



Solutions Alliance

Side Event on the Solutions Alliance *Background Paper*

Friday, July 3, 2015

13:00 - 14:30

Room 5, International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)

Interpretation in English-French-Spanish

The Solutions Alliance was launched in April 2014 in Copenhagen to advance a partnership-oriented approach to addressing protracted displacement situations and preventing new displacement situations from becoming protracted. An inclusive forum, the Solutions Alliance acts as a catalyst for mobilising development and humanitarian actors to work together to find voluntary solutions to displacement. Reflecting this approach, the membership includes donor and host governments, UN agencies, multilateral financial institutions, civil society organisations, international NGOs, the private sector and academia.

Objectives

The Solutions Alliance seeks to **promote and enable the transition for displaced people away from dependency towards increased self-reliance, resilience, and development** through three goals:

- 1) Supporting innovative solutions through working together in the development of appropriate strategies, programmes and projects in selected displacement situations.
- 2) Helping shape the global policy agenda, including by interacting with development processes, such as the post-2015 development agenda and the New Deal process, to recognise displacement as a development challenge as well as a humanitarian and protection issue and to work with governments in affected countries toward the inclusion of displacement issues as a cross-cutting theme in national and local development plans.
- 3) Ensuring that a diverse and growing group of partners form a vibrant network and seek to maximize the impact of their individual efforts.

The Solutions Alliance works through National and Thematic Groups and is looking to expand the range of partners and national groups to ensure a broader network committed to finding solutions to displacement.

The Solutions Alliance Somalia Group will be highlighted as a positive example of NGO engagement during the Side Event.

National Groups

- 1) The **Solutions Alliance Somalia** (SAS) has an exclusive focus on Somali displacement. It is Nairobi based, and members of the core group include the World Bank, UNHCR, the Government of Denmark, UNDP, as well as the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS), a coalition of 10 NGOs working on Durable Solutions in the East and Horn of Africa. The aspiration is to increase membership in SAS to include other States, international organizations, NGOs, the private sector, and academia.

Within the approach of the *Addis Ababa Commitment towards Somali Refugees*, and based on the Somalia New Deal compact, SAS is finalizing a Durable Solutions Framework aligned to Somalia's Peace and State Building Goals (PSGs). This will include a number of results frameworks to help organizations coordinate better and bridge the humanitarian-development gap, while ensuring that displaced and displacement-affected communities are centralized to Somalia's development priorities. It will also provide a tool to promote the engagement of other stakeholders in advancing the search for solutions. Currently, SAS activities are concentrating on Somalia and Kenya, side-by-side with the UNHCR return project under which Somali refugees are returning to selected areas in Somalia.

- 2) The **Zambia National Group** has been meeting since April 2014 through the National Advisory Group on Local Integration in Zambia, supporting the local integration of 10,000 former Angolan refugees.
- 3) **Additional National Groups** are currently being considered in a number of displacement-affected countries.

Thematic Groups

- 1) The **Research, Data and Performance Management Group** focuses on better understanding the relationship between development and displacement through research to provide evidence to support policy-makers and governments in their decision-making.
- 2) The **Engaging the Private Sector Group** looks at ways to better engage the private sector to turn displacement challenges into development opportunities while unlocking the economic value that displaced persons bring to host communities and their economies.
- 3) A new group on the **Rule of Law** is being formed to ensure that rule of law initiatives are designed to support the search for solutions and the establishment of conditions conducive to rendering those solutions durable.

Co-Chairs

The Solutions Alliance **Co-Chairs** are the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNHCR, UNDP, and the International Rescue Committee (IRC). The Government of Turkey has expressed its willingness to also Co-Chair and hopes to be officially affirmed in the position during the 2015 Solutions Alliance Roundtable to be hosted in Brussels, Belgium.

*A small **Secretariat** to support the work of the Solutions Alliance is being hosted by the Danish Refugee Council in Geneva, Switzerland as of February 2015.*