



The role of the Global Compact on Refugees in the international response to the COVID-19 pandemic

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INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has consequences for everyone, and responses to it should reach the most vulnerable. Asylum-seekers, refugees, people who are internally displaced (IDPs) or stateless, and other people on the move face risks to their health, protection, and resilience and challenges in accessing their rights. The pandemic is not only challenging global health systems, but also testing our common humanity. The worst may be yet to come, especially in the developing world and countries weakened by conflict and political instability. When considering the possible wider impacts of an outbreak of infection in host communities, support to a refugee camp or settlement and their hosts, or to refugees in urban settings, is not only a duty, but also in everyone's interest. No one can be truly safe until everyone is safe. The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) provides arrangements that support these communities both in this response and in preparation for the future. This note sets out ways that the GCR and the related commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) can support refugees and other people of concern, as well as their host countries and communities, in the response to the pandemic.

KEY PRINCIPLES

Burden and responsibility sharing

The Secretary-General's call for shared responsibility and global solidarity in response to the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 resonates with the GCR principle of burden and responsibility sharing. The global challenges posed by the pandemic require international cooperation, through concrete, practical immediate and future measures to support low- and middle-income host countries whose health and social protection systems are already strained. It is also vital to keep regular programming on track in the current situation, so that funds are not diverted from critical protection interventions or other humanitarian and development programming to pay for short-term projects.

Burden and responsibility sharing requires the broadened and deepened engagement of all actors through a multi-stakeholder and partnership approach (GCR, section 3.2). The most effective response to the pandemic will be one where every actor plays their part. UNHCR promotes a whole-of-government and whole-of-society response to complement efforts in the health and other sectors, in line with the GCR (paras 20-21, 33-44). The deepened engagement of refugees themselves, civil society, development actors, the private sector, INGOs, NNGOs, community-led organizations, and faith-based groups is key to mitigating risks and localizing the response in all sectors across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

Protection

The GCR reaffirms the importance of the international refugee regime. International refugee law continues to apply, even – and especially – in times like these when countries may need adapt their asylum systems to admit those in need of protection while protecting the health of their own populations. “Adaptability” is one of the aspects of a quality asylum system recognized in the GCR (para 62). The GCR further notes that support through the Asylum Capacity Support Group (ACSG) can be activated at the request of a concerned State to assist its national authorities to strengthen or adapt aspects of their asylum systems (ibid). The GCR also provides for the international community to support and adapt ‘protection-sensitive arrangements for health assessments of new arrivals’ (para 57) and the identification and response to individuals with specific needs (sec 1.5), such as women and girls at risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), or people who are elderly, have disabilities or medical needs, or are in detention).

The protection of people is central to the response. In the context of COVID-19, the UN Secretary-General affirmed that people and their rights need to be at front and centre. By respecting human rights, we will build better responses for the emergency today and solutions for recovery in the longer term. This requires assessing needs and developing responses through an Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) lens to ensure that no one is left behind. For example, the GCR promotes gender equality, empowerment, and meaningful engagement of refugee women and girls and an end to SGBV. As the pandemic has gendered impacts, including an increased risk of SGBV, women need to be at the center of the response and SGBV services strengthened in both national and civil society programmes.

Inclusion in national systems

In some contexts, the economic strain, xenophobia, and discrimination resulting from the pandemic threaten to slow the momentum towards the inclusion of refugees, IDPs, stateless people in health and social protection systems and economies envisioned in the GCR. Yet in others, governments are stepping up inclusion efforts, in recognition that the response to a public health crisis can only be effective if it reaches everyone. Inclusion is vital for health, social protection, welfare, and solutions (e.g. education and planning for return to school). It also helps to contain the virus and mitigate its wider impacts. As the virus can affect people of any nationality or status, broad-based inclusion efforts are the only way to contain its spread effectively and protect the health of refugees and host communities. Several governments have already implemented policies in recognition of this.

This requires political will, financing, planning, monitoring, and accountability to strengthen the capacity of systems to cope and ensure continued progress towards inclusion. UNHCR is engaged with Ministries of Health, other government entities, and WHO on the inclusion efforts in regional, national, and local preparedness and response plans, and supports local authorities in preparing responses for their entire communities. Development actors, closely working with line ministries, also play an important role in supporting inclusion in the national and local responses. Civil society actors, particularly local and national actors, have been filling crucial gaps in ground-level responses and are keen to see inclusion become more firmly embedded in official policy approaches. This will help to relieve strain on their limited resources and enable them to support holistic, long-term solutions.

Solutions

One of the primary objectives of the GCR is to facilitate access to third country solutions (para 7), including by planning for solutions from the outset of refugee situations (para 85). This priority remains paramount, even within the COVID-19 pandemic context. Alongside preparedness and emergency response, resettlement processes need to continue, and regular resettlement departures need to resume as soon as conditions allow. The international community needs to continue to support countries of origin to create conditions for voluntary repatriation and offer support to States who seek to take steps to integrate refugees locally. The pledges made at the GRF and the three Support Platforms (IGAD, MIRPS, SSAR) launched at GRF can help sustain the momentum for the achievement of solutions.

SUPPORT FOR THE RESPONSE

Prioritized follow-up on GRF pledges for health, WASH, social protection, education and livelihoods

Although the COVID-19 pandemic could delay the implementation of some pledges made at the GRF, it can accelerate others. ***Social safety nets*** inclusive of refugees, stateless persons and other persons in need of protection should be expanded where possible. This can be supported through leveraging partnerships and matching financial, technical, and material pledges to support pledges made by host countries at the GRF towards health and WASH, economic inclusion, and social protection. A sample list of such pledges is provided in the annex to this Note.

The GCR promotes strengthening inclusive ***health systems*** to avoid the need for parallel systems to cater to the needs of refugees. Parallel humanitarian health systems may have a significant role to play in acute emergencies and/or when national systems are under increased strain. In the medium to longer-term, the GCR envisions planning for socio-economic impact mitigation measures from the onset of a crisis. This can help to preserve trust, integration, and economic opportunities for refugees and people who are internally displaced or stateless. It will be key to support and invest in the implementation of pledges made by host countries at the GRF towards the inclusion of refugees in national programmes and development planning, education, livelihoods development, and access to public services.

The economic impact of COVID-19 and lockdowns has led to loss of ***livelihoods*** for refugees. Most cannot afford to be unemployed, do not have savings, cannot work from home, and must either expose themselves to risk of contracting COVID-19 or fall further into poverty. Minimizing the risk of losing livelihoods requires the inclusion of refugees in national public works, value chain development, and extension of grants/credits to businesses, as well as the provision of cash transfers and short-term jobs. The GRF pledges present an opportunity to support such efforts.

Protection mechanisms

States are ***adapting their asylum systems*** to the realities of COVID-19 in order to continue to identify and protect persons in need of international protection and prevent the creation of unmanageable case backlogs. Some States are introducing measures for the automatic or remote renewal of asylum-seeker and refugee documentation, remote registration and interviews, and prioritization of certain cases. UNHCR has been encouraging States to take such measures and has been providing advice and support on these issues.

UNHCR could use the ***ACSG mechanism*** to make further support available to States wishing to adapt their systems. The ACSG mechanism foresees coordinating support to increase the adaptability of asylum systems to prepare for unexpected or novel circumstances. Lessons learned and good practices developed in the context of COVID-19 could be brought to the ACSG mechanism and expanded in the future.

Pledges and good practices related to supporting ***emergency response*** efforts, as well as for protection services and systems for ***people with specific needs*** (such as women and girls, children and youth, and people who are at risk of SGBV, people with disabilities, older persons, people with medical needs, and those who are in detention as per GCR para 60) could be supported and scaled in the context of the COVID-19 response. Pledges promoting gender equality or the meaningful participation of refugees also could be supported and accelerated.

Human rights mechanisms and systems could be engaged to ensure the protection of refugees and people who are internally displaced or stateless in the current context. For example, the Inter-American Human Rights System has advocated for the respect of the rights of refugees, migrants and displaced persons in a variety of statements, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights adopted [resolution 77/20](#) in relation to COVID-19. Likewise, various UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies have [commented](#) on the urgency of respecting the human

right of refugees, IDPs, and other vulnerable people on the move in any State responses to COVID-19. This includes the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Multi-stakeholder and partnership approach

Involving all actors and agreeing on mechanisms for support to the most vulnerable are crucial in a united response to the pandemic. The GCR and GRF have enabled the broadened and deepened partnerships so important to responding to this crisis both now and over the longer term – from development actors to UN agencies, International Organizations, the private sector, faith-based actors, NGOs, academics, refugees, civil society and refugee-led organizations, cities, sports organizations, and others. Faith-based groups in particular often provide a social safety net for the most vulnerable. UNHCR has simplified its internal mechanisms to facilitate the response of NGOs and civil society actors.

Development partnerships

The GCR aims to ease the pressures on host countries by strengthening the resilience of refugees and their host communities, particularly through greater development cooperation. The design and financing of inclusive social protection programmes are key to emergency responses. Many host countries have included refugees in their COVID-19 health response plans and healthcare systems and are encouraged to include them in their socio-economic recovery plans, as well. Such approaches by low and middle-income countries require the support and engagement of development actors in both the immediate response to the public health emergency and over the longer term to meet basic needs. Development actors, including multilateral development banks, bilateral development actors, and UN development agencies, are approving emergency financing and developing targeted programmes to support governments to meet the primary health and secondary socio-economic impacts of COVID-19:

- The **World Bank Group (WBG)** approved a Fast Track Facility (FTF) of USD 14 billion, which is already being disbursed, including to countries hosting large numbers of refugees. With the recent capital increase for IBRD and the 19th IDA replenishment, the WBG, including IFC and MIGA, anticipate deploying up to USD 160 billion over the next 15 months and USD 330 to 350 billion until the end of June 2023. The WBG strongly encourages the inclusion of refugees and IDPs in all efforts and encourages all critical stakeholders, including UNHCR, to participate in the country planning processes underpinning the health response.
- The **Global Partnership for Education, Education Cannot Wait, and WBG** committed to work together to increase and improve financial support and technical assistance to governments and country-level partners to coordinate and align the planning, financing, and delivery of education assistance to refugees and host communities. Accelerating implementation of this pledge during the pandemic could: (i) lead to a more holistic approach to funding education as a significantly affected sector; (ii) support efforts towards the inclusion refugees into national emergency sector plans; and (iii) inspire development partners to include this in their funding modalities.
- The **African Development Bank** announced a USD 10 billion response facility and a three-year USD 3 billion social bond aimed at assisting its regional member countries in responding to the pandemic.
- The **Asian Development Bank** prepared a USD 20 billion package to aid countries in Asia, stating that support will be provided in collaboration with IOs, including UN agencies. UNHCR advocated with both the AfDB and ADB to include people who are forcibly displaced and stateless in their programmes, with a focus on responding to the health and socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. The AfDB expressed an interest in the inclusion of refugees and IDPs, for example in the Sahel region, in its COVID-19 emergency interventions.
- The **European Union** developed a package of EUR 15.6 billion to help the most vulnerable countries in Africa and the Middle East, but also Asia and Latin America. It will focus on the people most at risk, including migrants, refugees, IDPs, and their host communities (see [video conference of 8 April 2020](#)).
- The **German Development Cooperation** released a [comprehensive Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme](#) with a focus on refugee and conflict situations. The Programme aims to address primary health and secondary socio-economic needs. Focus geographies are countries affected by the Syria crisis, northern Africa, the Sahel, Yemen and Southern Ethiopia. UNHCR is named as a key partner for collaboration.
- The **Agence Française de Développement (AFD)** launched the “COVID-19 – Health in Common” initiative amounting to EUR1.2 billion, targeting 19 countries mainly in Africa and the Middle East, starting in the summer of 2020. Of the total amount, EUR150 million will be in the form of donations and EUR1 billion in the form of loans to address short-term challenges facing partner countries and development banks.

UN system

The UN system is rallying to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, with three main areas of focus: the health response led by WHO, the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) led by OCHA, and the recently-released [global framework](#) for the immediate socio-economic response. It was developed by the members of the UNSDG, under the co-lead of DCO and UNDP, with inputs from RCs. It follows the UN Secretary-General's call in March for shared responsibility and global solidarity. It also highlights the needs of refugees, IDPs, and stateless people and the need to look at the response holistically, balance health and WASH needs with interventions in protection, shelter, and community engagement, and focus on the most vulnerable to ensure that no one is left behind. The framework will guide the efforts of the UN Country Teams.

UNHCR remains responsible for the refugee matters within the COVID-19 response, working closely with OCHA, WHO, and the Humanitarian Coordinators/Resident Coordinators (HC/RCs). UNHCR Representatives can work with RCs to facilitate country-level implementation of the global UN common pledge delivered at the GRF, to advocate for refugees and returnees to have access to national services in countries hosting refugees and countries of origin and transit. Now is a critical and strategic moment for UNHCR Representatives and UN RCs to engage proactively on the following:

- **Inclusion** in national response plans and health and social protection systems. This would be in line with the UN Secretary-General's remarks at the GRF and the UN common pledge, recognizes the criticality of inclusion to broader public health, and supports job and income security and social inclusion for the most affected.
- Building **social cohesion** and countering xenophobia and scapegoating, learning from the Ebola crisis.
- Meaningful **participation of refugees** in the response;
- Following the DCO-led **streamlined funding approach** to maximize opportunities for the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund described below.

A dedicated UN Secretary-General's **COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund** was set up to catalyse joint action by UN Country Teams to implement the framework. Anchored in the 2030 Agenda, the fund will seek to support those countries least able to cope with – and recover from – the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. The goal is to mobilize USD 1 billion dollars to support its first nine months of operation, and USD 2 billion dollars overall – leveraging several USD billion more for investing in countries. The first call for proposals was issued on 15 April, with the first funds disbursed since 1 May 2020. All UN agencies are asked to pursue simultaneously the humanitarian appeals and the new instruments for a multi-dimensional, integrated response. UNHCR is actively engaged in these processes.

In addition to the socio-economic response plan, the **Global Humanitarian COVID-19 response plan** includes, as one of its three priorities, advocacy for the rights and provision of assistance to migrants, refugees, IDPs, and their host communities. Within this strategic priority, there is a specific focus on the most vulnerable groups, including women and girls and people with mental or physical disabilities.

Private sector

As part of broader fundraising efforts for the urgent appeal, UNHCR and its National Association Partners reached out to partners and prospects, including companies and foundations that participated in the GRF and/or made pledges. Opportunities include a **"gift in-kind" opportunity package** (with a list of the main items needed by UNHCR operations for COVID-19 emergency prevention and response), a **cash appeal**, and a **toolkit** for how companies and foundations can help. The toolkit includes donating and fundraising for refugees, using communication channels for advocacy, and engaging employees and stakeholders.

For example, H&M – which joined the TENT Partnership for Refugees at the GRF and pledged to create 2,000 jobs for refugees by 2025 – opened its social media channels to UNHCR to share important messages with its millions of followers around the world. Microsoft – which made an education pledge at the GRF – set up a campaign on Benevity (a giving platform) to raise awareness and ask for donations for UNHCR's response, which it will match. In Ecuador, Corporacion Favorita (a supporter of the GRF via Fundela Fundacion) donated 2,000 food kits for vulnerable families. In Colombia, Oro Molida Coffee provided USD 12,000 in support of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Antioquia region. UNHCR's Private Sector Partnership Service (PSP) is also exploring opportunities for in-kind donations of health supplies, including from companies that participated in the GRF. Lastly, conversations are ongoing with platforms/networks such as the International Chamber of Commerce and World Economic Forum.

The private sector at large, especially in industries relevant to WASH and health, can be mobilized to **amplify key messages**, consider and provide **innovative solutions**, bolster **health and WASH systems** in affected countries, and support programmes that have taken on a new relevance. Private sector partners who made **connected education** pledges at GRF could consider how to support home-learning during the school closures related to COVID-19. These measures should be carried out in consideration of the dramatic impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the activity and prospects of many of the businesses and philanthropic foundations that made pledges at the GRF.

Cities

In partnership with the Mayor's Migration Council (MMC), a [Live Resource Guide](#) for Municipal Migrant and Refugee Sensitive COVID-19 Responses is online. The guide embeds GCR principles; contains resources on city, city networks, and global responses; provides concrete examples of actions that cities can take to serve refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 crisis; and includes a checklist for city policy actions. UNHCR is prioritizing support for policy and technical guidance for umbrella city networks to ensure wider outreach to cities in the current context.

Refugees

Refugees are contributing to the response to the pandemic, and support for their efforts in **protection and outreach** – especially for the most vulnerable in their communities – could be pursued. Several States in Europe have appealed for **refugee health professionals** to join national responses, and many are already contributing. Refugee and migrant health workers are also supporting the national health responses to COVID-19 in Peru, Mexico, Argentina, and Chile. UNHCR encourages the recognition of qualified workers, and there is a strong interest by both public and private health providers, such as Grupo Breca (a Peruvian holding company including [la Clínica Internacional](#)), to recruit refugee doctors, nurses, and medical technicians for their COVID-19 response.

Sports

The sports world is playing an important role in the response. Refugee athletes on the International Olympic Committee scholarship programme are producing social media content encouraging the public to stay fit at home and sharing messages of hope and solidarity. Professional footballers Alphonso Davies and Asmir Begovic have engaged in media and fundraising to highlight the challenges that the world's refugees face during the pandemic. Sports partners, such as the Football Club Social Alliance and Coaches Across Continents, have adapted their programmes, using online tools and new approaches to provide structured activities for refugee children and youth.

Support Platforms

The GCR provides for the establishment of situation-specific Support Platforms, which are designed to help concretize burden and responsibility sharing (GCR, III.A. 2.2) through the engagement of committed States and other stakeholders in support of host country leadership. UNHCR and partner States may consider how to leverage the three **Support Platforms (IGAD, MIRPS, SSAR)** launched at GRF, albeit in the very early stages of their operationalization. For example, they may consider dedicated meetings on the regional approach, inclusion in preparedness and response plans, longer-term socio-economic impacts and supports required, or issuing a statement of support at the regional level.

Three-Year Strategy (2019-2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

The three-year strategy remains a vital instrument, now supported through a multi-stakeholder Global Action Plan. Work on securing resettlement and access to complementary pathways for refugees continues on all levels in the face of the challenges and constraints presented by COVID-19. UNHCR remains committed to work with States and partners in both resettlement and host countries to ensure resettlement remains a vital protection tool. Although there is a temporary pause on resettlement departures, a limited number of departures have been possible for refugees facing urgent protection risks. UNHCR's resettlement programming continues nonetheless: operations in the MENA region referred 1,200 persons in April and aim to keep referring between 1,200 to 1,500 refugees per month to resettlement States; several operations in East & Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region are piloting remote processing modalities; and work has commenced on developing an advocacy strategy to maintain and grow support to meet the goals of the Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways.

Complementary pathways, such as humanitarian admission programmes, family reunification, and education opportunities, are highlighted in the GCR (para 95) and can still play an important role in combining emergency response, protection, and solutions. UNHCR continues to engage all stakeholders in developing and integrating complementary pathways for admission into refugee responses, as exemplified by ongoing consultations within the context of the ATCR, which is taking place as a series of virtual meetings.

Despite challenges, the joint UNHCR-IOM Sustainable Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Initiative (CRISP) continues to make progress. The CRISP website (resettle.org) was launched on 19 May 2020, and the global mapping of opportunities to grow resettlement and advance complementary pathways remains on track to be completed in 2020. If stakeholders are willing to think creatively, it is possible that the pursuit and attainment of third country solutions will be more innovative and responsive in the future.

Communications and Advocacy

Based on feedback received from States and partners, UNHCR communications (appeals and public statements) and the UN-wide communications (appeals and the global messages conveyed to the crisis management team and IASC) could systematically include punctual, sensible linkages with GCR principles and practices to highlight the **GCR's relevance to the current situation**. Networks and constituencies of NGOs, development partners, the MDG Coordination Platform, and the private sector could also engage in strategic and joint advocacy.

The [GCR Digital Platform](#) highlights **good practices** and lessons learned related to the application of the GCR, and features GRF pledges and good practices of relevance to the COVID-19 response, such as the [Global Fund](#) pledge that committed to “ensuring that national strategic plans and proposals cover refugees needs” and [health- and WASH-related as well as other good practices](#). Good practices also can be amplified in UNHCR and partners’ strategic communications. The GCR Digital Platform also includes links to other UNHCR communications and webpages related to COVID-19 such as the [Operational Portal](#).

UNHCR
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ANNEX- Examples of relevant pledges made at the GRF

1	HEALTH					
STATES					OTHER STAKEHOLDERS & PARTNERS	
Pledges by countries of origin, transit, and destination						
AMERICAS	AFRICA			EUROPE	ASIA	IOs, NGOs and Donors
	EHA & GL	Western & CA	Southern Africa			
Costa Rica: This pledge provides insurance for universal access to health services for refugees and asylum seekers, namely basic health services (first level), as well as care in an emergency (second and third level). This is through international cooperation with UNHCR. Currently, 5,700 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers have been secured. The average monthly investment per person is USD 63.	Djibouti: Continue to include refugees in national systems: education, health and livelihoods. Will establish integrated rural colleges in refugee hosting villages to provide education and health services.	Cameroon: Expand 2016 agreement with UNHCR on healthcare to include urban refugees (not just rural).	Republic of Malawi: The Government of Republic of Malawi commits to include refugees into the National Development Agenda. Including refugees in national systems and providing support to ongoing and immediate needs in health & water and sanitation.	Azerbaijan: Inclusion of refugees, as well as persons under UNHCR's protection into the national health insurance scheme in Azerbaijan. Within the implementation of this pledge more than 2000 refugees and other persons under UNHCR protection will be included in the health insurance for primary and secondary healthcare services.	Afghanistan: Facilitate access to expanded healthcare in areas of return.	Canada: Financially supporting the World Bank in inclusion efforts for health and nutrition services in Cox's Bazar.
El Salvador: Improving health care services for internally displaced persons, deported persons in need of protection, refugees and asylum seekers.	Uganda: pledges to improve equitable access to and quality of health services for over 1 million refugees and 7 million host communities by implementing the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan (Para. 72-73 of the GCR). This plan was launched to improve equitable and well-coordinated access to health services for over 1.3million refugees and around 7.2 million host communities in Uganda. It entails a paradigm shift from a mainly humanitarian focus to developing integrated health services for both refugees and host communities over a five-year period (2019-2024) for long-term sustainability. While Uganda continues to invest significant domestic resources, additional multi-year funding is needed to cover the USD 110 million average per year, to address immediate needs and build a resilient health system that can guarantee sustainable and equitable access to health services for all in refugee-hosting districts.	Côte d'Ivoire: Provide healthcare and education to refugees in the country.	Republic of Mozambique: The Government of Mozambique pledges to continue the local integration practice, aiming at stronger synergies between refugees and host communities, and increase access to education, health and basic services for refugees and host communities by 2023.	Montenegro: Inclusion and increased access to PHC and integration of RH & MHPSS in basic health service packages.	Korean NGO Council: Support for refugee children's health in Korea.	The Danish GCR Coalition: Ensure that national Jordanian “charity” NGOs providing standard primary healthcare services to vulnerable population groups, including Syrian refugees and other persons of concern, are more fully integrated into a national healthcare services delivery system and are recompensed through the national health budget for provision of services. The formal recognition, accreditation and inclusion of PHC clinics operated by national “charity” NGOs into a more integrated and coordinated national PHC service delivery system would inter alia increase the number of PHC clinics operating under a reformed national primary healthcare delivery system.
		Nigeria: Pledges to include refugees, IDPs, returnees and their host communities in national development plans beyond 2020 and commits to ensure adequate budgetary allocation, including but not limited to, education, health; jobs and livelihood opportunities; and other factors of economic recovery and growth scheme.			Thailand: Vaccination services for refugee children.	Denmark: Continue supporting the Government of Jordan in ensuring greater access for Syrian refugees to the Jordanian primary and secondary health system. Danish support will include a new contribution amounting to 50 million DKK to the Joint Health Fund for Refugees in Jordan (JHFR), which is a special account placed in the Central Bank of Jordan and managed by the Ministry of Health. This contribution is directly linked with a health engagement through the Global Concessional Financing Facility and with an EU Madad Fund contribution to the health sector in Jordan, along with capacity support from other donors. Such support includes a component related to sexual reproductive health and rights.
Mexico: As a result of the reform in terms of universal access and free health services (creation of the Institute of Health for Wellbeing), approved by Congress in 2019, the applicants of the refugee status and refugee women in Mexico have access to public health services.		Senegal: Plans to provide a “refugee card” to rant access to services to refugees at the same levels as for Senegalese. The Republic of Senegal is committed to integrating low-income refugees into the health insurance.	Republic of Namibia: Strengthen access to quality health services and provision of medicines, including medical equipment as well as trained medical personnel. In order to achieve the above the GoN allocates an amount of N\$ 70 000 000 for the period 2019 to 2023.	The Republic of Albania: Eliminating legal barriers to better ensure the rights of refugees to access health services.	MENA	Islamic Republic of Mauritania: In order to improve access to basic services, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania undertakes to ensure the inclusion of refugees in health services under the same conditions as nationals.
			Republic of Cyprus: Implementing integration strategy which includes access to health care and MHPSS.	Germany: Promotion of structural, long-term mental health and psychosocial support in development cooperation programs.		
						Sweden: Continue to financially support Uganda’s efforts to include refugees in the national planning framework. Sweden specifically committed to support the increase of digitalization within agriculture, health and education, including integration of refugees.
						The Global Fund: The Global Fund will fully align with the principles of the recently adopted Global Action Plan 2019–2023 (GAP) (72nd WHA) on Refugee and Migrant Health. This includes ensuring appropriate access to comprehensive HIV, tuberculosis and malaria prevention and treatment services; supporting the continuity of services across borders; integrating services for refugees into national systems; and ensuring that national strategic plans and proposals cover refugees needs.

2	WASH, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE		
STATES Pledges by countries of origin, transit, and destination		OTHER STAKEHOLDERS & PARTNERS	
EUROPE		Global	
		NGO	Private Sector & Foundations
Germany: Continues its support for improving WASH and energy infrastructure benefitting refugees. This support will create long-term benefits for host communities, applying sustainable and cost-efficient schemes and suitable, reliable and affordable technology solutions in refugee contexts.		International Medical Corps: Committed to improve monitoring and impact evaluation relating to WASH services for refugees and IDPs by including them in national surveys and disaggregating national WASH data and SDG 6 reporting by refugee/displacement status on WASH services utilization and access.	Deltares (Stichting Deltares): Committed to provide technical support to Member States to develop resilient water resources systems and solutions that support WASH services and address multiple risks and based on business models that attract investment in fragile contexts. Deltares further committed to support improved communication and possible cooperation, to promote peaceful co-existence between refugees, forced displaced people and the hosting community in the preparation of Water Resources and Disaster Risk Reduction Plans, as well as in their implementation.

3	ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE				
STATES Pledges by countries of origin, transit, and destination				OTHER STAKEHOLDERS & PARTNERS	
AFRICA			EUROPE	IOs, Global Partners & NGOs	
EHA & GL	Western & CA	Southern Africa			
Ethiopia: Provide market-based and sustainable household and facility-based energy solutions for three (3) million people through promoting clean, renewable energy sources, in line with the country's Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy.	Chad: Promote the use of solar and domestic energy for refugees and host communities and use solar for all existing and new infrastructure in areas hosting refugees and other displaced persons.	Zambia: Energy connect the three refugee settlements and the local integration schemes, as well as, host community populations to the national electricity grid.	Denmark: Pledge to strengthening resilience of communities and institutions with respect of climate change and conflict, thereby reducing displacement and irregular migration with a focus on the Sahel region and the Horn of Africa at a budgeted amount of DKK 200 million over 5 years.	Clean Energy Challenge: Launched at the GRF with the aim of ensuring that "all refugee settlements and nearby host communities will have access to affordable, reliable and modern energy by 2030". A recently established 'CEC Marketplace' will facilitate the quick implementation of clean energy projects related to COVID-19: electrifying health facilities, powering WASH systems, livelihoods and clean cooking (as a means of preventing increased vulnerability to lung disease).	
Rwanda: Mechanisms and measures to protect the environment in and around refugee camps in the country, in line with Rwanda's Policy on Environment and Climate Change (2019).				Smart Communities Coalition: Advances in innovative, sustainable solutions to energy, connectivity, and digital tools for the forcibly displaced through innovative private sector-led solutions. This pledge was made up of individual, multi-country and multi-sectoral pledges by some 35 organizations and coalitions, including major players such as Shell, MEI, USAID, Mastercard and others aimed at addressing the energy needs of refugees and host communities as well as by promoting livelihoods and financial inclusion. The focus will be on Kenya, Uganda and potentially in Latin America.	

4	PROTECTION CAPACITY						
STATES						OTHER	
Pledges by countries of origin, transit, and destination						STAKEHOLDERS	
AMERICAS	AFRICA		ASIA & PACIFIC	MENA	EUROPE	Global	
	EHA & GL	Western & CA				IOs & Global Partners	NGOs & Private Sector
Argentina: Establish South-South cooperation programs with at least 5 countries in the region, at the latest during the year 2021; maintain high standards of international protection, through the procedure for recognizing refugee status; expand the capabilities of CONARE and the presence in the territory, at the latest during the year 2021.	Ethiopia: Strengthen the national asylum system and institutional capacities in the areas of refugee registration, Refugee Status Determination, civil documentation systems, as well as basic social-economic and protection services through interoperable, integrated, and One-Stop-Shop (OSS) arrangements. Strengthening the Government of Ethiopia’s out of camp refugee protection capacity and coordination mechanism.		Chad: Adopt national legal framework on asylum/refugee protection.	New Zealand: Work closely with UNHCR through the Asylum Capacity Support Group, to support the development of protection capacity in the Pacific region.	Islamic Republic of Mauritania: Prepare “le projet de loi relatif au droit d’asile pour son adoption à l’horizon 2020” and “enregistrer tous les réfugiés auprès des services de l’état civil afin de leur permettre d’obtenir un numéro d’identification nationale, leur délivrer une carte d’identification nationale sécurisée et permettre leur inclusion dans les systèmes nationaux, y compris statistiques.	Denmark: Cooperate with a select number of countries in 2020 through for instance IOM, UNHCR, EASO or other organizations as operational partners or through bilateral arrangements with states. The support will be aiming at building capacity within national asylum systems in general, e.g. through providing technical and other support for the assessments of institutional capacities of specific aspects of the national asylum/RSD system. The support will run throughout 2023. The support will run throughout 2023. The size of the pledge will correspond to DKK 5 to 10 million yearly (est. euros 670,000 – 1,340,000), starting in 2020. The amount will be subject to parliamentary approval every year.	UNFPA: (GBV- MHPSS): Strengthened Access to Life-saving Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for Women and Girls in Refugee and Host Communities (access to health services, PSN).
Canada: Continue asylum capacity development projects in Mexico and explore expanding projects to other countries identified by UNHCR.	Uganda: ensure integrity of the asylum system; accountability, especially to refugees and hosting communities through key mechanisms which include effective management of resources, enhanced screenings at reception points, reduction of the Refugee Status Determination backlog, two-way communication mechanisms, a national platform for refugee engagement and a biometric refugee registration database. A framework of collaboration with the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) has been established to ensure the integrity of the refugee database and ensure no nationals have been registered and vice versa. Uganda commits to building its asylum capacity through appropriate recruitment of officers, targeted training to adjudicators and security officers.		Niger: In collaboration with the Asylum Capacity Support Group, revise national legislative and procedural framework in order to ensure the effectiveness of the national asylum system.	Philippines: Enactment of a comprehensive law for refugees and stateless persons.		Finland: Disability inclusion.	PILnet: The Global Network for Public Interest Law (Pro Bono Legal Aid): Mobilize the Global Legal Community to Protect and Find Solutions for Refugees and others Forcibly Displaced through the provision of pro bono legal aid (125,000 hours per year) to refugees and asylum-seekers. The pledge is jointly submitted by around 55 NGOs/CSOs and 27 private law firms or other entities including and the Paris Bar Association.
Costa Rica: Medida complementaria para la documentación de las poblaciones migrantes que no obtienen la condición de refugiado en Costa Rica.			Southern Africa	Pledges (e.g. Tajikistan, the Philippines, etc.) to improve identification, registration, status determination for stateless people > leverage to reduce risk by making this group “visible” and included in COVID response (health, socio-economic, etc.)		Georgia: Improve and align national legal framework related to international protection with international standards; monitor RSD procedures/individual cases and court hearings/individual cases of rejected asylum seekers (office of public Defender).	
HIAS: Expand GBV Case Management services to 12,000 survivors in 10 countries over the next 5 years. \$1M has been secured to assist 2000 new survivors in 2020.				Republic of Korea: Increased support for SGBV programming.		Germany: Promotion of the economic and political participation of women affected by forced displacement and violent conflict	
Mexico: Improve registration; implementation of simplified and merged modalities in the process of recognition of refugee status.	Kenya: Subject to adequate international support, the Government of Kenya will continue to strengthen institutions and community structures that manage asylum, deliver services and provide security in refugee-hosting areas including by continuing the Security Partnership Project.		Democratic Republic of the Congo: Put in place a simplified RSD procedure leading to the recognition of around 41,243 refugees of different nationalities under the 1951 and the OAU conventions.	South Korea: Enhance expertise on determining refugee status.		Sweden: Sweden Support the establishment of the Asylum Capacity Support Group. Given that it can be supported within existing budgets, Sweden will be able to support the group with experts.	
Joint Commitment							
1. Protection and Empowerment of women and girls in forced displacement situations through comprehensive SRHR services and protection from SGBV. The pledge is jointly submitted by 12 States and 12 NGOs/IOs.							
2. Improved support to capacities of local and national humanitarian actors, including refugee and host community-led organizations. The pledge is jointly submitted by IFRC, Catholic Relief Services, Christian Aid, Save the Children, & UNHCR.							
3. Strengthen capacity for child protection services for refugees. The pledge is jointly submitted by Save the Children, Terre des Homme, World Vision and Plan International.							
4. Invest in youth, build community resilience. The pledge is jointly submitted by Global Youth Advisory Council, UNHCR and WRC.							

5		JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS				
STATES					OTHER STAKEHOLDERS & PARTNERS	
Pledges by countries of origin, transit, and destination						
AMERICAS	AFRICA			EUROPE	ASIA & THE PACIFIC	IOs, NGOs, Philanthropists and Donors
	EHA & GL	Western & CA	Southern Africa			
Costa Rica: The Government of Costa Rica will promote 100% inclusion of the collaboration requests of refugees to access the labor market, through public employment services, training and certification of competences, through public-private collaboration. Mexico: Mexico will employ 10,000 refugees and applicants in formal employment activities. In response to the lack of trained personnel in some sectors of the Mexican economy, and at the same time responding to the increase in applications for refugee status, Mexico will employ 10,000 refugees and applicants in formal employment activities, through coordination with the various programs of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, in particular the “Youth Building the Future” program.	Ethiopia: Create up to 90,000 socio-economic opportunities through agricultural and livestock value chains that benefit both refugees and host communities. The roll-out of the pledge is also critically dependent on the additional and adequate external financing from the international community.	Liberia: Access to land for 5,000 Ivorian refugees for shelter and livelihoods in Liberia as part of solutions’ strategy.	Republic of Malawi: Improve Self-reliance by introducing “the settlement approach” in order to enhance integrated development of the refugees and local community and bridging the gap humanitarian response and development activities. It will further, decongest and upgrade Dzaleka Refugee Camp, allow access to financial institutions, offer work permits, and provide low cost business registration.	Malta: Targeted actions to promote the inclusion of refugees in Malta’s labour market by sharing information between recruiters and refugees, facilitating access to TVET and job placement, and promoting entrepreneurship	Afghanistan: The Government of Afghanistan pledge to create jobs and opportunities for refugees and support returnees with skills training. Meanwhile, the	The Poverty Alleviation Coalition: Pledge to alleviate the extreme poverty of 160,000 households across 26 countries by 2023 using the Graduation Approach to create self-reliance. This model has been proven by 2019 Nobel laureates Duflo & Banerjee. On 29th April 2020, the World Bank recommended the model as the most important tool to address the socio-economic impacts of COVID19 on informal workers. The Coalition consists of 13 INGOs and is facilitated by UNHCR and the World Bank’s Partnership for Economic Inclusion (PEI).
	Somalia: Creation of 250,000 new jobs within 5 years (25% for IDPs and Refugee-Returnees) through creating an environment that will enable the private sector to generate jobs in sectors that hold the greatest potential for both value-addition and employment growth.	Cameroon: Review the legislation on social rights with a view to including the acquired rights of refugees who have contributed to the costs of social benefits (contributions) to continue to receive them in countries of origin or third countries.		Spain: Development of integrated individualized labor insertion itineraries for refugees. • Preparation and accompaniment of self-employment initiatives. • Actions that enable the labor insertion of refugee families in rural areas with low population density, through personalized selection, training. • Support actions through provision of services that offer information, advice, support, translation of documents and other procedures necessary for the approval of titles and validation of studies carried out in the countries of origin of the refugees.	Government of China, pledged aid and financial support through the South-South fund.	
					Indonesia & Thailand: Livelihoods capacity building.	IKEA Foundation: Investing in a better life for refugees. The IKEA Foundation commits EUR 100 million in grants in East Africa over five years for programmes that help refugees and their hosting communities improve their incomes and become more self-reliant.
					New Zealand: Support refugees to access employment opportunities.	ILO: ILO will intensify cooperation within the multilateral system and scale up technical support to governments, employers’ and workers’ organizations and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate decent work opportunities for host communities and refugees.
					Philippines: Private Sector collaboration on skills and livelihoods training.	SIDA and Grameen Agricole Foundation: Four-year programme in Uganda promoting financial services for 100,000 Uganda. Good example of blended finance partnership with a donor and a microfinance investor
					Thailand: Education, livelihood and development projects for returnees to Myanmar from Thailand.	Germany (BMZ): Germany will continue to substantially fund its Partnership for Prospects Initiative (P4P) for job opportunities in the Middle East. P4P facilitates both temporary and longer-term job opportunities for Syrian and Iraqi refugees, IDPs and host communities in respective neighboring countries. In 2019, Germany has allocated approximately 300 million EUR for this initiative.
					MENA	The European Commission: The EU aligns with global efforts to better assess the impact of refugee situations and to support socio-economic impact mapping in refugee situations where the EU is engaged with multi-year development financing and the principle to ‘leave no-one behind.’. It expresses its commitment to more reliable, comparable and timely data for evidence-based action to improve the lives of refugees and their hosts, including through new direct support for the newly established UNHCR-World Bank Data Centre (EUR 5m).
					Qatar: Commitment to provide 5 million jobs to refugees and IDPs before 2022.	UNDP: UNDP commits to bring the digital transformation to refugees and host communities in approximately 20 countries through advocacy efforts, with a focus on creating conducive legal and policy environments for digital investment and transformation, investment in digital infrastructure, building tomorrow’s skills today, and coordinating innovative digital initiatives to foster refugee economic inclusion and self-reliance.

6		EDUCATION						
STATES					OTHER STAKEHOLDERS & PARTNERS			
Pledges by countries of origin, transit, and destination								
AMERICAS	AFRICA			EUROPE	ASIA	IOs, NGOs,	Private Sector	
	EHA &GL	Western & CA	Southern Africa					
Costa Rica: Access to and integration into the Costa Rican education system for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.	Kenya: continue to enable refugee children access to its education system; adopt a policy of systematic inclusion of refugees in the national education system (Adoption and implementation is subject to the provision of funding by the international community); increase availability and access to organised sports and sport-based initiatives for refugee and hosting communities, actively considering age, gender and Persons living with disability.	Central African Republic: Pursue the inclusion of refugees and returnees in the national education system and provide them with quality education under the same conditions as nationals. The CAR government is convinced that ensuring the inclusion of refugees and returnees as well as quality training is a guarantee for their future and the development of the country.	Zambia: To maintain refugee inclusion in the national education system at all levels, including providing free early childhood, primary education, as well as secondary and tertiary. Intends to establish technical and vocational training institutes in the three main refugee settlements and solicit at least 220 scholarships for refugee scholars in the country's private and public universities and colleges. This will require substantial financial support for education infrastructure development expansion in all refugee settlements.	Ireland: Increase support for EiE and Protracted Crises. At least €250 million over the next five years, part of this funding will target EiE, to UNICEF, UNHCR, Education Cannot Wait, GPE, a joint donor education fund with UNRWA, and a number of other partnerships. Support education elements of CRRF in target countries.	Indonesia: Provide access to basic and secondary education for refugee children.	Save the children: 7 pledges. Including advocacy for greater investment, and better coordination in EiE; working group on education among actors in Rakhine and Cox's Bazar (jointly with IRC and NRC); deliver sector-facing EiE professional development programme; expand 'Return to Learning' program; increase quality of ECD through our programming, research and advocacy; capacity building and improved working conditions of refugee and host community teachers; support the inclusion of refugees into nat. systems.	Vodafone Foundation: Improve learning outcomes for 510,000 learners in 300 secondary schools. Vodafone Foundation will contribute €19.8 million in cash and in-kind towards a €42 million partnership with UNHCR to deploy up to 300 Instant Network Schools by 2025 to benefit 510,000 secondary-school refugee and host communities' students, empower 10,000 teachers, reaching 1 million people including parents and wider communities in 6 countries.	
Guatemala: Coordinate actions with local authorities and educational institutions for the inclusion and integration of children, adolescents and young people into the National Education System.					New Zealand: Support access to education for 18-20-year old refugees in New Zealand.			
MENA					Thailand: To continue working to ensure that children of Myanmar displaced persons who have returned to Myanmar be recognized for their educational certificates and documents issued by Thai authorities in order for them to continue their study in Myanmar.			
	Egypt: Continue providing refugee children with access to education; commitment to ensuring access to education for refugee children within national education system in line with national education strategy for 2030; new national asylum law will consolidate framework for provision of education for refugees.	Sudan: Complete the costed plan of action for refugee education in order to realize full integration of refugee children into the national education system.	Chad: Strengthen the process of integrating refugees into all levels of the education system by including refugees in the national education law, continuing to assign Chadian teachers to camp schools, and resuming the management of all settlements in refugee camps and sites formalized by the State.	Turkey: Extensive pledges for education which formulated comprehensive resource needs to reach the students e.g. construction of classrooms, expansion of TVET and an expansion of ECD.		Moving Minds Alliance: 3 pledges: analysis of the funding landscape for ECD; analysis: How is early childhood addressed in existing humanitarian standards; facilitate a shared advocacy agenda for greater support for families with young children in crisis and displacement.		LEGO Foundation: Play Matters: Play-based pedagogies for refugee children in East Africa. \$100 million for high-quality play-based pre- and primary learning for children affected by protracted crises in Uganda, Ethiopia and a third country yet to be determined. To impact the development of holistic skills in roughly 800,000 refugee and host children ages 3 to 12.
		Djibouti: Continue to include refugees in national systems, include refugees in national development plans; Strengthening teacher training and certification covered by the national budget; integrating refugee teachers into national budget.		Denmark & Germany: Providing access to higher education for refugee youth through the DAFI programme (Germany pledged 13.4 million EUR for 2020 and opening the program for new partners, while Denmark joins as a new donor with 10 million DKK in 2020)		Dubai Cares: Provide financial assistance to key initiatives that support the inclusion of refugees in national education systems. USD2,000,000 towards the operationalization of the Nurture and Care Framework in a crisis setting; USD640,000 towards the piloting of the UNESCO Tertiary Qualifications Passport in Colombia and Iraq; USD500,000 to the INEE minimum standards revision, ensuring alignment with the GCR and promoting inclusion.		Mastercard Foundation: Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program - Higher Education Scholarships for Refugees & Displaced Youth. The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program is expanding over the next three years with an additional 15,000 higher education scholarships, mainly in Africa with 70% for young women. Are pledging to commit 25% or 3,750 of these scholarships to be designated for refugees and displaced youth.
			Nigeria: include refugees, IDPs, returnees and their host communities in National Government development plan; ensure the enrolment of all school age refugee, IDP and returnee children to primary school by 2023 and to provide equal opportunities for secondary and tertiary education.					
Development Actors / Partnerships								
GPE/ECW/WB: A commitment to improved collaboration, co-ordination, and financing of global efforts in support of education for refugees and host communities. We commit to work together to increase and improve the financial support and technical assistance we provide to countries hosting large refugee populations to meet their educational needs through their national education systems. We will support governments and country-level partners to coordinate and align the planning, financing, and delivery of education assistance to refugees and their host communities. As a first step we will publish by no later than mid 2020 a plan about how this commitment will be operationalized. We will review our efforts annually and publish an overview of progress detailing where, when and how we have worked together and report on these efforts to the second GRF in 2023.								