

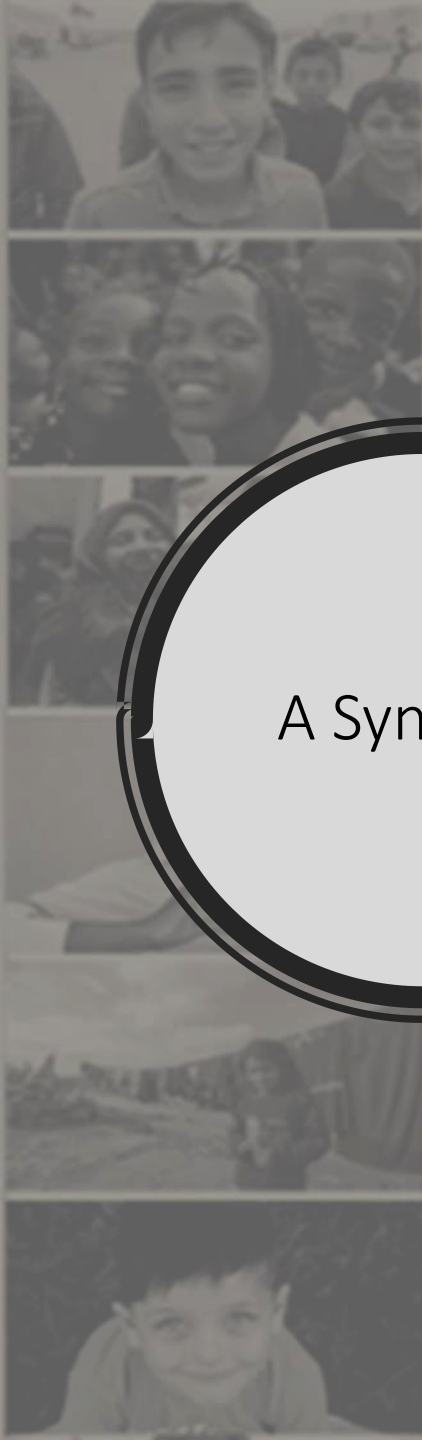


A Background Note For Discussion

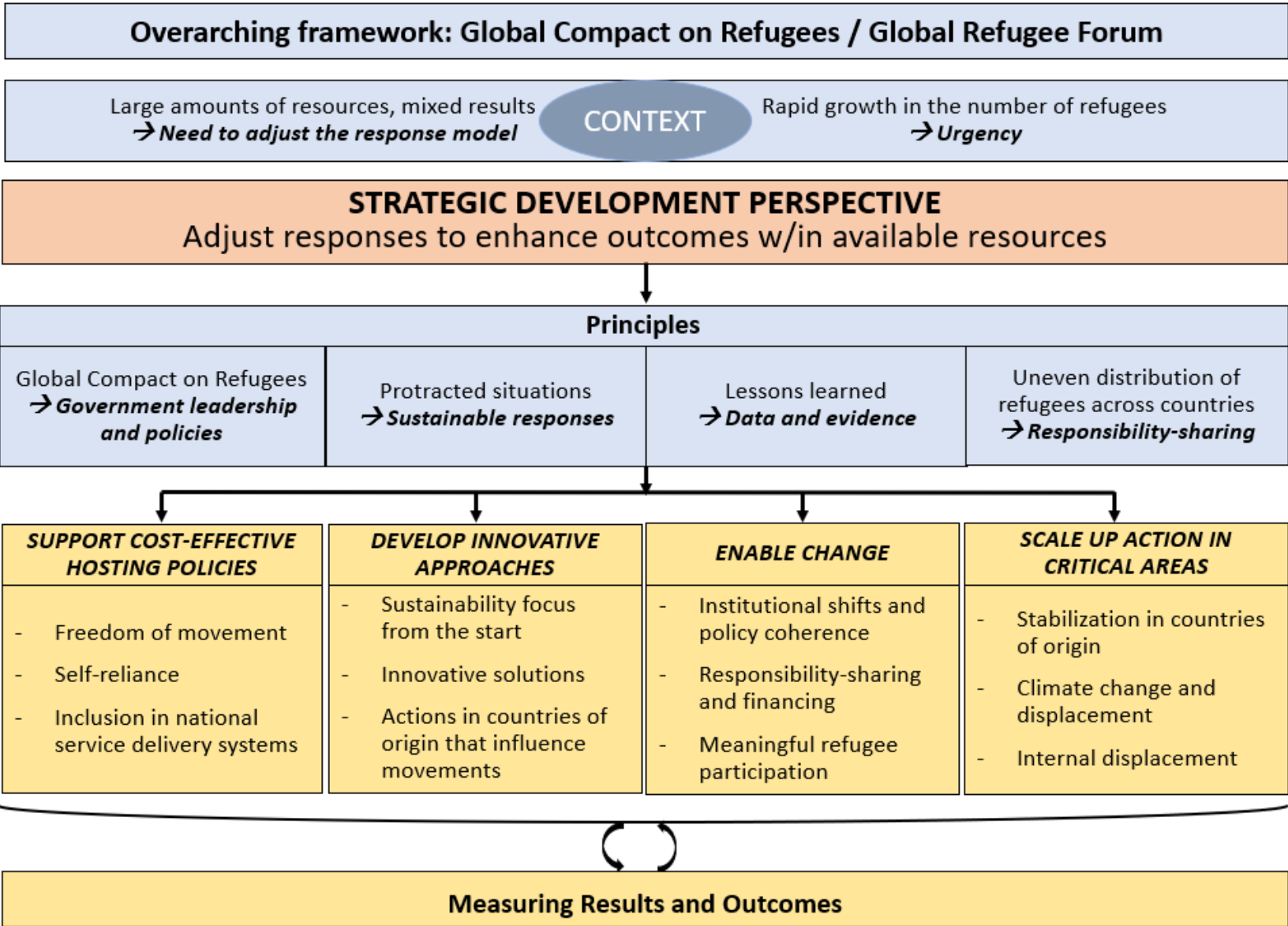
AFTER THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM

How can we collectively build on the Global Refugee Forum's momentum to transform the response to refugee situations?

This note was prepared by the World Bank, and it aims to stimulate a conversation on ways to strengthen the effectiveness of current approaches, as part of the "post-GRF" process.



A Synopsis



IN MORE DETAILS

Ideas For Progress

The Starting Point

Overarching framework: Global Compact on Refugees / Global Refugee Forum

Large amounts of resources, mixed results → *Need to adjust the response model* **CONTEXT** Rapid growth in the number of refugees → *Urgency*

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVE
Adjust responses to enhance outcomes w/in available resources

Principles

Global Compact on Refugees → <i>Government leadership and policies</i>	Protracted situations → <i>Sustainable responses</i>	Lessons learned → <i>Data and evidence</i>	Uneven distribution of refugees across countries → <i>Responsibility-sharing</i>
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SUPPORT COST-EFFECTIVE HOSTING POLICIES	DEVELOP INNOVATIVE APPROACHES	ENABLE CHANGE	SCALE UP ACTION IN CRITICAL AREAS
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Measuring Results and Outcomes

A Global Consensus

The 2018 Global Compact on Refugees



- Ease pressure on host countries

- Enhance refugees' self-reliance

- Expand access to third-country solutions

- Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity

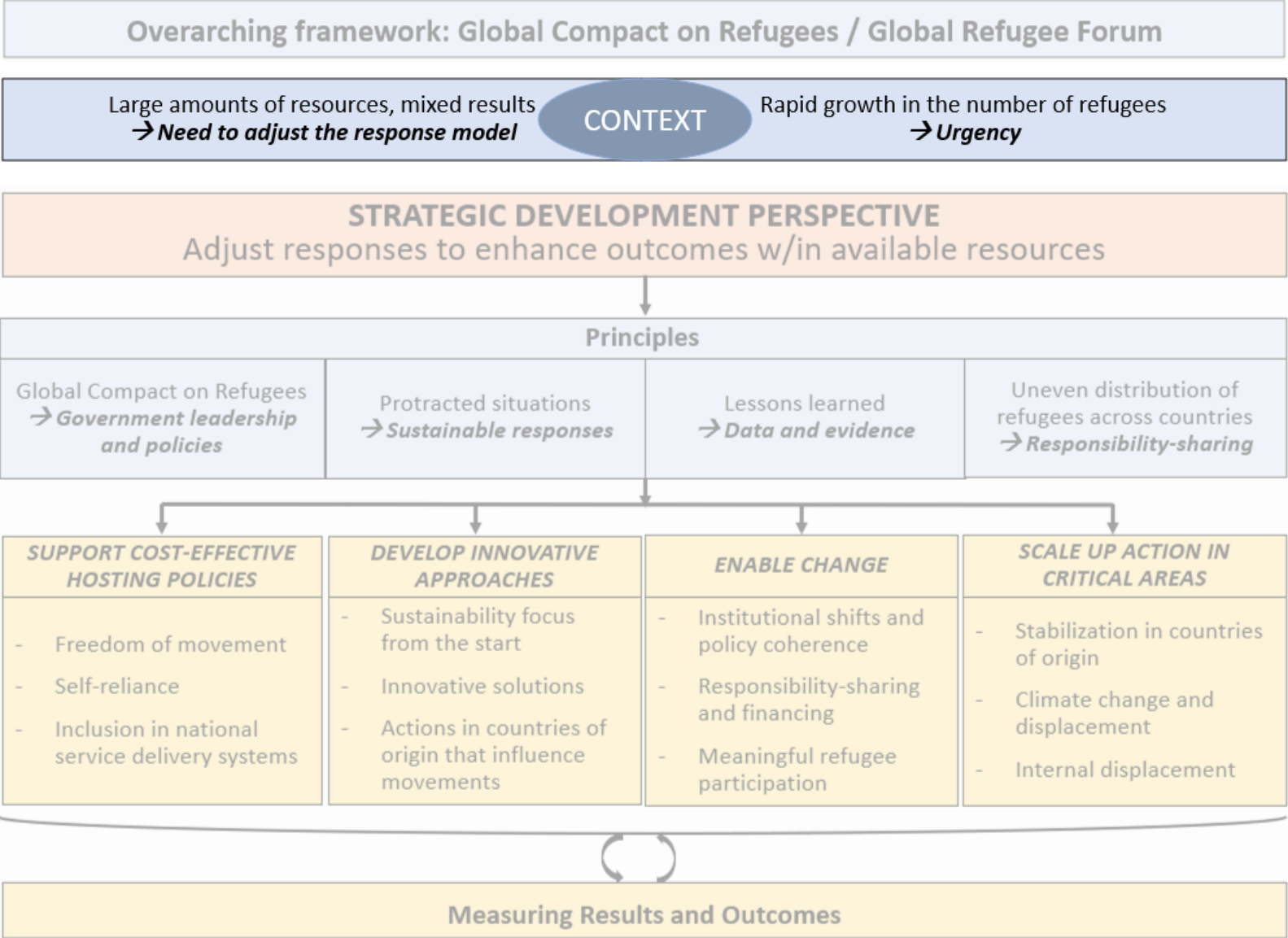
The 2023 Global Refugee Forum

- A Forum that built on the consensus achieved at the 2019 GRF
- An impressive array of stakeholders – hosting countries, donor countries, civil society, but also faith-based groups, private sector, and refugee “representatives”
- A broad consensus in support of UNHCR’s efforts (in spite of a polarized geopolitical environment)
- A commitment for action, with 1,691 pledges made by 776 entities, including 112 States
- A follow up process underway, with key milestones in the run up to the December 2025 High-Level Officials Meeting and the 2027 Global Refugee Forum

But... does this consensus meet the need for urgent transformation?



The Urgency of Change

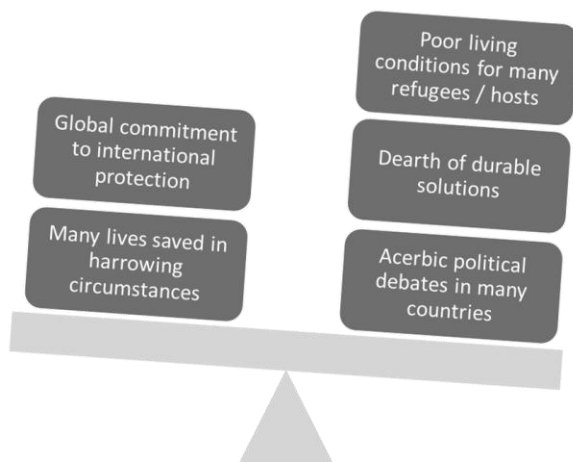


A Global Response Under Stress

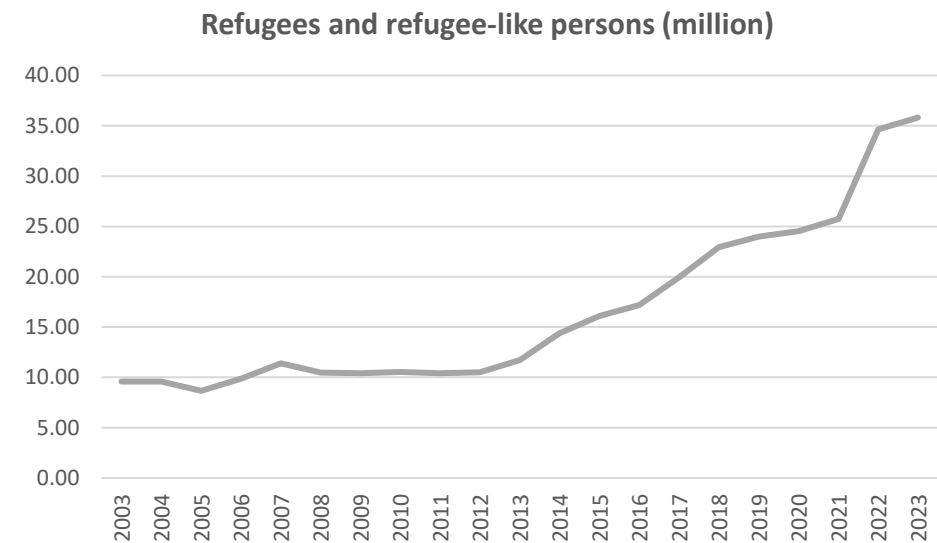
Significant financing

- OECD: \$23 bn a year
- Sizable direct and indirect contributions by hosting countries

Mixed (collective) outcomes



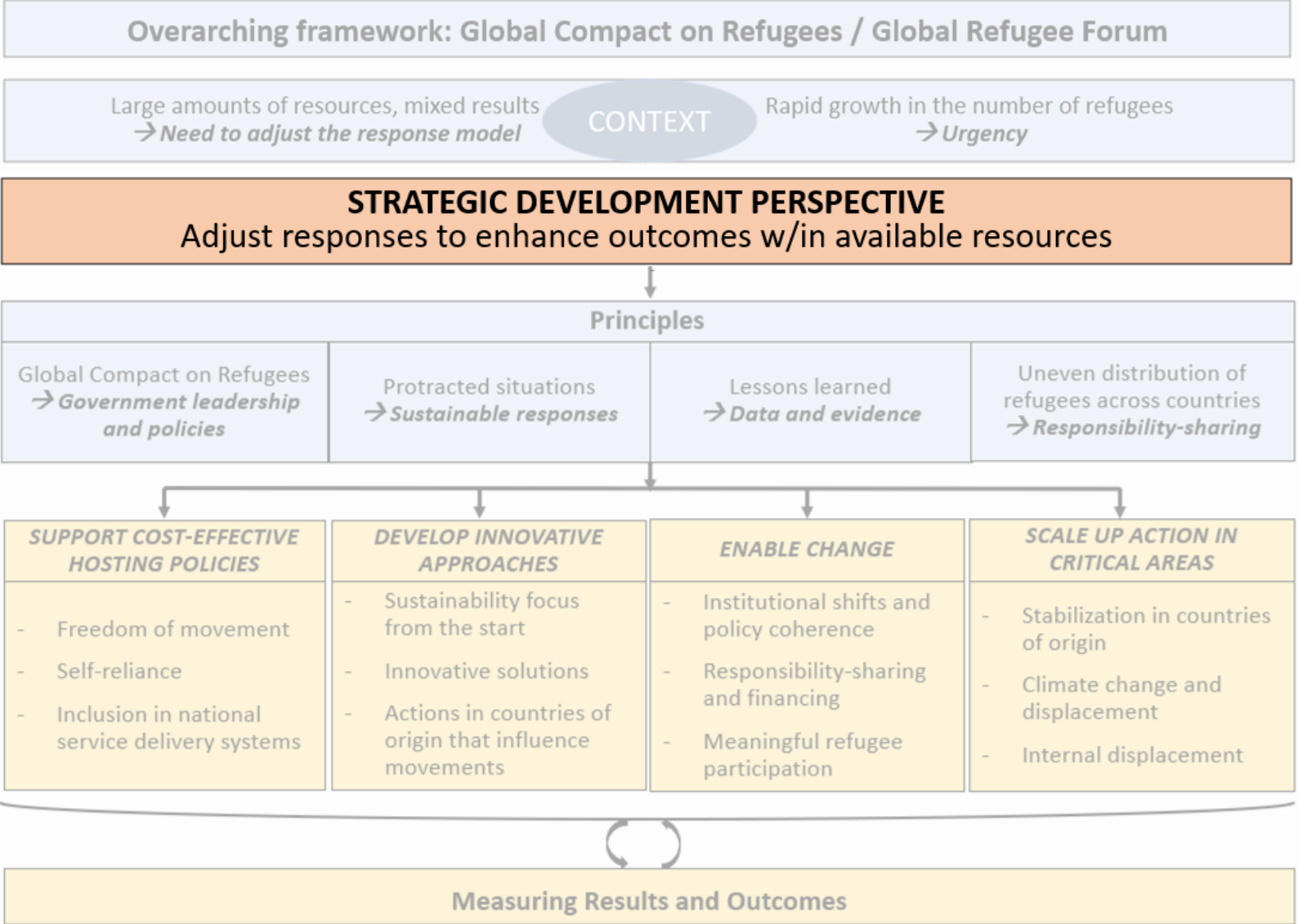
Rapidly mounting pressures



The number of refugees is growing much faster than financing: can the current approaches be sustained?



Changing Gears



Shifting the Focus

Dramatic increase of resources unlikely

Sustainability of the response at risk

Need to adjust the response model

Mobilize additional resources AND focus on enhancing outcomes within available resources

This is in line with the GCR's ambition "to transform the way the world responds to refugee situations, benefiting both refugees and the communities that host them."



A Necessary Grounding

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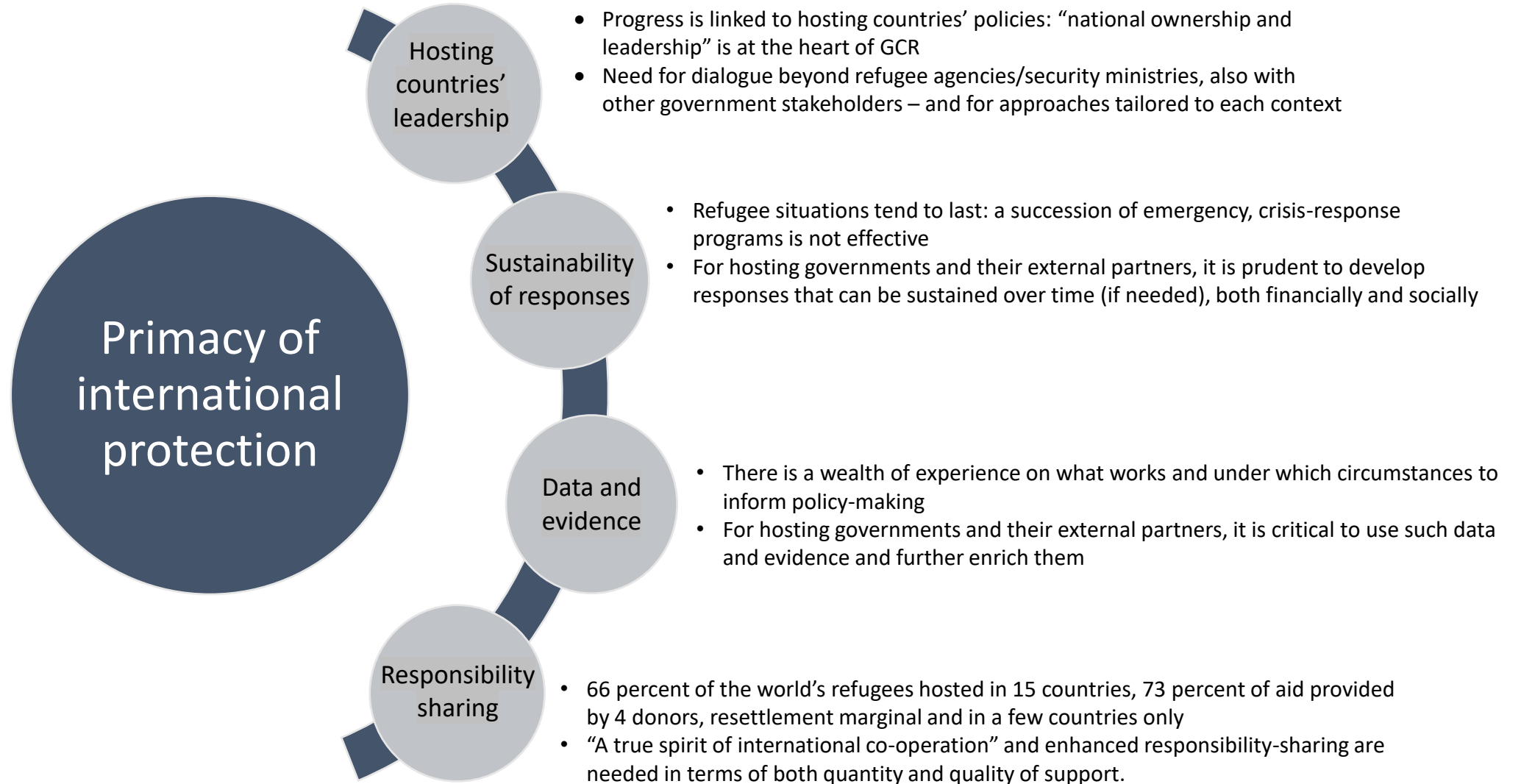
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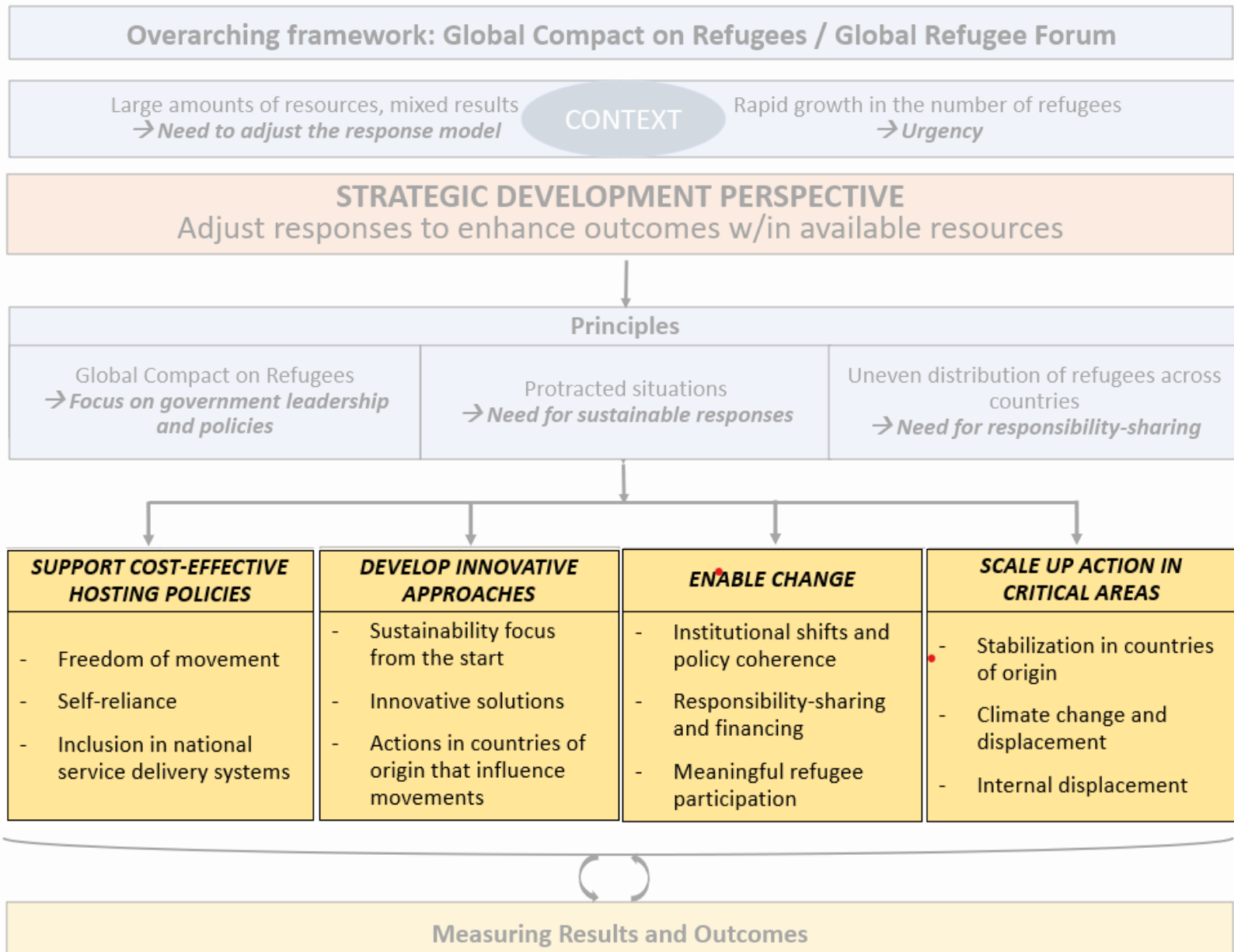
Four Framing Principles





The Four Pillars

Priorities provide a sense of direction but they are of course not exclusive of other actions, and responses need to be adjusted to each country's circumstances



Pillar 1: Support Cost-Effective Hosting Policies



If refugees can sustain themselves, providing protection is cheaper than if they are dependent on aid!

Costs (and benefits) of hosting depend on hosting policies



Need to prioritize and focus on most impactful transformations

Countries need to lead, but donors can help, by shifting from project support to technical assistance and financing for reforms

Specific efforts are needed to support gender action, unaccompanied minors, and vulnerable groups

Freedom of Movement

- Absence of movement restrictions
- “Out of camps” (after initial “surge”)
- Documentation

Self-reliance and Access to Labor Market

- Predictable terms of stay, right to work, rights at work
- Support to private sector investment
- Skilling program, access to finance, support to refugees in accessing opportunities
- Support to negatively-affected nationals
- Aid delivery modalities that incentivize work (eg targeting, activation)

Inclusion in National Service Delivery Systems

- Expansion, strengthening of national systems
- Transfer of institutional responsibilities (mainstreaming from refugee agencies to line ministries)
- Support to transitions from parallel to national systems – short and effective !
- Predictable, medium-term financing to cover (part of) operating costs

Sound policies are already in place in many refugee-hosting countries, others have made pledges at the GRF.

Pillar 2: Develop Innovative Approaches

Be opportunistic, test and learn

Decisions made early in the crisis can be hard to reverse or adjust, and hence cast a long shadow (path dependency)

Some of these decisions may result in high costs that need to be sustained in protracted situations

Focusing on sustainability from the start can make for a better planned / more effective response

This is about engaging all actors from the start, possibly through a structured mechanism, and introducing “circuit-breakers” to take stock and adjust after a few months

Since 2012, only two percent of refugees per year have achieved a solution

The dearth of durable solutions is at the root of the current crisis

There is a need for alternative solutions

Two examples were discussed on the margin of the GRF:
- Labor migration to third countries
- Use of regional integration frameworks

At the current pace, if the world was to become peaceful today, it would take until 2074 for all current refugees to find a solution

Refugee movements are primarily driven by security issues, but they may also be partly influenced by economic considerations

This is the case for both “exits” from countries or origin and “returns”

There is potential to use aid and policy action in countries of origin to reduce refugee numbers, while maintaining strong international protection

This may include support to those who chose to stay in “stable parts of unstable countries,” “no regret” investments in areas of potential return, and portable support to avoid disincentivizing return.

Pillar 3: Enable Change

Institutional shifts and policy coherence

- Mainstream country-level institutional arrangements
- Support regional approaches

- Use the RPRF to prioritize and align donor efforts
- Use data and evidence to inform decision-making
- Seek stronger complementarities across the nexus

Responsibility-sharing and financing

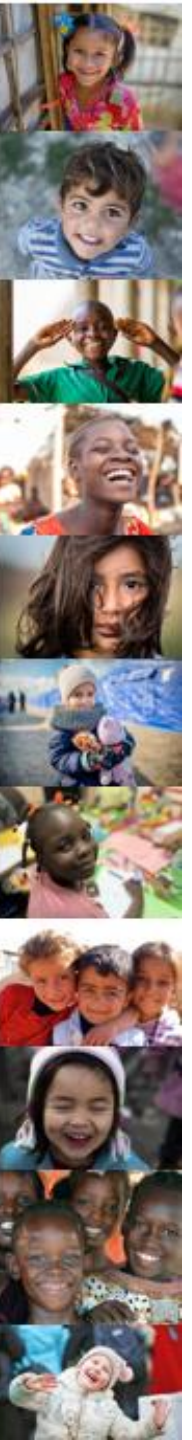
- Use OECD data and “cost of hosting” work to ground the responsibility-sharing dialogue
- Discuss desirable levels of responsibility sharing (e.g., based on income per capita)

- Make financing predictable to enable medium-term policy steps
- Design financing instruments to incentivize reforms and / or to crowd in private resources

Meaningful Refugee Participation

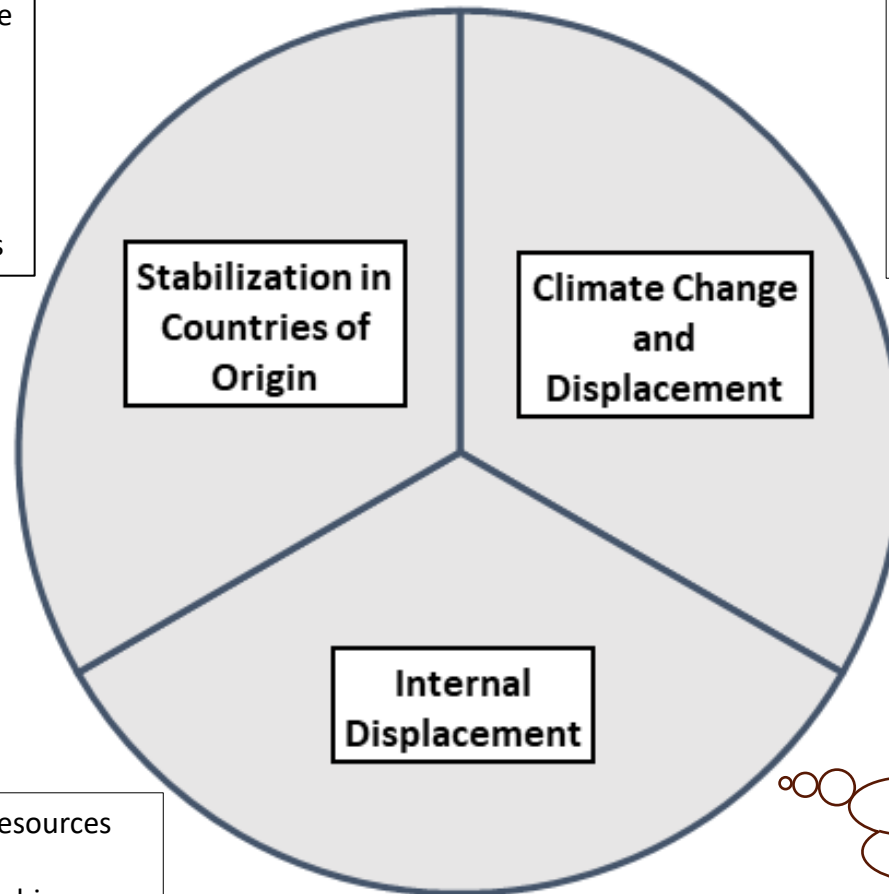
- Engage with refugee-Led Organizations and build their capacity

- But also... clarify “representation” issues



Pillar 4: Scale up Action in Critical Areas

- Stability in countries of origin is key to reduce departures and enable returns. Challenges are dire, resources are scarce.
- To deploy assistance effectively:
 - Support and incentivize country leadership
 - Strengthen coherence across the nexus
 - Inform interventions with political analyses

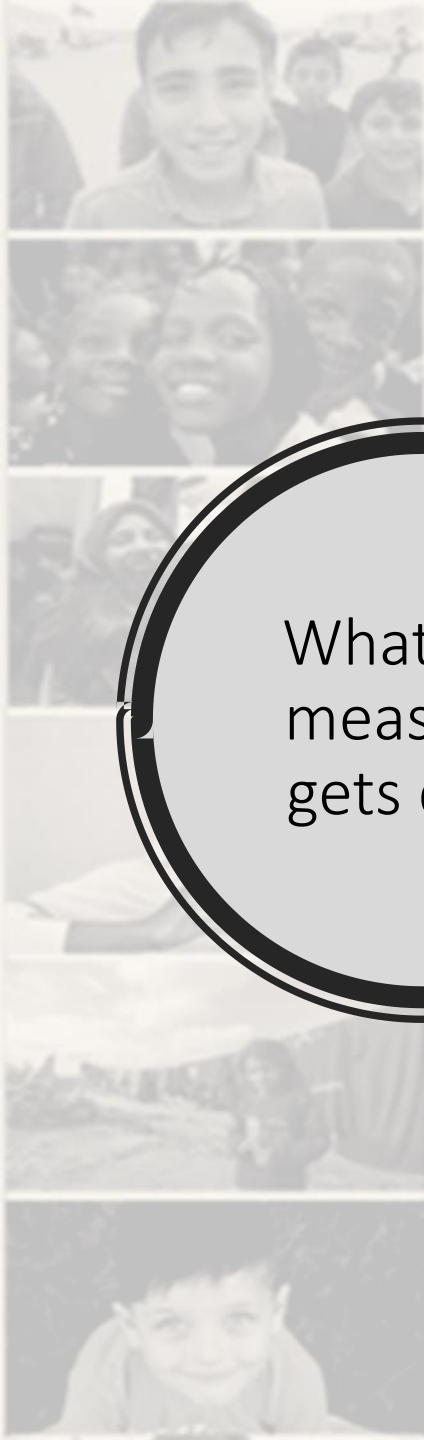


- Rapidly unfolding climate impacts (and nuanced links between climate change and conflict).
- To prevent unpredictable movements climate action is needed now, and at scale.
- National climate adaptation plans should be used to mobilize resources for refugee-hosting areas (vs. creating new funds)

The question of "climate refugees" needs to be clarified to avoid ambiguities

Can we define a realistic "end-point" for internal displacement so we can know what to work towards?

- Rapid increase in IDP numbers, inadequate resources
- To deploying assistance effectively:
 - Support and incentivize government leadership
 - Take a medium-term approach from the start
 - Focus on political economy and "do no harm" issues
 - Adopt a holistic perspective centered on inclusion



What gets measured gets done

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A Three-Tiered Approach



This is further developed as part of the GCR indicator framework





A Brief Recap

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Questions for Discussion

- How can we collectively support the “Sustainable Programming” initiative to transform the response to refugee situations?
- Is the main thrust of the presentation (increasing pressures and stable resources, hence need to focus on effectiveness of the response) adequate?
- Are the proposed priorities right?
- How can we take this discussion forward?