SOCIAL PROTECTION, INCLUSION AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS IN THE SYRIA CRISIS

Commission for Social Development
High-level side-event

New York
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BUSINESS CASE: RATIONALE

▪ Protracted Displacement:
  ▪ UNHCR will deliver a comprehensive protection and solutions strategy which provides: support to host
governments/communities, protection, assistance and self-reliance for refugees, resettlement and complementary
pathways and, when conditions allow, voluntary return.

▪ Alignment with UN-wide commitments to:
  ▪ Global Compact for Refugees – Seeking sustainable solutions by linking national and local humanitarian and
development strategies and investing in resilience of both communities to lessen aid dependency
  ▪ UN Reforms: 'new way of working' across development and humanitarian activities, with a focus on collective
outcomes at the country level
  ▪ 2030 Agenda and the SDGs (1.3): Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for
all – 'leave no one behind'
  ▪ The Grand Bargain - Humanitarian/development approaches and strengthening resilience against shocks

▪ Diminishing humanitarian resources (OL) and the need to secure more predictable and
sustainable financing for displaced populations
OPPORTUNITY

- National social protection/safety net systems fragmented, badly targeted, inefficient (only 16% of poorest quintile receive SA) and underfunded.
- With fiscal constraints, many are undergoing reform (NPTP Lebanon; NAF Jordan, MOLSA Iraq)

**Meanwhile,** humanitarians have implemented *innovative* and impactful assistance programs combining multi-purpose cash integrated with protection services, support to livelihoods and policy changes allowing for work permits etc.

**OPPORTUNITY – Humanitarian programs as catalysts for advances towards more inclusive and sustainable social protection**
ENTRY POINTS

- Expand use of common platforms – LOUISE, CCF, targeting – for improved alignment, coordination and enhanced efficiency, transparency and accountability

- Leverage use of new technologies – biometrics, digital delivery systems, blockchain - for greater transparency, efficiency, and data protection

- Joint piloting of tools/schemes with national stakeholders – WFP e-vouchers, IrisScan with MODM - facilitating scale-up

- Investing in shock-responsive social protection – introducing features for rapid response in case of emergencies.

A common crisis but very unique country contexts:
Different commitment levels to integration of refugees in national systems
A WIDE SPECTRUM OF ALIGNMENT OPTIONS

National Safety Net

Refugee/IDP Safety Net

Targeting

National Safety Net

Emergency

Refugee Safety Net

3RP

Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan 2016-2017

In Response to the Syria Crisis

Pooled Financing

National Budget

$y = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$
INCENTIVES FOR GOVERNMENTS

- Benefit from tested and innovative tools and mechanisms that contribute to improved performance – reduce leakages, enhance transparency and accountability (biometrics, cash cards).
- Improve efficiencies and reduce cost and fiscal burden (e.g. use of the CCF)
- Knowledge transfer and capacity building - social workers, referral systems, quality standards
- Expand access to development financing for own population
CONSIDERATIONS FOR DONORS

- Interest in reforming humanitarian system:
  - The Grand Bargain – humanitarian-development nexus; transparency; efficiency; multi-year financing.
- Greater focus on protracted displacement and long term solutions
- Commitment to 2030 Agenda and SDGs – joint outcomes and ‘no one left behind’
- Improved targeting towards the most vulnerable, avoid duplication, and enhanced performance and efficiency of national systems
- Attention to prevention and risk preparedness
- Potential reduction in overhead costs due to scale
- Bias towards cash (dignity, boosting local markets, cheaper delivery)
THE BROADER PROTECTION ECO-SYSTEM

SOCIAL PROTECTION

Non-contributory

Social assistance

Social care

UNHCR

SGBV
Child protection
Disability
Gender

Social insurance

Contributory

Active labour market policies

• Insurance for:
  - Unemployment
  - Maternity
  - Disability
  - Work accidents
  - Old-age pension
  - Survivors’ benefits

Work-sharing
• Training
• Job-search services

SOCIAL TRANSFERS

• Cash transfers
• Vouchers
• In-kind transfers

PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMMES

• Cash for work
• Food for work

FEE WAIVERS

• For basic health/education

SUBSIDIES

• Fuel
• Food
THE BROADER PROTECTION ECO-SYSTEM: EXAMPLES OF HUMANITARIAN/NATIONAL ALIGNMENT

- Health Care: Subsidizing PHC and tertiary services, health insurance. Use of common third-party monitoring for government and UN subsidized referrals (Lebanon)
- Education: MAKANI - Access to integrated social protection services for all (Jordan)
- School Feeding Programs: WFP Public primary school snack programs (benefitting Lebanese and Syrians)
- Community centers and referrals to specialized service centers (psychosocial, SGBV). Use of UNHCR E-Card (Lebanon)
- Access to labor markets/livelihoods – mainstreaming refugees in existing national/donor funded programs (Jordan – Joint ILO/UNHCR/World Bank engagement under the Compact)
FINANCING OPTIONS

- Development financing for UN technical support to national institutions
  - Training social workers/expanding outreach (Iraq); strengthening social centers (Lebanon)
- Pooling resources through Regional/National Social Assistance Multi-Donor Trust Funds (national/refugee windows)
  - Potential use of GCFF or existing MDTFs
- Channeling funds through one bank (multiple fund managers based on comparative advantage)
  - Remove overhead cost/fund managers cost based on cost