

## **Position Paper #2**

### **Measures to be taken at the onset of a large movement of refugees and meeting needs and supporting communities**

#### **Republic of Korea**

The Republic of Korea has actively joined the global efforts to address the refugee crisis and committed to assuming its fair share of responsibility for refugee protection and assistance. In particular, the Korea government has increased financial assistance for refugees by 15 times over the past five years, and in 2016, it contributed more than 50 million US dollars to addressing refugee situations around the world. The Republic of Korea believes that international cooperation should engage various stakeholders in exploring the measures to be taken at the onset of a large movement of refugees. Also, we believe their engagement is crucial to meeting needs and supporting hosting communities. In this regard, much consultation is necessary to achieve consensus which will serve as a firm basis for effective implementation of the comprehensive refugee response framework.

#### **Measures to be taken at the onset of a large movement of refugees**

In order to strengthen the international response to large movements of refugees, it is crucial to strengthen partnership and collaboration among a broad range of stakeholders, including States, international agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and to mobilize and coordinate support for a comprehensive refugee response at the earliest possible time at the onset of a large movement of refugees. Timely and predictable support should be provided to receiving States and communities in order to support national and local readiness and contingency planning, to strengthen the capacity of the authorities for receiving large numbers of refugees in a safe and dignified manner, and to establish appropriate procedures to identify persons in need of international protection and those with specific needs.

In this regard, the Republic of Korea continues to provide humanitarian and development assistance to States and communities hosting a large population of refugees and support international agencies and non-governmental actors working with the hosting States and communities. In doing so, we put a priority on assisting the most vulnerable groups in humanitarian crises - including children, adolescents and women - in order to ensure that no one is left behind. In particular, the Republic of Korea focuses its assistance on education, health, and vocational training of these vulnerable groups with the view to creating a better link between humanitarian assistance and development. The Korean government has also actively participated in the conferences convened to mobilize and coordinate support for international response to large-scale refugee situations and pledged to provide financial and political support to address these situations.

## **Meeting needs and supporting communities**

In order to better address the challenges arising from large movements of refugees and protracted refugee situations, the international community should break down humanitarian and development institutional and financing silos and develop a mechanism to better coordinate humanitarian and development assistance, especially in a manner that advances development and builds resilience in hosting communities. Moreover, as part of a comprehensive refugee response, measures should be taken to include refugees in hosting country's development planning and national systems and services such as those for health and education.

In an effort to share the burdens of refugee-hosting countries and communities, the Republic of Korea has undertaken a number of projects to improve their education and health infrastructure and provide livelihood support in refugee hosting areas in Turkey, Jordan, Tanzania, etc. These projects have proved to be effective not only in fostering the self-reliance of refugees, but also in bolstering the development and resilience of the hosting communities.

The Republic of Korea is also making efforts to provide humanitarian financing in a more flexible and predictable manner in line with the objectives and principles of the Grand Bargain. In this regard, the Korean government is providing multi-year funding to multilateral organizations' humanitarian programs in protracted refugee situations and increasing its contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs).

In order to achieve greater efficiency, effectiveness and accountability, the Republic of Korea is striving to bring innovation to humanitarian assistance, including cash-based interventions and data collection and use. Since cash assistance delivers greater choice and empowerment to the affected people and strengthens local markets, the Korea government is supporting a number of relief and recovery projects by multilateral organizations that employ cash-based interventions along with other tools, including in-kind assistance, service delivery, and vouchers. Drawing on its comparative advantage in information and communication technology, the Korea government is also supporting projects to strengthen the capacity of hosting countries and other actors to collect and use data on refugees, including the vulnerability analysis and mapping using mobile phones and the monitoring of movements and protection concerns of child refugees using tablets. /END/