

AGENDA

2023 UNHCR Asia-Pacific Consultations with NGOs “Promoting Inclusion for Sustainable Solutions”

14-15 September 2023
 Grande Centre Point Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
 (Hybrid: in-person and online)

Day 1 Thursday, 14 September 2023

Time	Activities		Remark
	In-Person	Online	
08:30 – 09:00	Welcome and pick up of badges	Log in to the link	Hybrid
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Remarks and Introduction 1. Co-organizers Welcome 2. Key Actions/progress since 2021 Regional NGO Consultations and reminder of the GRF and Partnership sessions Key outcomes		Hybrid
09:30 – 10:00	What’s ahead: walk-through of the Consultations		Hybrid
10:00 – 10:15	What inclusion means: Messages from Refugees		Hybrid
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee break		
10:45 – 12:00	Plenary: Setting the scene on Promoting Inclusion for Sustainable Solutions in Asia-Pacific Region (Davos-style conversation) Click here for brief concept note		Hybrid
12:00 – 12:15	Roundtables Explainer		Hybrid
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch (buffet)	Lunch break	
13:15 – 16:45	Roundtables Discussion (coffee break at 14:45 – 15:15)		
	Breakout group 1: Inclusion in National Systems Click here for brief concept note	Breakout group 3: Socio-Economic Inclusion Click here for brief concept note	Registration required in advance
	Breakout group 2: Legal Pathways Click here for brief concept note	Breakout group 4: Refugee-led Participation Click here for brief concept note	
16:45 – 17:00	Wrap up and Admin Instruction for Day 2		Hybrid
17:00 – 17:30	Freshen up	N/A	In-person
17:30 – 19:30	Networking Event (Among in-person participants with additional UNHCR colleagues)	N/A	In-person

Day 2 Friday, 15 September 2023

Time	Activities		Remark
	In-Person	Online	
08:30 – 08:50	Arrival and Morning Coffee	Log in to the link	
08:50 – 09:00	Morning Touchbase		Hybrid
09:00 – 12:30	Roundtables Discussion (coffee break at 10:30 – 11:00)		
	Breakout group 3: Socio-Economic Inclusion Click here for brief concept note	Breakout group1: Inclusion in National Systems Click here for brief concept note	Registration required in advance
	Breakout group 4: Refugee-led Participation Click here for brief concept note	Breakout group2: Legal Pathways Click here for brief concept note	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch (buffet)	Lunch break	
13:30 – 15:00	Localization Workshop Consultation with UNHCR Partners in Asia-Pacific to develop draft Operational Guidelines on Localization		Hybrid
15:00 – 15:30	Validating the recommendations of the Consultations In the plenary, all participants will discuss the recommendations from the past two days and agree on these recommendations to be included in the action-oriented outcome document		Hybrid
15:30 – 16:00	Plenary: Discussion on realising the recommendations with UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific Senior Management, including roles between UNHCR and NGOs (Interactive Conversation)		Hybrid
16:00 – 16:30	Closing Remarks		Hybrid

Brief Concept Note

Plenary: Setting the scene with a panel of speakers on Promoting Inclusion for Sustainable Solutions

This session focuses on strategies and best practices for creating inclusive and sustainable solutions for refugees, asylum seekers, and other forcibly displaced persons in Asia and the Pacific. It will provide an overview of the current state of forced displacement in Asia, including statistics on the number of refugees and internally displaced persons, the challenges they face in accessing basic needs and services, and the impact displacement has on host communities. Next, it will discuss best practices for providing access to education, healthcare, and other essential services and strategies for creating economic opportunities and promoting self-reliance among displaced populations, and how best to provide support to host countries and communities to address the pressure and challenges of hosting refugees.

The session will reflect on the role governments, NGOs, development actors, the 2030 agenda, the SDGs and other stakeholders play in supporting sustainable solutions for displaced persons. It will include discussions of policy frameworks, funding mechanisms, and partnerships between governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

Finally, the session will conclude by discussing the challenges and opportunities of promoting inclusion and sustainable solutions for forcibly displaced persons in Asia and a call to action for all stakeholders to address this pressing global issue.

Roundtable Discussion 1: Inclusion in National Systems for Forcibly Displaced and Stateless People in Asia and the Pacific (Inclusion into government systems)

This breakout session will consider strategies for **enhancing the inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless populations within existing national systems, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees' objectives of responsibility sharing and support to countries and host communities**. The discussions within the breakout group will centre around key topics such as access to essential services including banking, education, social security, housing and health services. Discussions may also focus on protection measures within national policy frameworks and addressing public misconception of refugees in the media.

Drawing from their extensive field experience and best practices, participants will analyse the existing challenges and opportunities for inclusion into national systems in Asia, highlighting promising initiatives that have demonstrated positive outcomes as well as making recommendations that could ensure support to the existing national system and avoid creating parallel ones. The group should also consider the role of media, government, civil society, business, and various subnational systems.

Roundtable Discussion 2: Legal Pathways for Forcibly Displaced and Stateless People in Asia and the Pacific (Third Country Pathways)

This roundtable will provide a focused and interactive opportunity for in-depth discussions on strategies for **forcibly displaced and stateless populations within the region to access legal pathways to protection, highlight pathways to existing legal**

systems and how to better support these laws and mechanisms. This may include access to legal identification and documentation processes, family reunification, resettlement, complementary pathways, access to interim protection rights and other relevant pathways to protection.

Participants will leverage their expertise and professional backgrounds to engage in substantive dialogues and agree on concrete recommendations. Then, drawing upon participants' experiences and best practices, participants will analyse existing challenges and opportunities within Asia, highlighting successful initiatives that have effectively addressed legal barriers and facilitated inclusion.

Roundtable Discussion 3: Socio-Economic Inclusion for Forcibly Displaced and Stateless People in Asia and the Pacific (and what can be done where this is not possible)

This session will focus on strategies to **facilitate social and economic inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless populations within the region.** Participants will focus on topics such as livelihood opportunities, access to tertiary education and vocational training, access to income and broader financial inclusion, self-employment and entrepreneurship, and social protection mechanisms.

Drawing upon their extensive field knowledge and successful practices, participants will analyse the existing challenges and opportunities within Asia, identifying innovative approaches that have proven effective in promoting socio-economic inclusion and determining recommendations. The group should also consider alignment with local communities to facilitate social cohesion and development outcomes.

Roundtable Discussion 4: Refugee-Led Participation

This roundtable discussion will focus on generating insights and recommendations on **how to promote refugee leadership and participation in the Asia Pacific region.** By examining the challenges and potential solutions, the discussion will contribute to the development of a comprehensive approach to address the needs and aspirations of refugees with reference to sustainable solutions and inclusive decision-making processes within the region.

This session will **focus on exploring strategies, practices, and initiatives that can be implemented to overcome barriers and foster refugee leadership and participation, including the utilization of connectivity and technology to further strengthen their leadership.** It will include discussions on capacity-building, empowerment, and inclusivity measures that can facilitate the meaningful involvement of refugees.

The session will also discuss the specific roles and responsibilities of UNHCR and NGOs in facilitating refugee leadership and participation. It will explore potential collaborative efforts, resource allocation, and advocacy measures that can be undertaken to empower refugees and amplify their voices in decision-making processes.