GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES

Supported by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency

Fourth Quarterly Preparatory Meeting for the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025

18 November 2025
15:30 – 17:30 CET

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INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

- **Interpretation is available in English and French**.
  - Select your preferred language using the Interpretation button in Zoom.
  - Click ' View Options' at the top of your screen, then in the drop-down menu click your chosen language for viewing, either "ENGLISH (UNHCR)" or "FRANCAIS (UNHCR)".
- To **view captioning** go to the meeting controls toolbar, click the Show Captions icon CC.
- Please raise your nameplate to make a **request to speak.**
- **Written statements** to be posted online can be sent to hqgcr@unhcr.org.
- The **presentation and summary** of the briefing will be made available online at https://www.unhcr.org/events/preparatory-meetings-and-briefings-2025.
- For any **technical issues** during the meeting, please contact hqgcr@unhcr.org.

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AGENDA

Opening Remarks
H.E. Ms. Anna Ifkovits, *Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations Office at Geneva*

Ms. Ruvendrini Menikdiwela, *Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, UNHCR*

Presentation of the GCR Indicator Report 2025
Ms. Grace Sanico Steffan, *Senior Statistics and Data Analysis Officer, UNHCR*

Update on the programme and logistics for the GRF Progress Review 2025
Mr. Nicolas Brass, *Chief of Global Compact on Refugees Section, UNHCR*

Logistical updates on the GRF Progress Review
Ms. Anne Keah, *Chief of the Governance Section, UNHCR*

Discussion and Interventions

Closing Remarks
Ms. Ruvendrini Menikdiwela, *Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, UNHCR*

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Opening remarks

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Presentation of the GCR Indicator Report 2025

Ms. Grace Sanico Steffan

Senior Statistics and Data Analysis Officer, UNHCR

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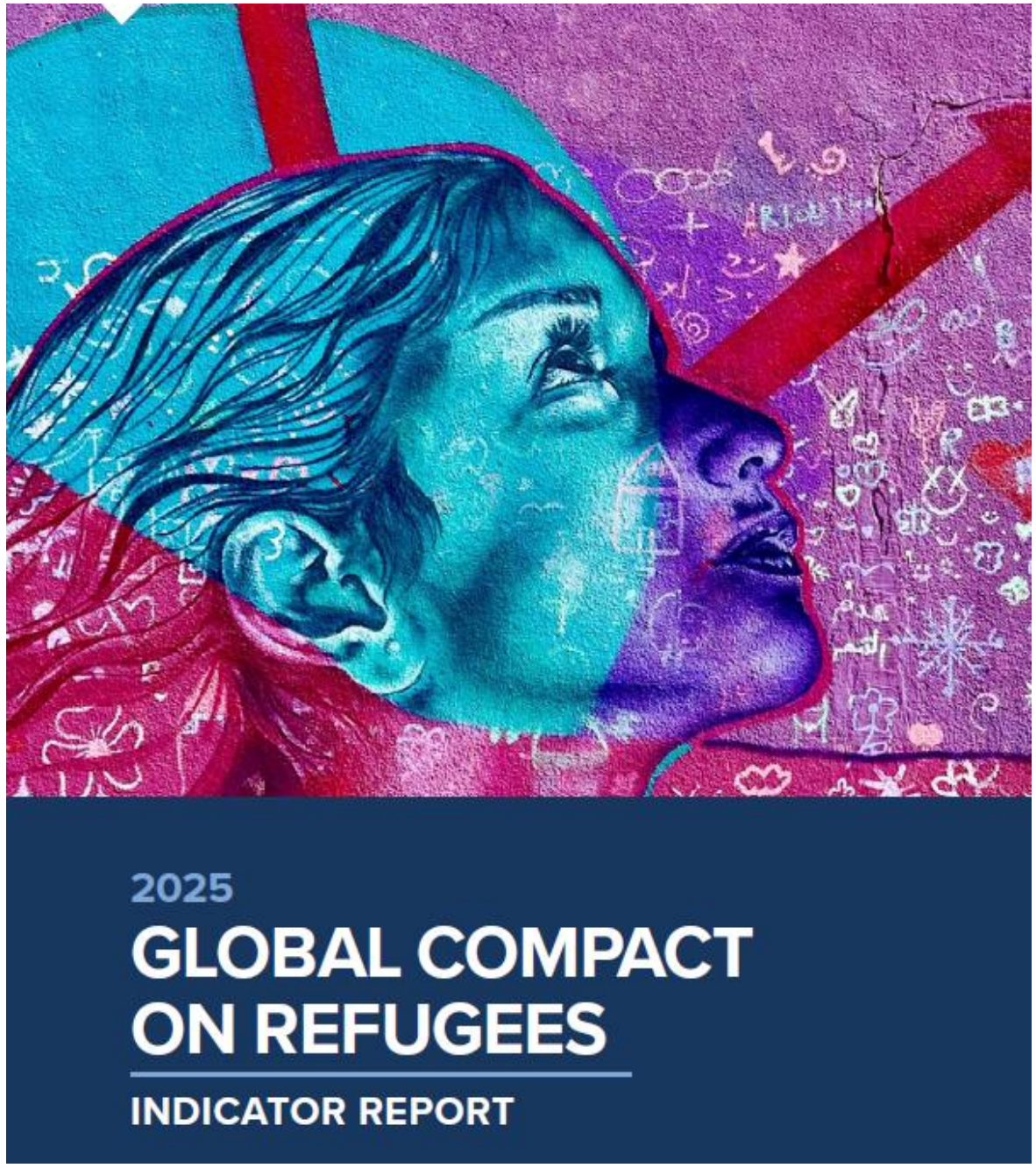
Third edition: Builds on lessons learned from previous editions

Decade-long insights: 2016-2025, where data is available

4 GCR objectives: Tracks progress using 16 GCR indicators, supported by qualitative analysis

Burden- and responsibility-sharing: Measures of disparities among countries hosting refugees and providing durable solutions

Data limitations: Indicator on returnees with documentation, timeliness, indicators on inclusion



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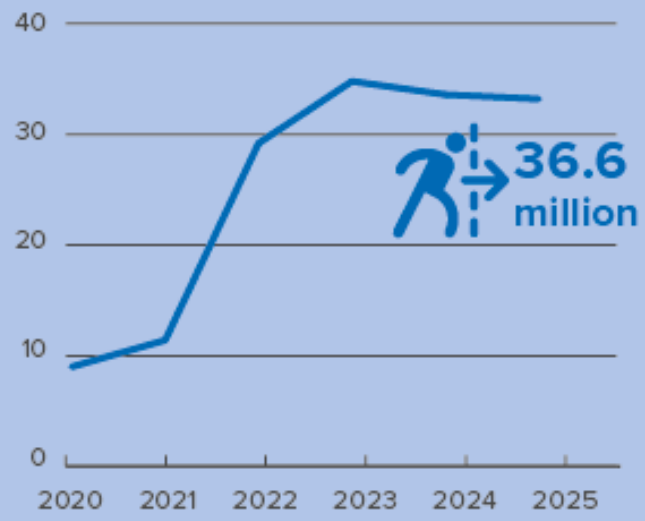
Burden- and responsibility-sharing

After 2022, the growth of the total number of refugees **slowed down and remained stable**, reaching **36.6 million** in mid-2025.



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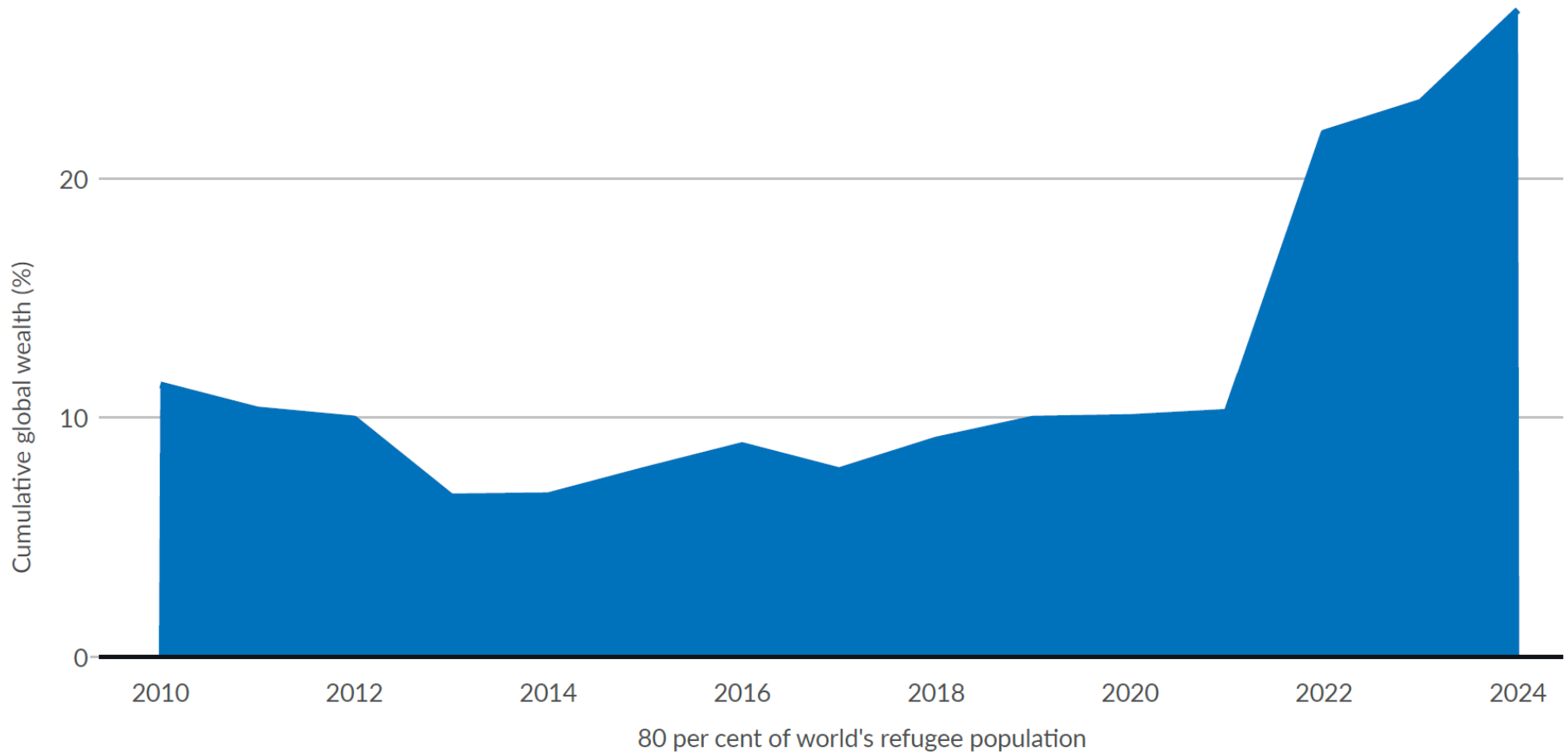
Progress was made in responsibility-sharing,



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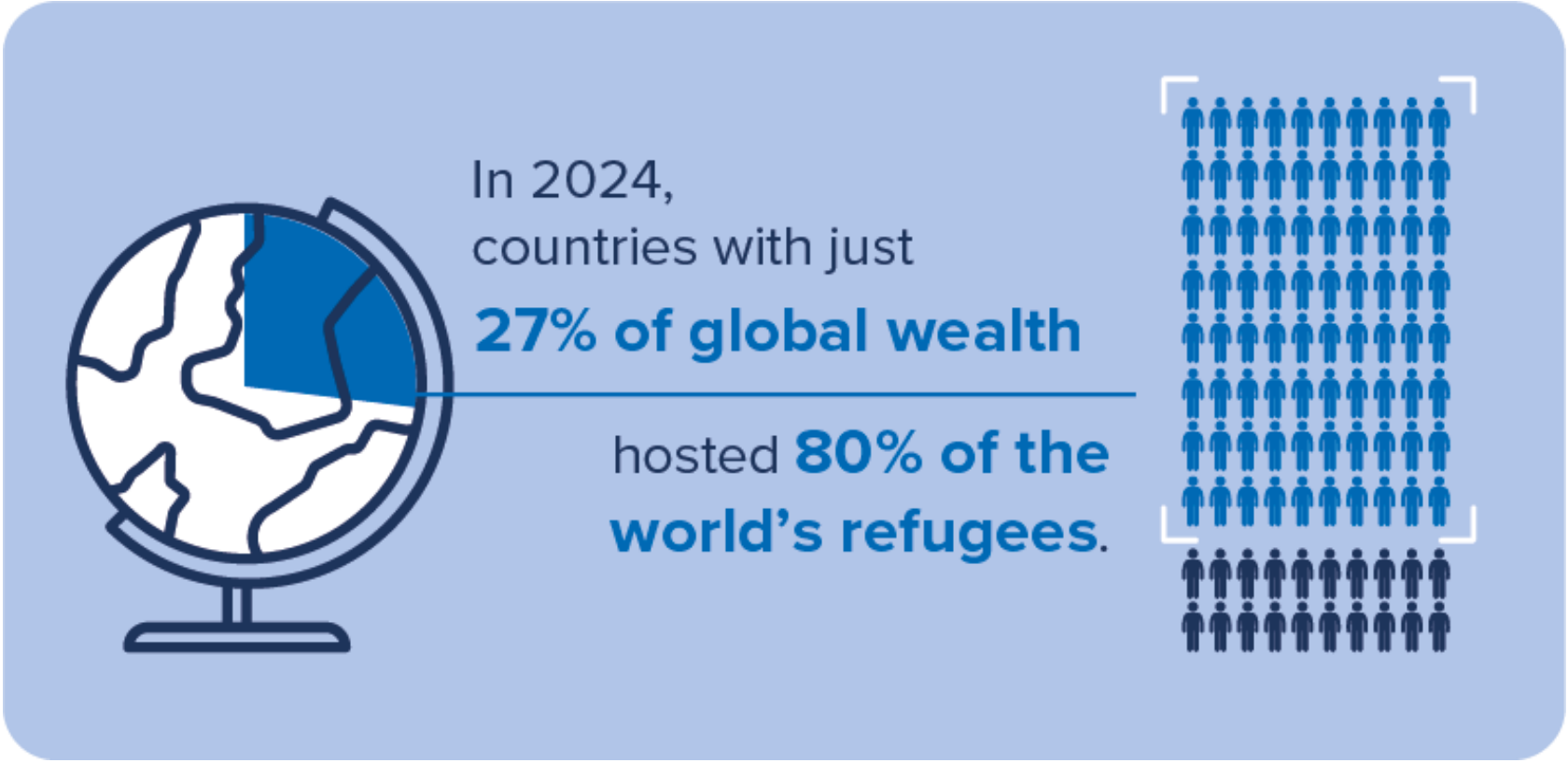
but disparities remained.



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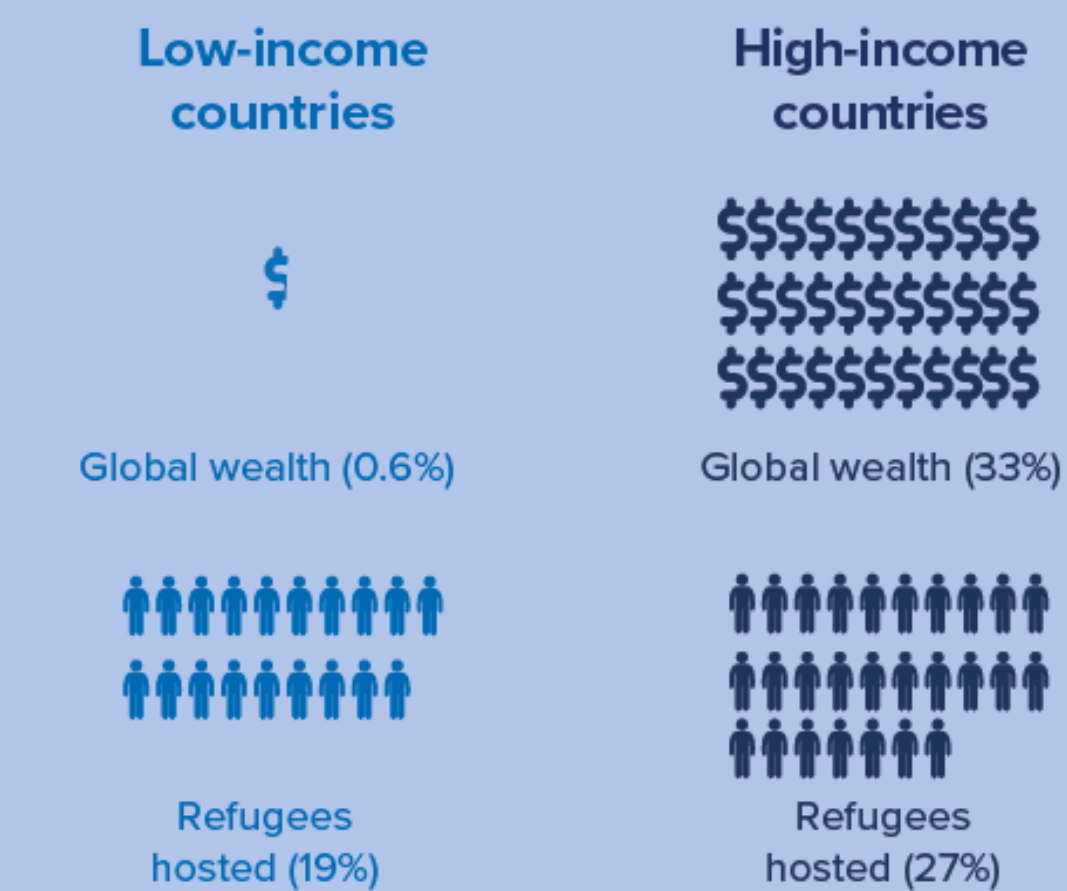
Prioritize support for low-income countries, which possess only **0.6% of global wealth** yet **host 19% of all refugees**.



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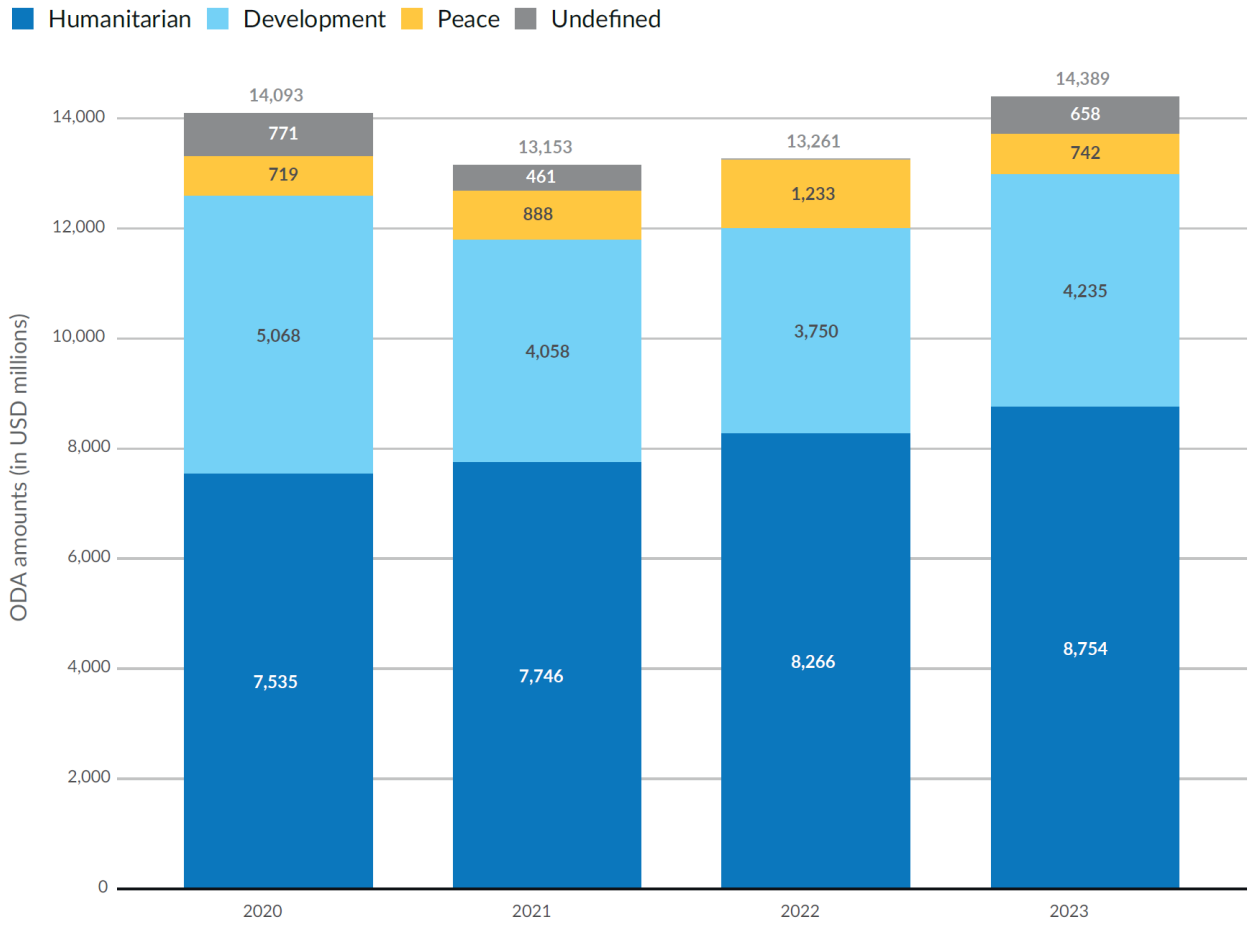
Objective 1: Ease pressures on host countries

Official Development Assistance (ODA) for refugee situations in low- and middle-income countries amounted to USD 54.9 billion in 2020-2023,



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

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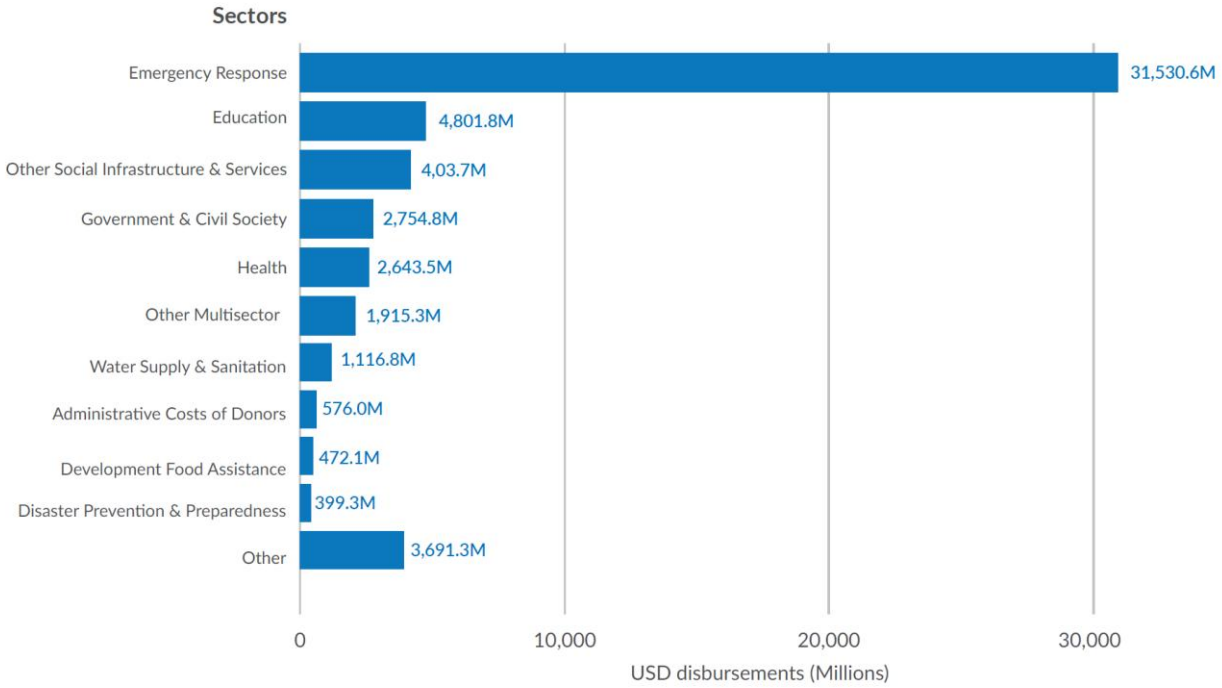
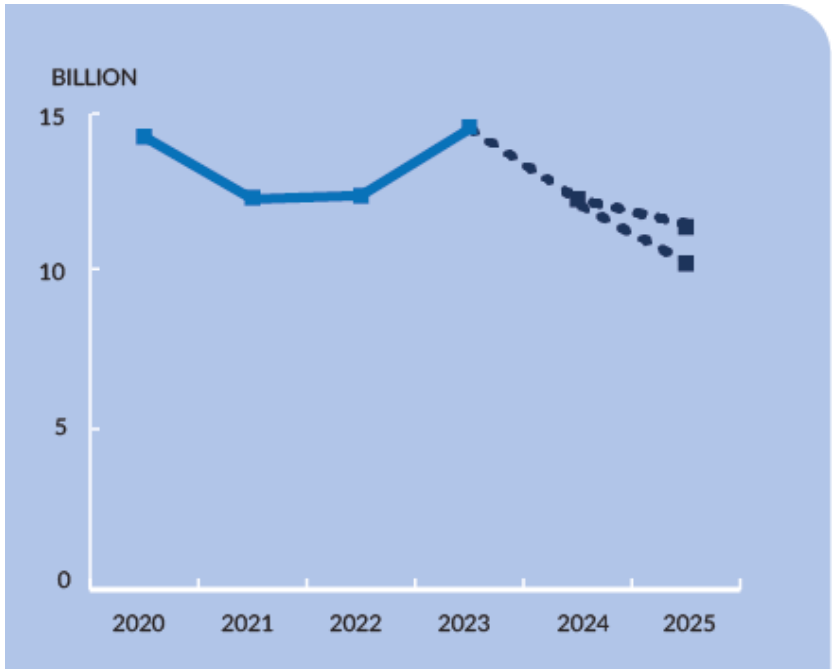
Objective 1: Ease pressures on host countries

but support is unevenly distributed and declining.





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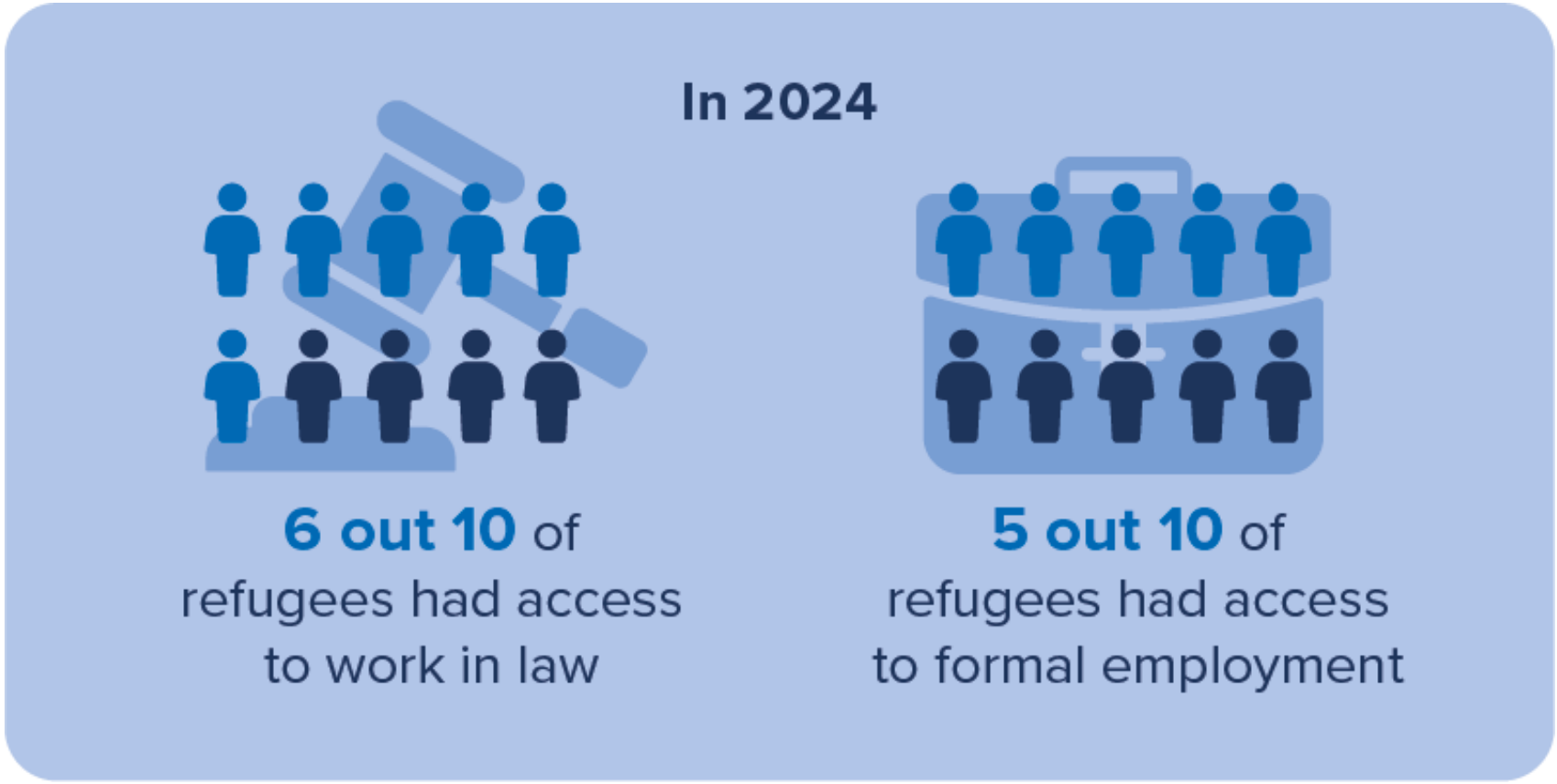
Objective 2: Enhance refugee self-reliance



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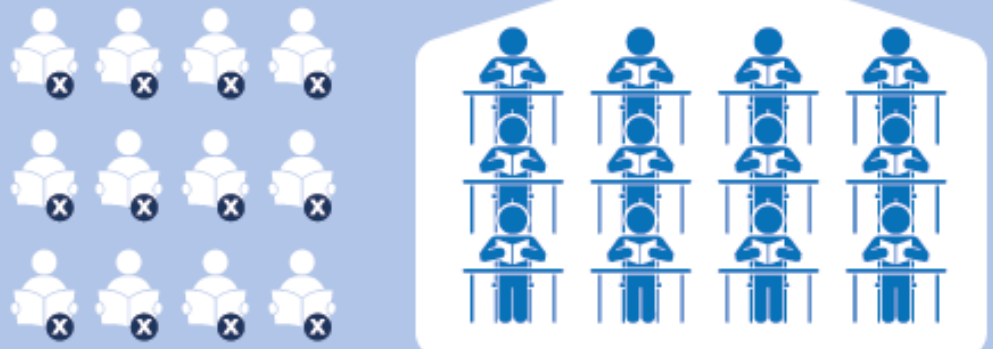
Objective 2: Enhance refugee self-reliance

In 2024, nearly half of refugee children could go to **public schools**.



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Objective 2: Enhance refugee self-reliance

Inclusive work policies reduce refugee poverty and benefit the economies of host communities.

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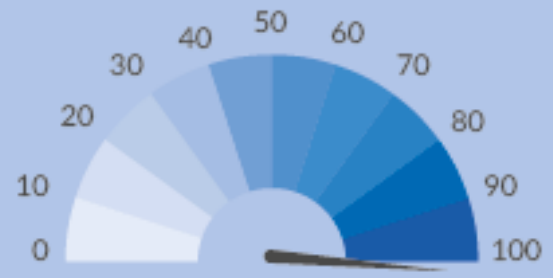
Objective 3: Expand access to third country solutions

RESETTLEMENT SURPASSED the annual target in 2024, before numbers **DROPPED SHARPLY** in 2025.



2024

106%

2025

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Objective 3: Expand access to third country solutions

Complementary pathways on the rise

38 COUNTRIES

having issued permits to over **1.7 million refugees** between 2016 to 2023.

FAMILY

permits accounted for majority of regular pathway admissions, labour and study routes **accelerated**.

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

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Objective 4: Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity

Funding for returnees far below needs:
Funding for returnees amounted to **USD 1.9 BILLION** (2020-2023), far below the level needed to match the **sharp rise in returnee numbers**.

Millions of returnees in 2024 and mid-2025:

1.6 MILLION in **2024**
12 months

2 MILLION in **mid-2025**
6 months

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Advancing refugee data

STATISTICAL INCLUSION IS MAKING GOOD STRIDES, advanced through multi-stakeholder pledges.

GCR data gaps:

- Progress is **FRAGILE**
- Funding cuts **THREATEN** **data availability**

A drawing by a 14-year-old Vietnamese refugee in Singapore, 1975-76. This drawing reflects the enduring hope of refugees for safety and dignity. Over the 75 years of UNHCR's work, that hope has remained unchanged — and so has UNHCR's commitment to protecting and supporting displaced and stateless people around the world. © UNHCR Archives Fonds 10c Children's Drawings (1970-2000)

"As we look ahead to the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review in December 2025, it is essential to sustain momentum and to reaffirm our collective commitment to the principles outlined in the Global Compact on Refugees. Nobody should imagine any of this will be easy. But neither must we resign ourselves to fatalism."

Filippo Grandi
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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Policy recommendations: 7 headline policy recommendations

Key actions: 23 specific and concrete steps

GRF Progress Review: Call to action to States and GCR stakeholders

Side-event during GRF Progress Review: Explore in more depth the key findings and recommendations

GRF 2027: Leverage insights from the report to sustain momentum and safeguard hard-won progress

The mural captures the hope reflected in the eyes of a child gazing towards the future. It was created in Zarqa, Jordan, through collaboration with Syrian refugee youth and Jordanian host community youth. This artwork was part of a large-scale program implemented across Lebanon and Jordan in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the German Development Agency (GIZ). © ARTOLUTION, GIZ. Photo and mural credit: Dr. Max Frieder, Ed.D.

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Updates on Pledges and GRF Progress Review preparations

Mr. Nicolas Brass

Chief of the Global Compact on Refugees Section, UNHCR

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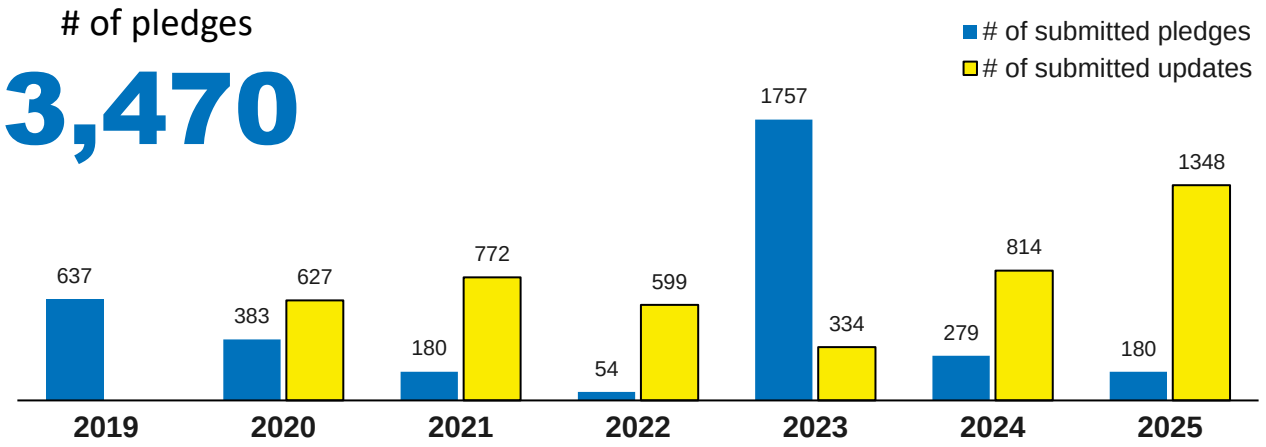
Update on Pledge Implementation

- **1,900 individual updates** received in the last 12 months, **almost 200 new pledges** during same period
- **61%** of received updates include **Meaningful Refugee Participation**
- Cumulatively, **3,470 pledges** recorded:
  - 681 pledges have been **fulfilled**
  - 1,493 are **in progress**
  - 91 at the **planning** stage

Trends in Pledge Submissions and Updates | 2019-2025



Reminder:

- Opportunity **for submission of new pledges at GRF Progress Review** to be featured either during plenary, side-events, or Digital Space
- Pledges to be new, impactful, and ideally linked to support for hosts/origin, **pre-matched**
- Please advise if you intend to pledge by **28 November**

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Pledge Stocktaking Report
Key Takeaways (1)

Objective1

Ease pressure on host countries

$2.6 billion
Reported as disbursed

Pledge implementation

3,470 Pledges, **20% fulfilled**, **45% in progress**

1,900 **Pledge updates (12 months)**

47 **Multi-stakeholder pledges**

Objective 2

Enhance refugee self-reliance

10 countries
adopted or strengthened **laws/policies**

500,000
individuals **reached**

Health / Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

11 out of 15
target countries saw substantial progress in **access to equitable health services**

Education

> 11 additional countries include refugees in **primary and secondary education**

Refugee enrolment in **tertiary education** increased from **6%** in 2023 to **9%** in 2025

Objective 3

Expand access to third-country solutions

152,000
family reunification permits issued in 2023

17 countries **advanced community sponsorships**

11 advancing **machine-readable travel documents**

Objective 4

Support conditions in countries of origin for safe and dignified return

Peacebuilding

initiatives advanced in **Colombia**, **DRC**, **Honduras**, **Iraq**, **South Sudan**

Advancements of **land rights** registration of **and resolution** of disputes in **Burundi**

Investment in **housing for returnees in Syria**

Human Settlements

14 countries progressed in transitioning / **enabling human settlements**

Connectivity

6 States actively supporting **refugee connectivity**, with over **6 mobile network operators engaged**

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Pledge Stocktaking Report
Key Takeaways (2)

Key enablers that facilitated these advancements are outlined below

International Protection:

- 10 countries **strengthened asylum systems** through 7 cooperation matches
- 25 countries joined the **Global Alliance to End Statelessness**
- At least 4 States advanced towards **child protection**

Stakeholders mobilized through the GRF pledges to deliver better, more efficiently

- **UN Common Pledge 2.0:** 24 UNCTs integrated refugee-related priorities in national frameworks.
- **Whole-of-government-approach:** 10 countries launch national plans supporting including/solutions.
- **Cities:** Over 60 local and regional governments made pledges.
- **Private Sector:** ex. PILNET provided +390,000 hours pro bono legal assistance.
- **Refugee Participation:** 11 countries establish Refugee Advisory Mechanisms.
- **Regional support platforms, pledges** advancing. Progress remains uneven.

Overarching Challenges

- Based on OECD reporting, **decrease in HDP funding**, despite USD 2.6 billion disbursement
- **Uneven implementation** of pledges
- Many policy pledges lack sufficient **matching, detailed costing, and sustained donor backing**
- **Regulatory barriers to inclusion** as well as shifts in political priorities.
- Limited reporting on to **return and reintegration**, as well as HLP
- Scope for upscaled/broadened support, by **private sector**, despite notable engagement
- Scope for better mainstreaming of **AGD and MRP**
- **Development action and financing remain limited**, despite engagement by many

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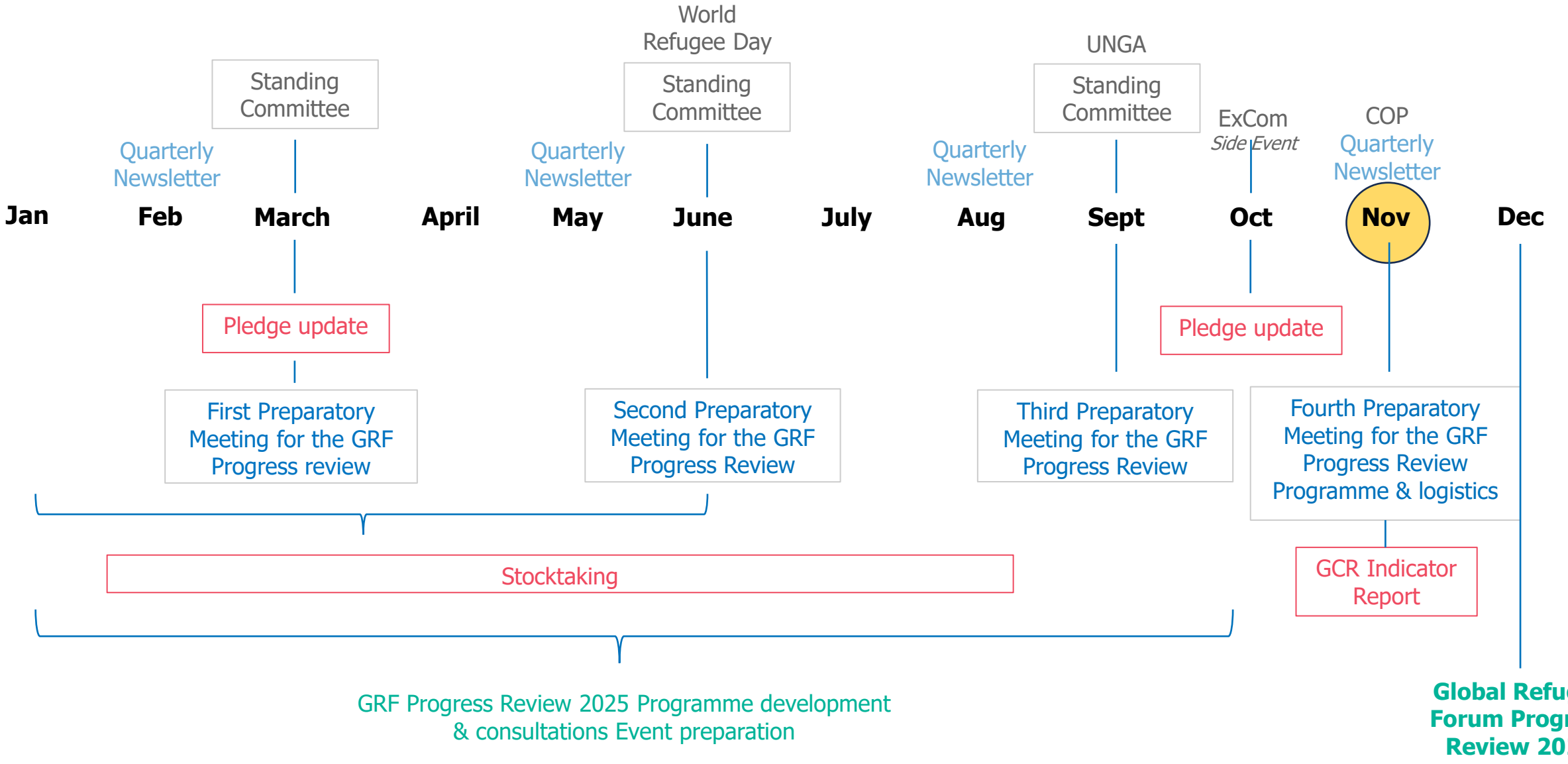
Global timeline GRF Progress Review - 2025



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GRF Progress Review Programme

Day 1

Monday 15 December				
10:00 - 12:00	**Opening Session:** Guiding Refugee Responses in a Changing World			
12:00 - 13:00	**Commencement of Plenary Discussion**			
13:00 - 15:00	**Plenary Break**	**Speakers' Corner**		
		Side Events [13:30 - 15:00]		**Strategic Dialogue**
		Impact and Benefits of Resettlement: Perspectives from host and resettlement countries	From Commitment to Impact: Advancing Gender Equality and Ending Violence against Refugee Women and Girls	Rethinking Refugee Finance: Innovation in an era of mounting pressures
15:00 - 16:15	**Plenary Spotlight Session** Scaling Refugee Employment: Policy, Partnerships, and Labour Mobility			
16:15 - 16:30	**Plenary Pledge Announcements**			
16:30 - 18:00	**Plenary Discussion**	**Side Events**		**Strategic Dialogue**
		Accelerating HDP Nexus Approach in Forced Displacement Settings	Connected and Protected: Safeguarding Digital Protection in the AI era	Sustaining Momentum: Leveraging Insights from the GCR Indicator Report and the Role of Data

Tuesday 16 December
Day 2

09:00 - 11:30	**Plenary Discussion**	**Side Events** [09:30 - 11:00]		**Strategic Dialogue**
		Safe pathways for Refugees: Unlocking international mobility for a sustainable future	Cities Turning GCR Commitments into Local Impact	GCR Mechanisms: Support Platforms
11:30 - 11:45	**Plenary Pledge Announcements**			**Side Event** [11:30 – 13:00]
11:45 - 13:00	**Plenary Spotlight Session** Bridging Gaps, Strengthening Systems, Fostering Well-being: Refugee Inclusion in National Health, Social Protection and Digital Identity Systems			Route-based approach in action under the GCR
13:00 - 15:00	**Plenary Break**	**Speakers' Corner** [13:00 - 13:30]		
		Side Events [13:30 - 15:00]		**Strategic Dialogue**
		Human Settlements as Foundations for Inclusive and Resilient Futures	Implementation of the GCR in Latin America and the Caribbean	Rohingya Multi-stakeholder Pledge Event
15:00 - 15:15	**Plenary Goodwill Ambassador Keynote and Pledge Announcements**			
15:15 - 16:45	**Plenary Discussion**	**Side Events**		**Strategic Dialogue**
		Meaningful Refugee Participation in Practice: Scaling impact and shaping the path forward	Multi-Year Financing for Refugee Education: A Shared Responsibility to Secure Sustainable Futures	Lomé Dialogue: Sub regional protection and solutions strategy
16:45 - 18:00	**Plenary Spotlight Session** Making Returns Sustainable and Supporting Reintegration in Today's World			
[From 19:30] **Nansen Refugee Award Ceremony**				

Wednesday 17 December
Day 3

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="2">09:00 - 11:00</td><td rowspan="2">Plenary Discussion</td><td colspan="2">Side Events [9:30 - 11:00]</td><td>Strategic Dialogue</td></tr>
<tr><td>Taking Stock of Development Action in Response to the Sudan Regional Crisis</td><td>Legal Identity for All: Addressing statelessness to achieve SDGs</td><td>GCR Mechanisms: Strengthening the Pledge Framework</td></tr>
<tr><td>11:00 - 11:30</td><td colspan="4">Plenary Pledge Announcements</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">11:30 - 13:00</td><td rowspan="2">Plenary Discussion</td><td colspan="3">Side Events</td></tr>
<tr><td>Syria High Level Event</td><td colspan="2">Localization Under Pressure: Navigating Challenges, Shaping the Future</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">13:00 - 15:00</td><td rowspan="2">Plenary Break</td><td colspan="3">Speakers’ Corner</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Plenary Spotlight Session [13:30 - 14:45]
Delivering Better: How the GCR contributes to UN80 and the Humanitarian Reset through efficiency and collective impact for refugee inclusion – The UN Common Pledge 2.0</td><td>Side Event [13:30 - 15:00]
Partnering for Protection: Strengthening National Asylum Systems</td></tr>
<tr><td>15:00 - 16:30</td><td colspan="2">Plenary Discussion</td><td colspan="2">Side Event [15:00 - 16:00]
High level Event on Sustainable Responses</td></tr>
<tr><td>16:30 - 18:00</td><td colspan="4">Closing Session</td></tr>
</table>

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Ecosystem

Exhibition

Speakers' Corner

- 30 min every day during plenary break
- Featuring people with lived experience

Linked events

- 25 independently organized events in Geneva (from 9th to 19th December)

Peer-to-peer exchanges

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Digital Space

Following their success in the past, where hundreds of submissions were received, 2025 sees the launch of a new Digital Space for the GRF Progress Review

A whole-of-society approach

- Submissions welcome from all stakeholders

A global platform for refugee voices

- Content made by and with refugees and stateless people, including those who cannot attend in person, is promoted.

A resource for the future

- Content will be promoted long after the GRF Progress Review, providing strong examples of the GCR in action to complement.

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Where you can find more information

- Centre International de Conférences de Genève (CICG)
- Global Refugee Forum Progress Review
- Programme overview
- Frequently Asked Questions

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Logistical updates on the GRF Progress Review

Ms. Anne Keah

Chief of the Governance Section, UNHCR

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Discussion and interventions

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Closing remarks

Ms. Ruvendrini Menikdiwela

Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, UNHCR

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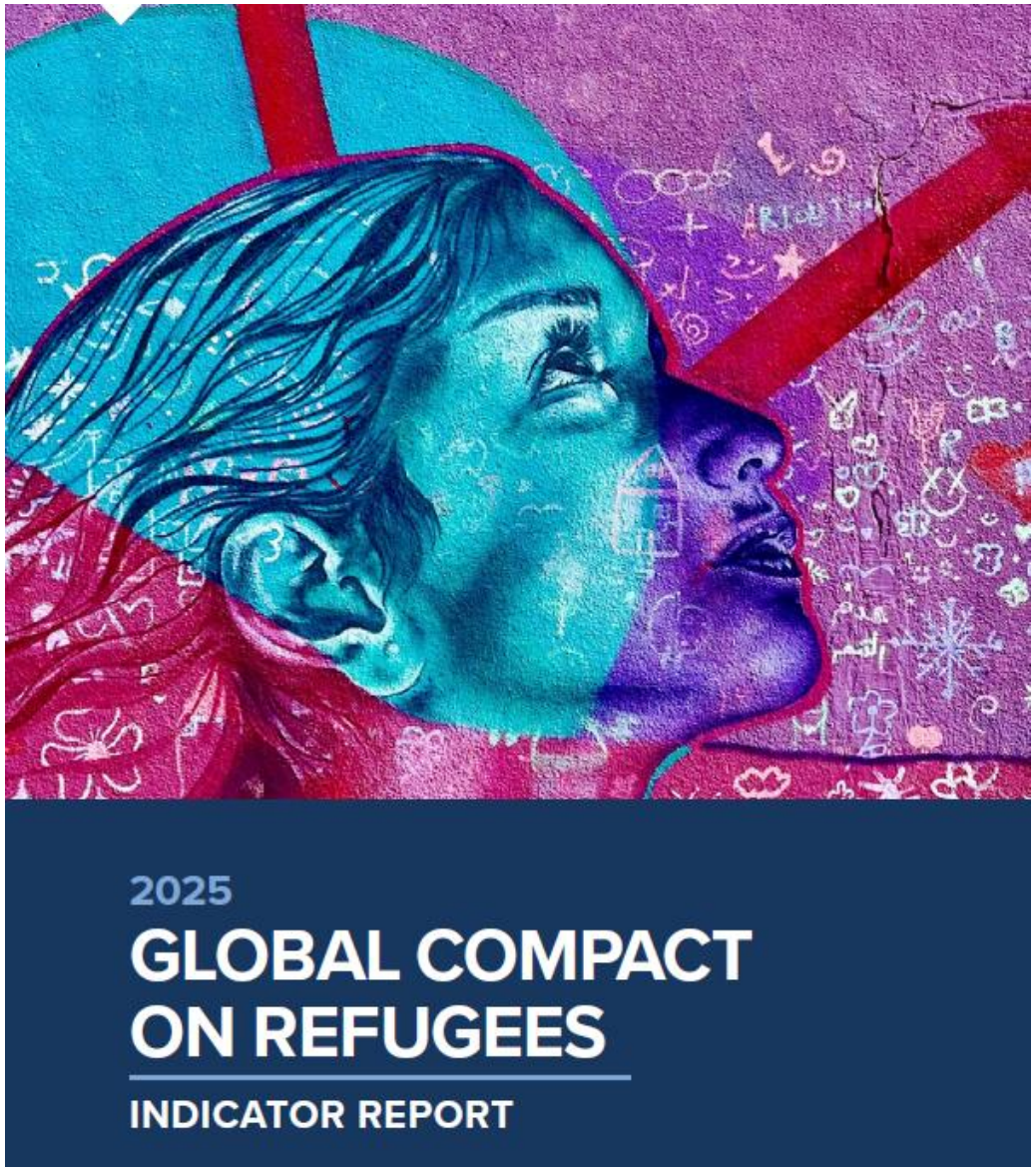

Access the report

https://www.unhcr.org/publications/indicator-report-2025

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Thank you