

Summary Note

2022 High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges: Development Cooperation

Geneva, Switzerland, 7-8 December 2022

On a biennial basis, the Dialogue on Protection Challenges provides a forum for informal and lively multi-stakeholder discussions on emerging global protection issues. In 2022, the Dialogue was held on 7 and 8 December in Geneva, Switzerland, and focused on **the role of development cooperation in advancing protection and solutions for displaced and stateless people** and provided a space for interactive conversations among a variety of stakeholders. The Dialogue **convened over 500 stakeholders** from States, international organisations, development actors, international financial institutions, peace actors, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, and refugee-led organisations. [Twenty refugees](#), originally from thirteen countries, travelled from fourteen hosting countries to join the Dialogue.

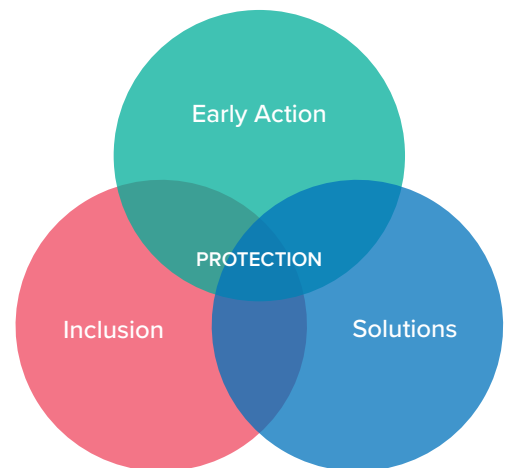
The Dialogue structured conversations around three thematic pillars: **early action**, **inclusion**, and **solutions** for displaced and stateless people, with protection as a central and cross-cutting objective throughout. Mr. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and Ms. Antoinette M. Sayeh, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF), opened the Dialogue and discussed how development partnerships can support the realisation of protection and solutions.

Two spotlight sessions explored each thematic pillar, structured as dynamic conversations prioritising interventions from the floor and co-moderated by UNHCR and a partner. The [programme](#) also featured plenary sessions, special sessions, Speakers' Corner talks, and photo exhibitions over the two days.

The **preparatory work** for the Dialogue grounded the global conversations in contextual experiences, prioritising a locally-driven and action-oriented approach to development cooperation from the onset. UNHCR convened [seven preparatory regional roundtables](#), exploring the Dialogue's themes in the context of displacement and stateless situations in each region. Stakeholders also had the opportunity to propose and undertake a series of "innovation labs" to advance on key issues related to development cooperation and bring together diverse partners. From the innovation labs, [nine multi-stakeholder initiatives on development cooperation](#) were launched at the Dialogue and will mobilise pledges in their respective areas.

The Dialogue was springboard to preparations for the [Global Refugee Forum 2023](#) (GRF), which Switzerland and UNHCR will co-host in Geneva in December 2023. During the closing plenary, it was [announced](#) that six States – **Colombia, France, Japan, Jordan, the Niger, and Uganda**, together with UNHCR, will co-convene the GRF 2023. Building towards the GRF 2023, the Dialogue has provided fruitful starting points for stakeholders to advance **pledging, learning, and stocktaking** on development cooperation in displacement and statelessness contexts. The Dialogue itself emerged as a platform for stocktaking and sharing best practices, which are captured in the Dialogue's outcome document. Stakeholders were also invited to share content on development cooperation, such as articles, reports, and statements. The resulting [Digital Resources Hub](#) is repository to inform preparations for the GRF 2023.

Drawing from the outcome document, this summary note includes the **cross-cutting outcomes** and **thematic outcomes**. The Dialogue's policy and operational messages and their corresponding proposed actions will serve as a basis to implement concrete progress on UNHCR's work on development cooperation, as set out in UNHCR's [2022-2026 Strategic Directions](#). They will also inform pledge cultivation on development cooperation as we look ahead to the GRF 2023.



Summary of outcomes

Building on inputs gathered during the preparatory roundtables and the 2022 High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, the following policy and operational messages emerged, with accompanying proposed actions for UNHCR and partners.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOMES	
Policy Message	Proposed Actions
National leadership should spearhead development initiatives to address the causes and impacts of forced displacement and statelessness.	<p>Integrate refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees, and stateless people in national development planning across all relevant sectors of government, as well as emergency response and climate adaptation strategies, in conjunction with the necessary support from international partners for implementation.</p> <p>Enhance local and national authorities' technical abilities in preparedness, protection service delivery, data management, and development planning.</p> <p>Prioritise the sharing of local and national experiences and good practices to inform regional and global policy forums.</p>
Policy Message	Proposed Actions
Strengthen rights-based and protection-sensitive planning, budgeting, and coordination between humanitarian, development, and peace actors.	<p>Ensure predictable, flexible, and multi-year financing and funding mechanisms to support transitions from humanitarian to development assistance in protracted displacement situations, in line with the OECD DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus.</p> <p>Support institutional frameworks and capacity to facilitate whole-of-government approaches and partnerships with communities, civil society, and private sector for more joined-up HDP approaches.</p> <p>Increase development cooperation in IDP contexts supported by protection analysis and data specific to IDPs and host communities.</p>
Operational Message	Proposed Actions
Increase the production and utilisation of data and evidence to inform national policymaking and programming.	<p>Include displaced and stateless people in national data and statistical systems (Global Compact on Refugees, para. 46) to enable integrated, evidence-informed operational responses, development programmes, and inclusive policies.</p> <p>Disaggregate population data to account for age, gender, diversity, and protection considerations, and provide capacity support for data collection, analysis, and use.</p> <p>Articulate the protection dividends of development cooperation using data and evidence, integrated with human stories and local contexts.</p>
Operational Message	Proposed Actions
Ensure that displaced and stateless people and communities meaningfully participate in policy and programme design, implementation, and evaluation processes.	<p>Engage displaced and stateless people in advancing humanitarian-development-peace cooperation through the 2023 GRF, from pledge cultivation and programme design to implementation and follow-up.</p> <p>Facilitate access to inclusive funding and equitable partnership opportunities for refugee- and stateless-led organisations that can contribute to sustainable development at the local level.</p> <p>Formalise engagement of displaced, stateless and host communities in the design of development policies and programmes including through national/local advisory boards.</p>
Policy Message	Proposed Actions
Strengthen the links between climate action and emergency preparedness and response planning.	<p>Improve access to climate finance for adaptation and Loss and Damage in climate-vulnerable countries to support locally led durable solutions.</p> <p>Co-implement climate action with displaced communities and their hosts, including through locally led adaptation of livelihoods and agriculture; housing, land, and property issues; and the development of climate-resilient infrastructure.</p> <p>Increase the coverage and accessibility of climate risk analysis and early warning systems for anticipatory action that is inclusive of displaced people and their hosts.</p>

THEMATIC OUTCOMES

EARLY ACTION

Policy Message

Support *local governments and communities* with accessible financing, technical assistance, and consultative planning to implement effective responses.

Proposed Actions

Establish enabling governance frameworks to include local governments, cities, and local authorities in contingency, emergency response, and development planning.

Revise financing mechanisms to boost cities and local authorities' access to humanitarian and development financing.

Strengthen links between local public service provision and the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Policy Message

Integrate refugee and IDP emergency preparedness into *risk reduction and resilience strategies, programmes, and budgets* to support inclusion and access to protection from a crisis onset.

Proposed Actions

Build strong legal, policy, and institutional frameworks for preparedness and coordination with a broad range of stakeholders.

Secure flexible financing tools that can strengthen preparedness and early development-oriented support to scale up capacities of national and local responders at the onset of a crisis.

Adjust or scale up existing development support to strengthen protection functions in national systems, such as asylum, birth and civil registration, social welfare, and justice.

INCLUSION

Policy Message

Build conducive ecosystems for the *financial and economic inclusion* of displaced and stateless people, drawing from the complementary roles of private sector, governments, protection actors, and other partners.

Proposed Actions

Remove barriers that prevent access to formal labour markets, such as lack of freedom of movement, legal rights to work, documentation, access to finance, and opportunities for entrepreneurship.

Package data in a way that is relevant to private sector investment decisions, including protection risks, and take a systematic approach to documenting experiences.

Identify blended finance opportunities bringing together public and private funds to create market-conducive incentives to extend financial services and employment opportunities to displaced and stateless people and their host communities.

Policy Message

Ensure that displaced and stateless people are *included in national systems and have access to economic opportunities*, and support host governments with the necessary financial and technical capacities to implement inclusive policies.

Proposed Actions

Tailor approaches to support inclusion policies based on socio-economic and protection data, localised and participatory approaches, and evidence on the benefits of inclusion.

Enhance the development and utilisation of the [Refugee Policy Review Framework](#) and other pertinent policy analyses to identify policy bottlenecks, monitor progress, and improve in-country policy coordination among national and international stakeholders.

Pair policy pledges made by host countries to facilitate inclusion of displaced and stateless people with pledges made by donors to provide financial, material, or technical support, via UNHCR's efforts to facilitate [Pledge Matching](#).

THEMATIC OUTCOMES

SOLUTIONS

Policy Message

Strengthen development assistance to create conducive conditions for sustainable **voluntary return and reintegration**.

Proposed Actions

Integrate human rights, peacebuilding, and conflict prevention objectives in programming to address causes of displacement and strengthen the sustainability of returns.

Scale up support and funding for area-based approaches in return areas to ensure sustainable returns and support reintegration.

Invest in building the skills of refugees while in host countries, and facilitate the recognition of academic, professional, and technical training and qualifications in countries of origin.

Policy Message

Support legal, judicial, policy, and administrative strengthening and reforms led by Governments to enable solutions for displaced and stateless populations.

Proposed Actions

Reinforce regional arrangements to provide technical, political, and financial support for the adoption and implementation of enabling national policies and local integration initiatives.

Support countries to review and reform law, policy, and practice relating to nationality and citizenship to prevent the denial, loss, or deprivation of nationality on discriminatory grounds.

Foster multi-stakeholder partnerships across sectors to advance complementary pathways, such as labour mobility or higher education opportunities in third countries, including a focus on the issuance of machine-readable travel documents.



Ms. Clementine Nkweta-Salami, Director, Regional Bureau for East and Horn Africa and the Great Lakes, UNHCR, Ms. Kelly T. Clements, Deputy High Commissioner, UNHCR, Mr. Martin Niteretse, Minister of Interior of Burundi, Mr. Abdul Karim Ghoul, UNHCR Representative in Burundi, and Mr. Damien Mama, UN Resident Coordinator for Burundi, speak on a panel during the *High-Level Roundtable on Return and Reintegration of Burundian Refugees* in Bujumbura, Burundi.

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Cover photo: Ms. Adriana Elizabeth Figueredo Costero, DAFI Scholar and Latin America Regional Lead, Tertiary Refugee Student Network, presenting the outcomes of the Innovation Lab “Global Peer to Peer Solutions Advisor Network” at the closing plenary, 2022 High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges