



Guidance for UNCTs formulating commitments under the UN common pledge 2.0

Updated on 2 February 2023

Purpose

This guidance is intended to support RCs and UNCTs participating in the [UN common pledge 2.0](#) to define global level commitments, aligned with the SDGs, under the pledge. This is a living document and additional ideas or improvements are welcome at any time.

5 good reasons for UNCTs to participate in the pledge

1. Participating in the pledge gives your UNCT **the opportunity to elevate and highlight joint efforts that you are already committed to in support of refugee inclusion** but which would go further with greater support; and / or to amplify the joint ambition in this area.
2. **You can leverage the active engagement of over 20 UN entities at the global level** - drawing on their commitment and resources to contribute to the joint effort at the country level.
3. **This may be an opportunity to tap into new financial support.** The donor community is showing strong interest in the pledge and at global level we are bringing them into the co-creation process at their request. We anticipate that this will provide an opportunity to mobilise additional resources, potentially accessible through a call for proposals to the SDG fund.
4. **The process is streamlined to minimise additional reporting;** our recommendation is that UNCTs define commitments for the 4-year duration of the pledge, ensuring these are fully embedded into the SDCF, the annual joint workplan and/or other joint plans, thereby eliminating the need for additional reporting.
5. **Technical support is available from the co-leads (including UNHCR)** to help UNCTs define and deliver on a jointly agreed ambition under the pledge

What kind of commitments might UNCTs consider?

The UN common pledge 2.0 is a joint reaffirmation of the commitment of the whole UN system to systematically promote and support refugees' inclusion, in two different ways:

- 1) Systematic inclusion of refugees in UN analyses and plans; and

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- 2) Systematic promotion and provision of support by the UN family for refugees' inclusion in national systems (e.g. national or subnational plans and/or budgets; national datasets or registries; national social protection systems; access to decent work/livelihoods etc.)

The following questions might help UNCTs to develop draft commitment(s) under the pledge, under the leadership of the RC.

- What has the UN done so far to systematically promote refugees' inclusion in national datasets, plans, budgets and service delivery systems in your context? Are there some successful approaches you plan to scale, or bottlenecks you might address? (It may be helpful to refer to the [stocktaking report](#) on the 2019 pledge.)
- In what ways has the UNCT jointly advocated and communicated on refugees and their inclusion, including social cohesion with host communities? Could this be further strengthened?
- Are there actions required from others that would help to facilitate your objectives on refugee inclusion, e.g. increased budget support from IFIs, increased ODA for the government, or donors factoring refugees into their strategies and, for example, link planned / new ODA to inclusion of refugees in development efforts? How can you best advocate to activate enablers like this?
- Do the CCA, the UNSDCF and the annual joint workplan in your context include refugees? Are you able to leverage the full suite of capacities and expertise in the UN family in support of this part of the work or is there still room to do more of this?
- In your annual reporting, how can progress towards refugee inclusion be reflected? (indicators, targets, disaggregation...)
- Are there any improvements in the evidence base on refugee inclusion that might really help the UNCT to progress its work in this area? How might you plan to address any gaps in data, knowledge of what works etc. (research, studies, evaluations)?
- Are there ways in which your UNCT's work on refugees might be strengthened by collaboration with UNCTs in bordering countries? Are there cross border strategies (which might also support migrants and others on the move) that you might want to develop?
- If your UNCT engages with affected communities, does this include meaningful engagement with refugees? Could this be strengthened? Are there refugee-led organisations you might partner with?

You can draw further inspiration from the 10 accelerators on how to better deliver on refugee inclusion listed on pp 20-21 of [2021 stocktaking report](#) and / the annex which includes programming examples.

What could a strong commitment look like?

Commitments from UNCTs can be subject to funding. In other words, the commitment is a stated joint goal, for which resources may be required. The intention under the UN common pledge is to mobilise additional resources where needed, so do not limit ambition to what is achievable within existing resources.

Commitments should be coherent with the wider UNCT goals in the context, and should be built into the SDCF, annual joint workplan and/or other relevant joint plan.

Commitments should meet as many of the criteria below as possible:

- ✓ Articulate measurable change(s) which are clearly linked to refugee inclusion, in support of the SDGs
- ✓ Focus on refugee inclusion in either or both of the two senses described above
- ✓ Be ambitious but achievable in 4 years (the period of the pledge).
- ✓ Facilitate a measurable positive impact in the lives of refugees
- ✓ Be shaped by the perspectives of refugees from different backgrounds (e.g. refugees have meaningfully participated in developing the commitment, or the commitment is informed by prior engagement with refugees / an evidence base on refugees' perspectives), and
- ✓ Be able to be costed – so that additional resources required can be included in relevant plans and budgets.

By when should UNCTs' commitments be drafted?

First drafts should be sent to Katy Barnett at barnettc@unhcr.org by 5 May. Feedback will be shared by 26 May. Final versions of commitments are due by 30 June.

Mixed Populations

The primary focus of the UN common pledge 2.0 is refugees. However, commitments under the pledge can be inclusive, aimed at achieving positive impacts for refugees, returnees, mixed populations including refugees, IDPs, and/or host communities. Commitments relating to the prevention of statelessness, and access to legal identity and civil registration can also be considered.

Noting that IDPs are the specific focus of the UN Secretary-General's Acton Agenda, the UN common pledge 2.0 seeks to be complementary to this and avoid confusion or duplication. For this reason, commitments specifically on IDPs (rather than on mixed populations or host communities which may include and benefit IDPs, for example) will likely not be included in the UN common pledge 2.0.

In a similar vein, commitments that focus uniquely on migrants should be incorporated into pledges supporting the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration rather than under the UN common pledge 2.0. Commitments which relate to mixed populations where migrants likely outnumber refugees may also be reflected in pledges submitted at the next International Migration Review Forum. Commitments under the UN common pledge 2.0 relating to mixed populations where both migrants and refugees are concerned should be approved by both UNHCR and IOM at country-level.

Content of template for commitments from UNCTs under the UN common pledge 2.0

This document outlines the content of the template for UNCTs submitting commitments under the overall umbrella of the UN common pledge 2.0. Draft commitments should be submitted by the named focal point for each UN entity by 5 May using the online template.

For more guidance on drafting commitments under the UN common pledge 2.0, and answers to frequently asked questions, please consult [UN Common Pledge | The Global Compact on Refugees | UNHCR \(globalcompactrefugees.org\)](#). Any number of commitments can be submitted; a separate set of responses to the set of questions below can be provided for each commitment and instructions on how to do this are in the online template.

Commitments are likely to vary considerably. Examples might be: advocacy for policy changes so that refugees can access national systems and/or decent work; provision of technical support to help government implement existing progressive policies; advocating with development financiers for increased budget support to government to facilitate refugees' inclusion in national systems; provision of technical support to facilitate the inclusion of refugees in national data sets, budgets, or plans; measures to strengthen and extend national service delivery systems; or programmes that support refugee inclusion and/or social cohesion.

Name of submitting UNCT:

UNCT focal point for the UN common pledge 2.0 name and email:

Summary of the commitment in one sentence:

SDGs (*Which SDGs does the commitment contribute to?*):

In what other country or regional level multistakeholder processes or platforms, if any, is this commitment reflected?

Expected impact of the commitment in one sentence (*As far as possible, state what the result will be for refugees, host communities on any other groups*).

Targeted Population (*indicate if refugees, stateless persons, host communities, or any other*)

Number of targeted beneficiaries:

Detailed description of the commitment in up to 500 words (*please include how the commitment relates to refugee inclusion, and the link with government policies or plans, if any. If the government in your country [made a pledge at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum](#), is your commitment intended to support government to deliver against that pledge? If so, how?*):

Key steps (*Please outline key steps in fulfilling the commitment*):

Contributing UN entities:

What will success look like and how will you track it? (*Please outline where the commitment will be integrated into relevant UNCT plans, how you will measure progress over the four years of the commitment, and how you will know when the commitment has been achieved. At the mid-term and end-term points we will ask you to refer back to this definition of success and assess progress against it*):

Measuring impact (*Please outline how you might be able to assess the impact once the commitment has been fulfilled*):

Stakeholder engagement (*Please outline briefly which external stakeholders - refugees, government, development banks, donors etc. - if any, have been engaged in the drafting of this commitment, and how*):

(optional) **What resources, if any, will you require in order to achieve the commitment?** (*Please indicate whether these resources are already in place / likely to be attainable, or if this is a gap. If this information is not yet available, it can be supplied at a later date*):