

ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOs
14 – 16 JUNE 2017
International Conference Center Geneva

DISCUSSION PAPER

Session title: ***Regional session AFRICA***

Date: ***Thursday 15 June***

Time/Room: ***10h30 – 13h00 – Room 2***

Africa is unique in that it is the first region to embrace the CRRF and pro-actively initiate the roll-out in five countries, namely Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania. While initialization of the CRRF in the five countries is still very much under way at the time of writing, the commitment of Governments, UNHCR, UN Sister Agencies, NGOs and donors is certain, and engagement at all levels is being solidified. Nevertheless, challenges have been identified and lessons learned, even at this early stage, and each presenter will be asked to describe the type of challenges that have arisen, and how the international and national communities are meeting them together.

Objective(s) of the session

After a short update on recent developments and on-going initiatives in Africa (that may not have a direct link with the CRRF, but nevertheless are important to understanding the protection and solutions context within which NGOs and UNHCR are operating on the African continent), the NGO presenters will take centre stage in presenting the on-going efforts to implement and engage all actors in the CRRF in their respective countries.

The podium will be asked to accurately and constructively represent the state of implementation of the CRRF in their respective countries, and the challenges presented in implementation to date; including issues arising from the five major thematic areas: admission/reception, emergency response, resilience, solutions and voluntary repatriation. The meeting will be designed to address the following questions, and invite further reflection from the audience:

- How can NGOs play a stronger role in the roll-out of comprehensive approaches in Africa, for example in strengthening the transition from humanitarian assistance to development;
- How can the humanitarian and development communities encourage investment in host countries and refugee affected areas in particular;
- How do we ensure genuine inclusiveness in the CRRF process to achieve a “whole of society” approach, with a particular look at the Uganda model (secretariat);
- What innovative practices have been implemented (in CRRF countries and elsewhere) that could be replicated and built on to ensure that the goals of the CRRF are met;
- An honest look at how the CRRF has been rolled out to date, how it is working, and what are the most critical gaps in its implementation;
- How can we, together, remind and reinforce States’ commitments (including to the Refugee Convention and New York Declaration, but also as applicable to the commitments made at the 2016 Leaders’ Summit and World Humanitarian Summit)
- Take a look at regional processes – including the recent IGAD Summit on Somali Refugees, the Uganda Solidarity Conference, and the *Oslo Humanitarian Conference on Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region*, held in Norway on 23/24 February.

Desired outcome of the session:

The planners would like to come up with specific ‘lessons learned’ across the five thematic areas (admission/reception, emergency response, resilience, solutions and voluntary repatriation), particularly in the start-up and early implementation phase of the CRRF.

The outcomes are intended to inform the other countries and regions that are initiating the CRRF towards addressing gaps early on, ensuring the broadest possible inclusion of the various actors, as well as joint advocacy and fundraising to ensure the sustainability of the CRRF, etc.

Methodology

Starting with a panel discussion, we aim to use the ‘pigeonhole’ technology to narrow what could be a meandering session down to the more narrow elements of interest to the majority of participants.