

UNHCR Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations
Wednesday, June 27, 2018
Thematic session on Partnership, 16:30-18:30 hrs.

Panel topic “Together ensuing sound stewardship and combatting misconduct”

*This topic will be facilitated by **Mr. Ashok GLADSTON**, Organisation for Eelam Refugee Rehabilitation, India.*

*Speakers: **Ms. Colette Fearon**, OXFAM International.
Mr. John Rynne, GOAL, Ireland.
Ms. Ivana Petkovic, International Medical Corps.*

UNHCR and its partners are entrusted to serve refugees and other persons with utmost care, diligence and respect. They are expected to carry out their activities in conformity with their humanitarian nature and in accordance with the highest ethical and professional standards, both within their respective organizations and externally. They are required to establish effective standards for managing their activities, including preventing, detecting, reporting and sanctioning misconduct and fraudulent acts.

In 2017, UNHCR transferred more than US\$1.5 billion of its annual budget to its humanitarian partners. Donors expect sound stewardship by UNHCR and its partners, as well as assurance that the scarce resources available for serving persons of concern are handled in an efficient, cost-effective and transparent manner.

Humanitarian actors operate in a high-risk environment and are facing unprecedented challenges in combatting misconduct. Such undesired acts significantly and negatively impact resources, organizational existence, morale of the personnel, partnerships, and, most importantly, those who need the last penny to rebuild their lives.

In 2017, UNHCR’s Investigation Service received 145 partner fraud allegations. Out of these, 14 investigations were opened, 49 cases were referred to the respective partners for investigation, and 57 are pending review by UNHCR. Fraud allegations were substantiated in three (3) partner cases among those investigated by UNHCR.

Maintaining credibility, reputation and integrity is critical to attaining the best results for refugees and other persons of concern. As such, UNHCR has adopted zero tolerance for abuse, sexual harassment, exploitation, conflict of interest, corrupt and fraudulent practices, or any other form of misconduct. It also established measures for detecting, preventing, reporting and sanctioning corrupt and fraudulent acts.

This session will explore common efforts and approaches to enabling and building coalitions to fight against fraud, exploitation and other forms of misconduct. Several organisations-- OXFAM, GOAL and *International Medical Corps* —will share their organisation's recent experience. The aim is to foster discussion of ways both UNHCR and partners can enhance controls, overcome misconduct, rebuild trust with partners, and find common solutions.

Questions for discussion

1. Participants will discuss what UNHCR, partners, and donors can do together to combat, as well as recover from, misconduct.
2. Participants will consider ways to promote ethical behaviour by humanitarian workers.



Source: UNHCR/IPMS- 13 June 2018.