

ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOs
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International Conference Center Geneva

DISCUSSION PAPER

Session title: ***Inclusion from the start: a Comprehensive Response at Reception and Admission***

Date: ***Wednesday 14 June***

Time/Room: ***16h30 – 18h30 – Room 2***

Background:

The New York Declaration calls upon UNHCR to develop and initiate the application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in situations of large movements of refugees, in close coordination with relevant states and all stakeholders. The key elements for a comprehensive response to any large movement of refugees include rapid, reliable and well supported procedures for reception and admission.

When Governments and communities respond to large movements of refugees, individual situations of vulnerability are not always comprehensively and promptly identified. Multi-stakeholder cooperation and the involvement of civil society organisations with particular expertise in providing appropriate protection and assistance becomes all the more essential to identifying and protecting individuals at a heightened risk of exploitation, ill-treatment, and other rights abuses upon reception and admission. In responding to these challenges, States, UNHCR and NGOs must ensure rapid and well-supported reception and admission procedures for refugees and seek approaches to ensure that all people are first admitted in safety and dignity; that measures are in place to strengthen identity management processes to ensure the integrity, efficiency and effectiveness of protection, and assistance programmes from the outset; and that adapted procedures are put in place to address particular needs and vulnerabilities during reception and registration activities.

This session aims to explore, by engaging in meaningful exchange with participants, the main challenges faced by CRRF stakeholders during reception and admission. Discussion will focus on challenges faced and identify best practices of organisations directly responding to large movements of refugees including:

- Emergency preparedness, and predictability on how the Government, UNHCR and NGOs can collaborate on reception and admission standby arrangements to address large scale movements, including the importance of implementing from the outset measures to ensure the accuracy with which beneficiaries are identified and identity data managed.
- Situation where asylum-seekers have difficulties accessing territories to seek protection and/or they are met with responses focusing largely on enforcement/control measures.
- Collaboration among the stakeholders in identification and response to the specific protection concerns of individuals in vulnerable situations, such as women at risk, children, especially unaccompanied children and children separated from their families, child-headed and single-parent households, victims of trafficking, victims of trauma and survivors of sexual violence, refugees with disabilities and older persons well as stateless refugees and/or individuals at risk of statelessness. Data collection at registration plays a crucial role in the identification of individuals in vulnerable situations and can best assist with addressing their specific protection needs.

The session aims to highlight positive initiatives and collectively identify best practices to address the challenges identified.

Objectives of the session:

This session seeks to provide a platform for UNHCR and NGOs to discuss the ways in which they are addressing and responding to the challenges faced during reception and admission of large movements of refugees, including persons in particularly vulnerable situations. Participants will learn from the voices and perspectives of organisations with first-hand experience in setting up standby arrangements to receiving large movements of persons and developing new tools for the proper identification and registration of individuals in particularly vulnerable situations. The panel will seek to identify, explore and highlight solutions to the unique challenges faced in this context, and emphasize how the multi-stakeholder and people-centred approach of the CRRF framework can support and enhance solutions.

Desired outcome of the session:

Identification of best practices and innovative approaches. As follow up the stakeholders would enhance cooperation in these areas and seek to leverage and replicate good practices in other contexts and seek renewed and improved cooperation.

Methodology:

Presentations and panel discussions