

3RP UPDATE

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3RP

REGIONAL
REFUGEE &
RESILIENCE
PLAN 2015 - 2016

IN RESPONSE TO THE SYRIA CRISIS



BERLIN CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF STABILITY IN THE REGION



Opening session of the conference: German Development Minister Müller and Foreign Minister Steinmeier, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Guterres and Lebanese Prime Minister Salam (from left to right) © photothek.net/lmo

On 28 October, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany hosted a high level meeting in Berlin to express solidarity with countries in the region hosting large numbers of Syrian refugees and encourage burden-sharing to support regional stability. Recognizing that Lebanon and Jordan currently have the highest per capita ratio of refugees worldwide, the aim of the conference was to highlight the ongoing crisis in Syria as well as the stress it places on the neighbouring countries.

Participants noted the dramatic deterioration of the humanitarian situation inside Syria as well as in host countries and its impact on regional development and the resilience of local communities. Outstanding funding gaps for both the **Regional Response Plan (RRP6)** and the **Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (SHARP)** were also highlighted.

The five main countries hosting refugees from Syria - Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt - gave compelling presentations of the challenges they face in terms of pressure on natural resources, national and municipal services, the economy and the very social fabric of impacted communities.

The High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, called for stronger commitment to burden-sharing by other countries, allowing Syrian refugees to find protection beyond the immediate neighbouring region. This can be achieved through resettlement, humanitarian admission schemes, simplified family reunification or more flexible visa regulations.

UNDP Associated Administrator, Gina Casar, praised the development of a new aid architecture to respond to protracted, region-wide, multi-dimensional crises and urged the international community to help building the resilience of impacted communities. She also noted that by bringing together humanitarian and development interventions, the 3RP can deliver quicker, cost-effective, and predictable support.

Participants expressed great appreciation for the generosity of host countries towards the

Syrian refugees and noted the exceptional scale of the crisis. There was a unanimous recognition that the humanitarian response only addresses the consequences of the current conflict and that a political solution must be found. Nevertheless, increased levels of mobilization are required on both the financial and political fronts, including further support to strengthen the resilience of local communities.

The Conference concluded by issuing a **Communique on Solidarity with Refugees and their Hosts**, covering: promoting peace and stability in Syria; adjusting the humanitarian and development responses to build resilience of host countries and impacted communities; addressing the economic and structural impact on host countries; promoting human rights and supporting women, children, elderly persons and people with disabilities; securing the rights to education and health; increasing opportunities for repatriation, resettlement and humanitarian admission; and the security implications of the Syria crisis.

The conference was attended by 28 countries, the League of Arab States, World Bank, ICRC, UN agencies and NGO representatives.

More information on the Conference, including a copy of the communique, can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/kek7cng>.

This is a bi-weekly newsletter produced by the 3RP Secretariat. For information contact: karin.friedrich@undp.org or throne@unhcr.org

The UN system at the highest levels continues to promote the concept of integrating refugee and resilience into crisis responses, with the work being done in our region to develop the 3RP being held up as a world-leading practice. The 3RP gives practical life to the recent urging of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon that “refugees may be a humanitarian issue...but it has a direct relationship with development issues. There should be no separation between humanitarian and development”.

INTEGRATED REFUGEE & RESILIENCE APPROACH PROMOTED AT HIGH-LEVELS IN UN

On 30 September, High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres outlined to the annual meeting in Geneva of the **UNHCR Executive Committee** the vision behind the 3RP, noting the importance of early links between relief and development actions in response to forced displacement.

Guterres highlighted that the global humanitarian system has become dangerously overstretched by new and unresolved crises in the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere. Growth in global humanitarian funding – already at a record high in 2013 of US\$22 billion – is no longer keeping pace with accelerating needs, requiring a fundamental rethink of both humanitarian and development financing.

“The Syria situation in particular underlines the urgency of adapting the way we work together...to find ways of combining humanitarian and development assistance so as to stabilize the situation and build longer-term resilience amongst host communities and refugees,” he said. “This is the vision behind the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (the 3RP) that will bring together over 150 partners and the host governments, with the coordination of both UNHCR and UNDP.”

Meanwhile, nineteen UN agencies attended the annual **Regional United Nations Development Group (R-UNDG)** meeting in

Amman on 14 October to address the most pressing issues in the region, including the protracted crisis in Syria and its broad impacts on the sub-region.

Following the endorsement by the UNDG last November of “A resilience-based development response to the Syria crisis” calling for a scaled-up, resilience-focused development response guided by national crisis response plans, RC/HCs from Syria and the five neighbouring countries briefed on national planning efforts in response to the crisis.

These include the Jordan Response Plan, the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, and the Iraq Strategic Response Plan.

The UNDP Sub-regional Development Coordinator updated participants on the progress in the 3RP preparation, highlighting the challenges and opportunities of the new regional partnership platform.

RC/HCs were able to update the group on how the 3RP relates to these plans, building a coherent regional framework in the context of the nationally led processes.

The R-UNDG Chair and Assistant Secretary-General, Ms. Sima Bahous called on all agencies to support national plans and 3RP as the regional approach and the way forward.

3RP PREVIEW RELEASED

The **3RP Preview** brochure was circulated at the Berlin Conference, giving donors and stakeholders an early indication of the content and direction of the 3RP appeal for 2015-16.

The Preview outlines the 3RP concept, reflects regional-level priorities, and gives an indication of each of the five countries’ strategies and processes.



3RP COUNTRY PLANNING UPDATE



The inter-agency Regional Technical Committee of the 3RP met twice during October to analyse the draft country abstracts received, and has provided feedback to the countries aimed at ensuring a regionally coherent 3RP, based on high quality country plans.

In Lebanon, the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) Core Group continues to oversee the process toward the Plan, with over 70 organizations now expected to take part in next year’s response.

In Jordan, planning towards the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) is continuing. Organized by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the JRP Task Forces met at with workshop held on 26-28 October to develop objectives and project sheets.

In Turkey, Iraq and Egypt, work is underway on developing the full country chapters following the submission of the draft country abstracts in late September.

Country chapters will be finalized in November and will, along with the Regional Overview, form the 3RP which will be launched in December.

DONORS KEY PARTNERS IN 3RP DEVELOPMENT

Donors are key partners for the humanitarian and development community, and their hosting of and participation in forums where 3RP concepts are discussed and debate is a vital part of our progress toward launching the appeal in December.

The European Commission Directorate General for Development and Cooperation—Europe Aid convened the 5th Meeting of **Core Donor Group on the Syria crisis** in Brussels on 30 September.

The aim of the core donor group is to ensure that both current and future donor recovery and development assistance in response to the Syria crisis (both inside Syria and in the neighbouring countries) is co-ordinated and effective, and also complementary to humanitarian relief activities.

The participants were briefed by UNDP on the current status of preparation of country plans and informed on the milestones leading to the 3RP launch. Donors expressed appreciation for and interest in the integration of humanitarian and development interventions within a single regional coherent framework and welcomed the innovative resilience-based approach that is the core of the 3RP approach.

On 12 October the third meeting of the **Top Donors Group for Syria** convened in Kuwait to discuss opportunities for response and additional resourcing to the Syria crisis during the remaining months of 2014 and into 2015.

The attendees appealed to the international community to help find a political solution to the crisis, especially with the exacerbation of the conflict and the inability of humanitarian efforts to contain the crisis.

Participants were briefed by the UNDP Sub-regional Development Coordinator on recent developments in the humanitarian situation, including the ongoing displacement of Syrians, 3.2 million of whom are living as refugees in neighbouring countries.

Funding priorities for the remainder of 2014 were stressed, and national and regional planning for 2015 under the auspices of the 3RP was outlined.

PLANNING & SECTOR TOOLKIT FOR AFFECTED MUNICIPALITIES UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Under the MoU recently signed between UNHCR and UNDP, a Joint Secretariat has been established with a key task of filling knowledge gaps concerning the humanitarian and development response to the crisis.

It is currently developing a Local Governance Toolkit for municipalities to respond to demographic shocks related to the Syria Crisis.

With a team already in the field, they have been meeting with the municipalities affected, and are building tools to address planning for sector needs and capacities regionally and on the ground.

The Joint Secretariat plans to release the toolkit after a round of field testing in December. For more information contact: michael.moroz@undp.org.

CALL FOR PHOTOS

We are looking for contributions of photographs from 3RP participating agencies across the five response countries for publication in the 3RP appeal in December. If your agency has photographs of activities related to the 3RP strategy, illustrating the implementation of programmes in either or both of the refugee/humanitarian and resilience/development components, please send them along with captions/credits to farrellb@unhcr.org.

MONITORING & REPORTING ON THE 3RP

A Regional Workshop on Information Management (IM), Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E), and Reporting on 13 October made significant progress on the M&E framework and protocols for the 3RP.

Almost 50 participants from five countries and 13 different agencies, including UN and NGO representatives, discussed ways in which to build on the successful systems and processes of the existing RRP platform, particularly those which have been built up at the country level over the past three years, and ensure a robust, transparent and result-oriented regional M&E framework for 2015-16.

Recommendations were made to ensure the resilience dimension is properly reflected in an integrated regional results dashboard, improve financial tracking, better reflect gender concerns, and more clearly reflect the impact and changes achieved by the 3RP's interventions.

It was also agreed that options should be investigated for a regional M&E protocol to be incorporated into the 3RP appeal document, as well as further discussions on the resourcing of data collection for baseline/impact surveys as well as the expansion of platforms and portals for communicating results.

Finally, participants compared and reviewed the indicators included in the 3RP draft country abstracts for regional coherence and will provide feedback to the Regional Technical Committee and the countries to feed into the ongoing drafting process.