

## High Commissioner's Dialogue

### “Towards a Global Compact on Refugees”

#### Comments from the Government of Japan

##### 1. General Comments

The international community must act urgently to address the refugee issue and the humanitarian crises that surround it. The drafting of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) is an important part of this effort.

As mentioned in the CRRF, a comprehensive refugee response requires a multi-stakeholder approach. We therefore believe the High Commissioner's Dialogue is a crucial opportunity for us to take stock and exchange ideas on the GCR and its Programme of Action, with participants from a wide range of stakeholders including governments, the private sector, and civil society.

The NY Declaration and CRRF is about solidarity. We therefore believe it is crucial for us to formulate a GCR that is meaningful for stakeholders who are engaged in refugee issues. It should be built on the CRRF, which was adopted by consensus last year, and could include proposals or examples of good practices and applicable policies. As there is no “one-size-fits-all” way of doing things, a flexible and practical approach that gives consideration to the different situations on the ground will be necessary.

##### 2. Points to be included in the GCR

###### The importance of data gathering

- This is related to Pillar 1 (reception and admission) and Pillar 2 (support for immediate and ongoing needs).
- When multiple actors use the CRRF policies in collaboration, mapping is important to ensuring appropriate and efficient assistance without gaps or overlaps.
- We can draw on the know-how of development and other actors when it comes to data gathering. It can also be beneficial to make use of the latest technologies found in private sector companies.

*Reference: In northern Uganda (West Nile), JICA is currently conducting a basic fact-finding survey on social infrastructure covering host communities and areas where refugees are residing. We expect the results of this survey to prove useful for the Ugandan Government in making comprehensive plans for their projects. The survey results are also*

*expected to be useful to international organizations and donors for providing short- and long-term assistance.*

### **The importance of comprehensive assistance to host communities and the involvement of development actors and other stakeholders**

- This is connected with Pillar 3 (support for host countries and communities).
- Support for host countries and communities is important from the perspectives of burden sharing and solidarity, which form the basis of the CRRF. When it comes to implementing the CRRF, it is important that not only humanitarian agencies but a wide range of actors are also involved, including development actors, financial institutions, other international organizations, and NGOs.
- For example, as humanitarian crises grow increasingly protracted and severe, in tandem with assistance for refugees' self-reliance it is important to provide assistance for host communities in order to avoid tensions arising between refugees and host communities.

*Reference: In addition to the humanitarian assistance that we have been providing for refugees in cooperation with UNHCR in Uganda, we have also been providing assistance for development. This has been going towards business training for rice farmers in conjunction with UNDP, projects to promote rice development for both refugees and host communities (rice cultivation training etc.) through JICA, and training on post-harvest processing and provision of equipment for grain storage in collaboration with WFP. These types of assistance not only benefit refugees by helping them become more self-reliant but they also benefit farmers from host communities by helping them to increase their income by growing greater quantities of better quality crops.*

- In addition, to effectively address refugee issues, capacity building assistance for local governments that are directly hosting refugees is crucial.

*Reference: Japan has been providing assistance for capacity building for local governments in areas hosting refugees in the West Nile sub-region of Uganda, where it has been well received.*

### **The importance of education**

- This is related to Pillar 3 (support for host countries and communities) and Pillar 4 (durable solutions).
- Assistance to build the self-reliance of refugees such as education and vocational training is important to achieve durable solutions. It is essential for stable livelihoods after repatriation

and can help to stem the root causes of humanitarian crises. In this connection, it is important to offer educational opportunities not only for returnees in countries of origin but also for those who continue to live in asylum. For this purpose, it is vital to provide assistance for host countries in collaboration with development actors.

- Scholarship programs for refugees offered by third countries provide refugees with opportunities for higher level education. This approach can be carried out not only through providing financial assistance for international organizations but also through projects by third countries among other actors.

*Reference: Japan announced that it will provide scholarships to 150 Syrian students over a period of five years beginning from May 2016. These students can, within the framework of the Japanese system, have their families join them if they wish. Under the scholarship program organized by JICA, the students can also receive support for language training, internships, and finding work at Japanese companies.*

### **The importance of peacebuilding and preventing further violence**

- This is linked with Pillar 4 (durable solutions).
- To achieve durable solutions, we need to address the root causes of humanitarian crises. To this end, it is important to link humanitarian and development assistance with the promotion of peace. In other words, it is necessary to provide assistance for, among others, DDR, the removal of land mines and unexploded ordnance, and the establishment of good governance through improving legal and electoral systems. In order to put this concept of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus into practice, it is necessary for UNHCR to collaborate effectively with relevant actors.

### **Involvement of private sectors actors**

- This point has a cross-sectoral relationship with different fields.
- A whole-of-society approach is necessary to achieve the goals of the CRRF. In particular, the private sector can play an important role not only in the area of financial assistance for CSR but also in areas such as technology, employment, and vocational training.

### **Individual proposals**

- Some proposals have been made on establishing new frameworks such as the Global Response Group/Platform. Many aspects of the proposed frameworks remain unclear, however, including their role, structure, difference with existing mechanisms, and how they would ensure transparency. So we need to have a clearer concrete image of what these

proposals would entail and give them further consideration before deciding whether or not to incorporate them in the GCR.

- If a new framework is to potentially be established, it is important to ask whether it would not overlap with existing mechanisms or lead to unnecessarily complicated procedures, and whether it would be capable of responding flexibly to the different actual situation of each region or each crisis.