

# Preliminary Outcomes of the Stocktaking on the Global Compact on Refugees by Theme

## EDUCATION

Out of the **215 EDUCATION PLEDGES** that have been made to date, **16 pledges** have been fulfilled (up from 13 at the end of 2020), **103** are currently in progress (up from 79 at the end of 2020), and **12** are in the planning stages. **61** pledge updates were submitted in the third round of reporting in May/June.



The COVID-19 pandemic and related school closures have impacted many pledging entities' ability to implement their pledges as originally planned. Despite these issues, promising progress has been made on a number of pledges, highlighting the impressive level of commitment to supporting refugee education.



Fulfilled pledges include the enrolment of **124,792** Venezuelan students in the education system by the Government of Peru, a commitment to fund girls' education, support for integration of refugees in Portugal, and support for higher education scholarships.

### NOTABLE PROGRESS HAS ALSO BEEN MADE ON THE FOLLOWING PLEDGES:

- » A pledge implemented by BMZ and sponsored by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has provided an additional **16m Euros** of funding for Education Cannot Wait;
- » A pledge implemented by the Turkish Ministry of Education with support from the EU (DG ECHO) has provided **535,612** refugee and socio-economically disadvantaged children with conditional cash transfers for education.



Given the challenges posed by COVID-19, continued support, engagement, and increased momentum is needed to ensure established pledges can move forward and new pledges are made, particularly so that refugee learners do not get left behind in the wake of COVID-related disruptions and the increased migration to online or connected learning modalities.



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## ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

Out of the **75 ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLEDGES** that have been made to date, 10 pledges have been fulfilled, 22 are currently in progress, and 1 is in the planning stages. 28 pledge updates were submitted in the third round of reporting in May/June.



Fulfilled pledges include Norway commitment of greening responses in all regular consultations with partners, both Norwegian humanitarian NGO partners and UN partners. The requirement for adequate energy strategies and greening of responses is a component in all **7 strategic partnership agreements signed in 2020**.



While COVID-19 has affected the whole world, millions of forcibly displaced people have been facing major additional challenges due to overcrowded living conditions and inadequate housing that do not allow for proper social distancing. UNHCR welcomes pledges and additional financial support to allow continuous provision of proper services with safety and dignity.

Pledge in progress by Water from People in addition to expanding coverage for populations who lack access to adequate WASH infrastructure, has also worked to strengthen the enabling environment to support high-quality services across Rwanda and Uganda. An entrepreneur was supported in fecal sludge management by facilitating access to finance for optimizing the business model of an off-grid treatment plant, of which Gihembe Camp is an active customer. A new role of Borehole Maintenance Technician was operationalized to provide more cohesive support to the Handpump Mechanics Association and minimize functionality issues for point sources in the district.

Private sector actors and coalitions are gearing up to support refugees' access to clean energy. The Smart Communities Coalition (SCC) announced the first Innovation Fund cohort of grantees, initiating clean energy projects in Uganda and Kenya. Globesight fulfilled their pledge and announced two more roundtables in Pakistan and Kenya to share learning and replicate winning models.



UNHCR and its partners are working to operationalize the Global Compact on Refugees to deliver more dignified and sustainable water and sanitation services to persons of concern. Pledges to make progress towards these goals are being done in a variety of ways including the solarization of water pumps, engaging host communities and local authorities to strengthen systems, and advocacy for the inclusion of refugees in national water systems as well as SDG monitoring.



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## HEALTH

Countries across the world have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic since January 2020. Partners at different levels including governments, donors, civil society, and communities stepped up the **INCLUSION OF REFUGEES AND OTHER PERSONS OF CONCERN** in the response to COVID-19, including access to testing, treatment, and COVID-19 vaccination

Mental health and psychological support needs increased further as a result of the pandemic and partners such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands expanded their support through the promotion of innovative approaches, mainstreaming MHPSS and financial contributions.



UNHCR and its partners continue to work hand in hand to operationalize the Global Compact on Refugees to enhance access to equitable health services, including nutrition and MHPSS services. The inclusion of refugees in national health systems requires additional financial and technical support, including through matching pledges from the donor community. This includes support to existing health insurance systems as well as support to strengthening the health

workforce; access to medicines, medical supplies and vaccines; and health infrastructure and health financing systems. This also requires development of medium-term inclusion plans at the country level, which are supported by multiple stakeholders. In parallel, support to livelihood opportunities will be required to enhance refugees' self-reliance, enabling refugees to gradually make financial contributions (e.g. to health insurance schemes) through formal employment or direct payment.



Notable progress was made on the implementation of global pledges from entities such as the Global Fund, GAVI, and UN agencies. The implementation of global pledges and several country pledges that started to advance before COVID-19 continued to progress, though delays occurred in advancing policy changes related to health legislation in some countries. Additional support is also required from technical agencies and donor countries to advance policy setting.



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## **JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS**

**40 PER CENT OF PLEDGES** (73 out of 185) related to jobs and livelihoods are reported in progress, and 3.7 per cent have been fulfilled.



Some pledges need further financial support, including for pledges from [FAO](#), [The Poverty Alleviation Coalition](#), and [Amplio](#).



States are the most active in the reporting and implementing pledges (**50 per cent of States that pledged towards jobs and livelihoods have reported on progress**). The same can be said for traditional actors in the refugee space, such as NGOs and international organizations.

The private sector has reported on progress on **1/3 of pledges** it made towards jobs and livelihoods. This may be due to the adverse impact that COVID-19 has had on employers who had pledged to either employ refugees or donate expected profits to create jobs and livelihoods for refugees.



It is incredibly important that the goodwill of governments who have pledged to open their labour markets to refugees is recognized (as previously only 30 per cent of refugees could legally work), and that it is seen to be a key priority that these countries are supported financially to create jobs in their labour markets for the newly welcomed workforce. For example, direct investment in households, investment in skilling, or investment in general in refugee hosting areas (infrastructure etc.) should be encouraged.



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## PROTECTION CAPACITY

As there are more requests for support than offers, in the lead up to the High-Level Officials Meeting, the Asylum Capacity Support Group would particularly **WELCOME NEW OFFERS OF SUPPORT** – technical, material, or financial – by States or other donor entities. Pledges that are flexible in terms of geographic region are especially welcome.



Protection can only be efficient and have a real impact if specific needs, priorities, and the capacities of refugees are taken into account. This requires pledges to apply an Age, Gender, and Diversity lens and to focus on how to reduce discriminatory practices and unequal access to protection services and assistance. Pledging entities at the [Global Refugee Forum](#) considered different AGD groups in their pledges to varying degrees. UNHCR and other actors have identified an opportunity to strengthen AGD inclusion in the GRF pledging process.



Together, we must build and support a world where women, girls, men, and boys can live lives free from the risk of gender-based violence. At the GRF, 53 pledges were made with a specific focus on Gender-Based Violence (GBV). We need to ensure that solutions proposed by refugees as well as the capacity of women-led organizations, particularly those led by refugee women and girls, are

central to the programmes implemented. The GCR and GRF have provided a critical opportunity to bring together refugees, Governments, donors, the private sector, and humanitarian and development actors to build on this momentum to galvanize awareness and support for refugees to benefit from better systems and services to respond to and prevent GBV.



We must recognize the contribution of forcibly displaced communities and multiply our efforts to respond to their call: “nothing about us without us”, especially in light of the current pandemic with the grass-roots and community-based organizations being part of the inspiring and invigorating efforts at the frontline. ➤



## PROTECTION CAPACITY



The New York Declaration and the Global Compact on Refugees both refer to the importance of engaging directly with forcibly displaced persons themselves, and UNHCR and partners need to ensure that Persons of Concern (POC) to UNHCR are meaningfully engaged throughout the process. An analysis of pledges (3 per cent of which had clearly reflected meaningful participation of displaced communities) and consultations led by refugee-led organizations reveal that much more needs to be done in this area to build the capacity of community-based and refugee-led organizations and eliminating the barriers for them to be meaningfully engaged, including by accessing flexible funding. All pledging entities should multiply their efforts in this regard and work towards an equal partnership with POC-led organizations in the planning, implementation and monitoring of their pledges.



More needs to be done to ensure that the protection of children is central to the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Refugee Forum pledge implementation. Significant investment has been made in dedicated child protection programmes, child friendly solutions, and education to protect refugee children. A diverse range of actors made progress on the protection of children through legal reform, scaling up birth registration, strengthening inclusion of refugee children in

national child protection systems, providing child protection services and working with interagency networks and faith-based networks to advocate for greater investment in and attention to the protection of refugee children. States, such as Mexico and Mali, are realising the rights of refugee children through legal reform and birth registration. However, there is a clear need for more States to act on child protection, including on policy reform, inclusion in national child protection systems, access to birth registration, and

child friendly solutions. Ensuring solutions are child-friendly is crucial to protecting children in the longer term. Fifteen actors who are providing resettlement, local integration, or solutions specifically focused on children, and 21 other pledges integrated child-friendly concerns. All actors implementing solutions are encouraged to ensure an explicit focus on providing child-friendly solutions.

## PROTECTION CAPACITY



Platforms and spaces need to be created and improved for youth to exercise their right to participate and develop themselves as agents of change. Ninety-three pledges highlighted the importance of engaging youth in areas such as protection capacity, education, livelihoods, and solutions among others. We need to continue direct support to youth in the field to bring their solidarity, enthusiasm, inspiration, and energy to act as agents of positive change in their communities. The impact of our actions can be enriched by ensuring diversity and inclusion and working with youth of different backgrounds and identities. We must also prioritize the strengthening of a broad range of partnerships and collaboration in support of youth because together we can identify innovative ways to assist them to develop their capacities and skills to help their communities while at the same time maintaining their physical and emotional well-being through learning, sports, cultural and other activities.



Greater investment and commitments in child protection and child friendly solutions is needed to match the commitments in education and to address the child protection crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This should include more child protection pledges, particularly by States, and ensuring all pledges in solutions, responsibility sharing, and jobs and livelihoods are child-friendly.



A minority of child-friendly pledges in responsibility sharing and jobs and livelihoods can also serve as models on how to ensure all pledges in these areas address the specific needs and rights of children. Fifteen pledges in both responsibility sharing and jobs and livelihoods addressed specifically the way in which these areas contribute to the protection of children.



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## **SOLUTIONS – LOCAL INTEGRATION AND VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION**

The IGAD support platform under the Nairobi process led to Sudan and South Sudan Durable Solutions Initiative and subsequent actions. It provides an important opportunity to build momentum on the implementation of the GCR and strengthen our collective response to refugee situations.

Subregional mechanisms such as IGAD enable regional cooperation in addressing refugee situations in a manner which encompasses the political dimensions of root causes.



The Federal Government of Somalia has developed and adopted the [National Durable Solutions Strategy \(NDSS\) 2020 – 2024](#) for Somalia to holistically address the root causes of displacement and its consequences.

Taking advantage of the momentum offered by the GRF pledges and the GCR, and notwithstanding the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, socio-economic integration was resolutely pursued in different regions and countries through advocacy, development of strategies, coordinating support, services, and facilitating access to and inclusion in national systems. Several countries also advanced on their local integration policies and action plans and refugee participation.

UNDP and UNHCR developed a Rule of Law and Local Governance Programmatic Framework and Standard Operating Procedures to provide financial and technical support. A mapping of countries where the Rule of Law–Local Governance partnerships could be leveraged has been conducted, and work is underway to develop a Rapid Diagnostic Toolkit on Local Governance, Rule of Law & Forced Displacement, which will support the assessment of local governance capacities to address the effects of forced displacement and identification of priority areas for local programmatic interventions and advocacy for resources. This will greatly support the search for solutions.



Specific voluntary repatriation highlights among others include returns being organized to Burundi, Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Cameroon, and Mali. Voluntary repatriation has been affected significantly by the COVID-19 pandemic and related challenges in 2020, which continues to be in 2021, where repatriation activities are slowly resuming. This has translated into a delay in the fulfilment of pledges related to voluntary repatriation.





# Preliminary Outcomes of the Stocktaking on the **Global Compact on Refugees** by Theme

## **SOLUTIONS – RESETTLEMENT AND COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS**

Commitments and implementation of pledges leading to resettlement departures remain insufficient to meet the goals of the Global Compact on Refugees and the *Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways* (80,000 departures in 2021 and 90,000 in 2022).

Departures in 2020 were low, in part due to the pandemic and the inability of some key States to implement flexible processing modalities, but also because of insufficient quotas. Moving forward, a clearer commitment to multi-year resettlement programming is needed, as set out in the Strategy. An increase of the number of resettlement States as well as the expansion of existing programmes remain key areas for potential future pledges. The CRISP (led by UNHCR and IOM), created to provide support to States which aim to grow and create new programmes, offers concrete opportunities in this regard.



More tangible commitments for complementary pathways arrivals are needed from States. A multi-stakeholder Refugee Labour Mobility Task Force will be launched in autumn 2021 and will offer an opportunity to catalyze commitments in this area. New advocacy platforms, including the Global Task Force on Third Country Education Pathways and the

Family Reunification Network were launched in 2020. These fora are expected to be major driving forces for the concerned pathways. UNHCR encourages States and other stakeholders to actively take part in these networks and to work towards concrete commitments which will materialize in refugee admissions under education and labour pathways.



While we have seen promising initiatives to improve access to complementary pathways and family reunion, access can be further increased through the review and adjustment of legislation and policies which continue to pose barriers to refugees, new initiatives to reduce the high travel costs often incurred by refugees and their families, or pro bono legal representation for those who face legal obstacles.

## SOLUTIONS – RESETTLEMENT AND COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS



Expanding third country solutions opportunities requires a multi-stakeholder partnership as well as concrete contributions in cash or in-kind to actors who are developing admission pathways. UNHCR encourages donors and the private sector to extend their support to academic institutions, NGOs and refugees themselves with adequate safeguards, among others, to ensure more third-country admission opportunities are made accessible in a predictable and sustainable manner.



The joint UNHCR-IOM Sustainable Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Initiative (CRISP) is a direct outcome of recommendations made by States and key stakeholders during the Three-Year Strategy consultation process. Since 2020, this capacity-building initiative has implemented crucial activities towards expansion, such as the global mapping of opportunities, delivered training and technical

assistance to States, and supported the UNHCR pilot for integration of resettled refugees. It is also a key conduit for funding complementary pathways such as the Opportunities Platform and Education Taskforce. Further funding is required to expand implementation in 2022 and beyond (**USD 3.9 million received** from the United States of America and Portugal out of **USD 9 million required**).



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## STATELESSNESS

A number of **KEY STATELESSNESS PLEDGES HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED**, including through the grant of nationality to stateless groups, the accession to the UN Statelessness Conventions by a number of States, the introduction of safeguards in nationality laws to prevent statelessness, the establishment of Statelessness Determination Procedures, and the enactment of legislation to ensure universal birth registration, among other pledges.



Despite this notable progress, a large push is required to ensure that pledges in key areas, such as resolving existing major situations of statelessness (seven pledges), removing gender discrimination from nationality laws (six pledges), acceding to the UN Statelessness Conventions (23 pledges), and establishing Statelessness Determination Procedures (24 pledges) will be achieved.



The pledges show that a great number of governments are committed to addressing statelessness. However, financial constraints have impeded progress in several key areas. At the 2019 GRF, no State submitted a pledge specifically to provide financial support, and to date only the United States Government has provided dedicated funding to support the implementation of the pledges made at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness. The lack of financial support by third States is therefore a key gap.



A limited number of pledges were submitted in relation to addressing some key causes of statelessness, in particular removing gender and racial/ethnic discriminatory provisions from the nationality law that cause statelessness.