

**2017 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations
on
the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework**

Concept Note

The New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants¹ calls upon UNHCR to develop and initiate a comprehensive refugee response² in close coordination with relevant States, through a multi-stakeholder approach, for situations involving large movements of refugees. The Declaration also invites UNHCR to engage with States and consult all relevant stakeholders with a view to evaluating the practical application of the comprehensive refugee response in a range of situations. Based upon the comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF) - set forth in Annex 1 to the Declaration - and its practical application, Member States will work toward the adoption of a global compact on refugees (GCR) in 2018.

Civil society actors – including humanitarian, development and human rights NGOs and the Red Cross/Red Crescent National societies – are explicitly recognized as partners in the practical application of the CRRF. To this end, meaningful and regular consultations with NGOs and IFRC are essential to ensure that we jointly enable the successful implementation of the CRRF, resulting in concrete improvements for refugees and host communities across the world.

For these reasons, UNHCR and NGOs selected the CRRF as the theme for the 2017 Annual Consultations, to engage on the following areas:

- ***What is new about the CRRF?***

Explore the new potential of this “whole-of-society” approach, especially with regard to:

- ensuring rapid and well-supported reception and admission measures for refugees;
- supporting immediate and ongoing needs through adequate financial and other resources;
- assisting national and local institutions, organizations and communities that host refugees (localizing the response);
- investing in self-reliance of refugees and local communities (livelihoods, education and empowerment);
- expanding opportunities for solutions;
- achieving a more equitable and predictable responsibility-sharing in response to large movements of refugees;
- strengthening the humanitarian/development nexus, including through the inclusion of refugees in national development plans and local and national services; and considering solutions from the beginning of a crisis;
- operationalizing the “whole-of-society” approach through operational partnerships and frameworks among State entities, international organizations, and national and international non-governmental actors, including civil society organizations, faith-based groups, academics and media;
- ensuring that refugees themselves are central to consultations and considerations, with a special focus on refugee youth.

- ***Regional dimensions***

Review the application of the CRRF in specific contexts where it is being applied, including linkages and opportunities with existing regional initiatives and frameworks.

¹ A/Res/70/1 (adopted 19 September 2016).

² A comprehensive refugee response framework, envisaged for each situation involving large movements of refugees, including in protracted situations, is set forth in Annex 1 of the Declaration.

- ***CRRF operationalization***

Understand how NGOs can contribute to the implementation of the CRRF at the local, national and global levels, including in both new emergencies and protracted situations.

- ***Partnership***

Reflect how the ‘new ways of working’ within the CRRF provide opportunities to: enhance partnership among governments, UNHCR and NGOs; better include and collaborate with local civil society, including faith-based organizations; help build local capacity; learn from NGOs how to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus; and ensure the participation of populations of concern.

- ***Lessons (to be) learned***

Help in the early identification of good practices and preliminary lessons from the application of the CRRF; discuss how to reinforce and replicate good practices and assess critical gaps or challenges; and explore how to leverage complementary roles and competencies of the actors in the “eco-system”.

- ***From the CRRF to the GCR and beyond***

Better understand how the lessons learned will translate into the global compact on refugees and how NGOs can contribute to that process.

There will be additional, dedicated sessions on IDPs, statelessness, mixed migration, and follow-up to the UNHCR partnership initiatives as well as last year’s Annual Consultations on Youth.

ICVA/UNHCR

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