



Business Symposium

25 April, 2016

“Living Together In Inclusive Societies: The Role and Responsibility of the Private Sector“

Thematic Discussion Briefing Note

Private sector engagement to address the refugee crisis

Background

In 2015 the number of forced displacement passed 60 million people – highest since World War II. The global refugee crisis unfolding across Europe, the Middle East and Africa creates challenges, as the structure and resources of the current humanitarian system are increasingly insufficient to meet the needs of people on the move.

Governments, the United Nations, civil society and aid organizations are now turning to the private sector, recognizing that business expertise, resources and innovative approaches could be further leveraged to complement existing efforts and find new solutions to address the refugee crisis. All aspects of the refugee crisis are better managed when all partners come together to look for people-driven, values-based approaches where public policies are met by responsible business operations, new business models, investment, innovation and technology. It is time to redefine traditional approaches to humanitarian action and in that context the refugee crisis also presents an enormous opportunity for businesses to be a force for good.

Roundtable Discussion Objectives

The Roundtable Discussion will explore ways in which the private sector can take action to respond to the global refugee crisis. The aim is to find innovative solutions to leverage business expertise and resources to address global challenges and local needs.

Discussion Questions

- What actions can be taken by companies – either individually or in partnership with other organizations – to address the global refugee crisis?
- How could core business expertise and resources be further leveraged to find innovative local solutions that meet the needs of people forced to flee conflict?

Facilitator

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Lead Discussant

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United Nations
Global Compact



Engagement Opportunities and Further Reading

- The UN Global Compact and UNHCR are calling on companies with operations or supply chains in countries that are producing, transiting and receiving refugees to demonstrate leadership and sign the [Business Action Pledge in Response to the Refugee Crisis](#).
- The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called for the first ever [World Humanitarian Summit](#) to be convened on 23-24 May 2016. The Summit presents an opportunity for the private sector to connect with other companies, Member States, UN, international organizations, civil society and local communities in the definition and implementation of key humanitarian priorities.