



## High-Level Officials Meeting Summary of Roundtable on the Virtual Launch of the GCR Indicator Report

16 November 2021 (14:00-17:00 CET)

### Executive Summary

The virtual launch of the [Global Compact on Refugees \(GCR\) Indicator report](#), the first of a series of preparatory roundtables to be held in the lead-up to the [High-Level Officials Meeting \(HLOM\)](#), provided the evidence base to frame the discussions at the subsequent roundtables and the HLOM itself. The event was opened by the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Ms. Gillian Triggs, and was followed by two panel discussions, moderated by Ms. Caroline Sergeant from the World Bank. The first panel focused on data availability, quality, and capacity relevant to the indicator report, and the second discussed how burden and responsibility sharing has been advanced and what more needs to be done as we look towards the next Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2023. Additional content shared by stakeholders during the roundtable is available on dedicated page on the virtual space for the HLOM [here](#).

Despite the various challenges around data availability and quality, there was consensus that the GCR indicators report establishes an important baseline, which will inform follow-up to the GCR and pledging guidance for the next GRF. The session echoed that burden and responsibility sharing will only truly be advanced through improved, better capacitated, and more inclusive data processes as well as through more predictable funding, increased opportunities for solutions, and better coordinated humanitarian and development programming.

### Summary of Discussion

#### ***Opening remarks by Ms. Gillian Triggs, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection***

Ms. Triggs presented the findings of the GCR indicator report, which covers the period 2016-2021, based on the indicator framework developed in consultation with States and other stakeholders in 2019. She stressed that while tangible progress has been made towards the GCR objectives of expanding support, self-reliance, and solutions, more equitable and predictable burden and responsibility sharing is needed.

The report shows that international support increased for refugee situations in countries with lower income economies; however, a large portion of funding needs for comprehensive responses to refugees and host communities remain unmet. While the report also found that there is greater legal access to decent work, freedom of movement, and national education systems, access can be hampered in practice. In the context of the pandemic, the self-reliance and resiliency of refugees and host communities have deteriorated, and continued efforts to promote inclusion are needed. The pandemic also revealed opportunities to accelerate GCR implementation. Ms. Triggs then spoke to the report's findings that more refugees received a durable solution between 2016 and 2020 than during the previous five years; however, the annual number accessing these solutions have continuously declined since 2016. The report demonstrated that while complementary pathways show great promise, there is a need increased third-country solutions. Furthermore, while more refugee returned to their countries of origin since 2016 than in the previous five years, the report revealed that there is a downward trend in returns after 2016. She concluded that at the HLOM, it will be key to both acknowledge progress and to highlight where the international community needs to direct further support and engage. This is critical in both addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and protracted displacement, and will also inform the preparations for the next GRF in 2023.

## Key Outcomes and Recommendations

### ***Panel 1: Refugee Inclusion through the Eyes of Data***

The first panel explored the issue of refugee inclusion in the context of data. The panellists included Dr. Saja Al Zoubi, Visiting Scholar, University of Glasgow; Dr. Johannes Jütting, Executive Head of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, PARIS21; Ms. Maja Lazic, Deputy Head of World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement; and Mr. James Muwonge, Director, Methodology and Statistical Coordination Services, Uganda Bureau of Statistics. The discussion reaffirmed that genuine refugee participation, also reflecting the voice of women, the most vulnerable, and host communities, is essential to collecting high-quality data.

To address data gaps, there is a need to strengthen data systems and standards and to become better equipped at data collection through greater financial investment, capacity building across the data value chain, and through the establishment of advanced tools such as a data clearinghouse, which would serve as a central common data resource that can be used by all. The panel stressed the need to connect modern, digital tools with traditional tools such as those provided through civil registration. Furthermore, it was highlighted that geospatial data, in combination with other data sources, as well as complementary analysis methods, can increase the detail of data estimates to make them more useful for prioritization of activities and resource allocation. Enhancing refugee inclusion in data collection also requires increased participation by refugees themselves by way of awareness sessions on the importance of data, training, incentives, and adopting flexible methods to consult refugees.

### ***Panel 2: Burden and responsibility sharing***

The second panel explored what more needs to be done to ensure more equitable and predictable burden sharing, in light of the key findings of the GCR indicator report. Panellists included Mr. Christian Espinosa, Director of International Protection, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, Ecuador; Ms. Susanne Fries-Gaier, Director for Humanitarian Assistance, Federal Foreign Office, Germany; Mr. Jorge Moreira da Silva, Director, Development Cooperation Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); Mr. Matthias Naab, Resident Coordinator/ Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations Development Coordination Office, Cameroon; and Ms. Kate Phillipps-Barrasso, Director of Humanitarian Policy, InterAction.

The session reaffirmed the unique roles that humanitarian, development, and peace actors play in supporting refugee inclusion and host communities overall, and the Cameroon context was provided as an example. There was a strong recognition that while refugees are at the heart of both humanitarian and development responses, there continues to be a lack of long-term thinking, as protracted crises continue to be addressed primarily through short-term assistance. While the pandemic put global solidarity to a stress test, States tried to deliver or adapt their GRF commitments, and the example of Germany was provided. Germany tried to deliver on its GRF commitments while also strengthening support for resettlement, education, and health, including by providing a humanitarian buffer for countries that could not afford to include refugees in their vaccination programmes. In the context of hosting countries, Ecuador reconfirmed its commitment to hosting refugees and stressed that true inclusion can only be through enhanced international support.

InterAction outlined the key takeaways of its report “Towards Equitable and Predictable Responsibility Sharing”, revealing that 70 per cent of State pledges made at the first GRF came from host States and a high concentration of financial commitments from three donor States in particular, marking a lack of equitable responsibility sharing across the other donor States. The panel further explored the issue of refugee financing, with a suggestion that tracking refugee financing be integrated in the broader development financing tracking and that all significant financing providers participate. Greater efforts are also needed to encourage a broadened base of support in terms of donorship and resettlement. The panel also noted that countries that do not host large-scale refugee populations should step up financially. In the lead-up to the second GRF, to

help enhance burden and responsibility sharing, there will be a need for better structuring and matching of pledges and more aspirational financial and resettlement commitments.

### ***Interventions***

Following the panels, interventions were made by H.E. Mr. Walid Khalid Obeidat, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations Office at Geneva and to the specialized agencies in Switzerland; Ms. Paula Lynch, Director of Policy, Resources, and Planning, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, USA; Ms. Farida BENA, Director of Policy and Advocacy, International Rescue Committee (IRC), on behalf of the IRC, Danish Refugee Council, and Norwegian Refugee Council; and Mr. Michele Amedeo, Deputy Director, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Union.

Jordan reaffirmed the need for more quantifiable and measurable data and an increase in overall durable solutions and responsibility sharing. The USA called for more coherence between relief and development processes, welcomed the inclusion of data on host communities, and called for increased commitments to both durable solutions and funding. The International Rescue Committee referred to a recently issued report assessing the effectiveness of the GCR since its affirmation, also calling for increased resettlement targets and more holistic humanitarian-development strategies. The European Union welcomed the GCR indicator report, reaffirmed its commitment to more transparent data collection, and noted that 10 per cent of its budget would be allocated to migration and forced displacement.