



*Submitted By Evelyn B Mwasa
Side Event Coordinator*

THEME:

The role of Humanitarian, Development NGOs and the civil society in addressing the humanitarian development nexus in supporting refugees and host communities.

- Sub-theme I: Localization of the humanitarian response –The role of the Red Cross**
Sub-theme II: Role of local and national NGO's in strengthening resilience and self-reliance for both refugees and host communities in Uganda
Sub-theme III: The role of INGO's in localizing the humanitarian response through capacity building.

Moderated by- **Dr. Fatoumata Nafo Traore**
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Regional Director, Africa

The Uganda Red Cross Society is an auxiliary arm of government in providing humanitarian services including; Emergency preparedness and response. It is mandated by a 1964 Red Cross Act; Cap 57 of the Laws of Uganda. The society is a member of the International Red Cross who draws mandates from the Geneva Conventions.

As part of the Solidarity Summit on Refugees 22nd -23rd June, 2017 programme, the Uganda Red Cross Society was selected to spearhead a side event under the theme; The role of Humanitarian, Development NGOS and the Civil Society in addressing the humanitarian development nexus in supporting refugees and host communities. This entailed a detailed discussion on how NGO's and humanitarian actors support and work with

refugees and host communities. The session covered challenges, gaps and recommended approaches that can be embraced to sustain the celebrated Ugandan CRRF model.

To deliver a compelling side event, the Red Cross joined hands with Oxfam International and Save the Children who supported the collation of local and International NGO's, Civil Society organizations, government and host community voices that were covered under the session sub-themes. Sub-theme discussions were around the Grand bargain- a May 2016 World Humanitarian Summit commitment to address the humanitarian gaps and the localization agenda focusing on the engagement of local actors.

The Side event which attracted over 90 delegates from donor agencies, NGO and humanitarian actors constituencies focused on the growing support for reform of the humanitarian system to include predictable, multiyear financing and capacity to cope with any surge in population movement.

Panelists:



Left –Right- Uganda Red Cross Society (**Robert Kwesiga**, Secretary General who presented on the “Localization of the Humanitarian Response/Role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. He emphasized the need to empower local and national actors through strategic investment in the localization agenda.

Lillian Obiale – (Voice of Civil Society Organizations) Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFORD)): Discussed the role of civil society organizations and the challenges they face in linking to international actors and funding.

International NGO perspective- **Egberta Brechtje Vanlith**, Country Director, Save the Children. She provided additional insights on resilience, financing and what is required. In a key statement, she highlighted that if the international community fails to support Uganda then the global compact would have failed. Her wrap up emphasized - **the time to act is now.**

The Moderator –**Dr. Fatoumata Nafo Traore**. “We are here to share experiences, reflect on the Ugandan model, generate ideas on what can be done to improve it and to deliberate on actions that will enable the effective implementation of the May 2016 World Humanitarian Summit commitments”



The Rapporteur team that comprised of ; Office of the Prime Minister , Min. Of Foreign Affairs, UNHCR and Uganda Red Cross Society .

Floor Discussions



Crespo - *Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns (VEDCO)- Local NGO.*

“Host communities are the first actor to receive refugees and the last to see them off, so they should be included more comprehensively in programming”



DFID/UKaid – *Humanitarian Advisor (Mr. Erlend Linklater)*

Long-term thinking needs to be integrated in the immediate response where possible because many emergency decisions have long-term implications in terms of sustainability of the overall response. Decisions therefore must be based on evidence and more in-depth analysis. On the issue of the need for direct funding recommended by local and national actors, there's need to build capacity at the local and national levels in terms of strengthening transparency and accountability for the funding they receive. More discussions have to be held on how INGO's would partner to support capacity building.



Mr. Tariq Al-Ansari - *Ambassador – Director of International Cooperation-Quatar*

Quatar will continue supporting the Humanitarian response in Uganda. The next project will focus on education in camps, training teachers and building schools. We believe that education is a very important tool in building inclusive and peaceful societies.



An active audience that represented local, National and INGO's, Civil Society, Host Community representatives and donor agencies

Key Observations and recommendations

(As submitted in the Secretariat report)

1. Planning for solutions must be done from the onset of an emergency. Many decisions that are taken at the start have long term implications for programming and funding.

2. Recognition that local hosting communities and government carry the main burden in sharing resources – adding pressure to already limited services.

3. On the ground, it is clear that the local communities and organisations act as the first responders. More investment in local actors will enable a more efficient and sustainable response.

4. The disparities between local and international organisations in funding modalities need to be addressed.

5. Private sector is an untapped resource that can be utilised by all actors to deliver social services, jobs, and investment opportunities

Conclusions and Commitments.

1. Funding should be disbursed to local and national actors as directly as possible

2. Local and national actors commit to provide a clear entry point or forum to engage with the international community and develop a strategy for

capacity building

3. Challenged donors not to make actors to compete for funds; but to promote collaboration

4. Requested for multi-year, flexible and pooled funding on country level

Commitments/Pledges

Equitable partnerships need to be emphasized

1. INGO's committed to improve coordination and will endeavor to build more and stronger partnerships with government and local actors

2. Local and national actors committed to transparency and accountability – with a focus on more joint and standardized reporting

3. To deliver on a comprehensive response, coordination of actors will improve results but this requires collective action of all actors.

4. Coordinating bodies, e.g. UN and OPM should endeavor to closely plan with national and local actors.

5. Local and national actors commit to coordinate better amongst themselves to assert their capacity and be better organized to deliver on partnerships

All actors commit to improving programming and planning for women, children, youth and people living with disabilities.