

Towards a global compact on refugees

Thematic discussion three:

Meeting needs and supporting communities

Palais des Nations, Geneva

18 October 2017

PANEL 3: How can we enhance economic inclusion and promote livelihood opportunities for all refugees in a way that benefits host countries and communities?

German Intervention

Ladies and gentlemen,

Germany aligns itself with the EU statement.

Refugees have to be seen also as development actors, who can contribute to economic growth if they are able to make full use of their skills. As such, it is of paramount importance to promote economic and social inclusion of refugees. This 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, facilitating the validation of skills and recognition of qualifications and the inclusion of social partners and civil society in the promotion of social and economic integration.

Promoting livelihood opportunities also entails the **financial inclusion of refugees**. The German G20 Presidency promoted this issue as one of four priorities of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) aiming at improving forcibly displaced persons' access to a broad range of adequate financial services.

To improve access of refugees and host communities to markets, **the private sector plays a major role in job creation** for refugees and members of host communities. Work permits for refugees are an essential prerequisite for their formal labour market participation. At the same time, it is critical to ensure the application of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and other relevant labour standards to avoid the exploitation of refugees and to sustain and advance employment conditions in the host state.

The **Jordan Compact** aims at creating jobs for refugees and the local population alike. On the one hand, access to the European market for Jordanian enterprises is relaxed and on the other hand, Syrian workers get more job possibilities. However, there are **further obstacles when accessing the labour market** that have to be addressed - youth as well as women are particularly affected. As such, lack of knowledge on markets or transportation to work can hinder access to labour markets. Further, enterprises lack the knowledge on how to access European product markets. Therefore, the **project "Trade for Employment"**, co-financed by Germany, the Netherlands and the United

Kingdom, assists Jordanian enterprises and Syrian workers with their respective market access.

However, immediate market access is not feasible for refugees in all situations. This is why it is necessary to create **temporary public work opportunities** in the meantime. After the London conference, DE has started to finance cash-for-work jobs for refugees and members of host communities in the Middle East. In 2016 over 60,000 people could be employed and in 2017 again 70,000 were employed, so far.

Thank you.