Summary of the Launch of the Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Report

and

the Fourth Quarterly Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees

17 November 2023, 10:00-12:00 / 15:00-18:00 hrs. CEST

Summary of the Launch of the Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Report

Executive Summary

The launch of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) Indicator Report 2023 introduced the study's key findings and recommendations to inform the development of pledges and frame the discussions around the second Global Refugee Forum (GRF) to be held in Geneva on 13-15 December 2023. The event was chaired by Mr. Arafat Jamal, Coordinator for the Global Refugee Forum 2023. UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Ms. Gillian Triggs, delivered opening remarks, followed by a presentation and video summarizing key elements of the report. Mr. Tarek Abou Chabake, UNHCR Chief Statistician, delivered the overview of the document's key findings and recommendations. This was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Ms. Caroline Sergeant of the World Bank, composed of: Ms. Aissatou Maisha Dicko, World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement (JDC); Ms. Amal Abubakar, Somalia National Bureau of Statistics; Mr. Daniel Tenkir Arga, Permanent Mission of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; Mr. Haje Schütte, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; and Mr. Vebjørn Aalandslid, Statistics Norway. The discussion focused on advancing the inclusion of forcibly displaced populations in data systems and improving data availability, quality, and capacity relevant to the Indicator Report, and highlighted key findings and recommendations to inform the GRF.

There was a consensus that the GCR Indicator Report continues to be a key source of data to inform refugee policy. The discussion showed the need for constant improvement in data collection, analytical capacity and the ability to act on data findings. The importance of pushing for more innovative approaches and partnerships, such as open-source tools, crowdsourcing, satellite imagery and artificial intelligence, was highlighted as key to improve the availability and quality of data for the next report. It was agreed that the progress, challenges and resilience of refugees and their host communities highlighted in the report should inform the discussions before and during the GRF 2023 to help ensure a common approach to burden- and responsibility-sharing.

Discussion

Opening remarks by Ms. Gillian Triggs, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection
Ms. Triggs noted that the GCR Indicator Report is part of the follow-up and review process outlined in the Compact and a means of measuring and sustaining progress towards achieving the four objectives of the Compact based on its Indicator Framework. She stressed that the report launch is a "moment of truth" to assess the impact of the GCR and to draw conclusions on what has been achieved toward its objectives. She shared that the report shows positive trends but that overall, progress has been slow and uneven due to various global challenges. She also emphasized that the report is not only about hard data but also illustrative through stories and artwork produced by refugees and host communities.

Key Findings and Recommendations

Mr. Abou Chabake presented the key findings from the report in relation to the global trends and the four objectives of the GCR. He noted that while data availability has expanded for the 16 GCR indicators since the first report, the number of refugees has more than doubled since 2016 and has surpassed the 35 million mark in mid-2022, significantly increasing the likelihood of becoming a refugee. Burden- and responsibility-sharing remained highly inequitable with 80% of the world's refugee population being hosted by countries representing only 19% of the world's income. For GCR objective 1 on easing pressure on host countries, the total volume of Official Development Assistance (ODA) allocated to refugee situations in low- and middle-income countries amounted to USD 26.4 billion in 2020-2021 but was unevenly distributed across refugee situations. Under GCR objective 2, refugee self-reliance has progressed with many national governments adopting law and policy environments for enhanced access to work, freedom of movement, and inclusion in national education systems. However, more efforts and support are needed to translate these policies into practice to ensure refugees can effectively access national systems. For GCR objective 3, third-country solutions through resettlement and complementary pathways rebounded in 2022, but the total number of refugees who accessed third-country solutions remained low compared to needs. Lastly, for GCR objective 4, return was not available as a solution at the same level as 15 to 20 years ago, when, on average, up to 2.5 million refugees returned in a year. Data on returnees' legal identity remained largely unavailable.

Panel Discussion

The panel discussion reaffirmed the need for quantifiable, measurable, disaggregated, reliable and timely data on forcibly displaced populations to inform better policymaking and pledge formulation, planning and programming. Including refugees in national statistics improves the government's ability to take them into account when making national policies and ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of responses, especially in protracted refugee situations, to upscale burden- and responsibility-sharing.

Partnerships in the data and statistics community are deemed crucial to address data gaps. For example, Statistics Norway has actively collaborated with partners on the inclusion of refugees in data and statistics through their work with the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics, Turkey, Ethiopia, etc. with the none-to-little marginal costs for including refugees in statistical and data systems.

The role of innovation is also critical to improve data coverage, quality and timeliness to support the next GCR Indicator Report. The Joint Data Center noted they will also focus on the use of alternative data sources, innovative data sources for household sampling – using population data through crowdsourcing techniques, estimating socioeconomic data indicators, and using satellite imagery, among others.

The OECD shared other examples of innovation and financing for data on refugee statistics. The five GCR indicators on ODA benefited from rich and granular data reported by donors, OECD and non-OECD states, and partners. OECD has continually improved the methodology for data collection on ODA, which helps in standardizing information reported and allows time-trends analysis. OECD also uses rigorous data analysis to inform their policy discussions, for example, the Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) Common Position on addressing forced displacement with a comprehensive humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach, which will be presented in the GRF.

Lastly, the speakers agreed that enhancing refugee inclusion in data collection also requires increased meaningful participation by refugees. Data being the entry point for efficient planning, forcibly displaced populations must be included in national surveys as their involvement increases the relevance of the potential evidence produced.

Summary of the Fourth Quarterly Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees
17 November 2023, 15:00-18:00 hrs. CEST

The Fourth Quarterly Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees was held on 17 November 2023 to brief on preparations and logistics for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), to exchange on the multi-stakeholder pledges, and to share updates on the Nansen Award Ceremony. The Coordinator for the GRF 2023 opened the session, reaffirming the importance of the Forum and sharing key approaches to make it a success. This was followed by an update on the GRF 2023 preparations and multi-stakeholder pledges, logistics and protocols, and the Nansen Award Ceremony. The last part of the briefing included interventions from the floor by governments and stakeholders to share updates on pledges.

Opening remarks by Arafat Jamal, Coordinator for the Global Refugee Forum 2023, UNHCR

Mr. Jamal reaffirmed the importance of the Forum in a turbulent global context marked by multiple crises leading to large-scale displacement. He noted an alarming escalation to 114 million forcibly displaced people, underscoring a stark failure in upholding peace and security, and emphasizing the urgent need for action to address the root causes and humanitarian consequences driving human mobility.

Mr. Jamal noted that the success of the second GRF will be determined by the reaffirmation and renewed commitment to the fundamental objectives of the GCR; contributions to high-quality multi-stakeholder pledges supporting the eight key outcomes of the GRF; strong leadership and engagement in multi-stakeholder pledges, particularly those with the potential to be transformational; commitment to staying the course, setting priorities for future work beyond the GRF toward the next Forum in 2027.

Update on GRF Preparations and Multi-Stakeholder Pledges by Perveen Ali, Senior Policy Advisor and Head of GCR Coordination Team, UNHCR

Ms. Ali presented the draft program of the GRF. She clarified that badges will only be needed for the first day of the plenary and reminded that the side event rooms are limited in size. She also reiterated the importance of the pledges to achieve the key outcomes of the GCR, supported by the enabling measures. She also reminded that all pledges are to be submitted individually through the GCR website and must indicate which multistakeholder pledges they are supporting. It was underlined that the plenary speaking time is limited to three minutes while multistakeholder pledge announcements are limited to one minute.

All stakeholders are encouraged to download the GRF 2023 app and to consult the GCR Digital Platform as well as the Global Refugee Forum 2023 webpage. The app contains essential information for the participants and will serve as a guide.

Update on GRF Logistics by Anne Keah, Head of the Governance Service, UNHCR

Ms. Keah provided an update on logistics for the Forum and noted that detailed information is available on the GRF webpage regarding registration, practical information on accessing the venue, and security arrangements.

All participants are requested to confirm their participation to UNHCR by note verbale or letter of accreditation no later than December 1st, 2023. She also reminded that all participants, including those with a UNOG ID badge, will be required to register in Indico for security reasons. The Indico registration link for the Global Refugee Forum 2023 was shared by email with all invited guests on September 29th.

Ms. Keah reminded that participants attending the venue must pass through security checks and advised participants to arrive early as doors open at 7:00 a.m. to ensure everyone is seated before the high-level opening at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Keah shared that multiple access points are available to facilitate efficient entry.

For the high-level opening, stringent security measures will limit access to the plenary room exclusively to those with plenary badges. Ms. Keah noted that these badges are transferable among delegation members but require re-entry through security-check. States, UN, and IGOs receive two badges each, while other entities receive one. Badge distribution for States, UN, and IGOs occurs on specific dates at the UNHCR Visitor's Centre, and other stakeholders get their badges from the focal points. People who are unable to enter the plenary session can watch a livestream in designated rooms.

Update on Nansen Award Ceremony by Dana Hughes, Head of Communications Service, UNHCR

Ms. Hughes reminded that the Nansen Award Ceremony is a key global communication moment for UNHCR to highlight extraordinary individuals in the field of refugee protection. The Nansen Award night will be held on the opening night of the GRF on December 13th at 19:00 p.m. All Nansen Award winners will speak on stage and participate as speakers in several GRF high-level events.

The Nansen Award winners will be announced in the form of a press release on Tuesday, November 28th. The global and regional winners will receive financial and material support to continue or implement new projects on refugee protection. Access to the Nansen Award Ceremony will be based on invitation only, and invitees need to register, yet a livestream will be available in English, and highlights of the ceremony will be shared afterwards in English, French, Arabic, and Spanish.

Interventions from the Floor

A number of interventions were made from the floor by States and other stakeholders to update on multi-stakeholder pledges under development and to make calls to action. Interventions were made by the Lutheran World Federation, Plan Uganda, France, Qatar, Canada, Egypt, Malta, Morocco, the Legal Community Pledge Group, the Refugee Emergency Fund, Google, Republic of Korea, mostly referring to various multistakeholder pledges they are co-leading and participating in and underlining their support towards the GRF. All stakeholders are encouraged to make pledge announcements during different parts of the GRF programme.

Closing remarks by Arafat Jamal, Coordinator for the GRF 2023, UNHCR

Mr. Jamal, on behalf of the UNHCR, thanked all stakeholders for their engagement and took note of the important comments and questions raised through the pigeonhole, which will be carefully and duly considered in the process of finalizing the GRF programme. He closed by reaffirming that the Forum should be seen as more than an event, but as a key benchmark in the process of building a better future for the forcibly displaced and those that generously host them.