

Summary note:

Meeting the SDGs: Linking Development Cooperation to Humanitarian Responses and Comprehensive Solutions for Refugees and Migrants

12:00-13:00, Room Shimba Hills, Nairobi

Speakers/Panelists:

MODERATORS:

Brenda Killen Deputy Director, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD

Julien Navier Senior External Relations Officer, UNHCR

PANEL:

Ambassador Monica K. Juma, Principal Secretary, Ministry Of Foreign Affairs, Government of Kenya

Ambassador Morten Jespersen, Global Development and Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark

Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director, Oxfam International

Eunice Ndonga-Githinji, Executive Director, Refugee Consortium of Kenya

Saroj Jha, Senior Director, Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group, The World Bank Group

Ambassador Veronique Lorenzo, Head of the European Union Delegation to Somalia

KEYNOTE RESPONDENT:

Ambassador Gyan Chandra Acharya, UN Under- Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Key messages and actions arising:

- **The conceptualization:** Framing refugee and IDP situations as temporary or humanitarian situations detracts from the need for a long-term, holistic, developmental perspective. For too long, protracted refugees and IDPs situations have maintained the narrative that “doing something is better than nothing”. Efforts should be made to integrate refugees into national development planning and include them in national data gathering, institution-building strategies and public service-delivery.
- **The responsibility:** The responsibility for refugees needs to be shared globally, including by the wealthiest countries. The world’s 6 richest countries host less than 9% of the global refugee population.

- **Financing:** ODA remains an important source of finance, particularly for tackling the root causes of population movements, such as the prevention of violent conflict, and to address protracted crises. Resources for development and humanitarian action should be managed through a single pot to simultaneously address both short and long term needs. Such mechanisms would make funding quicker and more flexible, and facilitate better coordination.
- **The people:** The economic and social integration of refugees, and their positive portrayal and empowerment, is a priority in host countries. Raising awareness on refugee rights and obligations is crucial. CSOs, media and private sector have much to contribute.
- **Private Sector involvement,** regional trade and cooperation are essential to tackle the causes of migration and implementing sustainable solutions.
- Strong **push-back on repurposing aid resources** towards the wrong purposes. Participants re-emphasized the need to use aid for responsible and durable responses to refugee situations.

Summary

Brenda Killen – Opening Remarks

Constituencies in developing and developed countries are concerned with refugee and migration issues. Governments at the local, national and international levels are trying to find coherent and sustainable solutions. These solutions are dependent on responsibility-sharing and a coherent international framework to respond to refugees and migration.

OECD members recognize the crucial role of ODA in addressing crisis and addressing the root causes of migration and forced displacement. The Temporary Working Group of the DAC was set up to guarantee aid effectiveness and credibility in responding to these phenomena. One of the key objectives of the TWG is to support the capacity of DAC members to provide whole-of-government solutions in developing countries of origin, transit, and destination, with a particular focus on delivering better quality results on the ground.

This side event provides a forum for governments, civil society organisations and development and humanitarian partners to discuss the delivery of more coherent, integrated and effective responses to refugee situations in developing countries of origin and destination.

Ambassador Monica Juma, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya

Question: “How can states support effective and comprehensive long-term responses to refugees in least developed countries of destination?”

In the 1990’s, massive refugee movements from the Balkans, Liberia, Somalia occurred. At that time, the questions asked were similar to the ones we ask ourselves today: Should we use humanitarian or development approach? Is this a space for governments or only for non-governmental and humanitarian actors? Should we target geographic areas or issues?

The good news is that there appears to be renewed agency and increasing recognition that we must work together and that we need a more effective and predictable system to deal with refugee issues. However, for too long we have been strengthening something that doesn't work, keeping people in protracted refugee situations, living in camps and receiving free food and access to services. It is time now to re-conceptualize how we look at refugee issues, to ask the humanitarian sector hard questions and to seek more sustainable approaches.

Although Kenya's capabilities in disaster risk management have increased, the country struggles with its humanitarian response to refugees and migrants. The current megatrends (e.g. urbanisation, youth bulge) show that national systems have not yet delivered the type of responses needed.

The first issue is in the conceptualisation of the problem of responding to refugee movements. The response has often been seen as temporary and voluntary, thus as outside of government systems and planning processes. In this space we were content with achieving substandard outcomes, which do not reflect our present commitments to implement the SDGs. We realize now that we cannot continue to have a humanitarian industry that is not managed according to internationally agreed standards, with limited accountability and regulation.

Integrated approaches are very important, but dealing with prevention, root causes, reception, return, and rehabilitation is key. Responsibility to deal with this crisis cannot be pegged on voluntarism. The whole-of-government approach requires an understanding that we are moving in the same direction and trying to get to the same place.

Ambassador Morten Jespersen, Global Development and Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark

The Ambassador was not able to join the event as he was still speaking in an event that overrun.

Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director, Oxfam International

Question: The six wealthiest nations host less than nine percent of the world's refugees while poorer countries shoulder most of the responsibility. What can be done to ensure a more inclusive policy response to global refugee and migrant movements?

In our report ["A poor welcome from the world's wealthy"](#) we observed gross inequalities in responsibility sharing for refugees across the world. Most of the world's refugees are in developing countries, half (12 million people) are hosted by 5 countries and 1 territory, who represent together only 2% of the world economy. In Lebanon one out of five inhabitants is a Syrian refugee whereas in the UK only 0.03% of the population are refugees. Those with broader shoulders are not taking the responsibility. A comprehensive response should include an automatic mechanism that can be adjusted when a country exceeds its capacity or its share of responsibility in welcoming refugees. In such circumstances, other countries should step in to provide the space and resources needed to help in managing the response.

Aid is an important tool that can support the humanitarian challenge as well as tackle poverty to address root causes and prevention. We need to push back on repurposing of aid. We need to

ask 'What type of responsible and inclusive responses should aid serve? Should it be spent to manage security and border controls?'

In September this year in New York, we witnessed many governments gathering for the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants. Unfortunately they walked away without making any strong commitments.

OXFAM is disappointed that developing countries have come to Nairobi with ministerial representation but there are only 3 ministers present from developed countries (Netherlands, Sweden, and Ireland).

An inclusive approach also means moving to action. It is about what we have agreed, from human rights to other fundamental rights. It is an obligation not an act of voluntarism.

Eunice Ndonga-Githinji, Executive Director, Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK)

*Question: With the continuing rise of **narratives of exclusion** directed towards refugees and migrants, what lessons or initiatives from civil society organizations in developing countries can be employed to promote greater **social cohesion** and inclusion in refugee-receiving countries?*

Ms Ndonga-Githinji highlighted what has worked, and how we can strengthen strategies based on the experience of RCK:

- Develop common and effective messaging on who refugees are, picturing refugees as people, profiling their human-interest stories. In particular mainstream and social media play a key role in countering xenophobic attitudes and should be trained for sensitizing the general public on refugee rights and obligations.
- Empower refugees through appropriate skills to build resilience: education, health, livelihood opportunities. The potential that refugees bring could be better exploited through skills mapping by CSOs, government and UNHCR.
- Involve refugees and host communities as key players in designing response programmes. In particular CSOs should advocate for integrating refugees in county/local government development plans.
- Rights and obligations: training for law enforcement and judicial officials, and refugee themselves on refugee rights and refugee management. This would help reducing conflict and increasing inclusion.
- Private sector involvement – more services available to both refugees and host communities.
- Community based and individual self-protection strategies: refugees can form CBOs and groups to speak with their own voice, generate resources and boost resilience. For instance they can pursue economic and social integration in host countries by starting

small businesses. They could get involved in community policing initiatives as well as in local leadership structures, religious leaders, elders, youth groups.

Challenges to strengthening these strategies include: inadequate laws to support local integration and promotion of refugee rights in general. Encampment policies restrict freedom of movement, hence economic opportunities. Refugees are often trapped in poverty and lack of decent livelihoods. Refugees find themselves exposed to abuse and exploitation. There is poor collaboration, coordination with various actors including governments.

How can international and national actors best engage with refugee communities to make programming more sustainable and enhance opportunities for inclusion?

- By working in collaboration with refugee leadership structures (CBOs, youth and woman groups) and incorporating their views in programming. A key factor would be to leverage local NGOs capacities to advocate with national government and local authority for promoting refugees' protection – i.e. advocacy around the amendment of Kenya's Refugee Bill-.
- Financing local systems through national and external flows. These systems have a better understanding of the context, and can provide for both refugee and local communities.
- Improve durable solutions and predictable responsibility sharing. For instance by incorporating lessons from previous humanitarian emergencies in terms of multiyear programming and infusing development programming into humanitarian action to encourage local integration and inclusion.
- Tap into CSOs knowledge in interacting with refugee, local actors and governments.

Saroj Jha, Senior Director, Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group, The World Bank Group

*Question: What are the **risks and opportunities** related to providing loans on exceptional **concessional** terms to countries that are dealing with significant refugee inflows?*

This issue needs to be looked at from a development perspective in addition to a humanitarian response. The vast majority of refugees come from only 10 countries, most of them affected by war. This proves the need to invest more in conflict prevention and strengthen local institutions. Development needs to be done in a more conflict sensitive way, using it to pre-empt outbreaks of violence and taking into account the sense of justice that people experience.

More than half the world's poor live in countries affected by fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV), where the World Bank is going to double its allocation for the next period. The WB is going to support, through tailored efforts to their specific needs, refugees and the communities that host them. To do so, in low income and lower MICs the Bank will use grants or credit on terms depending on income classification. Most low income countries will qualify for 100% grant. In other countries the World Bank will use blended instruments (50% grant – 50% loans). This is to incentivise looking at the medium term framework.

Middle-income countries usually only have access to loans at marketplace, though sometimes they have tremendous needs due to the pressures created by refugee flows. In response to this challenge, the WB established a concessional financing facility for middle income countries in 2016.

We also need to involve the private sector, proving that there are win-win solutions when investing in countries hosting refugees. Jordan is the first experiment, where special economic zones have been supported, allowing their products to access EU markets at favorable terms, in exchange for creating job opportunities for refugee and local communities. Moreover, the WB has set up a private sector facility to incentivize companies to engage in these countries by de-risking their investments.

Ownership has to come from the governments. There is a need to create incentives for governments to embrace more sustainable solutions.

Ambassador Veronique Lorenzo, Head of the European Union Delegation to Somalia

*Question: How can donors and implementers **adapt/ broaden financing** approaches to ensure the capacity for effective, flexibility and rapid responses, required to carry out life-saving interventions at the onset of an emergency, while also providing for more long-term funding that will support comprehensive solutions for refugees?*

The complexity and magnitude of population movements that we are experiencing now are different from 20 years ago.

The debate on short-long term responses to refugee crisis has by now collected sufficient evidence to see what should be done. In order to get rid of the separate pots of money for financing long and short term responses, the EU has set up an Emergency Trust Fund (45 million euro). It addresses short term needs and longer-term solutions for refugees. Three design considerations need to be taken into account for responses that address simultaneously short and long term refugee needs: 1) build capacity and institutions, 2) never address refugees in isolation, it needs to be done in conjunction with host community, 3) have a single of resources pot to ensure flexibility in addressing the needs.

We need to understand better the link between security and development, in particular the link between migration and violent extremism. We must build security and rule of law institutions in countries that have to address issues of human trafficking, reintegration, etc.

Ambassador Gyan Chandra Acharya

86% of refugees live in Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. This crisis is different from anything we have faced before. The United Nations has rallied around the notion of producing global responses for what is a global and mutual responsibility. The nature of the refugee situation is often protracted. There is a real concern about shifting development resources. We are looking at the short term but should not forget the long term.

Questions and Answers:

- From the floor: It is important to discuss the causes of crises. The international community should take more responsibility for actions which cause refugee movements.
- World Vision: The private sector needs to be invited to move into conflict and fragile states, according the World Bank. OXFAM stated that anyone who provides jobs is welcome. However it remains unclear, for countries like Somalia, which still experience significant gaps in infrastructure and capacities, how the private sector could be incentivised to invest billions given current low return perspectives?
- World Bank: Somalia was included this year in the Doing Business Index. This means the country is reviving. This first step helps the WB identifying the steps needed to move up the ranking and working with the government to address them. There is interest in Somalia, particularly from the diaspora, and investment to improve local businesses. Regional trade and cooperation are essential to tackle the causes of migration. Kenya and Uganda, for example, could play an important role here. It is also important to note that there is a very clear distinction between refugee and migrants and the two terms should not be used in the same sentence. The question is can we do something to give them an opportunity to stay back?
- UNHCR Kenya: the international commitment for refugees today is much more evident than in the past. However this assistance needs to be more structured and we need to ensure that resources are not diverted.

Verbatim:

(If available, add verbatim notes here)