Ministerial roundtable on the Central Sahel 2020

VIRTUAL SIDE-EVENT ON

THE IMPORTANCE OF A NEXUS APPROACH TO DISPLACEMENT IN THE CENTRAL SAHEL

Thursday, 15 October 2020

10:30 am-12:00 pm EST, 14:30-16:00 GMT, 16:30-18:00 CEST

The Government of Denmark, in partnership with the Government of Germany, the European Union and the United Nations, is hosting a high-level humanitarian event on the Central Sahel. The event included a Senior Officials’ Meeting on 8 September 2020 focused on operational lessons learned and forward-looking plans relating to humanitarian action, development and peace efforts, including special attention to the impact and consequences of COVID-19. The second part of the event includes a ministerial roundtable on 20 October 2020. The roundtable is preceded by a number of side-events, which focus on different aspects of the crisis.

Panelists:

H.E. Mr. Rasmus Prehn, Minister for Development Cooperation, Denmark
H.E. Mr. Ousséni Compaoré, Minister of Security, Burkina Faso
Hon. Musa Ecweru, State Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, Uganda
Mr. Raouf Mazou, Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, UNHCR
Mr. Franck Bousquet, Senior Director, Fragility, Conflict, Violence & Forced Displacement, World Bank
Moderator: Mr. Obi Anyadike, Senior Africa Editor, The New Humanitarian

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) recognizes that most displacement situations end up being complex and protracted and therefore require a comprehensive response that includes coherent humanitarian, development and peace actions. The Senior Officials Meeting on the Sahel in September confirmed that this also applies to the displacement situation in Central Sahel.

The side event, co-hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and the World Bank, aims to stimulate political thinking and leadership in and among the displacement-affected states in the Sahel and their development partners on the need to promote durable solutions to displacement through long-term nexus approaches. Under the overall leadership of affected governments, such approaches need to ensure collaboration, coherence and complementarity across humanitarian, development and peace actions. They collectively need to ensure coverage of immediate humanitarian and protection needs while focusing on supporting partnerships with and help build the capacity of relevant stakeholders, including national and local authorities, civil society and community structures.

The side event will draw on experiences from a development-led approach to displacement in Kenya as well as lessons that Uganda has learned in its own efforts to tackle forced displacement crises from neighboring countries. It will bring into the debate global evidence summarized in the Danish-funded study, “Keeping the promise: The role of bilateral development partners in responding to forced displacement”.

The Senior Officials Meeting in September highlighted that the crisis in the Central Sahel is both a protection and a development crisis and that displacement is likely to end up being protracted. Apart from improved security, long-term solutions will require investing in public services and ensuring access to income for vulnerable groups by building on existing programs and national capacities in an inclusive and sustainable manner, while also addressing humanitarian needs to the extent required.

Key policy messages based on lessons learned in Kenya and elsewhere as outlined in the Danish study, also points to the need for addressing displacement as a development challenge albeit with important short-term humanitarian connotations. With the support of development actors, the affected state should build inclusive approaches that benefit both displaced people and their hosts through improving access to public services and to sustainable livelihoods.
To make this shift towards a long-term approach effective, lessons learned point to the need for displacement-affected states to:

- From the outset recognise the need to address the development impact of displacement on local communities through implementing an inclusive refugee policy that allows displaced people to be part of and contribute to local social and economic development;
- Mainstream displacement into national development plans and make it a development priority;
- Take the lead on engaging bilateral and multilateral development partners in a dialogue focused on fair and efficient burden- and responsibility-sharing;

while development partners should consider committing to:

- Efficient burden and responsibility sharing through making displacement a priority in development cooperation with displacement-affected states - based on a clear and efficient nexus approach instead of supporting the establishment of costly, unsustainable parallel systems in response to humanitarian needs;
- Applying the full palette of political, diplomatic, and trade instruments in support of an improved response to displacement, aligned with the Global Compact on Refugees;
- Working with host governments and other humanitarian and development partners on situation specific mechanisms that can ensure coordination and coherence across interventions in response to displacement.

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**PROGRAM**

16:30 Introduction
- **Moderator: Mr. Obi Anyadike**, Senior Africa Editor, The New Humanitarian

16:35 Addressing the displacement crisis in the Central Sahel, introductory remarks
- **H.E. Mr. Rasmus Prehn**, Minister for Development Cooperation, Denmark

16:40 The Central Sahel – current challenges in responding to displacement
- **H.E. Mr. Ousséni Compaoré**, Minister of Security, Burkina Faso

16:45 Experiences from elsewhere in responding to displacement (5 min. each)
- **Hon. Musa Ecweru**, State Minister for Relief and Disaster Preparedness, Uganda
- **Mr. Raouf Mazou**, Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, UNHCR
- **Mr. Franck Bousquet**, Senior Director, Fragility, Conflict, Violence & Forced Displacement, World Bank

17:00 How to move forward in regard to displacement in the Central Sahel (5 min. each)
- **H.E. Mr. Ousséni Compaoré**, Minister of Security, Burkina Faso
- **Hon. Musa Ecweru**, State Minister for Relief and Disaster Preparedness, Uganda
- **Mr. Franck Bousquet**, Senior Director, Fragility, Conflict, Violence & Forced Displacement, World Bank
- **Mr. Raouf Mazou**, Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, UNHCR
- **Followed by moderated conversation - 30 minutes**

17:55 Closing remarks
- **H.E. Mr. Rasmus Prehn**, Minister for Development Cooperation, Denmark

18:00 Close

*Simultaneous interpretation to and from English & French will be available.*
Participate by linking up through WebEx

https://papr.webex.com/papr/onstage/g.php?MTID=e5ade80f910de8d6d85b93ba5d456409b

Interpretation is provided through Interprefy at the following link: