

ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOs
1 – 3 JULY 2015 - International Conference Center Geneva

THEMATIC SESSION

BACKGROUND PAPER

Session Title: Partnership: Durable Solutions and the New Framework for Implementing with Partners

Date: Wednesday 1 July 2015

Time/Room: 17h00 – 18h30 – Room 4

UNHCR has long maintained strategic partnerships with NGOs to fulfill its mandate to provide protection and find durable solutions for refugees and other persons of concern. Collaboration has grown significantly in terms of substance and resources. In 2014, the funds UNHCR allocated for assistance and protection through joint partnerships surpassed US\$ 1.32 billion (40% of UNHCR's total annual expenditure of US\$ 3.33 billion). The number of partners playing a significant role in the quest for providing protection and durable solutions was 908 across the globe, of these, 543 were national/local NGOs and 175 were international NGOs. Since it was first discussed in the 2012 consultations, UNHCR has made considerable progress working in consultation with NGO partners through field and network reference groups, to review and revise the whole framework of cooperation and implementing with partners, including policies and procedures, types and formats of project partnership agreement between UNHCR and NGOs, terminology used, mechanisms for joint management of agreements, joint monitoring of projects and mutual establishment and review of the partnership, the launch of a web-based partner portal innovative facility -- all with the intention of enhancing partnerships and collaboration.

This year, with an eye toward fulfilling our shared mandates of providing protection and finding durable solutions for refugees and other persons of concern, we will focus on implementation of the new framework, inclusion of NGOs in the formulation of UNHCR operational plans, approaches to UNHCR contribution towards partner personnel costs and cooperation between UNHCR and NGOs to uphold standards of ethical conduct, such as through the new NGO Investigation Specialist Roster. We will also be discussing surveys of international and national NGOs as well as UNHCR country offices in the successes and challenges of implementing the new framework in the quest for solutions.

Participants are strongly encouraged to read the background materials for this session and to bring constructive ideas on how some of the challenges in partnership can be addressed.

Moderator: Mark HETFIELD, *HIAS – the Global Jewish non-Profit that Protects Refugees*

Speakers: Mengesha KEBEDE, *Inspector General, UNHCR*
Fatima SHERIF-NOR, *Head, Implementing Partnership Management Service, UNHCR*
Greg HILL, *Save the Children*