

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

DISCUSSION PAPER

Session title: ***The benefits of strengthened coordination for people of concern***

Date: ***Wednesday 14 June***

Time/Room: ***11h00 – 12h30 – Room 5/6***

Background:

The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) calls on all actors to develop a comprehensive refugee response framework which is based on a multi-partner, multi-year, whole of society approach, under the leadership of the host Government. UNHCR is requested to roll-out and initiate this framework in all new large scale refugee settings and to pilot the CRRF in existing situations with a view of drawing on these experiences for the Global Compact on Refugees, scheduled for adoption at the UN General Assembly in 2018. Under this new framework, certain countries, such as Tanzania, have expanded and adapted the pre-existing refugee leadership and coordination arrangements. In this process, partner concerns have been taken on-board to improve the response.

The session will start with a brief overview of the common issues and challenges in regards to effective UNHCR-NGO partnership through the lens of past structured dialogues. The opening session will draw out the most common challenges and provide examples on mechanisms that proved helpful to solve issues, clarify roles and responsibilities and facilitate change in the way of working together.

By looking into real-life humanitarian situations and how a country team was able to scale-up and strengthen coordination, which in turn improved communication flows and partnerships resulting in better outcomes for refugees, the session hopes to capture good and replicable practices.

Objectives of the session

- Facilitate the learning on how we commonly achieve course correction of the coordination arrangements when things do not work out as planned
- Base the learning on real life situations with a specific country example
- Draw out the key elements of real, effective and efficient partnerships
- Find replicable best coordination practices

Desired outcome of the session:

- Inspire and share lessons learned

Methodology

The session will start with a brief overview of the common issues and challenges in regards to effective UNHCR-NGO partnership through the lens of past structured dialogues. Opening session will draw out the most common challenges and provide guidance on mechanisms that proved helpful to solve issues, clarify roles and responsibilities and facilitate change.

The panel will then go into a specific CRRF country context (Tanzania) to tease out the elements that allowed for course correction in a specific, high pressure context with large refugee inflow and insufficient resources. The panel will include participants from UNHCR and an NGO working in Tanzania.