

## Reporting by Session Note-takers at the 2019 Annual Consultations with NGOs

<b>Date:</b>	<b>04.07.2019</b>
<b>Session Title:</b>	<b>Facilitating and Measuring Refugee Self Reliance and Economic Inclusion</b>
<b>Moderator:</b>	<b>Kellie Leeson</b>
<b>UNHCR focal point:</b>	<b>Theresa Beltramo</b>
<b>NGO focal point:</b>	<b>Kellie Leeson, Refugee Point, Women's Refugee Council</b>
<b>Major points arising from speakers and discussions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do we ensure that when we are measuring the self-reliance of refugees, as well as the impact of our programming, we are taking into account all of the different factors and stake holders who have an impact on the self-reliance of refugees. Many of the crucial indicators go beyond program level so we must discuss methods to help us track all relevant factors.</li> <li>• When measuring the self-reliance of refugees, how do we take into account the more vulnerable refugee populations such as women, youth and the disabled? Self-reliance varies depending on the individual and it is easier to suggest that able bodied men would be self-reliant in respect to certain indicators that would not signify the self-reliance of other refugee populations.</li> <li>• Growth is more efficient for tackling poverty than economic redistribution. 1% per capital growth contributes to a %1 increase of the economic situation for the poor. Self-reliance is the social and economic ability to meet their social and economic needs in an efficient manner. Pivoting our assistance model towards providing more direct funding who are better equipped to implement multiyear poverty alleviation programs. Additionally, investing in better data, particularly around poverty data, part of joint work with the World Bank in our joint data centre-to have comparable data between refugees and host community members. This data will be shared</li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendations/Conclusions/decisions on the way forward</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directed to UNHCR: It is essential to ensure that host community members are equally integrated into economic inclusion programming to ensure their cooperation in providing refugees access into local markets and industries. It is important to highlight the impact refugees can have on local economies when they are able to contribute their own economic revenue back into their local contexts.</li> <li>• Directed at UNHCR and NGO's: Underlining the importance of working with governments in all programming at country level as they can help tremendously with coordination efforts as well as long term sustainability of programs, enhancing refugee self-reliance. Such is the case in Ecuador where the government, after working with HIAS and UNHCR has agreed to integrate PoCs into their national social protection programs.</li> <li>• Directed at all participants: Reiterating the importance of involving refugees in all of our planning and programming in addition to developing creative ideas to help us connect with refugees on a peer to peer level to gain trust and ensure effective communication-only then can we be certain that our programs are targeting the necessary beneficiaries with the most relevant programming.</li> </ul>	

**Top two quotes from the session:**

- DRC: *“Our new method of discussing with refugees is asking staff to remove their NGO hats as much as possible and try to talk to them as if they are having a conversation in a coffee shop.”*
- Kellie Leeson, WRC, RefugePoint: *“Self-reliance is the social and economic ability of an individual, household or community to meet their social and economic needs in an efficient manner.”*
- HIAS: *when we are working in less than perfect situation, we have to be creative.*

**Any general points regarding UNHCR-NGO partnerships**