



## Virtual Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees Summary

13 September 2022, 15:00-17:00 hrs CEST

The third virtual quarterly informal briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) was held on Tuesday, 13 September 2022, bringing together States and other stakeholders to provide an update on the implementation of the GCR and the Global Refugee Forum (GRF). The session, moderated by Ms. Anne Keah, Head of Governance Service, was opened by the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Ms. Gillian Triggs, followed by an update on preparations for the 2023 Global Refugee Forum by the Head of the GCR Coordination Team, Ms. Perveen Ali. Subsequently, an update was provided on refinements to the GCR Indicator Framework by Mr. Nicolas Fasel, Senior Statistician of the GCR Coordination Team, which was then followed by interventions from the floor.

### **Opening Remarks by Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Ms. Gillian Triggs**

Ms. Triggs began by expressing appreciation to all participants for their continuing interest and support in achieving the GCR objectives despite the exceptional challenges since the first GRF. She highlighted how the GCR demonstrated its enduring value by setting out the vision for equitable burden and responsibility sharing for forcibly displaced and stateless people. At the same time, she underlined the unprecedented challenges of the growing number of emergencies that have been declared just in the last 18 months, mostly linked to conflict but also by climate change. The long-lasting socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is also a topic that will be discussed more in the lead-up to the next GRF.

Ms. Triggs announced that the 2023 Global Refugee Form will be held in Geneva [NB: the updated dates are the plenary from 13-15 December 2023, with an advance day for side events on 12 December 2023]. She noted that while the plenary will be held at the UN Palais Assembly Hall, another nearby location will be identified for other high-level events linked to the GRF ecosystem.

Recognizing the significant progress that has been made thus far towards the next GRF, Ms. Triggs noted the ongoing efforts in identifying co-convenors that would represent a good balance between regions as well as host and donor countries, which are planned be announced by the ExCom next month.

Ms. Triggs also reiterated how new pledges need to be high-quality, additional, needs-driven, and quantifiable based on the existing gaps and areas in need of further support that have been identified through the [2021 GCR Indicator Report](#) and the [20 recommendations from the High-Level Officials Meeting \(HLOM\)](#). A whole-of-government approach, complemented by the whole-of-society approach, such as the one demonstrated by Nigeria with the adoption of a roadmap for the GCR implementation, is critical to ensure States and other stakeholders strengthen collaboration to facilitate refugee self-reliance, reduce aid dependency, and identify sustainable solutions. In this regard, regional and sub-regional mechanisms, such as the Support Platforms of

the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework for the Americas (MIRPS), and the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) can help to achieve this.

Ms. Triggs elaborated some of the key priorities for consideration in the lead-up to the next GRF, starting with the important role of disaggregated data on refugees and host communities by age, gender and diversity and its inclusion in national data collection systems and surveys. Initiatives, such as the OECD's regularization of data collection on funding for low- and middle-income refugee hosting countries as well as the collaboration between national statistical offices and the Joint Data Center of the World Bank and UNHCR, were welcomed and encouraged.

Ms. Triggs also highlighted the complementarity between the GCR and the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) and how, together, they can play a catalytic role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and Our Common Agenda. For example, ensuring food security for host communities, which is in line with the GCR objectives, would also contribute to reducing and addressing adverse drivers of migration under the GCM. Also, In last May, on the side lines of the first International Migration Review Forum, 36 cities worldwide announced their intention to provide services and programmes for refugees and migrants, responding to the Call to Local Action to implement the GCR and the GCM.

Advancing in the provision of clean, renewable, and sustainable energy for refugees and host communities was also emphasized as an important part of the GRF due to its relevance to preventing gender-based violence and related protection risks.

Ms. Triggs spoke on the upcoming High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, which this year will focus on development cooperation. It will draw upon lessons learned from case studies in all regions around the world and will provide an opportunity to launch some key initiatives to foster greater synergies between humanitarian, development, and peace actors to broaden the base of support.

Economic inclusion was also underlined. Inclusive national systems will enhance refugees' self-reliance, which also significantly benefit hosing communities. In this regard, the Ingka Group's announcement at the World Economic Forum of its commitment to approach 500 companies to accelerate labour integration of refugees was welcomed.

Finally, Ms. Triggs emphasized the importance of ensuring meaningful refugee participation, taking into account the age, gender, and diversity, in line with the humanitarian principle of "leaving no one behind". She further underlined that for lasting and durable solutions, refugees must be involved in the process of identifying priorities and developing and implementing pledges, as it was witnessed in first Refugee Parliament last June in Switzerland and through the recently launched Refugee-led Innovation Fund and many other initiatives alike.

#### **Update on Preparations for the Global Refugee Forum**

Ms. Ali provided an update on the roadmap leading up to the next GRF in 2023 outlining the envisaged chronology of events and milestones in 2022, pledges status, and the forthcoming launch of the revamped GCR Digital Platform with new updates as well as the pledge matching portal. It was also highlighted that the [survey](#)

on the Concept Note for 2023 GRF has been designed for all stakeholders to provide feedback on an ongoing basis. The Concept Note will remain a living document that will be continuously updated.

In terms of the status on pledges, Ms. Ali briefed that out of total 1,675 pledges made since the first GRF, 975 pledges were updated with progress reports. Nearly 25 per cent of the pledges that had been reported on have been fulfilled, and the stakeholders are invited to explore ways to give visibility to their work on fulfilling their pledges to support and inspire others. She also encouraged all stakeholders to continue to send progress updates on their pledges, noting that the pledges dashboard on the GCR digital platform remains continuously open. This will allow to the international community to track and see the progress being made as well as the existing challenges and identify ways to support the implementation of the pledges.

Ms. Ali announced that, after reflecting on feedback from users, UNHCR will launch the updated version of the GCR digital platform this month, which is a one-stop shop for the GCR. The updated version will have improved usability. More information and user guidance will follow. Also, the updated Pledges Dashboard on the digital platform will be launched with enhanced usability, advanced filters, and improved infographics.

She briefed on the multi-stakeholder mobilization strategy, which builds upon over 40 [strategic initiatives](#) that already exist and will develop new Groups of Friends where needed, to focus on developing joint pledges. All stakeholders are invited to participate in the call for expression of interest to indicate themes around which they would be interested in working, where they are not already engaged in them. A simple online [survey](#) is available for all stakeholders to express their thematic areas of interest and will remain continuously open until the next GRF. UNHCR will reach out to respondents to discuss how they wish to engage in these themes – for instance through joining an existing or new initiative and/or developing a pledge. The next step for the GCR initiatives will be to develop roadmaps for pledge development in the lead-up to the GRF. The initiatives will have the opportunity to brief on their roadmaps and make calls to action at the regular informal briefings as well as formal preparatory meetings for the GRF.

Ms. Ali also reiterated the importance of, and the ways in which, refugee participation will be part of GRF preparations, including through stakeholders, including refugees, sharing good practices, making joint pledges, and engaging in pledge development at the local level, and refugees providing suggestions and feedback through the UNHCR Advisory Board of Displaced and Stateless Persons.

#### **Update on GCR Indicator Framework**

Mr. Fasel briefed on the technical refinement that is being undertaken with regard to the GCR Indicator Framework with objectives to consolidate the framework agreed in 2019 and to support availability, quality, disaggregation, and analysis of indicators relevant to GCR in a manner consistent with international statistical practices. The process builds on lessons learned from the first GCR indicator report and recommendations made at the HLOM: to strengthen the measurement of GCR indicators; enhance data on refugees as well as host communities; systematize tracking of development and humanitarian funding; and improve disaggregation by age, gender and diversity.

He referred to the importance of the on-going process at the OECD to regularize data collection on Official Development Assistance (ODA) to refugee situations in low- and middle-income countries; data useful for the compilation of five GCR indicators. The refined GCR indicator framework will further differentiate between

bilateral ODA to low and middle-income refugee-hosting countries and “in-donor refugee costs”. It will also refer to potentially available complementary indicators, for instance, funding provided by multilateral development banks, private donors, and contributions to UN agencies with refugee protection mandates.

The refined GCR indicator framework will include 16 indicators. Key changes include enhanced financial tracking indicators, clearer distinction between de jure and de facto indicators, e.g. in relation to access to work and freedom of movement; a revision of indicator 1.2.2 counting the number of partners in refugee response plans supporting refugee-hosting countries; and the introduction of a new indicator 3.2.2 on the number of countries offering safe admission and stay options through complementary pathways to refugees hosted in other countries.

Mr. Fasel also outlined the two-tier classification of the indicators, based on quality and availability of data, and noted the progress made so far. Tier-1 indicators are categorized as being conceptually clear, with established international methodology or standards, and a regular data collection by national and international institutions. In 2022, there are 6 tier-1 and 10 tier-2 indicators compared to 2019 when there were 3 tier-1 and 12 tier-2 indicators.

Mr. Fasel reiterated the importance of enhancing inclusion of refugees and host communities in national statistical systems and surveys. He further noted that the refined GCR indicator framework will be published this December, and the second GCR indicator report will be released in November 2023.

#### **Interventions from the Floor and Closing Remarks**

Ms. Rami updated on the Refugee-led Innovation Fund, which was launched in 2022 to bring together financial resources, mentoring, and technical expertise to support innovation by all organizations that are led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons to put them at the centre in the delivery of humanitarian and development work. After receiving feedback from refugee-led organisations, USD 45,000 will be the threshold amount of the grant to ensure adequate support necessary for their projects. This will further advance equitable and principled partnerships with local actors. UNHCR has received 1,820 applications from 19 pilot countries, and USD 800,000 will be disbursed over two years for those who have been vetted with their proposals. These organisations will be showcased at the next GRF. As the Fund plans to expand after 2023, stakeholders are invited to engage and support by investing in the fund to increase the number of refugee-led organizations, providing pro-bono support, making it more accessible for refugee-led organizations for partnership, and integrating them into local networks. Such investments could be reflected as pledges in the lead-up to the GRF, as well.

An intervention was made by Ms. Veneranda Ingabire, Head, Single Project Implementation Unit Ministry in charge of Emergency Management, Government of Rwanda, highlighting the Government’s good practice of exchanging with Djibouti on the positive progress, challenges, and opportunities for refugee inclusion, particularly with regard to including refugees in the national education system as well as enhancing energy supplies to refugees using the LGP gas to prevent gender-based violence and the degradation of environment. In response, Ms. Triggs thanked the government of Rwanda and welcomed the positive progress being made in terms of refugee inclusion in Rwanda. She noted with appreciation how such good practice is being shared regionally to promote multi-stakeholder collaboration towards the GCR objectives.

