



IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations  
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones



**UNHCR**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

**CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE PERSONS IN  
MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS**

**PROMOTING COOPERATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF GOOD PRACTICES**

22-23 May 2013, Nassau, The Bahamas

**PLENARY DISCUSSION OUTLINE**

**Solutions for Refugees and other Vulnerable Groups, including assisted Voluntary Return and  
Reintegration**

**Thursday, 23 May 2013, 13:45-15:30**

**Context**

An important element in any strategy relating to mixed migration management is the provision of appropriate solutions for those involved in such movements. In this context, the development of protection-based durable solutions for refugees, migrants and other vulnerable persons involved in mixed migration needs to take into account the profile and specific needs of the concerned individuals/group.

Efforts to address mixed population movements should also explore a place for regular migration options, temporary or even longer term. For instance, beyond the classic durable solutions for refugees, legal migrant opportunities may open up a complementary avenue for some refugees. For persons wishing to return to their country of origin, or for those who are found not to be refugees, or for those who do not wish to seek asylum, expeditious assisted voluntary return in safety and dignity and reintegration options are usually the preferred response of States. UNHCR may, on a *good offices basis* and in cooperation with other international actors assist States in the return of people who are not in need of international protection where this is the most appropriate and agreed solution. Particular attention needs to be given to stranded migrants and rejected asylum-seekers who can safely return to their countries of origin but who face prolonged/indefinite detention in the absence of efficient return mechanisms.

There will be circumstances where people who do not meet the criteria for refugee status may nevertheless be in a position to access alternative temporary migration options. These could variously allow them to stay legally in the country of arrival, or to move to a third country for humanitarian reasons, or for the purposes of work, education or family reunion.

Globally, the sharing of experiences, challenges, and good practices in migration management can help stakeholders learn from similar experiences elsewhere and inspire their own legal, policy, and procedural responses to migration issues, in particular when dealing with vulnerable groups traveling within mixed migration flows.

The following questions should guide the plenary discussion with the aim to provide the participants an opportunity to exchange information, experiences, challenges and good practices and make recommendations on finding solutions for refugees, migrants and other vulnerable groups involved in mixed migration movements.

## Key Questions

### *Assisted voluntary return and reintegration of migrants and other vulnerable categories*

- **What is the context and trends in the region:** who is returning (victim of trafficking, unaccompanied minors, stranded migrants?) What is their general profile (young/old, married/single, parent/no-children)? To what countries did they migrate and why? What happened to them while abroad that made them particularly vulnerable?
- Which **agencies or stakeholders** are or can be active in providing return and reintegration assistance?
- Which **agencies or stakeholders** have or can have primary responsibility for case management, overall?
- What kind of **return and reintegration support** do your respective country offer (airport reception, local transportation, counseling, medical care, livelihood generation options access to documentation, proof of nationality, family tracing)?
- How did you identify the **returning individual's reintegration needs**?
- How did you provide **services** to fulfill the individual reintegration needs?
- **How have you coordinated** reintegration assistance among various local, national, or bilateral agencies?
- While providing return and reintegration support, have you encountered **other vulnerable persons** needing assistance? Describe the situation and outcome.
- What were your major **successes**?
- What were your major **challenges**?
- What **good practices** do you intend to use in the next year?

### *Solutions for Refugees*

- What are the **key challenges** facing States in providing comprehensive and durable solutions for recognized refugees in the region, including integration opportunities in countries of asylum?

- Which are the existing **legal, policy and operational mechanisms** in place to provide durable solutions for refugees in countries of asylum? (Are there any integration opportunities available (access to documentation, access to legal residence/migratory status, access to labour market, access to social services, housing, self-reliance and livelihood and education opportunities, access to naturalization for those refugees unwilling or unable to return to their country of origin)?)
- Which **agencies or stakeholders** are or can be active in providing local integration opportunities and assistance to recognized refugees in countries of asylum? Which care and assistance programs are available to recognized refugees?
- How can third-country **resettlement opportunities** be more strategically used for refugees in the region, in combination with other durable solutions, including for most vulnerable groups?
- Are there **good practices, positive developments or lessons learned** in providing durable solutions for refugees at the national and regional level?
- How can refugees benefit from **temporary or permanent migratory schemes**, as a complementary avenue to achieve durable solutions, including access humanitarian status, legal working and other migrant opportunities in countries of asylum and in the region?

#### *Rejected asylum-seekers and persons not in need of international protection*

- What are the **challenges at national, bilateral and regional level** for the return of rejected asylum-seekers and persons not in need of international protection?
- What kinds of return agreements for non-refugees are in place in the region? Do such agreements incorporate appropriate protection and legal safeguards, with due attention to vulnerable categories and persons with specific needs?

#### *Stranded cases of migrants and rejected asylum-seekers*

- Are there any protocols or procedures established at the national level to deal with **stranded cases of migrants and rejected asylum-seekers** in the host country? How can this issue be best addressed at the regional level?

#### **Recommendations**

- How would you address the challenges identified and what concrete recommendations would you make in this regard?