



CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI

24<sup>th</sup> January 2017



# SUPPORTING SYRIA & THE REGION

SAVING LIVES, PROTECTING & BUILDING RESILIENCE



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

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## FOREWORD

**Mr. Kai Mykkänen,**  
Minister for International Trade & Development of Finland

The Supporting Syria and the Region Conference in Helsinki on 24th January 2017 was a strong call to action and a reminder of our collective responsibility to provide assistance to those affected by the devastating war in Syria. It was a great privilege for Finland to host this event.

In Helsinki, we officially launched the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP) for 2017-2018 and presented the humanitarian priorities inside Syria for 2017. Four High-Level Panels – chaired by Nordic countries – dug deeper into the substantive themes following up on the London conference. Important recommendations were made which will feed into preparations for the Brussels Syria conference in April.

The main messages from Helsinki are clear. Firstly, a robust humanitarian response continues to be needed, regardless of the results of the political process. It is essential that we “stay the course”, that is, we continue providing flexible humanitarian assistance while supporting the resilience of those affected by the crisis. Secondly, women and girls must be brought to the center of aid efforts. Thirdly, the Syrian civil society must be genuinely included in all phases of the programming and implementation.

I also want to note that persons with disabilities are often excluded from the mainstream assistance programmes. In the spirit of leaving no one behind, we need to work harder on this.

Complex situations require a comprehensive response and better alignment of humanitarian aid, development assistance and peacebuilding. The 3RP, having been jointly developed by the United Nations agencies, NGO-partners, and host country



governments based on their national development plans, expresses a collective vision that a strategic shift is required in the delivery of aid during protracted and complex crises. The new approach that UN and its partners have championed in the context of Syria and regionally should inform the way we work together in other protracted conflict situations.

Finally, there is a wide understanding internationally of the great urgency to end the fighting in Syria and to ensure humanitarian access to those in need. UN Security Council has laid out a road map, resolution 2254, which forms the basis for an inclusive Syrian-led political transition. We urge all parties to the conflict, to respect and implement UN Security Council resolutions and to engage in negotiations under the auspices of the UN. The central role of women in achieving sustainable peace deserves special attention.

Finally, let me thank all the UN Member states, Agencies and the civil society for participating in the conference.

## CONFERENCE BACKGROUND

Six years into the Syria crisis, the United Nations and partners remain committed to providing life-saving assistance to the 13.5 million displaced and conflict-affected people inside Syria, protecting the rights of 4.81 million refugees in neighboring countries, and building the resilience of the 4.4 million people in vulnerable communities hosting them. Coordinating this effort remains a crucial challenge.

In response, the Helsinki Conference on Supporting Syrians and the Region on 23 and 24 January, 2017 provided the platform to present the humanitarian priorities for Syria in 2017 and launch the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for 2017–2018, which extends to Syria's neighboring countries – both documents will guide the coordination of assistance in response to the Syria crisis.

The international community used this platform to discuss the humanitarian and development challenges and opportunities to build resilience in Syria and neighboring countries. The conference highlighted the experiences of a wide range of partners - UN agencies, international financial institutions, the donor community, civil society and the private sector - in finding long-term solutions to respond to the protracted crisis, and allowed them to exchange on challenges and solutions in dedicated panel discussions on a range of themes: No Lost Generation - Education, Child Protection, and Adolescents & Youth; Vulnerabilities, Jobs and Economic Opportunities; Gender Equality in Action: Responding to the needs and building resilience for women and girls; and humanitarian and resilience priorities inside Syria.

The Helsinki Conference on Supporting Syrians and the Region was preceded by five side events, adding further to the substantial discussions.

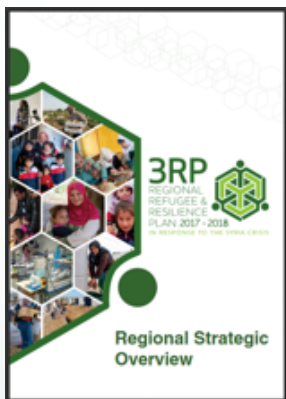
The conference also provided donors the opportunity to reinforce their commitment to addressing the growing needs of over 22 million people affected by the Syria crisis, as the UN sought to draw attention to the underfunded needs. A series of donors did update on their pledges made at the previous Supporting Syrians and the Region Conference held in London on 4 February 2016. A full update of pledges and new commitments is available on the UN's financial tracking system (FTS).

The Finnish Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Mr. Kai Mykkänen hosted and chaired the conference jointly with the UN, represented by Mr. Stephen O'Brien, UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and Ms. Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator. The co-hosts welcomed government representatives of 56 UN member states, including the countries hosting refugees in the region and the top donors to the Syria crisis, as well as representatives of 17 UN Organizations and International Financial Institutions, and 57 international and local NGOs.

*For further information, the conference webpage can be found at [www.helsinki2017.org](http://www.helsinki2017.org).*

### **Supporting the Region: The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) 2017-2018**

At Helsinki, the UN and more than 240 partners formally launched the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for 2017 and 2018. The plan aims to assist over 4.7 million refugees from Syria and the 4.4 million people hosting them in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.



Six years into the crisis, the vast majority of Syrian refugees has fallen below the poverty line and struggle to afford essentials such as food, rent and health care. Seventy per cent of those in need are women and

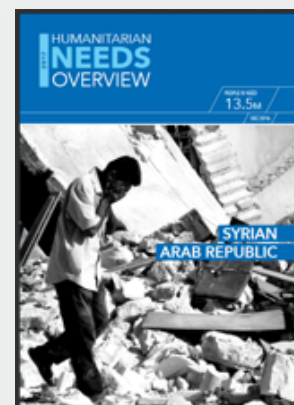
children. Half of refugee children are out of school. And with winter now biting, humanitarian needs are a matter of life and death. Neighboring countries continue to struggle to meet the challenges of the political, economic and social spill-over from the Syria crisis.

To support refugees and the communities that host them, the 3RP appeals for US\$ 4.63 billion in new funding for the year 2017 to continue vital work in addressing the growing needs of refugees from Syria and communities hosting them in neighboring countries.

## **Assistance inside Syria: Humanitarian Response Priorities January – December 2017**

The UN estimates US\$ 3.4 billion to be required to address the humanitarian needs of 13.5 million people within Syria this year. In support of national and local efforts, the humanitarian community will strive to continue to contribute to the achievement of three key strategic priorities for Syria:

**Save Lives** with the continued provision of humanitarian assistance to a) people living in areas of high severity of need, including in hard-to-reach and besieged areas as declared by the UN; b) people requiring life-saving health and nutrition support; c) displaced populations and host families, returnees and d) Palestine refugees.



**Ensure Protection** to those affected by the crisis and mitigate further protection risks such as child labor and recruitment early marriage and lack of documentation,

**Increase Resilience and Access to Services** such as health, water, education and waste management thereby creating livelihood opportunities particularly for vulnerable groups such as people living with disabilities, women, adolescents and youth, as well as promoting social cohesion and community preparedness.

With a joint appeal of over US\$ 8 billion for 2017, the above reflects the largest appeal for the response to the Syria crisis since the beginning of the crisis.

## **SUPPORTING SYRIANS AND THE REGION** HELSINKI 24 JANUARY 2017

### CO-HOST SUMMARY

**1** The Supporting Syrians and the Region Conference in Helsinki represented an important milestone in the coordinated response of the international community to the crisis in Syria and its impact on the sub region. Participants expressed full solidarity with the Syrian people and the neighboring countries, and committed to “staying the course” in providing humanitarian assistance and protection and supporting the resilience of those affected by the crisis. The participants gave tribute to all those working to help civilians inside Syria as well as Syrian refugees and affected host communities in the region, often under the most difficult of circumstances.

**2** The conference was hosted by the Government of Finland jointly with the UN. The co-hosts welcomed government representatives of 56 UN Member States, including the countries hosting refugees in the region, the top donors to the Syria crisis, representatives of 17 UN Organizations and International Financial Institutions, and 57 international and local NGOs. The strong presence of Nordic donors and CSOs, pioneers in supporting the protection of civilians and a progressive shift to resilience-building, brought a Nordic Perspective into the global advocacy campaign for enhanced solidarity with the Syrian people and the neighboring countries.

**3** The conference centered around the launch of the *Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) 2017-2018*, and the presentation of the *humanitarian and resilience priorities inside Syria for 2017*, which together seek \$8 billion in funding requirements for 2017.

**4** Co-hosts and participants condemned in the strongest terms the continued violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and the lack of full humanitarian access to all those in need inside Syria. As humanitarian and resilience support, while necessary, cannot provide a solution to the conflict, we express our *hope for a negotiated intra-Syrian political settlement* and welcome the resumption of the Geneva talks under the agreed UN framework.

**5** The UN and NGO partners noted with concern the gap between growing needs and available funding as evidenced by the funding levels of both the 3RP (61%) and the Syria HRP (49 %) in 2016. While 32 donors from the 2016 London conference have fully met their pledge, many of them exceeding their original pledges, funding is insufficient to respond to what remains one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. The co-hosts encouraged donors to continue the *shift to more flexible, multi-year financing*, in alignment with the financing approach put forward at the World Humanitarian Summit and the Grand Bargain. It was noted that both Lebanon and Jordan have adopted multi-year funding cycles for their response plans to enhance financial predictability in a protracted crisis.

**6** All participants expressed their deep appreciation for the generosity of *host country governments* that have shown extraordinary solidarity in hosting refugees while their communities are under considerable strain and basic services are overstretched. Participants reiterated that supporting Syrian



refugees is a collective international responsibility, and urged to continue assisting host communities and governments in the region. Government representatives from neighboring countries called on the UN to continue planning holistically the support for refugees, host communities, and national systems alike, and asked that the resilience component of the 3RP be strengthened and better financed.

**7** The co-hosts reiterate that the 2017 humanitarian and resilience priorities as presented at the conference – to save lives, ensure protection and increase resilience and access to services – call for an integrated response with combined resilience and humanitarian efforts and inclusion of vulnerable groups.

**8** We acknowledge that the Syrian people continue to be the first line of response, providing resources to support and host their family members and neighbors. We reiterate the need for strong involvement of **Syrian Civil Society** in all phases of programming to build resilience, support early reconciliation and social cohesion and create incentives for cooperation across dividing lines, as put forward at a preceding side event on How to Support Bottom-Up Community Resilience in Syria organized by Finnish NGOs.

**9** We highlight that the majority of refugees are **women and girls**, who require additional, specific and equally life-changing services, including sexual and reproductive health services, as well as services to prevent and respond to child marriage, domestic violence, and gender-based violence. We also call for Syrian women to be given a stronger voice in decision making at all levels.

**10** We welcome the range of **livelihood** initiatives implemented by governments and their UN and NGO partners to reach the London Conference target of 1.1 million

jobs by 2018 for those affected by the crisis. The discussions clearly highlighted that a full-range of approaches, from offering short-term employment to addressing structural issues and labour market policies, is required.

**11** We underscore that the protection, education and participation of **Syrian children and youth** must be secured to realise their full potential and enable them to contribute to Syria's future. Participants highlighted that beyond traditional education services, safety in families, communities and schools, access to documentation and legal residency and freedom of movement are essential for education outcomes.

**12** Participants agreed that the international community must be ready to support the post-agreement assistance to Syria, building on the achievements of the current humanitarian and resilience work. Relevant lessons from post-conflict reconstruction around the world were made available to inform and guide the future engagement of the international community in a **post-agreement** reconstruction process.

**13** The important role of the **private sector** and proposals for engagement – not only in a post-agreement scenario in Syria, but also in society building, funding, innovation, and providing basic services – were highlighted at the preceding Nordic Innovation Day – a co-creation event, where the Government of Finland and Finpro gathered 40+ Nordic companies ready to invest, engage, and innovate with local beneficiaries, CSOs and the UN. International financial and policy organizations called for a structural response to build a stable economy in the sub-region, advising more financing instruments be made available to middle income countries in the region.

## CONCLUSION

**14** The Helsinki conference served to show international solidarity with those most affected by the Syria crisis. The co-hosts commit to continue to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus and linking that into the peacebuilding efforts, in conjunction with Syrian civil society, as we seek to protect and save lives and strengthen people's resilience. We welcome the European Union's decision to host, jointly with the United Nations and the Governments of Germany, Norway, Qatar, and the UK, a follow-up conference tentatively scheduled in Brussels on April.

*Agreed by the Government of Finland and the United Nations  
February 2017*

## KEY STATEMENTS FROM THE OPENING PLENARY

In his *opening remarks*, Minister Kai Mykkänen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of Finland recalled that very few crises have resulted in suffering and needs like the Syria crisis has – with almost half of Syrians forced out of their homes, eighty percent of those staying in Syria are in need for acute humanitarian aid, while over 4.7 million remain dependent on assistance as refugees in neighboring countries. The Minister asked conference participants to stay committed to their support, and focus on improving how assistance is delivered. He recalled Finland’s own priorities on education, protection of women and girls, and people living with disabilities.

The *UN Representatives* jointly highlighted the humanitarian and development aspects of the response to the Syria Crisis, both inside Syria as well as in the host countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey, and Egypt.

Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, stated that Syria remains one of most complex conflicts in the world, where basic services to parts of the population are being denied as a weapon of war. He urged international community to step up their collective efforts to meet the humanitarian and protection needs of 13.5 million men, women and children inside Syria.

Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, expressed his hopes for a positive outcome of the ongoing Astana talks and the upcoming Geneva talks, while insisting that support to host countries remain a focus no matter what. He recalled that the recent UN summit on refugee and



migration concluded that refugees are a collective international responsibility.

Helen Clark, Administrator of UNDP, urged that host countries and communities must not be left to cope alone, stating that UN agencies and NGO partners

remain committed to helping governments and host communities build resilience in the face of this crisis. In light of the over US\$ 8 billion appealed for, Ms. Clark advocated for multi-year funding for durable solutions and lasting partnerships, and called for higher pledges and faster disbursement.

**Governments from the region** jointly made the case for expanding resettlement programs for Syrian refugees, and called for improved burden sharing with the international community. Governments reiterated that the shift to more development and resilience efforts needs to be continued, including long- and medium term planning for Syrians and host communities.

The representative from **Jordan** emphasized that Jordan, while proud to be supporting refugees from the region with basic services, is ensuring a global public good on behalf of the international community, and depends on diversified burden sharing. Toward this goal, the Jordan Compact is an important milestone in a global paradigm shift. The Representative from **Lebanon** highlighted the immense costs that Lebanon, hosting the highest number of refugees per capita globally, has paid both

socially and economically in the Syria crisis. With pressures rising, he urged that, “we need to build our capacity to face the crisis.” The Government of **Iraq** reminded that their country continues to be in the middle of a war against terrorism, with territories still under ISIS control. Iraqi IDPs from these areas are waiting to return home. **The Kurdish Regional Government**, noted the fragile context in the **Kurdistan Region of Iraq**, whereas of September 2017, Peshmerga forces and public sector employees may not be paid salaries. At the same time, a generation of IDP’s and refugees is at risk with less than fifty percent of those children enrolled in educational programs. The KRG reiterated their support for the 3RP, while raising awareness of the unique situation of Iraq and Kurdistan. The representative from **Turkey** lauded that the “launch of 3RP is key and timely.” He saw as the common lesson learned of the past six years is, “the importance of resilience, not only from the perspective of refugees but also for the neighboring countries.” The representative of **Egypt** expressed her disappointment with the level of funding received for Egypt’s financial needs in the last 3RP.

## STATEMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

**Donors** to the Syria crisis response jointly condemned violations of humanitarian and international law and called for uninhibited access for humanitarian support.

**Norway** reiterated their priority to support education and, in line with their role as co-host of the London conference and the Grand Bargain commitments, one outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit urged other donors to honor their pledges, mobilize more funding, reduce earmarking and increase flexibility.

**Sweden** welcomed the efforts for the ongoing cease-fire but expressed concern about the limitations on access – an issue that Sweden will continue to press as current member and chair of the UN Security Council. Swedish funding priorities for 2017 will include needs based and multi-sector response, protection (including the new Whole of Syria protection strategy) and strengthening national response with Syrian partners. **Kuwait** expressed the hope that the cease-fire negotiations in Kazakhstan will reach a positive outcome, and reiterated its financial commitments to the crisis response. **Denmark** appreciated the tireless efforts of the UN, the International Red Cross/Red Crescent and NGOs in the region and neighboring countries, and welcomed the strengthening of the resilience component in the new 3RP both absolutely and proportionally. Denmark urged other donors to support resilience-building work as crucial in addressing growing vulnerabilities among refugees and reduce tension in host communities. **Germany** strongly reiterated immediate access of humanitarian aid. As a main donor to the humanitarian response inside Syria and of the 3RP, Germany stays committed to the London Conference jobs goal and preventing a lost generation. Germany will try to keep the level of giving as high as last years to give refugees a perspective to improve



their livelihoods. **Japan**, recalling the recent Top Donors Group meeting in Kuwait, pressed the importance of a close partnership with the Gulf countries for improved burden sharing. Japan also encouraged the UN to work closely with the World Bank. The **European Union** reminded that despite the significant pledges delivered since the London conference, the 2016 response plans remained only 50% funded. The EU will host, with Germany, the UK and Qatar, a conference in Brussels that will provide an important opportunity to take stock of the implementation of London commitments, including the compacts with Jordan and Lebanon. The Brussels conference will also serve to reconfirm multi-

annual pledges made and collect more of them. The EU expressed a growing concern over the risk of politicization of assistance inside Syria, and welcomed the closer link between the humanitarian and resilience agenda in the sub region. The **United States** applauded the Finnish focus on engaging the private sector. The message from the US intervention for UN agencies and partners was to “stay the course” in delivering a humanitarian and resilience response in this protracted crisis. The American representative also cautioned the plenary of the inherent risks of staying the course, expressing strong concern over risks of manipulation of aid inside Syria, where delivery to besieged areas is blocked, and access to the most vulnerable is uneven. He commended the UN Humanitarian Coordinator’s efforts to achieve access, but did raise the question if aid could be manipulated. The **United Kingdom** welcomed the European Union’s plans to host the next pledging conference in Brussels in April, and will co-host with Germany and Qatar. Brussels will be the key event to take stock of the progress since the 2016 London conference, and mobilize funding for the 2017 appeals presented at Helsinki. **Italy** reiterated its full support to the negotiation efforts of the UNSG’s Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, as only peace through political transition could be considered a success. Italy will support reaching this goal also in its current role as member of the UN Security Council.

**Argentina** noted its resettlement scheme for Syrian refugees and urged continued efforts for a political solution to the conflict. **Canada** recognized the efforts of all donors, which are only surpassed by the generosity of the people and communities inside Syria and neighboring countries that are hosting those in need. Canada also underlined the necessity of continued collaboration for effective assistance, for which the 3RP and the future Humanitarian

Response Plan are critical. Calling for a political transition in Syria, **Hungary** welcomed the 2336 UN Resolution and the Astana initiative complementing the Geneva talks, as well as EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini’s efforts to intensify outreach to key regional actors. Hungary urged all parties to avoid further violence. **Ireland** remains deeply concerned about the situation in Syria, and assured that if the level of humanitarian need persists, Ireland is committed to maintain the same level of funding throughout 2017. **Mexico** called on all parties to uphold their responsibility in protecting the Syrian population. The main priority is securing access to restricted areas and security procedures for humanitarian personnel. **The Netherlands** called on all parties to respect international humanitarian law and humanitarian workers. Dutch funding is increasingly un-earmarked or flexible at country level. Recognizing the enormous pressure on host governments, the Netherlands welcomed the increased focus on longer term perspective and steps for labor market inclusion in the 3RP. **Austria** and **Poland** thanked the UN for the frameworks for response presented in the 3RP and the future HRP, which have established themselves as the best possible frameworks for support. **Romania** highlighted its position as the only EU member state maintaining a diplomatic presence on the ground in Syria, and expressed support for EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini’s efforts.

On economic policy, the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** analyzed how the Syria crisis has revealed structural weaknesses in the region. To build a dynamic, inclusive and stable economy, the OECD urged to pool all available tools, making them available to middle income countries in the region. The **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)** welcomed the attention

given to engaging the private sector and mentioned both DFID and the EU as providing good examples for innovatively blending support with the private sector. EBRD agreed that creating competitive economies is necessary, as private sector led growth for the sub region is possible with the right support. The **World Bank** praised the progress in bridging humanitarian and resilience efforts but urged the international community to increase support for neighboring countries and prepare for full engagement for the reconstruction of Syria. To inform this engagement, the World Bank is working on a dynamic needs assessment based on satellite imagery, and social and economic impact assessments.

Statements by **Civil Society Representatives** working in Syria jointly called for a more consistent inclusion of Syrian voices in planning, implementation and monitoring.

**The Syria INGO Regional Network (SIRF)**, speaking for 54 INGOs, urged that more must be done to allow the Syrian entrepreneurial spirit to thrive, most importantly through providing education. Appreciating the efforts of international donors as well as of the Syrians present at Helsinki, SIRF concluded that substantial progress has been made since the London Conference, however a political solution is desperately needed. **The Union of**

**Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM)** reported that only 200 doctors are left in Northern Syria, millions of Syrian children are out of school, and concluded that the health and education sectors are “the first victims of this crisis.” UOSSM reminded that the Syrian population are the first line of support to IDPs and the main front against terrorism. **Common Space Initiative (CSI)** reiterated that the Syrian people, hosting family members, neighbors, and compatriots, have invested major funds and resources and deserve a voice as a top donor. CSI urged the international community to include Syrians in building resilience, and empower Syrian women to become leaders in their communities. The **International Red Cross/ Red Crescent** underlined the necessity to adhere to fundamental humanitarian principals, urging stakeholders to fully invest in ensuring respect for international and humanitarian law in Syria. The IRC asked to refrain from politicizing any humanitarian assistance.

In his **closing remarks**, H.E. Timo Soini, Finnish Minister for Foreign Affairs insisted that the international community prepare to support a post agreement process, which will build on the current successful efforts of humanitarian and resilience work inside Syria.

**SUPPORTING** SAVING  
**SYRIANS** LIVES,  
& THE REGION PROTECTING  
& BUILDING  
RESILIENCE



HELSINKI 24 JANUARY 2017

# HIGH LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSIONS

## 24 JANUARY



## HIGH LEVEL PANEL 1: HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES AND RESILIENCE BUILDING INSIDE SYRIA

The Panel set out to provide context for the humanitarian and resilience priorities identified for the year 2017, and hear voices from the ground working inside Syria.

### KEY MESSAGES

- 1 Panelists gave respect to the bravery of all humanitarian workers continuing to deliver assistance on the ground under the greatest risks. Their safety and freedom of movement must be guaranteed.
- 2 Preventing child marriage and forced marriage, recruitment of child soldiers and gender-based and sexual violence are the most pressing protection challenges for 2017.
- 3 Putting women and girls at the center of the response is not only vital, but has proven most effective.
- 4 Syrian stakeholders demand to be given a voice in the planning and implementation of the crisis response and the reconstruction planning, and to uphold the dignity of the Syrian people.
- 5 The resilience agenda serves to complement the humanitarian agenda, not to compete with it. If done right, resilience efforts support relief efforts, and enhance the dignity of the beneficiaries.

### KEY STATEMENTS AND QUOTES BY THE PANELISTS

*Mr. Kevin Kennedy*, Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis, reiterated the humanitarian priorities identified for 2017 inside Syria: saving lives, ending of sieges to get humanitarian access, and providing protection. 9000 interviews with Syrian citizens brought to light two protection priorities: gender-related issues such as child marriage and forced marriage, and sexual violence (which appeared in 85 percent of the interviews) and forced child soldiers.

“The operation in Syria is really an “all shoulders to the wheel” operation. It involves under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator some 400 organizations – UN, NGO, INGO, IRCRC.”

*Ms. Ulrika Modeer*, warned that too often, the resilience discussion is limited to refugee hosting countries, not taking into account the vast human potential inside Syria. Sweden’s regional resilience strategy for the Syria crisis aims to decrease dependency on short-term assistance, and relieving the burden on the humanitarian budget by complementing them with resilience efforts. Ms. Modeer also made the case for more cash-based programming inside Syria to support local resilience and local markets. She announced that Sweden is using its current membership in the Security Council to advocate toward these goals.

*Mr. Stephen O'Brien*, agreed that the Syria crisis and other protracted crises require a different form of analysis and response, with multi-year planning that integrates a resilience and capacity building agenda while addressing immediate needs. Mr. O'Brien called for the ending of besiegement and to ensure safe access for humanitarian workers, and emphasized access to legal documentation as another crucial issue for 2017.

**Ms. Helen Clark**, UNDP Administrator, highlighted that a more seamless interaction between humanitarian and resilience work, as pushed for at the WHS, has been practiced inside Syria for a while. Ms. Clark argued that building resilience enhances human dignity, hence laying the foundation for recovery. While all appeals tend to be underfunded, Ms. Clark reminded that the resilience component remains the most underfunded, and urged all to focus on sustainable solutions in the 7th year of the crisis.

**Mr. Ali Al Za'tari**, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator inside Syria, contrasted seven challenges with seven positive developments in the country. The seven challenges include 1. The continuation of fighting as an obstacle to humanitarian operation; 2. The use of withholding basic services as a weapon of war; 3. asymmetrical warfare and terrorism; 4. An increasingly weakening economy with rising prices due to scarcity; 5. Unilaterally imposed sanctions impacting hospitals, power stations, and banks; 6. Negative coping mechanisms Syrians are forced to resort to; 7. Return to sectarianism driven by ISIS and like-minded groups – a difficult prospect for Syria's reconstruction and reconciliation.

On the positive side 1. Humanitarian actors will continue working in Syria; 2. An abundance of goodness and resilience in the Syrian society – "Syrians can do, and will do - they only need an enabling environment"; 3. The current ceasefire has been holding (despite about 10-15 violations per day); 4. Beyond the Astana talks and Geneva talks, peacebuilding ideas emerge from the vibrant civil society and youth; 4. A robust line ministry infrastructure to partner with; 5. Scaling up of resilience work, including to prepare for future shocks; 6. Improved collaboration among all stakeholders; 6. Ongoing initiatives to plan for post-agreement Syria.

**Ms. Samah Bassas**, CEO of the Syria Relief Network, thanked the Syrian NGOs on the ground who keep providing assistance despite having lost over 700 humanitarian workers in last 6 years. She assured Syrian NGOs over years have been integrating resilience in their work, and continued that building the capacity of local actors to participate in decision making and strategic planning will make them more confident and prepare them for reconciliation and reconstruction processes. Ms. Bassas reminded donors of their WHS commitment to allocate a minimum of 20 percent to local NGOs.

**Mr. Olivier Longue**, CEO of Accion contra el Hambre, warned not to deliver the message that the conflict is over – as it is not, and the needs are continually increasing. Stating that one-year funding is not a fitting construct for work inside Syria, he urged donors to use the Brussels conference to decide on the creation of better financing tools for crisis support.

In statements from the floor, **Peter Graaf from WHO**, highlighted health as one of biggest victims in conflict, with two-thirds of health care professionals out of the country. He noted that health, while a worthy issue in its own right, is also crucial to re-create a society that puts faith in the national system, and should be featured more in the response plan. **Jean-Louis de Brouwer from ECHO** urged donors to stay true to the WHS and Great Bargain guide on funding, which must be predictable yet flexible, allowing for contingency planning and funding to be redirected per emerging needs as in the example of Mosul. He emphasized that multi-annual planning is possible even if budgets must be granted every year. **Futoshi Matsumoto from Japan** updated on recent Japanese financial commitments (pending parliamentary approval) for local capacity building, to be implemented by UNDP. He encouraged

the UN to mobilize additional funding from GCC countries and engage with the World Bank's global crisis response platform. **Lama Khaddour from Massahat** reminded that Syrians continue to produce creatively but do not find markets, resulting from the sanctions and the recession. Ms. Khaddour feels Syrians do have solutions at hand, but lack

the resources to implement them, and urged the international community to direct more funding to local groups. **Mathieu Rouquette from SIRF** called for safeguards to be put in place to ensure the UN's reconstruction plan remains independent of the Syrian government's priorities and loyalties.

HIGH LEVEL PANEL 2:  
**GENDER EQUALITY IN ACTION - RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS AND BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

The panel featured the impacts of the Syria crisis on women and girls, and took stock of the international commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit to empower and protect women and girls. It also examined achievements and best practices in promoting gender equality and the protection and empowerment of women and girls through gender-responsive humanitarian and resilience programming, and identify remaining gaps.

**KEY MESSAGES**

- 1 The majority of refugees are women and children, and women and girls have specific needs that require targeted services; for example, more than 500,000 Syrian women are pregnant.
- 2 The specific services addressing the needs of women and girls include dedicated sexual and reproductive health services as well as services to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, which disproportionately affects women and girls. These issues include child marriage, domestic violence, and sexual violence and rape.
- 3 Provision of such services is just as essential and lifesaving as any of the other prioritized humanitarian actions.

4 However, beyond that, the empowerment of women is the key to obtaining and maintaining peace. Women are a strong constituency for peace, and they need to be involved in all stages of the peacebuilding process in line with Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Research shows that when women beneficiaries receive assistance, they spread it and their families and communities benefit also. Similarly, when females are involved from beginning to end in the peace agreement process and transitional justice – they tend to gravitate toward peacebuilding strategies, win-win solutions, and reaching out to the opposite group.

5 This requires that women have a voice in decisions at all levels, and that their voices are listened to. Syrian women have to speak for themselves, including through national and community based organizations, and no one else can presume to speak for them.

6 We must invest in women and girls: if we get it right for women and girls, we get it right for everyone. Ensuring equal rights for women is ensuring rights for everyone; it is not a threat -- it is an opportunity and a requirement.

**KEY STATEMENTS AND QUOTES BY THE PANELISTS**

*H.E. Kai Mykkänen*, Finnish Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, highlighted that women and girls are disproportionately and differentially impacted by humanitarian crises, including in the Syrian context, and remain at higher risk of gender-

based violence (GBV), particularly domestic violence, sexual violence and exploitation, child marriage and human trafficking.

**Ms. Laura Londén**, UNFPA Deputy Executive Director, called for concrete commitments and resources to protect the health, dignity and rights of Syrian women and girls. "Among those affected in the region are close to 6 million Syrian women and adolescent girls, of whom more than 500,000 are pregnant. [...] Being able to deliver in a functioning health facility or finding support after an incident of sexual violence is no less than life saving, and as vital as water, as food and as shelter. And yet these services are often not prioritized and remain underfunded."



**Ms. Lakshmi Puri**, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, appreciated the hosts for including the first-ever High-Level Panel dedicated to women and girls in an international conference for the Syria crisis response.

**H.E. Dr. Ali Sindi**, Minister of Planning at the

Kurdistan Regional Government and a medical doctor and a two-time refugee himself, explained how the specificity of Kurdistan is a complicated mosaic of minorities that sought refuge there, including all the Christians of Iraq, Sunni Muslims, Yazidis, and Syrian refugees. Women and girls live in all these minorities, and many have been exposed to gender-based violence and lacking protection. He urged stakeholders to keep in mind that Kurdistan is handling around 2 million IDPs and refugees beyond the 150,000 registered Syrian refugees. He warned that creating parallel structures and providing different levels of assistance to these groups, including the host communities, would weaken the governmental structures and pose a risk of conflict and fragility.

**Ms. Hivin Kako** from the Bihar Women's Organization asked the UN and INGO community to live by example, by insisting on equal representation of women in management positions, on panels, and among the cluster leaders. Ms. Kako urged donors to keep implementers accountable on the inclusion of women in the production and implementation of the response plan: "Creative solutions are always generated from the work on the ground, from those who participate. If our perspectives as women are not included in the response plan, the plan may not be fully applicable to reality."

**Ms. Gry Larsen** Secretary General at CARE Norway, outlined three important challenges seen from the INGO perspective, that the humanitarian sector needs to address: First, the need to move from talk to action on localization, as all stakeholders have committed to at the World Humanitarian Summit; second, to be more systematic and accountable to ensure women participation in assessing, in planning and in implementation; third, to address legal status

issues and respect international humanitarian law.

Ms. Larsen urged donors to provide longer term strategic funding and partnerships to local women's groups in Syria, who are key to identifying and tackling needs: "It goes without saying, but needs to be said over and over again: if you want to know what women need – ask them." For the future of Syria, she concluded: "There will be no long-term peace, if half of the population was not included in the process."

**H.E. Michelle Cameron**, Ambassador of Canada to Lebanon, reiterated the need for inclusive processes and applying a feminist perspective, as "anything you do for women and girls, who are half of the population of the world, enhances and complements every single other initiative. [...] Equality is not a threat, it is an opportunity and a requirement."

**Ms. Sawzan Zakzak**, from the Women Advisory Board to the UN Special Envoy for Syria, highlighted that Women and girls carry the main burden, subjected to gross human rights violations – exemplified by the honor killings of victims of sexual violence inside Syria. Despite - or because of – this, Syrian women must have a role: "Because we suffer most from this ongoing violence, we started to come together [at the Women Advisory Board] despite our differences, unified around a common agenda for peace that speaks with one voice, calling for a political solution that ends the suffering of Syrians, and for leadership of women in shaping the future of Syria." Ms. Zakzak, expecting that "Syrian women will rebuild Syria" asked for investment in educating and training Syrian women for this role.

## HIGH LEVEL PANEL 3: VULNERABILITIES, JOBS AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

The objective of this High-Level Panel was to provide the analytical basis to identify scalable livelihoods responses across the sub region, to meet the London target of creating 1.1 million jobs for those impacted by the Syrian crisis by 2018.

### KEY MESSAGES

- 1 The importance of the paradigm-shifting resilience-based approach is necessary to expand economic opportunities and create jobs;
- 2 A better matching of available skills could facilitate job creation;
- 3 A tailored approach to the private sector is required to stimulate SME creation;
- 4 A multifaceted approach to creating economic opportunities includes micro-finance and value chain analysis, particularly inside Syria;
- 5 Re-thinking the role of women and applying a gendered response is needed to create jobs for women;
- 6 Not only the quantity, but the quality of decent jobs and different way of working in the livelihoods sector is required.

### KEY STATEMENTS AND QUOTES BY THE PANELISTS

*Ambassador Morten Jespersen*, Danish Under-Secretary for Global Development and Cooperation, emphasized that jobs and economic opportunities are necessary to restore livelihoods, mitigate social tension, reinforce dignity and prepare the foundations for any future voluntary return of Syrians, when the situation allows. Denmark has dedicated support through different financial instruments including the Madad Fund, World Bank Concessional finance and confirmed the importance of supporting livelihoods and resilience inside Syria.



Using examples from UNDP's portfolio, Ms. Sophie de Caen, UNDP Deputy Regional Director for Arab States, affirmed the importance of supporting national planning processes in Jordan and Lebanon, as well as UNDP's support to over 2 million direct and indirect beneficiaries in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. A renewed focus on job creation for refugees, host communities and IDPs will be required to meet the London commitments by the end of the 2018 timeline.

**H.E. Imad Fakhoury**, Jordanian Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, highlighted the regulatory challenges created by a formal labor market, noting it is easy to work in the informal sector. The Government of Jordan's application of a resilience based approach in the Jordan Response Plan allows the Government to see the presence of Syrians also as an economic opportunity, provided job creation does not disadvantage Jordanians. Multiple measures have been taken, including, issuing over 37,000 work permits, with more flexibility in certain sectors (agriculture, construction), and providing incentives to business owners by waving work permit fees for Syrians and a moratorium on the import of labor. The Jordanian government's resilience based response remains premised on growing the economy: refugees with jobs in Jordan will spend their income in Jordan. Challenges were also identified including better identification of available skills; working with the EU to simplify the rules of origin; support to Jordanian firms interested in accessing the EU market and efforts to stimulate private sector investment in Jordan. Reductions in tourism, foreign direct investment and rising poverty and unemployment rates require partners to take a holistic approach and support all pillars of the Jordan Response Plan. Addressing the plenary, the Minister noted the complexities of the informal economy, and that refugees might be reluctant to accept employment because of a risk to humanitarian assistance; new responses are needed to address the imbalance in issuing work permits to almost exclusively men. Challenges relating to transport and child care impede the employment of women.

**Mr. Douglas Frantz**, OECD Deputy Secretary-General, provided a detailed explanation of the role the private sector should play to generate opportunities for those impacted by the Syria crisis. Noting structural issues (dismal track record across

the region in creating jobs for young people; well below global averaged for the private sector's share of GDP), requires more competitive economies to meet the London target. The OECD is working with governments in the region to attract foreign direct investment and promote the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME). Several measures were suggested, including targeted policies to attract and maintain private sector investment; strengthen the legal context for business; and improve the policy frameworks that promote SME development via access to finance. Mr. Frank also alerted the plenary about an OECD application designed to facilitate and simplify skills mapping.

**Mr. Simon O'Connell**, Mercy Corps Europe's Executive Director, noted the importance of not only focusing on vocational training; measures should include the provision of agricultural inputs, loans to small business, informal lending, rethinking gender roles and jobs for youth in the technology sector. Longer-term, predictable and flexible funding, new partnerships and more innovative approaches to engage the private sector (underwrite the risk); and sharing the risk between donors and implementing partners.

**Ms. Ruba Jaradat**, ILO Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for the Arab States, confirmed the ILO's commitment to skills mapping and supply assessment, and endorsed the importance of the private sector to create decent work for example through labour intensive infrastructure projects, creating jobs using local resources. By the end of 2017, ILO will have supported the creation of 65,000 jobs in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, with 218,000 people enabled to access employment. She confirmed the challenges of an informal economy, such as child labour, noting informality creates inequality.



**Mr. Joachim Rücker**, the German Government's Special Representative for the Middle East Stability Partnership, noted that a full-range of approaches (short-term employment to addressing structural issues) is required to achieve the London target; interventions must benefit host communities and refugees; and, new partnerships are essential because the needs are vast and the challenges complex. Germany will continue to work under the umbrella of the Partnership for Prospects (P4P), noting Germany already helped create 60,000 jobs in the livelihoods sector and the German commitment will expand in 2017.

**Mr. Sanj Srikanthan**, Deputy Executive Director of the International Rescue Committee, noted the importance of a full skills mapping, formalizing the

informal sector and involving community leadership. The compacts prepared for London are good a litmus test for other crisis contexts.

**Statements from the floor** emphasized the importance of job creation inside Syria in the agricultural sector. FAO has undertaken value chain analyses in Syria with a focus on job creation. Oxfam noted that additional support was required to Jordan and Lebanon. Noting progress on Jordan's issuing of work permits, Oxfam recalled that the Jordan Compact includes a pledge to create 200,000 work permits. The intervention emphasized that most work permits already issued went to men only.

HIGH LEVEL PANEL 4:  
**NO LOST GENERATION –  
 EDUCATION, CHILD PROTECTION, AND  
 ADOLESCENTS & YOUTH**

The No Lost Generation High Level Panel discussed how the protection, education and participation of the current generation can be secured, to realise their full potential and enable them to contribute meaningfully in their communities and to Syria's future.

**KEY MESSAGES**

- 1 Children and youth face unacceptable levels of violence every day inside Syria. Parties to the conflict and those with influence over them must end this conflict, and in the meantime ensure the cessation of all violations of children's rights as an urgent priority, in particular attacks on education. All states should immediately sign and implement the Safe Schools Declaration.
- 2 Safety in families and communities and inside schools, as well as access to documentation, legal residency and freedom of movement are priorities in their own right both inside Syria and in neighboring countries; and they are also essential to securing education outcomes.
- 3 All Syrian children must have access to quality education, in line with London commitments. This will require scaled up, multi-sector support for children and families to convert the policy shifts made by refugee hosting countries into access to school for children. Families living in dire poverty require financial

support through social protection systems to avoid negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage and child labor, and keep children in school. Ensuring pathways back into school for those who have dropped out, and recognition of school certificates are urgent priorities. Children who have experienced trauma need extra support to learn and heal.

- 4 Young people affected by this crisis are our largest un-tapped resource. It is essential that they are provided with opportunities to play an active role in their future, families, communities and society. Higher education and pathways to employment are important means to help achieve this. The international community must also make room for youth to engage in its support to the Syria crisis, including in all post-conflict planning. In this vein, we should establish a process whereby Syrian youth help set the agenda and steer the conversations in the forthcoming Brussels conference on Syria.

**KEY STATEMENTS AND QUOTES BY THE PANELISTS**

*Humam Alasaad*, Field Assistant with Mercy Corps in Greece: "Youth need to be given a chance to think and lead for the future of Syria ... I believe that we can rebuild Syria better than before."

*Magi*, a female volunteer in a local NGO inside Syria: "Thousands have lost their families, they lost their chance to continue their education to reach their ambition and many are married in age of childhood. I am here to make their voices heard"

**Marit Berger Røsland**, State Secretary, Norway: “It is hard to imagine a more important item on our agenda than ensuring the safety, education and wellbeing of the children and young people who are the future of Syria and the region. We must keep this topic at the top of the agenda in all relevant forums, including the Brussels pledging conference and other forthcoming events.”



**Lama Yazbeck**, CEO, Himaya NGO in Lebanon: “When children are facing violence or working to support their families, they can’t learn. We need to invest in child protection systems to get the education outcomes these children need.”

**Ercan Demirci**, Deputy Undersecretary at the Turkish Ministry of National Education: “With the Syria crisis the whole world is undergoing an exam. Education must be our first priority for the Syrian refugees.”

**Pierre Krähenbühl**, UNRWA Commissioner General: “The Syria crisis is forcing us to innovate, and to take risks in order to reach the most vulnerable communities... Without the courage of our staff there would be no education in places like Aleppo and Latakia.”

**Geert Cappelaere**, UNICEF Regional Director for MENA: “When I hear the testimony of the young people here today, and the stories from those who work with children, I see that there is no lost generation.”

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH AFFECTED BY THE SYRIA CRISIS: STATISTICS

- Nearly half of the 4.8m Syrian refugees in the region are children.
- There are 430,000 Palestinian refugees inside Syria and a further 110,000 have fled the country.
- In the 2015/2016 school year 1.75m Syrian children affected by the crisis were out of school and a further 1.35m were at risk of dropping out.
- One third of school-age refugee children – 0.53m - have no access to either formal or non-formal education as of November 2016, one year after the London Conference.
- Inside Syria, 1 in 3 schools has been destroyed or is no longer functioning.
- Inside Syria there are 5.8m children and 2.7m youth in need of protection.
- Inside Syria, recruitment of children is reported in 90% of sub-districts. Other reported child protection issues include child labour, sexual violence and kidnapping.
- The majority of the over 0.8m youth in the Syrian refugees in the region are not in education.

Since its inception in 2013, the No Lost Generation initiative has been an ambitious commitment to action by humanitarians, donors and policy makers in support of children and youth affected by the Syria and Iraq crises. It is a powerful call to invest in the resilience, capacities and potential on which the future of the region depends.

## NO LOST GENERATION INITIATIVE – 2017 GOALS:

**Pillar I:** Ensure that over 1.3m children are enrolled in formal or non-formal education in 3RP countries and reach a further 1.3m children inside Syria with non-formal education; working towards the end goal of getting all children affected by the crisis in school.

**Pillar II:** Reach over 100,000 boys and girls with specialized child protection services and over 1m children with structured, sustained child protection or psychosocial support programmes.

**Pillar III:** Increase the volume and quality of programming for young people, reaching over 0.5m with positive engagement opportunities by the end of the year.

**SUPPORTING SYRIANS & THE REGION** SAVING LIVES, PROTECTING & BUILDING RESILIENCE



HELSINKI 24 JANUARY 2017

# SIDE EVENTS

## JANUARY 23



SIDE EVENT:  
**HOW TO SUPPORT BOTTOM-UP  
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN SYRIA  
(FINNISH NGOS)**

The side event provided an opportunity for Syrian and international NGOs to make key recommendations to the UN – prominently represented by the UNDP Administrator – and international donors.

**KEY MESSAGES FROM THE HOSTS:**

*H.E. Mr. Kai Mykkänen*, Finnish Minister for Foreign Trade and Development welcomed the leadership of the UN in advancing the planning of resilience and stabilization inside Syria. However, there is also need to think bottom-up. Resources should be made available to support local plans even in the absence of a comprehensive peace agreement. The Syrian civil society plays a crucial role both in resilience-building and in the future reconciliation and recovery efforts.

*Ms. Helen Clark*, UNDP Administrator, named two factors as particularly critical to UNDP: ensuring strong partnerships with the civil society and gaining multi-year, hybrid funding for the continuum from humanitarian and resilience support toward development work. Clark assured that CSOs' play a central role in building resilience, and will have an even greater role in policy and advocacy in the future Syria.

*Samuel Rizk*, UNDP Country Director in Syria noted the need to go beyond defining civil society only as registered NGOs but it including a much wider set of actors. He also discussed the enormous and multidimensional challenge of reconciliation and how to take the first steps.

**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE  
SYRIAN CIVIL SOCIETY:**

1. There is a need to better link humanitarian assistance to existing civilian and local Syrian structures. If we are to make resilience real, then we need to realign the global humanitarian system, and strike a better balance between local and international actors.
2. Local actors need to be more involved in decision-making, covering all aspects from participation in planning to the implementation of priority investments. There is need to move from supply driven approaches to demand driven planning and implementation.
3. Programming focusing on supporting local livelihoods should consider working with and enabling community resilience, build local ownerships for solutions and support local innovation. To ensure sustainability, aid should focus on strengthening the establishment of durable value chains and link production to broader international markets.
4. There is a need for donors to consider and support the multiple roles civil society actors can play in building community resilience; they should not be reduced to service providers. Further the UN and other international donors must be able to work with and support traditional communal resilience and support social capital accumulation and not just formal NGOs.
5. The international community needs to revisit sanctions and assess their impact on community resilience and development.
6. Donors should find creative ways to scale up multi-year, long-term, and flexible support to Syrian

civil society organizations, particularly women’s organizations; which allows them to strategize and plan for the future.

7. In order to build social cohesion, aid programming should promote city-to-city activities in areas under different controls and within single locations to support initiatives bringing residents and IDPs together.

8. When working in different Syrian geographies, development aid needs to be coordinated and harmonized with potential or ongoing political processes to help dissolving the already polarized political division lines.

9. There is need to rethink the role of track III dialogues and local reconciliation as a vital building block towards the political track I process.

**SIDE EVENT:  
THE STATE OF RESILIENCE PROGRAMMING (UNDP)**

Throughout the past two years of applying the resilience concept to in the crisis response, valuable lessons about what resilience-based programming means in practice have been learned, and creative approaches with wide-ranging impact were identified. The side event addressed the findings of the 2016 State of Resilience Programming Report by UNDP and its recommendations for a deepened understanding, improved monitoring and evaluation, and widened scope of resilience programming within the crisis response plans.

**KEY MESSAGES**

*Ms. Elina Kalkku*, Finnish Under-Secretary of State, Finland, reminded that with the increase in complex crisis situations, a “business as usual” response no longer is an option. The London Conference highlighted the need for humanitarian and development efforts to work together more closely - now resilience based programming is good practice, and UNDP has been vital in pushing this forward. However, the next State of Resilience Report should pay special attention to gender issues: how gender-sensitive is our resilience programming?



*Mr. Sherif Rushdy*, Author of the State of Resilience Programming Report, explained that resilience is not a capacity – it is the outcome of applying capacities to absorb, adapt and transform by individuals, communities, and systems. The “transform” element of the concept is unique to resilience work.

*Mr. Carlos Conde*, Head of the Middle East and Africa Division at OECD, urged that livelihood efforts be embedded in a larger policy framework in order to work, which require governance mechanisms and cooperation between the different sector approaches. Hence, building resilience in an effective

manner relies on capacity building for governments and their institutions.

**Ms. Christel Bultman**, CARE International and Chief of Party of the Whole of Syria Consortium, warned that, “to build resilience in a context as fluid as the Syria crisis, means to be ready to change planning repeatedly – this requires good capacity and understanding of needs on the ground and long-term goals. We need to recognize that building resilience needs expertise, which may be different from humanitarian efforts.” Ms. Bultman also underlined that stakeholders need to “go from coordination to collaboration”: sharing resources, being open and transparent, and ready to invest additional time, as resilience building work demands an extra layer of learning from others, assessing, and discussing.

**H.E. Hayder Mustafa Saiid**, Director General for Development Coordination and Cooperation at the Ministry of Planning, Kurdistan Regional Government, reminded that societies like the Iraqi one have lived for many decades with war, violence and extremism, and few know more about shocks and absorbing them. He emphasized that “the KRG government sees clearly the added value of resilience - we are sure it will build peace and minimize tension, criminality, and violence, and reduce social stresses.”

**SIDE EVENT:  
NEVER TOO EARLY TO PLAN (UNDP)**

In this side event, the UNDP Administrator launched the “Never Too Early to Plan Report” which presents a series of lessons and good practices related to post-conflict reconstruction and transitions, as relevant for the on-going efforts for the reconstruction of Syria. While Syria presents some unique obstacles, the report collected relevant good and not-so-good practices of post-conflict reconstruction

around the globe, to enable a head-start for Syria’s reconstruction planning based on lessons from the past.

**KEY MESSAGES**

**H.E. Mr. Kai Mykkänen**, Finnish Minister for Foreign Trade and Development noted the international community is currently changing the paradigm on how to respond to protracted conflicts. Finland is looking forward to continuing its support to UNDP in 2017 to advance this work. Reconstruction should mean also the rebuilding of the nation, its social fabric and that is possible only through an inclusive and credible political process.



**Ms. Helen Clark**, UNDP Administrator, warned that the restructuring of Syria may take place alongside continued vital humanitarian efforts, and will stretch the capacity of Syrian and international partners. Effective coordination among partners will be essential.

**H.E. Michelle Cameron**, Ambassador of Canada to the Lebanese Republic, reiterated from the report that while each conflict is unique, there are some recurring dynamics we can learn from, to help us not repeat the same mistakes. She urged the plenary to

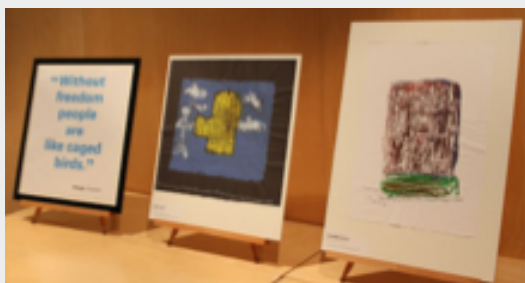


study the lessons laid out in the report and ask:

“How can my organization incorporate these lessons?”

The Ambassador noted that diplomatic actors will need to modify the sanctions regime – which will need time: “If we do not start now, it will be too late at day of reconstruction to start communicate to banks inside Syria and outside to ensure financing can go in.”

**Mr. Douglas Frantz**, OECD Deputy Secretary-General, analyzed how the challenges in the Syria reconstruction can be boiled down to coordination and cooperation: “The international community failed in ending the war, it must not fail in rebuilding Syria.”



He recommended to focus more on creating an economic climate attractive to business investment and job creation, learning from the lessons of the Marshall Plan. Also, as in the Marshall Plan, it is imperative to bring in all peaceful partners to support, including GCC and Iran.

**Mr. Ali Al-Zatari**, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria, explained that the UN cannot ignore working with the Government of Syria, its line ministries, thousands of staff, and resources – “no reconstruction of Syria will be possible without the

government of Syria.” He criticized that there are too many plans and approaches being implemented inside Syria: “Our goal must be to simplify, coordinate toward one plan, or one approach.”

**Mr. Peter Graaff**, Deputy Executive Director at the World Health Organization, warned that once stability is reached in Syria, there will be an influx of money from development actors– which will call for quick results. This could prove risky and a coordination structure needs to be in place for joint work. “With such a dynamic, a crisis is also always an opportunity.”

### SIDE EVENT: **WHAT I WANT FOR EVERY CHILD OF SYRIA (UNICEF)**

This side event sought to raise the voices of children affected by the Syria crisis. The event showcased photos from Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon of Syrian refugee and host community children and young people who are benefiting from the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syria Crisis (the Madad Fund).

Video clips and ‘Tiny Stories’ written by children from the region bring directly from the children about their dreams and hopes for the future. It was an advocacy and networking moment to provide a glimpse into the lives and aspirations of children and young people from Syria and the region and how the global community can best help turn dreams into reality.

## KEY MESSAGES

**Mr. Geert Cappelaere**, UNICEF Regional Director, thanked host communities, partners and donors such as the EU for their humanitarian support for children affected by the Syrian crisis through education, protection against harm and giving them a say in their futures. Mr. Cappelaere also provided an update on the situation for children inside Syria and the region.



**Ms. Elina Kalkku**, the Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, spoke about the importance of ensuring that war does not give way to a lost generation.

**Mr. AlHumam Alasaad**, Syrian refugee from Palmyra working for MercyCorps in Greek refugee camps, spoke about his own journey seeking refuge in Turkey and the EU, and shared some of the stories of the many refugee children he meets in his work. He recalled his younger brother's struggle getting access to schooling in Turkey, emphasizing that education is

of the highest priority for Syrian children, refugee or not.

He ended by citing the below poem by a nine-year-old refugee girl, Elaf, living in a camp in Iraq:

**Leaders of the world take note:  
I am not from this world  
I am a whiff of ash under the rubble  
I am an olive torn from its branches**

**to burn in a cold misery  
I am a piece of ice melting every day  
in camps of death  
I have become food for the fish in  
strangers' seas  
My spirit will continue to flutter  
above your skies  
To say: my freedom, my freedom.**

## SIDE EVENT: **NORDIC INNOVATION DAY (FINPRO AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FINLAND)**

The side event "Nordic Innovation Day – Solution Oriented Workshops on Humanitarian and Resilience Innovations in Syria and Neighboring Countries", was organized jointly by Finpro and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. The objective of the day was to bring together Nordic companies, UN organizations and NGOs to discuss

the concrete challenges and capacity gaps that need to be addressed in humanitarian response and resilience building, and to propose solutions through cooperation, new technologies and innovations, and public-private-partnerships.

## KEY MESSAGES

- 1 There is a continuous need to share and distribute knowledge about innovations as well as the concrete needs in the field.
- 2 Suggestions were made for establishing different types of platforms for engagement, including a Nordic Innovation hub/fund for humanitarian and development action. There is a clear need for platforms to support public-private cooperation.
- 3 While it was noted that during a one-day event a limited amount of results can be accomplished, some important steps towards future cooperation were taken. The Norwegian Emergency Preparedness System (NOREPS) is considering to host next Nordic innovation event in the future, and cooperation with Finpro will continue.

## KEY STATEMENTS

**Mr. Kai Mykkänen**, Finnish Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, acknowledged reservations in blending humanitarian assistance with private sector engagements, but urged that “if you think about the volumes needed, they are only possible by employing innovative solutions and new technology

– so there is no alternative to involving the force of the private sector.”

**Mr. Gustavo Gonzalez**, UNDP Sub-Regional Development Coordinator for the Syria Crisis, addressed the critical need of private sector’s involvement in this protracted crisis response. Already, private sector present and influential actor in humanitarian situations through donations and services for logistics and supplies, but it also has a lot to offer in terms of expertise and innovative spirit. He challenged the participants to identify new ways to address these challenges during and after the crisis and to form new partnerships between public and private stakeholders for the humanitarian response and resilience development action.

**Ms. Marcy Vigoda**, OCHA Chief of Partnerships, presented the Connecting Business Initiative, launched at the World Humanitarian Summit, resulting from consultations with almost a thousand companies worldwide. In crisis situations, the Initiative will help companies take part in the UN crisis management systems, so that their resources can be employed faster and more effectively, and support local companies on the ground. Ms. Vigoda reiterated the emphasis given to private sector at the World Humanitarian Summit: “While the scale of the crisis is enormous, so are the opportunities, and that is where private-public partnerships become particularly relevant. It is only by broadening our network of partners, that we can strengthen our response.”

Participants attended workshops on 1) energy, 2) ICT, 3) water and waste management, 4) health as well as 5) education and training, and discussed the specific challenges, needs and possibilities on each topic. Finpro is currently collecting written feedback and commitments from all participants, and a report will be published and shared on <http://www.finpro.fi/>

# AGENDA OF THE MEETING

## 23-24 JANUARY 2017

The conference – Supporting Syrians and the region – will take place in Helsinki on the 24 January 2017. The event aims to present the objectives, contents and achievements of both plans to the international community, discuss the humanitarian and development challenges in Syria and neighbouring countries, and highlight the role of a wide range of partners – UN agencies, international financial institutions, the donor community, civil society and the private sector – in finding long-term solutions to respond to the protracted crisis.

The launch will be hosted by the Government of Finland and preceded by a solutions-oriented innovation and private sector event on 23 January and a series of side events organised by HRP and 3RP partners. Furthermore, for the launch, a joint Nordic message will be provided with a high level participation from the Nordic countries.

The event will be opened by the Finnish Prime Minister Mr. Juha Sipilä and chaired by the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Mr. Kai Mykkänen. The UN will be represented by Mr.

Stephen O'Brien, UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and Ms. Helen Clark, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Administrator. Government representatives of affected countries in the region will also be present at the event. The participation of other UN agencies and International NGOs is expected on a high level. The wider international community will be represented on an ambassadorial level by missions in Helsinki.

The event will provide an opportunity to take stock of the London Syria conference thematic outcomes, which are reflected in the themes of the high level panels: Education and youth; Vulnerabilities, jobs and economic opportunities; Gender: Women and girls; and Humanitarian challenges and resilience building inside Syria. The presentation of the 3RP/HRP as well as the high level panels and the side event will provide substantive information on humanitarian and development challenges in preparation for the upcoming pledging conference in support of Syrian people and neighbouring countries.

SÄÄTYTALO (HOUSE OF THE ESTATES), SNELLMANINKATU 9-11, 00170 HELSINKI

## PLENARY SESSION (TIMINGS TENTATIVE)

09.00 – 09.30	Registration and coffee
09.30 – 09.45	Welcoming remarks <b>H.E. Mr. Juha Sipilä</b> , Prime Minister of Finland
09.45 – 10.15	<p>Presentation of the HRP and 3RP plans. Opening remarks and chairing of sessions by <b>H.E. Mr. Kai Mykkänen</b>, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development</p> <p>Interventions from</p> <p><b>Mr. Stephen O'Brien</b>, Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA</p> <p><b>Mr. Filippo Grandi</b>, High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR</p> <p><b>Ms. Helen Clark</b>, Under Secretary General and Administrator, UNDP</p>
10.15 – 11.15	Interventions by governments from the region
	Interventions by Member States
11.15 – 11.35	Interventions by UN and IOs
11.35 – 11.50	Interventions from selected representatives of International Financial Institutions and Civil Society
11:50 – 12:20	Closing remarks by <b>H.E Mr Timo Soini</b> , Minister for Foreign Affairs
	<b>LUNCH</b>
12.20 – 13.45	<p>Joint Press conference: Government of Finland, Principals of OCHA, UNHCR, UNDP</p> <p>Buffet lunch (main hall)</p>
14.00 – 16.30	<b>HIGH-LEVEL PANELS</b>
	<b>1. Humanitarian challenges and resilience building inside Syria</b>
	<b>Chair</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ulrika Modéer</b>, State Secretary for Development Cooperation Sweden</li> </ul>
	<b>Panelists</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Helen Clark</b>, UNDP Administrator</li> <li>tbc</li> <li><b>Ali Al-Za'tari</b>, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Syria</li> <li>International NGO</li> <li>World Bank</li> </ul>
17.15 – 17.00	

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## HIGH-LEVEL PANELS CONT...

09.00 – 09.30	<p><b>2. Gender: Women and girls</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HE Mr. Kai Mykkänen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, Finland</li> </ul> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minister, Iraq TBC</li> <li>• Ms Laura Londen, UNFPA Deputy Executive Director</li> <li>• Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women</li> <li>• Gry Larsen, Secretary General CARE Norway</li> <li>• Ms Hivin Kako, Bihar Women's Organisation</li> <li>• Government of Lebanon</li> </ul> <p>(Coffee break)</p>
09.30 – 09.45	
09.45 – 10.15	
10.15 – 11.15	<p><b>3. Education and Youth</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marit Berger Røsland, State Secretary, Government of Norway</li> </ul> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Ercan Demirci, Deputy Undersecretary, Ministry of National Education, Government of Turkey</li> <li>• Mr. Pierre Krähenbühl, Commissioner General of UNRWA</li> <li>• Mr. Humam Alasaad, young Syrian volunteer with Mercy Corps in Greece</li> <li>• Ms. Lama Yazbeck, CEO of Lebanese NGO Himaya</li> <li>• r MENA, UNICEF</li> </ul>
11.15 – 11.35	
11.35 – 11.50	
11:50 – 12:20	
12.20 – 13.45	<p><b>4. Vulnerabilities, jobs and economic opportunities</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambassador Morten Jespersen, Under-Secretary for Global Development and Cooperation, Denmark</li> </ul> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Imad Fakhoury, HE Minister of Planning and international Cooperation, Government of Jordan</li> <li>• Mr. Andreas Gies, Director General, Development cooperation Worldwide Country Programmes, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)</li> <li>• Mr. Simon O'Connell, Europe's Executive Director, Mercy Corps</li> <li>• Mr. Douglas Frantz, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD</li> <li>• Ms Ruba Jaradat, Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for the Arab States, ILO</li> </ul>
14.00 – 16.30	
17.15 – 17.00	



