

Consolidated summary notes

1st co-sponsorship meetings

Introduction

States and relevant stakeholders that confirmed or were interested in co-sponsoring one of the focus areas of the first Global Refugee Forum were invited to the first meeting(s) of the relevant co-sponsorship groups. The meetings of the co-sponsorship groups were convened at UNHCR in Geneva. States and other stakeholders that are not located in Geneva and wished to call in to the meeting were requested to contact the Global Refugee Forum Coordination Team at hqgrf@unhcr.org for dialling information.

Energy and Infrastructure – 8 July 2019

■ Key Observations

The energy and infrastructure area of focus can cover a lot of things. At this stage, co-sponsors would need to think on the themes they would like to work on, noting that other sub-themes could be identified in addition. Co-sponsors should also lead in encouraging others to join.

The three areas we proposed to think about are the following:

1) Focus on projects:

- Co-sponsors can bring energy and infrastructure actors (government, NGO's, companies and financiers) to pledge on concrete new projects or scale existing projects.

2) Data:

- UNHCR and its partners can play a truly catalytic role in energy (cooking and electrification) and infrastructure (which includes health, WASH, housing, connectivity and environment) if it has good global/regional data on opportunities. Co-sponsors are welcome to approach the World Bank, World Resources Institute, Overseas Development Institute, and other knowledge organizations in your countries to pledge support to these data driven initiatives. Much of the data is out there and by bringing it together concrete projects can be identified and a systemic way.

3) Vision:

- The vision is clear: "All refugees, as well as host communities and support structures, are able to satisfy their energy needs in a sustainable manner without fear or risk to their health, well-being and personal security, while ensuring the least possible environmental impact." Participants can pledge to advocate for this vision to new actors and to governments to promote the right of economic inclusion and access to energy and infrastructure services.

Following some initial discussions with confirmed and potential co-sponsors, a broad range of themes is emerging, including:

- Green responses and energy.
- Health and developing infrastructures, services, access to health care and national systems.

■ ToRs of Co-sponsors

- *Advise on the development of the high-level ministerial session and side events`*

How we would like to see the theme reflected in the GRF? Through side events, spotlights, ted talks? With what speakers? We would need to see the mapping on who is interested to then further refine the priorities on which we are going to work. From the Ministerial level we would like to have representation from host-countries, donors, refugees and other stakeholders. We would really like for these sessions to be strategic, tight things together and tell successes stories. *E.g. Energy project in a host country that has been working well (potential good practice) -> Particular donor that can bring a financial contribution to the project -> Presentation from the host community who benefit from that practice as to talk about the project. Ultimately, all this will show that the Global Compact would work to bring more people to the table and build upon what has been done since the Global Declaration.*

There are many different ways to show case things at the Forum. We encouraged the attendees to share ideas with us. From our side we committed to work with Focal Points to see how everything could look like as to share it with them. We also raised that if we want to secure some participants and speakers, we need to do things pretty in advance.

- *Focus on priorities for mobilization of contributions and identification of good practices*

All co-sponsors could make contributions around the identified areas. They could also share good practices that could be scaled up, replicated, broaden in other contexts. These last could even inspire others to contribute. E.g. organize a round table or organize a discussion. It is even possible to make joint contributions and pledges. All these needs in any case to be linked to country situations. We noted that we are in the process of mapping out priority refugee situations and refining priorities to see where we have good practices that can be shared.

- Develop and communicate key messages related to key outcomes

All co-sponsors would help with conveying key-messages. Mobilizing others to make contributions and pledges, to share good practices in the lead up to, and during the Forum. Communicating key messages around key areas of the theme. Through your own networks and channels as well as in events you are participating in to ensure aligned messaging. We noted that we hope to mobilize a lot and be able to communicate success stories.

- Develop and implement work plan for mobilization

All co-sponsors would help in clarifying and refining further priorities. They will express the way in which they would like to work on this area of focus. They will also share ideas and thoughts with a larger group to see how they will be able to support and work together.

■ Questions from the floor

- Mapping helps to think this through. For this first GRF, they really want a project-oriented approach. In order to have concrete projects they will need to make some choices and make some pilots. E.g. gas cooking solutions.
- Focus on specific projects and mobilize resources around these last is the priority. They expressed concern about the time left between now and the Forum.
- What is UNHCR's global perspective behind the Forum? Or is this just a project? The approach is to see where we need to go but also to invest in data to continue the work. If we do not lead on knowledge, then we are going to miss so many opportunities. We have already some projects but how would we do this on a bigger scale that is the purpose of our GRF's Team.

■ Next Steps

- Please let us know if you are confirmed, if we can use the information on our website.
- Please sign the list with your contact details. The information will be used to add you to a mail list distribution to reach you with invitations to meetings and provide you with new information.
- The next meeting will be organized in several weeks. At that time, we will be keen to talk about some refugee situations that we need to focus on in terms of pledges and contributions. This will help us develop the workplan.
- As co-sponsors please think about:
 - the focus you would like to take in this area of focus and also,
 - let us know if you have in mind any actor that we should bring to the table.

Jobs and Livelihoods– 8 July 2019

■ Key Observations

- In line with the guidance note, the **area of pledges** have been categorized into three:
 - Legal framework
 - Private investment
 - Development investment
- **Desired outcomes**
 - Economic inclusion
 - Job creation
 - Local economic growth
 - Enhanced protection
 - Preparation for solutions
- **5 sub categories** were identified by States and other stakeholders:
 - Women empowerment
 - Financial inclusion
 - Peaceful co-existence (or could be an outcome)
 - Building skills development
 - Entrepreneurship
- Many points were mentioned as **cross-cutting**: disability; mental health; AGD; participation of refugees.
- The **importance of policies** was stressed, specifically more conducive policies for achieving inclusive economic development.
- **Many who are co-sponsors in other areas are still interested in sharing best practice in this area.**

■ Questions from the floor

- Regarding the desired outcomes: one to three are concrete, the last two are crosscutting and link to the entire Forum. Make sense to list them here?

UNHCR

- *Agree that some could be overarching or cross cutting but the whole theme needs to be reinforced with protection language. Don't want to see refugees ending up as the most exploited group of workers.*
- *Language around decent work and protected work is important.*
- *Regarding the 'preparation for solution', can find a way of separating the concrete from the overarching.*

- Why is additional development investment here and not under burden and responsibility sharing?
- Should one focus on just one area or more?

UNHCR

- *It is listed here as it is in multiple areas.*
- *The role of co-sponsors is to help to define and refine what we are looking for in the areas of pledging. If there is a specific area we are looking for, specify.*
- The three points are explanatory and not exhaustive, right?
- Vocational training – overlap with education and jobs and livelihoods, how work with that?

UNHCR needs to keep an overview to prevent overlap and ensure co-sponsors work together.

■ Responsibilities of the co-sponsorship groups

- Advise on the development of the high-level ministerial session and side events
 - Engage refugees in the HL thematic sessions
 - If you can find an example of a pledge that is based on a good practice you can focus the session on that. Can use the HL session to tell a good success story
 - Conceptualization of the session will take some time but would welcome your ideas.
 - Will do preliminary work with the FPs of each CS group.
 - Would also like to have spotlight sessions e.g. could be the Poverty Alleviation Coalition or one specific aspect e.g. women's empowerment
 - Need to secure the participation of HL participants soon
- Focus on priorities for mobilization of contributions and identification of good practices.
- Develop and communicate key messages. Develop and implement work plan.

■ Q&A

- Does UNHCR envision a booklet that identifies everyone's pledges on jobs and livelihoods under the different themes and in the future years will you

be tracking implementation of each pledge or more generally? Is it like the Leaders Summit?

- Will these groups continue to work on pledges after the Forum and how will contributions be documented?

UNHCR

- *There will be an outcome document. There was a book from the 2011 ministerial level conference that categorized pledges.*
- *Looking at developing a technical tool for follow up; potentially linked to the digital platform.*
- *Will hold an informal briefing in first week of September.*
- *Future of group:*
 - o *Didn't want to put in place a heavy coordination structure. Thought it made sense to commit to mobilising pledges first. After that it will be up to each group to decide how to engage moving forward e.g. groups of friends to keep spotlight on certain issues*
- Co-sponsors responsible to mobilise pledges and others? E.g. reach out to the private sector? What will this look like in the outcome document? How will it be reflected?

UNHCR

- *The role of co-sponsors: can demonstrate support through making contributions and sharing good practice. Communicate key messages. Bring other actors to the table. Everyone who makes a pledge would have their contribution reflected. A strong advocacy role.*
- *Cascading messages down to the regional and national level. Particularly to countries where we envisage high level pledges.*
- What can we do as a group to engage host countries in this group early on?
- We need a set of policies or pledges to pledge against, very supply driven.

UNHCR

- *We need to come up with an offer and then start engaging with host countries. UNCHR can facilitate the coordination of these discussions but different stakeholders can help to finetune good deals.*
- Hope the meetings this week will help us to identify who is missing
- Glad that some host countries are here today.
- Do you know of others who couldn't participate today?

UNHCR: There is a list of confirmed co-sponsors on the website.

- We see our role as a co-sponsor to reach out to others.
- Is there a plan for how work of groups is expected to progress? Information sharing, identification of gaps, how to work together?

UNHCR

- *We are using the general email addresses of the Missions but encourage more email communication and more informal communication moving forward. There is however a risk of being more exclusive with that approach; need to keep a balance between engaging those who confirm and those who are interested.*
- *Co-sponsors can mobilise others as co-sponsors.*
- For a country with general priorities – education, health – how to explain this process to capital that might not make a pledge for a longer term? Can we shift priorities over the years? How commit to co-sponsorship now?

UNHCR: Co-sponsorship is between now and December

■ Next Steps

Will have a more focused meeting next time. Next meeting to be more focused on the content and to think of what pledges would like to mobilise and how to go about doing that.

Education– 9 July 2019

■ Key Observations

UNHCR presented the three priority themes that the co-sponsorship group will focus on, noting that other sub-themes could be identified in addition. The three themes that have been identified are closely aligned with the UNHCR Education strategy and reflect broad priority areas of engagement in the refugee education space. Gender and other similar issues will be considered cross-cutting and will be taken into consideration under each of the three areas. The three areas include:

- 1) **Inclusion into national education systems**
 - With a view to benefiting refugee and host community children, and improving education systems overall;
- 2) **Access to tertiary education**
 - Investing in higher education for refugees as the accrued benefits are substantial;
 - Would include vocational and skills training as well;
- 3) **Education in emergency responses**

- Long-standing area of engagement, and would offer the opportunity of considering humanitarian responses from the perspective of medium to long-term responses;
- Ideally, under this theme more sustainable investments to strengthen systems would be considered;

Following an initial discussion with confirmed and potential co-sponsors, a broad range of themes is emerging, including:

- Pre-primary, primary, secondary, tertiary
- Gender, disabilities, cross-sectoral themes

An important area of focus for the co-sponsorship group going forward will be to identify how partners own networks and influence could be leveraged with the highest levels of complementarity. UNHCR will consider the concrete offer to develop a global action plan, while making sure that the pledges and contributions garnered as a result of this group's efforts are embedded and integrated into respective organizations, and networks', work plans. Finally, advocacy and implementation will also need to be discussed.

Co-sponsorship: the level of engagement of different co-sponsors will vary, depending on the organization and capacity. Would like to discuss this further with you, as well as individually with some.

■ ToRs of Co-sponsors

- Advise on the development of the HL ministerial session and side events
How we would like to see the theme reflected in the GRF. A ministerial, high-level session, feedback and thinking on potential speakers for the concept note. HL session on education and what you'd like to get out of it. Or focus the session on the 3-5 key themes in the same session, or split up over high-level session and the spotlight sessions.
- Focus on priorities for mobilization of contributions and identification of good practices
Contributions around one of the 3 areas as highlighted. Good practices that could be scaled up, replicated, broaden in other contexts. Sharing of good practices that could inspire others to contribute. How to join up and develop joint contributions and pledges. Other states and donors could come in to support the implementation of our policies. How to mobilize contributions.
- Develop and communicate key messages
All co-sponsors would help with conveying key messages. Mobilizing others to make contributions and pledges, to share good practices in the lead up to, and during, the Forum. Communicating key messages around key areas of education. Through own networks and channels as well as in events you are participating in to ensure aligned messaging.
- Develop and implement work plan

■ Questions from the floor

- Pakistan would be available for such a workshop. A short background paper or concept to highlight areas in need, refugee situations, drop-out rates, the requirements of girls or primary education or tertiary education would be helpful to inform discussions.
- Start with needs and then develop pledges, the engagement and emergence of these issues at the country level is key;
- National-level stakeholder meetings should be organized;
- Ensure refugee participation in the meetings;
- Interested in ensuring that gender is a cross-cutting issue;
- We should make sure to focus on the real need of refugees;
- Support the idea of a one-day workshop but perhaps an early brainstorming session in July and a workshop later on;
- Need to develop a work-plan;
- Very pleased with the strong civil society engagement;
- Very much want to see refugees engaged as experts;
- Share the mapping/outcome of the session;
- Model pledges being considered to guide states and other stakeholders in formulating
- Providing guidance notes to help sponsors that are AGD inclusive – work through co-sponsorship groups and notes;
- Some NGOs and others may also provide technical support in this regard;

■ Next Steps

- Please let us know if you are confirmed, if we can use the information our website.
- Please sign the list with your contact details. The information will be used to add you on a mail list distribution as to reach you with invitations to meeting and provide you with new information.

Solutions – 9 July 2019

■ Key Observations

Presentation by the thematic focal points:

1. **Third country solutions (resettlement and complementary pathways) – Emad Aziz**

- Highly consultative process and strategy was presented last week
- GRF is a tool and platform to galvanise support for the 3 year resettlement strategy
- 10 year timeframe, 1 million refugees through resettlement in 50 resettlement countries and 2 million through complementary pathways. Incremental increase.
- Key dimensions: better protection and quality; more actors; and more places

2. **Additional Solutions - Mamadou Dian Balde**

- Outlined the different types of solutions and challenges and identified three key asks:
- Promotion of conditions enabling voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity.
- Support countries of origin to receive and reintegrate returnees (legal, capacity-building, and financial).
- Support to laws/policies to facilitate local solutions/ local integration.

Key observations based on interventions from participants:

- Important to ensure refugee participation.
- Importance of concrete pledges and the need to match pledges to needs.
- Additional host countries that are not present will need to be engaged to ensure representative groups.
- Important to understand linkages between the different areas of focus e.g. education, livelihoods and preparations for return to ensure coherent pledging across the spectrum.

■ Questions from the floor

- Resettlement is solutions but also protection. How do we ensure complementarity?
- Do we foresee small working groups for each of the sub-topics?

UNHCR notes resettlement is a protection tool e.g. urgency/ emergency cases, unallocated quotas, grounded in a comprehensive approach that ensures support to those most at-risk. Will ensure alignment with colleagues working on protection capacity.

- Broad topic: must ensure complementarity with the other areas of focus. Guidance will be required from HCR.
- How to coordinate with others who have the same interests

UNHCR notes that jobs and livelihoods and Education also fall under DRS which will cover the Solutions area of focus and will ensure that there is no duplication across the areas of focus and that there is coherence across all strands. Menu of options will be provided that outlines where UNHCR envisions opportunities for solutions and then the group will work together on how to proceed.

- How do you plan to include refugees in this workstream?

UNHCR notes that refugees have been involved in the development of the 3YRS. Many lessons have been learnt through the GCR process with reference to the inclusion of refugees. Working with regional networks but need to ensure that refugees are representative of the various regions. Refugees will also be engaged as members of co-sponsorship groups. Supporting DRC's efforts on regional consultations with diaspora groups and hope that these discussions will feed into the process.

- Does being a co-sponsor mean that one has to pledge?

UNHCR notes that it is a show of support which could include good practices, organizing side events etc. in addition to pledges and contributions.

Burden and responsibility sharing – 10 July 2019

■ Key Observations

UNHCR introduced the co-sponsorship grouping and the key areas that it is hoped the group will focus on, namely:

- Funding and the effective and efficient use of resources;
- Regional and sub-regional approaches;
- Support platforms;
- Data and evidence; and

- Prevention and addressing root causes.

Following the meeting, it was agreed to merge 'regional and sub-regional approaches' and 'support platforms' into 'global, regional and sub-regional approaches.

- This area of focus will make or break the Forum.
- UNHCR will follow up with those who have confirmed their co-sponsorship or expressed an interest before the end of July to chart a path forward. Potential co-sponsors are asked to confirm the areas that they would be most interested in working on.
- Participants were encouraged to focus on the concrete pledges that could emerge from the group, and the key messages that could be sent concerning this group's work.

■ Questions from the floor

A Multistakeholder:

- enquired about the schedule for the Forum, and was advised that an updated version would be online shortly;
- asked for advance notice of the agenda for the next meeting so that capitals are able adequately to prepare;
- asked whether the group will continue as one, or whether the separate sub-groups will work independently;
- enquired about the timing of the next meeting, which will take place in late July.

Protection capacity – 11 July 2019

■ Key Observations

1. Vision

- UNHCR is keen to help build strong institutions and capacities that can enable and enhance refugee protection and the well-being of host communities with the support from a range of actors.
- We would like to move towards an engagement that is inclusive and gives access to refugees and institutions for more effective engagement. Build capacity – tied into refugee participation and inclusion and strengthening their own engagement.
- We had wanted to show more clearly that this is about positive changes to policies that enable refugee protection and resilience but also requires pledges and

support from a range of actors. Matching pledges and actors, with a view to strengthening protection.

2. Protection capacity

Enhanced emergency preparedness and response

GCR really focuses on strengthening responses when it comes to mass influxes and protracted caseloads. The focus under this sub-theme would include risk analysis, early warning, limited to reception and admission in the first instance. We are looking to garner pledges from States and others to support open reception and transit areas that are sensitive to AGD and other specific needs. Building national capacity and sharing information and experience could be another way of engaging, or through providing additional funding.

3. Legal and policy frameworks

We are looking at ways in which the legal basis could be strengthened across the six themes and would like to secure pledges that enable access to work, education, freedom of movement, etc. so that refugees could be included into national legislation. Examples could include:

- Promoting and incorporating refugee rights in relevant legislation;
- Accession to the Conventions and removal of reservations, including aspects of legislation that discriminates on the basis of gender, etc. and
- Supporting the integration of ratified Conventions into national legislation.

4. Strong protection institutions

This theme would look at strengthening national capacities for civil registration, specialized protection services. Efforts would go to enabling an inclusive approach to refugees in strong protection institutions. We would seek to enable refugees to be able to access these services. Examples would include commitments to:

- strengthen refugees' access to civil documentation, birth registration schemes, etc
- Support to national registry systems. Including refugee children in national child protection systems while also supporting national law and justice systems.

5. Better asylum capacities

There is a clear reference in the GCR to the ACSG. UNHCR would work with others to seek pledges that would start the concrete support foreseen under the ACSG and to ensure it is effective. Examples could include pledges that would change or reform asylum procedures to allow for simplified or accelerated or group-based status determination. There would also be the possibility of matching pledges under this theme.

6. Participation and inclusion

UNHCR is keen to be a people-centered organization, ensuring that refugees are at the center of all of our efforts. We are looking to support refugee-led initiatives, strengthening their resilience as active leaders in responses to displacement. We would like to ensure that programming responses ensuring a clear participation, inclusion, accountability aspect and empowerment of refugees but also host communities are engaged in the programme design, using an AGD lens (including disability). Examples would include a State committing to collect and using AGD –disaggregated data to inform assistance programmes, including national development plans. The provision of technical support to allow for such kind of information gathering. We are looking at ways in which seek the active participation of refugees, youth, persons with disabilities, LGBTI, women etc. to have them engage in the implementation of refugee responses themselves.

7. Initial reflection (UNHCR)

- Looking to engage States and other stakeholders for pledges.
- Alignment of themes is very positive, with the focus in particular on the participation and inclusion, disability and AGD lens. Very strong interest on child protection issues. Will need to reflect how this could be brought out more or have it mainstreamed across the five themes, rather than a stand-alone. Similarly so on disabilities.
- Legal aid within the broader framework of the ACSG, make sure to take this into consideration.

See the protection capacity and the inclusion approach as the most cross-cutting work stream. Will need to work together to ensure that the other work streams are co-shaped.

The co-sponsorship group will effectively help build an alliance towards key protection issues and could remain in existence beyond the Forum. For the Forum itself, it would be important to focus on some key take-aways and good practices. It would be useful to consider the kinds of pledges that could be developed, which would contribute towards a better global protection system.

Potential collaborations and joint pledges are being developed, this is very encouraging. Joint pledges an important way in which the strings can be drawn together across the different themes. Participation and inclusion core to all the other themes. A number of cross-cutting and cross-reaching themes can certainly exist. The legal and policy frameworks is where we will be able to draw the links with the other themes as well.

Aware that a number have started developing tip-sheets on the cross-cutting issues on AGD and disabilities very encouraged.

■ Questions from the floor

- UNHCR will need to be supportive of all six themes and will be focused on all of them.
- The protection capacity group as the home for child protection would be key. Are looking at how other groups are mainstreaming child protection, but see this group as the opportunity for making progress on this issue.
- Would like to see greater UNHCR participation, especially of the regional Bureaux to better understand the needs.

UNHCR: Will need to bring the global and the region-specific focus closer together when it comes to the substance of country and regional pledges.

- How will the key messages be communicated, and how will these be developed? It would be important that these are coherent if they are broadcast under the umbrella of the GRF.

UNHCR: We have developed a broad set of key messages for the objectives of the Forum exist and are developing more targeted messaging for the six themes. We will work closely with the six groups on communications packages to retweet and communicate communications packages. These would be developed following the key outcomes of the six groups.

- It is possible that the right focal points won't necessarily be present in Geneva and be able to have a more in-depth discussion with entities' and agencies' green light.

UNHCR will share four proposed dates to the group. We will be able to have an informal discussion about potential pledges, share such a note with the group and then have a discussion with all.

- Have a core group of the committed co-sponsors and ensure joint engagement for the subsequent workshop, develop the framing of the draft pledges.

■ Next Steps

UNHCR will reach out to confirmed co-sponsors and will discuss with them the draft outline of the framework for proposed pledges and contributions, the key asks under this theme, the agenda for the workshop and the work and advocacy plan envisaged to be discussed in greater detail with confirmed co-sponsors and observers. UNHCR will circulate four dates for the proposed workshop.

NB. There was recognition of the low number of refugee-hosting and developing States that were part of the group, and the importance of encouraging a wider range of States to engage.