rescue Committee



United Nations Development Programme



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



The Solutions Alliance is hosted by the Danish Refugee Council



Endnotes

i See UNHCR, *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2015*, available at: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/unhcrsharedmedia/2016/2016-06-20-global-trends/2016-06-14-Global-Trends-2015.pdf>

ii UN Summit 2016, New York Declaration, available at: <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/declaration>

iii UNHCR, Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/584687b57.pdf>

iv See, for example, the European Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, available at: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/countries/syria/madad/index_en.html

v See World Bank, *Setting the Agenda for IDA 18: Strategic Directions*, available at: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/837881467996741019/Setting-the-agenda-for-IDA18-strategic-directions>

vi See UNHCR, *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2015*, available at: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/unhcrsharedmedia/2016/2016-06-20-global-trends/2016-06-14-Global-Trends-2015.pdf>

vii See UNHCR report, available at: <http://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/appointment-mr-mohamed-abdi-affey-special-envoy-somali-refugee-situation>

viii See Tanzania Local Integration Brief, UNHCR, July 2016, available at: <http://www.solutionsalliance.org/system/files/resources/Local%20Integration%20Briefing%20Note%20July%202016.pdf>