What you need to know about matching pledges





What is matching?

At the Global Refugee Forum, stakeholders made pledges towards the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). Pledges included:



financial, material, and technical assistance



places for resettlement and complementary pathways for admission to third countries



policy commitments - actions that States and other stakeholders committed to take to strengthen protection and inclusion of refugees in national systems.

Matching is the process of pairing pledges made by host countries to facilitate greater inclusion, protection, and support for people forced to flee with pledges made by donors to provide the financial, material, or technical support necessary for their implementation.

Why is matching important?

Matching demonstrates the principle of burden and responsibility sharing in action and provides tangible evidence of how the GCR can make a difference.

It provides a concrete way to support the commitments expressed by host countries in a coordinated, whole-of-society manner.

This process will:

- ensure impactful implementation
- lay the ground for potential upscaling
- encourage new contributions
- identify opportunities and gaps that could be addressed with future pledges at the next GRF

UNHCR's role



A catalyst role

The pledge implementation and matching process is primarily carried out at the field level. The GRF Coordination Team facilitates interaction between pledging entities and UNHCR Regional Bureaus and Divisions where needed, to take forward the matching and implementation of pledges in a systematic and strategic way.

Customized support at the technical level

UNHCR organizes technical meetings between donor States at the capital level and relevant Regional Bureaus to facilitate more in-depth discussions on gaps and opportunities for matching and support.

Customized Support at the political level

UNHCR engages the GRF Co-Convenors and Co-Hosts at the HQs level to lead by example and encourage matching.

Innovative tools/ advocacy

The Digital Platform acts as a resource for matching by providing visual tools, a pledge matching template and relevant content related to pledges that could be matched and good practices that could be scaled up with further support.

Looking ahead

Once the pledges are matched and being implemented, UNHCR will note any gaps in support that remain and will use these to inform guidance on the development of future pledges with a view to preparing for the next GRF.

How does it work?

Step 1 - Mapping and prioritizing pledges

The GRF Coordination Team mapped the policy pledges made by host countries against possible financial commitments by donors, taking into consideration the geographic and thematic focus.

Step 2 - Identifying matches

The team developed a global and regional matching matrix with a global overview of opportunities for donors to see where to direct financial pledges. Then, region-specific matching matrices were produced, providing a regional overviews, including financial and non-financial pledges and prioritizing Health and WASH pledges to support the COVID-19 response.

Step 3 - Engaging partners and donors

The team is engaged in discussions with donor States to specify their pledges. They work closely with the GRF Focal points, in the Bureaux, Country Offices, and Divisions to initiate or further discussions on matching. They also explore how donors can support host countries by taking pledges and GCR initiatives beyond the pledges they made at the GRF and involving development agencies in the process.

What you can do

The matching process is an all-of-UNHCR and whole-of-society exercise.

A successful match

The tea plantation project pledge by Rwanda

At the Global Refugee Forum, the Government of Rwanda made a policy pledge to create innovative, climate-smart jobs in the agricultural sector.

Following the Forum, the Government of Denmark made a financial pledge to support Rwanda's jobs and livelihoods project

Denmark reached out to UNHCR, which acted as facilitator in this matching process.

As a result, Denmark announced that USD 1.5 million will benefit 1,883 households, 728 of which are refugee households, over a 3-year period.

