

SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

FOR FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE AND THEIR HOSTS

Defining Sustainable Human Settlements

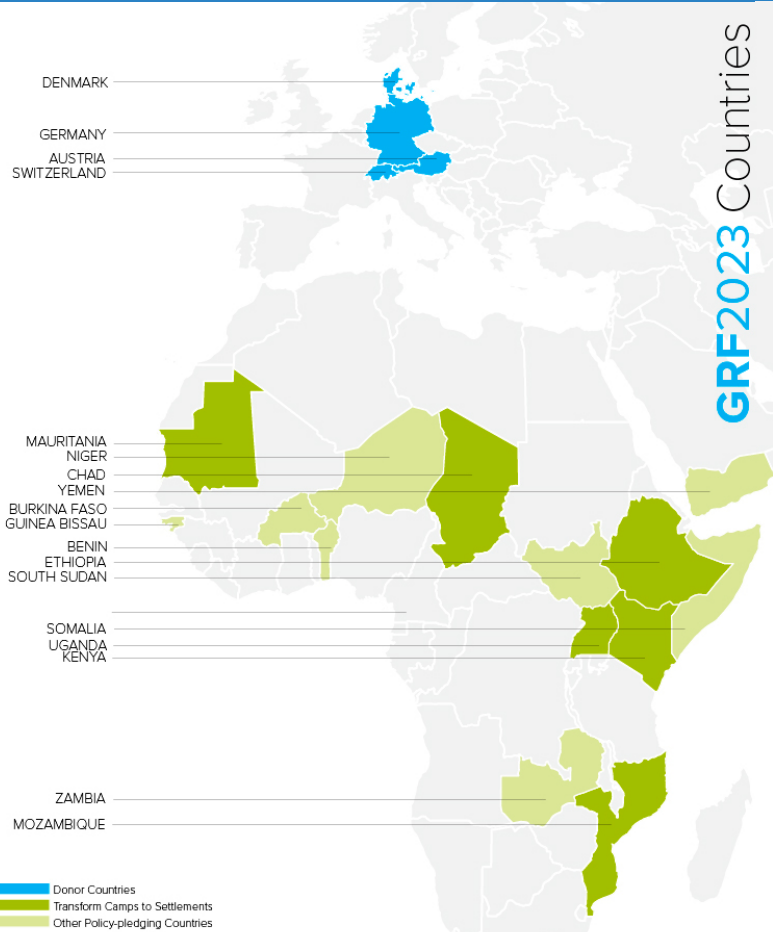
Sustainable Human Settlements are urban and rural areas that are designed, developed, and governed in ways that seek to create inclusive, safe, resilient communities for both forcibly displaced populations and their hosts. Sustainable Human Settlements are characterized by the capacity of forcibly displaced people to meet their protection, assistance and solution needs through freedom of movement and choice of residence, access to rights and inclusion in national systems and services.

The Sustainable Human Settlement model should also guide the transformation of temporary camps, formal and informal settlements to more sustainable, inclusive forms of settlement, such as municipalities or planned urban areas, fostering long-term resilience, community cohesion and self-reliance.

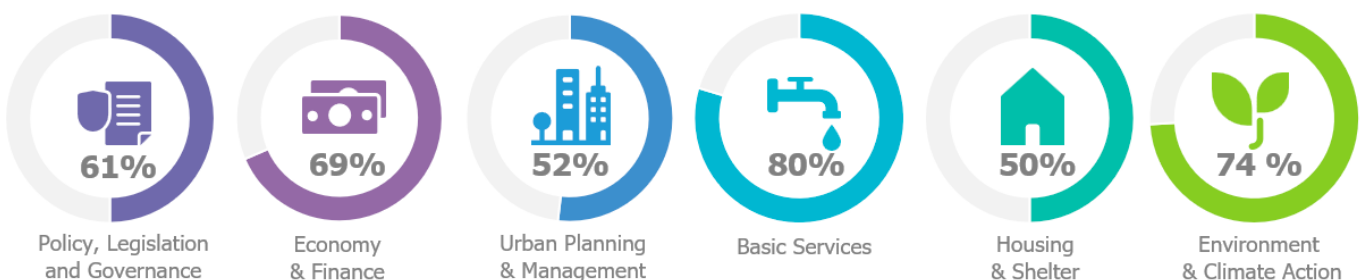


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Active Pledges from 2019 GRF
Tagged under the former Energy & Infrastructure Multistakeholder Pledge



DISTRIBUTION OF PLEDGES ACROSS THE 6 THEMATIC AREAS



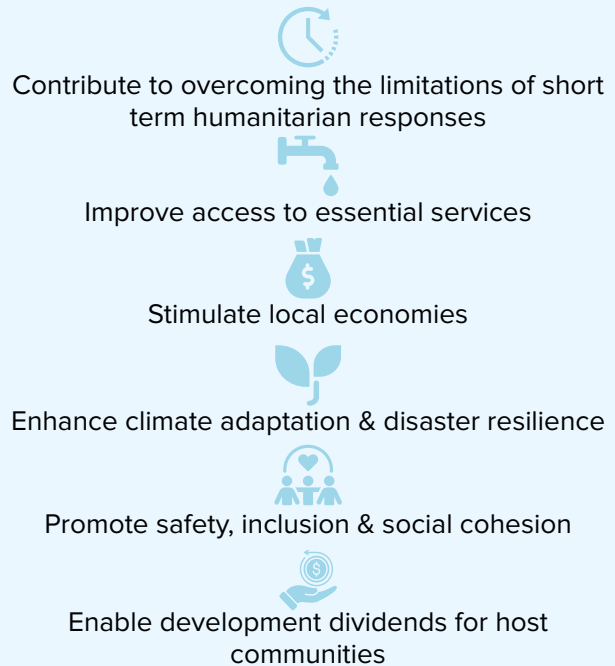
Why Sustainable Human Settlements Matter

The Challenge

117 million¹
Forcibly Displaced Worldwide
 (mid-2025)
 Almost double the 2015 figure

67 %¹
of Refugees and People in Need of International Protection Hosted in Neighbouring Countries

22 %¹
In Camps and Camp-Like Settings
 62% of UNHCR-assisted refugees in Africa



The Sustainable Human Settlements Pledge

Launched

2023 Global Refugee Forum

GCR/ GRF Alignment

Objective 1: Ease pressures on host communities²

Lead By

Ethiopia & UN Habitat

SDG Contribution

6. Clean Water & Sanitation
 7. Affordable & Clean Energy
 11. Sustainable Cities & Communities

1. UNHCR Mid-Year Trends, <https://www.unhcr.org/mid-year-trends>

2. The Sustainable Human Settlements Pledge directly aligns with the three HLOM 2021 recommendations under the GCR objective 1, “Ease pressures on host countries” and is consistent with three related HLOM 2021 recommendations; (09) intensifying efforts towards more equitable burden and responsibility sharing (10), Increasing development financing in support of refugee situations and (11) providing more flexible, predictable, and multi-year funding for refugee responses. [Link](#)

Key Highlights from Pledging Countries



Austria: Improvement of living conditions for refugees from DR Congo in the Nakivale refugee



Germany: Support to Ethiopia's commitment, to Kenya's Shirika Plan and to water and energy infrastructure in displacement settings



Benin: Capacity strengthening for 2,000 families by 2027.



Chad: Promotion the use of solar energy and household energy for refugees and host communities.



Guinea-Bissau: IDP Management, climate insecurity, land conflicts & Integration of refugees.



Mauritania: Urbanisation of Mberra camp.



Niger: Durable shelters and plots to 7k households.



South Sudan: National Durable Solutions Strategy & Action Plan to strengthen HLP, integrated refugee-host settlement planning, service access, and sustainable energy solutions for both communities



Yemen: Equitable Access to Clean Water and Sanitation for Refugees, IDPs, and Host Communities



Denmark: Inclusive Refugee Response in Kenya.



Switzerland: Geneva Technical Hub Multi-Stakeholder Pledge.



Burkina Faso: Inclusion of refugees through access to local solutions.



Ethiopia: Transformation of refugee camps into Urban Settlements.



Kenya: Develop & roll out Shirika Plan for refugee camp transformation.



Mozambique: Sust. solutions for refugee settlements based on people-centred & integrated territorial development approaches.



Somalia: Integration of displacement issues into government policies and climate actions at all levels.



Uganda: Action against climate change, increasing access to sustainable energy sources. Clean and Sustainable Cooking Solutions.



Zambia: Access to Electricity and Sustainable Energy

Donor Countries
 Transform Camps to Settlements
 Other Policy Pledging Countries

Pledging Entities

GOVERNMENTS

- ▶ Austria
- ▶ Benin
- ▶ Burkina Faso
- ▶ Chad
- ▶ Denmark
- ▶ Ethiopia
- ▶ Germany
- ▶ Guinea-Bissau
- ▶ Kenya
- ▶ Mauritania
- ▶ Mozambique
- ▶ Niger
- ▶ Somalia
- ▶ South Sudan
- ▶ Switzerland
- ▶ Uganda
- ▶ Yemen
- ▶ Zambia

NGOS, UN ENTITIES, FOUNDATIONS, PRIVATE SECTOR

- ▶ ACTED
- ▶ Al-Fateh Institute
- ▶ ANSS Foundation
- ▶ Bondeko Refugee Livelihoods Center
- ▶ BRAC
- ▶ Caritas Uganda
- ▶ Foundation for Achieving Seamless Territory (FAST)
- ▶ Geneva Water Hub
- ▶ Grundfos Foundation
- ▶ INGOs in Bangladesh pledge for Rohingya refugees
- ▶ InterAction
- ▶ International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- ▶ LEGO Foundation
- ▶ LONGi Green Energy Technology Co., Ltd.
- ▶ Novo Nordisk Foundation
- ▶ PESITHO
- ▶ Scalabrini International Migration Network
- ▶ Shanti Volunteer Association, for Aid and Relief
- ▶ UNCT Brazil
- ▶ UNCT Kenya
- ▶ UNCT Mauritania
- ▶ United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
- ▶ Global Platform for Action
- ▶ Veolia Foundation
- ▶ Wadani Relief Organization (WARO)
- ▶ World Food Programme (WFP)
- ▶ Yayasan Dompot Dhuafa

Latest Updates

- ▶ A technical **Deep Dive on Sustainable Human Settlements** was held in Nairobi, co-organized by UNHCR, UN-Habitat, and the World Bank, bringing together delegations from Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique, and Somalia to advance the objectives of the Sustainable Human Settlements Pledge. See the [Highlights Video](#).
- ▶ A side event on Sustainable Human Settlements took place during the **GRF Progress Review 2025**, signalling growing momentum for the pledge, as countries like Rwanda and Cameroon announced commitments aligned with sustainable human settlements. Read the [Outcome Report](#).

Pledge co-leads



Government of Ethiopia

Mrs. Hana Teshome, Permanent Mission of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the UN, hana.teshome@mfa.gov.et



UN Habitat

Mr. Filiep Decorte, Chief (oic) Programme Development Branch, Interim Emergency Director, UN Habitat, decorte@un.org

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