

Reporting by Session Note-takers at the 2019 Annual Consultations with NGOs

Date:	05.07.2019
Session Title:	Beyond Fundraising: Working Together, Better, with Companies
Moderator:	Jakob Oster
UNHCR focal point:	Jakob Oster
NGO focal point:	Elisabeth McLeod, Mercy Corps & Anders Tharsgaard, DRC
Major points arising from speakers and discussions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are we financing the humanitarian system? If we are able to effectively engage the private sector, we would be able to cut our prices in half in many situations according, based on the findings of an initial study conducted by the Danish Refugee Council in Uganda. How can we unlock some of the impact investment opportunities that our out there to help improve our humanitarian system and yield more productive results for our beneficiaries. • Are our distribution methods of goods to refugees negatively impacting local markets? How can transform the way we deliver vital services to refugees while simultaneously strengthening the local market and economy- something essential for once the organization is to retreat from a certain context. Otherwise we are destroying local markets with the influx of aid. • Will stronger partnerships with the private sector lead to the deterioration of the humanitarian sector? Will they take our jobs from us? Important to understand the way in which the global markets and trends are moving. As a facilitator between al relevant actors, we will always be needed, and we might not need to be providing beneficiaries with all of their needs if this can be facilitated with a private sector company. It's about transforming our roles and understanding where we see ourselves as humanitarians and what role we wish to play in order to make our interventions more sustainable and reach more people 	
Recommendations/Conclusions/decisions on the way forward	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directed towards UNHCR: We have to be able to create efficient systems for engagement with the private sector. Taking into consideration upholding humanitarian principles, as well as the risks involved with portraying refugees as consumers and entrepreneurs rather than victims of conflict • Directed towards UNHCR: Separating the role of NGO's from the private sector when discussing private sector partnerships. NGO's are principled organizations who still have to advocate for human rights standards and international engagement in human rights affairs- NGO's aren't service providers, and will never be over taken by the private sector- we need to ensure that these roles are clearly defined when thinking of private sector partnerships. 	
Top two quotes from the session:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>" We do not need to be afraid of technology, the world is moving, and were standing still</i> 	
Any general points regarding UNHCR-NGO partnerships	