

20 September 2019

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to inform you about the outcomes of the meeting we had together with our respective senior management teams in May 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to reaffirm our strategic partnership, in accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed in 2013. Given the current anti-refugee climate in many parts of the world, we agreed to join forces to strengthen protection that focuses on solutions and to assist refugees and internally displaced persons at all stages of displacement, from the initial phase of an emergency to those in protracted situations.

NRC is a key partner in the areas of coordination, policy, protection, shelter, legal assistance and education and one of the biggest recipients of UNHCR funding. The success of this relationship is founded on quality programming to support UNHCR's Strategic Directions, a strong culture of trust and the belief in the centrality of protection. Our organizations have developed an important and stable partnership in many countries and we want to build on these positive experiences to make it even more solid and reliable in the future.

Consequently, we have decided to reinforce our strategic, transparent and consultative cooperation including with respect to integrity and advocacy, as well as publications and public statements. Advocacy is a particular complex and multi-faceted area of work, which requires us to understand each other's advantages and constraints and work together to complement each other.

Building on our foundational commitments to protection, we will continue to strengthen the Global Protection Cluster as well as the role of NRC and of other non-governmental organizations to assume cluster co-leads at the national and sub-national levels. In addition, we will reinforce our collaboration by providing expertise through NORCAP deployments.

To ensure the predictability of our engagement in forced displacement emergencies we will further operationalize the refugee emergency response agreement (RERA). Furthermore, NRC and UNHCR have committed to signing multi-year partnership agreements where suitable, i.e. in operations where multi-year, multi-partner strategies exist and the continuity of the projects can be ensured, including through funding. Multi-year programming is in line with the Global Compact on Refugees and is expected to lead to a more stable response, as well as a more structured and predictable approach to burden- and responsibility-sharing.

As we continue to strive for greater efficiency and transparency, we need to work together to understand and find solutions to some of the challenges that affect our partnership. These efforts should include identifying the main reasons behind delays in signing agreements and unfavourable audit results, as well as finding ways to simplify systems and procedures. We encourage you to maintain an open and active dialogue at both regional and country levels so that critical partnership issues are addressed in a timely manner.

To:

UNHCR Regional Bureau Directors and Representatives  
NRC Regional and Country Directors

Regular and constructive dialogue is essential, including at country and regional level, to seize new opportunities provided by UNHCR's regionalization process. In addition to existing consultation platforms, we encourage you, as UNHCR Regional Bureau Directors and Representatives and NRC Regional and Country Directors, to come together regularly and discuss challenges and opportunities related to protection, advocacy and programming in your operations and regions ahead of the detailed planning for 2020 and beyond. We are also committed to continuing our regular strategic discussions at the principals' level.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Egeland  
Secretary-General  
NRC



Filippo Grandi  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees