

High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges

Towards a global compact on refugees: comprehensive refugee responses
12-13 December 2017, Palais des Nations, Geneva

SESSION 2: Meeting needs and supporting communities

German Intervention (2 Minutes)

Ladies and gentlemen,

Germany recognizes the significant efforts made by all countries hosting large numbers of refugees. Providing timely and reliable funding for both humanitarian and development objectives to those host countries is paramount. There is a clear bottom line: ODA per capita to ODA-receiving states should not decline due to the influx of refugees. This benchmark could become part of a monitoring framework for the GCR.

For a faster and more coordinated engagement of all relevant actors Germany proposed a **Response Group** or Platform as a core group that has the convening power to bring all relevant actors on board at the outset of a refugee crisis. We are glad to see that participants have not only welcomed the proposal of the Group or Platform, but have also further developed the idea. We look forward to continuing this process in the coming months.

To meet immediate and ongoing needs of refugees, international and local actors engaged in development and the humanitarian work need to join in to the efforts of national governments to develop and scale up risk-informed and **shock-responsive social protection systems**. Information held by international and local actors should be passed on quickly to the national governments.

In the long run, needs of refugees are best met through socio-economic inclusion into host societies, while ensuring that host societies benefit from hosting refugees. This requires a **holistic approach** that focuses on livelihood opportunities, financial inclusion and labour market integration. Integration measures – in particular access to language training, integration courses, labour market as well as vocational training and education – should be

provided as soon as possible, (also for asylum seekers with a good perspective to stay) given that delaying integration usually has negative consequences for both refugees and host communities. In particular, early access to the labor market and to financial services will promote refugees' self-reliance and a better integration in the host society. All integration measures should incorporate a gender specific approach and take into due account the needs but also the potential of women.

A way to **mobilize more resources** is to increase the overall effectiveness of humanitarian assistance. Germany remains committed to humanitarian reform processes, such as the Grand Bargain. We will also continue our efforts to support anticipatory humanitarian assistance that enables preparedness action before disasters strike. Humanitarian needs in protracted refugee crises can however only be met and addressed, but not reduced or ended by humanitarian assistance alone. We need **long-term, reliable and predictable partnerships** between multilateral and bilateral humanitarian and development actors on an international level.

Considering the sometimes detrimental impact of large refugee populations on the environment, prevention of **environmental degradation** near large refugee hosting areas also needs to be addressed. A planned conference in Berlin in January 2018 on sustainable energy solutions in situations of displacement could provide a valuable input in the context of the GCR and CRRF.

Thank you.