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## DAC Temporary Working Group on Refugees and Migration

### Draft Summary Record: 2nd Meeting of the DAC Temporary Working Group (TWG) on Refugees and Migration

#### Main Highlights and Action Points

10-11 October 2016

Paris, France

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## **Draft Summary Record: 2nd Meeting of the DAC Temporary Working Group (TWG) on Refugees and Migration**

### **Main Highlights and Action Points**

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### **Main Highlights and Action Points from 2nd Meeting of the DAC Temporary Working Group (TWG) on Refugees and Migration**

The second meeting of the DAC Temporary Working Group on Refugees and Migration, held on the 11th of October was open to non-DAC members including developing countries hosting refugees, international organisations and INGOs (see list of participants in annex). For your reference, the following is a summary of highlights and outcomes from the second meeting:

#### **1. Update on the challenges and opportunities for greater alignment of methods used in ODA reporting of in-donor country refugee costs (Session 2)**

The presentation highlighted that the process of reviewing ODA reporting of in-donor refugee cost is meant to increase transparency, accountability, and credibility. Participants are concerned with increasing the clarity on the rationale for including refugee costs in ODA, mapping the categories of costs currently reported and providing clear data accessible to a larger public. The need to ensure that these costs are additional to development cooperation budget, which is spent outside of donor countries, was emphasized by both DAC members and civil society. Participants raised the possibility of tracking expenditures in countries of origin or transit, which are broader than Official Development Assistance (ODA), under the new Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) measure. Participants warned against the risk of in-donor costs rising if, as a result of the alignment process. Other concerns were raised around the level of detail requested in the survey, the need for continued transparency in the process and the timeline of both the review process and the implementation of any subsequent guidelines. The preliminary results of the follow-up survey will be presented at the next TWG meeting.

#### **2. Addressing priority areas for better programming to deliver comprehensive solutions to the refugee crisis (Session 3)**

This session allowed participants to share experiences and expertise on better programming for comprehensive solutions to refugee situations in countries of origin, transit and destination. Overall the comments emphasized the following:

- Most participants felt the prioritization of areas reflected existing needs, with attention given to coherence (humanitarian/development nexus), financing (concessional financing, Grand Bargain commitments, cash based approaches, risk mitigation, social impact bonds) and business and productive opportunities.
- The TWG was further encouraged to focus on identifying sustainable solutions for refugees in first destination countries; targeting the root causes which lead to forced displacement, particularly with regard to good governance; and documenting support provided to returnees in their countries of origin.
- Participants emphasised the importance of further consideration being given to the role of the private sector and social entrepreneurs.
- The TWG should take into account coping strategies of refugees and the role of local communities, who are often first responders, providing assistance outside the scope of traditional aid programmes.
- Participants emphasised the research and data gap on the impact of refugee programming. More systematic research to assess the economic impact of refugee integration on host communities, their links to informal existing markets and private sector activities could serve to better inform programming, governance decisions and evidence-based advocacy. The participants suggested setting up a platform to provide a central repository of existing research and data on these topics.

- The TWG was also encouraged to ensure that host countries, particularly the least developed countries (LDCs) which host the majority of the world's refugees, are represented in its discussions.
- It was also noted that the work of the TWG would benefit from members sharing good practices as well as lessons learnt with regard to programming in countries of origin and transit.

The Secretariat has compiled an initial summary of good practices using open source material and will approach DAC members to systematically collect more information on their specific experiences, with a particular focus on thematic areas and programming in countries of origin, transit and destination. Based on inputs received during the meeting, the Secretariat will now prepare a draft format of the final work product to be presented to TWG members for review and comments in advance of the next TWG meeting.