

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS [3 MINS]

- **I am pleased to represent the World Bank at this the first Global Refugee Forum.** I would like to express our appreciation to the High Commissioner and the Government of Switzerland for hosting us.
- **I would like to express our special appreciation to those countries who are hosting large numbers of refugees,** and to clearly indicate the World Bank Group's commitment to supporting them in their efforts.
- **This Forum comes at a critical juncture.** Forced displacement is not only a humanitarian crisis but also a critical development challenge.
- **The World Bank Group is actively engaged in this effort.**
 - **In 2017, our fund for the poorest 75 countries, IDA, doubled resources to tackle fragility, conflict, violence and forced displacement to \$14 billion over a three-year period.** During this time, IDA provided \$3 billion to countries hosting refugees and IDPs, including through a \$2 billion window for host communities and refugees. More than 25 projects have been approved in various sectors to help create development opportunities for both refugees and host communities. In parallel, IDA provided over \$1 billion to de-risk private sector investment in fragile countries.
 - **In parallel, working with partners we have established the Global Concessional Financing Facility** to provide concessional financing to help middle-income countries address refugee crises (Jordan, Lebanon, and Colombia). So far, we have approved over half a billion dollars in concessional financing that unlocked more than \$2.5 billion for development projects.
 - **This marked a turning point,** with the World Bank Group actively engaged in support of refugees and host communities as part of its development mission. Our support is complementary to humanitarian efforts and aims to tackle the medium-term socio-economic dimensions of the crisis, by supporting government-led programs and helping improve policy and institutional responses. This is critical in a world where many refugee situations are taking much longer to solve than we would all hope.
- **We are further stepping up these efforts.**
 - **On December 13, the donors to IDA approved a new package of support,** which will be implemented over the period of July 2020 to June 2023. This package includes \$18.7 billion to support countries impacted by fragility, conflict and violence. It will provide an ecosystem of support to countries affected by fragility, conflict, and violence, including by engaging on prevention and resilience in countries of origin. In addition, we are providing:
 - A further \$2.2 billion to the Window for Host communities and Refugees; and
 - A further \$2.5 billion to the Private Sector Window, of which part will be dedicated to fragile States.
 - Our areas of focus will include:

- **Education** – because over half of refugees are children, we want to do all we can to prevent a lost generation;
 - **Jobs** – because they are key to self-reliance and dignity, for both host communities and refugees who often live in lagging regions;
 - **Gender** – because of the terrible ordeal many women and girl refugees are going through;
 - **Prevention and preparedness** – because we ought to reduce these crises and better manage them;
 - **Data and evidence** – for example to better measure the impact of refugee inflows on their hosts and inform our responses, including through the Joint Data Center that we have established with UNHCR.
 - **And aid coordination**, especially across the humanitarian–development nexus and with non-government partners – because our own complexities should not translate into high transaction costs or reduced efficiencies for those whom we aim to support.
- **We are also committed to work closely with partners across the humanitarian and development communities.** I would like to thank UNHCR for their cooperation, and their efforts in ensuring that refugee rights are being respected. I would also like to recognize regional development banks with whom we are working in close partnership.
 - **Critically, our expanded efforts to support refugees and host communities are fully aligned with the World Bank Group’s first Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence.** The Strategy, which will be finalized in early 2020, aims to enhance our effectiveness in fragile settings and provide support to the most vulnerable populations.
 - **In closing let me underline once again the World Bank Group’s commitment to support the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees.** This is about helping people in distress, and about finding the best possible ways to support them. We are committed to work with all of you as we collectively tackle this challenge.

Thank you.