



# What do we mean by ‘strategic resettlement’?

EMN Norway’s National Conference  
Oslo, 12 June 2015



# Strategic Use of Resettlement: The Concept Defined

- ▶ “The planned use of resettlement...that maximizes the benefits other than those received by the refugee being resettled...”
- ▶ 2003 Discussion Paper prepared by the Working Group on Resettlement:
  - Anchored in the *Agenda for Protection*
- ▶ 2004 Multilateral Framework of Understandings (MFU) intended to support implementation
- ▶ Both the Concept and the MFU were endorsed by ExCom and UNGA

# The Story so Far: Efforts to Use Resettlement Strategically

## ▶ Bhutanese in Nepal

- Successful large-scale resettlement; Effective multilateral coordination mechanisms; Dialogue with Nepal and Bhutan
- BUT...no success in achieving other solutions or benefits, such as access to rights

## ▶ Burundians in Tanzania

- Identified as priority within *High Commissioner's Initiative for Protracted Refugee Situations*
- In 2014, Government of Tanzania took appropriate legal steps to naturalize 200,000 of 1972 Burundian refugees; those who want to return, may return

## ▶ Seven Priority Situations (Afghans, Colombians, Iraqis, Somalis, Congolese, and different nationalities in Turkey)

- Varying levels of multilateral coordination
- Some success in resettlement
- Limited dialogue with host countries
- BUT...no meaningful progress in other solutions

## ▶ Syrians and Congolese

- Progress & positive signs in coordination and outreach to host countries

# Obstacles to Achieving the Strategic Use of Resettlement

- ▶ Perception that added value not yet realized:
  - Little progress in linking resettlement to the achievement of other durable solutions or broader protection dividends
- ▶ *Critical Gaps:*
  - **Failure to engage**
    - Limited engagement with host countries or countries of origin
  - **Absence of effective sequencing strategy**
    - Resettlement not contingent upon progress in other solutions
  - **Lack of coordinated response by all relevant actors**
    - Resettlement remains isolated from humanitarian assistance and development actors

# Resettlement Cannot Always be Strategic...

But we can identify certain “winning conditions”:

- ▶ **First and most importantly - *Political Will***
- ▶ Convergence between foreign policy, humanitarian, development and resettlement actors
- ▶ An identifiable and accessible population
- ▶ Opportunities for self-reliance and autonomy in host countries and/or reintegration prospects at home

# Comprehensive Solutions Strategies and Links to the Strategic Use of Resettlement

## ▶ The Solutions Alliance

- Supports displacement solutions operations
- Places displacement within development lens

## ▶ How to link up to wider solutions strategies?

- Common analysis
- Target situations with potential
- Multi-year, multi-partner strategies
- Common commitment to culture change

# Going Forward - Some Ideas...

- ▶ Forge links between the Working Group on Resettlement and the Solutions Alliance
  - Joint meeting on possible links
  - Possible identification of pilot initiative
- ▶ Greater coherence and linkages between the development of the EU's Regional Development and Protection Programmes (RDPPs) and resettlement to Europe