



NGO Consultation Meetings - Side Event

"The use of data as tool to facilitate the Socio-Economic Inclusion of the forcibly displaced"

Developments within UNHCR and opportunities for collaboration with partners

Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa

1. Background and rationale for the event

Good socioeconomic evidence provides the basis for designing interventions, targeting assistance, and supporting advocacy to promote the socioeconomic inclusion of forcibly displaced persons. Such evidence is also key to ensuring that scarce resources are used effectively. Furthermore, having comparable information on the employment situation and living conditions of forcibly displaced persons and the communities in which they reside is a necessary for linking humanitarian and development efforts. Finally, regarding inclusion in social protection and social safety nets programs, it is important to note that data on our persons of concern is also a crucial first step to support their inclusion in national social registers.

UNHCR encourages and promotes the use of data, research and assessments related to refugee economic inclusion. Priority should be inclusion of refugees in national assessment, as this has the double function of providing comparable data and ensures government recognition of the needs of POCs. By improving data through socio-economic assessments and market assessments, UNHCR aims to inform its operational response and enhance its advocacy to increase the visibility of the needs of the PoCs. Additionally, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR will continue to engage with a wide range of partners, including development agencies and international financial institutions and NGOs, to support more comprehensive and coordinated responses to displacement in WCA.

Data is a tool and a force-multiplier for UNHCR's advocacy and programme planning. A good example from our region comes from Chad, where in response to a dramatic cut in funding resources in 2016, UNHCR and the World Food Programme used household survey data and econometric models to identify refugees by their vulnerability levels. This approach enabled a new targeting strategy that made sure more assistance was distributed to the most at-risk refugees, who would otherwise be severely deprived of basic living and protection needs.

2. Outline of the session

The session will comprise of two parts followed by two rounds of discussion and feedback. The first part will comprise of a short presentation of UNHCR's strategy in the field of socio-economic inclusion and the shift compared to the previous modus operandi which lays emphasis on the use of data as an operational tool. The second

part will showcase the work done in the field of data and socio-economic inclusion by the partners who are invited to present as members of the panel and an open discussion with active participation from audience.

The expected outcomes will be a list of available data resources in the region and possible collaboration opportunities, a set of suggestions and recommendations from NGOs that will help UNHCR further understand their perspective and provide the needed support.

The side event will last 1.5 hours.

3. Guiding Questions

- What does the shift in UNHCR's data strategy mean for its collaboration with partners in the field of economic inclusion?
- What data is necessary to improve the socio-economic inclusion of the forcibly displaced?
- What data are already available by partners working in this region?
- How can UNHCR improve in its data-related collaborations, while ensuring that the protection aspects of data-sharing are respected?
- How can UNHCR play a role in supporting partners to strengthen, expand and enhance their data and socio-economic inclusion efforts?
- What partnerships have been involved in delivering successful joint data collaborations in the field of socio-economic inclusion?