

Online Roundtable November 2025

6 On November 14th, 2025, around 23 participants from NGOs, research institutions, international organizations, and community-based initiatives registered for a new edition of the Generation Restoration roundtable. The guiding question this time:

«Which practices, protocols and principles could be applied consistently across different camps or communities?»

While previous sessions focused on “institutionalization,” this roundtable took the conversation one step further – toward standardization. The first goal was to revisit the institutionalization working group documents that the participants have filled out before the roundtable. Secondly, we consolidated the work from all roundtables reaching from alignment to institutionalization to the wrap-up of standardization. Within our brainstorming session, we started to talk about the question «Which practices, protocols and principles could be applied consistently across different camps or communities?» and gathered first insights. More is to come in February when the participants have worked on collecting more ideas on the topic.

From Scaling to Standardization

This roundtable marked another step in the process of standardizing regenerative approaches in displacement contexts – a core part of Generation Restoration’s strategy to unlock social and financial capital for long-term transformation.

Scaling has been a recurring theme in previous sessions. Two working groups had previously explored key learnings on seed sovereignty and impact assessment. The roundtable in May focused on the first stage of standardization: alignment. Participants identified shared challenges in coordinating resources and strategies, and emphasized the importance of engaging funders early on. The roundtable in August has built on these insights – with a focus on institutional pathways and long-term system change.

The participants gathered various key points in the current collaboration and how they imagine the collaboration to develop:

WORKING GROUP KEY FINDINGS

Collaboration with IOs and NGOs

1. Unexpected changes in expectations or reporting requests
2. Skills for monitoring & evaluations are missing
3. Most funders do not visit projects in the field.
4. Visibility for projects is building trust for new partners
5. Virtual meetings help with regular feedback on the project for the GROs.
6. Local organizations to form consortiums and share knowledge and help each other e.g. in reporting. Makes it also easier to communicate with IOs.

What is needed?

- **Mutually beneficial partnerships** – Offer value to the NGO/IO, such as local expertise, community networks, or technical skills, while also benefiting from their resources and reach.
- **Budgets and project plans.** For IOs and NGOs, GROs are often expected to present detailed budgets and project plans before receiving any support. However, most refugee-led organizations do not have accountants or trained project managers. This creates a gap between expectations and capacity.
- **Long-Term Partnerships:** Short-term projects often end before real impact is achieved. Multi-year partnerships are needed to ensure sustainability in refugee settings.
- **Fair Funding Distribution:** Local GROs often receive very small sub-grants while larger INGOs take most of the funds. More equitable funding structures would empower grassroots actors.
- **Technology & Tools:** Access to digital tools (laptops, internet, software) should be part of collaboration, since the lack of equipment makes reporting and communication very difficult for refugee GROs.
- **Cultural Understanding:** IOs and NGOs should consider the cultural and social dynamics of refugee communities when designing projects to avoid mismatches with local realities.

WORKING GROUP KEY FINDINGS

Collaboration with Governmental bodies

1. Bureaucratic delays and strict requirements
2. If a refugee-led GRO does not have a formal office or strong visibility in the community, government officials may hesitate to support its initiatives.

3. Effective involvement requires early engagement with local leaders — chiefs, camp leaders, women representatives, and youth leaders.
4. Corruption and politics. Officials sometimes expect informal payments to facilitate visits or approvals
5. Refugees are often given land that is unsuitable for agriculture
6. Virtual meetings help with regular feedback on the project for the GROs.
7. Local organizations to form consortiums and share knowledge and help each other e.g. in reporting. Makes it also easier to communicate with IOs.

What is needed?

- **Establishing joint planning platforms** between government and GROs to co-design interventions.
- **Enhancing information flow** to ensure policies and opportunities reach grassroots actors.
- **Providing technical and institutional support** to GROs to help align their activities with government priorities and standards.
- **Localization agenda:** True localization should mean shifting power and resources closer to the communities affected. This includes direct funding for refugee-led initiatives, capacity-building programs, and fair partnerships where GROs are co-designers, not just implementers.

In the brainstorming session, we shared some first thoughts on the question «Which practices, protocols and principles could be applied consistently across different camps or communities?»:

- Awareness Campaigns (land is not fertile; seeds need to be conserved...)
- Implement groups for exchange in camps
- Implement continuous virtual exchanges

We also asked the follow-on question «What hinders consistent application and sharing with one another?». The answer was that travel and food provision oftentimes hinders refugees to visit one another. Hence, we will collect some viewpoints on the question «Would regular virtual Zoom/Google Meet calls assist to share practices with one another?» and on «How would you set up these regular virtual Zoom/Google Meet calls to share practices with one another?» in order to find out what is needed to apply consistent practices, protocols and principles.

The next roundtable takes place on February 20, 2026, online via Zoom.

Join the movement

Coordinating these efforts is the motivation and reasoning behind the establishment of Generation Restoration e.V.

Important Links to follow-up:

- Save the Date: Online Roundtable on February 20th, 2026, 9am EAT ([Registration here](#))
- Join WhatsApp Group of the Roundtable
- Join Linkedin Group of Generation Restoration
- Share your projects with us (send them to vorstand@gen-r.de)
- Subscribe to our Newsletter
- Distribute the information among your personal and professional network

Save the date – register now!

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