

**Canadian Interventions as delivered
2 minutes each**

DAY ONE: Measures to be Taken at the Onset of a Large Movement of Refugees

Panel One: How can we better prepare for and respond rapidly to large movements of refugees?

Co-chairs:

Mr. George Okoth-Obbo, Assistant High Commissioner (Operations)

Amb. Hassan Simba Yahya, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs

United Republic of Tanzania

- Measures to strengthen needs assessment, planning and preparedness
- Standby structures for rapid response
- Predictable surge support
- Enhanced assistance to receiving States and communities

Panelists include: United Kingdom, Turkey, IFRC, Germany

Canadian intervention:

Thank-you to the co-chairs and panelists for leading us in this discussion. Canada is interested in particular by the proposal of creating a Global Refugee Response Group as outlined in the concept note for this event. We have the following recommendations to further inform thinking on this proposal:

- The Global Refugee Response Group should convene to mobilize context-by-context, regional-focused responses, with its main objective of *rapidly* mobilizing the appropriate support and capacity for developing a Comprehensive Refugee Response.
- Once a CRRF is developed and begins to be rolled out, the Response Group should only meet occasionally to review progress;
- The Response Group should mobilize diverse stakeholders to commit to resources, policy changes and programming towards collective and measurable outcomes over a multi-year time horizon for refugees, host communities and countries of origin;
- A gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation plan to assess progress towards the collective outcomes should also be developed from the outset of the response;
- Finally, in addition to the various potential stakeholder participants mentioned in the concept note, the Global Refugee Response Group for a given refugee situation should involve
 - The active participation of regional organizations;
 - Representation from refugees and host communities themselves;

Panel Two: How can we support States to receive large numbers of refugees in a safe and dignified manner?

Co-chairs:

UNHCR

Ethiopia

- 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

Panellists include: Municipality of Milan, Act for Human Rights (Lebanon), Switzerland, The New School (USA)

Canadian intervention:

The significant logistical and resource challenges that accompany reception of large numbers of refugees by a state must be recognized. Canada is supportive of measures to build robust reception arrangements in hosting states that involve deploying UNHCR and partner resources and expertise. We offer the following recommendations in this regard:

- Scaling up the capacity in countries to appropriately receive refugees, including asylum-seekers, could be strengthened by expanding the range of actors contributing as part of a whole-of-society approach. In this regard, local authorities, humanitarian and development actors, and civil society should be included in planning and enacting reception arrangements, fostering contextually appropriate and coordinated responses that draw on all relevant segments of society.
 - For example, as part of our joint efforts to support capacity building in Mexico, we have made connections between civil society actors in Canada's refugee reception sector with their counterparts in Mexico, to facilitate peer mentorship and establish valuable information-sharing networks. We have also supported fact-finding missions with Mexican officials to third countries where meetings with civil society organizations have helped to clarify the conditions that lead to displacement in the region.
- From the point of reception, measures to more effectively recognize and address the needs, risks faced by women and children, and to involve and empower them, should be mainstreamed.
- Reception measures should be planned, administered and assessed in a gender sensitive manner. Early gender analysis, for example using UNHCR's Heightened Risk Identification Tool, should be carried out to ensure that those at risk are identified and supported.

Panel Three: How can we support States to identify persons in need of international protection?

Co-chairs:

Mr. Volker Türk, Assistant High Commissioner (Protection)

H.E. Amb. Sek Wannamethee, Permanent Representative of Thailand, Geneva

- Supporting initial entry, including profiling and referral
- Registration and documentation systems
- Modalities for processing asylum claims
- Supporting and building asylum systems

Panellists include: EU-EASO, Jordan, German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Ecuador

Canadian intervention:

Identifying and recognizing persons in need of protection, whether on an individualized or group basis, is a foundational step in comprehensive refugee responses. Canada is supportive of the suggested actions

contained in the concept note regarding identity management and asylum capacity building, and offers the following reflections for the programme of action:

- When refugee status determination is being conducted, women and girls should have the option to access individualized rather than family-based refugee status determination. Decision-makers carrying out refugee status determination should be sensitized to gender issues, for example through the use of gender guidelines. Canada stands ready to share our experience and our guidelines in this regard.
- An asylum capacity support group as envisioned in the concept note should draw on the existing practices and lessons learned from capacity building initiatives already underway, for example in the Americas, where Canada remains a committed partner. In Canada's experience, these lessons include that:
 - Efforts to build asylum capacity should be based on well thought-out and contextually appropriate plans of action developed in close partnership between host states, regional partners, UNHCR, and those providing technical assistance or other resources.
 - Technical support should be ongoing rather than one-off.
 - Needs assessment and appropriate design for case management tools should be a primary consideration.
 - Civil society should be engaged where appropriate, given its important role in supporting asylum seekers and refugees. Peer mentorship and technical support shared among civil society actors in different countries can provide valuable learning opportunities in this regard.
- Sharing of best practices for initial entry – including screening for identity and public safety – should also be encouraged, including from major resettlement initiatives such as Canada's Syrian resettlement operation in 2016.

Panel Four: How can we address specific needs within large movements

Co-chairs:

Ms. Carol Batchelor, Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR

H.E. Amb. Saja S. Majali, Permanent Representative of Jordan, Geneva

- Safe spaces for persons with specific needs
- Ensuring the protection of children
- Preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence
- Ensuring that the specific needs of persons with disabilities are met

Panellists include: Clínica Especializada Condesa (Mexico), refugee delegate, International Disability Alliance

Canadian intervention:

Thank-you to the co-chairs and panelists for leading us in this discussion. Canada is particularly supportive of the focus of this panel, as we are advocating for the development of a gender-sensitive Programme of Action. We believe the Programme of Action should include actions to address the specific needs and risks faced by women and children, support their empowerment and participation, and promote gender equality. In that regard, we have the following recommendations for the Programme of Action:

- (1) It should require stakeholders to collect sex and age disaggregated data at all stages of a refugee response in order to better inform planning and responses;
- (2) It could mandate the CRRF secretariat in each context to determine how to appropriately consolidate and disseminate this disaggregated data;
- (3) It should call for the development of a collective intersectional gender analysis (focusing on gender, age, and disability) -- involving humanitarian, development, civil society, and government stakeholders. This gender analysis should be undertaken at the beginning of a large movement of refugees to inform the priorities, benchmarks, and collective outcomes for the comprehensive response;
- (4) It should call for each CRRF Secretariat to ensure there are context-specific coordination mechanisms that bring together humanitarian, development, government, resettlement actors as well as refugees and host-community representatives, to ensure gender and child protection considerations are prioritized within all aspects of the comprehensive response;

Overall, we recognize that there already exists significant commitments to better address protection and gender considerations in refugee responses. We are therefore keen to see specific changes, particularly at the system level, in terms of coordination structures, resources, partnerships, and involvement of local actors in order to realize these commitments through CRRF implementation.

DAY TWO: MEETING NEEDS AND SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Panel One: How can we mobilize more resources for humanitarian and development assistance to host states?
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Co-chairs:

Mr. George Okoth-Obbo, Assistant High Commissioner (Operations)

Turkey

- Strengthening humanitarian financing
- Development funding for host States
- Bridging the gap between relief and development programmes
- Promoting investment that benefits refugees and their hosts

Panellists include: OCHA, OECD, World Bank, EU

Canadian intervention:

Many thanks to the co-chairs and panelists for leading us in this discussion. Canada is very supportive of the focus of this panel, particularly given our role as co-convenor of the Grand Bargain workstream on

multi-year humanitarian planning and funding. In light of the focus of this panel, Canada has the following recommendations for the Programme of Action:

- It should call for the development -- at the onset of large movements of refugees – of multi-faceted strategic plans that integrate humanitarian responses, development programming, third-country complementary pathways, and durable solutions around collective outcomes for refugees, host countries, and countries of origin; lessons learned from similar strategies, including the 3RP for the Syria crisis, should be factored into the development of such strategic plans;
- It should call for humanitarian and development funding and programming to be mobilized and provided in a coordinated way from the onset of a large movement of refugees.
- As highlighted yesterday, engaging development actors at the outset of a crisis could help achieve joint need *and* vulnerability assessments and to identify how to strengthen local capacities and national systems appropriately from an early stage. The findings from such assessments could inform the evolution of national development plans.
- The Programme of Action should also commit states, working with other stakeholders, to establish a process to foster learning and exchange regarding private sector engagement and concessional trade approaches for refugee-hosting countries; and,
- Finally, it should request regional financial institutions to actively engage in supporting comprehensive refugee responses, where appropriate. In that regard, we are encouraged to learn about the recent communique mentioned by the distinguished panelist from the World Bank.

Panel Two: How can we support the inclusion of refugees in national systems and services

Co-chairs:

UNHCR

Mr. Atsushi Hanatani, Chief Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency

- Including refugees in national and local development planning
- Enhancing national services for the benefit of refugees and host communities
- Social protection
- Supporting the rule of law and core government functions
- Promoting social inclusion

Panellists include: Uganda, Association for the Protection of Refugee Women and Children (HAMI) (Islamic Republic of Iran), UNICEF, UNDP, Council of Europe

Canadian intervention:

Canada is a firm proponent of policies and every-day actions of inclusion, as we firmly believe such approaches can unlock significant human potential as well as building greater stability and social cohesion globally. While we are therefore interested in many aspects of including refugees in national systems and services, we'd like to particularly focus on education systems. Building in part on the outcomes of the meeting Canada co-hosted in Geneva in June, focusing on improving refugee access to quality education, Canada has the following recommendations for the Programme of Action:

1. It should call for increased resources for research as well as data collection on refugee education to inform policies, national plans, and to improve program design; as suggested in the concept note, refugee education data should ideally be included in national education management information systems, with support from UNESCO Institute for Statistics where possible;
2. It should request donors, financial institutions, and other applicable stakeholders to increase support for education in developing countries that include refugees within their national education plans and systems;
3. It should recognize the potential of schools for being connectors in communities, building important and mutually beneficial relationships between refugees and the communities around them. The Programme of Action could establish a process for learning and exchange among various contexts and across communities of practice regarding the inclusion of refugees in education systems. In this way, innovative programs like Canada's "Settlement Workers in Schools" could be shared and discussed with other interested actors.
4. Finally, the Programme of Action should encourage nuanced, gender-sensitive policies and programming to include women and girls effectively in national systems and services.

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

Panel Three: Co-chairs:

Mr. Volker Türk, Assistant High Commissioner (Protection)

- Strategies for economic inclusion
- Inclusion in labour markets
- Access to financial services
- Improving access to markets for refugees and host communities

Panellists include: BRAC (Bangladesh), ILO, Grameen Crédit Agricole, Good Neighbours (Republic of Korea), Indego Africa

Canadian intervention:

Canada is very supportive of the emphasis of this panel. While refugees face enormous risks, having fled desperate situations and often finding refuge in very challenging conditions, we also need to recognize their capacities and better enable their self-reliance through policies of inclusion. We know that policies of inclusion can carry benefits for both refugees *and* host communities. Our recommendations for the Programme of Action include:

- Gathering data on education, skills and credentials among refugee populations to enable an efficient and evidence-based approach to labour-market inclusion, as well as possible complementary pathways to third countries;
- Engaging the private sector as a key stakeholder in economic inclusion policies, as suggested in the concept note. The business case for this could also draw on best practices and lessons learned through experiences in the international community, for example from Canada's Employer Liaison Network, Employment Councils, and Mobilité francophone programme;

- Facilitating language training where needed as a facilitating step to labour market entry; in Canada's experience programs that pair employment with informal or part-time language training have shown promise in this regard.

Panel Four: Panel Four: How can we bring innovation to humanitarian assistance to achieve greater efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability?

Co-chairs:

Mr. Andrew Harper, Director, Programme Support and Management, UNHCR
United States of America

- Cash-based interventions
- Securing connectivity for refugees
- Data collection and use
- Fostering innovative approaches

Panelists include: Medair, International Rescue Committee, IKEA Foundation

Canadian intervention:

Many thanks to the co-chairs and panelists for leading us in this discussion. Canada is very supportive of the emphasis within the CRRF on increasing cash-based interventions in refugee responses. These types of programs, when designed and implemented appropriately, can provide important benefits for both refugees and host communities. In particular, we would recommend that the Programme of Action:

- Encourage comprehensive needs and market assessments to design cash-based responses that inform the development, where appropriate, of multi-sectoral, unconditional cash response, with strong monitoring and evaluation approaches and information-sharing.
- To better enable these approaches, the Programme of Action could also encourage more focus on developing effective, collaborative multi-agency platforms to streamline the provision of assistance.
- We are also interested in the proposed Data and Evidence Alliance. The proposed focus and objectives of the alliance target many of the weaknesses and gaps that we know must be addressed to ensure effective, comprehensive refugee responses. We would be interested in discussing how this alliance could be advanced through the Programme of Action.