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1. In what ways can global responsibility be shared equitably?

- Recognizing existing commitments and norms is not enough, nor will it on its own do anything to address the challenge of truly living up to these commitments in practice and sharing responsibility across the international system.
- The component parts of displacement response need to be revisited and a clear road map produced for a comprehensive, global sharing of responsibility for refugees.
- That is why a “new business model” for responding to mass displacement is critical and must be part of any Compact adopted in the UNGA Summit in September.
- IRC believes that there are four pillars to sharing responsibility for refugees:
 - Greater use of resettlement and additional pathways for admissions of refugees
 - Better policies to support refugee self-reliance in host countries
 - More robust support to countries hosting refugees
 - Better preparation for secondary movement of refugees (like that we see into Europe and I which witness every day in my work)
- Responsibility sharing will only be as good as the results it produces for refugees, host communities and refugee hosting states.
- Recognizing the current efforts to share global responsibility for refugees are falling short, IRC will look at the Summit Documents with the following three questions in mind?
 - What does the Compact propose that is new or different than the status quo?
 - What systemic or policy changes does it propose that would prompt action and encourage implementation by donor and host countries?
 - How would the Compact, once adopted, be used as an instrument to bring change?
- To this end, we believe a refugee Compact should commit Member States and UN agencies to develop a “Plan of Action” that would serve as a roadmap for a more robust responsibility sharing framework.
- The “Plan of Action” should include:
 - Goals and objectives (which are time-bound and measurable)
 - An identification of gaps (resources, technical, doctrinal) in reaching those goals
 - A concrete plan of action to address those gap
- For example, if one of the Goals was to reach the 10% target for resettlement and humanitarian admissions laid forth in the “Zero Draft” of the UNGA outcome document, the objective may be to establish new resettlement programs. The gap identification may demonstrate a lack of capacity/resources for UNHCR to lend this capacity to all of the states in question. The concrete plan could be an investment strategy on the part of the international community to increase UNHCR’s ability to lend technical capacity to states establishing resettlement programs.
- The “Plan” should be developed by the Secretary General within a year of the Compact Adoption and the World Bank, UN agencies, member states and civil society should be involved in its drafting.

2. How could a Global Compact for Responsibility-Sharing for Refugees support solutions for refugees who are living in protracted situations?

- *A Global Compact must address the four areas of responsibility sharing mentioned above, given that they all relate especially Robust support for Refugee Hosting Countries*
- By and large, the responsibility for helping refugees in protracted situations is shouldered by neighboring countries. These countries are usually poor themselves with an estimated 80% of refugees being hosted by developing countries
- This means these countries and the communities hosting refugees need maximum support. This should come in a variety of forms.
- The first aspect the Compact must address is Support to Refugee Hosting Countries. Adequate levels of assistance must be provided in a timely manner to meet immediate needs of arriving refugees. IRC would encourage the use of efficient and effective mechanisms that give refugees maximum choice like cash assistance.
- However, recognizing that protracted refugee crises are the norm, immediate humanitarian assistance will not be enough to support these populations and the people hosting them.
- A longer-term funding view must be taken, combining humanitarian and development assistance to ensure positive outcomes for refugees, assisting host communities and ensuring that states can continue on development path that is inclusive of both their citizens and refugees.
- Humanitarian and development actors—including bilateral donors and UN agencies—must significantly enhance their collaboration in a drive toward a common vision of assistance for both refugee and host community populations—or “collective outcomes” around education, health, income, protection.
- IRC welcomes the “Commitment to Action on Transcending Humanitarian Development Divides” that UN agencies signed on to and that the World Bank and IOM endorsed at the World Humanitarian Summit and hopes to see this commitment made time-bound and measurable in the Summit documents.
- Finally, new macro financing mechanisms are needed for refugee hosting countries to strengthen institutions, service provision and infrastructure so that they can manage the additional responsibility of refugees. IRC applauds the development of the new financing platform being established at the World Bank for this purpose and encourages other financial institutions to play their part as well.
- The second aspect that must be a major focus is encouraging Better Host Country Policies to Allow Self-Reliance
- Hosting States have must provide unfettered asylum. Laws and policies of these countries must reflect uphold the rights and dignities afforded refugees and conditions must enable solutions to displacement even at the onset.
- Camps—which only host 40% of the world’s refugees—are still critical in providing emergency humanitarian assistance to mass population movements. This model was established assuming a short-term stay and to meet immediate needs. However, the average length of conflict is 37 years—meaning displacement is a decades-long phenomenon.
- When the IRC calls for an “end to camps” we are calling for a new approach to responding to refugees in host countries once immediate needs are met.

- This approach would include freedom of movement, incorporating the displaced in national development plans (with donor assistance to back those plans) and adapting aid responses to the complexities of urban areas.
- It also includes enhancing refugee access to employment, knowing that it's the key way to improve refugee self-reliance.
- I'll touch on resettlement later in the conversation, but want to note here that countries must also be prepared for secondary refugee movement as part of responsibility sharing.
- I'll use Europe as an example. Earlier this year, the region closed borders with the attempt to contain refugees in Greece and manage movement to other EU Member States via schemes like relocation.
- The result however, has been different to what was publicly envisaged by the EU governing bodies. Relocation pledges have been incredibly slow to be realized: today 3058 have been relocated from Greece and Italy out of an original pledge of 160,000 last September. Of the thousands stranded in Greece, two thirds are women and children.
- Therefore, with a lack of functioning legal channels for the movement of refugees both into and within the EU and poor living conditions, secondary movement out of southern Member States is inevitable and a reflection of the failure of current policy and lack of adequate political will to facilitate solutions and share responsibility across the region.
- **Secondary movement cannot be solved by border blocks.**
- Proper access to protection services and information is essential, special policy consideration has to be given to vulnerable groups, access to education for children, adequate accommodation and the ability to access the labor market are all areas that must be addressed should states wish to avoid secondary movement.
- Finally, one state should not be expected to respond to a large movement of refugees – there is a real need for global solidarity and responsibility sharing. The European Union is a clear example of where this can happen – and where challenges can arise.

3. What role can civil society, the private sector and academia play in protecting and empowering refugees and in promoting a 'whole of society' approach to refugees?

- The starting point for this question is that the responsibility for refugee protection and responsibility-sharing is with states not private actors.
- The current global paradigm is, unfortunately, responsibility-shifting and enforcement-only approaches to mixed migration to keep migrants and asylum seekers away from borders in the global North. This has to change.
- Protection of refugees is a state obligation, hosting refugees is a global public good, and states that happen to border countries in conflict can and should not be left to cope with insurmountable challenges.
- States have to own their shared responsibility regardless of the ebbs and flows of public sentiment.
- The IRC is not just an international humanitarian aid agency, we are also a domestic resettlement agency in 29 cities in the United States, and we have seen an outpouring of interest of ordinary citizens to help refugees – we have more volunteers in most places than we have resettled refugees to help. This is a reality which defies what you might believe if you only listen to the political rhetoric reported by the media. So we need to educate and empower these sectors of society who will help if we make the space for citizen engagement and corporate partnership.

- Currently less than 1% of refugees globally are resettled each year – only around 100,000 through UNHCR’s program. We can and must do more, collectively. This means making sure that third countries help UNHCR meet the goal of finding resettlement solutions for 10% of all refugees in the shortest timeframe possible. The IRC has been advocating for around a half a million refugees to be resettled in Europe through UNHCR’s traditional program per year, and we are also urging donor states to consider complementary admissions schemes beyond UNHCR’s program in order to hit 10%.
- This is ambitious, but doable if states commit themselves and bring new actors to the table to support. Examples of roles that private sector and society can play:
 - private sponsorship models such as Canada’s
 - corporate engagement to help resettled refugees gain access to affordable housing and good employment
 - corporate partnerships with governments to facilitate labor mobility for refugees
- We would only caution that public/private partnerships and initiatives like private sponsorship must be built into a new regime where states commit to equitable responsibility-sharing, not responsibility-shifting. Protecting or resettling refugees should not be something that societies do based on popular opinion.
- Finally, it is absolutely imperative that we invest more in anti-xenophobia education around the world. Civil society and the private sector can have an enormous impact in this area, which is always an afterthought and needs to be a central component of a Plan of Action to implement the Global Compact.