

## UNHCR SOUTHERN AFRICA CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOS AND MULTISTAKEHOLDERS

10-11 SEPTEMBER 2019

DISCUSSION PAPER

Date: 10 September

Time/Room: 1:30pm – 3:30pm/Nelson Mandela Foundation, Auditorium

**Title of session:** Enhancing Partnerships

The Global Compact on Refugees recognises the importance of an improved multi-stakeholder and partnership approach in global prevention and response to large-scale refugee situations. A strong partnership commitment and multi-stakeholder action to promote context-specific, predictable, broadened fora of support for refugees, host countries, and communities, in line with national priorities and national response arrangements, will support and expand the regional protection capacity to prevent and respond.

There have been several new developments in partnerships over the past year and, in the context of UNHCR restructuring, more will come shortly. This forum is an important opportunity to ensure UNHCR partners are aware of recent changes and are given the opportunity to contribute to the shaping of the next chapter of reforms.

Recent reforms include: the development of multi-year funding agreements between UNHCR and NGO's, the long-awaited implementation of Partnership Cooperation for Integrity Support Costs for national NGO's, and the unveiling and review of the first new edition of the Partnership Handbook over 15 years. Meanwhile, UNHCR has been making good progress in engaging more National NGOs in line with the targets set in the Grand Bargain.

Two organizational reforms within UNHCR that are underway will impact on the way in which partnerships are managed. First, UNHCR is going through a process of regionalization which will confer on Regional Bureaus greater authority and accountability in relation to the selection and management of partnerships. Second, UNHCR is restructuring four Units in its Headquarters – a reform that will move the Implementing Partnership Management Service (IPMS) from being in the Department of Finance to a new Division that will include aspects of budgeting, planning and results based management. The regionalization efforts of UNHCR recognizes the importance of being closer to refugees and partners in order to strengthen protection activities and responses to refugee protection needs.

This panel will concentrate discussions on how to strengthen partnerships with civil society and stakeholders, consider national policies that safeguard refugees and the obligation of UN member States toward refugee protection, no more so than in the wake of the adoption of the Global Compact for Refugees and the upcoming Global Refugee Forum.

In the forum we aim to outline how these reforms offer an opportunity for improved partnerships and we expect participants to offer their views and help shape the future of partnership management in UNHCR. We will ask the following questions: How can UNHCR's procedures and tools become more helpful to partner organizations and project managers? Can UNHCR provide a better coordinating role at the country level in helping all partners manage risk? Are there opportunities to reduce the burden of oversight and compliance-driven procedures?

**Desired outcome of the session:**

1. Support a strong, diverse and collective regional African voice among the NGOs and all the stakeholders and prepare to support the Global Refugee Forum discussions in the best way possible.
2. Enhanced collaborative efforts to ensure that UNHCR and NGO partners are better informed of each other's concerns and suggestions to foster a common approach for developments in partnerships, particularly in the use of new tools in prevention and responses in the exercise of those partnerships.

**Methodology and choreography:**

The session will be in a "Town Hall" style with opportunities for the attendees to ask questions and provide feedback through questions and answers as well as pigeonhole. The session will commence with a presentation on recent reforms and, then, an interactive session where attendees will be asked to contribute their views on a variety of topics. Questions will be around the themes of: How can UNHCR's procedures and tools become more helpful to partner organizations and project managers? Can UNHCR provide a better coordinating role at the country level in helping all partners manage risk? Are there opportunities to reduce the burden of oversight and compliance-driven procedures?

Co-facilitators – UNHCR and Future Families

Moderator:

Mr Robert Hurt, Head, Implementing Partnership Management Service, UNHCR

Ms. Faith Chirinda, Project Coordinator, Future Families