

Pledge Matching towards the Global Refugee Forum in 2023

This note sets out steps to guide States and other stakeholders towards pledge matching, including an envisaged timeline leading to the GRF in 2023.

Introduction

Pledge [matching](#) is the facilitation of **financial, material, and technical support** for the implementation of **host country policy pledges** towards protection, inclusion, and solutions. Matching translates the principle of burden and responsibility sharing at the heart of the Global Compact on Refugees into action and is identified as a key recommendation for the next Global Refugee Forum in 2023. It provides a concrete way to support the commitments expressed by host countries in a coordinated, whole-of-society manner.

While initiatives to match can be initiated bilaterally between two stakeholders, **UNHCR or other parties can also act as a facilitator and coordinator of discussions between pledging entities** as deemed necessary and appropriate. States, UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, and other pledging entities can identify possible matches to their [pledges](#). Engagement is required at all levels including technically and politically, for a match to be properly materialized.

Matching since the GRF 2019

Based on an assessment carried out by the GCR Coordination Team, while there has been strong commitment by States and other stakeholders to matching, there are a number of technical, political, and structural challenges that need to be addressed to facilitate an effective match. These challenges range from budget cycles not aligning, to host country policy pledges not being sufficiently descriptive for financial support to be made, to constraints in bilateral funding between States due to diplomatic, political, or perceived fiduciary risks.

UNHCR, in its facilitative capacity, remains committed to identifying solutions to these challenges by working closely with States and other stakeholders to continue to promote and facilitate the matching of host country policy pledges made in 2019 and proactively ensure that, to the extent possible, pledges made in the context of GRF 2023 are concrete and largely matched in advance of the event.

Matching towards GRF 2023

Donor pledges could be matched to existing pledges made at the GRF in 2019 or new pledges under development for the GRF 2023 that are aimed at supporting existing host country policy pledges.

Existing GRF pledges made in 2019

Matching of pledges after they have been submitted with a particular focus on the host country policy pledges made at the first GRF in 2019. Matching will focus largely, over 2022 to early 2023, on ensuring matches for existing policy pledges to ensure that a significant number of host country policy pledges, which are still under-resourced and unfulfilled, are matched.

What are the steps towards matching existing pledges from the 2019 GRF?

- **Step 1: Validation**
Pledging entities validate existing pledges to ensure that they are still active, including by defining operational needs (host countries policy pledges) and concretizing potential support (financial, technical, or material).
- **Step 2: Expression of Interest**
States/entities pledging either financial/technical/material support or host countries making policy pledges express interest in engaging in matching.
- **Step 3: Facilitation**
When facilitated through UNHCR, contact is made with the relevant pledging entities to facilitate their initial communication on the pledge match and discuss terms of support.
- **Step 4: Visibility**
When the pledging entities agree on matching terms, UNHCR outlines potential areas to provide visibility for the match.
- **Step 5: Follow-up**
UNHCR and the pledging entities agree on the most appropriate progress follow-up mechanism during the timeframe of the implementation of pledges.



New pledges under development for the 2023 GRF

In line with the initial 2023 GRF pledging guidance, States are strongly encouraged to ensure that all pledges developed are concretized and pre-matched in advance of the next GRF, to the extent feasible. Ideally, pre-matched pledges would be the result of consultations between donors and hosting States, facilitated when required by UNHCR.

What are the steps towards preparing new matched pledges in the context of the next GRF?

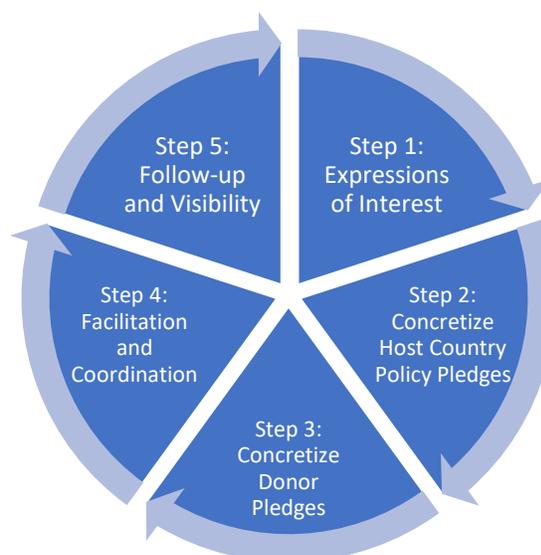
- **Step 1: Expression of Interest**
In the lead-up to the next GRF, pledging entities will be invited to develop new pledges in line with the pledging guidance and 20 recommendations from the HLOM and define areas of potential interest for pledge development with the aim of the pledge being pre-matched.
- **Step 2: Concretize Host Country Policy Pledges**
Host country policy pledges would clearly define what operational support is needed for implementation. The pledge would also be uploaded on the pledge matching portal.
- **Step 3: Concretize Donor Pledges**
Financial, material, or technical pledges of support would be developed or channelled in support of policy pledges to be made by hosting countries.

- **Step 4: Facilitation and Coordination**

Upon identification of matching interests by different stakeholder groups, all pledging entities working towards a match would coordinate their actions with one another, either directly or with the support of UNHCR.

- **Step 5: Follow-up and Visibility**

Details related to the pledge match would then be agreed upon, including the envisaged timeline and follow-up mechanism, and would be announced for the GRF 2023. Visibility would be developed.



Engaging third parties to facilitate support

In some cases, financial pledges of support may need to be channelled programmatically through a third-party (e.g. UNHCR or another organisation) where direct bilateral support is not feasible, in line with the challenges noted above. In such cases, some form of facilitation by a third party may be required. Support can be channelled programmatically through UNHCR or another entity. This would depend on the agreement between the respective entities or as defined by the entity pledging financial, material, or technical support.

Timeline for implementation

2022

Q1

- Matching **assessment** by UNHCR conducted

Q2-Q3

- Host country policy **pledges re-validated**.
- Host country policy pledges **categorized by UNHCR** according to region and theme for circulation, as requested to facilitate identification of matching opportunities.

Q3

- **Matching campaign launched**, aimed at raising the profile of the matching process, in cooperation with States and other stakeholders, including through various communications content on matching in the form of articles, leaflets, and posters.
- **Consultation between traditional donor and hosting States convened** to discuss assessment of matching, to date, as well as challenges, aimed at addressing issues related to how matches are financially channelled. This would explore the development of appropriate mechanisms to

facilitate and channel financial support from donors to hosting countries, either bilaterally or through a third-party. This can be done through State-organized consultations in Geneva and could be in the form of a dedicated initiative to be launched around the High Commissioner's Dialogue in December 2022.

Q4

- **Pledge tracking updates provided** as part of the official bi-annual rounds of updates, to also follow-up individually where there could be interest or potential for matching.
- **GRF Matching Portal launched** by UNHCR, aimed at organizing and featuring matches, to help facilitate the matching options outlined above on the GCR Digital Platform. The matching portal is envisaged to be a tool to showcase and facilitate matches. All potential matches would be featured, based on having indicated an interest to match during the pledge submission or cultivation phase. Interested pledging entities would then be able to connect off-line to take the planning and execution further, facilitated by UNHCR or another entity, as appropriate.
- **Dedicated matching initiative launched**, jointly with State(s) and other stakeholders.
- **Multi-stakeholder consultations at country, regional, and global levels convened** to identify priorities for pledging, including matching.

2023

- **Outreach continued** through bilateral, through multi-stakeholder mobilization arrangements (GCR initiatives), dedicated briefings/events, and others.
- **Pledge tracking updates provided** as part of the official bi-annual rounds of updates, to also follow-up individually where there could be interest or potential for matching.
- **New matches announced** in the lead-up to the GRF 2023.

Role of UNHCR in Pledge Matching

- The GCR Coordination Team facilitates interaction between pledging entities in coordination with relevant field colleagues where needed, to take forward the matching and implementation of pledges in a systematic and strategic way. The support provided is in the form of:
- **Customized support at the technical and political levels:** UNHCR organizes technical meetings between donor States at the capital level and the field more in-depth discussions on gaps and opportunities for matching and support as well as politically, through the various mechanisms in Geneva.
- **Innovative tools/ advocacy:** UNHCR aims at advancing matching as a concrete demonstration of burden and responsibility sharing through communications and advocacy. Furthermore, 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 GRF 2023.

For more information on matching and how to advance its materialization, please contact Ms. Noura Altourky, policy officer, GCR coordination team at altourky@unhcr.org.