

**ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOs
17 – 19 JUNE 2014 - International Conference Center Geneva**

THEMATIC SESSION

BACKGROUND PAPER

Enhancing Implementing Partnership

Tuesday 17 June 2014, 16h15 – 18h30 – Room 2
(Interpretation in English-French-Spanish)

UNHCR continues to maintain strategic partnerships with NGOs to undertake its mandate for providing protection and assistance to refugees and other persons of concern. The partnerships have been growing in terms of collaboration substance and resources.

In 2013, the number of partners that have taken significant role in achieving goals and results has reached 944 and a record high of USD 1.1 Billion (39 % of the USD 2.97 billion spent by UNHCR on protection and assistance) was channeled through more than 730 NGOs across the globe. Of these, 567 were national or local NGOs and 168 were international NGOs.

As discussed at length during the 2012 and 2013 NGO Consultations, UNHCR has been working in consultation with NGO partners, including field and network reference groups, to review and revise the whole framework of cooperation with implementing partners, including policies and procedures, the types and formats of agreement between UNHCR and NGOs, the terminology used, the mechanisms for joint management of agreements, joint monitoring of projects and mutual establishment and review of partnership, with the intention of enhancing partnerships and mutual collaboration for achieving best results for persons of concern and ensuring accountability.

This session will update progress made and future plans on the development and completion of the Framework and solicit feedback from NGOs on ways forward.

On components of the UNHCR-NGO implementing partnership framework which has emerged since the 2012 NGO Consultations: the new partnership portal developed by UNHCR to identify qualified and interested NGOs for project partnerships, the draft agreement for implementing partnerships, changes in the transference of funds from

UNHCR to NGOs, and new approaches to joint (NGO-UNHCR) monitoring of programmes.

The most recent issued Guidance Notes on policy on selection and retention of partners for undertaking projects, Project Partnership Agreement, update on IT Partner Portal and strategy for roll-out will be shared in advance and available on the UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs 2014 website (<http://www.unhcr.org/ngo-consultations/index.html>).

NGO Consultation participants are strongly encouraged to read the materials. Those who represent organizations currently in implementing partnerships with UNHCR are encouraged to come to the session with an idea of how some of application challenges could be addressed.

Moderator: Mark HETFIELD, *HIAS*

Speaker(s): Steve CORLISS, *Director of Division of Programme Support and Management, UNHCR*

Fatima SHERIF-NOR, *Head, Implementing Partnership Management Service, UNHCR*

Melissa PITTOTI, *ICVA*

Oswald KASAIZI, *REDESO, Tanzania*

The session will be 2 hours and 15 minutes, consisting of:

- Introductions, Mark Hetfield (HIAS, Moderator), with an interactive survey of the audience of partnership feedback (up to 20 minutes)
- Opening Statement by Senior UNHCR Official (Steve Corliss (UNHCR Director of Division of Programme Support and Management) describing the strategic directions for UNHCR partnerships (10 minutes)
- Challenges and Opportunities in the new approach, Melissa Pitotti, ICVA (10 minutes)
- Briefing by Fatima Sherif-Nor (UNHCR) on the progress made on specific steps taken since the last NGO consultations in the development of the new implementing partnership framework (20 minutes)
- Sharing experience on capacity development, Oswald Kasaizi (15 minutes)
- Q and A (moderated by Mark Hetfield)
- Closing