

From Resilience to Development

A High Level Stakeholder Conference on the Syrian Refugee Crisis
Center for Mediterranean Integration, Marseille, September 7, 2015

AGENDA

Objectives of the Conference:

- Raise awareness about the long term development implications and the global dimensions of the refugee crisis in the Mashreq region and prepare for a common effort to support refugees hosting countries in their development agenda;
- Share knowledge and good practices about innovative programs in the region on the refugee issue to inform development policies in the long term;
- Explore innovative avenues of financial support including access of host countries to concessional funding.

Participants: 60 high level participants with leadership/advocacy and decision making roles:

- Strong representation from Syrian refugee hosting governments most affected by the crisis (Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq).
- Development partners and potential financiers (including from Europe).
- Financial and development experts and practitioners with fragility contexts.

Simultaneous translation will be provided in Arabic, French and English. The conference will be facilitated by Mourad Ezzine, Manager, Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)

SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 6

19:00 – 21:00 Welcome Reception – Sofitel Vieux Port, Hosted by CMI
Welcoming remarks by co-organizers (CMI, AFD, UN, WB)



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MONDAY - SEPTEMBER 7

- 8:30 – 9:00 **Welcome Coffee – Participant Registration**
- Opening by **Mourad Ezzine**, Manager, Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)

The Long-Term Challenges for Syrian Refugee Hosting Countries - What visions for the future?

- 9:00 – 9:30 **Introduction: Taking Stock of the Syrian Refugee Crisis**
- **Amin Awad**, Director for the Middle East & North Africa, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
- **Shantayanan Devarajan**, Chief Economist for the Middle East & North Africa, World Bank

The introduction will highlight the humanitarian impact of the Syrian refugee crisis and its socio-economic impact on hosting countries. Presenters will give a stocktaking overview on the current status and set the discussion for a transition to a long term development agenda.

- 9:30 – 11:00 **Session 1: Governments Views: Long-Term Challenges and Strategies for Dealing with Protracted Displacement**

Keynote speakers:

- **Alain Bifani**, Director General, Ministry of Finance, Lebanon
- **H.E. Dr. Waddah Hmoud**, Major General of the Syrian Refugees Affairs Department, Ministry of Interior, Jordan
- **Hayder Mustafa Saaid**, Director General, Development Coordination & Cooperation, Ministry of Planning, Kurdistan Regional Government, Iraq
- **H.E. Tarek Adel**, Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab Affairs, Egypt

Discussants:

- **Antonella Liberatore**, International Cooperation Department, Emilia Romagna Region, Italy

Moderator: Abdallah Dardari, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA)

Based on their analysis of the current situation and the challenges faced, high-level officials from hosting countries will identify potential ways in going forward. Those governments who have demonstrated a remarkable generosity and allowed to mitigate the humanitarian crisis, will highlight in this session, their vision of the long term political agenda toward the refugee population. A discussant will provide its outlook from a European country perspective.

- 11:00 -11:15 **Coffee Break and Group photo**



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11:15-13:00 **SESSION 2: Discussion with development partners on existing support and avenues to articulate a development focused approach.**

Discussants:

- **Gustavo Gonzalez**, Subregional Development Coordinator for the Syria Crisis, United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
 - **Ferid Belhaj**, Country Director for the Middle East, World Bank
 - **Michael Köhler**, Director for the Neighborhood South – DG NEAR-B, European Commission
 - **Colum Wilson**, Senior Humanitarian Advisor, Department for International Development, United Kingdom
 - **Teodora Danisi**, Deputy Chief of the Humanitarian Aid Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Italy
 - **Olivier Ray**, Head of Crisis Prevention & Conflict Unit, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), France
- Open Discussion*

Moderator : François Reybet-Degat, Deputy Director for the Middle East & North Africa, United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

Development partners will provide insights from their action on the ground and initiate a debate on the importance to articulate a development focused approach to the refugee crisis, together with the humanitarian action, which has allowed to mitigate the crisis. Partners will focus on their long term vision, and how they foresee mainstreaming the support provided into development policies. A discussion will follow on the way to coordinate humanitarian and development support on the long term.

13:00-14:00 **Buffet Lunch**

Addressing the Financial Gap - Possible Financing Modalities for the Refugees' Crisis

14:00-15:15 **Session 3 : Open discussion on new and well adapted financing modalities to improve the handling of the refugee crisis**

Introduction by:

- **Franck Bousquet**, Director, Regional Programs, Partnerships and Integrated Solutions for the MENA Region, World Bank

Reactions followed by Open Discussion:

- **Alain Bifani**, Director General, Ministry of Finance, Lebanon
- **Feda Gharaibeh**, Director of Humanitarian Relief Coordination Unit, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan
- **Colum Wilson**, Senior Humanitarian Advisor, Department for International Development, United Kingdom
- **Michael Köhler**, Director for the Neighborhood South – DG NEAR-B, European Commission

The session will focus on exploring innovating avenues of financial support for hosting countries, including access to concessional funding to mitigate the crisis and sustain long term policies. A brief presentation of the potential financial instruments to address the financial gap will be followed by a roundtable discussion.



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From Resilience to Development – What Policies and Targeted Support to Respond to the Development Challenges?

15:15-16:45 **Session 4: Peer-to-peer exchange on experiences and existing innovative approaches to Education and Municipal Services – highlighting cases from Mashreq host countries**

Topic 1: Education: Building Human Capital of Refugee and Vulnerable Host Populations

Discussants

- **Fady Yarak**, Director General of Education, Ministry of Education & Higher Education, Lebanon
- **Kamel Mohanna**, President, AMEL NGO, Lebanon
- **Manal Wazani**, CEO, Save the Children Jordan

Topic 2: Building Municipal Service Delivery at the Local Level

Discussants

- **Ahmad Alhawamdeh**, Mayor of Mafraq, Jordan
- **Hala El Helou**, Advisor to the Minister of Social Affairs, Lebanon
- **Byron Pakula**, Director, ACTED, Jordan

16:45-17:00 **Coffee Break**

17:00-18:15 **Session 5: How to widen economic perspectives. Can refugees be an asset to their host country? - Views from labor market perspective.**

Presentation by :

- **Paolo Verme**, Senior Economist for the Poverty Global Practice, World Bank
“Welfare Assessment of Syrians Living in Lebanon and Jordan”

Discussants:

- **Deniz Ersoz**, Department Head, General Directorate of Labor, Ministry of Labor & Social Security, Turkey
- **Salaheddin Al Bashir**, Former Minister of Justice & Chairman of the Board of Justice Center for Legal Aid, Jordan
- **Kamal Hamdan**, Managing Director, Consultation and Research Institute, Lebanon
- **Chokri Arfa**, General Director, National Observatory of Migrations, Tunisia

Open Discussion

Moderator : Pierre Salignon, Project Manager, Health and Social Protection, AFD

By focusing on the challenges faced in two specific sectors, Education and Municipal Services, discussants will share their analysis regarding the impact of the refugee crisis, at the same time suggesting potential ways forward to further adapt policies on the longer term. Whilst highlighting the existing positive experience of management of the crisis, including political tensions, they will look beyond the current humanitarian needs and explore possible policies which would step up the socio-economic inclusion.

Moderator: Haneen Sayed, Program Leader, Human Development, World Bank

In this session discussants will examine the potential economic opportunities for hosting countries on the presence of Syrian refugees. A presentation on the welfare impact of Syrians living in Lebanon and Jordan will be followed by a discussion of possible assets, in terms of investments, consumption, and labor market.



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18:15-18:45 Closing of Conference

Conclusion by:

- **Jean Roatta**, Deputy Mayor for the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation, City of Marseille, France
- **H.E. Franck Gellet**, Ambassador for Syria, France
- **Mourad Ezzine**, Manager of the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)

18:45 Reception



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