



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Towards a global compact on refugees

Thematic discussion two

Contribution by H.E. Ambassador Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann

Panel two – How can we support States to identify persons in need of international protection?

- *Scaling up government reception arrangements in the context of large movements*
- *Supporting reception arrangements by civil society*
- *Ensuring the safety of refugees and their hosts*
- *Ensuring predictable support for receiving States*

General: Active promotion of cooperation between state authorities and civil society actors

- International and local NGOs can function as point of information regarding the cooperation between state authorities and civil society actors. In Turkey, Malteser International has actively promoted the enhanced coordination between the Turkish Health Authorities and civil society partner organisations active in the sector of refugee medical care. Our experience showed that government structures (esp. those with little previous experience in working with NGOs or the international humanitarian system before) showed much appreciation and openness for this kind of initiatives (e.g. regular meetings and project visits for exchange of information). This allows better scopes to fill gaps of state reception services by civil society actors.
- When more effort is put into understanding the local and cultural context it becomes possible to use local networks and resources among refugees themselves to answer to initially big needs, e.g. letting Syrian medical staff work in refugee response facilities without formal accreditation process. In general, a broader approach to possible actors in response to refugee needs should be taken into consideration.

Scaling up government reception arrangements in the context of large movements:

- Identify civil society organizations that could function as points of information regarding the cooperation with UN agencies and added value of a coordinated

approach; especially in context where they have a long-standing presence on the ground due to development cooperation projects and strong relationships with the (local) government authorities.

Supporting reception arrangements by civil society:

- Foster successful partnerships with civil society actors (mainly local NGOs) and increase their capacity; promote understanding of local and cultural contexts and the using of local networks and resources among refugees; broader approach to possible actors in response to refugee needs should be taken into consideration, especially in context where civil-society organisations are weak.