Programme

Berlin Summer Dialogue 2015
International responsibility in refugee situations: Prevention – regional stability – peace work

Berlin Town Hall
17-18 June 2015

Conference languages
German and English (simultaneous interpretation)

With financial support of

#summerdialogue
About 1.5 billion people live in countries plagued by armed conflict and violence. That is why there are currently over 56 million refugees. Many remain inside their own national borders as internally displaced persons (IDP). The war in Syria has driven more than 7 million people out of their homes within the country itself; over 3 million have fled to neighbouring countries. The violent conflict within Syria has thus developed into the greatest humanitarian crisis witnessed for 20 years. Yet this is not the only region where the situation is precarious. According to the UNHCR, the countries with the next highest numbers of refugees and IDPs are Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan.

The international community gives considerable international support in refugee situations. Yet the need for assistance in regions affected by violent conflicts and fragility is still enormous.

For this reason, this year’s Berlin Summer Dialogue proposes to identify and discuss central aspects of international responsibility in refugee situations. It will focus on the responsibility of the international community beyond its own national borders*. The main topic will be the refugee situation in Syria and adjoining states; at the same time, participants will discuss examples of good practice and lasting challenges from other regions, along with the question of whether strategies can be transferred to other regions.

Experts from politics, international organisations, civil society and academia will – in several panels – explore whether sufficient action is being taken to prevent people being displaced and having to flee their country. Is there enough prevention and is enough being done to remove the structural causes of conflicts? At the same time, we will ask whether the importance of support for neighbouring countries is always kept in mind; after all, their infrastructures are often put under great strain through the arrival of high numbers of refugees. Such support could be a way of securing regional stability. How can work with refugees and peace-building be related to one another so that refugees do not just receive basic necessities but can themselves contribute to shaping a peaceful future? Finally, we intend to talk about how the individual elements of international involvement can be made to interconnect better.

* German and European asylum and refugee policies of course constitute an important part of international responsibility as well. At this event, however, the organisers are explicitly concentrating on responsibility in conflict regions.
Wednesday, 17 June 2015

10.30 hrs  Registration

WELCOME

11.00 hrs  Hella Dunger-Löper
State Secretary
State of Berlin Delegate to the Federation
Commissioner for European Affairs
Commissioner for Active Citizenship

Dr Michèle Roth
Executive Director
Development and Peace Foundation (sef), Bonn

SESSION I
INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN VIEW OF MASS REFUGEE DISPLACEMENT THROUGH CONFLICTS

“The international community promises to assume its responsibility,” state the final documents of many summits. By contrast, newspaper headings all over the world demand “The international community must finally take its responsibility.” Yet what does international responsibility cover in view of the current refugee situations? What aid delivery and political action are required and who can provide them? How can international and regional organisations cooperate efficiently, and also involve individual states and implementing organisations? What regions and states have a particular responsibility?

CHAIR
Dr Michèle Roth
Executive Director
Development and Peace Foundation (sef), Bonn

11.15 hrs  Keynotes

Amin Awad
Director and Regional Refugee Coordinator
Regional Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Amman

Dr Friedrich Kitschelt
State Secretary
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Bonn/Berlin
Member of the Board of Trustees of the Development and Peace Foundation (sef), Bonn

followed by  Plenary discussion

13.00 hrs  Lunch break
Armed conflicts and crises, along with mass refugee displacement can only be sustainably prevented if it is possible to successfully tackle their structural causes. To that end, it is essential that the many reasons for fleeing are dealt with through multi-dimensional instruments of international cooperation. These include, in particular, civil conflict prevention and promoting human rights, good governance and the rule of law. Other areas of action are expanding infrastructure and education systems, creating economic prospects and empowering civil society in fragile states and regions.

What good practice examples are there of addressing the structural reasons why people flee and are forcibly displaced on the level of civil society? What lessons can we learn from this for the current refugee situations?

**CHAIR**

Kathrin Lorenz  
Head of Sector Programme Peace and Security  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Berlin

**14.15 hrs Inputs**

**Dr Eltje Aderhold**  
Director for Humanitarian Aid  
Directorate-General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation and Post-Conflict Reconstruction  
Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

**Oliver Knabe**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Forum Civil Peace Service e.V., Cologne

**Dr Ramy Lakkis**  
Director  
Lebanese Organisation for Studies and Training (LOST), Beirut

**followed by**  
Plenary discussion

**16.15 hrs**  
Coffee break
SESSION III
SUPPORTING AND STABILISING COUNTRIES RECEIVING REFUGEES IN CRISIS REGIONS

The neighbouring countries in crisis regions are mostly the largest host countries and therefore also the most important supporters in the respective conflict. Their economic structures and public supply channels need back-up from the international community, as do their educational and health facilities. Also countries with IDPs or returning refugees need support to (re)integrate them and strengthen social cohesion at the local level. During the Syrian crisis, the UN launched the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), that is managed regionally and is being implemented in Syria and the neighbouring countries concerned.

What actual support do the neighbouring countries need in a context bristling with crises and conflicts? What experience has already been gained from the 3RP initiative in Syria, and what can be transferred to other regions? How can there be a more consistent policy of support and stabilisation of host countries in crisis regions in order to further contribute to securing a sustainable peace?

CHAIR
Kathrin Lorenz
Head of Sector Programme Peace and Security
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Berlin

16.45 hrs
Inputs
Tim Eaton
Project Manager
Syria and its Neighbours Policy Initiative
Chatham House, London
Feda Gharaibeh
Director
Humanitarian Relief Coordination Unit
Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation Jordan, Amman
Jason Pronyk
Development Coordinator UNDP Sub-Regional Response Facility
3RP Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan 2015-2016, Amman
Irem Somer
Association for Solidarity with Refugees (Mülteci-Der), Izmir

followed by
Plenary discussion

RECEPTION

19.00 hrs
Reception at Town Hall Berlin
at the invitation of the Governing Mayor of Berlin
SESSION IV
PRACTICAL PEACE WORK – SENSITIVITY TO CONFLICTS WHEN ACCOMPANYING REFUGEES

Refugees often have to leave their social and economic environment behind them for many years. They are often traumatised by experiences of violence, and the loss of family members and friends. Practical work with refugees therefore focuses on fundamentally improving their life circumstances. That means guaranteeing human rights, food security, sensitivity to conflict when dealing with traumatised refugees and providing psychological accompaniment as they (re)integrate into their home countries or host states.

How can support for refugees accomplish more than just meeting basic needs, without creating new conflicts? What positive role can refugees play in peace-building and development processes? How can they be better integrated? What successful examples are there from real life?

CHAIR
Professor Tobias Debiel
Member of the Executive Committee of the Development and Peace Foundation (sef), Bonn,
Director of the Käte Hamburger Kolleg/Centre for Global Cooperation Research (KHK/GCR21),
Director of the Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), Duisburg

10.00 hrs
Inputs
Dr. Amanda Coffie
Research Fellow
Legon Center for International Affairs and Diplomacy
University of Ghana, Accra

Gudrun Kramer
Project Coordinator
Regional Social and Cultural Fund for Palestinian Refugees and Gaza Population
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), East Jerusalem

followed by
Plenary discussion

12.00 hrs
Lunch break with snacks
In order to meet their responsibility for current and future refugee situations, the international community must coordinate individual policy elements even better and more efficiently. This will be on the agenda at the first UN World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016, to be preceded by a worldwide consultation process.

How can political strategies and crisis prevention, development cooperation and humanitarian aid be better interconnected, in order to guarantee refugees a life with dignity and prospects for their future? What demands do participants raise in this regard for the World Humanitarian Summit 2016? What are the lasting challenges facing an integrated approach to crisis prevention and refugee policy in Germany, the EU and worldwide?

CHAIR
Professor Tobias Debiel
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Director of the Käte Hamburger Kolleg / Centre for Global Cooperation Research (KHK/GCR21),
Director of the Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), Duisburg

12.45 hrs
Inputs
Dr Eltje Aderhold
Director for Humanitarian Aid
Directorate-General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation and Post-Conflict Reconstruction
Federal Foreign Office, Berlin
Michael Kingsley-Nyinah
Director
Syria Field Office
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), Amman

Johannes Luchner
Advisor to the Director General
Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)
European Commission, Brussels

Dr Ulrike von Pilar
Humanitarian Advisor
Doctors without Borders (MSF), Berlin

followed by
Plenary discussion

14.15 hrs
Closing remarks by the organisers