

ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOS
14 – 16 JUNE 2017
International Conference Center Geneva

DISCUSSION PAPER

Session title: ***Operationalizing the humanitarian-development nexus at the country level: What will it take?***

Date: ***Friday 16 June***

Time/Room: ***09h00 – 12h00 – Room 3***

Background:

In 2016 the World Humanitarian Summit and the New York Declaration on refugees and migrants officially recognized the necessity to provide comprehensive responses to displaced people's immediate and longer-term needs. More specifically, in the New York Declaration, Member States directed that comprehensive refugee responses should involve a multi-stakeholder, "whole-of-society" approach that includes "national and local authorities, international organizations, international financial institutions, regional organizations, civil society partners, including faith-based organizations and academia, the private sector, media and the refugees themselves." This comprehensive approach seeks to ensure more sustainable responses by linking humanitarian and development efforts early on in a crisis and investing in the resilience of both refugees and local communities, including through strengthening national and local systems wherever possible. NGOs, with their wealth of experience in both humanitarian and development contexts, are well positioned to provide practical guidance and inputs into "both agendas" to overcome operational and coordination challenges.

Objectives of the session:

This session aims at identifying examples, lessons learnt and recommendations for UNHCR and partners to take forward, including in the context of development of the Comprehensive refugee response framework. In this session, NGOs will be called upon to discuss and provide inputs in plenary as well as in small groups about specific case studies, taking the opportunity of the presence of UNHCR staff and other partners to advance

mutual understanding of the challenges and opportunities related to operationalizing the humanitarian-development nexus.

Desired outcome of the session:

- A short outcome document with specific actions for Governments, local civil society, UNHCR, other UN entities, donors, INGOs, international financial institutions, private sector and any other relevant partners to operationalize the humanitarian-development nexus
- NGOs have had an opportunity to provide inputs and recommendations to UNHCR regarding the operationalization of the humanitarian-development nexus.
- NGOs, UNHCR and other key stakeholders, such as the Government, local civil society, UN agencies and international financial institutions are encouraged to continue the conversation in-country.

Methodology:

- A short survey was circulated to NGO participants on 12 April 2017 to consult them on the topic.
- Plenary session with high-level speakers to introduce the topic
- Break-out groups on Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Uganda case studies, involving NGO and UNHCR resource persons
- Q&A session with UNHCR resource persons (Q&A online platform Pigeonhole)
- Short outcome document