2021 High-Level Officials Meeting
Summary of Key Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions

Twenty key recommendations for the future were identified as a part of the stocktaking in the lead-up to and during the High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM). Following is a summary of the recommendations and areas for action. It reflects inputs by States and other stakeholders during the regional, stakeholder, and thematic stocktaking events and processes, virtual preparatory roundtables, side and linked events, spotlight sessions, panels, the HLOM plenary discussion, and the GCR Indicator Report. For more detailed information in relation to these recommendations and action points, please see the Outcome Document for the HLOM.

Cross-cutting recommendations

Recommendation 1: Implement current GRF pledges and develop new ones to address identified gaps and needs.

- Concretise broad pledges that remain in progress.
- Adapt and innovate pledges where necessary to address changing needs.
- Match and align financial, material, and technical pledges with host country policy pledges.
- Report on progress made towards pledge implementation .
- Ensure that new pledges are needs-driven, quantifiable, additional, sustainable, inclusive, AGD-sensitive, and aligned with the GCR indicators.

Recommendation 2: Enhance access to international protection.

- Provide asylum and access to territory, which are key to responsibility sharing.
- Develop refugee and asylum laws, policies and systems that are in line with international standards.
- Provide expertise and resources to develop or strengthen national asylum systems.
- Ensure proper documentation for refugees, asylum-seekers, and returnees through dialogue and collaboration between countries of origin and countries of asylum.
- Strengthen and extend national child protection systems to include refugees.

Recommendation 3: Reduce statelessness.

- Develop and strengthen systems for the identification and protection of stateless persons.
- Provide financial support for statelessness-related programming.
- Increase efforts to reach the objective of the *#IBelong* Campaign to End Statelessness by 2024.
- Broaden the base of support to accelerate progress in addressing statelessness.
- Mainstream and integrate priorities to protect stateless people and prevent statelessness in the GCR process.
- Develop flexible new approaches and the use of technology by national governments and municipalities to ensure access to birth registration.

Recommendation 4: Make better use of combined humanitarian, development, and peace capacities to achieve the GCR objectives.

- Enhance cooperation and coordination between political, humanitarian, development, and peace actors.
- Strengthen coordination of humanitarian assistance, development, and peacebuilding efforts and between local communities and governments.
- Improve reporting and analysis across engaged development actors.
- Ensure more predictable collaboration between humanitarian, development, and peace actors to bring integrated approaches to solutions.

Recommendation 5: Build attention to climate change into how we do business.

- Reframe our narrative to recognise and address climate change as a risk multiplier.

- Innovate to develop responses that enhance the resilience of refugees and their hosts to climate change.
- Provide funding for environmental protection, habitat restoration, land rehabilitation, and agroforestry.
- Invest in sustainable energy in refugee-hosting areas to promote access to electricity and connectivity.
- Engage displaced persons in community-led disaster prevention and preparedness and in identifying, designing, and supporting solutions.

Recommendation 6: Facilitate more systematic, inclusive, and meaningful refugee participation.

- Include refugees in GCR follow-up at all levels (local, regional, and global).
- Provide direct, flexible funding for refugee-led organisations (RLOs).
- Address barriers to refugee engagement, including through equal partnership approaches.
- Apply approaches to the reception and treatment of refugees that foster amicable and mutually beneficial relationships with host communities.
- Involve refugees in efforts to increase educational pathways and employment opportunities, freedom of movement, and access to documentation.
- Consider the specific needs, priorities, and capacities of different members of refugee populations through an age, gender, diversity approach to make interventions more effective.

Recommendation 7: Enhance the data available to support effective action and investment in refugee situations.

- Systematise national and international data collection on refugees.
- Strengthen and systematize tracking of refugee financing by all stakeholders.
- Continue and extend efforts to build the evidence base on financing for refugee situations, self-reliance of refugees and host communities, and solutions.
- Enhance synergies between modern and traditional data instruments to establish robust tracking mechanisms.
- Strengthen capacities and efforts towards data collection and analysis disaggregated by age, gender, and diversity.
- Facilitate collaboration between refugees and host communities, national statistical offices, civil society organisations, and UN partners in data collection efforts.
- Facilitate access of local authorities to social and economic data on the refugees they host.
- Facilitate participation of refugees in all relevant processes of data collection, analysis, and dissemination.
- Engage the private sector in generating evidence on economic inclusion of refugees.

Recommendation 8: Strengthen private sector engagement in support of GCR objectives.

- Engage across the spectrum of philanthropy, corporate social responsibility, and shared value creation.
- Address policy, legal, and regulatory hurdles that constrain market-based private sector engagement in refugee-hosting areas.
- Further develop and replicate innovative financing schemes such as social impact bonds, bank guarantees, and entrepreneurial mechanisms.
- Strengthen the key enablers for piloting and scaling of promising initiatives with the private sector.
- Scale up cash-based interventions to catalyse private sector participation.
- Develop programmes and initiatives that include refugees and host communities as integral parts of their core businesses and value chains.
- Enhance cooperation between the private sector and humanitarian actors to advance refugee rights, self-reliance, inclusion, capacities, and third-country solutions.
- Develop socio-economic integration mechanisms that respond to local needs and create trust between the private sector and humanitarian actors.

GCR objective 1: Ease pressures on host countries

Recommendation 9: Intensify efforts towards more equitable burden and responsibility sharing.

- Broaden the base of support beyond the main refugee-hosting countries, donors, and institutions.
- Invest diplomatic and political capital to operationalise responsibility sharing across all refugee situations.
- Strengthen investment, cooperation, and political engagement through the Support Platforms.

Recommendation 10: Increase development financing in support of refugee situations.

- Expand cooperation with bilateral development actors and multilateral development banks.

- Ensure diversified and flexible financial instruments for short-term humanitarian and longer-term development efforts.
- Include refugees in national datasets, plans, and budgets.
- Identify and cost the extensions and improvements to national service delivery systems.
- Ensure that refugee-hosting localities are able to access financial support intended for them.
- Upscale financial and technical support for local authorities to include refugees, migrants, and internally displaced persons in the provision of their services.

Recommendation 11: Provide more flexible, predictable, and multi-year funding for refugee responses.

- Scale up flexible, predictable, and multi-year development funding.
- Increase sustained and flexible financial support for organisations led by youth, women, refugees, and local actors.

GCR objective 2: Enhance refugee self-reliance

Recommendation 12: Increase social inclusion for refugees.

- Support refugee and host community youth to develop capacities and skills and maintain physical and emotional well-being.
- Scale up innovative approaches and strengthened partnerships to enhance socio-economic inclusion.
- Invest in capacitating local authorities and local civil society to support refugee integration, inclusion, and local solutions.
- Scale up initiatives that tackle racism and xenophobia.
- Realise the potential of sport to promote inclusion and protection.
- Engage and support universities to promote refugee self-reliance.
- Draw on local-level knowledge and expertise in refugee-hosting areas to inform national development plans.
- Ensure an age, gender, diversity (AGD) approach to refugee inclusion.

Recommendation 13: Increase economic inclusion and access to livelihoods.

- Provide refugees the legal right to employment.
- Increase job and livelihood opportunities (including access to land) to facilitate socio-economic inclusion.
- Provide targeted investments for inclusive national policies and approaches to jobs and livelihoods.
- Ensure that age, gender, diversity, and disability are focus areas for improvement.
- Enhance collaboration with local institutions that provide tailored and contextualised livelihoods programming.
- Take steps towards facilitating better access to services for economic inclusion
- Ensure that persons of concern are systematically included in all forms of social protection on par with nationals.
- Address barriers to accessing livelihoods and economic inclusion beyond labour law and economic activity.
- Build the evidence base to inform advocacy and support for economic inclusion.

Recommendation 14: Expand access to quality primary, secondary, and higher education.

- Invest in all stages of the education cycle.
- Explore and implement innovative approaches to learning, such as digitalisation and connected classrooms.
- Encourage meaningful participation and inclusion of refugees in education in the design, implementation, and review of education interventions.
- Conduct 'education equity audits' to inform governments' pandemic recovery planning and address inequities faced by refugee students and educators.

Recommendation 15: Provide refugees with healthcare through strengthened national systems.

- Include refugees in national health systems and policies.
- Systematically integrate mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in humanitarian and development planning.
- Encourage a more refugee-inclusive response to health emergencies, including refugee access to testing, treatment, and vaccinations for COVID-19.
- Take steps to enable refugees to join the regular health workforce.

- Expand adaptations made to health services, such as switching to tele-medicine and remote case management.

GCR objective 3: Expand access to third-country solutions

Recommendation 16: Increase the volume of resettlement opportunities for refugees.

- Provide multi-year commitments and expansion of existing programmes for resettlement and family reunification.
- Broaden the base of countries providing resettlement opportunities.
- Ensure that complementary pathways remain additional to resettlement and family reunification.
- Expand multi-sectoral partnerships to facilitate, promote and advocate for third-country solutions.
- Encourage greater community sponsorship.

Recommendation 17: Build additional complementary pathways to third-country solutions.

- Expand education pathways in third countries.
- Provide pathways for displaced and host-community scholars to work in academia.
- Develop labour pathways through policy changes and private sector engagement.
- Contribute financial or in-kind support for actors who are developing admission pathways.
- Review and adjust legislation and policies that continue to pose barriers to refugees.
- Develop initiatives to reduce or cover the costs often incurred by refugees.
- Provide pro bono legal representation for refugees who face legal obstacles.
- Give greater priority to family reunification.
- Simplify the application process and provide additional assistance to support refugees to use it.
- Remove barriers to labour and education pathways.

GCR objective 4: Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity

Recommendation 18: Mobilise more resources in support of voluntary return.

- Provide increased financing for governments and other stakeholders to support and enable voluntary return.
- Use the 2023 GRF pledging process to demonstrate and mobilise increased commitments of resources in support of voluntary return.

Recommendation 19: Strengthen the planning and implementation of voluntary return.

- Ensure return planning is based on protection standards and principles.
- Plan and secure resources for reintegration measures early on.
- Ensure that returning refugees can safely access justice systems and legal support.
- Underpin voluntary return and reintegration with investments in national capacities and systems.
- Direct development investments into strengthening local economies and service provision systems.
- Apply programmes and approaches that enhance social cohesion, including area-based investments.

Recommendation 20: Improve cooperation to address root causes and build peace in countries of origin.

- Mobilise increased development and peace capacities to address root causes in countries of origin.
- Increase early investment in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.
- Strengthen the cooperation between political, humanitarian, development, peace, and financing actors.
- Ensure ongoing dialogue with communities to inform policy, planning, and programming.
- Strengthen and support the peacebuilding aspect of responses to refugee and returnee situations.