

Linked Events Guidelines

Overview

As part of the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) Progress Review 2025 ecosystem, stakeholders may wish to independently organize linked events in Geneva (virtual, in-person, public or exhibition). Despite them being outside of the institutional arrangements for the GRF Progress Review 2025, they help broaden awareness and mobilize support for refugees and can be an opportunity to engage stakeholders who are not part of the GRF Progress Review participant list.

These linked events may be featured in the official GRF Progress Review programme currently under development. Inclusion is contingent on their alignment with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the purpose of the GRF Progress Review. Additionally, they must not conflict with key moments of the event, including the opening and closing plenaries and the Nansen ceremonies. Organizers will need to identify their own venue and assume all responsibility for preparing and funding their linked events. More information on the GRF Progress Review can be found [here](#).

Organizing a GRF Progress Review Linked Event

- Purpose:** Linked events are designed to facilitate further dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration among stakeholders engaged in global refugee responses. They provide a dedicated space for showcasing initiatives, projects, good practices, commitments, and pledges that contribute to the implementation of the GCR. These events also help broaden the reach of the GRF Progress Review by engaging a wider audience beyond those formally invited to the main programme. In doing so, they reinforce the GCR's emphasis on inclusive, whole-of-society engagement and promote transparency and accountability in the follow-up to pledges and commitments.
- Modalities:** Linked events can take various forms and modalities such as virtual or in-person spotlight sessions, exhibits, workshops, seminars, panel discussions, and other interactive formats.
- Participation:** Given that they will take place outside of the official venue of the GRF Progress Review, linked events can be organized by, and include, stakeholders beyond those invited to the event. Linked events are a great way to also involve the public in Geneva and beyond.
- Topics and Themes:** Linked events should address topics and themes related to one or more of the four objectives of the GCR, the [key outcomes](#) of the GRF 2023, or the [multi-stakeholder pledges and their stocktaking efforts](#). The aim is to create a coherent and comprehensive GRF Progress Review programme that complements the main event discussions. Linked events that would duplicate existing side-events or spotlight sessions will not be prioritized.

5. **Venue and Timing:** Linked events can be organized during the period 8-19 December in Geneva or virtually. Organizers planning a linked event should secure their own venue and event funding. The event should not duplicate the existing programme nor jeopardize its successful execution. Notably, a linked event cannot coincide with the opening and closing plenary or the Nansen Refugee Award ceremony and reception. You can refer to the zero draft programme in the presentation delivered at the [September 2025 preparatory meeting](#) for additional details.

6. **Coordination:** UNHCR and Switzerland, who are co-hosting the GRF Progress Review, will determine which linked events will be included in the official programme to ensure that they align with the purpose of the event.

7. **Visibility:** Organizers of linked events are responsible for advertising and promoting their events both online and offline, as well as sharing invitations. The events may be featured in one of UNHCR's posts on social media or website.

Next Steps:

Before 30 October

- **Submit a proposal for your event**, detailing how it answers to the above criteria for inclusion in the event programme. The proposal should include the date and time, as well as a brief paragraph of 200-500 characters describing your event. Please include background information about the theme of the event, goals, potential partners, or stakeholders involved, and include a link to the website or page where more information about the event can be obtained when possible.

Before 15 November

- Confirm that the venue for the event has been secured.
- Ensure that funding for the event has been confirmed.
- If applicable, provide a list of the names of speakers or presenters who will be participating in the event.
- Provide final information about your event for inclusion in the official GRF Progress Review programme.

CONTACTS

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LINKS

[GCR Digital Platform](#)