

**Panel Presentation on Thematic Discussion Three on Global Compact on
Refugees: Meeting Needs and Supporting Communities**

(Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework Pillars Two and Three)

***Livelihood Programmes for Refugees and Host Communities in Kigoma
Region, Tanzania by Good Neighbors International***

- Introduction

Thank you Chairperson and thank you panellist for sharing your invaluable views and examples.

I am pleased to present to you the experience of Good Neighbors International in enhancing economic empowerment and promoting livelihood opportunities for refugees and host communities. I make this presentation with the support of NGOs and local stakeholders partnering in livelihood activities across the refugee camps in Kigoma region, Tanzania.

- Background

While massive displacements and challenges in both resources and humanitarian space keep growing, we can also identify positive and innovative changes actually happening on the field in the context of the CRRF.

Tanzania currently hosts 364,276 refugees who fled from DRC and Burundi, and is historically renowned for its open and friendly policy towards displaced neighbours as it is symbolised by the naturalisation of some 162,000 refugees from Burundi. We NGOs therefore highly commend and welcome the participation of the Government of Tanzania in the CRRF process.

On the civil society side, the very fact that an NGO from Asia with more expertise in development than humanitarian assistance is representing civil society on this forum shows that the humanitarian-development nexus as well as the inclusion of diverse stakeholders is actually walking the walk.

- Livelihood Activities for Refugees and Host Communities in Kigoma, Tanzania

Good Neighbors International, in cooperation with the local government, host communities, and NGOs has engaged in promoting livelihood opportunities addressing the needs of both refugees and host communities in Tanzania through common markets, business training, kitchen gardening, and promotion of saving groups. As you might notice, there is nothing either innovative or novel in those activities. The only difference is how we engaged stakeholders and overcame invisible barriers.

In the common market of Nyarugusu we supported core infrastructures and the establishment of a market committee bringing Tanzanians, Congolese and Burundians as equal partners commonly solving challenges and planning their future. The market has

grown as one of the largest in Kigoma region attracting and upbringing more than thousand vendors from the camp, nearby villages and even large cities in neighbouring regions.

Through business training and kitchen garden projects in Nduta and Mtendeli we are bringing together local farmers and Burudian refugees to learn from each other and to live in harmony. The district government has responded to this positive initiative by allocating land for common activities as they saw opportunities for much needed development for local farmers.

By creating Saving Groups and linking them with business capacity building we did not only increase the financial capacity of the refugees and host community but created venue for the both communities to gain from each other.

- **Impact**

Although a more thorough evaluation is to be made at the end of the projects, there are three key changes we could observe from our modest livelihood efforts around the refugee camps in Kigoma that could support the scale up of similar programmes bringing host communities and refugees together.

Most of all, these efforts bring **hope for prosperity** beyond self-reliance on both sides. The common market in Nyarugusu and the kitchen garden project in Nduta Refugee Camp show glimpses of the economic potential that refugees can bring to the region as drivers for growth rather than causes of depletion. This is made possible through a combination of local market meeting the demand of refugee population based on a cohesive intercommunal market management followed by new business opportunities.

Secondly, sustained inter-communal interaction based on mutual interest **strengthens peaceful cohesion** between refugees and host communities. Mutual understanding followed by cultural sensitivity will lead to stronger social ties between the two groups.

Last but not least, bicomunal effort for economic inclusion, access to market, and business opportunities all deeply **improve human dignity and human rights** on both sides. Diminishing relative deprivation on one side and improving self-reliance on the other are mutually connected and can be readily addressed by overcoming some of the humanitarian-development divides that persist in the region.

- **Challenges and Recommendation for CRRF**

Based on our experience I would like to note some challenges that need to be addressed for the success of the CRRF.

For all stakeholders: How the CRRF will be translated in the field and how it will affect refugee operations is still unclear and therefore entails risks. To minimize the learning curve and transaction costs, all processes for planning a national level CRRF should be transparent and inclusive, especially toward the stakeholders directly operating and affected on the field.

Donors: Using limited resources to support both refugees and the host communities remains as a challenge for many NGOs due to commitments made with their donors where the humanitarian-development divide cannot be overcome. That would have been the case for

Good Neighbors International unless our main donor, the Republic of Korea, would not have been flexible in allowing us to cover both refugees and host communities living up to the spirit of CRRF. Hence none of the above cases would exist. However, improving economic inclusion and livelihood opportunities that contribute to local communities should not come at the price of urgent humanitarian needs or vice-versa. The financing of CRRF, as was in our case with the Korean government, should be developed in order to wisely balance and mutually strengthen both the humanitarian needs of refugees and the economic development of the host country.

Host Country: Predictable government policy is a key factor for the success of development programmes with long term goals and mutual benefit for refugees and host communities. When livelihoods of the refugees are improved and included, naturally the livelihoods of the host communities improve dependant on Government's policy either as a labour force and or as consumers. In order for the CRRF to be successful, the host country should show a firm leadership and responsibility to effectively address political and social challenges that might arise in its implementation process.

NGOs: Civil society actors need also to make extra effort to bring their two hands in humanitarian and development work at the same time in a coordinated manner. More often than not, the same organizations happen to work inside and outside the camp with neither significant coordination nor synergizing efforts that might bring both efficiency and self-reliance.

- **Conclusion**

The effort from Good Neighbors International and peer NGOs in Kigoma shows just some of the hundreds maybe thousands of creative possibilities that the humanitarian and development community working together for CRRF could bring to the refugees and host communities across the world. I hope this short presentation might contribute to encourage all the stakeholders of Global Compact present in this room to engage to the self-transformation needed as rapidly as possible.

Thank you Chairperson

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