

Multistakeholder Pledge

Child Rights

As of end of February 2024

Summary

The Child Rights Multistakeholder Pledge is to promote collaboration between stakeholders with a common objective of ensuring children’s non-discriminatory inclusion in and access to quality national and local systems and services so that children: are protected from violence, abuse and exploitation; can meaningfully participate in decisions that affect their lives; have access to key and child-sensitive services including social protection, healthcare and MHPSS; and have access to early years, primary, secondary and tertiary education in a protective environment.

Initial goal to be achieved in the next four years:

- (Child Protection) At least 10 states - with the support of relevant stakeholders - strengthen laws and policies, multi-year investments, workforce capacity and key services on child protection.
- (Empowerment and Child Participation) At least 10 states and other stakeholders will have a plan to support the meaningful participation of refugee and displaced children including through establishing platforms, training adults, and supporting children to organize themselves to inform the development of policies and responses and hold governments accountable.
- (Social Protection) At least 7 states will strengthen holistic economic inclusion and broader social protection to effectively address poverty and vulnerabilities of refugee and host community children and their families.
- (Healthcare and MHPSS) At least 7 countries will strengthen healthcare mental health and psychosocial support services, that are inclusive of and explicitly address the specific needs of refugee and host community children.
- (Education) With the support of donors and other stakeholders, at least 10 hosting countries ensure refugee and displaced children’s non-discriminatory inclusion in and access to a safe and protective learning environment where education is coordinated with services that support children’s needs and children can access well-funded quality and accredited learning and skill training.

Leadership:

- The Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts¹
- Government of Greece
- Government of Norway

Potential focus countries: Child-focused pledges, considering geographical balance and diverse focus areas

#	Region	Countries	Focus Area	
1	Americas	Colombia	CP, Participation, Education	Host the first world ministerial conference to End Violence against Children in 2024.

¹ Co-chaired by Terre des Hommes & Save the Children, the initiative is a multi-stakeholder partnership which brings together over 30 UN entities, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, philanthropic foundations, and individual experts (visit [the Initiative’s website](#) for a list of members).

				Provide a general framework for the protection of children through the promotion of sports, education and culture.
2		Panama	CP (BR/stateless) Participation	Child-friendly refugee status determination procedures, stateless/birth registration
3		Uruguay	CP Participation	Training of officials, mechanisms to enable participation of children, early childhood development facilities
4		Chile	CP SP	Legal representation and inter-institutional agreement for unaccompanied children
5		Honduras	CP Participation Education	Safeguarding children's fundamental rights, continued access to education, active participation in decision-making
6		Paraguay	CP	Mechanisms for special cases, such as family reunification procedures involving children or unaccompanied minors
7		Guatemala	CP	Training of courts for the protection of children and adolescents in contexts of human mobility
8	Europe	Türkiye	CP Participation SP Health/MHPSS Education	Awareness raising and behavioural change, CFS, school enrolment
9		Moldova	CP Participation SP Health/MHPSS Education	Strengthening national CP services including capacity building of government staff, inclusive education
10		Switzerland	CP, SP, Education	Continuous, safe and quality education for refugee children and youth, mainstreaming CP in the education sector, specialized CP services
11	Asia & the Pacific	Thailand	CP	Withdrawal of reservation to Article 22 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
12	Southern Africa	Botswana	CP	Local integration of unaccompanied children
13	Eastern Horn & Great Lakes	Uganda	CP (BR/stateless), SP, Education	Access to birth registration, inclusive education
14		South Sudan	Education	Training of teachers to promote the psycho-social well-being of students and teachers
15	West & Central Africa	Gambia	CP (BR/stateless)	Granting nationality to children born on its territory

(See "Overview on Pledges for Child Protection" section below for the pledge description)

Key Statistics

- A total of 288 pledges, including
 - 225 child-focused pledges and 63 child-sensitive pledges
 - 93 pledges that are tagged to The Child Rights Multistakeholder Pledge²
- Of 225 child-focused pledges
 - 81 pledges by States, 51 pledges by Civil Society Organizations, 46 pledges by International Organizations, 13 pledges by Private Sector Organizations, 9 pledges by Faith-based

² We plan to reach out to some key stakeholders for tagging to increase the visibility.

Organizations, 8 pledges by others, 5 pledges by Sports Organizations, 4 pledges by Cities, Municipalities, and Local Authorities, 4 pledges by EU, 3 pledges by Academics and Researchers, and 1 pledge by Refugee Groups, Host Communities, and Diaspora.

- The focus area with the most submitted pledges is education and child protection, followed by Health/MHPSS, social protection, child participation and sports (see the table below for more detail).

Child-focused pledges							
Pledging entity	Total	CP incl. BR	Participation incl. CFP	SP	Health/MHPSS	Education	Sports
States	81	40	8	14	7	39	7
International Organizations	46	20	2	12	18	31	4
Civil Society Organizations	51	20	8	5	15	19	5
Private Sector Organizations	13	0	0	3	6	8	2
Other	8	5	1	3	4	5	0
Faith-based Organizations	9	2	4	0	5	4	0
Sports Organizations	5	1	0	0	1	0	5
EU	4	3	1	1	2	3	0
Cities, Municipalities, and Local Authorities	4	1	1	1	0	4	0
Academics and Researchers	3	2	0	2	1	0	0
Refugee Groups, Host Communities, and Diaspora	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	225	94	25	41	59	114	23

Overview of Child Protection Pledges

Child-focused and child protection pledges made by key stakeholders (states and cities, municipalities and local authorities). For the full pledge description please refer to the excel or dashboard.

Pledge ID	Submitting Entity Name	Pledge Description
GRF-03221	Government of Greece	Greece pledged to maintain and strengthen its National Emergency Response Mechanism (NERM) that was established in Greece to provide immediate care for unaccompanied minors arriving in the country, discontinuing the practice of placing them in police custody. The NERM swiftly places unaccompanied children in safe facilities while offering comprehensive support through an emergency helpline and partnerships with NGOs. The facilities provide specialized services such as psychosocial support, legal aid, healthcare, and education. Greece commits to further develop NERM is reinforced, with secured funding for its sustained operations from 2021 to 2027. Moreover, NERM's funding has been secured through the National AMIF 2021-2027.
GRF-07709	Government of Switzerland	Switzerland made a matching pledge with Greece within the Swiss-Greek Cooperation Programme. Switzerland will fund a second phase of the project "Emergency Accommodation Facilities" to accommodate unaccompanied children, which forms an integral part of the Greece's NERM. Switzerland also will conduct expert exchanges with Greece in the coming months and years and will organize a study visit by Greek experts to Switzerland, in order to share best practices on integration mechanisms for UMC in particular and young asylum seekers and refugees in general.
GRF-08091	Government of Switzerland	Switzerland reaffirms its commitment to uphold the fundamental right to continuous, safe, and quality education for all, especially in emergency situations. Acknowledging the protective role of education, Switzerland promotes the integration of education and (child) protection. Switzerland draws upon its best practices in educational inclusion including in vocational skills development, for refugee and asylum-seeking children and young people.

GRF-07916	Government of Switzerland	Switzerland will increase its engagement to strengthening local civil society responses and the localisation agenda in forced displacement. Including through a contribution to the NGO Resource Center in Ukraine with the aim of fostering a locally-led humanitarian response and increasing the outreach of protection services to a bigger number of those in need, while enhancing the quality of protection assistance provided to the most vulnerable children in Ukraine.
GRF-08605	Government of Switzerland	Continued commitment to supporting safe, dignified and equitable access to quality preventive interventions and response services for survivors and persons at risk of abuse, violence and exploitation, including gender-based violence, and enhancing their resilience and (economic) empowerment through multi-year support to and engagement with international and local actors, including community-based and women-led organizations, and the strengthening of national systems. • Provision of specialized protection services, including for child protection and gender-based violence • Interventions to prevent gender-based violence from occurring, including through effective and transformative community engagement • Promotion of integrated approaches to reinforce the prevention-protection-resilience continuum/joint outcomes • Support system strengthening efforts and enhance locally-led and community-based structures and interventions towards increased sustainability and ownership
GRF-08575	Government of Norway	Norway pledged to make the protection of the displaced children a priority for the global refugee forum and beyond, by contributing a total of 90 million NOK over the next three years to support UNHCRs work on child protection. This pledge is part of Norway's longstanding commitment to the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including those forcibly displaced.
GRF-07178	Government of Uruguay	Uruguay pledged to support and promote the training of officials linked to the reception and care of undocumented foreign girls, boys and adolescents, applying legal regulations and regional instruments, and to develop the mechanisms for the participation of children and adolescents, especially the INAU Child and Adolescent Participation Program (PROPIA), and the Advisory and Consultative Councils (CAC) at the national level.
GRF-08615	The GFMD Mayors Mechanism, submitting on behalf of Montevideo (Uruguay)	The City of Montevideo commits to create its first ever early childhood care center for migrant and displaced families in recognition of the importance of prioritizing children's needs and how their wellbeing is linked with that of their caregivers. Taking a two-generational approach, the center focuses on providing female caregivers with legal and employment support while offering their young children access to food, a safe space to play and learn, and schooling. The center gives mothers and children greater access to their rights while also supporting children's development and families' overall wellbeing. The city expects to help over forty migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking women find stable employment in the project's first year. The center's care team will also work with caregivers to enroll their children into Montevideo's public school system, ensuring children's education continues once they age out of daycare.
GRF-07386	Government of Panama	Panama pledged to implement child friendly refugee status determination procedures in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its national legislation.
GRF-08061	Government of Panama	Panama pledged to ensure that no child is born stateless and ensure issuance of birth registration to prevent statelessness
GRF-08073	Government of Panama	Panama pledged to carry out field missions in communities where people at risk of statelessness have been identified according to the results of the National Population and Housing Census carried out in 2023.

GRF-08077	Government of Panama	For the full implementation of Executive Decree No. 10 of 16 January 2019, and the international instruments regulating statelessness, as well as to strengthen mechanisms for identifying and referring people at risk of statelessness, to facilitate their access to basic rights, to promote birth registration, and to ensure that no child is born stateless.
GRF-07420	Government of Türkiye	Visits of the Child Protection Team working under the Ministry of Family and Social Services provide the opportunity to identify children as they come close to the age of school enrolment (six years) and follow up on whether these children have been enrolled. It is clear that there is a need for awareness-raising activities for children and their families as well as individual interventions for children in need of protection. By 2026, the MoFSS in Türkiye, commits to promote school enrolment and greater protection of children through awareness-raising and social and behaviour change activities for at least 4,425 children and 2,000 families who are under temporary protection.
GRF-07429	Government of Türkiye	The Ministry of Family and Social Services, the Ministry of National Education, and the Turkish Red Crescent commit to provide conditional cash transfer for 800,000 children over 3 years, so as to support their education and prevent child labour and child marriage. The need for support continues to ensure that more children are involved into education.
GRF-07467	Government of Türkiye	The Ministry of Family and Social Services, the Ministry of National Education, and the Turkish Red Crescent commit to assess 225.000 children in line with the above-mentioned criteria and to direct them to child protection and other appropriate services accordingly until 2026.
GRF-07471	Government of Türkiye	The MoFSS in Türkiye is committed to provide 4 more tours of the Mobile Child-Friendly Space to children and parents until 2026. The Mobile Child-Friendly Space consists of various components, such as the Child-Friendly Truck, Child-Friendly Education and Activity Tent, Parent Psychosocial Support Tent, and Child-Friendly Playground. The Mobile Child-Friendly Space is designed and developed with a fully equipped training and entertainment area with advanced technology systems. It is a truck which has a route and travels to provinces six times within the programme duration based on needs in the field. It is for school-age children and their families. With the Mobile Child-Friendly Space, it is aimed at increasing the resilience and adaptability of school-age children; facilitating children's access to activities where comprehensive education and entertainment activities contribute and address the development of children in need who are under temporary protection and children from the host community to enhance social cohesion among communities.
GRF-07373	Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA)	The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, a government department subordinate to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, pledged to invest in infrastructure that will benefit children. This includes establishment of Social Recreation Areas in Bashanchar (volleyball court and children friendly spaces in the island), establishment of Protection Fences around the Ponds in Bashanchar Island (after building 5 protection fences in the island, it is still need for 50 more fences in the island in order to prevent the drowning of children who fell down the ponds), establishment Girl Friendly Space.
GRF-07591	Republic of Guinea-Bissau	Republic of Guinea-Bissau pledges to prevent risks of statelessness by revising its National Integration Clauses for Long Lasting Refugees to simplify naturalization and documentation processes, providing technical and logistical support for civil registration services in remote areas, offering technical capacity building for committees handling statelessness, conducting a quantitative study on statelessness risks and launching the "I BELONG Campaign" targeting policymakers, administrative agents, migrant communities, families, children, and local leaders to combat statelessness issues.

GRF-07716	Government of the Republic of Moldova	Moldova pledged to provide and expand services and protection to an estimated 20,000 vulnerable refugee and displaced children, as well as 100,000 host community children, incl training of 10,000 government employees, hiring one hundred (100) additional social service workers (incl. refugees), strengthening systematically alternative care for unaccompanied refugee children in ten (10) refugee-hosting communities, expanding public childcare services, expanding alternative childcare services for children under three years old, accrediting additional private services to increase the number of enrolled children and reinforcing intersectional cooperation mechanism for the identification, assistance and monitoring of children in situations of risk coming from Ukraine.
GRF-07900	Government of Chile	Chile pledged to ensure comprehensive and specialized legal representation in any corresponding judicial and/or administrative venue for unaccompanied and separated children and adolescents through the legal, social and psychological care that grants the “My lawyer” program under the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.
GRF-07903	Government of Chile	Chile pledged to establish an inter-institutional agreement between the competent authorities, regarding unaccompanied or separated children and adolescents with international protection needs.
GRF-08226	Government of Honduras	Honduras pledges to strengthen protection of displaced children, especially from forced recruitment and gender-based violence, by coordinating the protection mechanisms of the Directorate for Children, Adolescents, and Family (DINAF), the Ministry of Education (SEDUC), and the Ministry of Human Rights (SEDH). This includes the identification and care of cases of forced recruitment, as well as the implementation of programs and services aimed at safeguarding their fundamental rights, ensuring continued access to education, and guaranteeing vulnerable groups (adolescents, youth and women) active participation in decision-making that affects them.
GRF-08282	European Union	EU pledged to continue supporting Ukraine and neighboring countries by fostering the socio-economic inclusion of the most vulnerable (including refugees from Ukraine and Roma communities), ensuring to address the specific needs and risks of women and children and provide adequate responses (incl. support to children in institutions and referrals to alternative care within Ukraine), supporting efforts by the ICRC and UN organizations to verify cases of deported children and facilitate family reunifications, working closely with its Ukrainian partners on tracing of missing children and providing financial support for strengthening the guardianship system and supporting guardians, drawing on the lessons learnt from the Ukraine crisis.
GRF-08295	European Union	EU pledged to continue dedicating special attention to children in asylum proceedings to ensure that the best interests of the child are the primary considerations in decisions and that child-specific procedural guarantees and additional support are effectively provided. • Further support measures implemented by particularly affected Member States to offer quality protection to children, including in particular to provide quality reception and care for unaccompanied children. To this end, a dedicated budget of additional EUR 70 million is made available. • Provide up to EUR 6 million for transnational projects to support and strengthen guardianship systems for unaccompanied children, drawing on the lessons learnt from the measures taken to support displaced children from Ukraine. • Continue to place an emphasis on child protection in humanitarian crises, addressing all types of violence against children as well as providing education, mental health and psychosocial support. Strengthen EU coherence and action to protect children affected by armed conflict and update the EU’s Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict, particularly with the aim of strengthening collaboration with the UN and other partners and raising awareness and political visibility.

GRF-08316	Government of Colombia	Colombia will host the First World Ministerial Conference to end Violence against Children in 2024
GRF-08663	Government of Botswana	Botswana pledged to ensure local integration of unaccompanied children who have been granted protection in Botswana for long period in collaboration with relevant government ministries and key stakeholders.
GRF-08782	Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Welsh Government pledged to continue taking a 'child first, immigration status second' approach to support children arriving in Wales. All unaccompanied migrant children will be treated as any looked after child by Welsh local authorities. We will continue to support and uphold the rights of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people.
GRF-09075	Government of Thailand	Thailand pledged to withdraw its reservation to Article 22 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
GRF-09179	Government of Austria	Austria pledges, through its support to UNICEF, to support over 63,000 children, women and their families affected by the war in Ukraine through the provision of emergency protection and welfare services. This includes • Provision of child protection services through social service institutions, the network of Blue Dots, child friendly and adolescent spaces, women spaces and community centres; • Identification, alternative care and family reunification for unaccompanied and separated children, including support to registration for temporary protection; • Provision of mental health and psycho-social support and response services; • Community-based prevention interventions and raising awareness to address the harmful social norms that perpetuate violence against children and GBV; • Provision of comprehensive medical and legal services for survivors of GBV; • Trainings for frontline and social workers, child protection specialists on best interest determination, child welfare system, child protection and GBV case management; • Support to municipalities to ensure that quality services are available during the humanitarian phase of the emergency.
GRF-07338	Government of Uganda	Uganda pledged to promote the right to identity for refugee children born in Uganda by enhancing their access to birth registration and issuance of birth certificates (to be performed through the interoperability of the online birth registration system with the Uganda refugee registration database). This will support the identification of their nationalities upon return to their countries of origin and provide documentation supporting third country solutions, including family reunification.
GRF-07751	Government of Australia	The Australian Government pledges to continue to share practice and policy lessons from Australia's journey away from held detention of children, especially within the Asia-Pacific. The Australian Government also reaffirms its continued commitment to ensuring that held detention is only used for the shortest practical time and where necessary, reasonable and proportionate under the Migration Act 1958; and further pledges to progress initiatives under the Alternatives to Held Detention Program, in support of expanding alternatives to immigration detention that are community-based and non-custodial.
GRF-07366	COMISION NACIONAL PARA APATRIDAS Y REFUGIADOS (CONARE)	The National Commission for Stateless Persons and Refugees (CONARE) pledged to adopt the asylum system in Paraguay. One of the action points proposes to design other mechanisms for special cases, such as family reunification procedure involving children or unaccompanied minors.

GRF-07503	Government of Malta	The Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers under the Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality is tasked to provide support services to Asylum Seekers coming to Malta via illegal methods or legal ones. The Agency provides several services which include Accommodation, Social Work, Assessments, Info provision, UMAS Protection, Psychosocial support and Medical support. A core function of the Agency is also to identify minors and assess the most vulnerable and provide suitable services. Currently, the Vulnerability Assessment is being done temporary by EUAA support staff. In view of the above, a formal Assessment Team will be formed within AWAS. The Team will not only take care of the Vulnerability Assessment but the Age Assessment as well.
GRF-07610	Government of the Gambia	The Gambian government commits to introduce a safeguard in its nationality law to grant nationality to children born on its territory including foundlings who would otherwise be stateless.
GRF-08024	Government of Guatemala	Guatemala pledged to guarantee the protection of children and adolescents in contexts of human mobility through the training competent courts.
GRF-08094	Government of Serbia	Reaffirming the goals of the #IBelong Campaign, the participating States of the OSCE-UNHCR Regional Conference on Access to Civil Documentation and Prevention of Statelessness in South-Eastern Europe in Skopje, North Macedonia, commit to make all necessary efforts, independently and collectively, to resolve, without delay, all known cases of statelessness within their territories, including by granting citizenship to or confirming the citizenship of existing in situ stateless populations when relevant legally required conditions, as set out by the Statelessness Conventions, are met, and undertake the law reforms, that may be needed, to ensure that no child is born stateless.
GRF-08102	Government of Montenegro	Reaffirming the goals of the #IBelong Campaign, the participating States of the OSCE-UNHCR Regional Conference on Access to Civil Documentation and Prevention of Statelessness in South-Eastern Europe in Skopje, North Macedonia, commit to make all necessary efforts, independently and collectively, to resolve, without delay, all known cases of statelessness within their territories, including by granting citizenship to or confirming the citizenship of existing in situ stateless populations when relevant legally required conditions, as set out by the Statelessness Conventions, are met, and undertake the law reforms, that may be needed, to ensure that no child is born stateless.
GRF-08212	Belgian Guardianship Service	Belgium is committed to strengthening the quality of guardianship of unaccompanied minors. Unaccompanied minors arriving in Belgium are vulnerable and have experienced a lot in their country of origin and/or along the way. The needs of unaccompanied minors are multiple and diverse, they are sometimes victims of abuse or violence, are very young or have psychological and/or medical needs, ... The task of the guardian is very complex. Guardians must be supported as much as possible to carry out this task. Belgium is therefore committed to professionalizing guardianship through further training and coaching of guardians. Belgium envisages the further development of a training program tailored to each guardian by evaluating and strengthening the existing training and coaching program where necessary
GRF-08283	European Union	EU pledges to continue addressing the Rohingya crisis. One of the action points aims to improve the protection efforts for the most vulnerable groups incl. Rohingya women and child refugees and support access to education.

GRF-08307	Government of Colombia	The Houses of Peace (previously known as Casas Lúdicas) were created after Colombia adhered to the 1612 UN Security Council Res in 2005 on children in armed conflict. They provide a general framework for the protection of children through the promotion of sports, education and culture. The project is in a renovation face to fully integrate a peace, development, gender and migration perspective. This includes investing in infrastructures and sports/arts, promoting peace ender equality and its connection with peace building processes with a special focus on LGBTIQ+ communities. Colombia presents this matching pledge to invite different stakeholders to support this commitment through financial, political, or technical assistance.
GRF-07917	Government of Austria	As part of the the Regional Development and Protection Programme Jordan and Lebanon (Phase III, 2023–2026), Austria pledged to support vulnerable refugees and local communities to access rights, and enjoy increased safety and enhanced self-reliance towards durable and sustainable solutions. One of the established objectives is the promotion of rights of women and children at risk.
GRF-08851	Government of Czechia	As part of the Regional Development and Protection Program Jordan and Lebanon (Phase III, 2023–2026), Czechia pledged to support vulnerable refugees and local communities to access rights, and enjoy increased safety and enhanced self-reliance towards durable and sustainable solutions. One of the pledge actions aims women and children at risk of exploitation and abuse are enabled to increasingly enjoy their rights, safety and quality services.
GRF-08802	Government of Denmark	As part of the Regional Development and Protection Program Jordan and Lebanon (Phase III, 2023–2026), Denmark pledged to support vulnerable refugees and local communities to access rights, and enjoy increased safety and enhanced self-reliance towards durable and sustainable solutions. One of the pledge actions aims women and children at risk of exploitation and abuse are enabled to increasingly enjoy their rights, safety and quality services.

Matching

- Colombia made a matching pledge, inviting stakeholders to support their child protection pledge implementation (GRF-08307).
- Switzerland (GRF-07709) has made a matching pledge with Greece (GRF-03221) within the Swiss-Greek Cooperation Programme. Switzerland will fund a second phase of the project "Emergency Accommodation Facilities" to accommodate unaccompanied children, which forms an integral part of the Greece's NERM. Switzerland also will conduct expert exchanges with Greece in the coming months and years and will organize a study visit by Greek experts to Switzerland, in order to share best practices on integration mechanisms for UMC in particular and young asylum seekers and refugees in general.

Follow-up Arrangements

- Analyse the financial contribution made by key stakeholders.
- Develop a timeline for events and actions leading up the High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM) that will take place in December 2025, together with the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts and key stakeholders.
- Follow up on key pledges in close coordination with regional/country operations first through GCR team supported meetings at country levels, followed by bilateral meetings and coordination.
- Follow up with key countries whose child focused pledges are not self-tagged to the multistakeholder pledge on child rights.
- Convene meetings with key stakeholders together with the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts every 6 months.