

# GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM 2023

Mega Pledge on Economic Inclusion and Social Protection

## TECHNICAL GUIDANCE NOTES: PROGRAMMES



### Background:

Pledges under Programmes will include commitments to support economic inclusion and access to social protection, and to enhance employability, self- and wage employment, and entrepreneurship, including through: pathways to inclusion in and adjustment of government social protection systems to address the poverty and vulnerabilities across the lifecycle; programmes and technical assistance to facilitate self-reliance for people of all ages, genders, and diverse groups; decent employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in local and digital economies; and local economic development and access to social protection through intersectional area-based approaches in urban and rural contexts.<sup>1</sup>

In addition, pledges will support the development of innovative, flexible, and predictable funding models to support inclusion and allow for sustainable funding to local governments and communities, including organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons, alongside the expanded engagement of development partners and the private sector. Pledges may include linked outcomes for vulnerable groups including women, children, youth and adolescents, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

### Goal:

Reach one million refugees, forcibly displaced and stateless people, and members of host communities with holistic economic inclusion and broader social protection programming to effectively address lifecycle-based poverty and vulnerabilities, resulting in expanded access to basic services necessary for human development, participation in economic activities, and enhanced employment, entrepreneurship, and decent work opportunities in local and global markets.

### Aspirational Outcome:

Refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless people, and members of host communities gain access to economic inclusion, employment, entrepreneurship and decent work, training

and lifelong learning, and social protection through strengthened and inclusive legislative and policy frameworks.

### **Impact indicators:**

1. Amount of investment (e.g. financial, in-kind, pro-bono) provided to advance economic inclusion and social protection, disaggregated by investments focused on i) economic inclusion, ii) social protection, or iii) both.
2. Number of refugees, stateless, other forcibly displaced and host community members, disaggregated by age and sex at a minimum, reached through pledge-supported programmes and initiatives, disaggregated by programs or initiatives focused on i) economic inclusion, ii) social protection, or iii) both.
3. Number of refugees, stateless, and other forcibly displaced persons, disaggregated by age and sex at a minimum, accessing national social protection programmes as a result of pledge initiatives.
4. Number of refugees, stateless, other forcibly displaced and host community members, disaggregated by age and sex at a minimum, accessing jobs, including in the digital economy.
5. Number of refugees, stateless, other forcibly displaced and host community members, disaggregated by age and sex at a minimum, accessing employability services and training, skills-based training, including in the digital economy.
6. Number of refugees, stateless, other forcibly displaced and host community members, disaggregated by age and sex at a minimum, accessing entrepreneurship support (mentoring, coaching, consulting, networking, etc.) through private sector, civil society or government initiatives.
7. Number of refugees, stateless, other forcibly displaced, disaggregated by age and sex accessing accounts in financial institutions, micro-finance, loans and other financial services and products.

### **Pledging Guidance:**

1. Pledges should be SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timebound) and linked to one or more impact indicators.
2. We encourage synergy and complementarity between pledging partners for the

development of quantifiable multi-year, multi-stakeholder pledges where the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Multi-stakeholder pledges can be made at the local, country, regional, and international levels. For accountability and reporting purposes, the contribution of each stakeholder to a multi-stakeholder pledge should be clearly defined. Multi-stakeholder pledge development and pledge pre-matching can be facilitated under the framework of this pledge.

3. Pledges should be informed by data and evidence as well as contribute to strengthening data and evidence to support the reform and implementation of law and policy and/or the attainment of relevant Sustainable Development Goals and Objective 2 of the Global Compact on Refugees.
4. Programme pledges should adhere to the principle of non-discrimination and equality of opportunity and treatment, in particular gender equality.
5. Pledges may include linked outcomes with gender equality and protection from gender-based violence (GBV) and linkages between women's socio-economic and through addressing discrimination gender norms and barriers to women's access to livelihoods, resources, assets, and opportunities. Pledges can also focus on enabling more forcibly displaced women entrepreneurs to take advantage of the growing digital economy and increasing access to financial resources aimed at strengthening economic resilience of forcibly displaced persons to disasters and climate change. Additional outcomes on the protection of children, older persons, and persons with disabilities can be achieved by supporting access to national protection schemes that address the specific needs of these groups. For example, pledges may:
  - Acknowledge and address the different barriers, needs, and capacities of girls, boys, women, and men, including people of all ages and gender identities, those with disabilities, and other diverse groups.
  - Advance gender equality and address the structural barriers that prevent the equal participation of all, particularly of women and girls and LGBTIQ+ individuals of all ages and diverse backgrounds.
  - Promote the full, equal, and meaningful participation of refugees and host communities in decision-making—which is inclusive of all women and girls, young people and children, and individuals belonging to diverse groups—to ensure accountability to all affected people.
6. Pledge commitments shall seek a “do no harm” approach and endeavor to assess risks and

mitigate potential negative effects of their actions.

## **Illustrative examples of pledges:**

(Please note: This is a non-exhaustive list of illustrative examples for pledges, and pledges will need to be adopted for specific contexts and research objectives.)

### **SOCIAL PROTECTION**

- (Name of State) pledges to ensure that refugees, forcibly displaced and stateless persons are systematically included in social protection programmes and national development plans, both existing and new, on par with nationals.
- (Name of funder/organization) pledges to support national government (name state) or other relevant entities to enable the inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in national social protection programmes through (monetary/technical/policy) support.
- (Name of funder/organization) pledges to support national governments to lay foundations for an inclusive and shock-responsive social protection system in host and conflict-affected countries to transition from partner-led humanitarian programming to government-led social protection programmes.
- (Name of funder) pledges support to strengthen linkages between key social services for children and families, including social protection programmes, by creating or strengthening referral pathways and case management
- (Name of funder) pledges to enhance the capacity of local and national governments/ authorities to deliver social protection programmes (financial and technical assistance).
- (Name of funder) pledges to support the set-up of a technical facility at global level to provide technical support and deployments to strengthen the inclusion of forcibly displaced in national social protection systems (via financial and technical assistance).

### **ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND ACCESS TO SERVICES**

- (Name of funder/organization) pledges to facilitate the inclusion of refugee women in the digital economy by facilitating access to affordable internet and mobile devices through innovative financing schemes or models and/or pledges to provide digital and financial skills and literacy programmes that enable refugee women to fully and safely participate in the digital economy.
- (Name of funder/organization/State) pledges to establish partnership agreements with local institutions that provide tailored and contextualized livelihoods programming toward (highlight specific program initiatives) to facilitate the inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in these programmes (specific timeline).

- (Name of funder/organization(s)/State) pledges to take steps towards facilitating better access to services for economic inclusion, including through the (facilitation of accounts in financial institutions/ access to credit/ access to employment and business development services/ provision of targeted information campaigns/mentoring/ensuring alignment with other crucial services such as consumption support and access to health, protection, or energy).

## EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY

- (Name of stakeholder) pledges to implement programmes, and/or provide tools and resources to facilitate professional transitions for youth, including, for example, via skills assessments, recognition of previous skills, qualifications, degrees and certificates, upskilling/ reskilling, and adapted training programmes for the development of competences in line with current and future employment opportunities.
- (Name of private sector actors/alliance) pledges to employ refugees in conjunction with/in support of policy commitments on economic inclusion. (Specify global, regional, or country focus).
- (Names of multi stakeholders) pledge to address structural and practical barriers<sup>2</sup> to enhance the inclusion of displaced and stateless persons in the labor market system and in national systems and services.
- (Name of funder) pledges (financial amount) to support the socio-economic empowerment and employment of women and groups at risk for gender-based violence (GBV), while also targeting (barriers to women's access to livelihoods, resources, assets, and opportunities, such as access to childcare, safe transportation/discrimination related to gender norms, etc.)
- (Name of funder/organization/state) pledges to facilitate the employment of refugees through the provision of information and guidance on recruitment processes for both refugees and employers and developing linkages with service providers, matching skills and qualifications with jobs, and enabling long-term employability.
- (Names of private sector actors/alliance) pledge to advocate for access to decent work, non-discrimination, and against the abuse of forcibly displaced and stateless persons.
- (Name of funder/organization/state) pledges to raise the awareness of displaced and stateless persons on: their rights and obligations, the services available to them, and the risks of exploitation and abuse.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- (Name of funder/organization/state) pledges to facilitate inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless entrepreneurs in impact and social entrepreneurship ecosystems (global, regional, national, local, and/or digital), in partnering with refugee entrepreneurship support networks to facilitate the creation of a well-documented one-stop-shop information portal on refugee entrepreneurship, and the adoption of inclusive and better incubation practices among

intermediary organizations

- (Name of Private sector actor(s)) pledges to support (list here specific details related to, for example: refugee hiring activities (including internships, part-time, full-time, and remote positions); entrepreneur support, education, and skills development (including language, job-readiness, and technical skills, internships, apprenticeships, on-the-job training and work experience); housing; and care services for children and elderly), provision of products and services to refugees, philanthropy to refugee-focused organizations and programs, and to refugee-led organizations<sup>3</sup>, and advocacy activities toward hosting governments on regulatory policies related to employment of refugees.
- (Name of funder) pledges (financial amount) toward programs that enable decent employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in local and digital economies.
- (Name of funder) pledges (financial amount or value of contribution) toward programs that provide coaching, mentoring, and business support services for refugee and stateless entrepreneurs.
- (Name of funder) pledges (financial amount) toward the sustainable development of markets in urban and rural refugee-hosting areas, and the strengthening of small and medium enterprises led by displaced and stateless persons, and host community members in these areas.
- (Name of funder) pledges (financial amount) toward programs that enable more forcibly displaced women entrepreneurs to take advantage of the growing digital economy including by improving women's access to digital skills and tools.

## FINANCIAL INCLUSION

- (Development financial institutions/ impact investors/financial service providers) pledge to identify blended finance solutions (technical assistance paired with debt, equity, guarantees) to overcome market barriers to financial inclusion for refugees, other forcibly displaced persons, and host communities.
- (Development financial institutions/ impact investors/and financial service providers) pledge to strengthen Savings Groups and facilitate their link to the formal financial sector.
- (Development financial institutions/ impact investors/and financial service providers) pledge to raise awareness among financial service providers of refugees' legal rights to access financial products and services available to them.
- (Development financial institutions/ impact investors/and financial service providers) pledge to enable meaningful access to and raise awareness among the displaced and stateless of their rights related to access to financial services and products available to them.
- (Development financial institutions/ impact investors/and financial service providers) pledge

to provide training and technical assistance to financial services providers to adapt or create financial products and services for forcibly displaced persons.

- (Development financial institutions/ impact investors/and financial service providers) pledge to work closely with regulators to provide evidence-informed policy advice for the financial inclusion of refugees, other forcibly displaced persons, and host communities.

## AREA-BASED DEVELOPMENT

- (Name of funder or financial institution) pledges (financial amount) to support the development of innovative, flexible, and predictable funding models to support inclusion and that allow for sustainable funding to local governments and communities for inclusive and resilient area-based development, including organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons.
- (Name of funder) pledges (financial amount) to support (financing and technical assistance for local economic development planning and governance processes/programs to enhance the self-reliance of forcibly displaced persons and host communities) in areas hosting forcibly displaced persons.
- (Name of funder(s), MDB, development organization, providers of infrastructure engineering services, etc.) pledges (financial amount) toward the creation, development or rehabilitation of infrastructure for livelihoods and local economic development (specify details) in the following locations (list States/localities).
- (Name of funder) pledges to facilitate opportunities for private sector engagement via funds (provide details on the value and type) that de-risk investments and allow for the deployment of capital, including for financial services providers (as relevant, specify locations and sectoral focus).

## CROSS-CUTTING

- (Name of organization) pledges to adopt a set of agreed upon best practices related to economic inclusion and social protection programming (to be defined) and to expand the reach of programmes and initiatives that support the pledge goals.
- (Name of organization) pledges to expand measurement of economic inclusion and social protection outcomes and progress of refugee, forcibly displaced and host community households toward self-reliance to inform and improve: programme design and implementation; design and provision of services; targeting of assistance; service gaps; and, funding priorities.

## KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND COORDINATION

- (Name of funder) pledges (financial amount) to strengthen or create platforms for humanitarian and development actors to jointly plan refugee responses for the economic and social inclusion of refugees from the onset of an emergency, cutting across silos between the



humanitarian and development fields and across traditional sectors.

- (Name of funder) pledges (financial amount) to support knowledge exchange opportunities between global private sector actors and private sector firms in the global south in countries or regions with large refugee populations to strengthen exchange of best practices.

## EXISTING PLEDGE INITIATIVES SEEKING SPECIFIC INPUT

### MADE51

- (Name of private sector actor) pledges to commit to annually ordering and delivering refugee-made/MADE51 products with aligned storytelling of impact to (Name of private sector actor's) customer base. This commitment will include: (list as appropriate: MADE51-designed products, brand collaborations or product components, cause-related marketing, corporate gifting, and employee gifting).
- (Name of private sector actor) pledges to contribute pro-bono support to MADE51's ecosystem through contributions of: (list as appropriate: specific support for marketing, design, logistics, operations, or other areas of expertise).
- (Name of funder) pledges to commit (financial amount) in annual funding dedicated to supporting refugee livelihoods through MADE51, to promote the growth and impact of this unique model.

### Poverty Alleviation Coalition:

- (Name of funder) pledges to provide (financial amount) in grant support to the implementing partners of the Poverty Alleviation Coalition for the implementation of graduation programming between (month and year) in (location(s) targeting (X) number of households (% refugee and host community)).

## Pledge Matching Guidance:

**2019 GRF Pledges:** 2019 State pledges that still require matching can still be matched by following the guidance available on [Matching Pledges | The Global Compact on Refugees | UNHCR \(globalcompactrefugees.org\)](#).

**Matching new pledges under development for the 2023 GRF:** In line with the initial 2023 GRF pledging guidance, and the Note on [Pledge Matching in the Context of the GRF 2023 | The Global Compact on Refugees | UNHCR \(globalcompactrefugees.org\)](#), 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. The mega pledge on economic inclusion and social protection provides the space to facilitate consultations between stakeholders, notably donors and hosting States, for the pre-matching of relevant pledges as they develop.



## Definitions:

- Economic Inclusion entails access to labor markets, assets, finance, entrepreneurship, and economic opportunities for all, including non-citizens in addition to vulnerable and under-served groups. Economic inclusion contributes to the self-reliance and resilience of refugees, empowering them to meet their needs in a safe, sustainable, and dignified manner; avoids aid-dependency and negative coping mechanisms; contributes to their host economies; and prepares refugees for their future whether they return home, integrate in their country of asylum, or resettle in a third country.
- Social protection refers to a nationally defined system of policies and programmes that provide equitable access to all people and protect them throughout their lives against poverty and risks to their livelihoods and well-being.<sup>4</sup>

## Resources:

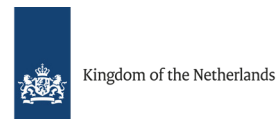
- [Universal Social Protection 2030 Agenda](#)
- [UNDP–UNHCR Global Collaboration Framework for Inclusion and Solutions 2022-2025](#)
- [UNICEF-UNHCR Strategic Collaboration Framework and Technical Annex on Social Protection](#)
- [Global Roadmap for Refugee Entrepreneurship | UNHCR](#)
- [Enterprise Development \(Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities \(PROSPECTS\)\) \(ilo.org\)](#)
- [Skills \(Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities \(PROSPECTS\)\) \(ilo.org\)](#)
- [Employment \(Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities \(PROSPECTS\)\)](#)
- [OECD Engaging with employers in the hiring of refugees: A 10-point action plan | UNHCR](#)
- [The humanitarian development nexus in action: A review and mapping of market-led approaches in forced displacement contexts \(ilo.org\)](#)
- [A Sustainable Private Sector Solution to the Refugee Crisis, Refugee Integration Insights, 2022](#)
- [World Bank PEI data portal](#)
- [UNICEF Strengthening Shock-Responsive Social Protection Systems](#)
- [ODI/UNICEF Strengthening inclusive social protection systems for displaced children and their families](#)
- [Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compact: Towards-a-GRF-pledge-for-children\\_May-2023.pdf \(childrenonthemove.org\): contains sample pledges for child-sensitive social protection pledges](#)
- [Age Gender and Diversity Tip Sheet \(ENG\) - Helping to ensure AGD inclusive pledges and good practices for the GRF | The Global Compact on Refugees | UNHCR \(globalcompactrefugees.org\).](#)

<sup>1</sup>Informal work remains the most prevalent form of work in many refugee-hosting countries, which requires access to strong social protection services given that many displaced and stateless persons are forced to engage in precarious jobs, to be underemployed and accept below market wages and are not protected by employers' contractual obligations. The Mega Pledge takes into consideration the prevalence of informal work and aims to remove the obstacles to access to dignified, formal employment.

<sup>2</sup>Such barriers might include a lack of freedom of movement, access to documentation (personal, work permit, business registration), administrative restrictions, access to information, recognition of qualifications, discrimination and xenophobia, poverty in the host community, and continued shocks and vulnerability.

<sup>3</sup>A refugee-led organization (RLO) is an organization or group in which persons with direct lived experience of forced displacement play a primary leadership role and whose stated objectives and activities are focused on responding to the needs of refugees and/or related communities. For further details, please visit: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/63e658fc4.html>

<sup>4</sup>For more details, see: the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (USP2030).



For updates, pledging technical guidance notes, contributing pledge initiatives, a calendar of events and information about how to get involved, visit:

[refugeeselfreliance.org/megapledge2023](https://refugeeselfreliance.org/megapledge2023)