Focusing on Protection: Previewing Upcoming High-Level Fora on Migration

Schedule of Major International Humanitarian Events in 2016

Syria Crisis Conference (aka “Syria IV”): February 4, London, co-hosted by the UN Secretary General and the United Kingdom, Norway, Kuwait, and Germany.
Goals: Raise significant new funds both to meet immediate needs inside Syria and support neighboring countries; support schooling and job creation to address longer-term needs of those affected by the crisis; identify long-term funding solutions.

Solutions Alliance Thematic Group on Engaging the Private Sector: February 9-10, Brussels, Belgium, co-chaired by Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNHCR, UNDP, and the International Rescue Committee (IRC).
Goals: Promote and enable the transition for displaced persons away from dependency towards increased resilience, self-reliance and development.

High-Level Meeting on Legal Pathways for Syrians: March 30, Geneva, under aegis of the UN Secretary General and led by UNHCR.
Goals: Generate pledges for resettlement or for other legal pathways to protection for Syrians such as humanitarian/labor/student/family visas, as well as family reunification and methods of enabling resettlement, e.g. private sponsorship of resettlement.

Goals: To build agreement among key stakeholders on the principles of a new approach to the challenge of protracted displacement and put in place pilot projects to test this approach.

World Humanitarian Summit: May 23-24, Istanbul, an initiative of the UN Secretary General, managed by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
Goals: To propose solutions to the most pressing global challenges to keep humanitarian action fit for the future, and to reshape the global humanitarian agenda by addressing financing and humanitarian challenges in order; refugees/displaced persons will have prominence in the agenda.

High-Level Plenary Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees & Migrants: September 19, New York, a special session of the UN General Assembly.
Goals: To reach a new "global agreement" on responsibility sharing in the context of refugees and vulnerable migrants. A Secretary General’s report due in May will make recommendations on how to address large-scale movements of migrants and refugees.

Goals: To secure new commitments and sustained support for UN humanitarian appeals; greater opportunities for resettlement; and expanded opportunities for refugee self-reliance through access to education, legal employment, and other measures.