

# PROTECTION CAPACITY



*Yousef, one of the 1 million Syrian children born in exile since the conflict began, visits a UNHCR registration centre in the Jordanian capital Amman with his parents. ©UNHCR/Mohammad Hawari*

## Introduction

The Global Compact on Refugees sets out a number of measures that can be taken by the international community to address the issues most essential to refugees and host communities. Among these are strong institutions and capacities that can enable and enhance refugee protection and the well-being of host communities with the support of a wide range of actors.

## Facts and Figures

**Emergency preparedness and response.** When significant numbers of refugees arrive, countries and communities go to great lengths to scale up arrangements to receive them. Without prejudice to the need to address root causes, the Global Compact calls on States and a wide range of relevant stakeholders to contribute resources and expertise to support these preparations. Such support could include early warning and early action mechanisms, disaster risk reduction efforts, the forecasting of future moments and emergencies, and immediate reception and admission arrangements.

**Legal and policy frameworks.** The principle of burden and responsibility-sharing, which lies at the heart of the Global Compact, is rooted in the international refugee protection regime, in particular the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol as well as Regional refugee laws and standards. Ratifying these Conventions, removing reservations to them, and implementing them in national legislation is key to promoting and protecting the rights of displaced people.

**Asylum capacity.** With nearly 80% of refugees living in countries neighbouring their own, and the number of forcibly displaced continuing to rise, the need for effective national asylum and refugee status

determination systems and responsibility-sharing mechanisms is acute. Having refugee status recognized is crucial to prove the identity of those who flee and help them access essential services, such as education and healthcare.

**Protection response and strong national institutions.** Ensuring the protection of refugees requires strong national institutions, including but not limited to civil registration and documentation, health services, social welfare, justice, safety and security, and specialized protection services for individuals more at risk such as refugee children and refugees with disabilities.

**Participation and inclusion.** Responses are most effective when they actively and meaningfully engage those they are intended to protect and assist. Including the voices of refugees and host communities in all levels of a refugee response is crucial to identify key issues and develop people-oriented reception, protection and solutions policies.

## The Global Compact on Refugees

The **Global Compact on Refugees** aims to transform the way the world responds to mass displacement, by operationalizing the principle of international responsibility-sharing that underpins the protection, assistance and ultimately pursuit of solutions for refugee situations.

It has four key objectives: a) ease pressure on host countries; b) enhance refugee self-reliance; c) expand access to third country solutions; and d) support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

The Global Compact on Refugees provides for areas where protection capacity of institutions may be strengthened through early warning, preparedness, and contingency planning for large-scale influxes; immediate reception and admission arrangements; safety and security; registration and documentation; addressing specific needs; and identifying international protection needs, as well as through support for institutions engaged in meeting needs and supporting communities in the context of hosting refugees.

## The Global Refugee Forum

The **Global Refugee Forum – on 17 and 18 December 2019** – is an opportunity to mobilize all actors to make **concrete progress** towards the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.

It will also be an opportunity to showcase **good practices** that are making a significant difference in the lives of refugees and their host communities. These approaches and practices can be models to build upon and for others to follow.

Some examples of contributions and good practices could centre on the following areas:

- **Enhanced emergency preparedness and response**, by ensuring that Government-led emergency preparedness and response is supported with financial, material or technical assistance.
- **Legal and Policy Frameworks**, by supporting States' efforts to sign and ratify the 1951 Convention and/or 1967 Protocol in relation to refugees, as well as relevant regional law instruments as applicable, and put in place national implementing legislation and other measures.
- **Better Asylum Capacity**, by supporting States to develop and implement simplified, accelerated case-processing and group-based procedures as well as Quality Assurance Initiatives.
- **Enhanced protection response and strong national institutions**, by supporting States to strengthen access of refugees, without discrimination on the basis of sex or marital status, to individual civil registration and documentation.
- **Participation and inclusion**, by support States and other actors to take specific actions to ensure refugees and host community members, including youth, women, persons with disabilities, participate in the development and implementation of refugee response, peace-building and development initiatives.

More examples of contributions and good practices can be found [here](#).

---