

INCLUSIVITY: THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

INSTITUTIONAL LEAD

Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation

MODERATOR

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OVERVIEW

The session explored how interventions that seek to achieve immediate stabilization can promote inclusivity and contribute to long-term efforts to build inclusive and sustainable peace and development. The session discussed how the United Nations and other international actors can support the implementation of inclusivity-related frameworks at the country level, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the resolutions on sustaining peace, and the agendas for women, peace and security and for youth, peace and security. The discussions were contextualized with examples from Jordan, Colombia and Sri Lanka.

FOCUS AND OBJECTIVES

The session addressed three questions: How can inclusive approaches be adopted early on in prevention and crisis response? What mechanisms are needed to ensure that short-term interventions contribute to broader inclusivity efforts? What are the positive and negative experiences of international actors supporting inclusivity at various stages of humanitarian, peace and development efforts?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Although there is strong recognition of the importance of inclusivity in international normative frameworks, there is still an enormous gap between policies and reality. There is a need to continue the conversation on how to implement inclusivity-related frameworks in practice. It is necessary for international actors to work with local civil society and support local initiatives from the bottom-up rather than using a top-down approach to implementing the frameworks. Capacity building, funding and providing spaces are needed to strengthen existing networks that already work to promote inclusion, linking local and international efforts.

Experiences from Sri Lanka suggest that the UN system consciously considers ways to strengthen inclusivity through the localization of the above-mentioned frameworks. Working at the invitation of the government comes with challenges related to a lack of political will and changes in government. The UN could further enhance its efforts to promote inclusivity by investing in key individuals while ensuring institutional memory, working creatively across the frameworks, and increasing and restructuring funding for local actors.

In Colombia, inclusivity was a key consideration in the peace process. While the negotiations were initially rather exclusive, civil society—at times in alliance with international actors based in Colombia—exerted pressure to be included, convincing the parties to adopt a more inclusive approach. Civil society has an important role to play at all stages of a peace process and inclusion should be applied already when designing it. Sweden prioritized civil society inclusion throughout its support to the Colombian peace process, and the political support was often more important than the financial.

In Jordan and the Middle East and North Africa, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has started to create inclusive partnerships in refugee crisis response. Conversations with new stakeholders such as the private sector and civil society are incorporated earlier in the process and a network of civil society organizations for displacement has recently been created in



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Two memorable quotes at the #SthlmForum inclusion panel, @shadenkhallaf on displacement quoting #naguibmahfouz 'home is where all your attempts to escape cease' & @borjapax 'inclusion should be by design, not as a concession.' @SIPRIorg @SwedenUN @UNDP @UNDP_Sweden @SweMFA

♡ 2 11:31 AM - May 15, 2019

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Screen capture taken by screenshot.guru on Wed, 15 May 2019 11:50:34 GMT.
Permalink: twitter.com/samuelrizk/status/1128623828660293633



Dag Hammarskjöld
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Including #refugees and displaced persons in crises response and future planning for #SustainingPeace is essential for #inclusivity. Successes from the MENA region show voices at the decision table and in funding happen through unique partnerships. #GlobalCompact #SthlmForum

♡ 12:14 PM - May 15, 2019

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Screen capture taken by screenshot.guru on Wed, 15 May 2019 12:16:26 GMT.
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the region. There are also joint initiatives between the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UNHCR that bridge short-term relief with longer-term development efforts. With a very young population, the inclusion of children and youths is another key inclusivity-related consideration in Jordan. Young people need to be invited to join conversations that concern them and be provided with more spaces and opportunities, opened up with new stakeholders, incorporated earlier in the process. There is more flexibility in partnerships, while mandates and principles are maintained.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTORS WHEN PROMOTING INCLUSION OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS

- Use the local context as the starting point, rather than the international frameworks.
- Apply an intersectional approach by recognizing the multiple reasons for marginalization and exclusion.
- Invite those that are excluded to represent themselves rather than analysing their situation for them.
- Use language and terminology that are accessible to those concerned.
- Understand and try to overcome practical barriers to inclusion that may prevent groups or individuals from participating in processes despite being invited to partake.



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