

Written comments <JAPAN>

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Panel One: How can we mobilize more resources for humanitarian and development assistance to host States?

- Initiatives to provide assistance for refugees and host communities need to take place in parallel. So clearly humanitarian agencies and development actors need to collaborate on assistance projects.
- Among the possible suggestions that have been tabled, the need to address data and evidence gaps and mapping exercises are important as these are fundamental to avoid gaps and overlap when carrying out the Humanitarian-Development Nexus. Mapping exercises in particular are important for increasing efficiency in situations where a number of actors (humanitarian, development, host country governments, and NGOs) are operating at the same time. For this purpose, it is vital to carry out mapping that combines information from humanitarian agencies, development actors and concerned authorities.
- In northern Uganda, JICA is carrying out a comprehensive survey in areas that are home to both host communities and refugee settlement areas. We hope to be able to share the results of this survey in December, and we expect that the Ugandan government will be able to use the results to make a comprehensive plan for necessary projects.
- It is important that donors pay attention to the needs that arise in host countries as a result of receiving refugees and consider providing development assistance to address them.

Panel Two: How can we support the inclusion of refugees in national systems and services?

- Education is of utmost importance to build the capacities of future generations. Accordingly, “language education,” which is included among the possible suggestions, is extremely important. In Japan as well, it is essential for refugees to master Japanese in order to be self-reliant in Japan, and as such we are carrying out Japanese language education for refugees.
- Access to higher education is also important. In addition to assistance for refugee in host countries, it is beneficial to devise policies for, among others, assistance from donor States.
- All of the areas mentioned in the possible suggestions (health, education, child protection) share a common need for capacity building of institutions responsible for service delivery (for example, local governments). Such institutions need to be aware of the need for such services and have the financial and authoritative capacity to manage them. In accordance with the relevant needs, central and local governments need to come to a good mutual understanding on how to proceed in this respect.

- On the donor side as well, it is important to focus on the needs that arise in host countries as a result of hosting refugees, in particular the gap that arises in the social services sector, and consider providing development assistance to address them.

Panel Three: How can we enhance economic inclusion and promote livelihood opportunities for refugees in a way that benefits host countries and communities?

- Livelihood assistance helps refugees to gain self-reliance, and is thus important not only from the perspective of efficiency, but also for protecting the dignity of refugees. It is also important from the point of view of post-repatriation stability and avoiding further movements of people. Furthermore, from the perspective of avoiding discord between the two sides and maintaining a secure space, when donors provide livelihood assistance for refugees, it is important that they simultaneously do the same for host communities.
- It is further important to raise awareness among commercial enterprises that employment for refugees can contribute to real profits for their business. For this purpose, it is useful to visualize the kinds of concrete outcomes that can be achieved through partnerships between business enterprises and international organizations such as UNHCR. It is not always necessary to go so far as to provide employment. It can be effective for international organizations and business enterprises to cooperate in providing vocational training that can lead to job opportunities with local businesses.

Panel Four: How can we bring innovation to humanitarian assistance to achieve greater efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability?

- It is important to enhance the efficiency of assistance through making good use of technologies, goods, services, and innovation. In this respect, it is advantageous to mobilize the technologies and know-how of the private sector. For example, it can be effective to make active use of private sector technologies and innovation for refugee assistance. Some effective examples of this include: solar powered lanterns, systems to ensure that assistance relief supplies reach their destination at the right time and in the right way, biometric authentication technology, and portable toilets. It is also important for business enterprises to establish partnerships with UNHCR and other international organizations to ensure that products can be successfully provided to hard-to-reach areas.