

Preliminary Outcomes of the Stocktaking on the **Global Compact on Refugees** by Stakeholder Groups

ACADEMIC ACTORS



As a contribution towards the research and teaching outlined in the Global Compact on Refugees stocktaking, **11 academic institutions** in all regions of world where UNHCR operates hosted the event “70 years protecting people forced to flee» in January 2021. Key conclusions from this global reflection, with a particular emphasis on expanding efforts to support refugees and host countries as well as areas need of further support, are available in [report form](#).



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CITIES AND CITY NETWORKS



Despite the challenges of COVID-19, we have seen cities all over the world stepping up efforts – ensuring the inclusion of refugees and displaced people in COVID-19 prevention and response activities; providing shelter, health care, food, and cash assistance; or halting forced evictions through moratoriums. Several cities have been at the forefront in helping those forcibly displaced to cope through the pandemic.



The Steering Committee of the Global Task Force on Migration and UNHCR will jointly host a stocktaking on the progress made in implementing city pledges and will explore common challenges cities have faced due to COVID-19. This review will shape the substance and implementation of ongoing and future pledges, support, partnerships, and initiatives to strengthen international cooperation in refugee responses and translate the Global Compact on Refugees into concrete improvements in the lives of refugees and the communities that host them. The event will take place on 22 September 2021 and will include a renewed call to action inviting cities to pledge ahead of the Global Refugee Forum in 2023.



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DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



As hosting refugees provides a global good and in line with the Global Compact on Refugees, the international community promised more responsibility sharing. The efforts of development actors have been essential in changing the conversation about supporting more inclusive, progressive, and sustainable policies in refugee hosting countries. In light of COVID-19, it is more important than ever to support inclusion.



Development actors' early involvement in forced displacement situations/emergencies is crucial.



Dedicated investments as well as diversified and flexible financial instruments, both in short-term humanitarian efforts and longer-term development efforts, will continue to be needed to address the socio-economic fallout of the COVID-19 crisis and prevent further displacement, including secondary displacement.

In contexts of deep fragility, conflict, and violence, the constant influxes experienced by host governments weaken already fragile systems, and returns can often have negative impacts on the hosting economy. While the inclusion of refugees is no straightforward task, helping to mitigate these shocks and preparing host governments to receive inflows of people is core to achieving the objectives as set out in the Global Compact on Refugees. In situations where refugee movements are cyclical, such as around the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Somalia, and South Sudan, we need to consider how we can help governments to plan for inclusion of refugees into services instead of continuing years of humanitarian aid and setting up parallel systems.



Global and national multi-stakeholder efforts to invest in refugee and host community situations are central to responsibility sharing. The Global Compact on Refugees equally recognizes the need to invest in areas of return in countries of origin. Return planning should be grounded in protection standards and principles, including ensuring that refugee returns are well-informed, voluntary, and in safety and dignity. Development actors are central to assessing and responding to the mid- and longer-term development needs in areas of return.

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NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS



NGO pledges were the most heterogeneous group, both in terms of themes and the diversity of actors, including INGOs, national NGOs, FBOs, RLOs etc. At the global level, education, jobs and livelihoods and statelessness were the topics that collected most pledges.



43% of pledges made by NGOs both at the global and regional levels included an Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) perspective, higher than the overall average (30%).



The rate of completion and progress of NGO pledges is quite low – only 9% of the pledges have been fulfilled at the global level. UNHCR remains available to support NGOs in identifying challenges and facilitating implementation of pledges.



In October, **UNHCR** and **ICVA** will co-organize a stocktaking event for the NGO community.



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PARLIAMENTS



UNHCR and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) are closely cooperating on [parliamentary action to end statelessness by 2024](#) through the IPU's pledge to sensitise parliamentary communities on the issue, create space for parliamentarians to share good practices, and promote peer-to-peer solidarity.



In May 2021, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a [resolution on the role of parliaments in implementing the global compacts for migrants and refugees](#), calling upon member parliaments to implement the Global Compact on Refugees, strengthen international solidarity with refugee hosting countries, and promote the rights of people on the move, in line with the international standards of humanitarian protection, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.



To further mobilise parliamentary action to implement the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR and the International Parliamentary Network for Education (IPNEd) will organise a stocktaking event on parliamentary action to include refugees in education systems bringing together parliamentarians for their support in implementation of key policy pledges on refugee education announced at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum.



Parliamentarians are crucial to developing refugee and asylum policies and laws. The laws they pass and how they talk and think about the issues shape public opinion and profoundly affect persons of concern to UNHCR.

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RELIGIOUS LEADERS



To foster greater collaboration with religious leaders in the lead-up to the [Global Refugee Forum in 2023](#), UNHCR and Religions for Peace formed a Multi-Religious Council of Leaders across regions and faith traditions to address root causes of forced displacement by supporting global advocacy, conflict prevention, reconciliation, peacebuilding, and social cohesion initiatives. The Council is comprised of **18 leaders**, and their mandates extend until the next Global Refugee Forum in 2023, where they will present their achievements and seek further commitments to action from a broader range of religious actors.



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SPORT



Despite the challenges for many sporting organisations in delivering as usual, the pledging entities have adapted and innovated, such as hosting online exercises and virtual competitions and developing new socially distanced approaches, to continue their engagement with the communities we serve and make progress in implementing the sport pledges made at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum.



As the world endures the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the positive role of sport in supporting the mental health and psychosocial well-being of forcibly displaced people has become more evident than ever, and the Sport for Refugees Coalition calls for further support in extending access to safe and protective sport experiences for refugees and hosting communities.



The Sport for Refugees Coalition would like to call for the inclusion of sport as a recognized tool for promoting well-being and social connections in the national and regional response plans.



Looking towards the next Global Refugee Forum in 2023, further collaboration and matching of pledges across thematic areas such as exploring the intersection between, for example, sport and education, sport and cities, and sport and livelihoods, is encouraged to expand sustainable solutions for refugees and other people who are forcibly displaced.



Its essential to address the legal and administrative challenges (including quota regulations and documentation requirements) which continue to effectively prevent, or at least limit, refugees' equal access to amateur and competitive sports in their host countries and in international competitions

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UNITED NATIONS



Some UN entities have specific programmes to promote the inclusion of refugees and [improve their access to basic social services and decent work](#); these are examples of promising practice. Others also have set up specific guidance/programming to ensure the inclusion of refugees/returnees in their plans, programming and advocacy, which is also good practice.



The UN family [can and must extend efforts more consistently](#), in partnership with host Governments, to facilitate the inclusion of refugees in national and municipal budgets, datasets, plans and service delivery systems. As we do this, we must ensure refugees' potential to contribute socially and economically is recognised and developed. This not only makes economic sense and helps to ensure that no one is left behind, but importantly it also affords refugees their dignity.



The UN is committed to delivering on the common UN pledge and IASC pledge and. A [recent stocktaking discussion](#) presented data on the progress made thus far, established a baseline, and identified where and how to redouble our joint efforts. Going forwards we will be synthesizing our thinking in an external report and establishing mechanisms to continue to track progress and capture learning on our joint efforts to promote refugee inclusion.



There has been positive progress in refugee inclusion in UN humanitarian and development plans, such as the Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and Socio-Economic responses plans (SERPs).