



Realizing Dignified Futures for People Affected by Displacement
International workshop on Protracted Displacement & Human Development in the Levant
30 - 31 October, Crowne Plaza, Hamra Main Street, Beirut, Lebanon

In the past years, the world has been witnessing the largest forced displacement since the end of the Second World War. More than 65 million people worldwide have left their homes in fear of persecution, out of which 21 million have crossed international borders and become refugees. More than half of them have been displaced for over 5 years – while the average time spent in exile has now climbed to 17 years. Close to 85 percent of refugees reside in developing nations, exacerbating global inequalities. The world is struggling to share responsibility and to fulfill its duty to protect, assist and empower forcibly displaced people and their host communities.

Aid responses are often built around the logic of emergency assistance and geared towards addressing refugees' needs in the most acute phase of displacement. While necessary, the emergency framework is often not able to effectively respond to the increasingly long-term nature and effects of protracted displacement for all those involved. Today's refugees often find themselves at the margins of societies already struggling with political and economic challenges, in situations of protracted displacement with no real perspective to return home, integrate locally, or be admitted to another country to build a new life. This is particularly true for the millions displaced by the Syrian conflict, but is certainly not limited to them.

In recent years, there has been growing interest in and operational evidence for human development-led responses to displacement that take into consideration the development needs of the people who were forced to flee and the communities that are hosting them. Human development-led approaches to displacement save and protect people, but also create choices and opportunities for refugees and their host communities to have a say in the programmes and policies concerning them (*voice*); the ability to act on their own behalf (*agency*), depend on their own resources and be in command of their future (*autonomy or self-reliance*) - offering an alternative to the paradigm of refugees as passive recipients of assistance.

Such responses would ideally comprise policies and programmes that facilitate freedom of movement, access to secure legal status, as well as access to decent work, livelihoods, quality education, health care and other services for refugees and host communities. Human-development led responses also imply integrating refugees into longer term national development planning and multi-annual funding, investing in job-creation, sectoral development or social services. This requires rethinking the roles and mandates of different actors, including the host government, other governments, United Nations (UN) agencies, in particular the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Bank and other development actors, and international and local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Comprehensive human-development- based responses to displacement are still rarely implemented in reality, although many existing protracted responses contain elements of this approach. As the world moves towards a new Global Compact for Refugees, increasing number of practitioners, scholars and policy-makers have called for rethinking some of the policy and operational modalities of refugee responses in order to account for the complex reality of protracted displacement. In order to contribute to this discussion, Oxfam and Institute Clingendael are hosting an **international workshop on protracted displacement and human development in the Levant, *Realizing Dignified Futures for People Affected by Displacement*, on October 30-31 in Beirut, Lebanon.**

The workshop will bring together around 50 international, regional and local participants: doers and thinkers, practitioners and policy-makers from civil society, governments, academia, think tanks, multilateral institutions and the private sector. The aim of the workshop is to examine ways to operationalize human-development approach to displacement in the Levant, taking into account the political, social and economic context in which the displacement is taking place, and its interaction with the aid architecture. By critically analyzing the existing policies, programmes and institutions, the workshop also hopes to provide further building blocks for the new global approach to protracted displacement, and lead to defining a more refined conflict-sensitive response framework that ensures protection and human development of all those affected by displacement.

The workshop will be held in English and Arabic.

Program

Moderators: **Ignacio Packer** and **Roula Hamati**

Monday, October 30, 2017

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| 9:00 to 9:30 | Welcome! Registration and coffee/tea |
| 9:30 to 10:00 | Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Words of welcome and introduction to the workshop and objectives:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Evelien van Roemburg, Policy Lead Migration & Rights in Crisis, Oxfam Novibo Ana Uzelac, Senior Research Fellow, Clingendael Institute- Mohamed Khayata, visual artist, <i>A story of displacement, memory and identity</i> |
| 10:00 to 11:20 | Setting the scene - Protracted displacement and human development <p>Keynote address: Alexander Betts, Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford</p> <p>Panel presentations and debate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mireille Girard, UNHCR representative in Lebanon - <i>Protracted displacement and human development: updates on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and the development of the Global Compact on Refugees</i>- Nasser Yassin, Director of Research at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs / Assistant Professor of Policy and Planning American University of Beirut - <i>Humanitarian and development programming for refugees and host communities in Lebanon and beyond</i>- Sarnata Reynolds, Policy Lead on Global Displacement & Migration and Rights in Crisis, Oxfam International - <i>Connecting humanitarian assistance and human development responses in advocacy and on the ground</i> <p>Interaction with the floor</p> |
| 11:20 to 11:40 | Morning! Break |
| 11:40 to 13:00 | Session 1 - Contextualizing responses to displacement in political, social and economic realities <p>.</p> <p>Panel presentations and debate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ana Uzelac, Senior Research Fellow, Clingendael Institute - <i>Integrating political and economic realities in responses to protracted displacement globally and in Lebanon</i>- Hani Okasheh, Research Manager, ARRD Legal Aid Jordan - <i>Responses to protracted displacement in Jordan's economic, social and political context</i>- Doğuş Şimşek, teaching fellow at the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Koç University - <i>displacement in Turkey - political implications and the protection of refugees</i> <p>Interaction with the floor</p> |
| 13:00 to 14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 to 15:20 | Session 2 - Refugee Protection – freedom of movement, access to legal status, civil documentation and justice <p>Panel presentations and debate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Charmain Mohamed, Head of section Refugee & Migrants Rights, Amnesty International - <i>Protection challenges for refugees in the Syria crisis and international responsibility-sharing for protection</i>- Francisca Ankrah, Projects Coordinator, ALEF Act for Human Rights - <i>Protection challenges for refugees in Lebanon: access to secure legal status and justice</i>- Alain Coutand, Protection Consortium Coordinator in Jordan, Danish Refugee Council - <i>Syrian refugees lacking documentation - the complexity of the challenge in Jordan</i>- Martin Clutterbuck, Information Counseling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) Regional Advisor Middle East, Norwegian Refugee Council - <i>Access to protection, shelter and housing in cases of urban displacement - implications for refugees and host communities</i> <p>Interaction with the floor</p> |

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| 15:20 to 15:40 | Teatime! Break |
| 15:40 to 17:15 | <p>Session 3 - Refugees' Economic and Social Rights – access to work, entrepreneurship and livelihoods</p> <p>Panel presentations and debate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linda Al Kalash, Executive Director, Tamkeen Legal Aid Jordan - <i>Migrant labour law and protection in Jordan, and the access to work and labour rights for Syrians refugees</i> - Maha Kattaa, Response Coordinator Syrian Refugee Crisis, International Labour Organization (Jordan) - <i>The right to work, access to work and working conditions for local workers, migrant workers and refugees in Jordan</i> - Jennifer Holt, CEO, Building Markets - <i>Access to the labour market for Syrians in the Levant</i> - Meryem Aslan, Country Director, Oxfam Turkey - <i>Access to work and social protection for refugees in Turkey</i> - Hani Al-Salhani, Project Manager, Abaad - <i>Addressing social protection challenges for refugees in Beirut and Lebanon</i> <p>Interaction with the floor</p> |
| 19:00 to ... | Dinner (optional) |

Tuesday, October 31, 2017

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| 9:00 to 9:30 | Good morning! Coffee & tea |
| 9:30 to 9:45 | Opening Day 2 Opening by word artist “ Atta the Interpreter ” |
| 9:45 to 11:20 | <p>Session 4: Aid Architecture for human-development responses to displacement</p> <p>Setting the Scene: Evan Easton-Calabria, Researcher, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford - <i>the history and future of refugee self-reliance assistance and refugees' involvement with development</i></p> <p>Panel presentations and debate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lauren Post, Policy & Advocacy Officer, International Rescue Committee - <i>Refugee Compacts in Jordan and Lebanon: Addressing the Crisis of Protracted Displacement</i> - Sally Abi Khali, Country Director, Oxfam Lebanon - <i>Making Aid To Jordan And Lebanon Work: Aid effectiveness in middle income countries affected by mass displacement</i> - Margret Verwijk, Deputy Ambassador in Lebanon, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs - <i>linking humanitarian interventions with development strategies and durable solutions for refugees and local communities</i> <p>Interaction with the floor</p> |
| 11:20 to 11:40 | Have a break |
| 11:40 to 13:00 | Session 4 (continued - <i>break-out groups</i>) |
| 13:00 to 14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 to 15:20 | <p>Session 5: The Way Forward</p> <p>Concluding debate – <i>what do we take forward and home?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report back's from the break-out groups - Sarnata Reynolds, Policy Lead on Global Displacement & Migration and Rights in Crisis, Oxfam International - Charles Nasrallah, Cross Regional Centre for Refugees and Migrants - <i>the arab euro med network</i> <p>Interaction with the floor</p> |
| 15:20 to 15:40 | <p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evelien van Roemburg, Policy Lead Migration & Rights in Crisis, Oxfam Novib - Ana Uzelac, Senior Research Fellow, Clingendael Institute <p>Conclusions by word artist “Atta the Interpreter”</p> |
| 15:40 to 16:00 | Teatime! & farewell |

Background to sessions

Opening session: Protracted displacement and human development- setting the scene

The key-note address and opening panel will focus on global trends in displacement, discussions on the need and challenges in redesigning the elements of the global refugee regime, the piloting of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, the development of the Global Compact on Refugees, and the integration of refugees into development financing and programming.

Session 1: Contextualizing responses to displacement in political, social and economic realities -

Displacement does not happen in a political or economic vacuum, and it can pose challenges to political, economic and social realities of the countries in which it occurs. Political fault lines of the host countries, structure of the local economy and the labour market, levels of education and skills of the local population, latent or open conflicts and other security considerations, and proximity in religion and culture all play a role in the ways in which refugees and host communities interact and are assisted. At times the displacement itself, and responses by aid agencies or the national governments, can give rise or exacerbate political tensions and conflict at local or national levels. Through reviewing a number of case-studies and existing assessment tools, this session will look at how different actors involved in the refugee response - donors, UN system, financial institutions, NGOs and the host governments - can improve conflict sensitivity, and integrate political, social and economic realities in designing and implementing responses to protracted displacement.

Session 2: Refugee Protection – freedom of movement, access to legal status, civil documentation and justice -

The aim of this session is to look at the basic principles of refugee response, deriving from the framework of international humanitarian and human rights law - such as protection, ensuring non-refoulement, access to legal status, civil documentation or justice. How can refugees be afforded protection in countries that may have imperfect human rights records? Refugees are also entitled to access to durable solutions - but how can this be achieved if return is not possible in the short run, and in the context of low resettlement rates? What kind of responses would ensure these principles could be adhered to? What kind of practical or policy experiences are there in countries of first asylum that others can learn from? What are the gender-dimensions of such practices and policies? Who is involved and what has facilitated success of such attempts thus far?

Session 3: Refugees' Economic and Social Rights – access to work, entrepreneurship and livelihoods -

This session will focus on refugees' access to social and economic rights. It will examine both displaced and host communities - as well as the manner in which the challenges they face can be addressed for the benefit of all. The session looks at the challenges to ensure economic and social rights for refugees and practical ways in which displaced populations and host communities can be supported in ensuring adequate housing, social protection and pursuit of livelihoods - including the right to decent work and pay, the right to start businesses, and access to markets, land and capital.

Session 4: Aid Architecture for human-development responses to displacement -

Refugee crises are as a rule operationalized through a set of rules and institutions governing aid flows, and are set up and managed by the key UN agencies and national governance actors. This session will look into the nature of current aid architecture, its interaction with the political, economic and social fabric and governance institutions of the host countries, and the challenges and constraints that arise from the protracted nature of displacement. The aim of the session is to build on all previous discussions, and identify ways in which aid architecture could be improved to deliver durable assistance to all those affected by displacement.

This session will continue the discussion on the challenges and changes needed to ensure aid architecture delivers for refugees and host communities. It will specifically examine the role, and division of tasks for different actors, such as national governments, local authorities, donors, financial institutions, and international and local NGOs. The session will also look at the voices and role of refugees and host communities. How do they envision their own future and how is this integrated in policies and programmes?

Session 5: The Way Forward -

This session will focus on examining concrete pathways to improvements: what kind of responses are needed to accommodate political, economic and developmental challenges of protracted displacement? What kind of aid architecture is needed to support such responses? What sort of interventions could be added to the key stakeholders' toolboxes? At which level should changes take place – policy, practice, coordination mechanisms? What are the most efficient ways to achieve the needed changes?