

SOLUTIONS



Jwana, 19, and Rozana, 17, were resettled to Liechtenstein in 2016 with their mother and one of their sisters.
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Facts and Figures¹

Seeking and finding solutions that ensure full respect of human rights for the forcibly displaced, and allow them to rebuild their lives wherever they are, are the ultimate goals pursued by UNHCR and the international community. For many refugees, the preferred solution is to return to their country of origin. Those who cannot return because of continued conflict, persecution, violence, and violations of human rights may find a home in another country, through resettlement and other complementary pathways, such as humanitarian visas, private sponsorship schemes and family reunification processes, among others.

Other possible solutions are local integration and other local solutions within the host community.

During the past few years, opportunities for voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity and other solutions have not kept pace with the rate of new displacements resulting in more and more refugees living in protracted situations. Every continent has been affected, in truly global patterns, even though the impact is overwhelmingly concentrated in low- and middle-income regions, which are facing their own economic and development challenges.

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, the figures below draw on UNHCR's 2018 Global Trends Report, which counts and tracks the numbers of refugees, internally displaced people, people who have returned to their countries or areas of origin, asylum-seekers, stateless people and other populations of concern to UNHCR as of the end of 2018.

Voluntary Repatriation. While most refugees prefer to return to their country of origin, conditions for safe and dignified return remained challenging in 2018. A total of 593,800 individuals returned home in 2018, with some of these returns being self-organised, and others constituting facilitated voluntary repatriation by UNHCR.

Resettlement and Complementary Pathways. With local solutions and opportunities for voluntary return often limited, resettlement plays a life-saving role as a tool for protection and a durable solution for some of the world's most vulnerable refugees. Despite increasing resettlement needs identified by UNHCR, there was a 54 percent drop in available resettlement quotas to 75,188 places in 2017, compared to 163,200 places offered in 2016. This downward trend continued last year: according to data released earlier this year on UNHCR-facilitated resettlement departures, of the estimated 1.2 million refugees in need of resettlement in 2018, only 55,680 were actually resettled.

Complementary pathways are safe and regulated avenues for refugees that complement

resettlement by providing lawful stay in a third country where their international protection needs are met. Complementary pathways can expand third country solutions, ease pressure on host countries and enhance refugees' self-reliance by building their capacities to attain a durable solution.

Local Integration and Local Solutions. Pursuing local integration and other local solutions for refugees in their country of asylum is a gradual process, entailing progressively addressing the multifaceted dimensions of solutions. The objective is to empower refugees to pursue sustainable livelihoods, contribute to the social and economic life of the host country, and live among the host population without discrimination or exploitation.

Over time the process may lead to permanent residence rights, long term legal stay with predictable renewal, and, in some cases, the acquisition of citizenship in the country of asylum. Recognizing that the reported number of naturalized refugees in a given period is not a true reflection of local integration, the total number of newly naturalized refugees stood at 62,600 refugee at the end of 2018.

The Global Compact on Refugees

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

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

The Global Compact on Refugees recognises that the most effective way of achieving durable solutions is by eliminating the root causes and triggers of forced displacement, including through political and security cooperation, diplomacy, development and the promotion and protection of human rights.

But addressing root causes takes time. The implementation of the Global Compact therefore rests on the pursuit of a number of solutions, including the three traditional ones of voluntary

repatriation, resettlement and local integration, as well as other local solutions and complementary pathways for admission to third countries, which may provide additional opportunities.

Solutions can only be realized when we are working together. No country or community should have to deal with refugee situations on their own. More support is needed, not only for people who have been displaced, but also for the communities that host them, and for their countries of origin in creating conditions conducive to return.

The Global Compact sets out measures to bring greater predictability, and to engage a wider range of States and relevant stakeholders for the achievement of solutions. These include support for countries of origin and host countries, to create conditions conducive to voluntary return, offers of resettlement and complementary pathways, and support for those States electing to provide opportunities for local integration or other local solutions.

The Global Refugee Forum

The **Global Refugee Forum – on 17 and 18 December 2019** – is an opportunity to mobilize all actors to make **concrete progress** towards the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, including by planning for solutions from the outset of refugee situations.

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

Contributions and good practices could centre on **commitments towards The Three-Year (2019-2021) strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways, which was envisaged by The Global Compact and developed through a multi-stakeholder approach. The vision of the Strategy to**

expand resettlement and complementary pathways will be achieved through the leadership, collaboration and commitment of a wide range of partners.

They could also focus on **promoting enabling conditions for voluntary and dignified repatriation and return.**

Another priority could be to **support countries of origin to receive and reintegrate returnees, and support returning refugees and IDPs.**

Other areas of focus could be to **promote laws and policies that align with human rights commitments and enable local integration and local solutions, and to support local integration and local solutions initiatives.**

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

Key Resources

UNHCR Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2018

Resettlement at a Glance (January – December 2018)

Key considerations: Complementary Pathways for admission of refugees to third countries