

AFRICA FORUM ON DISPLACEMENT

Private Sector Solutions

#AFD2023

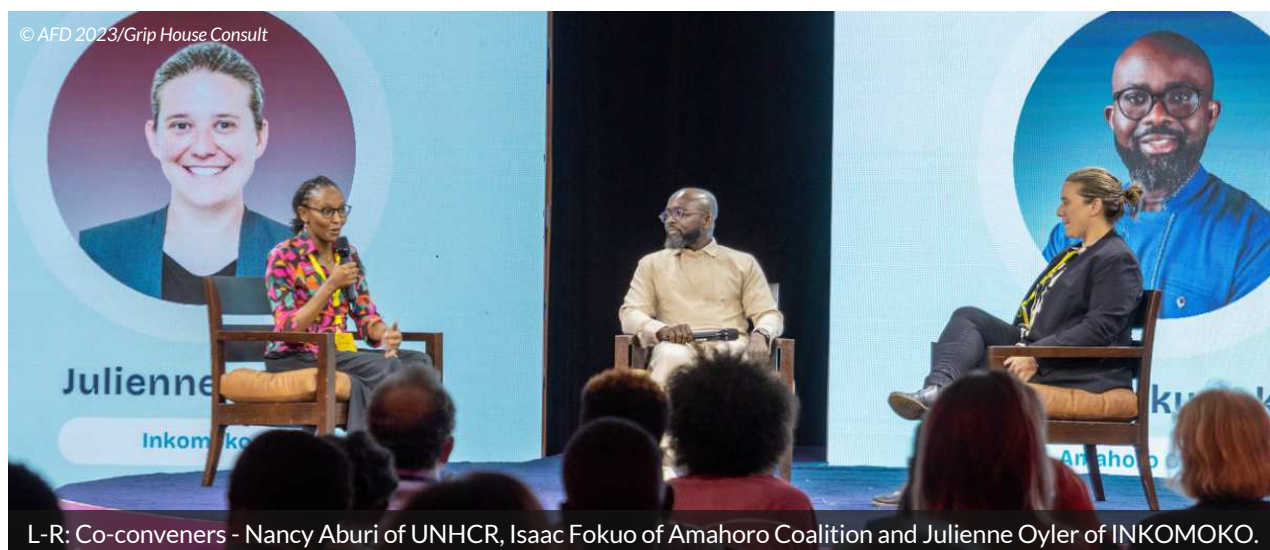


1 to 3 November 2023
Accra, Ghana

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AFD 2023 Co-Conveners Message of Appreciation



We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your active participation in the second edition of the Forum that took place in Accra, Ghana from 1 - 3 November 2023.

Your attendance and contribution to conversations around integrating refugees into the workspace were greatly appreciated and significant to the event's success.

The Forum brought together over 300 delegates and several virtual participants from across the continent, representing the private sector, refugees, and organizations committed to finding market-based solutions to the issue of forced displacement in Africa.

Our top highlights from AFD 2023:

- Youth-dedicated Solutions Day - It exemplified our collective effort to pioneer solutions for Africa's displacement crisis.
- Increased private sector participation - Out of the over 300 participants who attended the Forum in person, 125 were private sector representatives - an increase of over 80% compared to the first forum.
- Refugee inclusion - More than 25% of speakers were refugees, who boldly shared their inspirational stories of resilience and challenged participants to create solutions to address the displacement crisis.
- Follow up on pledges from 2021 - Companies that made pledges during the 2021 Forum shared their progress in implementing their commitments, and participants made additional pledges that we look forward to implementing as a key measure of gains in this effort.

The Forum is more than just an event; it has become a multi-stakeholder platform for empowering conversations and testimonials. The 2023 Forum showcased the eagerness and readiness of displaced persons to become vital economic and social contributors within their host countries. The discussions underscored the pivotal role private sector leaders can play in making tangible contributions to displaced communities through employment opportunities and so much more.

Thank you for honoring our invitation to the Forum, and we look forward to hosting you again for the 3rd edition of the Africa Forum on Displacement in Kenya from 27 - 30 April in 2025.

The Co-Conveners,

Nancy Aburi
UNHCR Chief of Private
Sector Partnerships, Africa

Isaac Kwaku Fokuo, Jr.
Founder and CEO,
Amahoro Coalition

Julienne Oyler
CEO, INKOMOKO

Overview

Two years after the inaugural gathering in Kigali, Rwanda, of Africa's private sector leaders, alongside refugees and displaced representatives, government officials, and humanitarian and development actors, Africa Forum on Displacement (AFD) - Private Sector Solutions returned, this time to Accra, Ghana.

The second edition of the Africa Forum on Displacement brought together more than 700 participants from across sectors, disciplines, backgrounds, and organizations.

The Forum took place at the end of a year filled with political turmoil, conflict and climate catastrophes. A year in which record numbers of people fled their homes because of violence, and insecurity.

Across the world, 114 million people have been displaced with 36 million refugees fleeing across borders. In Africa alone, the number of forcibly displaced persons has risen to over 44 million people from 36 million in just a year.

As the number of people forcibly displaced continues to rise staggeringly, the world has been confronted with the reality of the strain on resources to respond. In Africa, a region suffering from protracted conflict, and forgotten emergencies, the need to act collectively has been resoundingly clear.

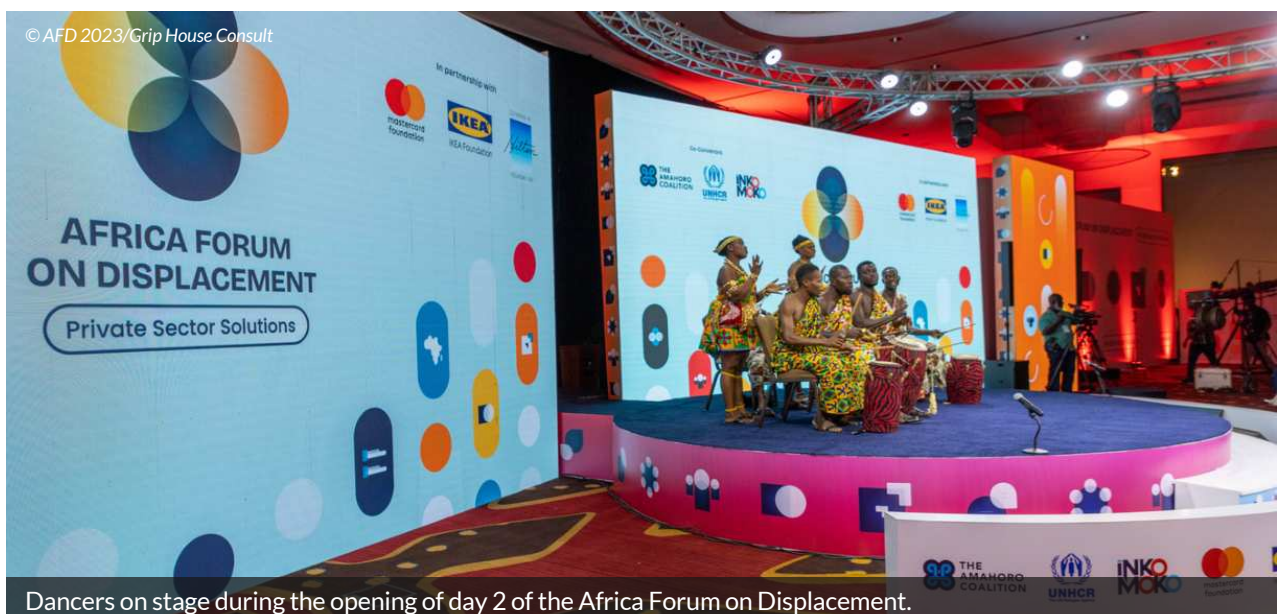
The voice of Africa's private sector was at the heart of much-needed sustainable economic provision for young forcibly displaced persons on the continent, and these became the core focus for change.

With the representation of young African refugees and discussion of their future at the center, the Forum built on the pledges made from the 2021 Kigali Forum and paved the way for additional commitments to support forcibly displaced persons and the host communities.

The Forum was attended by more than 300 participants in person and over 380 virtually. Over 20 nationalities were represented, and over 10 industries ranging from telecommunications and IT, healthcare, finance, e-commerce and retail, marketing and advertising, educational and training, non-profit, sports and recreation, government, media, and entertainment. Enriching the Forum discussion were some 60 refugees from 12 countries.

Together, the Forum attendees focused on achieving the following objectives:

1. Continue engagement with private sector stakeholders on displacement in Africa.
2. Take stock of the pledges and commitments made in 2021.
3. Reinvigorate action towards private sector solutions to support refugees and displaced persons and their host communities.



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Dancers on stage during the opening of day 2 of the Africa Forum on Displacement.

Recap of Day 1: Solutions Day



“I would like each and every one of us to ask ourselves, how are you being intentional in supporting and showing up for those of us who have experienced forced displacement?”

Muhsin Hassan, Senior Awards Director, Lever for Change

Solutions Day

November 1, 2023, marked Day 1 of AFD 2023, uniting over 60 refugee youth from across Africa in an interactive one-day workshop to identify key challenges facing refugees across the region.

Central to the dialogue on Day 1 was the recognition by participants that - all the problems on the continent already have solutions on the continent.

First, participants identified six challenges they face as refugee youth in Africa:

1. Lack of access to funds, resources, and support for refugee and displaced persons-led organizations and business owners.
2. Lack of refugee and displaced persons representation in decision-making.
3. Limited national policies that promote socio-economic inclusion.
4. Increased levels of climate displacement issues.
5. Limited opportunities in upskilling and education opportunities.
6. The need to rebuke narratives and stereotypes on displacement.

Through daylong discussions, attendees created actionable and concrete recommendations for challenges. The resulting recommendations were presented before key stakeholders representing host communities, humanitarian agencies, and the private sector. The refugee youth leaders presented the challenges and roadmap to solutions to key stakeholders including Kelly T. Clements, Deputy High Commissioner, UNHCR; Julie Gichuru, Chief Public Affairs & Communications Officer, Mastercard Foundation; Hayley Kornblum - Program Manager, IKEA Foundation; Nancy Aburi, Chief of Private Sector Partnerships Africa, UNHCR; Isaac Kwaku Fokuo, Jr., Founder, Amahoro Coalition; and Julienne Oyler, CEO & Co-Founder, INKOMOKO.

THE CHALLENGE:

Increase access to investment designed for refugee-led organizations or displaced business owners

SOLUTION #1:

- Improve and increase access to information and awareness channels.

SOLUTION #2:

- Access to growth opportunities and funding:
 - Access to mentorship opportunities
 - Access to funding through grants, sponsorship and long-term low interest loans specifically for youth and women
 - Access to quality education & programming

THE CHALLENGE:

Grow refugee and displaced persons representation in decision-making

SOLUTION #1:

- Strengthening refugee-led organizations to amplify RDPs voices and representation for decision making.
- Allow refugees to vote on matters that affect them.

SOLUTION #2:

- To be employed in organizations that make decisions for communities with lived experiences.



Refugee youth participate at the Solutions Day

Photos: © AFD 2023/Grip House Consult



Centre: Kelly T. Clements, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees at the Solutions Day.

THE CHALLENGE:

Limited policies that promote socio-economic inclusion

SOLUTION #1:

- Advocacy and sensitization:
 - Create a refugee council that represents refugees and displaced persons at policy and decision-making level.

THE CHALLENGE:

Climate Displacement issues

SOLUTION #1:

- Climate Education:
 - Incorporate into formal and informal education systems in order to create awareness.

SOLUTION #2:

- Climate financing (loss & damage):
 - Enable countries and communities to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis before and after

THE CHALLENGE:

Limited upskilling and education opportunities

SOLUTION #1:

- Create and increase scholarship opportunities (all levels) and accreditation to prior learning certificates.

SOLUTION #2:

- Private sector to invest and partner with local initiatives (Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) to upskill TVET opportunities.

THE CHALLENGE:

Shifting narratives and stereotypes around displacement

SOLUTION #1:

- Enhance economic empowerment of refugees and displaced persons and foster meaningful participation to promote integration into host communities.
 - Minimum quotas for leadership positions.

In response, the key stakeholders present committed to increasing active engagement in practical initiatives fostering an inclusive and self-reliant future for the refugee, displaced and host communities.

This included \$30 Million USD fund to invest directly in refugee and host communities businesses, to increase the number of refugee staff and ensure their equal pay, and to support policy interventions to support building self-reliance amongst refugees and displaced persons.

Scan or click on the QR code below to watch the highlight video of the Solutions Day.



Photos: © AFD 2023/Grip House Consult



Refugee youth participate at the Solutions Day



Representatives from INKOMOKO, Amahoro Coalition, and Mastercard Foundation at the Solutions Day.

Recap of Day 2 and 3: Forum Highlights



“I am an investment of so many hands, an investment of different people who believed in me and the potential that I could be able to build a better future for my fellow refugees.”

Deline Ramiro Yihumutima, Amahoro Fellow

Forum Highlights

Day Two of the Africa Forum on Displacement kicked off at the Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City, Accra with stirring spoken word performances by Emi Mahmoud, Poet, Activist, and UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, and Omer Elnaiem, UNHCR Senior Communications Officer - both of whom shared personal accounts of the ongoing crisis in Sudan and the growing and urgent humanitarian needs there.

Photos: © AFD 2023/Grip House Consult



“

I told myself that I will tell the story of displacement with authenticity, truth, and creativity. But I never thought that the story of displacement would become my story, the story of my family, the story of my people, the story of our people.

”

Omer Elnaiem
UNHCR, Senior Communications Officer

“

The reason that I choose poetry is because, I believe that if you speak to somebody politically, they'll respond politically, if you speak to them academically, they'll respond academically, if you speak to them with hate they will respond with hate. But if you speak with your humanity they're compelled to respond with their humanity.

”

Emi Mahmoud
Poet, Activist, and UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador



Their remarks emphasized the crucial role that the private sector plays in addressing some of the conflicts that create these crises, especially in their ability to influence policy.



Professor Kenneth Agyemang Attafuah

Forum emcee Alan Kasujja, a BBC broadcaster, and Kelly T. Clements, UNHCR's Deputy High Commissioner, discussed the challenges that need to be overcome in the region, such as lack of education, energy, changing climate, health care, and job creation. Clements highlighted the importance of involving host communities in solutions, while decrying the continued displacement caused by conflict.

Professor Kenneth Agyemang Attafuah, the Chairman of the Ghana Refugee Board, offered the country's long-standing support for refugees and expressed a willingness to collaborate even further with the private sector to find solutions to the existing crisis.



L-R: Kelly T. Clements and Alan Kasujja



L-R: Bereket Goitom and Sangu Delle

In a one-of-a-kind session, Bereket Goitom, Managing Director of Canaan Group of Companies, and Sangu Delle, CEO of Carepoint, shared their progress in fulfilling their pledges from the first forum in Kigali in 2021, to assist forcibly displaced people. Bereket spoke about the construction of classrooms in South Sudan, while Sangu highlighted a successful healthcare screening in Ghana that impacted close to 400 refugees.

Muhsin Hassan and Nhial Deng, both forcibly displaced at a young age, shared their inspiring stories of how education and support helped them overcome adversity. Muhsin's journey from Kenya to the United States showcased the transformative impact of a strong support system, while Nhial's determination and educational achievements have inspired others. Both called on the private sector to be intentional in their efforts to support displaced individuals: "Our story is not due to some magic. It came down to our support system, it allowed us to thrive and excel. That's why we need to be intentional with this support," Muhsin.



L-R: Muhsin Hassan and Nhial Deng

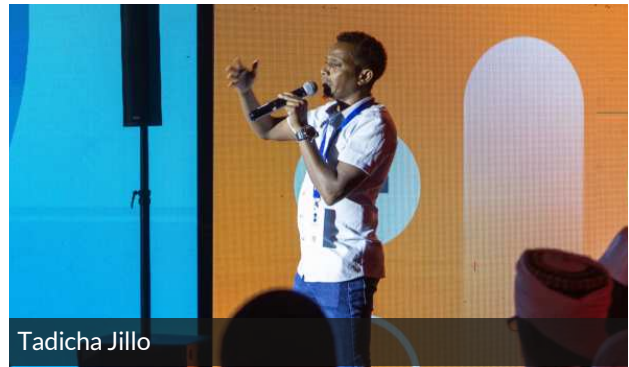


L-R: Julie Gichuru, Isaac Fokuo and Olive Asimwe

Julie Gichuru, Chief Public Affairs and Communications Officer at the Mastercard Foundation led a conversation between Amahoro and Inkomoko, highlighting the Foundation's new pledge to have 25% of all their higher education programs for refugees and displaced persons.

Dialogue between the United States International University Africa (USIU) and Ashesi University focused on providing scholarships for refugees and addressing institutional challenges refugees face when seeking such opportunities.

This was echoed by Tadicha Jillo, a refugee leader, who called for an overhaul of policies in universities to accommodate refugees and more employment opportunities from the private sector.



Tadicha Jillo

Sylvia Kunkyebe from the Mastercard Foundation emphasized the power of storytelling to amplify refugee voices and promote advocacy.



Sylvia Kunkyebe

The day ended with conversations on creating an enabling environment for refugees, including the provision of ID cards and much-needed financial inclusion, where representatives from the Ghana Refugee Board (Tetteh Padi) and the Department of Refugee Services Kenya (Jashon Awuor) shared their perspectives.



L-R: Jashon Awuor and Tetteh Padi

On the third day, Patricia Ithau from WPP ScanGroup shared the work of the Vodafone Foundation, including their partnership with UNHCR through the Instant Network for Schools. The use of technology to connect students and provide access to education in multiple countries was discussed, with plans on the expansion of the Instant Network Schools from 36 schools to 300 by 2026.



Patricia Ithau



Scan or click the QR code to watch the Equity Bank CEO's video

Dr. James Mwangi, the Group CEO of Equity Bank, sent a video message announcing the scaling up of the Equity Foundation's scholarship program to include 3,600 refugee scholarships and 4,000 scholarships for host communities.



L-R: Pastor James Wuye, Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Ms. Nageeba Hassan Tegulwa



L-R: Amar Deep S Hari, Professor Abdullatif Essajee and Sheikh Abdullahi Abdi

Engaging conversations were held with Inkomoko, IKEA Foundation, and KIVA, highlighting the power of solutions and the support they provide to refugees through lending and financing products.

In a newly introduced session to the Forum, several faith leaders of the Muslim, Christian, and Sikh faiths came together to talk about the role of faith and interfaith dialogue in promoting compassion towards displaced persons, and in expanding the protection space.

The session built on humanitarian values that are embedded in each of the above-mentioned faiths, the importance of interfaith cooperation, and the role faith leaders play in advocating for such a culture that highlights similarities and gives less attention to differences.



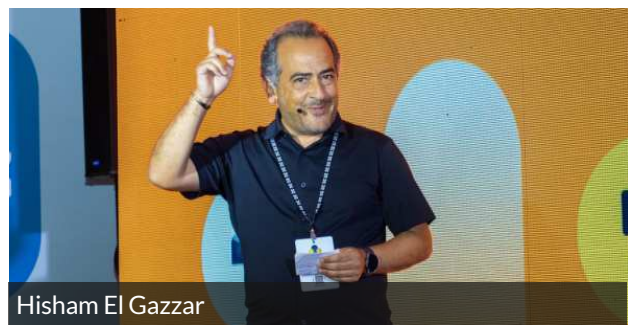
L-R: Makena Mworira, Lev Plaves and Hayley Kornblum



L-R: Akuol De Mabior and Valerie Obaze

Akuol De Mabior, a filmmaker and beekeeper, and Valerie Obaze, a skincare entrepreneur, shared their experiences and stressed the need to include refugees.

The African stage showcased the excellence of refugees through the MADE51 exhibition, where participants engaged with refugee artisans and learned about their stories of resilience. The Made51 team provided souvenirs for forum participants while also introducing them to the beautiful artefacts and crafts created by refugees with guidance from partners and in accordance with global standards.



Hisham El Gazzar



Aparupa Chakravarti

Aparupa Chakravarti from Botho Emerging Markets Group closed the day by discussing African philanthropy and the barriers to giving in Africa, encouraging participants to find solutions.

Overall, the Forum was filled with powerful voices, inspiring stories, and meaningful discussions, highlighting the urgent need for action and collaboration to address the displacement crisis.

Igniting Action from Private Sector Leaders Across Africa



“I am a proud registered nurse, I am proud of my profession. I took it upon myself to empower the young people and give them sexual and reproductive health education.”

Louange Koffi, Amahoro Fellow

Igniting Action from Private Sector Leaders Across Africa

The pathway to mobilizing Africa's private sector partners across Africa began at the first Global Refugee Forum in 2019, bringing together a united community of Africa's thought leaders and changemakers. The journey since then has been remarkable seeing the development of an Africa-focused Forum to engage the private sector more closely. From the GRF in 2019 to the Kigali Forum in 2021 to the Africa Forum on Displacement in 2023 in Accra, Ghana to the GRF 2023 in Geneva, we have witnessed pledges being turned in to impact and the private sector joining us in supporting refugees and displaced people in different ways across the region.

At the inaugural Forum in Kigali, Rwanda, in 2021, Africa's private sector partners committed to supporting refugee and displaced communities on the continent. This has translated into actionable change.

At the Forum, Sangu Delle, CEO of CarePoint pledged to provide access to medical healthcare to forcibly displaced communities and employment opportunities for refugees. Since the Forum, CarePoint has provided essential medical screenings for close to 400 refugees in Ghana. Amongst these services was malaria screening. Malaria persists as a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in refugee settings. In recent years, limited funding and insufficient partnership opportunities have impacted UNHCR's capacity to reach refugees and host communities with antimalarial commodities and services.

Amongst the refugees benefiting from the health screening was Logo Antoine, a refugee from Togo, "There has been some difficulty surviving since we left our country, but there's little we can do. We are trying our best to survive in Ghana. We are very happy you came to us today and gave us this care."

Alongside access to healthcare, African private sector leaders at the 2021 Forum pledged to support numerous other interventions to support displaced, vulnerable communities, including access to education, livelihoods, and emergency relief. Since the Forum, the pledges have been actualized to help uplift the lives of families uprooted from their homes.

Private sector partners in Ghana alongside CarePoint, including Project BRAVE, an organization founded by Tracy Owusu-Addo, Ecobank, and KOS Shipping, have supported refugee families in Ghana. This has included

supporting refugee women and girls with their menstrual hygiene and facilitating financial literacy courses for refugees.

Pledges from Bereket Goitom, Managing Director of Canaan Group of Companies, the Amahoro Coalition (Forum Co-Convenor), and the National Bank of Kenya to support access to education of refugees have taken shape across Africa since the Forum.

Goitom is ensuring the construction of secondary school facilities, including classrooms, administrative offices, and latrines in the Gorom refugee settlement in South Sudan.

The Amahoro Coalition is helping respond to the dismal three percent of refugee students with access to tertiary education by partnering with UNHCR and supporting refugee girls in Africa to study higher education courses in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

And the National Bank of Kenya has supported education and livelihood programmes for forcibly displaced persons across the continent.

Safaricom's pledge to support families forced to flee translated into response to the catastrophic drought that severely impacted families across the Horn of Africa. In partnership with UNHCR, Safaricom launched the #BongaForLife campaign, which has provided emergency relief, including access to clean water to drought-affected families.

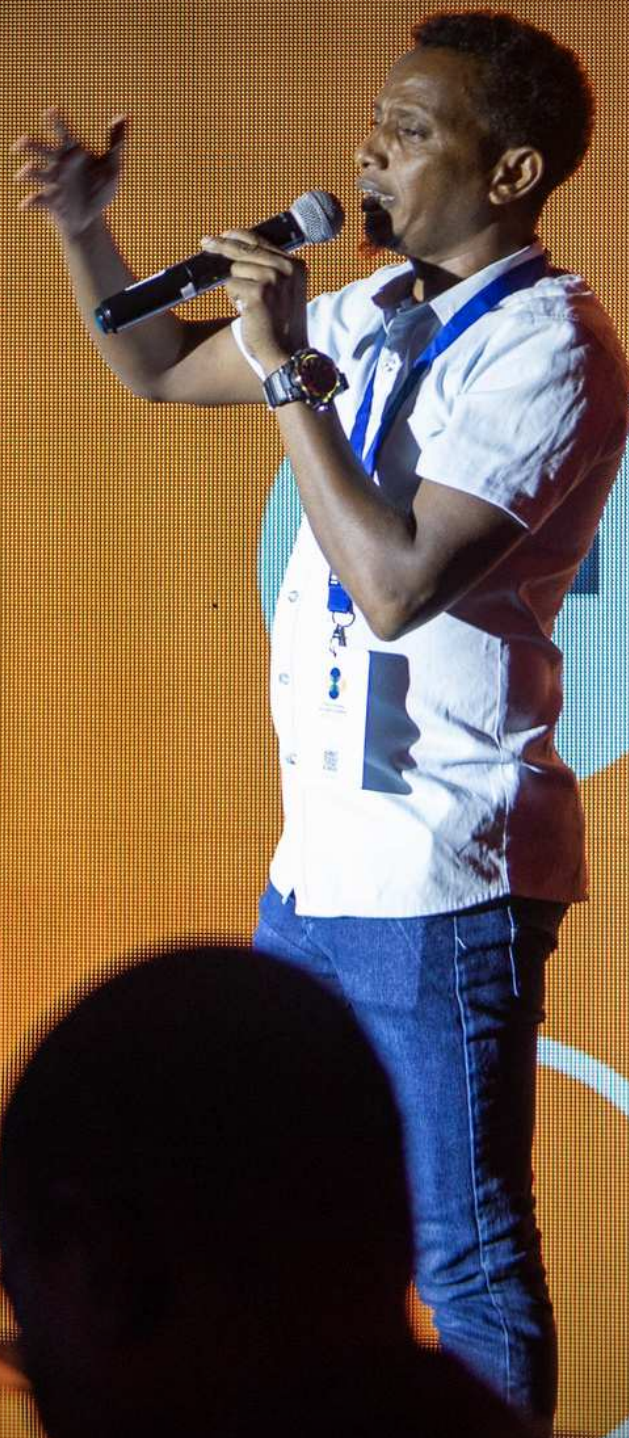
The Open Society Foundations attended the Forum and shared their commitment to partner with UNHCR to help provide legal services and information sessions on access to social services to refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons in South Africa.



Nancy Aburi, UNHCR, Chief of Private Sector Partnerships Africa.

Reflecting on the 2021 Kigali Forum: "This is a very encouraging start. The inaugural Forum served as a critical building block in convening a growing number of African private sector leaders who are championing and advocating for people forced to flee."

The Roadmap to Action: AFD 2023 Pledges



“Does the policies become more important than the people? Institutions of higher learning can amend their policies to accommodate refugees.”

Tadicha Jillo, Youth Advisory Committee, Mastercard Foundation

The Roadmap to Action: AFD 2023 Pledges

The Africa Forum on Displacement (AFD 2023) galvanized the momentum from the Kigali Forum in 2021 and saw private sector leaders commit to meaningful ways to improve and uplift the lives of displaced persons.

22 new pledges were made that cut across diverse thematic areas including livelihoods, education, advocacy, ICT/connectivity, and fundraising/networking. These pledges are expected to significantly impact the lives of thousands of forcibly displaced persons in Africa.



Six pledges made under the thematic intervention of livelihoods by Safaricom, Private Sector Foundation, Fncee Consult Limited, The Talent Firm, QuickCredit and NiaDelta, that focused on economic empowerment initiatives, access to capital for micro & medium scale businesses, job placements, and financial inclusion.



Nova Pioneer, WPP ScanGroup/Vodafone Foundation, the Mastercard Foundation, and Equity Group pledged to support access to education. This includes secondary and tertiary education scholarships for refugee & host communities students, refugee teachers training and development programs, displacement situation awareness learning programs and resource mobilisation for education.



IPMC Ghana, MTN Foundation Ghana, Action for Refugee Life (AREL) and IHS Towers Cameroon pledged to support ICT and connectivity capabilities amongst displaced and host communities. This includes building and maintaining an IT training facility in a refugee camp, employing refugee and displaced persons in ICT businesses, providing telecommunication services to displaced communities, and improving digitization, e-services, and ICT infrastructure amongst displaced families and the communities that host them.



Equity Health and Parkers Mobile Clinic both pledged to conduct health screens and provide healthcare services to refugee and displaced communities.



EIB Network, Interfaith Mediation Center, Emmanuel Methodist Church, QuickCredit, African Women of Faith Network, and Al-Habibiyyah Islamic Society are committed to raising awareness and support for displaced communities.

These pledges include media airtime (radio & TV) for advocacy and fundraising campaigns, internship placements for refugees in media companies, mobilization of high-net-worth individuals, private sector and religious institutions, support campaigns to end statelessness, and organisation of roundtable engagements targeted at private businesses.

Africa Private Sector Leaders Participation at the Global Refugee Forum 2023



“Every single refugee has a voice; we just need to listen to them.”

Nhial Deng, Refugee Student

Africa Private Sector Leaders Participation at the Global Refugee Forum 2023

A little over a month after AFD 2023, The Global Refugee Forum 2023 took place from 13 to 15 December in Geneva, Switzerland.

Held every four years, the Forum is the world's largest international gathering on refugees, designed to support the practical implementation of the objectives set out in the [Global Compact on Refugees](#): Ease pressures on host countries, enhance refugee self-reliance, increase access to third-country solutions and improve conditions in countries of origin.

Over 4,200 participants from 168 countries attended the Forum in 2023, including over 300 refugee delegates. A further 10,000 people followed the proceedings online.

The 2023 Forum was co-convened by five States – Colombia, France, Japan, Jordan, and Uganda, and co-hosted by the Government of Switzerland and UNHCR.

A delegation of eight African private sector leaders attending AFD 2023 participated in the GRF 2023. This included the Amahoro Coalition, INKOMOKO, Safaricom, the Mastercard Foundation, Equity Bank, and faith-based organizations including Women Interfaith Network – Uganda, Al-Habibiyyah Islamic Society – Nigeria, and the Interfaith Mediation Centre Nigeria.

The Africa private sector delegation made the following five pledges:

1. **The Amahoro Coalition:** Pledge to invest USD 4 million to refugee-led organizations and 25 million into refugee markets.
2. **Inkomoko:** Pledged USD 150,000,000 of direct investment to 90,000 refugee and host community businesses across six countries by 2027.
3. **Safaricom PLC:**
 - Contribute to better understand gaps in connectivity and build business cases for connecting refugees (data-driven approach).
 - Advocate, jointly with UNHCR, for the creation of an enabling legal environment for forcibly displaced persons to access connectivity and digital services.
 - Provide core services that cater to the unique needs of refugees in relation to access to information and financial services (accelerate/ fast track access to MPESA and continue supporting Instant Network Schools).
 - Offer in-kind and funding support for the benefit of the most marginalized forcibly displaced people and their host communities, especially in the areas of connectivity and livelihoods.
4. **The Mastercard Foundation:** Increase the number of scholarships for displaced youth through the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program and opportunities for refugee-led organizations through partnership with Amahoro and Inkomoko.
5. **Equity Bank:** Pledge to scale up the Equity Foundation's Scholarship program to include 3,600 refugee scholarships and 4,000 scholarships for host communities.

The participation and engagement of the African private sector community at the Global Refugee Forum 2023, was marked by an increased number of delegates and pledges. This presented a remarkable shift from the Global Refugee Forum in 2019, where Africa's private sector had minimal representation. However, the transformative experience of GRF 2019 led to the establishment and leadership of an Africa-focused Forum on Displacement. This has not only highlighted the proactive role of African business leaders, community mobilizers, faith-based actors, government officials, and celebrity supporters but also continues to underscore their critical role and contribution to supporting forcibly displaced communities in Africa.

Information on AFD 2025: How you can get involved

The next Africa Forum on Displacement was announced during the Global Refugee Forum 2023 in Geneva. #AFD2025 will be held in Kenya from the 27th to the 30th of April 2025.

Stay tuned by following the Forum social media handles below for the latest information. Click on the icons to access the platforms.



Instagram



Twitter



YouTube



Facebook

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