



8th International Conference on Building Resilience, 14-16 November 2018, Lisbon

Considering the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 we expect submissions to be aligned, in particular, with priority 4 **‘Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction’**

Track: **4D**

Anticipating and responding to forced displacement: focus on people

Description of Track Scope

There are almost 65 million forcibly displaced people in the world, the highest number since the Second World War. While encampment has long been the cornerstone of humanitarian and governments’ response to forced displacement, only 25% of the world’s refugees live in camps usually organized by the UNHCR and built on public land, while others settle informally in urban and rural areas. Whether in camps or in urban settings, refugee situations are usually planned and managed based on temporary and generalized approaches, without any considerations for refugees’ sociocultural background and the political, economic, and social context in the host country. Yet, statistics show that these situations often become protracted and last for an average of 26 years.

Eighty-five per cent of the world refugees are in the MENA region, where hosting states are often middle income and developing countries that get severely strained by refugee influx in many sectors such as economy, affordable housing, and services. In Western countries, dealing with refugee situations entails other challenges. However, hosting policies vary from one place to another and remain at discretion of the hosting state whose sovereignty goes before any other

consideration. Moreover, responding to the full range of constraints facing the displaced in protracted situations is beyond the scope of any one actor or sector. There are collaborative roles for humanitarian, development, political and human-rights actors, at international, national and local levels.

The overall objective of the track is to provide a platform and stimulate discussion on issues surrounding various aspects of refugee hosting and settlement policies/challenges for more adapted approaches and for a better social justice for refugees and vulnerable host communities.

Themes

- Organizing refuge vs. keeping it informal
- Defining the impact of hosting policies on refugees and vulnerable host communities
- Identifying modalities and solutions in housing and sheltering refugees
- Managing refugee situations according to temporary approaches vs. sustainable approaches
- Perceiving refugees as a burden or an economic opportunity
- Addressing the role of different stakeholders in the management of refugee crisis
- Debating about the contested role of humanitarian organizations
- Defining tools and strategies for the preservation of the cultural identity in a context of forced migration
- Discussing refugees' role as passive beneficiaries of aid vs. persons capable of agency, resilience, and creativity
- Debating about whether refugees more entitled for help and assistance than economic migrants
- Addressing closed borders policies in an era of mobility and globalization.

Deadline

Abstract submissions close 15 April 2018, 12PM, GMT + 1,00 TIME.

For more information and online submission, please visit buildresilience.org/2018

Track chair and co-chair information

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Conference promo Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wojvyCXf1LM>