

Towards a Global Compact on Refugees
Thematic session three:
“Meeting needs and supporting communities”
Geneva 18 October 2017

PANEL 2: How can we support the inclusion of refugees in national systems and services?

Ladies and gentlemen,

Germany aligns itself with the EU statement.

The integration of refugees¹ requires a holistic approach that focuses on labour market integration and securing of livelihood opportunities in order to strengthen economic development and social cohesion in the host state. Such an approach should include the dimensions of access to the labour market, improving employability, ensuring fair working conditions, and the inclusion of social partners and civil society in the promotion of social and economic integration.

Integration measures – in particular access to language training, integration courses, labour market and education – should be provided as soon as possible, (also for asylum seekers with a good perspective to stay) given that delaying integration may have negative consequences for both refugees and host communities. In particular, early access to the labor market will promote refugees’ self-reliance and future integration in the host society.

It is therefore urgent that international and local actors engaged in development and the humanitarian agenda join the efforts of national governments to **develop and scale up risk-informed and shock-responsive**

¹ Refugees according to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

social protection systems. Information held by international and local actors should be passed on quickly to the national governments.

It is equally relevant to work closely **with local authorities to adapt governance structures in order to strengthen coordination and build synergies** between departments responsible for social protection, humanitarian assistance, forced displacement, agriculture and productive sectors, disaster risk management and social service sectors. Localised or regional social protection support may be a more appropriate and feasible unit for analysis and programming. Local-level governance structures should be strengthened through resource allocation and capacity enhancement.

By building local humanitarian actors' capacities to protect and assist refugees the international community follows up on its commitment made at the World Humanitarian Summit to strengthen local humanitarian response.

Germany aims to meet immediate needs of refugees through humanitarian assistance, while strengthening the resilience of people, their communities and institutional structures, and promoting the development of longer-term sustainable social protection systems that are affordable and inclusive especially for refugees. .

In contexts of fragility and protracted crisis, cash based interventions are often the instrument of choice. We aim to design them in such a way that they allow for transition to longer-term measures, payment and data systems. In order to achieve longer-term results, the provision of cash assistance is ideally connected to complementary measures, such as training or delivery of other services, and where possible social insurance and labour market interventions.

Furthermore, Germany would like to make the following statements:

- Family members and family unity are crucial for the overall integration. For that reason, we call upon all Member States if possible to engage in making available or expanding opportunities and complementary legal pathways for the admission of refugees through including family reunification.
- Integration of refugee children at the earliest stage is crucial to support their development into adulthood. It is a social investment and an essential factor contributing to societal cohesion.
- Special attention should also be paid to other persons with specific reception needs. In particular, meeting all refugees' gender-specific psychosocial, health, and other needs. The significant contribution and leadership of women in refugee communities should be recognized and their full, equal and meaningful participation ensured.
- Germany reaffirms the need to combat racism and discrimination against refugees in host societies.

Thank you.