

FORUM: Human Rights

QUESTION OF: The management of refugee camps

MAIN-SUBMITTER: Azerbaijan

CO-SUBMITTERS: Finland, Poland, Belgium, Norway, Jordan, Iceland, Bosnia

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION,

*Recognizing* that refugees, as human beings, occupy the human rights established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

*Reminding* the rights of refugees and International Displaced Persons (IDPs), including, but not limited to the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution (article 14), the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself (article 25), the right of life, liberty and security of person (article 3) and in particular the condemnation of slavery and servitude (article 4), and the right of equality before the law (article 7),

*Recalling* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugee,

*Congratulating* the staff and implementing partners of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

*Aware of* the massive increasing number of people displaced by force worldwide as stated in UNHCR's annual Global Trends report of 2013,

*Alarmed by* all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

*Having studied* that a larger proportion of assisted refugees tend to be women and children,

*Deploring* the number of glaring cases of abuse and exploitation in camp settings,

*Noting with regret* that refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV and AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases,

*Deeply alarmed by* lack of basic health care, especially reproductive health information, education, including family planning, and appropriate infrastructures for deliveries,

*Concerned by* the poor housing conditions in which they live,

*Believing* that host States have the primary responsibility for the protection and assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction,

*Convinced* that refugees and IDPs cannot live forever on humanitarian aids,

*Seeking* for the realization of refugees and IDPs' economical independence;

1. Appreciates the efforts made so far by the Member States, the UNHCR and other stakeholders to improve the situation of the refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs);
2. Calls upon the International Community to further recognize and promote public awareness of the harshness of the issue;
3. Hopes the host States to prepare the ground for a faster reconciliation so that to limit the increasing number of refugees and IDPs;
4. Asks the Member States to:
  - a. work in full collaboration with Governmental Organizations (such as UNCHR) and Non-Governmental Organizations (such as International Rescue Committee, a.k.a IRC, Refugees

- United a.k.a REFUNITE et similia),
- b. contribute economically to assure the progressive development of humanitarian response capacities in all fields;
5. Trusts the Member States to register and clarify the legal status for refugees and IDPs, by supporting the efforts made by the IRC Protection Program and The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre;
  6. Further asks for a stronger collaboration among host States and the IRC Research, Evaluation and Learning (REL) team to improve on:
    - a. ensuring that the money invested in the improvement of the living conditions are actually used,
    - b. interviewing villagers on the efficiency of the works,
    - c. tracking performances of the works;
  7. Requests the creation of a new United Nations peaceful force within the United Nations Protection Force called United Nations Refugees Protection Force (UNRPF) to cooperate with host governments, GOs and NGOs in order to:
    - a. ensure the protection of refugees and IDPs, that should be including, but not be limited to the prevention of:
      - i. violence and abuses towards women,
      - ii. abuses and exploitations of children;
    - b. ensure the protection of humanitarian aid workers from the attacks and threats to their personal security and well-being;
  8. Endorses the Member States, the GOs and NGOs for the development of smaller refugee camps which can ensure a closer relationship between the humanitarian aid workers and the refugees, making it easier for the latter to have access to primary needs, coinciding with the UNHCR's Global Strategic Objectives for nutrition, food security, drinkable water, sanitation, health and education;
  9. Further requests for a greater cooperation among GOs, NGOs and the host Governments to find out qualified people who can plan the layouts of the refugee camps so that every refugee may satisfy his primary needs and live in a decent housing, following also the IRC Community Driven Reconstruction methodologies;
  10. Recommends that refugees camps should be composed of a center that gathers the main structures for refugees such as schools, sanitary structures, safe spaces, the headquarters of UNRPF and NGOs personnel, making these resources accessible to everybody;
  11. Encourages the Member States, GOs and NGOs to create accessible safe spaces shared by women and children in order to give psychosocial support and health program strategies according to the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) programming for Refugee operations to ensure a best serene living; through the following activities, but not limited to:
    - a. the counselling and group support services and outreach activities, including but not limited to the interim care, rehabilitation and community reintegration of:
      - i. former child soldiers,
      - ii. unaccompanied children,
      - iii. young people who have experienced exploitation,
      - iv. survivors of violence, abuses and diseases,
      - v. people psychologically affected by the cruelties of the wars;
    - b. a deeper awareness of the importance of:
      - i. the contraceptives and of the dangers of Sexually Transmitted Infections,
      - ii. the preventive measures to avoid the spread of diseases such as malaria, chickenpox and measles;
    - c. the tracing and the family reunification,
    - d. safe community centers for children to play,
    - e. the training for health workers, child protection actors on Guiding Principles for working with child and adolescent survivors;
  12. Requires the UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP) to improve their previous Nutrition and Food Security Strategies and Policies, to reinsure that refugees have adequate and equal access to

clean water and food;

13. Supports a greater collaboration among GOs, NGOs and Member States to improve health facilities, or add them where necessary, in order to create healthier communities, for all refugees and IDPs, by assuring minimum standards set by the Minimum Initial Service Package; including, but not limited to:
  - a. the guarantee of adequate medical structures, medical personnel and sanitations,
  - b. the provision of age-appropriate medical dosages and equipment,
  - c. immediate referrals to health services and other relevant support services,
  - d. vaccinations and all the necessary medication to hold the spread of diseases,
  - e. the access to quality reproductive health services for women and girls,
  - f. the distribution of dignity kits (done in coordination and collaboration with relevant partners);
  
14. Emphasizes the importance of the education as a long-term goal for the improvement of job prospects, the prevention of exploitation and the achievement of independence and autonomy for the refugees and IDPs, aiming for a deeper cooperation among GOs, NGOs and Member States, especially in:
  - a. building classrooms for refugees who had their schooling interrupted,
  - b. guaranteeing trained educators and qualified equipment,
  - c. promoting workshops and seminars,
  - d. teaching the national language for a better integration,
  - e. encouraging access to higher education,
  - f. strengthening people's knowledge and competences by teaching, among other things, financial management and public relation;
  
15. Promotes a progressive realization of refugees and IDPs' economical independence thanks to the help of GOs, NGOs and the Member States that invest part of their resources to fund micro-finance institutions and community-saving associations, which in turn grant credit to:
  - a. increase access for individual and small or medium enterprises to finance,
  - b. allow people to open a new enterprise,
  - c. guarantee low bank interests rates and long-terms of payment;
  
16. Incentivizes host Governments to facilitate the conversion of camps into sustainable settlements that are included within the regulations and jurisdictions of national development plans, so that camps can be linked to the local economy, markets, infrastructure and service delivery systems, by following the UNCHR Policy on alternative to camps;
  
17. Further recommends Governments to continue the discussion on these topics in the next conferences;