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## SHORT VERSION: GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM STATEMENT

The UK is a steadfast friend of refugees and of those hosting them.

We all recognise the pressing need as displacement numbers continue to grow. It is more important than ever to pay tribute to the huge generosity of host nations and communities welcoming those forced to flee.

We are clear this is a *shared* challenge and responsibility. Our commitment and engagement on this issue is undimmed and we are matching action to words.

More than £2.8 billion in funding for the Syria conflict marks our largest ever response to a humanitarian crisis. In just the last few months, we have committed up to £30 million to vulnerable Venezuelans and £117 million of life-saving aid for the Rohingya refugee crisis.

Additional and predictable funding is critical, but this is also about being smarter with how we use what we have. So the UK strongly backs the *Common Position on Financing for Refugee Situations* endorsed by INCAF, to more efficiently and effectively address forced displacement.

The UK will continue to play its part in delivering on the transformational promise of the Global Compact on Refugees across all six key areas identified as priorities for the Forum.

- On **jobs and livelihoods** for example - we've helped deliver more than 120,000 work permits for Syrian refugees in Jordan.
- Our latest funding to the Rohingya crisis response is ensuring **protection** for more than 450,000 refugees in Bangladesh.
- And on **education** our support includes £85 million in new funding to the Education Cannot Wait initiative as well as helping hundreds of thousands of refugee and Lebanese children access quality education in Lebanon.

As co-Chair of this year's Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement, we also fully support UNHCR's 3-Year Strategy to expand access to third-country **solutions**. The UK's resettlement schemes have provided safe and legal routes for tens of thousands of people to rebuild their lives. This year, the UK reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to resettlement, announcing a new, global scheme to start in 2020. This will give us the flexibility to respond where need is greatest, resettling around 5,000 vulnerable refugees in its first year.

Our Community Sponsorship scheme, which enables community groups to directly support refugees, continues to grow. From next year, refugees resettled this way will be counted in addition to the main resettlement offer. And we continue to work with the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative to encourage and support states to develop community sponsorship schemes of their own.

We also endorse the regional perspective offered by the Support Platforms profiled today. In line with the aims of the SSAR, UK aid in Pakistan is helping to deliver quality textbooks and teachers to host and refugee children alike, while our new funding in Afghanistan will support more than a quarter of a million Afghan returnees.

Our engagement in IGAD countries is also well established. In Ethiopia, we're backing market creation and economic opportunities in refugee-hosting areas. In Kenya, we're providing skills-based training in business and agriculture. And in Uganda we played a key part in developing the country's first ever education response plan for both refugees and host communities.

Finally, we must remember today's Forum is an important stepping stone but not an end in itself. This is about where we go next – a chance to identify priorities and opportunities, to ensure a common understanding and direction of travel. The UK looks forward to continuing that journey alongside you.

*566 words.*