



UN COMMON PLEDGE 2.0

CONCEPT NOTE

November 2022

Purpose of this document

In order to support ongoing discussions, this document sets out emerging thinking from UN entities engaged on refugee issues on a potential UN common pledge 2.0, to be made at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF). The concept outlined here continues to evolve, and the elements set out below are therefore subject to change as discussions progress.

Background

The Global Compact on Refugees calls for the international community to step up support to refugee situations and for development actors to contribute their resources, capacities and expertise to build sustainable solutions so that refugees can survive, thrive and contribute.

At the 2019 Global Refugee Forum **a pledge made** by the UN Secretary-General, and another made by the UN's Emergency Relief Coordinator, committed UN entities to ensuring that UN analyses, policies, and response plans systematically integrate the needs and rights of refugees and displaced people, and to working with refugee hosting governments and communities to facilitate refugees' inclusion in national systems.

As we approach the halfway point to 2030, the urgent need to focus on excluded and marginalized populations, including refugees, stateless persons, and returnees, has become even clearer. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires leveraging development capacities in the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees, to ensure that those who are at risk of being left behind, are counted, planned for, and able to access local services such as education, health, water, sanitation, social protection, and livelihoods opportunities; together with their host communities.

A 2021 [stocktaking](#) found that since the 2019 UN common pledge, 15 UN entities have stepped up their support for refugee inclusion, often with bilateral support from institutional donors – but there is still room for improvement. These entities agreed on 10 ways in which they can provide stronger and more systematic technical and programmatic support at national and subnational level, for refugees' inclusion in national and municipal datasets, plans, budgets, and service delivery systems. A 2023 stocktaking will review progress and collect further learning which can feed into the co-creation process for the UN common pledge 2.0.

What is the opportunity?

The second Global Refugee Forum, in December 2023 provides an opportunity for the UN family to maintain and deepen its joint commitment to support refugee inclusion through a renewed and strengthened UN common pledge.

A UN common pledge 2.0 can build on the gains already made under the 2019 UN common pledge. It can leverage the suite of capacities and expertise of a new generation of cohesive and responsive UN Country teams (UNCTs) to help refugee hosting states realize the vision of inclusion set out in the bold policy pledges that many of them made in 2019 – many of which remain in progress pending greater technical, programmatic, and financial support from the international community. A Resident Coordinator led, coherent and coordinated One UN effort focused on some of the most marginalized men, women, girls, boys and youth can be a significant and strategic contribution in the final push to leave no one behind.

Potential results a UN common pledge 2.0 can secure



Improved equal access to strengthened services ranging from protection to education, livelihoods and social protection; to achieve sustainable and dignified living standards for millions of refugees and the communities that host them.



A strengthened, and more predictable whole-of-UN collective and coherent response, led by Resident Coordinators at country level to ensure that refugees are not left behind.



Applicable learning from a wide stakeholder group including UNCTs, donors, refugees, and refugee hosting countries, on what works to progress refugee inclusion, what still needs to be done and how to do it.

The case for inclusion

In 2022 the number of refugees in the world surpassed 32.5 million, it is over 10 million more refugees than in 2021 – in the past 10 years this number has more than doubled, and it is set to grow. From 2018 to 2022, over one million children were born as refugees. 83 per cent of the world's refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad are hosted in low- and middle-income countries.

Despite inclusive policies in many countries such as National Action Plans, refugee populations are still served by decades old, under-resourced humanitarian systems designed for the short term. More sustained investment and support is required to develop expanded, quality national services which will benefit both the refugees, and the communities that host them.

Strengths of a UN common pledge 2.0

Learning from the 2019 UN common pledge provides an opportunity to build key strengths into a renewed joint pledge, to redouble its focus and effectiveness. These include:

- ① Engaging a wider range of stakeholders including refugees, host communities, donors, government, and civil society.
- ② Co-creation of the pledge by these different stakeholders, ensuring that age, gender, and diversity are central considerations in the design.
- ③ Building in measurable results on refugee inclusion over the next four years.
- ④ Costing and resourcing the ambition set out in the pledge, by working with donors and others to secure resources up front and work on identifying innovative approaches to financing and partnerships
- ⑤ Defining bold commitments from across the UN family to facilitate refugee inclusion, leveraging the UN's capacities across the nexus. In support of building government ownership and encouraging a whole-of-government approach, these targets are identified together with national governments.
- ⑥ Achieving measurable, positive change in the lives of refugees and host communities at country level by UNCTs under the coordination and leadership of Resident Coordinators, in consultation with governments.
- ⑦ Leveraging outcomes of lessons-learned and responding directly to recommendations from the 2021 High Level Officials Meeting – the halfway point between the first GRF and the 2023 GRF.

Alignment with the recommendations from the 2021 High Level Officials Meeting

A UN common pledge 2.0 will respond to the following recommendations of the 2021 High Level Officials Meeting:

- ① Concretize broad pledges that remain in progress; match and align financial, material, and technical pledges with host country policy pledges. (Recommendation 1)
- ② Make better use of the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus capacities to achieve the GCR objectives. (Recommendation 4)
- ③ Increase social inclusion for refugees. (Recommendation 12)
- ④ Expand access to quality primary, secondary, and higher education. (Recommendation 14)
- ⑤ Increase economic inclusion and access to livelihoods. (Recommendation 13)
- ⑥ Provide refugees with healthcare through strengthened national systems. (Recommendation 15)

What makes a good pledge?

Learning from the 2019 GRF has shown that high quality pledges for 2023 will be:

- ✓ Additional: providing new support or engagement to enhance burden and responsibility sharing.
- ✓ Quantifiable, providing an implementation timeline, beneficiary data, and details of support provided or needed for implementation of the pledge, to facilitate and demonstrate positive impact.
- ✓ Needs-driven, developed based on an assessment of needs and aligned with the recommendations from the 2021 High Level Officials Meeting.
- ✓ Transformational and catalytic, harnessing multiple UN capacities for maximum impact in a coordinated and collaborative way.

Proposed components of a UN common pledge 2.0

Global level

Members of a committed, multistakeholder group, including 15-20 UN entities with development, humanitarian and peacebuilding expertise, each outline specific, measurable, institutional or financial commitments in support of commonly agreed priorities, to enhance the predictable, at scale engagement of the complementary capacities of the UN family in support of refugee inclusion globally. These commitments are also in support of common priorities identified by the group of stakeholders, to enable each of them to lend their complementary strength and expertise to the common goal. Achievement of each commitment is costed, and resources are allocated and / or pledged against each, using existing funding mechanisms, such as bilateral institutional partnerships.

Country level

UN Country Teams (UNCTs) in refugee hosting countries who see the opportunity to make progress on refugee inclusion, in partnership with government, donors, refugees and other stakeholders, define measurable results for their context, and the additional resources required to achieve these. The required resources are allocated and / or pledged, using existing funding mechanisms, such as bilateral institutional partnerships and country level SDG pooled funds.

Regional level structures such as UN entity Regional Offices, Regional Collaborative Platforms, Issue Based Coalitions and Regional Commissions will be leveraged where appropriate to support the achievement of country level targets and, where possible, trigger a multiplier effect across regions.

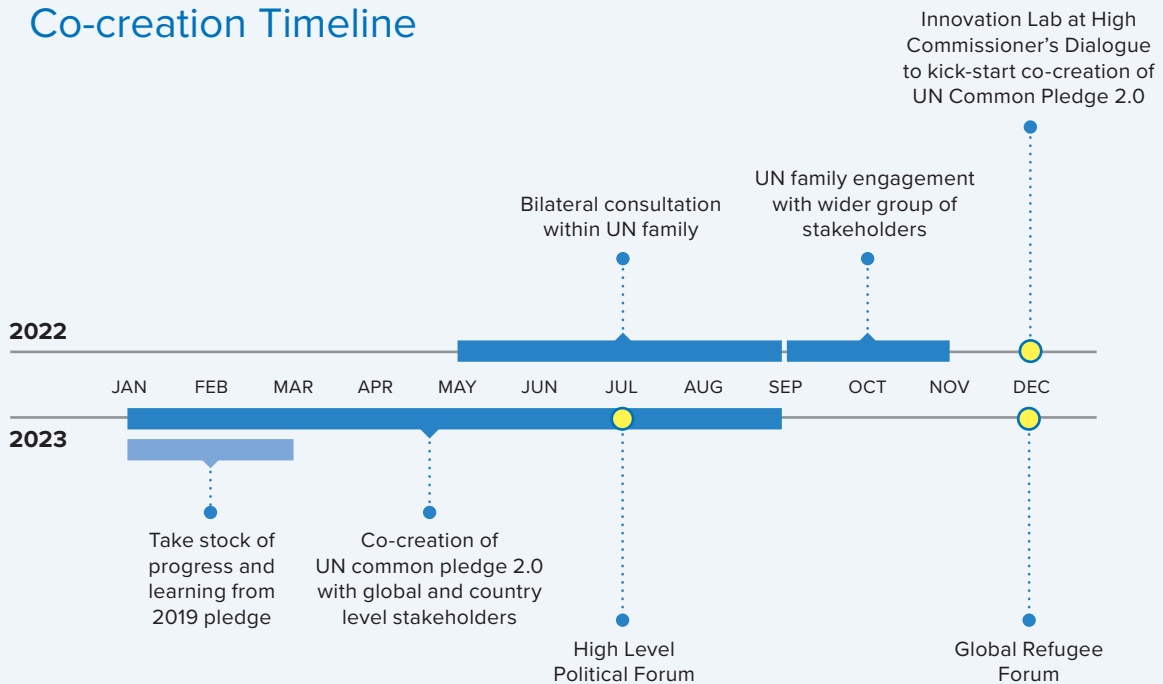
The co-creation process

UNHCR, UNDCO and UNOCHA will co-lead a 12-month streamlined, efficient, inclusive and connected co-creation process, embedding it as far as possible into existing UN-wide and multi-stakeholder processes. Meaningful participation of refugees will be a key element in the co-creation process.

Under the leadership of Resident Coordinators, UNCTs will be invited to opt into the pledge, under the leadership of Resident Coordinators. Country level results will be co-defined by the UN family in consultation with government and other stakeholders; and tailored to the context. Equally, the extent and type of engagement by the UN family with regional level structures, in support of country level objectives, will be determined by the joint analysis of the UNCT in participating countries.

The co-creation process will define mechanisms for implementation, monitoring, reporting on progress, and capturing learning to enable course correction. A key principle within this will be to leverage existing processes, including existing country level plans and Voluntary National Reviews.

Co-creation Timeline



This document was produced in September 2022.
Reactions, suggestions and all other feedback is welcome at any time, to:

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