

# From Dialogue to Action

2022 High Commissioner's Dialogue on  
Protection Challenges: Development Cooperation

Outcome Document

Initially launched in 2014 by the Government of the Republic of Congo, the “Lisungi” social safety net project expanded its activities in 2019, thanks to additional funding, by including refugees and host communities in the departments of Likouala, Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. In the picture, a refugee from the Central African Republic uses the Lisungi cash assistance to meet her family’s food, health, clothing and education needs, and shares a laugh with her granddaughter who took the “baccalaureat” exams this year and hopes to go to university.

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# Foreword by the High Commissioner

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Dear reader,

I am delighted to share the outcome document from the December 2022 Dialogue on Protection Challenges. As I said at the time, I was and remain very happy that the Dialogue focused on the role of development cooperation in advancing protection, inclusion, and solutions for people who are forcibly displaced or stateless. It allowed us to take stock of the enormous strides that have been made in involving development actors in responding to the needs of refugees and host communities. It also explored how we can best work together to address the scale and complexity of global forced displacement, now standing at the staggering figure of 103 million people.

The two-day event, which brought together over 500 participants, including host governments, refugees, civil society members, development agencies, international financial institutions and private sector companies, among many others, was an excellent opportunity to review achievements and discuss next steps, especially in the lead-up to the second Global Refugee Forum which will be held in Geneva in December 2023.

The discussions at the Dialogue were productive and forward-looking, providing an opportunity for participants to share their experiences, ideas and best practices. I would especially like to thank the 20 refugee leaders who joined the Dialogue and brought their insights and recommendations to the discussions.

Significant progress in development cooperation has been achieved since the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, with many new partnerships established and advanced. At the Dialogue, the need to further our efforts, including to increase responsibility-sharing and support for host governments, policy pledges, and multi-stakeholder initiatives, was also underscored.

This publication, “From Dialogue to Action”, summarizes the outcomes of the Dialogue, which included proposed actions to strengthen national leadership, coordination and data collection, and both new and existing tools and initiatives to promote inclusion and sustainable solutions. It also documents the lessons learned and impact of local, national and regional examples of development cooperation and how these complement humanitarian action and support protection outcomes, until such time as durable solutions can be found.

As the second Global Refugee Forum fast approaches, we must remain ambitious in what we want to – together – achieve. We must apply the principles and arrangements provided for in the Global Compact on Refugees to help us not just prepare for and respond to displacement, but also – and critically – to find solutions for people who are displaced or stateless. This includes building on the progress to advance development cooperation for refugees and their hosts and supporting conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all the stakeholders who participated in the Dialogue for their unwavering commitment to advancing development cooperation and responsibility sharing that support protection and solutions outcomes. I believe this publication will be a valuable resource for policymakers, practitioners and anyone committed to strengthening the international community's response to forced displacement and ending statelessness.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,

**Filippo Grandi**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



Refugee leaders participating in the Dialogue meet with Mr. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and UNHCR's Senior Executive Team

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Ms. Adriana Elizabeth Figueredo Costero, DAFI Scholar and Latin America Regional Lead, Tertiary Refugee Student Network, presenting the outcomes of the Innovation Lab “Global Peer to Peer Solutions Advisor Network” at the Closing Plenary, 2022 High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges



# HIGH COMMISSIONER'S DIALOGUE ON PROTECTION CHALLENGES

## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



2019 connects refugees to events worldwide and elevates students activism to the global level. With members and activities local, national and global level, the TRSN is increasing

FRANCE

LESOTHO

LIBYA

LITHUANIA

PAKIS

PER

## Setting the Scene

The 2022 High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges (herein the Dialogue) was held on 7 and 8 December 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland, and convened over 500 stakeholders from States, international organizations, development actors, international financial institutions, peace actors, NGOs, the private sector, and refugee-led organizations. [Twenty refugees](#), originally from thirteen countries, travelled from fourteen hosting countries to join the Dialogue, from as far as Australia, Ecuador, Kenya, Uganda, and the United States of America, and as close as Germany, Italy, and the Republic of Moldova.<sup>1</sup>

On a biennial basis, the Dialogue on Protection Challenges provides a forum for informal and lively multi-stakeholder discussions on emerging global protection issues. In 2022, the Dialogue focused on **the role of development cooperation in advancing protection and solutions for displaced and stateless people**. Over the two days, the Dialogue’s [programme](#) provided a space for interactive conversations among a variety of stakeholders. The outcome document is a comprehensive and informative summary of the discussions that took place during the event, and does not necessarily represent the views of individual participants or UNHCR. In addition, it outlines proposed policy and operational actions to advance development cooperation to address displacement and statelessness.



Mr. Mohamed Ag Malha, Refugee Coordinator of Mbera Refugee Camp in Mauritania, delivers reflections on the outcomes of the roundtable Advancing Inclusion in MENA through Development Cooperation during the Opening Plenary of the Dialogue.

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<sup>1</sup> Mohamed Ag Malha (Malian living in Mauritania), Bahati Mnyaci (from DRC, living in Italy), Zura Mustafa Abdallah (South Sudanese returnee), Abdinasir Hassan Abdilahi (Somali living in Germany), Nour Alhouda Khashouf (Syrian living in Germany), Ganna Sokur (Ukrainian living in the Republic of Moldova), Nibras Rahbe (Assyrian living in Australia), Paul Kithima (from DRC, living in Uganda), Adhieu Achuil Dhieu (South Sudanese living in Kenya), Anila Noor (Pakistani living in the Netherlands (Kingdom of the)), Benjamin Farouk Abdallah (Sudanese living in South Sudan), Adriana Elizabeth Costero (Venezuelan living in Mexico), Ehab Badawi (Syrian living in Germany), Aisha Khurram (Afghan living in Germany), Sedrick Murhula (from DRC, living in the United States of America), Onesphore Murishi (from DRC, living in Zambia), Laura Valencia (Colombian living in Ecuador), Olga Morkova (Ukrainian living in the United States of America), Mary Magdalene Tal (Cameroonian living in South Africa) and Nyima Jadama (Gambian living in Germany).

## Why focus UNHCR's Protection Dialogue on development cooperation, and why now?

**Firstly, numbers speak louder than words.** Continuing a worrying decade-long rising trend, in 2022 the number of forcibly displaced people surpassed 100 million. Forcibly displaced people now represent one in 77 people worldwide, more than twice as many as the decade before.<sup>2</sup> The number of refugees under UNHCR's mandate has increased to 26.7 million, and the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) exceeds 60 million. In 2021, 41 per cent of all forcibly displaced people were children.<sup>3</sup> As of mid-2022, 4.3 million people were stateless or of undetermined nationality across the world;<sup>4</sup> however, the true number of stateless people is believed to be significantly higher.

**Beyond the figures, there is a lived experience for each of the 103 million individuals, the majority of whom live in precarious situations with limited solutions.** Nearly 85 per cent of stateless people have been living for over a decade without a nationality - and, as a result, without legal protection or access to rights and services. Seventy-four per cent of refugees remain displaced for at least five years,<sup>5</sup> unable to return home or to obtain a permanent legal status in their current area of residence. The impact of displacement can be devastating, leading to extreme poverty, mental health problems, and dependence on humanitarian aid. As new displacement situations continue to arise and existing ones remain unresolved, we are facing one of the greatest challenges of our time in terms of providing protection and finding sustainable solutions.

**Forced displacement and statelessness are not only humanitarian or human rights issues, but also long-term development challenges:** both in how they impact host governments, and in the potential for displaced and stateless people to contribute to economies and societies. The majority of refugees (74%), IDPs (70%), and stateless individuals (60%) live in low and lower-middle income countries, which often have fragile economies, limited national services, and rely heavily on international assistance.<sup>6</sup> The affirmation of the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR) in 2018 recognized that protection responsibilities are not equitably shared amongst States. The GCR joined a series of initiatives that have underscored a maturing global consensus that addressing forced displacement and statelessness

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2 UNHCR, [UNHCR Mid-Year Trends 2022](#)

3 Sources: Estimation of IDP demographics (IDMC); Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate (UNRWA); Refugees, people in a refugee-like situation, asylum seekers and Venezuelans displaced abroad are based on the available data (UNHCR) and World Population estimates (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs). As referenced in: UNHCR, [Global Trends Report 2021](#)

4 UNHCR data received from 95 countries. Source: UNHCR, [UNHCR Mid-Year Trends 2022](#)

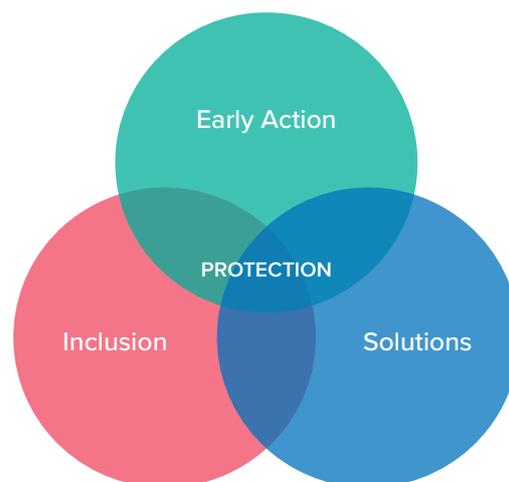
5 UNHCR, [UNHCR Global Trends Report 2021](#)

6 Estimations from [World Bank's Country Group Classification 2022](#) and [UNHCR's Refugee Population Statistics Database](#).

requires enhanced development cooperation.<sup>7</sup> UNHCR's [Strategic Directions 2022 – 2026](#) emphasize the importance of accelerating efforts to mainstream development engagement from the onset of displacement.

**Protection and development actors have a common ground.** Development actors can make a significant impact in supporting displaced and stateless persons through the provision of medium- and long-term financial and technical support.<sup>8</sup> Working together with regional organisations, civil society, governments, local authorities, and communities, they can support the implementation of inclusive policies to strengthen service provision and national systems. These efforts support host governments who are providing protection to displaced and stateless populations, help anticipate and respond to crises, and advance protection and solutions.<sup>9</sup>

**The Dialogue took stock of progress achieved and challenges remaining for strengthening development cooperation across the cycle of displacement –** building on the momentum spurred by global high-level initiatives and an acceleration of on-the-ground efforts. The Dialogue structured conversations around three thematic pillars: **early action**, **inclusion**, and **solutions** for displaced and stateless people, with protection as a central and cross-cutting objective throughout.



7 Key initiatives underscore a global consensus that humanitarian, development, political, and peace actors all have a role to play. Examples include the United Nations Secretary-General's report on [Our Common Agenda, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and its commitment to leave no one behind, [Global Compact on Refugees](#), [#IBelong Statelessness campaign](#), [High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement](#) and accompanying [UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement](#), as well as with development partners such as the [OECD DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus](#) and the World Bank's report [Forcibly Displaced: Toward a Development Approach Supporting Refugees, the Internally Displaced, and Their Hosts](#).

8 While significant progress has been made, much more remains to be done. The OECD estimates that about USD 3.3 billion of bilateral development funds are injected into refugee situations each year, in addition to around USD 2 billion per year from multilateral development banks. However, between 2018 and 2019, humanitarian assistance still accounted for 71 per cent of total bilateral ODA to refugee situations (excluding financing from development banks). Source: OECD, [Financing for refugee situations 2018-2019](#), 2021.

9 For more information on UNHCR's work on protection and development, refer to: UNHCR, [Advancing protection outcomes through Humanitarian-Development Cooperation - Protection Dividend Report 2023](#).

Over the two days, interactive conversations among diverse stakeholders flourished – from multilateral development banks to refugee leaders. It was demonstrated that **development cooperation can yield protection outcomes** and can help facilitate solutions. States illustrated how development assistance has helped them in the fulfilment of their protection obligations. The sessions underscored how development assistance has proven to be a critical tool for equitable burden and responsibility sharing. It was equally clear that **without a protective environment, development outcomes cannot be achieved**. The lack of any nationality, lack of secure and documented legal status, gender inequality, discrimination, denial of rights, and other root causes of exclusion need to be addressed for development to take hold. Protection and development emerged as mutually interdependent and reinforcing.

Stakeholders now need to translate discussions on protection and development into practical action for the benefit of 103 million stateless and displaced people globally. This outcome document captures the key issues, good practices, and challenges raised at the Dialogue, as the next step in turning the outcomes of the dialogue into action.

“Right now, there are 103 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. 103 million lives, dreams, stories, positions. But these 103 million stories cannot end the moment they leave their home. There needs to be a way for these 103 million to be integrated into the international community, not as refugees, but as citizens with rights and duties.”

Ms. Adriana Elizabeth Figueredo Costero,  
Latin America  
Representative, Tertiary  
Refugee Student Network

As part of the High-Level Roundtable on Return and Reintegration of Burundi Refugees, Ms. Kelly T. Clements, Deputy High Commissioner, UNHCR, and development partners visit and interact with refugees and host community at a fish farming project in Nyakanda refugee camp, Ruyigi, Burundi.

© UNHCR/Samuel Otieno



## A conversation with Ms. Antoinette M. Sayeh, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

Mr. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and Ms. Antoinette M. Sayeh, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF), opened the Dialogue with a conversation on how development cooperation can support the realization of protection and solutions for displaced people, moderated by Mr. Hervé de Villeroche, Special Advisor to the High Commissioner on Development, UNHCR.

Grandi and Sayeh jointly framed the current humanitarian and macroeconomic global outlooks, focusing on low- and middle-income countries, where most displaced people currently live. As record levels of new displacement are far outpacing the best efforts to unlock solutions for those forced to flee, the IMF has warned of a sharp slowdown in the global economy. Headwinds that have reduced global growth projections to 2.9 per cent for 2023 include high inflation, debt challenges across many countries, and the consequences of the war in Ukraine. Low- and middle-income countries are particularly exposed to those headwinds. This exposure exacerbates policy challenges: food security, climate change, heightened debt vulnerabilities, constrained fiscal space, and – for many countries – forced displacement and fragility.

Forced displacement can be both the result and the cause of fragility. Grandi called for financial and development institutions to take forced displacement and its consequences into account in their planning, analysis, and action – and reiterated UNHCR’s commitment to increasing development partnerships to strengthen protection. Grandi also acknowledged the resource concerns faced by host governments and emphasised the potential of development partnerships and robust data and analytics to increase responsibility sharing in the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).

Sayeh outlined the IMF’s role as an international financial institution (IFI) focused on the issues of macro and financial stability. In March 2022, the Fund launched the [IMF Strategy for Fragile and Conflict-Affected States](#) to reinforce and tailor support for fragile and conflict-affected member States. The Strategy involves financing, capacity development, analytics, and deepened knowledge of the economic impacts of forced displacement, such as in the Fund’s [recent report](#) on the macro and micro economic spillovers of Venezuelan displacement in Latin America and the Caribbean. Additionally, the IMF will also increase its in-country presence for policy advice and capacity support and strengthen collaboration with partners such as UNHCR.

“I still hear many times reflections that introducing development as a tool to address forced displacement may be a substitute to humanitarian action and protection. It is not. I think it is an enormous and new world that opens, and if well done and thoughtfully carried out, can open new spaces for protection.”

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Mr. Filippo Grandi,  
United Nations  
High Commissioner  
for Refugees

The insightful macro-level discussion signaled not only a maturing working relationship, but also a growing mutual understanding, between protection, development, and IFI partners. Marking the start of the Dialogue, Grandi and Sayeh then turned to participants to bring their direct experiences and diverse voices from the ground – where, as Grandi stated, “things really happen.”

**“Development partnership is a very important way of addressing, in a sustainable way, the challenges that displaced populations and the countries that are hosting them encounter.”**

**Ms. Antoinette M. Sayeh,**

*Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund*

Conversation between Mr. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and Ms. Antoinette Sayeh, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund. Moderated by Mr. Hervé de Villeroche, Special Advisor to the High Commissioner on Development, UNHCR.

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## CITED RESOURCES IN SETTING THE SCENE

- UNHCR, [Refugee Student Leaders – At the High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges](#), February 2023
- UNHCR, [2022 High Commissioner’s Dialogue – Programme](#), December 2022
- UNHCR, [UNHCR Mid-Year Trends 2022](#)
- UNHCR, [Global Trends Report 2021](#)
- World Bank, [World Bank Country and Lending Groups 2022](#)
- UNHCR, [Refugee Population Statistics Database](#)
- UNHCR, [UNHCR Strategic Directions 2022 – 2026](#)
- United Nations, [Our Common Agenda](#)
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, [Transforming our world: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- UNHCR, [Global Compact on Refugees](#)
- UNHCR, [#IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness](#)
- United Nations, [High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement](#)
- United Nations, [UN Secretary-General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement](#), Follow-Up to the Report of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, June 2022
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), [OECD DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus](#), 2019
- World Bank, [Forcibly Displaced: Toward a Development Approach Supporting Refugees, the Internally Displaced, and Their Hosts](#), Washington DC, 2017
- OECD, [Financing for refugee situations 2018-2019](#), 2021
- UNHCR, [Advancing protection outcomes through Humanitarian-Development Cooperation - Protection Dividend Report 2023](#).
- IMF, [IMF Strategy for Fragile and Conflict-Affected States](#), March 2022
- IMF, [Regional Spillovers from the Venezuelan Crisis: Migration Flows and Their Impact on Latin America and the Caribbean](#), December 2022

# The Dialogue at a glance

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## Preparations for the Dialogue

The preparatory work for the Dialogue grounded the global conversations in contextual experiences, prioritising a locally-driven and action-oriented approach to development cooperation from the onset.

In October and November 2022, the Dialogue started at the local level. UNHCR convened [seven preparatory roundtables](#) around the world, exploring the Dialogue's themes in the context of the unique displacement and statelessness situations in each region. The roundtables varied in format: in-person, hybrid, and/or with an accompanying field mission. Each roundtable grappled with a regionally relevant aspect of the Dialogue's three themes of **early action**, **inclusion**, and **solutions**: from lessons learned on the inclusion in national systems of displaced populations in Mauritania and Jordan, to the mobilization development cooperation to support voluntary returns and reintegration in Burundi.

One participant from each roundtable presented reflections and lessons learned from the roundtables during the Opening Plenary of the Dialogue on December 7. The lessons learned also directly informed the design of spotlight and special sessions for the Dialogue and are featured throughout this document to highlight learnings grounded in experience.

In parallel, in the lead-up to the Dialogue, stakeholders also had the opportunity to propose and undertake a series of "innovation labs" to advance on key issues related to development cooperation in the context of displacement and statelessness. As the Dialogue's action-oriented component, the innovation labs addressed key problems, catalysed partnerships, and mobilized pledges related to development cooperation for the 2023 Global Refugee Forum. From the innovation labs, [nine multi-stakeholder initiatives on development cooperation](#) were launched at the Dialogue and are featured in the section "Towards the 2023 Global Refugee Forum".

## Figures at a glance



**7** Preparatory Regional Roundtables



**17** Co-Moderators



**6** Spotlight Sessions



**500+** Participants



**182** Interventions from the Floor



**2** Plenary Sessions



**20** Refugee Leaders



**7** Speakers' Corner Presentations



**2** Special Sessions



**9** Development Cooperation Initiatives Launched



**2** Exhibitions



**4** Pledges Announced

“It is essential that refugees and other displaced people like me are part of the development agenda from the start [so] they can contribute with their talent, skills, and vision.”

Ms. Nour Alhouda Khashouf,  
DAFI Scholar

# Preparatory Regional Roundtables | Outcomes

## Advancing Inclusion in MENA through Development Cooperation | [Outcome Document](#)

DATE: NOVEMBER 8TH, 2022  
FORMAT: VIRTUAL

Two sessions of moderated discussion considered the role of development cooperation in facilitating inclusion in national systems and shared experiences from Jordan and Mauritania. Lessons learned in Jordan and Mauritania highlighted the need to identify linkages between development and humanitarian programming by aligning poverty and vulnerability data analysis with national statistics and planning. Among other recommendations that emerged, of note was the need to support governments to assess and review gaps and challenges in their inclusion policies and, in conjunction, advocate for sustainable multi-year financing and planning to support the inclusion agenda.

## MIRPS National Coordination Group Meeting: Presenting Honduras' Action Plan | [Outcome Document](#)

DATE: SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2022  
FORMAT: IN PERSON IN TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS

The Government of Honduras (GoH) presented its priorities and updated MIRPS National Action Plan to bilateral, humanitarian, and development actors in the country. The discussion focused on Honduras, particularly on addressing protection needs of returnees in Honduras, climate-induced internal displacement, and structural causes of displacement. At the roundtable, the Inter-American Development Bank announced the expansion of its newly replenished USD 100 million Migration Fund to cover countries receiving returnees, including Honduras, and its goal to work with the Government and private enterprises to reintegrate young people.

## Regional Roundtable on Protection Challenges: West and Central Africa | [Outcome Document](#)

DATE: OCTOBER 25TH, 2022  
FORMAT: HYBRID FORMAT WITH A PHYSICAL LOCATION IN LOMÉ, TOGO

Protection and development actors discussed initiatives that can unlock solutions through enhanced development cooperation. At local and country levels, policy and legal instruments are key for inclusion of the forcibly displaced in development initiatives, such as Nigeria's IDP policy or Niger's strategy for sustainable recovery. At regional level, inter-governmental frameworks can help coordinate cross-border responses and solutions-oriented initiatives, including the newly planned Central African Republic (CAR) Solutions Support Platform and regional economic organizations, such as ECOWAS and ECCAS. At all levels, solutions-oriented interventions must be sustainable, rights-based, and informed by quantifiable evidence. Voluntary returns and relocation were highlighted as a collective obligation for all actors working in areas of displacement.

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## Refugee Inclusion in the Republic of Moldova: Operationalising the Temporary Protection Regime and Strengthening Prospects for Socio-Economic Inclusion and Economic Growth | [Outcome Document](#)

DATE: NOVEMBER 24TH, 2022

FORMAT: IN-PERSON IN CHIȘINĂU, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The roundtable focused on the role of development actors in operationalising the temporary protection regime for refugees from Ukraine and in supporting inclusive growth and access to decent work. All roundtable speakers pledged to strengthen refugee inclusion. The Government of the Republic of Moldova committed to activate the temporary protection regime and called for continued support to enable refugees' access to registration, documentation, rights, and services. To strengthen prospects for socio-economic inclusion, a comprehensive transition towards resilience-based development solutions is needed. Investments should create opportunities for sustainable development in collaboration with local authorities to ensure targeted approaches. International financial institutions committed to support infrastructure, energy, agriculture, healthcare, and private sector engagement.

## Regional Roundtable on the Afghanistan Situation | [Outcome Document](#)

DATE: NOVEMBER 17TH, 2022

FORMAT: VIRTUAL

The roundtable explored what the role of development cooperation in Afghanistan and surrounding countries means in the current circumstances, as well as options for comprehensive approaches to solutions. Participants focused on the limitations of humanitarian assistance, the dilemma of funding policy vis-à-vis Afghanistan, the cost of not doing enough for Afghanistan and neighboring countries, and the importance of evidence-based interventions. On the possible future of assistance to Afghanistan, there was a shared recognition that a focus on the needs of refugees, IDPs, and returnees provides a framework to grapple with the challenges of working in Afghanistan. The most compelling argument in relation to investment in Afghanistan is to continue providing assistance to Afghans directly through a bottom-up, community-centric, and area-based approach.

## High-Level Roundtable on Return and Reintegration of Burundi Refugees | [Outcome Document](#)

DATE: OCTOBER 30TH - NOVEMBER 2ND, 2022

FORMAT: FIELD MISSION TO RETURN AREAS WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, AND A HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE ON THE SITUATION IN BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI

This roundtable aimed to shore up support for reintegration efforts of returnees in Burundi through exploring ways of enhancing development cooperation. Recommendations focused on strengthening institutional coordination and regional approaches. On financing mechanisms, participants evaluated the feasibility of accessing new financial instruments, such as the World Bank's [Prevention and Resilience Allocation](#) (PRA) in Burundi and incentivising private sector engagement in reintegration efforts. Discussions also explored the feasibility of establishing a dedicated sub-window on reintegration under the existing Burundi Multi-Partner Trust Fund. The sub-window could fund projects to support social cohesion efforts, address protection vulnerabilities, and support households to find solutions (e.g. access to financing for businesspeople or cooperatives).

## A People-Centered Approach to Preparedness and Responses in Climate Emergencies | [Outcome Document](#)

DATE: NOVEMBER 2ND-4TH, 2022

FORMAT: FIELD MISSION AND ROUNDTABLE IN NAMPULA, MOZAMBIQUE

This roundtable focused on strengthening emergency preparedness and responses in climate-vulnerable contexts such as Mozambique. Mozambique's strong institutional framework for Disaster Risk Reduction can serve as a best practice and a foundation to scale up international support. Participants highlighted the need for people to be at the center of preparedness and response efforts and explored financing options to support inclusion. The inclusion of displaced people into national systems and/or development actors' services decreases vulnerabilities in extreme weather events and supports durable solutions. Development actors can champion the inclusion agenda through financial, technical and advocacy support. Finally, areas in need of support were identified: local/district climate adaptation plans, staff capacity training, sustainable housing, resilient infrastructure, and access to documentation.



Ms. Gillian Triggs, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, UNHCR, addresses participants at the preparatory roundtable on *Refugee Inclusion in the Republic of Moldova* in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, 24 November 2022

## Summary of outcomes

Building on inputs gathered during the preparatory roundtables and the 2022 High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges, the following policy and operational messages emerged, with accompanying proposed actions for UNHCR and partners.

### CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOMES

Policy Message	Proposed Actions
<p><i>National leadership</i> should <b>spearhead</b> development initiatives to address the causes and impacts of forced displacement and statelessness.</p>	<p><b>Integrate</b> refugees, IDPs, returnees, and stateless people in national development planning across all relevant sectors of government, as well as emergency response and climate adaptation strategies, in conjunction with the necessary support from international partners for implementation.</p> <p><b>Enhance</b> local and national authorities’ technical abilities in preparedness, protection service delivery, data management, and development planning.</p> <p><b>Prioritise</b> the sharing of local and national experiences and good practices to inform regional and global policy forums.</p>
Policy Message	Proposed Actions
<p><b>Strengthen <i>rights-based and protection-sensitive planning, budgeting, and coordination</i></b> between humanitarian, development, and peace actors.</p>	<p><b>Ensure</b> predictable, flexible, and multi-year financing and funding mechanisms to support transitions from humanitarian to development assistance in protracted displacement situations, in line with the <a href="#">OECD DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus</a>.</p> <p><b>Support</b> institutional frameworks and capacity to facilitate whole-of-government approaches and partnerships with communities, civil society, and private sector for more joined-up HDP approaches.</p> <p><b>Increase</b> development cooperation in IDP contexts supported by protection analysis and data specific to IDPs and host communities.</p>

## CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOMES

### Operational Message Proposed Actions

**Increase** the production and utilisation of *data and evidence* to inform national policymaking and programming.

**Include** displaced and stateless people in national data and statistical systems (GCR, para. 46) to enable integrated, evidence-informed operational responses, development programmes, and inclusive policies.

**Disaggregate** population data to account for age, gender, diversity, and protection considerations, and provide capacity support for data collection, analysis, and use.

**Articulate** the protection dividends of development cooperation using data and evidence, integrated with human stories and local contexts.

### Operational Message Proposed Actions

**Ensure** that displaced and stateless people and communities *meaningfully participate* in policy and programme design, implementation, and evaluation processes.

**Engage** displaced and stateless people in advancing humanitarian-development-peace cooperation through the 2023 GRF, from pledge cultivation and programme design to implementation and follow-up.

**Facilitate** access to inclusive funding and equitable partnership opportunities for refugee- and stateless-led organisations that can contribute to sustainable development at the local level.

**Formalise** engagement of displaced, stateless and host communities in the design of development policies and programmes including through national/local advisory boards.

### Policy Message

### Proposed Actions

**Strengthen** the links between *climate action* and emergency preparedness and response planning.

**Improve** access to climate finance for adaptation and Loss and Damage in climate-vulnerable countries to support locally led durable solutions.

**Co-implement** climate action with displaced communities and their hosts, including through locally led adaptation of livelihoods and agriculture; housing, land, and property (HLP) issues; and the development of climate-resilient infrastructure.

**Increase** the coverage and accessibility of climate risk analysis and early warning systems for anticipatory action that is inclusive of displaced people and their hosts.

## THEMATIC OUTCOMES

### EARLY ACTION

#### Policy Message

Support *local governments and communities* with accessible financing, technical assistance, and consultative planning to implement effective responses.

#### Proposed Actions

**Establish** enabling governance frameworks to include local governments, cities, and local authorities in contingency, emergency response, and development planning.

**Revise** financing mechanisms to boost cities and local authorities' access to humanitarian and development financing.

**Strengthen** links between local public service provision and the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### Policy Message

**Integrate** refugee and IDP emergency preparedness into *risk reduction and resilience strategies, programmes, and budgets* to support inclusion and access to protection from a crisis onset.

#### Proposed Actions

**Build** strong legal, policy, and institutional frameworks for preparedness and coordination with a broad range of stakeholders.

**Secure** flexible financing tools that can strengthen preparedness and early development-oriented support to scale up capacities of national and local responders at the onset of a crisis.

**Adjust** or scale up existing development support to strengthen protection functions in national systems, such as asylum, birth and civil registration, social welfare, and justice.

## THEMATIC OUTCOMES

### INCLUSION

#### Policy Message

**Build** conducive ecosystems for the *financial and economic inclusion* of displaced and stateless people, drawing from the complementary roles of private sector, governments, protection actors, and other partners.

#### Proposed Actions

**Remove** barriers that prevent access to formal labour markets, such as lack of freedom of movement, legal rights to work, documentation, access to finance, and opportunities for entrepreneurship.

**Package** data in a way that is relevant to private sector investment decisions, including protection risks, and take a systematic approach to documenting experiences.

**Identify** blended finance opportunities bringing together public and private funds to create market-conducive incentives to extend financial services and employment opportunities to displaced and stateless people and their host communities.

#### Policy Message

**Ensure** that displaced and stateless people are *included in national systems and have access to economic opportunities*, and support host governments with the necessary financial and technical capacities to implement inclusive policies.

#### Proposed Actions

**Tailor** approaches to support inclusion policies based on socio-economic and protection data, localised and participatory approaches, and evidence on the benefits of inclusion.

**Enhance** the development and utilisation of the [Refugee Policy Review Framework](#) and other pertinent policy analyses to identify policy bottlenecks, monitor progress, and improve in-country policy coordination among national and international stakeholders.

**Pair** policy pledges made by host countries to facilitate inclusion of displaced and stateless people with pledges made by donors to provide financial, material, or technical support, via UNHCR's efforts to facilitate [Pledge Matching](#).

## THEMATIC OUTCOMES

### SOLUTIONS

#### Policy Message

#### Proposed Actions

**Strengthen** development assistance to create conducive conditions for sustainable *voluntary return and reintegration*.

**Integrate** human rights, peacebuilding, and conflict prevention objectives in programming to address causes of displacement and strengthen the sustainability of returns.

**Scale up** support and funding for area-based approaches in return areas to ensure sustainable returns and support reintegration.

**Invest** in building the skills of refugees while in host countries, and facilitate the recognition of academic, professional, and technical training and qualifications in countries of origin.

#### Policy Message

#### Proposed Actions

**Support legal, judicial, policy, and administrative strengthening and reforms** led by Governments to enable solutions for displaced and stateless populations.

**Reinforce** regional arrangements to provide technical, political, and financial support for the adoption and implementation of enabling national policies and local integration initiatives.

**Support** countries to review and reform law, policy, and practice relating to nationality and citizenship to prevent the denial, loss, or deprivation of nationality on discriminatory grounds.

**Foster** multi-stakeholder partnerships across sectors to advance complementary pathways, such as labour mobility or higher education opportunities in third countries, including a focus on the issuance of machine-readable travel documents.

# Thematic pillars

For each of the Dialogue's thematic pillars (**early action**, **inclusion**, and **solutions**), the following sections explore in-depth the sharing of experiences, outcomes, and resources that emerged. The Dialogue dedicated two spotlight sessions to each thematic pillar, and the preparatory regional roundtables explored the themes at the local level.

## EARLY ACTION

In the face of the 35 emergencies declared by UNHCR in 2022 in 25 countries, the majority of which are in low- and middle-income countries, participants at the Dialogue discussed how to strengthen development cooperation to anticipate, respond, and foster longer-term approaches to emergencies. Development cooperation at the onset of an emergency can complement humanitarian responses, support efforts to strengthen the protection environment, and facilitate greater burden and responsibility sharing. However, critical questions remain for how to integrate development and humanitarian assistance around common priorities and facilitate development financing at the onset of an emergency. Development cooperation also can help to prevent statelessness through strengthening of civil and birth registration systems, improving procedures and removing barriers to registration, and supporting government and parliaments to develop enabling laws and policies.

Two spotlight sessions brought to the forefront the role of local and national governments in preparedness and emergency responses. In the lead-up to the Dialogue, UNHCR also convened the **Southern Africa Regional Roundtable** in Nampula, Mozambique, on people-centered approaches to preparedness and responses in climate emergencies.

## Spotlight Session

### INVESTING IN THE RESILIENCE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITIES AS FIRST RESPONDERS

#### CO-MODERATORS

Mr. Vincent Cochetel, Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean Situation, UNHCR

Ms. Emilia Saiz Carracedo, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments





## THE CONTEXT – WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, AND WHAT NEXT?

Reflecting global urbanisation trends, approximately [60 per cent of refugees](#) and 48 per cent of IDPs<sup>10</sup> live in urban areas. On the frontline of emergencies, local governments and communities are often the first responders to displacement.

The [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR) has identified the critical role that cities and local authorities play in integration and inclusion. The [Call to Local Action](#) provides an official track for cities to pledge to the GCR and the Global Compact on Migration (GCM). It is led by the Mayor's Mechanism, co-steered by United Cities and Local Governments, Mayors Migration Council, IOM, and UNHCR. Since 2019, 40 cities have pledged to implement the Global Compacts, including Beirut, Bogota, Boston, Mexico City, Montreal, Nairobi, Paris, Quito, and Sao Paulo. However, challenges remain for how to strengthen support, funding, and capacity at the local community level.

This Spotlight Session aimed to galvanise development cooperation to support local governments and communities and reflect realities on the ground. Discussions highlighted the role of cities in implementing development approaches to displacement, and entry-points for humanitarian, development, and peace actors to support.



## KEY ISSUES AND EXPERIENCES

- Local authorities know the needs of their communities and play an important role in translating national policies into solutions for refugees, IDPs, and stateless people.** Many barriers can be addressed at the local level, such as housing, documentation, and access to public services.<sup>11</sup> **For example**, good practices on access to affordable housing include social housing renovations in Netherlands (Kingdom of the), landlord training programmes in the United States of America, and transitional housing in Colombia. In Türkiye, *Social Protection Desks* is a collaborative initiative of UNHCR, NGO partners, and municipal authorities.<sup>12</sup> The Desks function as a bridge between refugees and service providers and help identify and refer vulnerable refugees. Local governments can also contribute to reducing statelessness by enabling access to services, such as birth registration and civil documentation, as well as identifying stateless people or people at risk of statelessness through mapping exercises.

<sup>10</sup> In instances where location data was available, 48% of IDPs lived in urban areas as of end of 2021. Given that disaggregation of urban and rural locations was only available for 44% of IDP data, the actual percentage is likely to be higher. Source: UNHCR, [Global Trends Report 2021](#).

<sup>11</sup> UNHCR, [Effective Inclusion of Refugees – Participatory Approaches for Practitioners at the Local Level: A Toolkit by UNHCR and the Migration Policy Group](#)

<sup>12</sup> UNHCR, [Leave no one behind: Promoting effective access of refugees in social protection systems in post-pandemic Europe](#), Integration Policy Brief I, September 2021, page 11.

- **Governance architectures and legal frameworks can pose challenges for local authorities in playing their role as public service providers.** Participants highlighted that local governments often lack adequate mandates and access to national and international consultative processes. Local authorities therefore need to be included from the start of contingency and development planning processes, within humanitarian-development cooperation. In turn, including local governments will ensure that local experiences inform decision-making. **For example**, in Türkiye, effective coordination between national, local, development, and humanitarian partners has been possible because of an enabling legal framework and the possibility for local authorities to directly engage with international actors. In 2017, 98 per cent of refugees lived within communities across the 81 provinces, and authorities prioritised social cohesion and service delivery.
- **Financing mechanisms need to be revised to boost local governments' access to humanitarian and development assistance.** During the session, UCLG highlighted that in 2020, only 3 per cent of total international humanitarian funding went to local actors. Local governments provide essential services such as education, health, housing, and water and sanitation. They need to be able to access sustainable financing, as well as reliable and disaggregated data, to strengthen service provision to respond to forced displacement.
- **Technical capacity building is essential to improve and expand existing local services.** Several host governments echoed the need for capacity building on preparedness and emergency response, data collection and disaggregation, targeting of interventions in informal work sectors, and programming on social cohesion and meaningful participation. Trainings also need to reach local authorities in rural and peri-urban areas. **For example**, the Belgian development agency Enabel's Fragility Intervention in Burkina Faso has adopted an integrated territorial approach to crisis prevention and management, involving all governance actors within pilot communes (Bittou, Koupéla, Ouargaye, and Pouytenga), focusing on enhancing local actor capacities and integrating existing data collection tools on vulnerability.<sup>13</sup> In Uganda, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been supporting local governments through capacity building for development planning. As a lesson learned, JICA emphasised the importance of linking capacity building programming to national policy frameworks and financing instruments.

“Platforms and initiatives created at the community level can be among the strongest mechanisms through which donors can coordinate, fund, and strengthen capacity to support long-term planning at the community level.”

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Mr. Paul Kithima,  
 Director, Bondeko  
 Refugee Livelihood  
 Centre, Uganda

<sup>13</sup> Enabel, [Enabel's Fragility Intervention in Burkina Faso – Summary of Enabel's intervention in HC Dialogue's Spotlight Session 1](#), UNHCR GCR Digital Platform, 2022.



## OUTCOMES

### Policy Message

**Support *local governments and communities*** with accessible financing, technical assistance, and consultative planning to implement effective responses.

### Proposed Actions

**Establish** enabling governance frameworks to include local governments, cities, and local authorities in contingency, emergency response, and development planning.

**Revise** financing mechanisms to boost cities and local authorities' access to humanitarian and development financing.

**Strengthen** links between local public service provision and the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Spotlight Session

### BOLSTERING NATIONAL SYSTEMS TO PREPARE AND RESPOND



### CO-MODERATORS

The Honourable Ms. Esther Anyakun Davinia, Ministry of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees of the Republic of Uganda

Ms. Dominique Hyde, Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR



### THE CONTEXT – WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, AND WHAT NEXT?

UNHCR has committed in its [Strategic Directions 2022 – 2026](#) to bolstering preparedness and response capacities and to applying solutions-oriented, longer-term approaches from the outset of an emergency. In recent years, several development actors have adopted financing tools and/or strategies to address situations of fragility and/or displacement, such as the World Bank's [Window for Host Communities and Refugees](#), the African Development Bank's [Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa](#), the European Union's [Lives in Dignity Grant Facility](#), Agence Française de Développement (AFD)'s [Peace and Resilience Fund](#), and BMZ's transitional development assistance and initiative on displacement. These instruments allow for more flexible development interventions alongside humanitarian actors to prevent, prepare and respond.

This Spotlight Session focused on how development cooperation from the outset of an emergency can strengthen national response capacity and establish protection-sensitive preparedness. A host of actors provided examples of approaches that improve the capacity of national systems to anticipate and respond to crises and ensure that displaced and stateless people receive protection and support.

## KEY ISSUES AND EXPERIENCES



- **Multi-year and flexible financing instruments are critical for supporting national systems from the onset. For example,** while it was noted that temporary protection is the right toolbox to provide access to services and safety for refugees in the Republic of Moldova, bolstering Moldovan national services is urgently required to support both displaced Ukrainians and host communities.<sup>14</sup> This finding echoes the importance of development support to strengthen public services, in partnership with national leadership, on the provision of temporary protection. The integration of refugees in social protection systems in Mauritania, with the support of the Sahel Alliance and the World Bank’s [Second Social Safety Net System Project for Mauritania](#), was also cited as a good practice, particularly regarding the availability of quality data and the coordination between actors. The **Roundtable on Advancing Inclusion in MENA through Development Cooperation** highlighted that the inclusion of refugees in Mauritania’s social registry, a database identifying the most vulnerable households based on targeting and collection of essential socio-economic information, has allowed for refugees to be included in cash transfer programmes and shock-sensitive safety nets.<sup>15</sup>
- **In conjunction with development support, displaced and stateless people need to be included in emergency response plans, development plans, and climate adaptation plans of hosting countries/areas. For example,** refugee management has been formally integrated into Uganda’s National Development Plan. This policy decision involves government ministries and development actors and has established the foundation for a comprehensive response that addresses the needs of both refugees and Ugandans living in refugee-hosting districts.<sup>16</sup> Integrating longer-term resilience strategies into national and local

14 As of January 2023, the Republic of Moldova hosted 102,283 refugees from Ukraine according to UNHCR’s Operational Data Portal. UNHCR is supporting the launch of the Government’s Temporary Protection Regime that will open legal access to social protection programmes in 2023. Transition from UNHCR’s Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to government social assistance will occur in a phased approach that ensures support to refugees, while the capacity of the national social protection system to absorb refugees is strengthened.

15 Through the joint initiative of UNHCR, GIZ, WFP and the World Bank, 15,700 refugee households are enrolled in the national social registry and are eligible for cash top-ups during emergencies through the shock-responsive Almaouna programme. Around 7,000 refugee households in the Mbera Camp receive regular social assistance cash transfers through the Tekavouli Programme.

16 Uganda continues to host refugees at an unprecedented scale, keeping its borders open to 1.5 million refugees, including 860,000 children. In 2022, Uganda received over 125,000 refugees from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The country has also been grappling with the effects of climate change: floods caused by heavy rains destroyed crops and shelters, and displaced hundreds of people, including refugees. Source: Spotlight Session 4.

policies and plans facilitates the transition to integrated service delivery and enhanced access to protection. In addition, various participants also called for greater accountability to ensure that efforts to include refugees and stateless people in national programming are monitored for implementation and protection outcomes.

- **Preparedness requires a strong institutional framework for coordination and response, as well as a collaborative approach with a broad range of stakeholders.** Examples cited at the Dialogue include the government-led [Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework Uganda](#) and Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRP). The RRP are inter-agency document, led or co-led by UNHCR and another United Nations agency, that helps ensure that UN-led response plans are in line with national plans.<sup>17</sup>
- **Participants emphasised the challenge of implementing cost-effective preparedness programming and the importance of multi-sectoral approaches, referencing the education, community resilience, food security, and climate sectors. For example,** the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has been promoting anticipatory action programming in the food security and agriculture sectors.<sup>18</sup> In displacement settings, FAO has partnered with IKEA Foundation and UNHCR to support vulnerable populations in Kenya and Uganda to generate a reliable source of income through agriculture,<sup>19</sup> and has partnered with UNHCR in Colombia to implement the project “Resilient agri-food livelihoods in Chocó and Córdoba regions”, working with conflict-affected or at-risk communities to protect livelihoods.



Mr. Mety Gondola, Secretary of State for Nampula, speaking at the opening of the *Southern Africa Regional Roundtable*, Nampula, Mozambique, 4 November 2022

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17 The Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRPs) recently marked their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To commemorate this milestone and reflect on what has been achieved, UNHCR has launched the following report: [The Regional Refugee Response Plans: Ten years of coordinated action in support of refugees.](#)

18 FAO, [Anticipatory action: Changing the way we manage disasters](#), 2021.

19 FAO, [IKEA Foundation contributes \\$3.5 million to support FAO's work with refugees and host communities in eastern Africa](#), July 2020

- **Humanitarian-development partnerships can help strengthen specific protection functions that are less visible in but critical to the effectiveness of the development response.** In new displacement situations, relevant protection functions include registration, the identification of groups at risk, refugee status determination, and issuance of documentation necessary to access services. To deliver public services in response to displacement, the national asylum system, civil registration system, social welfare system, and justice system need to be adequately capacitated. However, protection functions are not always included in sector planning or preparedness strategies. Development actors can play a pivotal role in adjusting or scaling up their existing support to ensure these systems can operate effectively across settings and circumstances, including from the onset of emergencies.
- **For example, in the last four years, Uganda has strengthened the government-led provision of protection-related functions on multiple fronts.** In the area of birth registration, Uganda’s National Identification Registration Authority (NIRA) committed to ensuring access to birth registration for all children born in Uganda. In October 2022, NIRA conducted a one-month birth registration backlog clearance exercise, during which a total of 100,000 children accessed birth registration. On government-led asylum procedures, the Office of the Prime Minister consistently uses a biometric database for registration and refugee status determination (RSD). Despite this progress, gaps still exist and require additional resources, including lack of adequate interview rooms and limited numbers of RSD staff.
- **There is critical need to foster greater coherence between climate action, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) approaches, and preparedness and response planning for forced displacement.**<sup>20</sup> Displaced and stateless populations are disproportionately vulnerable to climate-related shocks, and at the same time, have the fewest resources to adapt. The **Southern Africa Regional Roundtable** highlighted the DRR institutional framework as an important pathway for the inclusion of the needs, but also the capacities, knowledge, and priorities of refugees, IDPs, stateless people and host communities, and as a foundation for strengthening development cooperation’s link to climate action in Mozambique. At the Dialogue, examples of ongoing efforts for evidence development included the [Sahel Predictive Analytics Project](#)<sup>21</sup> and the UNHCR-UNOSAT joint work on Climate Risk Resilient Settlement Planning to assess climate-related risks for 30 existing refugee settlements in most at risk area.<sup>22</sup>

20 UNHCR, [Operational Strategy for Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability 2022-2025](#). The Operational Strategies identifies practical actions within the broad overarching objectives set out in UNHCR’s [Strategic Framework for Climate Action](#).

21 In 2019, the High-Level Committee on Programmes, and subsequently the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, supported the initiation of a pilot cross-pillar inter-agency predictive analytics exercise, facilitated by UNHCR. The project convened a global consortium of academic institutions specialising in predictive analytics and strategic foresight to work on the nexus between climate change and other mega trends as factors contributing to new or exacerbated vulnerabilities, conflict, violence, and displacement. Seeking to expand and improve predictive models, the consortium explored how data availability and quality and its use for predictive analytics in the Sahel could be improved through a comprehensive data review process.

22 UNITAR, [Satellite Imagery Analysis for Settlement Planning with UNHCR | UNITAR](#), and UNHCR, [Operational Strategy for Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability 2022-2025](#)

- **For example in Mozambique**, local and district climate adaptation plans are an important tool for planning, implementation, and fundraising. Participants at the **Southern Africa Regional Roundtable** recommended that action should focus on reviewing and updating existing plans, developing plans where none exist, and undertaking assessments of risk and capacity. In conjunction, area-based approaches that are supported by national development plans can help focus climate action investments, for example in agri-food systems, renewable energy, and resilient and sustainable infrastructure. Partnership efforts between UNHCR and the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD) for community consultations and protection trainings for DRR that support the strengthening of the capacity of local communities to identify risks, protect themselves, and rebuild after extreme weather events, can serve as good practices to be replicated in the region.



## OUTCOMES

### Policy Message

**Integrate** refugee and IDP emergency preparedness into *risk reduction and resilience strategies programmes, and budgets* to support inclusion and access to protection from a crisis onset.

### Proposed Actions

**Build** strong legal, policy, and institutional frameworks for preparedness and coordination with a broad range of stakeholders.

**Secure** flexible financing tools that can strengthen preparedness and early development-oriented support to scale up capacities of national and local responders at the onset of a crisis.

**Adjust** or scale up existing development support to strengthen protection functions in national systems, such as asylum, birth and civil registration, social welfare, and justice.



## CITED RESOURCES ON EARLY ACTION

- UNHCR, [Urban Refugees](#)
- Mayors Mechanism, [A Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees](#)
- UNHCR, [Effective Inclusion of Refugees – Participatory Approaches for Practitioners at the Local Level: A Toolkit by UNHCR and the Migration Policy Group](#)
- UNHCR, [Leave no one behind: Promoting effective access of refugees in social protection systems in post-pandemic Europe](#), Integration Policy Brief I, September 2021, page 11.

- Enabel, [Enabel's Fragility Intervention in Burkina Faso – Summary of Enabel's intervention in HC Dialogue's Spotlight Session 1](#), UNHCR GCR Digital Platform, 2022.
- World Bank, International Development Association, [Window for Host Communities and Refugees](#),
- African Development Bank, [Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa](#),
- European Union, [Live in Dignity Grant Facility](#)
- Agence Française de Développement, [Peace and Resilience Fund](#)
- World Bank, [Second Social Safety Net System Project for Mauritania](#)
- Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, [Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework Uganda](#)
- UNHCR, [The Regional Refugee Response Plans: Ten years of coordinated action in support of refugees](#)
- FAO, [Anticipatory action: Changing the way we manage disasters](#), 2021.
- FAO, [IKEA Foundation contributes \\$3.5 million to support FAO's work with refugees and host communities in eastern Africa](#), July 2020
- [Moving from Reaction to Action: Anticipating Vulnerability Hotspots in the Sahel - A Synthesis Report from the Sahel Predictive Analytics Project in Support of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel](#), ReliefWeb, December 2022
- UNHCR, [Operational Strategy for Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability 2022-2025](#).
- UNHCR, [Strategic Framework for Climate Action](#)
- UNITAR, [Satellite Imagery Analysis for Settlement Planning with UNHCR | UNITAR](#)

## INCLUSION

Support to inclusion supports and respects national leadership and the States' primary responsibility to protect and ensure the enjoyment of rights of all people on their territory, including refugees, IDPs, returnees, and stateless persons. Inclusion is the essence of the notion or concept of international protection and other relevant international instruments; it is about allowing displaced and stateless people to access their rights and participate fully in their host society and community. The inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in national development planning and systems for education, health, work, justice, civil registration, social protection, and other services is also key to building resilience and strengthening self-reliance. It further enables people to contribute to the social and economic lives of the communities that host them, rather than depending on parallel humanitarian assistance systems for years and even decades and generations. The [2021 GCR Indicator Report](#) identified the promotion of inclusion, as well as targeted support to address specific vulnerabilities, as necessary for self-reliance and to address refugee poverty. Inclusion is fundamental to the principle of *leaving no one behind*, which is central to the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

Two spotlight sessions were dedicated to discussing the inclusion of displaced and stateless people in market economies and national systems respectively. Additionally, UNHCR dedicated two preparatory regional roundtables to exploring progress and challenges of inclusion in different contexts. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region organised the roundtable **Advancing Inclusion in MENA through Development Cooperation**, which unpacked the inclusion in national systems through experiences shared from Jordan and Mauritania. In the Europe region, the roundtable focused on **Refugee Inclusion in the Republic of Moldova: Operationalizing the Temporary Protection Regime and Strengthening Prospects for Socio-economic Inclusion and Economic Growth** and occurred in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova.

Mr. Marcel Spatari, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova, addresses participants at the preparatory roundtable on *Refugee Inclusion in the Republic of Moldova* in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, 24 November 2022

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## Spotlight Session

### THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN PROMOTING ECONOMIC INCLUSION

#### CO-MODERATORS

Mr. Raouf Mazou, Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, UNHCR

Mr. Sérgio Pimenta, Vice President for Africa, International Finance Corporation



#### THE CONTEXT – WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, AND WHAT NEXT?

One-hundred and ninety-three countries committed to improving refugee self-reliance and reducing pressure on host countries through the [Global Compact on Refugees](#). The Compact calls for maximising private sector contributions and creating opportunities for private sector investment, infrastructure strengthening, and job creation. Jobs and entrepreneurship allow displaced individuals to contribute to host economies as consumers, taxpayers, employees, and employers. Working with governments of host countries, UNHCR, the private sector, and development actors are making progress in advancing economic inclusion. This space has included diverse private sector actors such as large and small companies, as well as activities such as cash transfers, mobile money, microfinance loans, and access to financial services for refugee-managed businesses. Host communities have also benefitted from these interventions, which often target underserved communities.



There is a growing body of evidence for the effectiveness of these efforts, with examples in large refugee hosting countries. For instance, Jordan hosts the second highest number of refugees in the world as a proportion of its population. The roundtable **Advancing Inclusion in MENA through Development Cooperation** highlighted how Syrian refugees in Jordan are granted access to several sectors of the labour market, and flexible work permits allow them to move between or combine different employers. This has allowed them to complement humanitarian assistance with income or to become fully self-reliant.<sup>23</sup> In Kenya, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and UNHCR have worked together to attract private businesses to the Kakuma Kalobeyei refugee-hosting area, creating job opportunities and enhancing access to services for refugees and

23 Svein Erik Stave, Tewodros Aragie Kebede and Maha Kattaa, [Impact of work permits on decent work for Syrians in Jordan](#), International Labour Organization, September 2021.

host communities.<sup>24</sup> In Colombia, this partnership has enabled access to financial products and services for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the country, allowing them to contribute more significantly to Colombia's economy.

In this Spotlight Session, participants discussed the potential for the private sector to play a crucial role in creating jobs and economic opportunities for refugees and host communities, which in turn can lead to improved living conditions, self-sufficiency, and protection.



## KEY ISSUES AND EXPERIENCES

- **The private sector, host governments, and the international community need to work together to create a conducive ecosystem for financial and economic inclusion.** There is growing recognition of the role that the private sector can play in supporting displaced and host communities to become self-reliant and access essential social and economic services. However, it was emphasised that private sector involvement is not a panacea, and all actors have a responsibility to contribute to the desired impact. In this regard, there was a strong emphasis that governments need to create a conducive environment for refugees to participate in the formal labour market and enforce business practice standards. Participants highlighted the need for dialogue with local governments to discuss the benefits for local communities and remove legal barriers that prevent access to labour markets, such as restrictions on freedom of movement, documentation, and access to financial services. Without these rights, there is a risk that investments could increase exploitation and protection risks, particularly in informal work settings.
- **The discussion also focused on the complementary strengths of different actors working together and adjusting their modus operandi.** For example, IFC and UNHCR launched the [Joint Initiative on Creating Markets in Forced Displacement Contexts](#) to boost private sector engagement for refugees and their host communities. The Joint Initiative emerged from years of collaboration, where IFC brings technical expertise and experience engaging with private companies, while UNHCR provides in-depth knowledge of refugee issues, operational presence, and its protection mandate. Within the [PROSPECTS Partnership](#), ILO and UNHCR have been working together with a variety of stakeholders to build national capacity and train financial service providers in refugee-hosting countries.<sup>25</sup> At the policy level, they advocate for measures to facilitate the integration of refugees in the host country's financial system; for example, by partnering with banks to channel funds to enterprises owned by displaced people. On the supply side (financial service providers), they support financial institutions through capacity building to diversify products and tailor them to the needs of the refugee market. They also work on the demand side

24 [Kakuma Kalobeyei Challenge Fund](#). The Kakuma Kalobeyei Challenge Fund (KKCF) is a programme of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), implemented with Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund, Turkana County Government, and UNHCR. The five-year programme is designed to support private sector investment and unlock the economic potential of refugees and their hosts in Kenya's Turkana County.

25 ILO, [Financial inclusion for refugees, internally displaced people and host communities](#)

(refugees and host communities), increasing the financial capabilities of refugees and host communities and providing entrepreneurship training. Finally, blended finance initiatives are also important to de-risk and incentivise the engagement of investors and financial service providers to extend financial services to refugees. In this regard, a [flagship program](#) was set-up by UNHCR, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and Grameen Credit Agricole Foundation in Uganda targeting 100,000 refugee and host community entrepreneurs with loans and other financial and non-financial services.

- **Private sector engagement in forced displacement contexts can be mutually beneficial with a positive impact on local and national economies.** Participants called for private sector engagement to go beyond Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The private sector needs to contribute to the broader socio-economic inclusion agenda, ensuring that refugees are part of an ecosystem that can spur sustainable development, and importantly, that considers the potential human capital that refugees can bring. **For example in Ecuador**, a World Bank study suggested that measures allowing Venezuelans to obtain employment matching their skills, such as facilitating the conversion of education credentials, would increase Ecuador’s GDP between 1.6 and 1.9 per cent.<sup>26</sup> **For example, in Mexico**, Mabe, a leading company in the metalworks industry, shared the company’s refugee socioeconomic inclusion model developed in partnership with the government and UNHCR. Mabe has employed over 250 refugees at their washing machine manufacturing plant in Saltillo, Mexico. The project was reported as a success, with refugees becoming model employees, integrating well into the local community, and having low turnover rates. Mabe’s success has led to the replication of similar projects in other countries with over 400 companies signing up, creating a multiplier effect in the industry.
- **The protection and human rights of refugees should be taken into consideration for any private sector engagement**, and companies need to be held to human rights, international protection, environmental, and social standards. **For example**, the Government of Japan has developed [Guidelines on Respecting Human Rights in Responsible Supply Chains](#), which include considerations for businesses operating in areas affected by fragility. Participants also discussed the importance of working with private companies in a sustainable way. Sustainable engagement might involve building the capacity of companies to operate in fragile contexts or working with government partners to align with broader development goals.
- **By packaging data in a way that is relevant to private sector investment decisions, humanitarian and development organisations can more effectively attract private sector engagement.** Private sector entities such as banks, retailers, manufacturers, and insurance businesses, rely on data to make decisions – from business locations to market strategies. Data and evidence play a crucial role in informing private sector engagement in forced displacement contexts, and that there is a need for more systematic approach to documenting experiences. **For example**, IFC’s market study in Kenya [Kakuma as](#)

“We hope [that] with our experience we may inspire other companies to participate in this initiative, so we can demonstrate that big changes come from a sum of many small and constant efforts, like we do every day.”

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Mr. Pablo Moreno,  
Head of Corporate  
Affairs, Mabe

26 Olivieri, Sergio; Ortega, Francesc; Rivadeneira, Ana; Carranza, Eliana. 2020. [Shoring Up Economic Refugees : Venezuelan Migrants in the Ecuadoran Labor Market](#). Policy Research Working Paper, No. 9332. World Bank, Washington, DC.

[a Marketplace](#) showed that data can bridge market gaps and help trigger private sector investment, as demonstrated by the subsequent set-up of the [Kakuma Kalobeyei Challenge Fund](#). The World Bank-UNHCR [Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement](#) highlighted the growing body of quality socio-economic data has generated information useful for labour market inclusion, making a strong business case for including refugees in national statistics.<sup>27</sup> Furthermore, it was suggested that more leaders of refugee-led businesses share their experiences to better understand the impact of displacement on local economies.



## OUTCOMES

### Policy Message

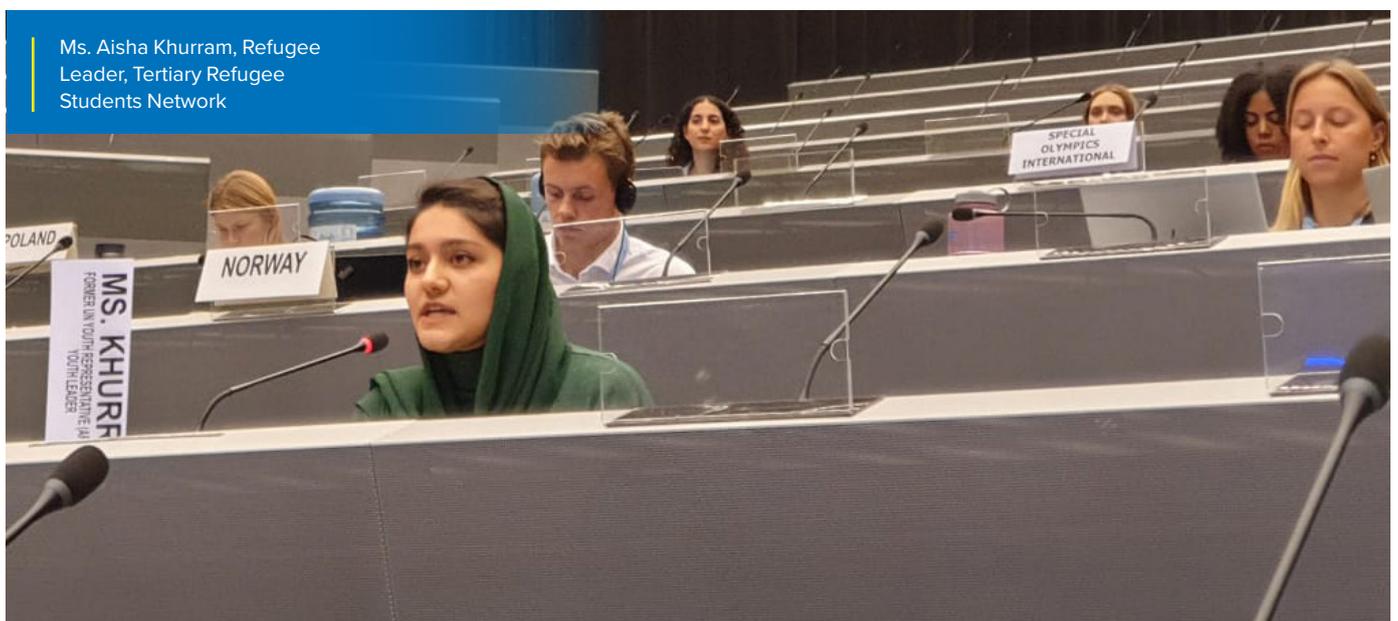
**Build** conducive ecosystems for the *financial and economic inclusion* of displaced and stateless people, drawing from the complementary roles of private sector, governments, protection actors, and other partners.

### Proposed Actions

**Remove** barriers that prevent access to formal labour markets, such as lack of freedom of movement, legal rights to work, documentation, access to finance, and opportunities for entrepreneurship.

**Package** data in a way that is relevant to private sector investment decisions, including protection risks, and take a systematic approach to documenting experiences.

**Identify** blended finance opportunities bringing together public and private funds to create market-conducive incentives to extend financial services and employment opportunities to displaced and stateless people and their host communities.



## Spotlight Session

### PROMOTING INCLUSION IN FORCED DISPLACEMENT CONTEXTS

#### CO-MODERATORS

Mr. Sajjad Malik, Director, Division for Resilience and Solutions, UNHCR

Ms. Caroline Bahnson, Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Practice Manager, World Bank



#### THE CONTEXT – WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, AND WHAT NEXT?

Since the [2019 Global Refugee Forum](#), over 50 host governments have made policy pledges to support refugees within their national systems.<sup>28</sup> As a result, increased and dedicated funding instruments, coupled with political will and enabling policy environments, have provided fertile ground to advance inclusion. The COVID-19 pandemic also demonstrated a commitment to inclusion, as 153 governments realigned their actions to include both host communities and refugees in their COVID-19 response, vaccination programmes, and healthcare responses.<sup>29</sup>

In addition, development actors have made significant progress in either creating dedicated financial instruments to address forced displacement issues, or in integrating forced displacement in their strategies, response plans, socio-economic data, and policy dialogues with governments. Governments still face significant challenges in advancing inclusion, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Such countries often face multiple shocks, and hosting additional people can place high demands on services and economies under strain.

This Spotlight Session took stock of progress on the inclusion of displaced and stateless people in national systems. The discussion touched upon several elements of inclusion: favorable policy environments, access to services (education, health, social protection), access to economic opportunities (employment and livelihoods), and climate change. Actors stressed that the inclusion of refugees, returnees, and IDPs in national statistics and development plans is essential to ensure their inclusion in sectoral programmes.



**“Inclusion is one of the best forms of protection. And inclusion – in societies, in services, in the economy – is often obtained or facilitated by development.”**

28 UNHCR, [GCR Digital Platform: Matching Pledges](#)

29 UNHCR, [More countries are including refugees in national health systems, and development partnerships are key to the process](#), December 2022

Mr. Filippo Grandi,  
United Nations  
High Commissioner  
for Refugees



## KEY ISSUES AND EXPERIENCES

- **In addition to a recognition of the need for “burden sharing” among actors, “interest sharing” offers a way of thinking about the benefits that inclusion can bring to host communities and economies.** The promotion of inclusion in forced displacement contexts requires a recognition of the benefits of inclusion, as well as the costs of non-inclusion. The narrative of “interest sharing” can highlight the economic and social benefits of inclusion, such as increased tax revenues from a larger labour force and greater spending power, as well as reduced reliance on parallel humanitarian systems.
- **For example, in Mexico,** over 25,000 refugees have been relocated from the southern part of the country to central and northern economic hubs and supported with job placement. The relocation programme resulted from a successful collaboration between federal and state authorities, UNHCR, and the private sector, and resulted in measurable benefits for both refugees and host communities. By August 2022, 25,000 refugees had participated in the programme and generated an annual tax contribution of USD 7.7 million – three times what Mexican taxpayers invested to provide services and support to this group of refugees.
- **It is critical to include forced displacement issues in national development plans and support the operationalisation of inclusion, rather than uphold parallel humanitarian systems over the longer term.** Preliminary findings of an OECD baseline study confirm that while progress has been made on including displaced people in national planning for sustainable development, implementation of inclusion remains limited and segmented.<sup>30</sup> Implementation barriers can include limited institutional capacity, coordination challenges, gaps in policy awareness, and instability in security situations. The [PROSPECTS Partnership](#)<sup>31</sup> identified three typologies of contexts with regard to refugee inclusion: (a) countries with political will and engagement to include refugees, (b) countries where support is needed for the implementation of policies, and (c) countries where political sensitivity of refugee inclusion is high.<sup>32</sup> Lessons

30 OECD’s preliminary findings show that 26 per cent of host countries refer explicitly to refugees and IDPs in their national plans, while 50 per cent of donors include references to refugees and IDPs in their global strategies. Additionally, 76 per cent of UNSDCF documents globally refer to refugees and IDPs. From the “leave no one behind” perspective, about 47 million forcibly displaced risk being left behind because they are not explicitly referenced in sustainable development planning.

31 PROSPECTS is a partnership set up by the Netherlands (Kingdom of the) with five international organisations (UNHCR, ILO, UNICEF, IFC, and the World Bank) in eight refugee-hosting countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Horn of Africa regions: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, the Sudan, and Uganda. The partnership proposes a new way of humanitarian and development partners working together to find sustainable solutions to long-term refugee crises, focusing on the nexuses between education, protection, and employment.

32 (a) Countries with political will and engagement to include refugees: In these countries, there is a strong commitment from the government and other stakeholders to promote the inclusion of refugees. These countries are characterised by an enabling environment that supports the integration of refugees into the local communities and economies. (b) Countries where support is needed for the implementation of policies: in these countries, there may be a strong commitment to include refugees, but there is a need for technical and financial support to help implement policies and initiatives aimed at promoting their inclusion. (c) Countries where political sensitivity of refugee inclusion is high: In these countries, the issue of refugee inclusion is politically sensitive, and traditional development instruments may not be adequate to address the challenges.

learned from the PROSPECTS Partnership provide a valuable framework for understanding the challenges and opportunities of promoting refugee inclusion in different contexts. Similarly, a forthcoming analysis by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) that explores the extent to which the BMZ [Special Initiative on Displacement](#) has so far promoted access for displaced people to national systems and services, also extracts the general influencing factors that enable or challenge inclusion efforts. The full report is expected to be published in spring 2023, and during the Dialogue, the [summary brief](#) was published on the GCR Digital Platform. Overall, perspectives from both PROSPECTS Partnership and BMZ reinforce the importance of understanding the specific context and tailoring approaches to support the implementation of effective inclusion policies.

- **Discussions also elicited sector-specific examples of inclusion programming and policies.** In Uganda, the World Bank’s [Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers Program](#) supports the adequacy and equity of fiscal transfers and fiscal management of resources by local governments for health and education services, and specifically factors refugee populations into grant application formulas. This model allows for increases in grants for refugee-hosting districts based on the actual number of people living in each area, rather than just nationals. Participants also highlighted mental health and psycho-social support as a sector in need of stronger inclusion policies, and emphasised the positive and far-reaching effects of including refugee children in national education systems.
- **Policy reviews can help identify *de jure* and *de facto* inclusion bottlenecks for targeted support to advance protection.** Many countries have set ambitious policies for refugee and IDP inclusion, but have limited resources for policy implementation. On the other hand, there are several countries with restrictive policies affecting the forcibly displaced people. Against this backdrop, participants recognised the [Refugee Policy Review Framework \(RPRF\)](#),<sup>33</sup> developed by the World Bank in collaboration with UNHCR, as an essential tool to facilitate a common understanding of national policy environments to support planning, programming, and policy dialogue across the United Nations system, UN Member States, development actors, and donors. In-country, the RPRF can support coordination among various international and local stakeholders and act as a monitoring tool. While policy review frameworks have advanced for some refugee contexts, there was a recognition that a similar exercise could also be useful for IDP contexts.
- **Collaboration with local governments needs to be strengthened, considering the essential role they play in operationalising inclusion policies at the local level.** For example, a lesson learned from the World Bank’s [Refugees and Host Communities Support Project](#) in the Niger is that decentralising and working closely with local governments helps improve the way that services are

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33 The RPRF offers a systematic review of refugee policies and institutional environments in countries eligible for the World Bank’s financing for low-income refugee hosting countries – the [IDA Window for Host Communities and Refugees](#). The RPRF is articulated around four main policy dimensions, namely: Host Communities, Regulatory Environment and Governance, Economic Opportunities, and Access to National Public Services. It also includes two cross-cutting themes: Gender and Social Inclusion, which are key to socioeconomic development for refugees and host communities.

delivered. During the **Preparatory Roundtable in the Republic of Moldova**, participants underscored that collaboration with local authorities is necessary to ensure the targeting of investments promoting the inclusion of refugees in Moldovan public services.

- **The collection and utilisation of data, including local knowledge, is crucial for assessing the impact of displacement on host communities, and in turn, informing inclusion programming, budget allocation processes, and targeting limited resources.**<sup>34</sup> For example, evidence generated from the [Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement](#)'s work to strengthen the quality, quantity, and accessibility of data in [Chad, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq](#) demonstrates how the statistical inclusion of forcibly displaced populations can provide the evidence needed for effective policy and programming. Currently, most research is produced by scholars and researchers from the high-income countries. To address this gap, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is establishing a network of twelve [Forced Displacement Research Chairs](#) in low- and middle-income countries, who will advance locally-driven research on topics such as education, livelihoods, and social protection.

Mr. Sajjad Malik, Director, Division of Resilience and Solutions, UNHCR, and Ms. Francesca Bonelli, Representative, UNHCR Republic of Moldova, participate in the preparatory roundtable *Refugee Inclusion in the Republic of Moldova*

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34 The GCR calls on States to include refugees and host communities, as well as returnees and stateless persons as relevant, within national data and statistical systems (GCR, para. 46). This statistical inclusion (e.g., in Census, living conditions surveys) is a prerequisite for measuring several GCR indicators and therefore the progress towards GCR objectives. It is also a key tool for effecting the pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no-one behind. UNHCR is expected to support States (e.g., national statistical offices) in operationalising statistical inclusion.

- **It is essential to include displaced people in the development and implementation of policies that affect their lives.** To achieve this goal, concrete steps must be taken to enable their active participation in policymaking, such as providing inputs on policy design and serving as members of decision-making committees. Participants also emphasised the importance of considering local contexts and designing interventions that account for the unique needs and perspectives of marginalised groups, including indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and youth. **For example**, the [Special Olympics](#) promotes sport as a tool for inclusion to improve the physical and mental health of forcibly displaced people and people with intellectual and physical disabilities. The [Action Network on Forced Displacement](#) is using an intersectional approach to gender analysis to recognise the diversity among the people they serve, and to design interventions that are gender transformative.

## OUTCOMES



Policy Message	Proposed Actions
<p><b>Ensure</b> that displaced and stateless people are <i><b>included in national systems and have access to economic opportunities</b></i>, and support host governments with the necessary financial and technical capacities to implement inclusive policies.</p>	<p><b>Tailor</b> approaches to support inclusion policies based on socio-economic and protection data, localised and participatory approaches, and evidence on the benefits of inclusion.</p> <p><b>Enhance</b> the development and utilisation of the <a href="#">Refugee Policy Review Framework</a> and other pertinent policy analyses to identify policy bottlenecks, monitor progress, and improve in-country policy coordination among national and international stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Pair</b> policy pledges made by host countries to facilitate inclusion of displaced and stateless people with pledges made by donors to provide financial, material, or technical support, via UNHCR’s efforts to facilitate <a href="#">Pledge Matching</a>.</p>

## CITED RESOURCES ON INCLUSION



- UNHCR, [2021 GCR Indicator Report](#)
- Svein Erik Stave, Tewodros Aragie Kebede and Maha Kattaa, [Impact of work permits on decent work for Syrians in Jordan](#), International Labour Organization, September 2021
- [Kakuma Kalobeyi Challenge Fund](#)
- IFC, [New IFC and UNHCR Initiative to Boost Private Sector Engagement for Refugees and Their Host Communities](#), December 2022

- ILO, [Partnership for improving Prospects for host communities and forcibly displaced persons](#)
- Fondation Grameen Credit Agricole, [Financial Inclusion of Refugees](#)
- ILO, [Financial inclusion for refugees, internally displaced people and host communities](#)
- Olivieri, Sergio; Ortega, Francesc; Rivadeneira, Ana; Carranza, Eliana. 2020. [Shoring Up Economic Refugees: Venezuelan Migrants in the Ecuadoran Labor Market](#). Policy Research Working Paper, No. 9332. World Bank, Washington, DC.
- Government of Japan, [Guidelines on Respecting Human Rights in Responsible Supply Chains](#), Inter-Ministerial Committee on Policy Promotion for the Implementation of Japan's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, September 2022.
- [World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement](#)
- IFC, [Kakuma as a Marketplace: A consumer and market study of a refugee camp and town in northwest Kenya](#), April 2018
- Lazić Maja, [If we invest in statistics, our dividend will be protection](#), Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement, December 2022
- UNHCR, [2019 Global Refugee Forum](#)
- UNHCR, [GCR Digital Platform: Matching Pledges](#)
- UNHCR, [More countries are including refugees in national health systems, and development partnerships are key to the process](#), December 2022
- German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), [Special Initiative on Displacement](#)
- BMZ, [Inclusion of Displaced Persons in National Systems: A brief from the Government of Germany](#), UNHCR Global Compact on Refugees Digital Platform
- World Bank, [Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers Program](#)
- World Bank, [Refugee Policy Review Framework](#), Technical Note
- World Bank, [Niger Refugees and Host Communities Support Project](#)
- Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement, [Refugees in Chad](#)
- Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement, [Compounding Misfortunes](#)
- International Development Research Centre, [Forced Displacement Research Chairs](#)
- [Special Olympics](#)
- [Action Network on Forced Displacement](#)

## SOLUTIONS

As of mid-2022, an estimated one in every 77 people worldwide was forcibly displaced, while only 1.4 per cent has found a solution to their displacement.<sup>35</sup> Seeking durable solutions jointly with Governments is a core part of UNHCR's mandate and is a priority for UNHCR's Strategic Directions 2022-2026. Durable solutions for displaced and stateless people are achieved when the refugee, IDP, or statelessness status has ceased, and the individual enjoys a documented durable legal status and can access and enjoy his/her rights in an equitable manner without any discrimination.

There is a deepening global understanding, highlighted in the [2030 Development Agenda](#) and the [United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement](#), that humanitarian, development, and peace actors all have essential roles to play in supporting governments to advance solutions for displaced and stateless persons. Enhancing development cooperation in support of solutions and addressing root causes and building peace in countries of origin were identified as key recommendations from the High-Level Officials Meeting, convened in 2021 to take stock of progress towards the GCR objectives.<sup>36</sup>

Two spotlight sessions brought together stakeholders to galvanise support for national leadership to advance solutions, with a focus on returns and (re)integration and enabling policy environments. The preparatory regional roundtables explored efforts to secure solutions across regional contexts in Afghanistan, Burundi, and Honduras.

## Spotlight Session

### SUPPORTING VOLUNTARY SUSTAINABLE RETURNS AND (RE)INTEGRATION

#### CO-MODERATORS

Ms. Kelly T. Clements, Deputy High Commissioner, UNHCR

Ms. Asako Okai, United Nations Assistant Secretary General and Director, Crisis Bureau, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



<sup>35</sup> UNHCR, [UNHCR Mid-Year Trends 2022](#), November 2022

<sup>36</sup> UNHCR, [High Level Officials Meeting 2021 Outcome Document](#), December 2021



## THE CONTEXT – WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, AND WHAT NEXT?

As the number of forcibly displaced people continues to increase, so does the average length of stay in displacement situations. In 2021, 429,300 refugees and 3.2 million IDPs returned to their countries and areas of origin.<sup>37</sup> As an example, the governments of Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, and Togo demonstrated a commendable example of political will to implement solutions for Ivorian refugees. In June 2022, UNHCR announced the end of the refugee status for Ivorians who fled political crises in their country.<sup>38</sup>

While for many displaced people, voluntary return is the preferred solution, it may not be a feasible option for all. Supporting voluntary returns is an integral part of UNHCR's responsibility for the promotion of durable solutions. Moreover, sustainable returns and reintegration require the full commitment of the country of origin, as well as a whole-of-society approach to ensure that those who make the decision to go home can rebuild their lives.

This spotlight session provided a forum to discuss how development cooperation can support the creation of conditions for sustainable voluntary return and reintegration of refugees and IDPs. The session discussed how partners can support national governments, area-based approaches, participatory planning, and regional coordination.



## KEY ISSUES AND EXPERIENCES

- **Sustainable reintegration can take years to achieve, and by mainstreaming forced displacement into development programming, returnees can benefit from long-term support.** Bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) provided to countries of origin accounted for only 6 per cent of all bilateral ODA to refugee situations in 2018-2019.<sup>39</sup> At the Dialogue, identified areas in need of development support included social cohesion, governance, expansion of service provision, jobs, and entrepreneurship. At the **High-level Roundtable on Return and Reintegration of Burundian Refugees**, participants discussed the challenges for reintegrating 200,000 Burundians who have returned since 2017. Participants noted that including returnees in national development plans can allow for multi-stakeholder coordination in the health, education, and nutrition sectors. Development partners were encouraged to increase access to funding and to finance projects in return areas based on community planning. At the **MIRPS National Coordination Group Meeting** held in Honduras, the Inter-

37 United Nations, [Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#), General Assembly Official Records, 77th Session, Supplement No. 12

38 To mark the occasion on World Refugee Day, the High Commissioner visited the town of Buuto in north-eastern Liberia to witness the repatriation of the last 268 Ivorian refugees from Liberia. Source: UNHCR, [UNHCR's Grandi joins Ivorian refugees on the last leg of their journey home](#), June 2022

39 OECD 2018 data, as cited in the [2021 GCR Indicator Report](#).

American Development Bank announced the expansion of its newly replenished USD 100 million Migration Fund to cover countries receiving returnees, and its goal to work with the Government of Honduras and private enterprises to reintegrate young people.

- **Area-based approaches can bring together stakeholders to work across sectors and support not only displaced people and returnees, but also their communities.** Focused on needs rather than status, area-based approaches are about ensuring, where possible, that both returnees and local communities can benefit from support and services. Area-based programming must also consider the context for return and protection needs of returnees (displacement experience, gender, age, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, or disability), to uphold protection within mainstreamed services. Area-based programming can also be a tool to anchor initiatives within existing relationships with local authorities and ongoing community-level programming.
- **For example in South Sudan**, a revitalised peace agreement<sup>40</sup> has led to half a million refugees returning home. The [Pockets of Hope Initiative](#) targets return and refugee areas through investments in medium to long-term interventions.<sup>41</sup> The approach is in line with the South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Action Plan and grounded in peace frameworks and local contexts. **In Afghanistan**, UNHCR and UNDP are collaborating in [Priority Areas for Return and Reintegration](#),<sup>42</sup> linking humanitarian and development investments in essential services such as education, health, and livelihoods, with UNHCR gradually exiting and handing over to UNDP. This partnership was cited as a good example of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in practice.
- **Investing in the capacities and skills of refugees while in their host countries can support sustainability of return to their home countries.** Participants highlighted the importance of improving collaboration between counterpart ministries and departments in countries of origin and asylum to recognise academic, professional, and technical training and qualifications. Refugee leaders further underscored that refugees and IDPs must have representation and agency throughout all stages of voluntary return and reintegration processes.
- **Peacebuilding considerations and peace actors play a critical role in supporting sustainable return and preventing the re-occurrence of conflict.** Negotiations between countries of origin and asylum, along with other stakeholders, must address the underlying conditions that led to displacement. Early investment in peacebuilding and conflict prevention programming is essential, and should include efforts such as demobilisation and demining, addressing housing, land, and property rights, promoting transitional justice, and fostering community reconciliation.
- **Data and evidence are important to understanding cross-border dynamics in politically sensitive contexts.** During the **Regional Roundtable on the Afghanistan Situation**, the World Bank and UNHCR outlined the UNHCR-World

“We are finding solutions ourselves, and I think that this is the best solution to encourage donors to support us.”

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Mr. Mohamed Ag Malha, *Coordinator, Mbera Refugee Camp in Mauritania*

40 Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), 2018

41 UNHCR South Sudan, [The Pockets of Hope Initiative: Realizing Solutions in South Sudan](#), April 2022

42 UNHCR, [Priority Areas for Return and Reintegration in Afghanistan](#), September 2022

Bank Strategic Analysis Hub for the Afghanistan Situation. By collecting and analysing data to inform decision-making, the hub is working towards durable solutions to forced displacement in Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.



## OUTCOMES

### Policy Message

**Strengthen** development assistance to create conducive conditions for sustainable *voluntary return and reintegration*.

### Proposed Actions

**Integrate** human rights, peacebuilding, and conflict prevention objectives in programming to address causes of displacement and strengthen the sustainability of returns.

**Scale up** support and funding for area-based approaches in return areas to ensure sustainable returns and support reintegration.

**Invest** in building the skills of refugees while in host countries, and facilitate the recognition of academic, professional, and technical training and qualifications in countries of origin.

Ms. Clementine Nkweta-Salami, Director, Regional Bureau for East and Horn Africa and the Great Lakes, UNHCR, Ms. Kelly T. Clements, Deputy High Commissioner, UNHCR, Mr. Martin Niteretse, Minister of Interior of Burundi, Mr. Abdul Karim Ghoul, UNHCR Representative in Burundi, and Mr. Damien Mama, UN Resident Coordinator for Burundi, speak on a panel during the *High-Level Roundtable on Return and Reintegration of Burundian Refugees* in Bujumbura, Burundi.

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# Spotlight Session

## PROMOTING ENABLING POLICY ENVIRONMENTS FOR SOLUTIONS

### CO-MODERATOR

Ms. Elizabeth Tan, Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR

Ms. Chiara Adamo, Acting Director, Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission



### THE CONTEXT – WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, AND WHAT NEXT?



Despite the best efforts to provide solutions for refugees and IDPs, over 70 per cent of these populations continue to face long-term displacement with limited prospects solutions. The issue of statelessness further exacerbates the situation, affecting nearly 10 million people globally.

UNHCR plays a role in national and regional initiatives aimed at promoting durable solutions. It supported the establishment of Regional Support Platforms in [Central America \(MIRPS\)](#), [Afghanistan \(SSAR\)](#), and [East Africa \(IGAD\)](#), as well as the ongoing development of the Central African Republic (CAR) Solutions Support Platform, to coordinate work across stakeholders to promote local solutions and facilitate return and reintegration. These platforms offer valuable insights and lessons for advancing regional and sub-regional approaches to forced displacement. In addition, multi-stakeholder efforts are underway to implement the [Third Country Solutions for Refugees: Roadmap 2030](#), which aims to expand third-country solutions and strengthen national infrastructure for education, skills advancement, and labour mobility.

This Spotlight Session explored enabling policies and best practices in addressing solutions. The session aimed to bring together different perspectives and explore practical solutions to advance global efforts to resolve forced displacement and statelessness.

### KEY ISSUES AND EXPERIENCES



- **Enabling policies** and strong political will are key to addressing the challenges facing refugee, displaced, and stateless individuals. Policies and legal frameworks at the local and national levels play a critical role in ensuring that displaced and stateless populations are included in development initiatives and have access to the resources they need to rebuild their lives. Strong national

political commitment is necessary to drive change, and this can be demonstrated through the implementation of effective policies. In conjunction, humanitarian, development, and peace actors need to provide technical, political, and financial support to host governments to implement enabling policies, in line with the principle of responsibility sharing.

- **For example, the Regional Roundtable for West and Central Africa** highlighted successful examples of enabling policies, such as Nigeria’s IDP policy and the Niger’s strategy for sustainable recovery. These examples demonstrate the impact that political commitment can have in mobilising stakeholders. Participants also called for humanitarian, development, peace, and climate actors to work together in a holistic manner. No single government or organisation can provide all the answers, and collaboration is crucial to enact policy changes that can lead to real solutions. Finally, the roundtable echoed that promoting human rights should be at the forefront of all solution-focused efforts. Approaches based on human rights, gender sensitivity, and diversity are needed, and solutions need to prioritise the unique needs of each displaced individual.
- **Laws and policies governing naturalisation or permanent legal stay arrangements are promising avenues to explore for local integration solutions for refugees.** While the issue is complex, it is worth noting that in some cases, naturalisation or permanent legal stay arrangements may be more accessible than many assume. For instance, refugees who are married to nationals or who were born in the country of asylum and have resided there for several years may be eligible for such arrangements. Additionally, some regional organisations have provisions for naturalising citizens of their Member States. Collaborative exploration and pursuit of these options can ensure that refugees have access to the legal protections they require to rebuild their lives.



Mr. Raouf Mazou, Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, UNHCR, and Ms. Asako Okai, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director, UNDP Crisis Bureau, share the recently launched [UNDP and UNHCR Global Collaboration Framework for Inclusion and Solutions \(2023-2025\)](#).

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- **Having a legal identity and secure legal status is crucial in unlocking solutions – particularly for stateless people.** Stateless people, refugees, and asylum seekers are often unable to participate in society and access essential resources and services, such as education, employment, justice, and financial services. A dependable and inclusive civil registration system is key to ensuring that people can secure a legal identity and access rights and opportunities, such as scholarships. Education pathway programmes, such as in Italy, Portugal, and France, allow for entry via student visas and for the possibility of obtaining permanent status through continued presence in education or employment. These programmes provide alternative pathways for refugees, while also ensuring that the asylum system remains available in case of risk of *refoulement*.
- **Multi-stakeholder partnerships can implement enabling policies to advance complementary pathways.** The realisation of complementary pathways for refugees is largely a result of collaboration across stakeholders, including development and humanitarian actors, academia, and the private sector, among others. **For example,** partnerships have enabled Italy’s education pathway programme to succeed: the government issues visas; universities provide admission and scholarships; philanthropies support living expenses; and a development NGO provides integration services.<sup>43</sup> In other contexts, microfinance actors such as Windmill Trust have offer low-interest loans to support refugees during their initial settlement. Across countries and initiatives, the issuance of machine-readable travel documents can offer protection against *refoulement*, facilitate the right of return to countries of first asylum, advance family reunification, and enable access to complementary pathways.
- **Regional arrangements have supported the adoption and implementation of enabling policies at national level.** **For example,** the **MIRPS National Coordination Group Meeting** focused on the Government of Honduras’ action plan and national coordination mechanism to implement the MIRPS. Several other examples of successful initiatives exist across the Americas region, including the approval of [complementary protection measures in Costa Rica](#). At the Dialogue, the United States of America updated on the priorities for the country’s current role as Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform, including a focus on highlighting the advantages of and best practices for integration, and the benefits that forcibly displaced people bring to their communities. Another example in East Africa, the Djibouti Declaration, was adopted by the IGAD ministers, focusing on access to education and skills-building programmes for refugees, returnees, and host communities.<sup>44</sup>
- **Participants agreed that regional support platforms bring together a wealth of data from many actors, but the platforms also need systematic monitoring and evaluation systems** to capture key lessons, generate analysis, and demonstrate impact. The exchange of information between support platforms and other networks can lead to cross-fertilisation. **For example,** the European Union (EU) has supported the three platforms since their launch. The EU noted that the platforms have enabled partners to set shared priorities and objectives, pull resources, and put forward a development-oriented approach to displacement. At the Dialogue, the EU announced its support for the Central African Republic (CAR) Solutions Support Platform currently under development. With funding from the EU and other partners, the CAR Platform will address one of the world’s most neglected crises.

43 UNHCR Italy, [Education](#)

44 UNHCR, [Implementing the Djibouti Declaration: Education for refugees, returnees & host communities](#), GCR Digital Platform



## OUTCOMES

### Policy Message Proposed Actions

**Support legal, judicial, policy, and administrative strengthening and reforms** led by Governments to enable solutions for displaced and stateless populations.

**Reinforce** regional arrangements to provide technical, political, and financial support for the adoption and implementation of enabling national policies and local integration initiatives.

**Support** countries to review and reform law, policy, and practice relating to nationality and citizenship to prevent the denial, loss, or deprivation of nationality on discriminatory grounds.

**Foster** multi-stakeholder partnerships across sectors to advance complementary pathways, such as labour mobility or higher education opportunities in third countries, including a focus on the issuance of machine-readable travel documents.



## CITED RESOURCES ON SOLUTIONS

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## Special Session

### DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION TO ADDRESS INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

#### CO-MODERATORS

H.E. Mr. Abdihakim Hassan Ashkir, Deputy Minister of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation of the Federal Republic of Somalia

Ms. Kelly T. Clements, Deputy High Commissioner, UNHCR

Mr. Robert Piper, Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General on Solutions to Internal Displacement



#### THE CONTEXT – WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, AND WHAT NEXT?

Internal displacement represents a major global challenge and contributes significantly to rising global forced displacement. The 2021 IDMC Global Report on Internal Displacement recorded over 59 million people internally displaced worldwide due to conflicts and disasters, and numbers have continued to increase. Recognising this crisis, and building on an [appeal from 57 States](#), the United Nations Secretary-General established a [High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement](#) in 2019. This was followed through with the [United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement](#) in June 2022, with a focus on solutions and the need for a development-oriented approach to internal displacement.

In addition to UNHCR's longstanding emergency response work and role as Global Protection Cluster lead, UNHCR has committed to stepping up efforts on solutions for IDPs and supporting United Nations Resident Coordinators as the United Nations' lead on solutions at country-level. As solutions progress, UNHCR's work becomes more focused on advocacy and capacity sharing. IDPs moving into solutions need to be accompanied by monitoring the sustainability of such solutions and promoting the fulfilment of their rights without discrimination. UNHCR also supports the establishment of adequate legal, policy, and institutional frameworks to advance prevention, protection, and solutions for IDPs, as documented in the Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement launched in December 2022. This special session at the Dialogue tackled the role of development cooperation in addressing internal displacement.



#### KEY ISSUES AND EXPERIENCES

- **Protracted internal displacement must not be accepted as the de facto norm and has serious implications for sustainable development.** Participants stressed that while humanitarian action continues to serve a vital purpose, achieving real change



on internal displacement will require greater collaboration across the United Nations system and with development, peace, and climate actors. Discussions consistently highlighted the need to bring in new partners, including the private sector.

- **Predictable development financing and coordination should be increased in IDP contexts and supported by quality data specific to IDP households and host communities.** Development actors shared ongoing progress and reflected on key questions, including the importance of national leadership, the need for quality data on internal displacement situations, and the potential of innovative financing. **For example**, the African Development Bank included IDP communities within the Bank’s [Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa \(2022-2026\)](#), and at the Dialogue, emphasised the importance of community-centered development and national leadership on solutions for IDPs. Finally, collaboration between protection and development partners is critical to ensure that protection analysis is central to programming and strategy development.



Participants at the *Regional Roundtable on Protection Challenges West and Central Africa*, Lomé (Togo), 25 October 2022

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- **Central to solutions is the prioritisation of internal displacement in national development plans, local administrative planning, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) strategies.** Preliminary findings from an OECD baseline study found that IDPs are only referenced in nine out of the study’s 58 analysed national development plans. In the **Regional Roundtable for West and Central Africa**, participants highlighted that national and sub-national policy and legal instruments are key for the inclusion of displaced people in development initiatives, such as Nigeria’s IDP policy and Niger’s IDP law and Strategy of Sustainable Recovery.
- **For example, Somalia’s National Durable Solutions Strategy is informed by evidence-based analyses and a bottom-up and inclusive consensus-building approach.** Somalia’s National Commission for Refugees and IDPs, in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, facilitated profiling of displaced groups in Mogadishu, with a view of scaling these efforts and rolling

out recommendations and guidelines across the Federal Member States. To take forward government-led initiatives and planning in Somalia and in other IDP contexts, the co-moderators emphasised that partner coordination and predictable development financing are decisive factors.

- **There is a need to redouble efforts to help IDPs sustainably reintegrate into society** – whether they choose to return to their areas of origin, settle locally, or move to another part of the country. Legal, administrative, and social barriers were stressed as a continued, but addressable, challenges to improving the inclusion and solutions of IDPs. Empirical studies need to be dedicated to identifying barriers in local contexts to IDPs accessing their rights, and cooperative efforts made to remove barriers as soon as possible.
- **The international community needs to support local visions and bottom-up initiatives on solutions to internal displacement.** Action on solutions happens at local level, not in capitals. United Nations entities need to work closely with civil society and displaced communities, recognising that they must be engaged as true partners in the search for solutions. **For example**, during the **Regional Roundtable on the Afghanistan Situation**, participants recognized that a focus on the needs of refugees, IDPs, and returnees provides a framework to grapple with the issues and dilemmas of working in Afghanistan in the current political context. The most compelling argument in relation to investment in Afghanistan is to continue providing assistance to Afghans directly through a bottom-up, community-centric and area-based approach. Evidence indicates that this approach of providing assistance has a direct impact on communities and the lives of individual Afghans, mitigating the potential negative impacts that a continued destabilisation of Afghanistan could have far beyond the region.
- **Consultation with communities is required.** Solutions strategies need to be designed in consultation and partnership with IDPs and community representatives of all ages, genders, and diversities to ensure a nuanced understanding of the context and shared agreement on priorities.

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# Towards the 2023 Global Refugee Forum

The Dialogue was springboard to preparations for the 2023 [Global Refugee Forum](#) (GRF), which Switzerland and UNHCR will co-host in Geneva in December 2023. The GRF is the world's largest international gathering on refugees and was first launched by UNHCR in 2019 as a quadrennial platform for making pledges towards the objectives of Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) to ease pressures on host countries, increase self-reliance, and facilitate access to solutions. In 2023, the GRF will provide opportunities for *pledging*, both building on the significant progress made by governments and other stakeholders in implementing the pledges announced since 2019, and announcing new pledges. The GRF will also provide space for *learning*, in which participants can share good practices to inform responsibility-sharing, and for *stocktaking* to assess challenges and opportunities for future action.<sup>45</sup>

## Purpose of the Global Refugee Forum

Advance GCR objectives to ease pressures, enhance self-reliance, expand third-country solutions, support conditions for return (GCR, Part 1)

Facilitated through comprehensive responses and national, regional, and global arrangements (GCR, Parts 2, 3)

### Global Refugee Forum (GCR, Part 3)

#### Pledging

In 2023: Aim for high quality, pre-matched, joint pledges and initiatives implemented or announced in support of the recommendations from the High-Level Officials Meeting

#### Stocktaking

Progress towards the GCR objectives assessed through the GCR indicator report and reporting on pledge and initiative implementation

#### Learning

Good practices, opportunities, challenges, and lessons learned shared to inform future action in support of the GCR objective

Multi-stakeholder and partnership approach and meaningful refugee participation

During the Closing Plenary, it was [announced](#) that six states – **Colombia, France, Japan, Jordan, the Niger, and Uganda**, together with UNHCR, will co-convene the 2023 GRF. The outgoing 2019 co-conveners, **Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Germany, Pakistan, and Türkiye**, in a [joint statement](#), passed the baton to the next cohort,

<sup>45</sup> UNHCR, [2023 Global Refugee Forum – Concept Note](#), 6 November 2022

shared reflections, and reaffirmed their sustained support. In a [joint statement](#), the 2023 co-convenors committed to “go beyond the implementation of the existing pledges and initiatives – to truly bring the comprehensive approach to refugee situations to life”.

Looking ahead to the 2023 GRF, the Dialogue has provided fruitful starting points for stakeholders to advance *pledging*, *learning*, and *stocktaking* on development cooperation in forced displacement and statelessness contexts.



Co-hosts H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber, Ambassador of Switzerland, and Mr. Filippo Grandi, High Commissioner, with the incoming and outgoing Co-Covenors of the Global Refugee Forum during the handover ceremony at the 2022 High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges.

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## Pledging

The Dialogue reaffirmed the importance of development cooperation and responsibility sharing to support host governments. It also helped drive forward policy pledges and other initiatives on **early action**, **inclusion**, and **solutions** ahead of the 2023 Global Refugee Forum.

At the Dialogue, the **OECD announced two new pledges** to develop a policy and practice analysis package on the inclusion of refugees and IDPs in development cooperation, and a baseline analysis and policy guidance on addressing forced displacement in climate change National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The **International Institute of Humanitarian Law announced two new protection capacity pledges** to support to academic institutions in the development of curricula in line with the GCR, and to support governments and civil society in enhancing knowledge of refugee law and statelessness through training.

In the lead-up to the Dialogue, stakeholders also had the opportunity to propose and undertake a series of **innovation labs** to advance on key issues related to development cooperation in the context of displacement and statelessness. Announced during the Closing Plenary, the innovation labs addressed ongoing challenges and catalysed multi-stakeholder partnerships to cultivate pledges related to development cooperation. As a next step, the innovation labs will mobilise pledges in their respective areas.

## Innovation Labs - 2022 High Commissioner's Dialogue

### Better Lives Now

Exploring challenges, best practices, and emerging approaches to supporting refugee self-reliance

### Statelessness and Development: Tool for Programming and Advocacy

Developing a practical tool for preventing and reducing statelessness through development cooperation and related programmes

### UNDP – UNHCR: Lessons Learned and Working Towards More Joined-up Development Approaches to Forced Displacement

Expanding multi-stakeholder approaches to strengthening development cooperation from the onset of a displacement crisis

### Shaping the Future, Living as Neighbours

Forging and promoting wider interfaith alliances across the cycle of displacement

### Shifting Power to Children and Youth in Displacement Situations

Strengthening youth engagement in local development planning and programming

### Localisation and Development: Effective Approaches to Promoting Evidence-Based Policies and Refugee Inclusion

Exploring how to support academics in low- and middle-income countries in leading the way on policymaking and sustainable development

### Global Peer-to-Peer Solutions Advisor Network

Refugee peer advisors supporting refugee youth to access education and employment opportunities

### UN Common Pledge 2.0

Building on the diversity of stakeholders – from UN entities and UN Country Teams, to donors and refugees – to advance future commitments on refugee inclusion in national systems

### Making Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons Visible in National Statistics

Building a critical mass of stakeholders to advance the inclusion of refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons in national statistical systems

**How can you get involved?** Stakeholders interested in joining an innovation lab and other GCR-related initiatives can [access online](#) the list of descriptions and partners to learn more. In addition, stakeholders can indicate, through this short [survey](#), the key areas around which they would like to work towards developing and implementing pledges. Upon receipt of the survey inputs, the UNHCR focal point overseeing the relevant area will reach out to discuss opportunities for pledging or joining initiatives at the country, regional, or global levels. For guidance on how to develop a high-quality pledge, stakeholders can refer to the pledging guidance issued in the [Concept Note – GRF 2023](#).

## Learning

Stakeholders were invited to share content on development cooperation in forced displacement and statelessness contexts, such as articles, reports, and statements. The resources were compiled in the [Digital Resources Hub: Development Cooperation](#) – a repository to inform learning in preparation for the 2023 GRF.

At the Dialogue, there was also an opportunity to present upcoming thought leadership policy documents and dedicated initiatives.

- A **Special Session** at the Dialogue presented the preliminary findings of the forthcoming World Bank Group [World Development Report \(WDR\) 2023: Migrants, Refugees, and Societies](#), as a basis for discussion on the role of development cooperation to support responsibility-sharing in contexts of forced displacement and mixed movements.<sup>46</sup> The discussion solicited feedback as part of the consultation process for the WDR 2023 and drew from reflections and lessons learned from the Colombian Government’s experience in hosting displaced people and advancing durable solutions. Since the Dialogue, the WDR 2023 was [published in May 2023](#) and proposes an integrated framework to maximize the development impacts of cross-border movements on both destination and origin countries and on migrants and refugees themselves.
- In a strong showing of private sector leadership and impact, at the Dialogue the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and UNHCR launched a [Joint Initiative: Creating Markets in Forced Displacement Contexts](#). The joint initiative has a global geographic mandate and allows IFC and UNHCR to scale their efforts to help people who are forcibly displaced to live more dignified lives, while contributing to the development of local economies and markets, in alignment with the Global Compact on Refugees. Among other goals, the initiative aims to mobilise private sector projects over the next five years to demonstrate the viability of investments in forced displacement contexts.
- **Speakers’ Corner** presenters discussed new research and initiatives related to development cooperation in forced displacement and statelessness contexts. The talks can be viewed on the [Dialogue website](#). Speakers covered varied topics such as the [Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement](#)’s work on statistical inclusion and refugee-led resilience initiatives, and presented the latest research publications: the [State of Fragility Report 2022](#) by the OECD, the [Sahel Predictive Analytics Project, Addressing Statelessness through the Rule of Law](#) by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), [The Cost-of-Living Crisis for Urban Displaced People in East Africa](#) by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and the [Gender Dimensions of Forced Displacement Research Program](#) at the World Bank.



Mr. Abdinahir Hassen Abdilahi, DAFI Scholar and Master’s Student in Medical Photonics at Jena Universität, presenting on “How to Invest in the Resilience of Refugees to Empower Communities” at the Speakers’ Corner event.  
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<sup>46</sup> The special session was co-moderated by Ms. Gillian Triggs, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, UNHCR, Mr. Xavier Devictor, Co-Director of the World Development Report 2023, World Bank, and Ambassador Álvaro Enrique Ayala Meléndez, Minister Plenipotentiary, Chargé d’affaires a.i, Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations in Geneva.

## Stocktaking

The Dialogue itself emerged as a platform for stocktaking and sharing best practices during the preparatory regional roundtables, the co-moderated spotlight sessions, and other related events. This outcome document collects some of the Dialogue's sharing of experiences within its three thematic chapters on [early action](#), [inclusion](#), and [solutions](#).

The Dialogue's [policy and operational messages and their corresponding proposed actions](#) will serve as a basis to facilitate concrete progress towards UNHCR's work on development cooperation, as set out in UNHCR's [2022-2026 Strategic Directions](#). They will also inform pledge cultivation on development cooperation as we look ahead to the 2023 GRF.



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