
“Towards a global compact on refugees”

Thematic discussion two: Measures to be taken at the onset of a large movement of refugees

17 October 2017

Panel four: how can we address specific needs within large movements?

Summary

Four key topics were addressed by the panellists, with a focus on the needs of receiving States: safe spaces for persons with specific needs; ensuring the protection of children; preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence; and ensuring the specific needs of persons with disabilities.

Throughout the discussion, the following points were emphasized:

- The need for a participatory approach that ensures an active role for refugees and their hosts in decision-making processes.
- The role of capacity assessments, which could be performed in addition to needs and risk assessments.
 - Such assessments could include, for instance, language and employment capacity assessments, and could assess the capacities of host communities as well as of refugees.
- The importance of age- and gender-disaggregated data and analysis of such data.
- The need to ensure an age, gender and diversity-sensitive approach, taking into account the needs of a wide range of different groups.
- The need for the gender perspective throughout.
- The value of ensuring we capture and maintain a catalogue of good practices, which could be referred to in the programme of action.
- The utility of safe spaces when preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence.
- The importance of a strong mental health response.
- The role of refugee participation in community activities, including in sports.
 - UNHCR’s new partnership with the International Olympic Committee, and the opportunity this provides to refugees was underlined in this regard.
- Last but not least, the vital role of shared responsibility and the creation of support structures for hosting countries.
 - It was stressed that these must be at the forefront of our response, in the spirit of shared global responsibility, international cooperation and solidarity