

Talking Points for Ethiopia's Update at the High-Level Officials Meeting

Director General of RRS

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Thank you, High Commissioner, Co-hosts, and participants of this important session.

Ethiopia aligns itself with the statement made by Turkey on behalf of Co-hosts and co-conveners.

Home to nearly 900,000 refugees, Ethiopia has made bold pledges in four areas: jobs and livelihoods, education, protection/capacity building and energy/environment.

Recently, we had undertaken stocktaking exercise, to evaluate achievements scored and challenges faced. In the stocktaking, 75 partners (28 government representatives, 30 NGOs, 12 UN agencies and 5 donors) have convened.

With our collective efforts, we have achieved good results in all of the four pledge areas.

In the Jobs and Livelihoods pledge, the government has created an enabling environment for economic opportunities in terms of financial inclusion. This has enabled the creation of 17,526 direct and 80,953 indirect economic opportunities for refugees and hosting community.

In areas of education, accredited skills trainings that are linked to the labor market are being provided to refugees and host community. Due to this, 3,071 refugees were able to benefit in the national TVET schools.

In the area of protection, following the Refugee Proclamation, which provided the framework for refugee registration, documentation, and protection, four directives

were adopted on movement of refugees outside of camps; right to work; grievances and appeals; and environmental and social management.

Finally, on the energy pledge, refugees are accessing alternative energy, alternative cooking fuels and electricity. In this area also more than 208,000 people have benefited both directly and indirectly.

Dear High Commissioner, Dear Participants,

These achievements are scored amid the socio-economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and impediments specific to the various pledge commitments and the situation of my country.

Compared to the daring pledges of my government, the achievements are only few steps. The full realization of the pledges would require collective efforts and support in the spirit of ‘burden and responsibility sharing’ from the international community.

In this regard:

- More balanced focus should be given to all the four durable solution areas of the GCR.
- More interventions in protecting, mitigating, recovering, and rehabilitating the environmental impact of the refugee operation is essential for all initiatives.
- Jobs and livelihoods interventions need to have a longer time span to bring about the desired change and lasting solutions.
- Self-reliance of refugees and hosting communities should be given utmost focus as it is the steppingstone for the realization of the other pledges.
- More integration with the national development plan and job creation strategies is critical for success.

To conclude, the progress made on the pledge implementation testifies to the partnership demonstrated by the international community in coming together through ‘burden and responsibility sharing’ principle. Ethiopia will continue to rely on this support to find sustainable solutions to our brothers and sisters who happen to be refugees in Ethiopia.

Thank you very much, High Commissioner!