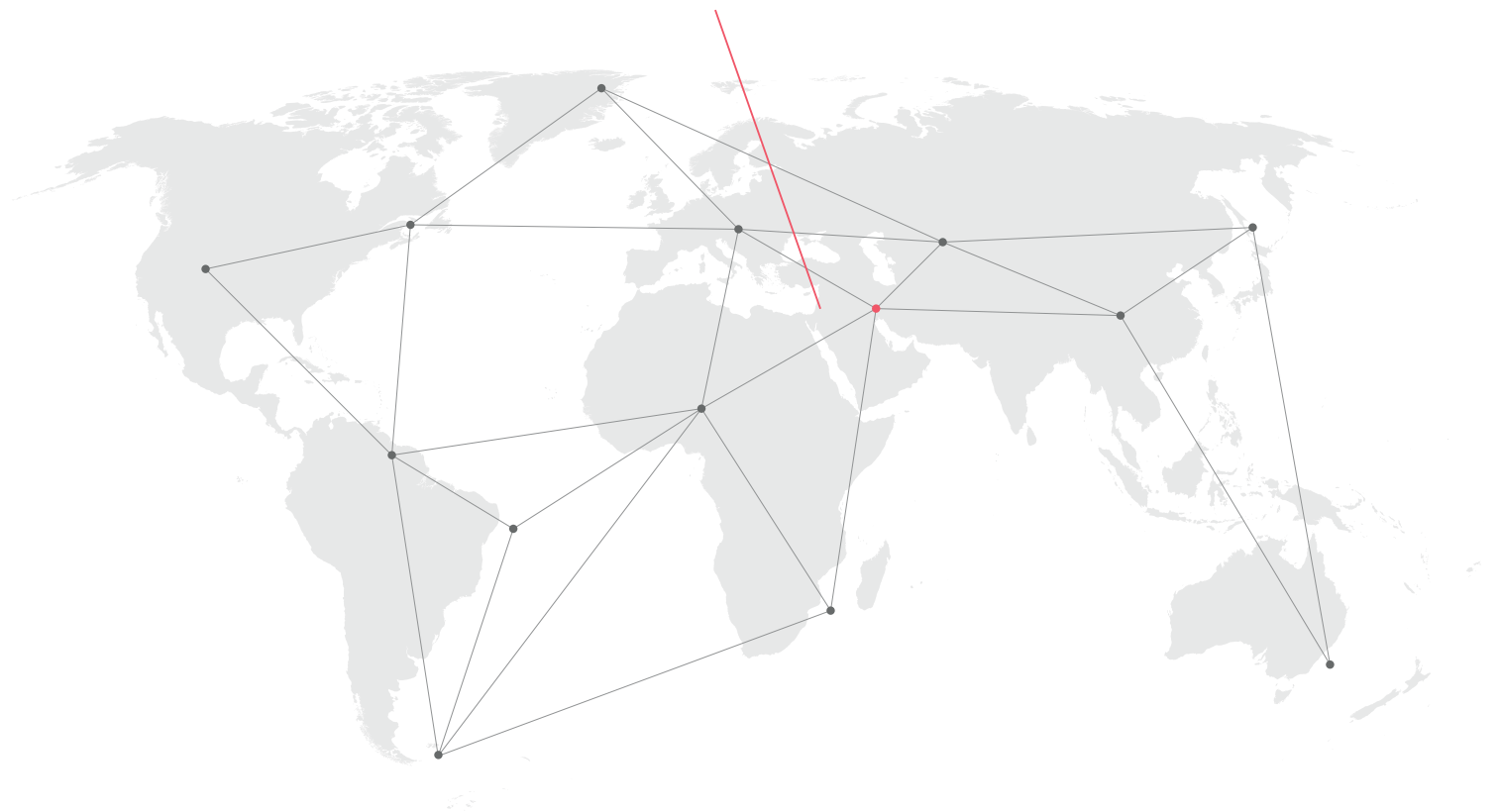


# MENA CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ON DISPLACEMENT

P REVENTING  
R ESPONDING  
S OLVING

20-21 JUNE 2019, AMMAN




MENA CIVIL  
SOCIETY NETWORK  
FOR DISPLACEMENT



For further information please visit:  
<https://bit.ly/2RUDPyq>

MENA Policy Unit:  
[jorhmpu@unhcr.org](mailto:jorhmpu@unhcr.org)

 @MENA\_CSND  
#MENA4REFUGEES

Design Credit:  
[@UNHCR/Samar Fayed](https://twitter.com/UNHCR/SamarFayed)

© UNHCR/Mohamed Alalem  
Libya. Eritreans, Somalis and Sudanese evacuated  
from Tripoli conflict zone

## Table of Contents

Summary .....	04
Opening Plenary .....	05
Keynote Speech .....	05
Thematic Sessions .....	06
The Global Refugee Compact and Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships .....	06
Regional Approaches to Addressing Root Causes of Conflict and Displacement   <b>Preventing</b> .....	07
Role of Culture in Shaping Public Narratives on Displacement   <b>Responding</b> .....	08
Collaborative Approach to Data and Analysis in the MENA Region   <b>Responding</b> .....	09
Mixed Movements in the MENA Region   <b>Responding</b> .....	11
Cities and Communities   <b>Solving</b> .....	12
Principles of Operational Partnerships for NGOs (ICVA)   <b>Solving</b> .....	13
The Sustainable Development Goals and Refugee Inclusion   <b>Solving</b> .....	14
Private Sector Partnerships and Innovative Economic Solutions   <b>Solving</b> .....	15
Closing Panel: Inspiration and Resilience .....	16
Closing Remarks .....	17
Links to Global Refugee Forum and Next Steps .....	18
Evaluation Summary .....	19



## SUMMARY

The UNHCR Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations in Geneva have traditionally been an important forum for dialogue on global and regional themes and an opportunity to explore collaboration on advocacy and operational issues. Each year, the participants in the NGO Consultations share information, views and analysis, discuss partnership issues, and explore further complementarities and engage in regular strategic discussions.

Consultations have indicated that **holding regional dialogue would provide greater opportunity for deeper analysis of the unique contexts of the regions in which UNHCR operates**. This would be especially beneficial in relation to substantive discussions on operational issues and, consequently, tangible recommendations that can feed into more sustainable collaborative efforts.

The MENA region has seen unparalleled displacement and continues to suffer immensely from the consequences of conflict; the region is home to 5% of the total world population and is hosting 40% of global displacement. The region is also one of origin, transit, destination, and displacement scenarios range from fresh emergencies to protracted situations. In MENA, despite various challenges, enhanced partnerships have proven essential to bridge the humanitarian-development divide and to carry out effective long-term planning, thereby embodying the core principles of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and pioneering reflection and implementation of many of the principles of the GCR even before its adoption.



Over the past 3 years, the MENA regional session of the Annual NGO Consultations in Geneva focused on the ‘whole-of-society’ approach highlighted in the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants alongside the need for more sustainable solutions through the engagement of civil society, including through participation of members of the **MENA Civil Society Network for Displacement (CSND)**. The discussions highlighted the relevance of civil society’s active role in displacement, and showcased the MENA CSND as a platform for regional coordination that is inclusive of actors from academia, the private sector, faith-based organizations, the media, social influencers, and persons of concern. The sessions also addressed the spectrum of durable solutions and considered wider aspects of solutions (including prevention, root causes, greater support for host communities) from a regional perspective.

This report reflects some of the highlights from the 11 sessions and side meetings held during UNHCR’s 2019 MENA Consultations with NGOs and Civil Society on World Refugee Day in Amman, Jordan. As the first iteration of regionalized NGO Consultations, and in line with UNHCR’s global strategic directions, the discussion revolved around the full cycle of displacement, from prevention, to responding, to solving. 233 participants registered to attend the Consultations, from 16 countries representing 97 different NGOs, 73 of which were national NGOs. Importantly, the meeting reflected a whole of society approach, including wide participation from academia, think tanks, private sector and faith-based actors, as well as refugee participants.

The MENA CSND was emphasized as a platform for regional coordination and the need for wider bases of support for the refugee cause to be embedded in the design, implementation, and evaluation of related interventions. This report provides an overview and highlights of the discussions.

## OPENING PLENARY

UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, opened the MENA Consultations expressing appreciation to the government and people of Jordan for their continuous generosity in welcoming and hosting refugees. He called on developed countries to share the responsibility with hosting countries across the world, and noted that the GCR is expected to galvanize more solidarity and support to host communities bearing the biggest brunt of the responsibility.

The High Commissioner also acknowledged the role of NGOs and civil society in MENA in refugee protection, assistance, and advocacy, noting the MENA Civil Society Network for Displacement, the first regional multi-stakeholder platform for displacement issues of its kind. He welcomed the focus on addressing the root causes of displacement and noted the importance of ensuring that interventions are comprehensive and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, the role of the private sector was highlighted, in widening the base of support and in harnessing the power of technology to develop innovative approaches and creative responses to displacement.



## KEYNOTE SPEECH



His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan emphasized the unique situation of the MENA region in hosting approximately 10 million Palestinian and Syrian refugees, among many other nationalities. His Royal Highness highlighted that most host countries face challenges in coping with refugees, state populations and budgeting requirements. His Royal Highness noted that it would be imperative to improve the income and productivity in the Levant area, including with the active participation of the refugee population.

His Royal Highness highlighted that in refugee situations, there is a need for emphasis on the prevention of further conflict, through enhancing human security, dignity and anthro-policy. His Royal Highness further called for a culture of tolerance, acceptance and respect among people in the MENA region, and the countering of hate speech.

His Royal Highness noted the value and relevance of promoting the principle of Zakat and Islamic social finance as ways to address the needs of vulnerable populations, including displaced populations, as a manifestation of social justice and solidarity.

## THEMATIC SESSIONS

### The Global Refugee Compact and Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

The session outlined the institutional framework and the context of refugee situations in the MENA region, with panellists highlighting the strategic guidance of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) on multi-stakeholder partnerships with academia and private sector.

Speakers noted that the GCR provides an opportunity to build well-functioning and predictive structures to respond to crises, including UNHCR, IASC, Red Cross/Crescent, and NGO networks. The promotion of multilateralism and “whole of society” approach in terms of responding, preventing and finding solutions to refugee issues was noted as a crystallization of international solidarity.



#### Moderator:

Shaden Khallaf, UNHCR MENA

#### Panelists:

- Arafat Jamal | UNHCR HQ
- Nasser Yassin | American University of Beirut
- Mary Nazzal Batayneh | Landmark Hotel / 17 Asset Management
- Wassim Jomaa | Tunisian Red Crescent

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Academic institutions should strengthen coalition-building to provide more evidence-based data on root cause of displacement for wider public consumption and analysis;
- ▶ Greater assessment and evaluation can be carried out by academics with practitioners on the quality and real impact of humanitarian interventions;
- ▶ Private sector engagement should be increased further especially the financial service sector and unlocking long term investments at part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- ▶ New financial structures need to be created where refugee issues are embedded in national developmental plans and their contributions are included and recognized;
- ▶ Humanitarian actors need to think about investment from a social impact perspective;
- ▶ Academia and civil society should play a stronger role in the design and formulation of asylum systems and legislations when feasible;
- ▶ Refugees should have a stronger voice as key partners in all phases of the response cycle.



## Regional Approaches to Addressing Root Causes of Conflict and Displacement | PREVENTING

Given the increase in conflict globally, this session looked at the root causes of conflict and displacement in the region from a prevention and peace-building perspective, as well as the ways to prevent new conflicts and new waves of displacement, while fully preserving the right to seek asylum. Reflection took place on initiatives which contribute to reducing proneness to conflict and to preventing relapse in cases where peace has been achieved but remains fragile.

Panelists discussed the catalysts that change the status quo. Politics, economy, security and environment were noted as the most dynamic factors of change in the region.

Policy designers need to be aware of these factors before preparing their policies. Therefore, the rule of law, state building and stabilization would eventually prevail.

The role and efforts of civil society in managing current displacement in a way that does not intensify current conflicts or create new ones was unpacked.

### Moderator:

Maysa Ayoub | Center for Migration and Refugee Studies, American University of Cairo

### Panelists:

- Kareem Rosshandler | WANA Institute
- Aarathi Krishnan | International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Skype)
- Zahra Bazzi | Arab NGO Network for Development
- Dlawer Ala'Addeen | Middle East Research Institute



## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Humanitarian assistance alone is not enough for solving political problems in the region, and should be coupled with stronger negotiation for peace.
- ▶ Civil society, including academic institutions, should provide data and evidence-based policies on how to link response interventions with prevention and peace building.
- ▶ Civil society should disseminate information and advocate for social, political and economic solutions to reduce further displacement.
- ▶ The economic wellbeing and welfare of host communities must remain central to prevent tensions between refugees and their hosts.



## Role of Culture in Shaping Public Narratives on Displacement | RESPONDING

The session covered influence in relation to understanding the complexity of current displacement crises. The role of culture, film, music, academia, social media, journalism and the arts in preventing and responding to issues which arise in displacement situations has only been scratched at the surface.

The panel focused on the role of the media, social media and arts to change narratives and perceptions, and the importance of using creative and innovative approaches. Social media was considered as a “new land” to explore in terms of opportunities, as well being more personal, quick and effective especially when mainstream media chooses not to raise refugee issues. Examples were given on how celebrities have used their voices through social media to make resolutions which benefit refugees.

The speakers noted the difficulties on the ground with increased toxic speech against refugees in the media which is wrongly portraying them as taking jobs, depleting resources and polluting the environment. This, in turn, is fuelling tensions with host communities that can sometimes lead to violence. At the same time, information on the difficulties that refugees live in and their vulnerabilities is not reaching all the public who tend to view mainstream media rather than social media.

The speakers also stated that culture and art such as theatre, music and painting should be given more space to address contemporary issues in the MENA region compared with other political elements. The highlighted that education, visual arts and skills, as forms of artistic creations, are improving people’s lives by helping to share a positive outlook towards refugees, acting as a form of communication and expression, creating community ties and helping to promote positive perceptions.

**Moderator:**

Carol El Sayed | UNHCR Lebanon

**Panelists:**

- Zeina Yazigi | Media Consultant
- Sobhiya Najjar | Media Consultant
- Zeina Barhoum | Opera Singer
- Basma El Husseiny | Action for Hope



### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Changing the narrative about refugees from negative to positive, from passive to impactful from political to humanitarian is necessary and it is possible.
- ▶ Since culture shapes public narratives, it is imperative to further build on it to create a more inclusive environment in the region.
- ▶ There is a need to reach out to social media influencers and use the social media content to create a new positive narrative about refugees.
- ▶ Media, especially televised, should be engaged more to highlight the plight of refugees and their positive contributions to the communities in which they live.
- ▶ Talents and celebrities from the region are important voices to advocate to and promote the refugee voice.
- ▶ Music and arts need to play a role in transforming the narrative towards refugees and creating ties.



## Collaborative Approach to Data and Analysis in the MENA Region | RESPONDING

The data and analysis session focused on the shared responsibility to get good and quick data at the times of emergencies. The participants discussed the difference between raw data and cleaned data as well as explored the methods of getting good data.

The participants at this session discussed the need for providing simple tools to help at all stages of data collection which can be used by actors. The participants also highlighted the importance of considering the context of the population. In addition, the participants discussed the importance of predictive analysis, which provides an early warning to humanitarian actors.

- The voice of refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced populations, stateless persons will remain at the core of data and analysis and shall be included as an equal partner in the data and analysis lifecycle;
- Appreciation and inclusion of the national/ local partners' knowledge and expertise in research, data management and analysis;

### Moderator:

Irina Conovali | UNHCR MENA

### Panelists:

- Daniel Nolan | IMMAP
- Lana Stade | Durable Solutions Platform
- Modher Alhamadani | OCHA
- Laura Thisted | REACH



## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **NGOs, UNHCR and other UN agencies agree to be more transparent in the methodology of collecting and presenting data.**
  - **Explore** the data collection practices among the partners and **share** tools (create a so-called “library of tools”) and good practices with less resourced partners for the public good; and **acknowledge** and **invest** in the changing culture of data collection, sharing and analysis;
  - “Collect once – use multiple times”: **explore** the existing data sources for data triangulation and analysis prior to embarking on a costly data collection endeavours;
  - **Engage** with national (local) experts related to the research topic (including, Governments) and reflect and integrate the feedback to ensure the relevancy and adaptation (acceptance) of the research results and findings in order to use it for future advocacy at national and international levels;
  - **Engage** early the relevant partners depending on the expertise, mandate and areas of interest in data projects and research design and planning – as a key step for a successful outcome of a research.
- ▶ **Data experts, data collectors, refugees and community leaders are committed to work together in the planning, collection and analysis phases.**
  - Acknowledge the need to **engage** more substantively in capacity development for data collection, standards, processes and, eventually analysis, especially for national partners;
  - **Explore** abilities and capabilities for a platform / infrastructure to allow for data triangulation from multiple sources of data;
  - **Prioritize** information needs related to different phases of the emergency of relevance and key interest to the partners, while also include the cross-regional learning and knowledge and experience exchange;
  - Agreements reached at the national and regional levels to inform the **global** discussions and priorities on collaborative data management and analysis.

► **Research projects shall aim to include a national (local) partner as part of the project team:**

- o **Build** the research project with national (local) partner from the start to co-implement the research project;
- o **Acknowledge** the strong knowledge of the context, history and culture of the country and region of national (local) partners and engage to influence the research process and results, in addition to supporting the sensitizing of the Arabic language during the process of the research and avoid any sensitivity issues.

► **It is imperative to share qualitative data with humanitarian actors, so they can find meaningful ways to comprehensively reflect contemporary displaced challenges:**

- o **Plan** for joint and collaborative analyses and researches;
- o Collaboratively **agree** on key research questions and map out and explore what already exists among partners and how data sharing in a collaborative way can take place;
- o **Enhance** the qualitative data analysis and use of research and evidence in advocacy and influencing decision-makers at national and international levels.

► **It is essential to keep personal data confidential and to maintain it secure, while data sharing can be undertaken in a transparent and secure way:**

- o Clarify the right to access data (both personal and non-personal), including academia, Governments, private sector;
- o Build on existing data sharing frameworks, e.g. the initiative of UNHCR-World Bank Joint Data Centre designed for research and analysis;



© UNHCR/Firas Al-Khateeb  
 Children in Salamiya camp for internally displaced in Iraq spend a good part of the morning waiting for water trucks to arrive and fill up water reservoirs in the camp. Many of the children help their families by transporting Jerry cans and buckets of water to their shelters.



## Mixed Movements in the MENA Region | RESPONDING

The session discussed ways in which the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) offer elements that are relevant to building protection and solutions strategies that address the needs of refugees and migrants respectively, in 'mixed' situations across the Mediterranean sea and the Gulf of Aden.

The session explored concrete ways the two compacts can be applied to mixed movement situations with respect to data collection and analysis to inform practical and principled responses to refugees and migrants' identification, registration and referrals to relevant processes and service providers. The participants agreed that by implementing the Global Compact, ensure effective respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all, regardless of their status, across all stages of the movement cycle.

### Moderator:

Abderrahman Arar | Reseau Nada

### Panelists:

- Largou Bo ubkeur | Organisation Marocaine des Droits Humains
- Sara Sadek | Danish Refugee Council | Mixed Migration Centre
- Nasser Bajnoob | Society for Humanitarian Solidarity, Yemen
- Jonathan Prentice | International Organisation for Migration (IOM) - (Skype)



© UNHCR/Mohamed Alalem  
Libya. Eritreans, Somalis and Sudanese evacuated from Tripoli conflict zone

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ UN country offices to set migration coordination mechanism within their country teams to complement existing frameworks.
- ▶ Develop a fund for partners from civil society in the region to have formal engagement in response to mixed movements.
- ▶ Look into functional and thematic areas to ensure supporting structures at the country level.
- ▶ UN and Civil Society to work together to eliminate smugglers' role in mixed migration.



## Cities and Communities Session | Solving

In the MENA region, more than 60% of refugees or displaced people live in cities, and refugees tend to be displaced for an average of 25 years, leaving municipalities at the frontline.

Cities are local agents of change and influence and are at the forefront of responding to urban displacement challenges. Including cities and communities in the planning and response to displacement coincides with goal 11 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which calls for an inclusive approach to communities.

The participants discussed the role of GCR in strengthening support to host countries and the role of cities and municipalities in reaching comprehensive policy frameworks in response to displaced people.

Participants noted the value and skills refugees contribute to the evolution of their communities. The session also highlighted good practices in social cohesion towards solutions, and collective efforts from a wide range of actors are needed to evolve an inclusive approach between refugees and host communities.

### Moderator:

Hy Shelow | UNHCR MENA

### Panelists:

- Mohamed Milad Al Shukri | Libyan Red Crescent
- Danah Dajani | Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation
- Wael Al-Ashhab | UN Habitat Yemen
- Ahmad Mousa | Columbia University Global Center Amman
- Nisreen AlArj | Greater Amman Municipality

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ NGOs and UNHCR should include the private sector to create an enabling environment for work where refugees and host communities can develop adequate skills required for job markets.
- ▶ NGOs and Civil Society to amplify refugee voices and to address the challenges of refugee populations, especially in informal settlements.
- ▶ It is imperative to provide access to evidence based data that focuses on improving access to quality of services.
- ▶ There is a need to provide support to municipalities and civil society groups so to develop interventions which promote and enhance inclusive environments.
- ▶ Mayors and representatives of cities should be invited to the NGOs and Civil Society consultations meetings.
- ▶ Local government officials from municipalities to take part in planning undertaken at national level relating to refugee populations.



World Refugee Day 2019  
Amman, Jordan  
#WithRefugees

## Principles of Operational Partnerships for NGOs (ICVA) | Solving

The session discussed the vital role of partnership between UNHCR and NGOs on the ground, analysed good practices across the region, highlighted opportunities and challenges related to having more meaningful partnerships, which reflect accountability to displaced populations and support to host communities, in line also with the Global Compact on Refugees.

The participants acknowledged the positive aspects of UNHCR long partnership with local NGOs. They also highlighted the importance of capacity building to local partners. The participants had some notes about the difference in capacity between INGOs and NGOs in terms of size, staff, internal procedures, policies and overhead costs. The main challenges which local NGOs face and how to deal with them, while continuing to uphold core principles of humanity, dignity, solidarity and meeting humanitarian principles, was discussed.

### Moderator:

Michael Hyden | ICVA Director of Programs

### Panelists:

- Virginie Lefèvre | Amel Association International
- Souzan Muhareb | Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development
- Nesrine Metry | Caritas Egypt



Ghena, a 5-year-old Syrian refugee, plays outside as her family seeks information from a UNHCR representative at a Za'atari employment centre. @UNHCR/Mohammad Hawari

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ UNHCR to consider supporting core funding for local NGOs implementing partners, by harmonizing salaries, procedures, and administrative costs in line with INGOs in the same programmes)
- ▶ Discussion and implementation of 4% overheads allocation national/local partners, with 7% still standard for INGOs, as announced by the High Commissioner at this year's ICVA Annual Consultations in Geneva, in the next programming cycle.
- ▶ UNHCR in MENA to continue to champion the Principles of Partnership "PoP" especially with front line field offices.
- ▶ Looking ahead to how future regional consultations will link to the UNHCR/NGO consultations in Geneva.
- ▶ Stronger role of implementing partners of UNHCR not only participating, but also in follow up/advocacy initiatives. There is a need to maintain and support civil society's efforts in ensuring coordination, transparency respect of the displaced people.
- ▶ Recommend UNHCR links its IP's to other potential donors during the course of program implementation and not wait until the end of the partnership, to ensure more sustainability to NGOs.



## The Sustainable Development Goals and Refugee Inclusion | Solving

This session covered including refugee programs in national development strategies and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) according to each country's national plans. Taking on such a wholistic approach is one that is highly relevant to the Global Compact on Refugees, which calls for addressing the root causes of displacement. In instances where displacement is conflict-induced, understanding the drivers of conflict, including marginalization, economic strife, social inequalities, pervasive discrimination, and governance challenges, will contribute to more robust conflict prevention interventions. This can also further be linked to peace-building and sustaining peace in situations of post-conflict stabilization and transitions, where refugee return takes place.

**Moderator:**

Dorsey Lockhart | WANA Institute

**Panelists:**

- Nuha Zayda | Jordanian National Council for Women
- Lubna Al Waeli | Legal Clinic Network
- Fatima Ibrahim | Lebanese Economic Association
- Sawsan Saadeh | CARE

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ States should consider refugee inclusion in national development strategies, building on the contributions which can be made to countries' economic growth.
- ▶ Analyzing the Syria situation response model, the flagship 3RP, and drawing on lessons learned in the humanitarian-development nexus and how to replicate it elsewhere.
- ▶ Linkages to be made to the GCR and SDGs as complementary frameworks for inclusive policy design and implementation, thereby leaving no one, including refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, stateless persons, returnees, or host communities, behind.
- ▶ Engaging more robustly in supporting refugee entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.



World Refugee Day 2019  
Amman, Jordan  
WithRefugees#



## Private Sector Partnerships and Innovative Economic Solutions | Solving

In the MENA region, the private sector has stepped in to play a crucial role in filling funding gaps. Better framing and understanding the role of the private sector in the provision of essential services and/or advocacy, beyond fundraising, for refugees and host communities is now also essential. Innovative initiatives have been developed to maximize efficiency and promote sustainability. Civil society and humanitarian actors can engage innovatively with the private sector to maximize impact.

The panelists discussed the need for a better engagement between the private sector and humanitarian actors. Collaborative efforts can make an impact and can provide a strong basis to enhance policies and regulations. In addition, the private sector can play an active role in enhancing refugees' skills and guiding them into creating an impact. Participants highlighted the need to look into refugees as an asset and as part of the solution, instead of looking at them as receivers, including through including refugees in shaping new businesses.

### Moderator:

Houssam Chahine | UNHCR Private Sector Partnerships

### Panelists:

- Fida Taher | Women in Business Arabia
- Rania Shamas | Al Tayer Group
- Rose Alissi | American Chamber of Commerce
- Alia Farahat | Al Majmoua
- Leila Toplic | No Lost Generation



## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ UNHCR, NGOs and civil society will partner with private sector entities to enter into innovative approaches through SMEs for sustainability, using technological support to amplify impact.
- ▶ The private sector is encouraged to understand refugees' needs and to look into sustainable solutions/interventions prior to engagement.
- ▶ Corporate social responsibility programs need to include mentorship programs to empower refugees and host communities.
- ▶ It is important to conduct a mapping exercise for joint initiatives and best practices with the private sector across MENA that proved to be successful and could be replicated, with lessons learned.

## CLOSING PANEL: INSPIRATION AND RESILIENCE

The last session was a reflection on the consultations over the two days, including the mechanics of partnerships and cooperation and looked into ways into improvement of the existing network.

The closing panel also reflected on the themes selected for the MENA Consultations and their relevance to the Global Compact on Refugees, looking into policies and advocacy messages on both national and regional levels.

The participants also reiterated the vital role of the private sector in capitalizing on refugees skills in host countries and after return, which would contribute into the growth of local economy.

A Syrian refugee entrepreneur spoke about her successful experience in community service and development. A designer by profession, she continued to maintain her skills and services in the local community in Jordan, highlighting the potential for growth and investment in this particular industry of textile manufacturing, fashion design, and the potential for economic inclusion therein, with advantages for the refugee community, as well as the host country.

### Moderator:

Shaden Khallaf | UNHCR MENA

### Panelists:

- Sana Mustafa | Global Refugee-Led Network
- Mary Nazzal Batayneh | Landmark Hotel / 17 Asset Management
- Leonore Lekkerkerkerl Basmeh and Zeitooneh
- Basima Al Bitar | Refugee Entrepreneur
- Nasser Yassin | IFI AUB / MENA CSND

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Stronger representation of refugees in the range of meetings, events, consultations
- ▶ Engagement of regional organizations in the MENA NGO consultations so policies could be developed on the regional level.
- ▶ Further analysis required of the lessons learned from development and humanitarian responses in protracted refugee situations in the region, also for potential sharing beyond at the GRF in December
- ▶ NGOs, civil society and private sector need to advocate for refugees' access to labour market.

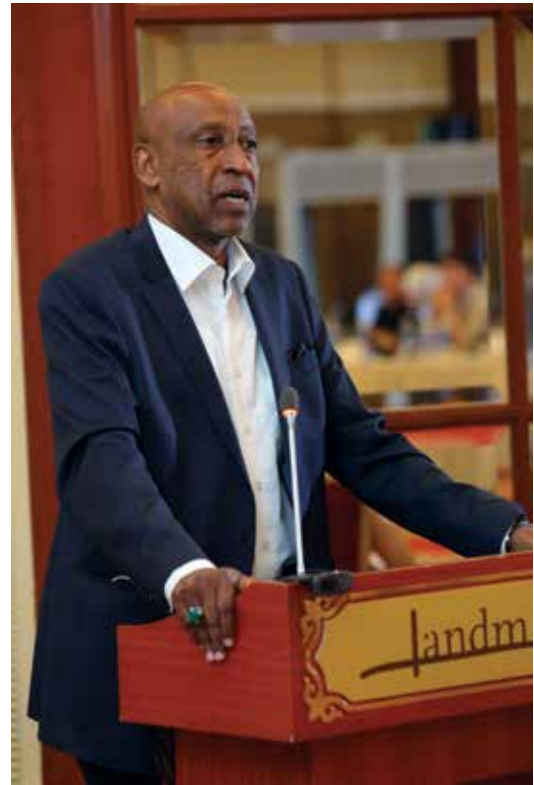




## CLOSING REMARKS

UNHCR MENA Director, Amin Awad, delivered the closing remarks of the MENA NGO and Civil Society Consultations on Displacement with a clear message that innovative and multi-stakeholder responses are necessary in protracted situations where no political solutions are in sight.

The Director's final remarks focused on the unique opportunity that brought UNHCR, NGOs and civil society together under the umbrella of "a whole of society approach." The Director acknowledged that the consultations opened a quality dialogue among all stakeholders engaged in refugee assistance and support to host communities. He noted that it would be increasingly important for UNHCR, NGOs and civil society to continue consultations on operational and advocacy issues in the era of the Global Compact on Refugees, highlighting that refugee needs can be met only with effective partnerships between UNHCR and all stakeholders in the region.





## LINKS TO GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM AND NEXT STEPS

Ahead of the first Global Refugee Forum on 17-18 December 2019 in Geneva, some of the areas around which joint pledges, commitments, and good practices can be shared by partners were highlighted as:

Academic institutions can support refugees and host communities through evidence-based studies, policies and best practises about refugee protection, migration and inclusion, for dissemination among humanitarian actors and media, and for advocacy in relation to leaving no one behind.

Greater analysis of how achieving the Sustainable Development Goals can lead to stronger and more impactful conflict prevention in a region where armed conflict has affected the lives of millions.

Artists, social media influencers, athletes and celebrities can contribute to develop a positive narrative about refugees and host communities. Culture and arts, as forms of communication, expression and identity, should also be promoted and further tapped into to improve the lives of refugees and the communities in which they live.

Data experts, data collectors, refugees and community leaders can work together in the planning, collection and analysis of information, which can lead to more comprehensive, sustainable, and predictable interventions.

UN country offices can include migration coordination mechanism within their country teams, in line with the GCR and GCM.

NGOs and civil society can engage local communities to engage refugees in sports and cultural activities and promote social inclusion and cohesion over division.

UNHCR, NGOs and civil society can enhance partnership with private sector entities to look into innovative approaches through SMEs , supporting entrepreneurship, and impact investment for more economic empowerment and inclusion of refugees and host communities.



<https://www.unhcr.org/global-refugee-forum.html>

## EVALUATION SUMMARY

An online evaluation sent to participants after the consultations received approximately 30% of participant responses. The main findings indicate that 65% of the participants were either satisfied or very satisfied with the Consultations overall. 50% of the participants believe that the consultation connected participants with global developments and regional trends, 70% believe that the consultations reflected geographic and gender balance among participants. 90% of participants expressed interest to attend the consultations next year. Below are some additional recommendations shared by participants for inclusion in planning:

- To build on the expertise of attendees through networking and side-events
- To focus on the theme of root causes of displacement and the role of NGOs and civil society in prevention.
- To build in time for in-depth conversations through working group discussions
- To involve national authorities and regional organizations in discussions for specific sessions
- To provide pre-consultation reading and allowing more time for preparation among speakers and moderators
- To reiterate opportunities for linkages with the GRF including through pledges, commitments, and good practices
- To solicit feedback and evaluation in real time through mobile links or paper forms



World Refugee Day 2019  
Amman, Jordan  
WithRefugees#

