

Advancing self-reliance: Financial inclusion for refugees and host communities through private sector engagement

Moderated by

Ms. Elizabeth Eyster, Head, Sustainable Responses Service, UNHCR

Speakers:

H.E. Mr. Alejandro Dávalos, Vice Minister of Human Mobility, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and Human Mobility, Ecuador

Ms. Tamsin Scurfield, Head of Refugee Finance, Opportunity International United Kingdom

Ms. Julianne Oyler, Co-Founder and CEO, Inkomoko

Mr. Rooh Savar, Co-Founder, Welcome Place

Mr. Ricardo Garcia Tafur, Senior Operations Officer,
International Financial Corporation-UNHCR joint initiative

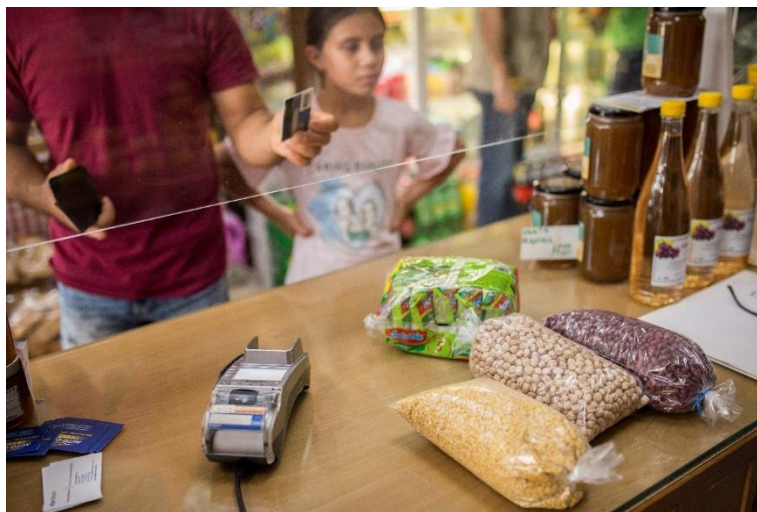


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Access to financial services – such as bank accounts, mobile money, credit and insurance – is often taken for granted. Yet for refugees and host communities, these services can make the difference between dependency and self-reliance. When access is restricted, displaced persons struggle to rebuild their lives and contribute to local economies. A new legal review by UNHCR, supported by global law firm DLA Piper and covering over 80 countries, highlights both encouraging progress and persistent barriers. This panel will bring together representatives from governments, financial institutions and refugee-led initiatives from Latin America, Africa and Europe to share solutions that are working – and explore how these can be scaled to support both refugees and host communities.

Monday, 6 October 2025

13:30 – 14:45

Palais des Nations, Building A, room V

Interpretation will be available in English, French and Spanish.

Refreshments will be served outside of the room prior to the event.

