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Update for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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Committee Overview

Recent Developments

In the last months of 2016, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has continued to closely monitor the situation of refugees and displaced persons worldwide, with a special focus on the ongoing refugee crisis in Europe.¹ The Leaders' Summit on Refugees, held on 20 September 2016 in New York, reaffirmed international solidarity in action to provide more suitable solutions and protections for refugees.² The summit focused on three criteria to improve refugees' lives: improved resettlements and screening processes, provision of education/job opportunities, and additional finance for refugees' needs.³ With participation of the EU and the World Bank, UNHCR plans to follow-up on these commitments going forward.⁴

UNHCR has also provided further guidance on best practices for addressing specific needs for refugees and displaced persons. In December 2016, UNHCR updated its protections 'toolkit' which builds on the 10-Point Plan of Action to collectively collaborate on maintaining human mobility smoothly.⁵ The updated plan will include best practices for Member States, Civil Society Organizations (CSO), and other UN partners which will account for changed patterns of flows of people today compared to 2006 when the original 10-Point Plan of Action was first published.⁶ Also in December, UNHCR issued the "Guidelines on International Protection No. 12" complementing the UNHCR "Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status" to help Member States assess whether and in what kind of circumstance people displaced by conflict could be eligible for receiving a refugee status.⁷ Subsequently, the ninth annual High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 8-9 December 2016, focused on the specific needs of young children who are facing heightened risks of violence and conflict.⁸ The Dialogue involved many actors including child protection experts who discussed protection initiatives and responses which would assist children that are being persecuted and or eluding violence and conflict.⁹ The recommendations aim to guarantee children on the move protection from violence by mainstreaming their best interest regardless of their migration status and to provide them with access to "quality education within 30 days of their initial displacement".¹⁰

On a national level, UNHCR has reaffirmed its support to assist Cameroon, Chad, and Niger refugees who were affected by the Boko Haram uprising.¹¹ The 2017 Nigeria Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) is expected to help over 183,000 Nigerian refugees.¹² UNHCR has put a US\$241 million appeal in motion for the RRRP to prioritize development programs focusing on innovation and creativity to address issues such as lack of food, maintaining durable shelter, and the provision of education to better livelihoods.¹³ The RRRP also focuses on working with Member States to enhance civil-military coordination to enable humanitarian actors to help people in remote areas.¹⁴ By working closely with governments concerned, UNHCR and RRRP partners hope to ensure that responsibilities of humanitarian actors remain distinct from the tasks of security forces ensuring sustainable stability in affected regions.¹⁵

¹ UNHCR, *UNHCR calls for stronger EU action on refugees*, 2016; UNHCR, *Better Protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally*, 2016.

² UNHCR, *International Solidarity in Action at Leaders' Summit on Refugees*, 2016.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ UNHCR, *UNHCR updates protection 'toolkit' for a world on the move*, 2016.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ UN DPI, *UN agency urges Governments to recognize people fleeing war-plagued countries as refugees*, 2016; UNHCR, *Guidelines on International Protection NO. 12, HCR/GIP/16/12*, 2016.

⁸ UNHCR, *High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges*, 2016, 2016.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Terre des Hommes International Federation, *Joint messages to the HC Dialogue on Children on the Move*, 2016.

¹¹ UNHCR, *UNHCR chief launches US\$241 million appeal for conflict-displaced in Lake Chad Basin*, 2016.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ UNHCR, *UNHCR chief launches US\$241 million appeal for conflict-displaced in Lake Chad Basin*, 2016.

¹⁴ UNHCR, *Nigeria Regional Refugee Response Plan*, 2017, p. 13.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*



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Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2016, December 5). *UNHCR calls for stronger EU action on refugees* [Press Release]. Retrieved 22 December 2016 from:

<http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2016/12/58453b614/unhcr-calls-stronger-eu-action-refugees.html>

This resource is vital to delegates because as more refugees are seeking assistance, 2017 is the year for reform. The resource discusses the plan for achieving a global refugee committee and leads to the actual paper that was presented to the EU. The proposals given in Better Protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally: UNHCR's proposals to rebuild trust through better management, partnership and solidarity go in depth on UNHCR's strategies to better align with the EU on management, partnership, and solidarity to achieve international standards for refugee protection.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2016, December 16). *UNHCR chief launches US\$241 million appeal for conflict-displaced in Lake Chad Basin* [Press Release]. Retrieved 22 December 2016 from: <http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2016/12/5853ccb64/unhcr-chief-launches-u241-million-appeal-conflict-displaced-lake-chad-basin.html>

UNHCR stresses the necessity of funding to assist the many refugees suffering from the post Boko Haram insurgency. UNHCR discusses how they plan to retrieve the funds and the partners who will help assistance in 2017 to execute the RRRP. This resource provides delegates with detailed information on the various forms of support and assistance UNHCR relies on to help refugees.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2016, December 18). *'Every migrant is a human being with human rights,' says UN chief on International Day* [News Article]. Retrieved 6 January 2017 from:

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55828#.WG98_oWcFil

This resource highlights the importance of improving the processes of accepting more refugees and UNHCR's role in promoting appropriate strategies. The information presented highlights the New York Declaration in which Member States have committed to help make the journeys of many refugees and migrants safer. This resource is helpful for delegates because it assesses the efforts needed by Member States to speed up processes of taking in refugees.

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<http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2016/9/57e1f18e4/international-solidarity-action-leaders-summit-refugees.html>

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Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2017). *Nigeria Regional Refugee Response Plan* [Report]. Retrieved 3 February 2017 from: <http://www.unhcr.org/partners/donors/5894975c7/2017-nigeria-regional-refugee-response-plan-january-december-2017-12-december.html>



Terre des Hommes International Federation. (2016). *Joint messages to the HC Dialogue on Children on the Move* [News Article]. Retrieved 3 February 2017 from: <http://destination-unknown.org/joint-messages-to-the-hc-dialogue-on-children-on-the-move/>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2016, December 18). *'Every migrant is a human being with human rights,' says UN chief on International Day* [News Article]. Retrieved 6 January 2017 from: http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55828#.WG98_oWcFil

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2016, December 2). *UN agency urges Governments to recognize people fleeing war-plagued countries as refugees* [News Article]. Retrieved 6 January 2017 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55704#.WG9-dIWcFil>

I. Promoting Livelihoods and Education for Refugees and Displaced Persons

Recent Developments

In recent months, the international community has continued to address the refugee crisis, including the importance of educational and livelihoods opportunities to promote resilience.¹⁶ For example, Turkey, Thailand, Chad, and Jordan provided major contributions, helping aid more refugees obtain training while providing access to education for refugee children.¹⁷ On 8 and 9 December 2016, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) held the Dialogue on Protecting Challenges on how to enhance strategies and initiatives to protect children on the move, where refugee youth representatives, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other experts and partners discussed and considered solutions to overcome the challenges they are faced when aiding refugee children.¹⁸ Additionally, UNHCR reminded Member States of the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* (2016), in which States reaffirmed their commitment to provide children with vital health and educational services.¹⁹

By the end of 2016, \$430 million USD had been given to refugees around the globe under UNHCR cash-based aid programs.²⁰ These programs provide refugees with greater control of their own spending habits, as well as promotes positive relationships with local populations and amongst refugees.²¹ Cash-based interventions provides stability in the lives of refugees by promoting their return to an independent and productive life while displaced.²² Towards the end of 2016, UNHCR also launched the “UNHCR Strategy for the Institutionalisation of Cash-Based Interventions 2016-2020.”²³ This guide helps Member States properly implement cash-based programs in order to improve local economies and the livelihoods of refugees and displaced persons.²⁴ In Lebanon, the UNHCR cash-based program has provided refugees with the ability to purchase food and other necessary items while strengthening the economy of the Bekaa Valley.²⁵

Canada has also been praised for their efforts in promoting private sponsorships for refugees through the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative, which is in collaboration with UNHCR, NGOs and civil society actors.²⁶ The initiative held a three-day event in December 2016, where 30 experts from civil society organizations and eight Member States discussed private sponsorship models for refugee programs.²⁷ Private partnerships allow refugees to be resettled in a country equipped with a strong support system of individuals, community organizations, NGOs, faith-based groups, private companies, and other resettled refugee families.²⁸ This support network allows for greater ease in integrating resettled refugees into Member States.²⁹

In September 2016, Aqeela Asifi, an Afghan teacher and winner of the 2015 Nansen Refugee Award, expanded her small school in Kot Chandana, Pakistan in order to provide education for refugee girls.³⁰ Asifi used \$64,000 USD out of the \$100,000 USD prize money she received from the Nansen Award to provide the school with more classrooms, teachers, and educational resources, such as desks and blackboards.³¹ This expansion provided basic education to more refugee girls in the region.³² In northern Kenya, refugee children are able to attend primary

¹⁶ UNHCR, *International Solidarity in Action at Leaders’ Summit on Refugees*, 2016.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ UNHCR, *UNHCR convenes dialogue on how to better protect children on the move*, 2016.

¹⁹ UN DPI *Millions of ‘children on the move’ without protection is unacceptable – UN refugee agency chief*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* (A/RES/71/1), 2016.

²⁰ UNHCR, *UNHCR: Programmes for direct cash-aid to the displaced reaches record \$430m in 2016*, 2016.

²¹ Ibid.

²² UNHCR, *UNHCR: Strategy for the Institutionalisation of Cash-Based Interventions 2016-2020*, 2016.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ UNHCR, *UNHCR: Programmes for direct cash-aid to the displaced reaches record \$430m in 2016*, 2016.

²⁶ UNHCR, *Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative promotes Canada’s private refugee sponsorship model*, 2016.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ UNHCR, *Nansen Award winner turns girls’ dreams into reality*, 2016.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

schools and a boarding school for refugee girls inside the Kakuma camp.³³ As of 2016, there are 22 primary education schools and five secondary schools that refugees and refugee adolescents can attend in order to further their education while displaced.³⁴ These schools are particularly helpful as refugee girls and women now have access to basic education, allowing them the opportunity to continue into post-secondary educational institutions.³⁵

Similarly, in November 2016, UNHCR partnered with a number of civil society organizations in Austria to host a fair and contest in Vienna for entrepreneurs and participants to present their ideas on how to better integrate refugees into Austria through their businesses.³⁶ Five winners were given 100,000 EUR to develop their businesses, while other participants benefited from networking with the civil societies and NGOs.³⁷ The projects ranged from creating textile ventures, basic education initiatives for refugees, recreational activities, integration methods for refugees living in small villages, and financial support networks for resettling refugees.³⁸ While several projects have been undertaken in recent months to continue promoting livelihoods and education for refugees and displaced persons around the world, more remains to be done in order to better integrate these vulnerable populations.

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This news article discusses the various schools and individuals who are able to receive an education at the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. The article highlights individual refugee girls who are receiving an education, the success of the schools, and the impact the schools have on refugees' livelihoods. Delegates will be able to gain another perspective of schools in refugee camps and the value the schools have for refugees living in these camps.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2016, September 20). *International Solidarity in Action at Leaders' Summit on Refugees* [News Article]. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: <http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2016/9/57e1f18e4/international-solidarity-action-leaders-summit-refugees.html>

This article highlights the progress and achievements Member States have made in increasing their contribution to humanitarian appeals in 2016, and the acceptance of 36,000 refugees. The UNHCR announced the World Bank's Global Congressional Financing Facility at the summit. Delegates can see the yearly progress of UNHCR, Member States, and organizations in terms of improving protections and solutions for refugees. Delegates can be aware of the additional monetary contributions that have been given in order to improve the livelihoods of refugees.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2016, December 12). *Nansen Award winner turns girls' dreams into reality* [News Article]. Retrieved 29 January 2017 from: <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/stories/2016/12/5832bb894/nansen-award-winner-turns-girls-dreams-reality.html>

This news articles details a Nansen Award winner's latest actions in promoting basic education for refugee girls in Pakistan. The article includes the various renovations that were taken to expand the school to provide classrooms, educational resources, and hire teachers in order to allow for more refugee girls to receive an educational. Delegates can use this information to learn of success stories in refugee camps and find ways to promote other educational initiatives at the conference.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2016). *UNHCR Strategy for the Institutionalisation of Cash-Based Interventions 2016-2020*. Retrieved 2 January 2017 from: <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/protection/operations/584131cd7/unhcr-strategy-institutionalisation-cash-based-interventions-2016-2020.html>

³³ UNHCR, *At a Kenyan refugee camp, girls learn to beat the odds*, 2016.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ UNHCR, *Vienna fair rewards best ideas for integrating refugees*, 2016.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

This UNHCR strategy outlines the objectives and guidelines UNHCR will take in order to implement and strengthen the policy on cash-based interventions. The goals of the strategy will be achieved through capacity building, expansion of programs, coordination, and partnership with Member States, NGOs, IGOs, and civil societies. This resource can provide delegates with ideas for the utilization of cash-based interventions for refugees and displaced persons through multilateral collaboration.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2016, December 8). *Millions of 'children on the move' without protection is unacceptable – UN refugee agency chief* [News Article]. Retrieved 4 January 2017 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55752>

This article places an emphasis on unaccompanied children and the risks they face when they are migrating. UNHCR reminded Member States of their commitments following the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, particularly on providing access to basic health, education, and psychological services to children. Delegates can use this article as a reminder of the commitments their Member States made towards improving the livelihoods of refugees.

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United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1)*. Adopted without reference to a Main Committee (A/71/L.1). Retrieved 29 January 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/71/1>

II. Addressing Protracted Displacement

Recent Developments

Facing an ongoing refugee crisis and an unprecedented number of people facing protracted displacement, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) plays a decisive role in conflict and refugee management.³⁹ Addressing protracted conflict remains an issue of global importance, especially reviewing situations in major refugee-populations of Member States, among which Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria continue to call for special attention.⁴⁰ Over the past months, UNHCR and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have continued their efforts to develop solutions to protracted displacement.⁴¹

On 5 December 2016, the High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, presented the UNHCR proposals on “Better Protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally,” which offered recommendations for the European Union to improve the management of current refugee movements.⁴² In order to achieve this, the proposals suggest establishing a common registration system, quicker identification and access to international protection, a reconsidered distribution mechanism for EU Member States, a common approach for unaccompanied children, and general incentives for compliance with the system.⁴³ The proposals suggest the EU should provide funding and share mechanisms for protection systems with transit Member States and integrate refugees into development planning.⁴⁴ These measures could be supported through the EU Regional Development and Protection Programmes as well as funds such as the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.⁴⁵ UNHCR and its partners are working on further strategies to improve EU Member States’ protection mechanisms for unaccompanied children.⁴⁶

Also in December, Mr. Grandi outlined UNHCR’s priorities on aid groups and main goals for 2017.⁴⁷ UNHCR prioritizes safety through upholding asylum, stabilization through humanitarian response, joint international measures in order to solve or prevent conflicts, and an emphasized focus on internally displaced people (IDPs) and large-scale refugee influxes.⁴⁸ UNHCR provided further details and updates on its strategy by releasing condensed answers to questions related to the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* detailing a more comprehensive approach to address protracted displacement, through engagement of the society as a whole, including local authorities, civil society, and the private sector to reach local communities.⁴⁹ UNHCR further emphasized the importance of community-based approaches to strengthen protection for refugees, stateless or internally displaced persons within their communities.⁵⁰ This includes an initiative to train non-specialists on mental health assistance in order to support the mental health needs of individuals, even when professionals are not available.⁵¹

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) published an analysis of the current global situation of protracted displacement on 21 December 2016, focusing on the limitations of existing strategies following a natural disaster or episodic violence.⁵² While the three major durable solutions for protracted displacement: return, reintegration, and resettlement have been a major focus in the past, IOM now emphasizes the need for a dynamic

³⁹ UNHCR, *New UNHCR Hasansham camp receives 3,000 people as thousands of Iraqis continue to flee Mosul*, 2016; UN DPI, *The vulnerable ‘must be our first priority’, says Ban, calling on donors to support UN emergency fund*, 2016.

⁴⁰ UNHCR, *Better Protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally*, 2016.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*; UN OCHA, *Global Humanitarian Overview 2017*, 2016.

⁴² UNHCR, *UNHCR calls for stronger EU action on refugees*, 2016; UNHCR, *Better Protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally*, 2016; Grandi, *Protecting refugees in Europe and beyond: Can the EU rise to the challenge?*, 2016.

⁴³ UNHCR, *Better Protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally*, 2016, p. 18.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

⁴⁷ Bacci, *Expert Views - With crises set to worsen, what are aid groups' priorities for 2017?*, 2016.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ UNHCR, *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*, 2017, p. 3.

⁵⁰ Gaynor, Q&A: *Far from being traumatized, most refugees are ‘surprisingly resilient’*, 2016; UNHCR, *Understanding Community-Based Protection*, 2013, p. 5.

⁵¹ Gaynor, Q&A: *Far from being traumatized, most refugees are ‘surprisingly resilient’*, 2016.

⁵² Zetter, *Protracted Displacement – Setting the Scene*, 2016.

approach to displacement, delivering targeted responses to each population's specific needs.⁵³ In light of this, OCHA has highlighted the humanitarian need created by protracted displacement in the 2017 *Global Humanitarian Overview*.⁵⁴ The report suggests the international community will need around \$22.2 billion to assist 92.8 million people in need in 33 Member States.⁵⁵ OCHA calls for more Regional Response Plans (RRP) and a strong Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) ensuring quick funding for humanitarian responses of UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local partners.⁵⁶

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The UNHCR Factsheet: Better protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally published in December 2016 supports delegates to get an in-depth understanding on how to better manage refugee protection. UNHCR outlines proposals for a global as well as European involvement in solution-finding concerning conflicts causing protracted displacement. This source helps delegates to get an overview of how UNHCR aims to ameliorate management and partnership building with and within the EU.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2016, November 4). *New UNHCR Hasansham camp receives 3,000 people as thousands of Iraqis continue to flee Mosul* [Press Release]. Retrieved 2 January 2017 from: <http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2016/11/581cbbb34/new-unhcr-hasansham-camp-receives-3000-people-thousands-iraqis-continue.html>

This article offers delegates an insight in a current field of UNHCR's work related to protracted displacement. It provides an example of how UNHCR is involved in managing large refugee movements. This article allows delegates to analyze if proposed strategies and measure to handle protracted displacement are applicable for people fleeing from protracted situations. This document allows delegates to understand the scope of refugee movements based on the case outlined in this press release.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2016). *Protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally. UNHCR's proposals to rebuild trust through better management, partnership and solidarity*. Retrieved 2 January 2017 from: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/58385d4e4.html>

This paper is closely linked to the Factsheet: Better protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally and illustrates the proposals by UNHCR to improve the European approach to refugee movements. While the factsheet offers a quick overview and the possibility to access facts and figures in a condense manner the proposals enable delegates to analyze the situation of the EU and its global involvement and offers delegates an in-depth overview of proposed procedures to handle refugee movements and displacement. This outcome-oriented paper can help delegates to develop solutions and strategies for protracted displacement situations not only linked to the EU but also globally.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2017, January 4). *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*. Retrieved 2 February 2017 from: <http://www.unhcr.org/584689257.pdf>

After 65 years the UN General Assembly adopted a new declaration addressing the protection of refugees. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants is an example for delegates on how to synthesize already implemented strategies with a new focus on refugee protection. It helps delegates to understand the essential principles of refugee protection and at the same time offers an outlook on how to manage refugee movements with innovative strategies and ideas. This

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ UN OCHA, *Global Humanitarian Overview 2017*, 2016, p. 5.

⁵⁵ Ibid., p.10.

⁵⁶ Ibid., pp. 35, 39.

resource can support delegates to develop a better understanding of the declaration itself as well as its outlined compacts and framework.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2016, December 13). *The vulnerable 'must be our first priority,' says Ban, calling on donors to support UN emergency fund* [News Article]. Retrieved 2 January 2017 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55794>

During the UN Central Emergency Response Fund's High Level pledging conference for 2017, former Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon emphasized the need to address protracted conflicts causing mass displacement. The news article offers delegates a current overview of the people in need and what measures and funding mechanisms are necessary to face protracted situations. This article is a valuable source for delegates to understand which priorities need to be addressed first and what influences protracted displacement. It also draws a link to the Agenda for Humanity which is closely linked to the discussion of protracted displacement.

United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2016). *Global Humanitarian Overview 2017* [Report]. Retrieved 2 January 2017 from:

http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/GHO_2017_publication_corrections_digital.pdf

This report provides strategies for a multidimensional response to displacement, disaster, protracted conflict, and related issues. The report contains general information on ameliorating humanitarian emergency assistance recalling UN General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991. It moreover contains a 2016 review as well as country specific facts and figures. Delegates can acquire an in-depth understanding of humanitarian aid and response plans in 2016 as well as better understand strategies which are suggested in the overview. Finally, Member State specific examples will help delegates to evaluate requirements and strategies to address protracted displacement.

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III. Environmental Migration and the Future of Displacement

Recent Developments

In the months since the historic adoption of the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* on 19 September 2016, work has continued in preparation for two new global compacts to be adopted in 2018: a global compact on refugees and a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.⁵⁷ For the global compact on migration, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has continued to contribute its expertise in guiding Member States to make commitments that protect migrants, including environmental migrants.⁵⁸ This has already been demonstrated in the *Nansen Protection Agenda*, now known as the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD).⁵⁹ According to PDD's 2016-2019 strategic framework, both the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR will continue to work together to operationalize measures that address climate displacement risk through voluntary migration and planned relocation.⁶⁰ The New York Declaration represents a more holistic response to refugee and migrant protection, as it incorporates the migration-environment nexus and seeks to provide protection to those most vulnerable to climate change.⁶¹ As a result, UNHCR has worked closely with the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) in order to seek better solutions in an area that is expected to see an increase of migration in the future.⁶²

The 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC was held 4-18 November 2016 in Marrakesh, Morocco.⁶³ Within the UNFCCC process is the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) established by the COP at COP 19 (2013) in Warsaw, Poland along with the Executive Committee to guide the mechanism.⁶⁴ The WIM's main purpose is to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries.⁶⁵ Under WIM's initial two-year work plan, action area six focuses on understanding the impacts of climate change on migration, displacement and human mobility.⁶⁶ However, it was only during COP 21, which Parties requested the Executive Committee to establish and report on a 'Task Force on Displacement' that would develop recommendations no later than the COP 24 in 2018 to address the impacts of climate change on displacement.⁶⁷ Relevant organizations in the field of migration such as UNHCR and IOM were invited to COP 22 to participate and present recommendations formulated at a technical meeting on migration, displacement and human mobility that took place from 27-29 July 2016 in Casablanca, Morocco.⁶⁸ For example, good practices that were highlighted from UNHCR included guidance on planned relocation from disasters and environmental change as well as the follow-up to the PDD process launched in July 2016.⁶⁹ The recommendations that were presented to the COP 22 helped inform their decision to approve a five-year work-plan of the Executive Committee including advancing the operationalization of the Task Force on Displacement as well as strengthen its collaboration through partnerships with other entities.⁷⁰ UNHCR has been providing technical input to the COP processes where needed,

⁵⁷ UNHCR, *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*, 2016.

⁵⁸ UNHCR, *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*, 2016.

⁵⁹ Platform on Disaster Displacement, *Strategic Framework 2016-2019*, 2016.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ UNHCR, *'A Minor Miracle: A New Global Compact on Refugees'*, 2016.

⁶² UNHCR, *Frequently Asked Questions on Climate Change and Disaster Displacement*, 2016; UNHCR, *Policy Brief: Displacement at COP 22*, 2016.

⁶³ UNFCCC, *Chronology – Loss and Damage*, 2016.

⁶⁴ UNFCCC, *Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts*, 2016; UNFCCC, *Loss and Damage: Online Guide*, 2016.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶⁶ Warsaw International Mechanism Executive Committee, *Warsaw International Mechanism Executive Committee (WIM ExCom) Workplan Action Area 6 on Migration, Displacement and Human Mobility*, 2016.

⁶⁷ UNFCCC, *Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts*, 2016.

⁶⁸ UNFCCC, *Submissions on internal and cross-border migration, displacement and other forms of human mobility*, 2016; UNFCCC, *Technical meeting on migration, displacement and human mobility*, 2016; Environmental Migration Portal, *Excom WIM/IOM Technical Meeting*, 2016; UNFCCC, *Presentation on the Technical meeting on migration, displacement and human mobility*, 2016.

⁶⁹ UNFCCC, *Pillar 2: Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts*, 2016.

⁷⁰ UNFCCC, *Chronology – Loss and Damage*, 2016.

including at the COP 22 in Marrakesh, with the goal of bridging the policy gaps between the climate change, displacement and migration.⁷¹ As such, UNHCR has committed to provide technical support to parties when formulating their National Adaptation Plans to build resilient populations before they are forcibly displaced, as well as recommend the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to work closely with the Task Force on displacement.⁷²

UNHCR organized a side event at COP 22 on the topic of “the PDD and the UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement: Opportunities for Support and Action” on 9 November 2016.⁷³ Panelists discussed the means of mutually supporting the PDD and the WIM by addressing conceptual, operational, financial and legal gaps.⁷⁴ UNHCR along with the IOM co-organized another side event entitled “ONE UN Side Event on Human Mobility and Climate Change” on 10 November 2016, with a focus on the human rights implications of climate change-induced migration.⁷⁵ UNHCR also participated in side events that were organized by other groups, including the panel on “Climate-Induced Displacement – Protecting and Promoting Rights of the Climate Migrants” on 10 November 2016, which stressed using the term ‘climate refugees’ is a misrepresentation as these groups of people are not protected by the 1951 Refugee Convention, while also noting the need to mainstream human mobility in the UNFCCC agenda.⁷⁶ UNHCR’s role in the climate change arena is very unique and brings more nuance to the discussions as Member States determine what stakeholders are best to act and determine in which situations to do so in.⁷⁷ Delegates should consider how UNHCR’s current activities and work could transfer into the climate change arena without changing its mandate on the protection of refugees and other vulnerable populations.⁷⁸

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The Environmental Migration Portal, a project of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), is a well-resourced web page with key reports and up to date news related to migration and climate change. Delegates will also be equipped with the IOM’s work on this issue as another key partner with UNHCR in this area. A key theme for UNHCR is building partnerships and working towards a common set of goals. Delegates should be familiar with IOM’s work in this area as to be mindful of duplication of work and understanding the mandates and positions of each organization.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2016). *COP 22 Technical Inputs: Climate & Disaster Displacement* [Briefing]. Retrieved 1 January 2017 from: <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/protection/environment/583455267/cop-22-technical-inputs-climate-disaster-displacement.html>

Delegates will find in this document UNHCR key inputs to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 22nd Conference of Parties in Marrakesh, Morocco. Delegates will gain a better understanding of what areas UNHCR is providing expertise and assistance within the UNFCCC and it discusses displacement and mobility in its context of climate change. It is here Delegates can use recommendations to put forward on this topic from their respective State policies.

Overseas Development Institute. (2016). *Climate-induced migration and displacement: closing the policy gap*. Retrieved 1 January 2017 from: <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/10996.pdf>

Delegates will find this policy brief useful in guiding their understating of how climate change policy and human mobility developed over the past two decades. This brief demonstrates the challenges and opportunities there are for actors and governments in addressing this issue. This

⁷¹ ODI, *Climate-induced migration and displacement: closing the policy gap*, 2016; UNHCR, *COP 22 Technical Inputs: Climate & Disaster Displacement*, 2016.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ UNHCR, *Highlights of UNHCR Organized Side Events at COP22*, 2016.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Environmental Migration Portal, *Human Mobility at COP22*, 2016.

⁷⁶ IISD, *Climate-Induced Displacement – Protecting and Promoting Rights of the Climate Migrants*, 2016.

⁷⁷ Environmental Migration Portal, *Human Mobility in the UNFCCC*, 2016.

⁷⁸ IISD, *Climate-Induced Displacement – Protecting and Promoting Rights of the Climate Migrants*, 2016.

brief contains resources that delegates can use to develop recommendations for policies around climate-induced migration.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2016). *Submissions on internal and cross-border migration, displacement and other forms of human mobility* [Website]. Retrieved 1 January 2017 from: http://unfccc.int/adaptation/groups_committees/loss_and_damage_executive_committee/items/9508.php

Within this resource, delegates will find submissions on internal and cross-border migration, displacement and other forms of human mobility to the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage. These resources were submitted by relevant organizations and experts to provide knowledge in these areas to help guide the taskforce on displacement as well as come up with recommendations for the United Nations Framework on Climate Change Conference. Delegates will have a myriad of information from sources to guide their understanding of displacement in the context of climate change in the field.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2016). *Loss and Damage: Online Guide*. Retrieved 1 January 2017 from:

http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun_adaptation_framework/loss_and_damage/application/pdf/online_guide_ld_nov_2016.pdf

This online guide on the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage is a helpful tool for delegates in their understanding of the history and context of which the mechanism was created. This resource also goes into detail what the mechanism is and how the executive committee works. Delegates may use this as a reference when trying to understand how displacement and human mobility is addressed with the United Nations Framework on Climate Change.

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