

On the occasion of the 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2023,

Caritas Internationalis, RED CLAMOR and the RAEMH are inviting you to a virtual event on

## Durable Solutions to Cross-Border Displacement

TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2023 at 13:00 – 15:45 CET / 12:00 – 14:45 GMT

According to UNHCR's Global Trends Report 2023, the number of people forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, and events seriously disturbing public order, grew in 2022 by 21%. At the end of 2022, 108.4 million people remained uprooted, away from home. In this challenging context durable solutions are crucial to a rights-based, dignified and long term response. Durable solutions enable refugees and IDPs to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity. At present, the international community recognizes three durable solutions for refugees: local integration, resettlement to a third country, and return and reintegration in the country of origin. Complementary pathways and family reunification can also expand third country resettlement options.

Access to these solutions, however, remains limited and a glaring gap in refugee response, when it comes to inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers both in host countries and in resettlement situations.

With conflicts still unsolved, half of the refugee population remains in protracted displacement. Even when conflict situations are resolved, many former refugees and IDPs keep being "on the move". The top refugee-hosting countries are themselves fragile and impacted by conflict, unable to offer socioeconomic development opportunities to refugees and the host community. On the other side, countries from the Global North tend to put repatriation on top of their priorities at the detriment of a long-term local integration in the host and resettlement communities. They prefer to speak of local solutions (short term) rather than local integration (long term). In addition to this, the 'durable solutions' paradigm may be not sufficient to respond to the needs of people displaced in the context of disasters and climate emergency.

The second Global Refugee Forum (Geneva, 13-15 December 2023) offers a unique opportunity to re-examine the assumptions that underpin these traditional solutions and the ways they are implemented so far by States and the international community to ensure a more balanced approach, also in the light of the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation.

- How can faith-based organizations and civil society actors safeguard the institution of asylum as a precondition for durable solutions and widen the range of pathways available for refugees and other people in need of international protection?
- In what ways do they contribute to rethinking and rebalancing durable solutions, also in the light of new environmental and climate emergency -induced challenges?
- How do they address the protection gap and inclusion-needs of refugees and asylum seekers who risk being trapped in situations of protracted displacement?
- Which evidence can they bring to counteract forced repatriation and foster safe, voluntary, and dignified returns as well as smooth reintegration in the countries of origin?

Representatives of Caritas organizations and human mobility networks as well as other civil society actors will share their experiences and discuss new pastoral and advocacy strategies.

**Moderation:** Cecilia Nicoletti, Leïla Bodeux, Elvy Monzant, Manuela de Marco and Fanny Curet.

**Key-note speakers:** Mr Alberto Negri, Italian journalist and war correspondent and

Ms Ana De Vega, Senior Durable Solutions Officer at UNHCR Italy

English, Spanish, French and Italian interpretation will be provided.



Refugees at a transit camp in Idomeni, Greece, Oct. 2015. Credit: Caritas Internationalis

### To know more about durable solutions to cross-border displacement:

- *The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.*
- United Nations, *The Global Compact on Refugees*, December 2018.
- UNHCR, *Global Trends. Forced Displacement in 2022*, June 2023.
- Danish Refugee Council et al., *Joint NGO Recommendations on durable solutions for the Global Compact on Refugees' Programme of Action*, May 2020.
- IFRC, Danish Red Cross, Climate Centre, *Displacement, Climate and Durable solutions*, 2008.

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