



ITU-GSMA Regional Training Workshop on ICTs for Disasters Management for Arab States

Khartoum, Sudan 28-29 August 2017

Nizar Zeidan

Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector (RETS)

UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)





Session 4: Role of Network Service Operators for Disaster Risk Reduction

Creating a bulletproof Digital Identity

Nizar Zeidan

Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector (RETS)

UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)





UNHCR - Refugee Challenge



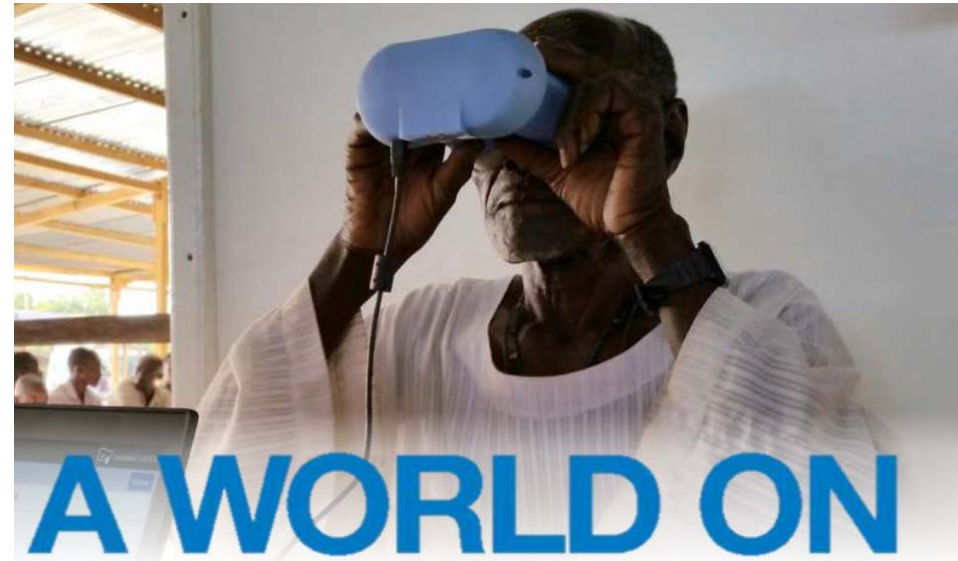
Creating a bulletproof Digital





Digital Identity

- UNHCR's programme delivery depend on identity data
- Using biometrics since 2002
- BIMS (global) and IrisGuard (focused on Syria Response)
- Over 3.5m identities are currently biometrically enrolled by UNHCR



A WORLD ON THE MOVE

New Technology for Enhanced Protection and Solutions for Refugees



Registration (Jordan)

Thousands of individuals moving across the Syrian-Jordan border daily in 2012-2013:

- Mitigate risks associated with identity substitution and fraudulent family composition
- Detect and deter individuals seeking multiple registration
- Reduce the risk of identity theft
- Detect multiple registrations across different countries of asylum
- Support continuous registration, data credibility, and accountability





Key Partnerships

- UNHCR – IrisGuard innovative partnership to integrate iris enrollments with UNHCR’s corporate registration software into the EyeBank Iris Farm Architecture.
- 2013: UNHCR extends deployment of iris technology to Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Syria.
- 2014: UNHCR enrolls 1 million individuals.
- 2016: 2 million individuals biometrically enrolled [92%] of the registered population.
- Cairo Amman Bank – the assistance delivery partner for UNHCR – had pioneered the use of biometrics in its banking system, by introducing iris scan technology in 85 branches, and 200 ATMs across the kingdom.





Benefits

- Refugees access assistance with speed and dignity
- Card-less/PIN-less tool ensures identity in real-time : 24 hour activation
- Eliminates fraud
- Humanitarian partners are guaranteed cash assistance reaches intended recipients who need assistance the most
- Assistance is traceable improving transparency and internal accountability
- Cost-effective
- Aid agencies receive detailed reporting of assistance disbursement improving reporting and audit requirements
- Improved credibility with resettlement countries
- Extension of secure access to biometric database need for other organizations





Identity

UNHCR is working with key partners on the development of digital identity to allow refugees and stateless people to demonstrate their identities.

UNHCR undertakes identity management processes for its beneficiaries to facilitate its programme delivery, protection, assistance and solutions, and also to increase individuals' access to their rights and support empowerment.

UNHCR is commencing work with key partners (including UN agencies and private sector partners) to examine the possibility of developing a digital identity system which:

- allows beneficiaries to access services (banking, health, education, etc);
- and also functions as legal identity





Thank You





Session 5: Role of Partnerships for Disaster Management

Partnership for Disaster Response & Assistance on Emergency Telecommunications

Nizar Zeidan

Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector (RETS)

UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)





Engages a wide array of stakeholders

- national and local authorities;
- international and regional organizations and financial institutions;
- civil society partners (including faith-based, academia, media, and private sector);
- refugees

(CRR) framework



An MSB team setting up an office and accommodation facilities for UNHCR emergency operation in South Sudan, 2012 ©UNHCR/MSB





Emergency Standby partners

- Personnel deployment
- Service packages

(CRR) framework



A base camp service package providing a mobile office at onset of an emergency. ©UNHCR/IHP





Delivering to partners-through-partners

- Connecting Sites, Bridging Gaps
- Supporting Safety & Security

(CRR) framework



Mounting the emergency.lu satellite terminal in the UNHCR office, Diffa. Photo: UNHCR/ Fardy Mandy





Thank You





Session 7: Role of International, Regional & National Organizations in humanitarian operations

UNHCR ICT Activities on Disaster Management

Nizar Zeidan

Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector (RETS)

UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)




Refugee Emergency Telecoms Sector

- Vital communications in refugee operations
- Identified within Refugee Coordination Model
- Delivering with partners.







RETS Users & Services

- UNHCR
- Partners inc. government agencies, authorities & services involved in the refugee response
- Wider humanitarian community



SERVICES AVAILABLE

 Coordination	 Internet
 Security Comms	 User Support



RETS Coordinators

- RETS Coordinators deploy within 72 hours of UNHCR emergency declaration
- Facilitate effective & timely delivery of ICT services
- Close collaboration with Country Office



Partners

- Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
- Host & Donor Governments
- Private sector partners

UNHCR remains accountable



Operations

- Northern Uganda
- North-Eastern Angola
- South-Eastern Niger – emergency.lu





Thank You

