

GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM 2023

Multi-Stakeholder Pledge on Economic Inclusion and Social Protection



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Agenda

Time	Description
13:30 – 13:40	Welcome Remarks by UNHCR and Mexico
13:40 – 13:50	Overview of the multistakeholder pledge & highlights of progress per pillar by RSRI
13:50 – 14:05	Presentation of Best Practices by IGAD, Germany and Inkomoko
14:05 – 14:30	Breakout Rooms: 1) Law and Policy; 2) Programmes and 3) Data and Evidence Note: Breakout rooms are only accessible from a desktop device.
14:30 – 14:50	Breakout Group Insights: Rapporteurs' Summary
14:50 – 15:25	Open Discussion
15:25 – 15:30	Final Remarks



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UNHCR

Elizabeth Eyster,
Deputy Director, DRS

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Government of Mexico

Alondra Lisette, First Secretary,
Permanent Mission to the UN

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Refugee Self- Reliance Initiative

Kari Diener,
Executive Director

Pledge on Economic Inclusion and Social Protection (EISP)

The EISP multi-stakeholder pledge is a **platform to promote synergies and matching opportunities** between pledging entities and other stakeholders for economic inclusion and social protection.



Law & Policy



Programmes



Data & Evidence



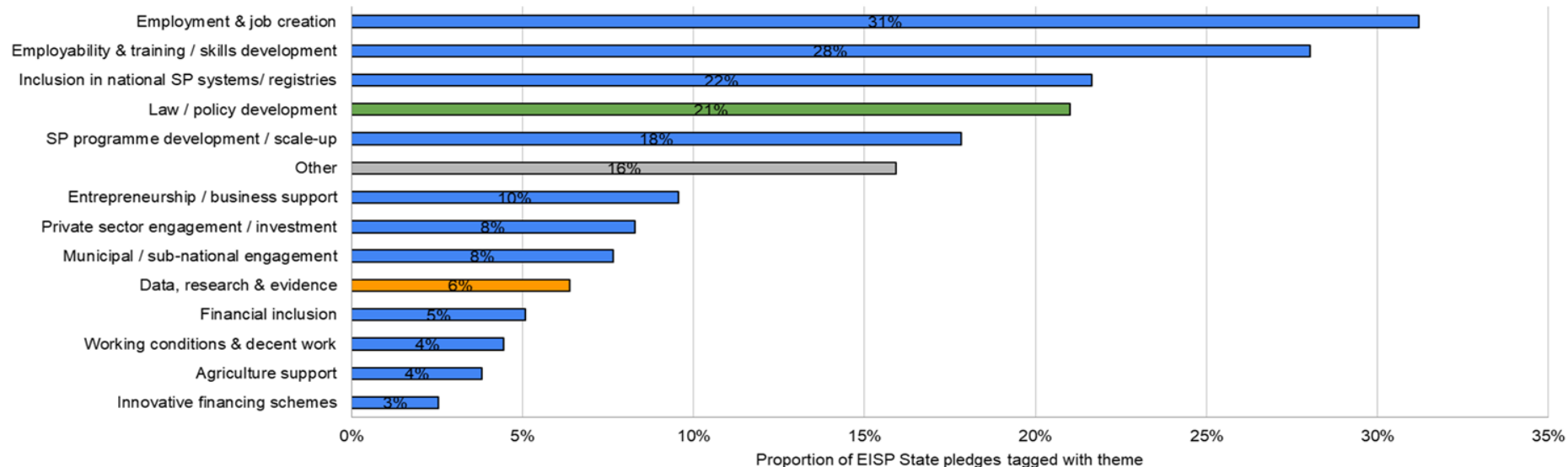
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270 Contributing Pledges,
including 88 pledges by States
Over USD 1 billion in pledged investments

3 Pillars:
Law & Policy | Programmes | Data & Evidence

Thematic focus of EISP State pledges



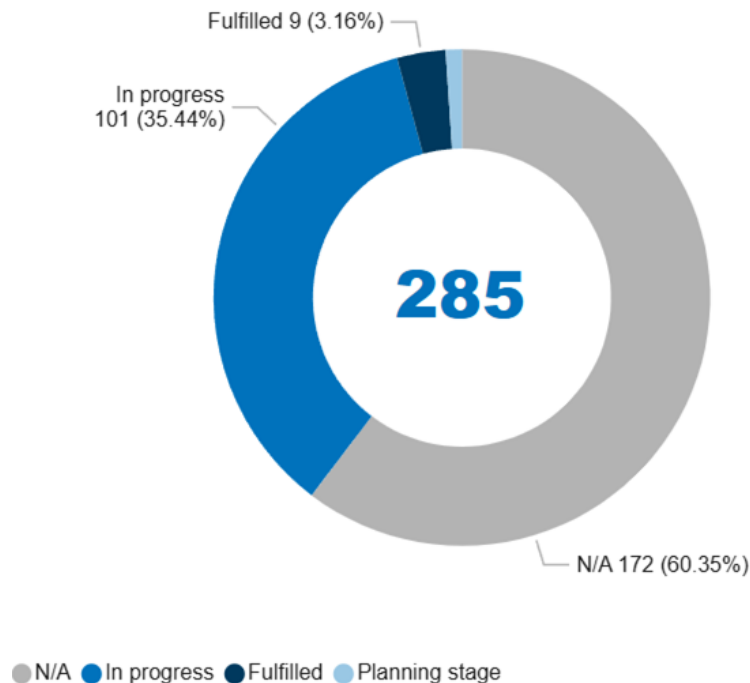
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Global Progress to date

- **35% of pledges** have provided updates.
- **Most updates** indicate that pledges are currently **in progress**.
- **All pledges** are encouraged to share updates regularly.

Implementation status (where reported)



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Pledge Benchmarks per pillar

Pillar 1 - Law and Policy: **Over the next 4 years, at least 15 States—with the support of relevant stakeholders—adopt and/or strengthen laws and policies** supporting economic inclusion and/or social protection inclusion.

Pillar 2 - Programmes: **Reach one million refugees, forcibly displaced and stateless people, and members of host communities** with holistic economic inclusion and inclusion in national social protection systems and programmes.

Pillar 3 - **Expand quality data and evidence** to promote effective programmes and policies for economic inclusion and social protection that integrates the perspectives and needs of refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless people, and host communities.



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Targets per year (cumulative)

	2024	2025	2026	2027
States with Law & Policy dvpt / reform		5 States	10 States	15 States
Outreach of Programmes (# of people)		350,000	750,000	1,000,000
Data & Evidence	2 events	4 events and 10 Research products (2 RLO-led)	6 events 20 Research products (4 RLO-led)	8 events 30 Research products (5 RLO-led)



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Pillar 1: Law and Policy Progress

Countries	Summary
Cameroon	Action plan adopted by the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development (MINDDEVEL) with UNHCR support for the systematic inclusion of refugees in communal and regional development plans.
Chile	Progress in the development of the protocol to access social benefits, mapping persons in situation of vulnerability. Procedures under development for the recognition of previous qualifications.
Ethiopia	Directive No. 1019/2024 to Implement Recognized Refugees' and Asylum Seekers' Right to Work. Strategy to be launched shortly.
Kenya	Launch of the Shirika plan. 2024 Regulations of the 2021 Refugees Act. New National Social Protection Policy inclusive of refugees.



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Pillar 1: Law and Policy Progress

Countries	Summary
Mauritania	National strategy for financial inclusion 2023-2028 with diagnostics on barriers for refugees' access.
Norway	Parliament approval of the White Paper on Integration Policy.
Scotland	New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy framework and delivery plan (2024- 2026).
Zambia	National Refugee Policy and Implementation Plan launched (Feb 2024), establishing a progressive framework for refugee protection and self-reliance.
Zimbabwe	Stakeholder consultations on the Zimbabwe Refugees Act held in 2023; draft amendments presented to the Minister in 2024. Bill drafting underway in 2025.



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Law and Policy: Trends, opportunities, and challenges



TRENDS

- Emphasis on adoption of policies, strategies and action plans
- Emphasis on inclusion in national systems



OPPORTUNITIES

- Increase commitment to public-private partnerships
- Ongoing refugee law reforms
- Regional platform engagement
- Academic engagement (GAIN)



CHALLENGES

- Insufficient funding/pledge matching for implementation
- Lack of guidance for policy implementation
- Unclear steps for legal and practical pledge implementation
- Legal and administrative barriers
- Limited mechanisms for monitoring progress



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Pillar 2: Programmes progress

>350,000
beneficiaries



Types of Programme interventions

Economic Inclusion

- Skills development
- Job creation and access to employment
- Entrepreneurship, access to business development services, and markets
- Financial inclusion
- Agriculture and food security

Social Protection

- Inclusion in national social registries
- Inclusion in routine SP programs
- Social assistance pilots for refugees
- Access to social insurance schemes for formal/informal workers
- Poverty alleviation/graduation approach



Programmes

The updates have shown:

- Synergies and complementarities with compounded results
- Linking economic inclusion and social protection maximizes impact
- Strong emphasis on the empowerment of women and youth
- Multi country programmes financed by foundations and state donors
- Funding cuts are impacting pledge progress
- Focus on strengthening key enablers of economic inclusion and social protection



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Programmes: Trends, opportunities, and challenges



TRENDS

- Growing interest from states, private sector actors, and development partners
- More multilateral partnerships and matching pledges
- Focus on sustainability
- Increased community engagement



OPPORTUNITIES

- Growing private sector engagement
- Social protection inclusion pilot programmes
- Expansion of green jobs and climate resilience initiatives
- Rising involvement of refugees in program design, contributing to more relevant and sustainable solutions



CHALLENGES

- Lack of funding and funding continuity
- Better tools to measure data and impact
- Meaningful change takes time to materialize
- Insufficient pledge matching



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Pillar 3: Data and Evidence

Pledge updates underscore the **global need for evidence generation and interest in evidence use...**

While there has also been **significant progress in strengthening data and evidence** on economic inclusion and social protection by pledge contributors.



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Data and Evidence

The updates from the first year of pledges have shown:

- Interest from governments, implementing organizations, and multilateral partners in rigorous evaluation of their policies and programs, including IRC, IOM, WFP, World Bank, World Vision, etc.
- Strengthened tools for evaluation and needs assessment
- Collaboration to amplify the current evidence base by a variety of institutions
- Significant investment in rigorous impact evaluations by the IKEA Foundation, IPA, J-PAL, CGD, etc.



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Data and Evidence

Emerging evidence on:

- Supporting hosts alongside refugees to improve social cohesion
- The potential for refugees to fill labor gaps, stimulate development, and better host communities
- Refugee participation in development and self-reliance
- Innovative tools for evaluation (such as remote WhatsApp surveying)



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Data and Evidence

Demand for more evidence on:

- Social protection policies and interventions (e.g. large-scale policy reform, adapting programs to displaced populations, cost of inclusion, impact monitoring, etc.)
- The role of social capital and networks in development
- Cost-effectiveness and value for money
- The best modalities for aid in sensitive settings
- How inclusion in labor markets and social protection systems impacts both refugee and host communities



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Data & Evidence: Trends, opportunities, and challenges



TRENDS

- Movement towards scaling programs that do work, as demonstrated by evidence
- Disaggregation of displaced populations in data
- Increased government and civil society interest in rigorous evaluation



OPPORTUNITIES

- Produce more evidence across the remaining open questions, particularly around social protection programming
- Integrate participatory methods
- Alter programming to improve host-refugee social cohesion (which evidence suggests is difficult)
- Capitalize on the emerging understanding of social networks' importance in effective programs & policies



CHALLENGES

- Generating research on social protection
- Ensuring generalizability for cross-country comparison
- Conducting research with highly mobile populations
- Maintaining support for data and evidence in the current funding environment
- Ensuring research disaggregates by gender, age, ability, status, etc.



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Best Practices

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IGAD

Mr. Charles Obila,
Coordinator of the IGAD Support
Platform on Forced
Displacement

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Government of Germany

Ms. Stefanie Hochheim, Senior
Policy Counsellor,
The Federal Ministry for
Economic Cooperation and
Development (BMZ)

BMZ: Facility for Formal Employment Türkiye I

Employment projects / refugees



Current Challenges

3.9 billion Syrian refugees (SuTP) in Türkiye; high informal employment

project approach

›Project executing agencies: Turkish SME Promotion Agency KOSGEB and Credit Guarantee Fund (KGF)

›Measures: Combined use of

- Provision of portfolio loan guarantees for SMEs Loans by KGF plus
- Provision of interest rate subsidies to SMEs that take up one of the above mentioned guaranteed SME Loans AND that comply with Conditions of employment set by KOSGEB

› (Indirect) target group: MSMEs; beneficiaries: refugees; and People in host communities

Impact mechanism

›portfolio loan guarantees provided by KGF make it easy for banks to engage in SME lending and reduce risk costs of such loans, helping to keep interest rates for SME loans in acceptable range

- ›Interest rate subsidies give incentive to SMEs to
- take up SME loans for investment and to
- employ at least 1 refugee + 1 local person

›Germany's public funds for loan guarantees plus interest subsidies resulted in almost eight times the amount of private funds (loans from private banks) to be mobilized



Impact achieved so far:

1.520 formal jobs (60% over target) are created or maintained for refugees, especially SuTPs & people in the host communities (50:50)
31% of jobs (24% over target) were created or maintained for women
604 SMEs (27% over target) received an interest rate subsidy
EUR 76,7 million loan portfolio to SMEs (three times target) secured by KGF credit guarantees

Instrument/financing, duration

EUR 10 million grant (BMZ I)

Implementation period extended from 12/2020 - 12/2025 to 03/2026 (reason: corona, earthquake)

Grant agreement for EUR 16 million grant (BMZ II) signed Nov. 2024; implementation to begin in 2nd half of 2025

KFW

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SI Frontera - Supporting Host Communities for Refugees and Migrants in the Border Regions of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru

Objective	State and civil society actors in the border regions and along the migration routes of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru are in a better position to manage the influx of refugees from Venezuela and Colombia in a socially responsible and labour-efficient manner.
Duration	10/2018 – 01/2028
Volume	89 600 000 EUR (BMZ: 43 600 000 EUR, European Union: 46 000 000 EUR)
Political Partners	Colombia: Presidential Agency for International Cooperation Ecuador: Vice-Ministry for Migration and Refugees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Peru: Directorate General for Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Outputs	(1) Public policies for the protection of migrants and host communities (2) Migration Governance / Regularization of Migration Titles (3) Social and legal services for migrants and host communities (4) Peaceful coexistence / Income and employment (5) Protection services and prevention of human trafficking
Target Groups	Direct: State institutions and civil society actors. Indirect: Refugees and migrants from Venezuela, Colombian returnees and members of the host communities with a special focus on young people and women.



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Strategies for socio-economic inclusion



Methodological approach	The impact of our measures
<p>Response measures adjusted to the reality of each region</p> <p>Do-no-harm-approach, always including members of vulnerable host communities in access to services</p> <p>Various socio-economic integration strategies, in accordance with local economies and the needs of the population in each region (e.g.: integrated public-private-partnerships, match-making, support to PYMES / Start-Ups, vocational trainings, homologation of professional titles)</p>	<p>1.7 million people reached, of which 978,000 women and 549,000 young people and children</p> <p>+ 10,000 people reached directly with income- and employment-generating activities</p> <p>+ 520,000 refugees were able to use services for regularization of their migration title</p> <p>+ 400,000 people involved in peaceful coexistence measures</p> <p>+ 160,000 people supported through protection spaces and services</p>

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Inkomoko

Olive Ashimwe,
Regional Director of Business
Growth Services



PLEDGE AT THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM 2023

Building thriving refugee and host communities and creating pathways out of poverty for all



\$150 million

of direct investments



90,000

Micro and Small businesses



60%

Women-owned



50%

Youth-led



600,000

people will be lifted out of poverty
by 2027



6 countries

across Africa



Are we on track on our 2027 pledge as of 2025

**1.2M**

1.2M clients lives impacted through entrepreneurship

Target by 2030 = 7M

65k

30k clients served in 2024
(women 65%, youth 55%)

35k clients in 2025

Demographics tbc

\$11

\$11M invested in 2024

Target: \$150 by 2030

16k

16k new direct jobs created in 2024

50% Women, 36% Refugee, 45% Youth



Trends and insights

- **Funding cuts** - disrupting refugee services & markets across Inkomoko's regions. Clients prioritizing survival over businesses
- **RDP readiness to economic integration:**
 - Access to rights and freedoms vs obligations(taxes/compliance & market competition)
 - An increasing number of private sector actors are becoming aware of the market opportunities in RDP.



THANK YOU



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Breakout Rooms

- 1) Law and Policy
- 2) Programmes
- 3) Data and Evidence

Instructions for joining breakout rooms

You will receive a notification when the breakout rooms are activated

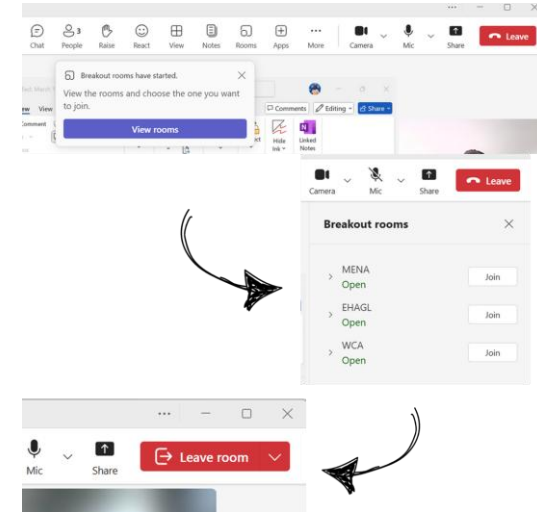
Alternatively, you can find the 'Rooms' option in the top menu bar

Selecting Your Breakout Room:

- Click on **'Rooms'**, and a sidebar will appear on the right-hand side of your screen with a list of breakout rooms with regional labels
- **Select the room that corresponds to the theme and click 'Join'**

During & After the Breakout Session:

- Once the session is over, you will receive a notification in the chat
- Click **'Leave Room'** to exit and return to the main meeting.



If you experience any issues while joining a breakout room, feel free to ask for assistance in the main meeting chat.



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Insights from Breakout Rooms

- 1) Law and Policy
- 2) Programmes
- 3) Data and Evidence

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Open Discussion

To request to speak,
please click on the “Raise
Hand” button

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UNHCR

Nicolas Brass,
Senior Policy Adviser