

## **Briefing on the WHS Side Event**

### **“Strengthening the Humanitarian-Development Nexus”**

**Statement by Ambassador Misako KAJI  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan**

**Tuesday 26 April 2016, 15:30-17:00, UNHCR, Geneva**

Distinguished participants,

Thank you all for attending today’s briefing on the Side Event on “Strengthening the Humanitarian-Development Nexus” to be co-organized by the Government of Japan and the Solutions Alliance during the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) scheduled for 23 to 24 of May in Istanbul, Turkey. This Side Event sets out **to find comprehensive solutions for forcibly displaced persons through strengthening the nexus**, and maximizing synergy, among the various actors involved in humanitarian and development assistance. Discussions at the event will be based on actual contributions of 115 million dollars made by the Government of Japan in March 2016 to the strengthening of the humanitarian-development nexus, mainly in the Middle East and Africa. For the Side Event, we will be honored by the presence of UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi, and JICA President, Mr. Shinichi Kitaoka, among other high level participants, including representatives from Japan, Denmark, Turkey, Zambia and UNDP.

Distinguished participants,

The importance of strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus is both an old and new issue, already pointed out some 20 years ago by former UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Ms. Sadako Ogata. As was pointed out by Mr. Corliss, with the surge in numbers of refugees and IDPs due to ongoing multiple humanitarian crises, and the increasingly protracted refugees and IDPs' situation, the current humanitarian system is overstretched. As this situation underscores, it is essential to promote the engagement of development actors from the early stages of crises. Furthermore, we see an increased need for solutions based on the human security approach that will enable refugees and IDPs to become self-reliant and live with dignity, without the need to depend on humanitarian assistance. There is also an increasing need to provide assistance to the countries and communities placed under considerable pressure from the burden of hosting refugees. For these reasons, with this Side Event we would like to once again emphasize the importance of strengthening links between humanitarian and development assistance.

The Solutions Alliance, established in April 2014, is a new and increasingly important initiative that aims to find durable solutions to the protracted refugees and IDPs situation. Since its launch, Japan has engaged in promoting this initiative, including through our participation in the Zambia and Somalia National Groups. Our contribution so far amounts to 9.54 million dollars in total. We will continue to actively contribute to achieving solutions to the protracted refugees and IDPs

situation through our work with the Solutions Alliance. We are delighted to be able to co-host this Side Event with the Solutions Alliance.

The Side Event on Nexus will examine the 9 operations funded by Japan totaling approximately 115 million dollars to UNHCR and UNDP, in nine countries of Turkey, Jordan, Iraq, Ukraine, Serbia, Lebanon, Uganda, Zambia and Cameroon. Through this assistance we have formulated and are implementing nine model projects of contribution to strengthening the humanitarian and development nexus. In Turkey, under the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP), UNHCR leads Refugee protection and UNDP enhances Resilience through such means as vocational training for both the refugees and the members of the regional host communities. In Uganda, UNHCR and JICA have provided a joint rice training program, which promotes sustainable and independent livelihoods for both refugees and host-communities. These forms of assistance serve to protect refugees and alleviate the burden on host communities while simultaneously promoting refugees' self-reliance with a view to empowering them with the necessary skills to rebuild their home countries after their voluntary return in the future.

Based on the analyses of these actual cases of cooperation, the co-organizers of the Side Event are drafting a Joint Statement to be issued at the Side Event. This Joint Statement will outline the following five points to achieve our aim; a better collaboration between humanitarian and development actors to find solutions for forcibly displaced persons.

- 1) Ensuring meaningful participation of the most affected – host and returnee communities and forcibly displaced people - in the pursuit of solutions to forced displacement.

- 2) Including forced displacement issues in national and local development plans, and in peacebuilding and recovery strategies.
- 3) Marshaling the comparative advantages of humanitarians and development actors for collective action through the promotion of institutional flexibility while respecting fundamental principles.
- 4) Developing a common vision through identification of complementary policies, and joint analysis that enable holistic planning.
- 5) Seeing the humanitarian-development nexus as an integral part of promoting peace and security.

Deputy High Commissioner Ms. Clements will explain in more detail about this Joint Statement. I would like to ask you to consider positively aligning your commitments at WHS with the points advanced in this document. To have a successful and meaningful Side Event, your inputs and insights will be most useful. Please join us to enrich the discussion today as well as at the Side Event in May in Istanbul.

Thank you for your attention.