

# **CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**84th meeting of the Standing Committee**

**28-30 June 2022**

**Agenda item 4**

**Oral update on UNHCR's coordination efforts to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees**

Mr Chair, Excellencies, distinguished participants –

I am pleased to present this update on behalf of the Director of DRS who is attending the Transforming Education Pre-Summit. The update summarizes UNHCR's efforts to coordinate an initiative on "*Measuring the Impact of protecting, hosting and assisting refugees.*" As participants may recall, this responsibility derives from the UN General Assembly's Omnibus Resolution on UNHCR of December 2017 and had two main objectives: 1) to contribute to greater responsibility sharing; and 2) to jointly agreeing amongst member states a methodology and approach to measure the cost of inclusion. Alongside UNHCR this initiative is supported technically with expertise from the World Bank (WB), the Joint

Data Center (JDC) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Let me express again UNHCR's strong appreciation for the valuable engagement of these partners.

The Measuring Impact work is part of the three processes that inform our collective assessment of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). It complements efforts to monitor progress towards the objectives of the Compact, including development of metrics to inform discussions about cooperation and responsibility sharing, along with analysis of pledges and commitments made during the Global Refugee Forum (GRF).

The OECD support, represented in the "Financing for Refugee Situations Survey 2020" meets their commitment made at the Global Refugee Forum and is the follow-up to the "[Survey on Financing Refugee Hosting Contexts \(2018\)](#)". It was designed with the intent to collect information on Official Development Assistance (ODA) and 'beyond aid' trends for the benefit of refugees, refugee returnees and host communities in developing countries since the adoption of the GCR. It will provide data on ODA to support 5 of the 15 indicators of the GCR Indicator Report. The survey covers the period 2018-2020 mid-year and contributes to measuring the gap in international cooperation.

Notably, the December 2021 GCR Indicator Report GCR report suggests an increase in international support for refugee situations, with an upward

trend in bilateral ODA to refugee-hosting countries with low- and middle-income economies between 2016 and 2019. Unfortunately, while overall funding has been increasing, it has not kept pace with both the increasing numbers of forcibly displaced and the impact on socio-economic well-being from COVID and the consequences of the Ukraine crisis.

The Measuring Impact work reflects the longstanding concern of refugee hosting states that their contributions to refugee protection, resilience and solutions have been insufficiently recognized. At the same time, the pandemic has highlighted the value of inclusion in national systems- such as health and social safety net systems- and with it the need to be able to measure the cost has become ever more important.

Despite the pandemic having slowed down certain aspects of our work, including expected workshops at the regional and country level to explore the potential of expansion into new sectors, we have made progress. In 2021, the WB and UNHCR finalized and released the report, ["The Global Cost of Inclusive Refugee Education"](#). Major refugee hosting countries spoke at its launch. Based on two years of participatory work with several Member States, the methodology provides an analytical framework for measuring and projecting the cost of inclusion in this sector. Notably, the paper highlighted that the average annual cost of educating refugees is less than 5 percent of public education expenditure in developing nations,

which host 85 percent of the world's refugees. The inclusion of refugees in national education systems has an estimated annual cost of US\$4.85 billion globally (a pre-COVID estimated cost). If we work together, this number is not out of reach. It provides a benchmark to use in discussions with development and private sector actors in working towards achieving education goals for refugees and the financing required to do so.

This figure has been used over the past year in the preparation for the Transforming Education Summit. Being able to include these costings in financing models means that, for the first time, the costs associated with supporting refugees to be included in national systems are tangibly part of systemic global education discussions. This has facilitated a shift in global discussion which now recognize the gaps in funding and financial mechanisms for refugees who fall outside of national systems, and the gaps in responsibility sharing to support hosting countries.

Country level costings are also continuing. The World Bank is supporting a follow-on piece of work with select countries to assess both the status of education sector costings and of the financing currently going to support refugees. This study will consider inclusion and how refugees are represented in national data systems such as the Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) as well as in decision making processes. Costing work has been undertaken at country level in Colombia, Kenya

and Uganda, as well as complementary regionally supported work such as the IGAD facilitated costed plan undertaken in Sudan. Fully understanding the cost implications of including refugees in national education systems is proving to be a critical element of the urgent advocacy to generate the resources required to ensure equitable access to quality education.

Our agreed aim in 2020/2021 was to consolidate the practical work developed during 2018 and 2019, identify another sector for a costing analysis and organize meetings at the regional level hosted by Member States. The meetings and sectoral expansion have not yet occurred. While we believe this is due to the difficulties posed by the pandemic, we must also reflect on the best course of action for this initiative going forward, assessing potential progress prior to the Global Refugee Forum 2023.

To conclude, let me reiterate that UNHCR, the World Bank and JDC stand ready to provide support to this initiative and call on Member States to make known their willingness to actively participate and lead this initiative.