

## **Consultation 5 –Draft Three of Global Compact of Refugees**

### **Introduction**

#### **(i) Background –**

- The background should reflect how some refugees can be affected more adversely than others due to the intersectionality of inequality, vulnerability and disempowerment for the likes of women, girls, disabled, minorities, LGBTI etc.

#### **(ii) Guiding Principles**

- Guiding fundamental principles should include ‘equality’ for all forcibly displaced, irrespective of gender and other diversity variables.

#### **(iii) Objectives**

- Objectives should include (v) *ensure equal access to services, protection and durable solutions for ALL refugees*

### **Programme of Action – Mechanisms for Burden and Responsibility Sharing (III A)**

#### **Global Refugee Forums, National Arrangements and Support Platforms [Paras 18-31] –**

- Essential that all PoA mechanisms include gender equality and women and girls empowerment capacity. Also crucial that they have representation from women’s civil society – including from refugee populations.
- Language that calls on reporting on progress must include *age, gender and diversity perspective* [para 17] is well noted, but it is crucial that specific goals, objectives and outcomes that reflect this *age, gender and diversity perspective* are developed in advance so that progress can be monitored and tracked.

#### **3.1. Funding and Effective Efficient Use of Resources –**

- Funding agreements must support gender equality and women and girls empowerment (GEWGE) commitments laid out in the New York Declaration and the *comprehensive plan* – including both mainstreaming of GEWGE throughout the response and in targeted action that addresses the specific identified needs of women, girls, men and boys.
- Funding must be made available to strengthen partnerships with and build the capacity of local women’s and youth organisations to assist and represent refugee populations and address the intersecting barriers to promote gender equality in displacement contexts.
- Opportunities developed with the private sector [para 33] must be inclusive.

#### **3.2. Multi-Stakeholder Approach –**

- [Para 37] Inclusion of local authorities and local actors must also include women’s representative authorities. Recruitment of local personnel must be done on an equal basis, with specific feasible opportunities made for women’s contributions.
- [para 41] Inclusion of faith based organizations must be on the basis of recognizing and respecting the equal human rights of all refugees, irrespective of gender and other diversity identifiers.
- [Para 43] Essential that *global academic network* includes gender equality and women and girls empowerment capacity.

### **3.3. Data and Evidence –**

- Process of collection of data and evidence must be participatory and inclusive – representation from all categories of the refugee population must be consulted.

### **Programme of Action – Reception and Admission (III B1)**

- *Immediate reception arrangements*
  - Ensure all entry systems are protection-sensitive and gender responsive.
  - They must recognize all forms of GBV as a right to asylum.
  - Ensure that arrivals have immediate access to the differing and gender-specific humanitarian and protection services they need whilst being processed as asylum seekers.
  - Ensure that all staff at reception and detention centers are trained in protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).
- *Safety and Security –*
  - Mitigate the risk of SGBV at reception or detention centers by ensuring conditions that respect the safety and dignity of all accommodated there. Gender segregated and hygienic toilet and washing facilities (including adequate sanitary supplies) and sleeping arrangements for unaccompanied women, men, girls and boys should be provided.
  - Ensure adequate numbers of trained female staff – including case-workers, interpreters and security staff are available at all times to liaise with arrivals and support women and girls through the registration process and in referring them to protection and humanitarian services. Separate and private facilities for the interviewing of women and girls should be available and used.
  - Ensure that all staff at reception and detention centers are trained in protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and that a standardized, zero-tolerance formal code of conduct is set in place. All accommodated at the centers should be made aware of their rights and the zero tolerance of any SEA by staff or others accommodated at the reception/detention center. An easily accessible, anonymous and confidential complaints mechanism must be in place.
- *Registration and Documentation –*
  - Language needs to be more specific about registering all women and girls as individuals. Adult women should be registered independently from their husbands and/or other male family members, though systems should link families together once registered.
  - Ensure the widest protection of the family unity of asylum seekers. Provide safe spaces for women and children and family spaces.
- *Addressing Specific Needs –*
  - Multi-stakeholder response teams must have adequate gender capacity in order to be able to identify the specific needs of refugee women and girls.
  - Addressing specific needs – including women at risk and survivors of SEA and SGBV – but must not neglect the specific need of **protecting** women and girls (and all others) from SGBV and SEA. Prevention is better than treatment.
- *Identifying international protection needs –*
  - [Para 66] *asylum capacity support group* must include GEWGE capacity

### **Programme of Action - Meeting Needs and Supporting Communities (III B2)**

It will be essential to provide host countries the technical support they need to ensure the adequate integration of gender and women's empowerment into the assessment and planning for anticipated, or after the fact, arrival of large refugee movements. They will also need support for national and local authorities to ensure that the needs of all refugees – including women and girls – are adequately identified and addressed.

Include women's leadership and participation in the implementation and delivery of services to refugee communities.

- *Jobs and Livelihoods*
  - Ensure that women are included in all cash-based intervention strategies in a manner that are gender transformative and will not heighten their exposure to the risk of GBV.
  - Provide services to assist with the care-duties which may impede women's ability to work.
  - Where feasible, remove any legal restrictions that impede women's access to legal formal employment – including recognition or fast-tracked conversion of educational and professional qualifications.
- *Health*
  - Provide sexual and reproductive health services and rights education for adults
- *Gender*
  - Needs to include language on ensuring that women and girls are treated as individuals – registration, identification, accessing durable solutions, return etc – rather than through association with males that they are connected to (e.g. husband, father etc)
- *Accommodation, energy, and natural resource management*
  - Accommodation is a crucial aspect for all displaced people and would warrant wider consideration in the GCR. The type, location and set up of accommodation can have a multifaceted impact on the protection and prospects of women and girls in particular.
  - Access, collection, use, types of energy in the household is often an issue that also has a multifaceted impact on the lives of women and girls, including time burden, health and protection.
  - As such, any discussion or consideration on accommodation and energy must include consultation with women.
- *Civil Registries*
  - Recognition of identity must be provided for all people on an individual basis, including women and girls, who must not only be identified through association with male relatives (father, husband etc).
  - Any technological solutions must be all inclusive for women, girls, men and boys.
  - Women and girls should be assisted to obtain their own essential documentation to establish their identification and legal ownership of assets – birth certificates, marriage certificates, land-deeds, passports etc.
- *Statelessness*
  - With twenty six countries still preventing mothers from passing their nationality to their children, this remains a leading cause of intergenerational statelessness, contributing to the 10 million stateless worldwide. For those permanently or long-term displaced, this needs to be addressed to facilitate inclusive durable solutions.
- *Tolerance and Peaceful Co-Existence*
  - Engagement of women should also be included.

### **Programme of Action – Solutions (III B3)**

- *Rights and information*

Provide accessible, relevant and actionable information on all options for durable solutions – be it voluntary repatriation, resettlement and other legal pathways – to all refugees, including women and girls, so that they can freely make informed decisions.

Protect the rights of all refugee women to independently choose their own durable solution based on the options available to them. Prevent gender discrimination leading to decisions being conferred upon them by a husband or other male family members.

- *Complementary pathways* – GCR mentions pathways being available in a ‘gender-responsive’ basis, but it needs to specifically ensure that any innovative or temporary resettlement options offered by third-countries – such as private sector sponsorship, medical/humanitarian evacuation, academic leave of stay etc. – are also accessible by women and girls and offer options for keeping families together.

#### **Follow Up and Review Arrangements (IV)**

- The signatories to the global compact on refugees must hold themselves accountable for delivering on its commitments, including those on gender equality, the rights and empowerment of refugee women and girls as originally defined in the New York Declaration.
- Ongoing monitoring of the Plan of Action and the CRRF, at all levels, should include indicators measuring the extent that commitments to gender equality and women and girls’ empowerment are being realized. Monitoring of individual CRRFs should track funding made available specifically for programming that specifically target women and girls.