

**Shaping the Future, Living as Neighbors Innovation Lab Statement**  
***Repertoire Waseem Ahmad on behalf of IRW, LWF and HIAS***

At the Innovation Lab, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Lutheran World Federation and HIAS presented the recommendations stemming from the Welcoming the Stranger, Living as Neighbours 2019 GRF pledge, which culminated in a global conference in 2022. The conference brought together local and national faith actors to discuss their experiences in providing assistance to the forcibly displaced. It also included secular and faith-based aid organizations who are committed to responding to the needs of affected populations. The aim of the Lab was to provide feedback on the recommendations, and discuss key areas that need focus in the lead up to the 2023 GRF.

We heard from Doctor, Pastor and Refugee Leader Onesphote Murishi about how the spiritual care and welcome that he received from local faith actors was just as critical as what we, as humanitarians, whether faith based or secular, provide and call life-saving support. Dr. Murishi's experience and the feedback from the June conference and the Lab participants highlight the need for more learning-based programming, strengthened partnerships, and robust and strategic advocacy at all levels.

We heard from Lab participants about the need to recognize the legitimate role of faith actors in welcoming and providing the forcibly displaced with support, and for governments and humanitarian practitioners to acknowledge the lifesaving aspect that faith provides for some refugees. The Lab participants also highlighted the diversity of faith actors and among and within faith-based organizations and the importance of strengthened, equitable partnerships with secular humanitarian organizations. Looking forward, LWF, IRW and HIAS welcome additional partners, whether faith actors or secular, to collaborate and contribute to pledges for the 2023 GRF that aim to ensure that both faith actors and humanitarian actors, guided by the humanitarian principles and improved faith literacy, are equipped to better support forcibly displaced people and host communities.