Statement by the United States of America

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Item 7 – Oral update on UNICEF humanitarian action

as delivered

The United States is pleased to see this Blueprint for Action and collaboration between UNHCR and UNICEF. This laudable initiative stands to contribute to global efforts to ensure that refugee children and host communities are not left behind.

The strategies defined in this action plan could advance UNICEF’s and the global agenda to create more equitable and inclusive systems that deliver quality child protection and education.

We appreciate the clear targets laid out in the Blueprint for Action – we note that they are quite ambitious. We encourage UNICEF to provide the data sources underlying baseline levels so that the goals and sustainability of expected achievements can be more transparently assessed.

We support the Blueprint's prioritization of WASH, education, and protection including mental health and psychosocial support. We are curious how the Blueprint will also prioritize critical health care and nutrition interventions since a cohesive package of life-saving health care interventions for mothers, newborns and children in such settings is paramount.

We encourage UNICEF to align the education results to the Strategic Plan by including a result on measurable improvements in learning outcomes for refugee and host community children so that UNICEF and UNHCR can ensure that access is indeed leading to improved learning outcomes and quality education.
We welcome the special policy brief on internally displaced children released in May. The brief noted that at the end of 2019, nearly half of the 46 million people internally displaced by conflict and violence were children. That is 19 million children.

What is UNICEF specifically doing to promote protection, assistance, and solutions for IDPs in humanitarian responses, including through its cluster lead roles in Child protection, Nutrition, WASH and Education?

How are IDPs being considered in the context of UNICEF’s work on the Nexus?

We congratulate the Global WASH Cluster on the appointment of a new Global Cluster Coordinator and welcome collaboration with the new post holder. We thank UNICEF for the notable efforts at transparency and sector engagement throughout the recruitment.