

UNHCR ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOS
3 – 5 JULY 2019

International Conference Center Geneva

DISCUSSION PAPER

Title of session: Enhancing Partnership Integrity

Date: Wednesday, 2 July 2019

Time/Room: 16:00 - 18:00 – Room 4

Executive Summary:

There have been many new developments in partnerships over the past year and, in the context of UNHCR restructuring, will be more to come. This forum is an important opportunity to let NGO voices be heard and have our questions addressed and shared with UNHCR, as we work together with UNHCR in assisting persons of concern.

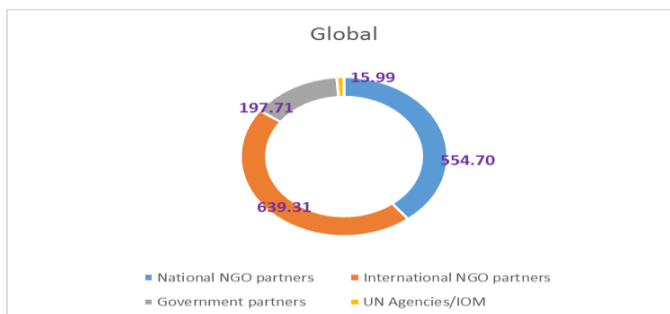
This session on major trends and developments in UNHCR partnerships will explore the major new developments in partnerships over horizon – the emergence of multi-year funding agreements between UNHCR and NGOs, the long awaited implementation of Partnership Cooperation for Integrity Support Costs for national NGOs, the unveiling and review of the first new edition of the Partnership Handbook in over 15 years and addressing the question about where in its restructuring will UNHCR house partnerships in serving our people of concern, and how the dialogue between partners and UNHCR to improve partnerships will continue in the coming years. We will also examine the ongoing implementation of the Grand Bargain by UNHCR and its partners, the first full year of a new approach to partner personnel costs, and share the results of the annual survey of UNHCR and NGOs in trends in partnerships.

Participants in the NGO Consultations are strongly encouraged to review the new handbook, and other discussion papers (outcome of partnership survey, recent guidance notes, etc.) made available [at the session's webpage](#) prior to the session, and to share feedback on the new handbook not only during the partnerships session, but during each session of the NGO Consultations as that particular session relates to a particular chapter of the handbook.

Concept Note:

- **Background and link to the theme:** UNHCR has long relied on strategic partnerships with NGOs to ensure protection and solutions for persons of concern. Collaboration with NGOs continues to grow significantly in terms of substance and resources. In 2018, the funds UNHCR allocated through partnerships surpassed US\$1.4 Billion (Approximately one third of UNHCR's annual expenditure), with **39%** of this (US\$ 554.7 Million) supporting partnerships with national NGOs. The number of

partners playing a significant role in the quest for protection and solutions has been expanding have crossed the 1,000 mark reaching **1,077**, including **666** national/local and **195** international NGOs. UNHCR attaches particular importance to enhancing the capacity and engagement of national partners and first responders. UNHCR currently the funds entrusted with NGO partners has **more than doubled since a decade ago** (\$555 million in 2018 versus 251 in 2010) and spends **22%** its annual programme expenditures on partnerships with national NGOs, well on its way to reaching its goal of 25% by 2020. UNHCR and its partners operate in highly challenging and risk-borne environment Management of partnership is complex and multifaceted and involves numerous stakeholders. Maintaining sound partnership integrity and stewardship of resources entrusted to UNHCR and its partners is our core value and paramount important to serving persons of concern.



Since the establishment of the Implementing Partnership Management Service (IPMS) and the launch of the ongoing development of the Framework for Implementing with Partners in 2012, UNHCR has made considerable progress, in consultation with NGO partners through consultative process UNHCR/NGOs field and network reference groups, with a new standard partnership agreement, new policies and procedures on selection and retention of partners, and joint monitoring of projects and partnership review, with the intention of enhancing partnerships and collaboration.

Relevant to this year's NGO Consultations theme of "partnerships and data: improving evidence based responses," for this and each of the last 6 years, UNHCR and NGOs have tracked and promoted progress in the partnership through an annual partnerships survey of UNHCR and NGO field offices, originally carried out by the NGO HIAS and now by InterAction. In addition, this year's session will examine the increasing centrality of data and evidence based responses in the joint work of UNHCR and NGOs in delivery of protection and durable solutions for persons of concern.

- Objective(s) of the session:** The event aims to provide partners and other stakeholders an opportunity to review the improvements made over the years to the Framework including enhancing partnership integrity, as well as to discuss future plans. In particular, (1) make partners aware of imminent developments in partnerships (i.e. new Partnership Handbook, multi-year partnership agreements, national partner integrity support costs and accompanying expectations, enhancing partnership integrity, digitization and data driven partnership management process), 2) share and discuss the findings /the data from the annual partnerships survey survey; (3) receive partner feedback on these developments, and (4) hear partner

suggestions and concerns on how to apply data and evidence based responses to further strengthen the UNHCR-NGO partnership for persons of concern.

- **Desired outcome of the session:** Enhancing the collaborative efforts through ensuring that UNHCR and NGO partners are better informed of each other's concerns and suggestions to foster common approach for developments in partnerships, particularly in the use of data and evidence based responses in the exercise of those partnerships.

Methodology & choreography [*panel discussion, break-out sessions, pigeonhole, video presentation, mixture of different elements*] The session will be in a panel format "Town Hall" style with opportunities for the attendees to ask questions and provide feedback through Q and A as well as pigeonhole. The panel will begin with the UNHCR Controller, Hans Baritt, on the vision of the Division of Financial and Administrative Management on how DFAM is utilizing partnerships, data, evidence based responses, and innovation in improving our shared mission to meeting the needs of our persons of concern, along with an update on the ongoing UNHCR restructuring as it may impact partnerships between UNHCR and NGOs. This will be followed by a consultation with the audience by the Head of the Implementing Partnerships Management Service, Fatima Sherif-Nor-Nor on trends and new developments in partnerships; particularly the release of the first partnership handbook in over a decade, the expected establishment of Partnership Cooperation for Integrity Support Costs for national NGOs, the launch of multi-year partnership agreements, and will share the new on-line interactive Integrity and Assurance Module on the UN Partner Portal.

We will get the annual check-up on the state of UNHCR-NGO partnerships from Julian Schopp of InterAction, who will present the annual UNHCR-NGO partnership survey, and get a progress report on the Grand Bargain and UNHCR partnerships, and then a national NGO perspective on these issues from Selin Susan Mathews of Don Bosco, India, then opening it to the floor for questions and perspectives from international as well as national NGOs to the developments discussed.

- Most importantly, we want to hear from you, about what this means for NGOs. The NGOs are not an audience but are intended to be like presenters on this panel. We want to hear, record and report on what is on their minds about partnerships as we try to move together toward more impactful, and evidence based responses.