



## UNHCR third informal briefing, the Global Refugee Forum follow-up

Online

28 September 2020

### Speakers:

#### UNHCR:

- Gillian Triggs, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection
- Perveen Ali, Head, GRF
- Caroline Lensing-Hebben, Senior Comprehensive Refugee Responses Officer
- Ziad Ayad, Senior Policy Officer, GRF
- Shahrzad Tadjbakhsh, Deputy Director, Division of International Protection
- Safak Pavey, Senior Advisor, Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Team
- Rachel Criswell, Senior Policy Officer, Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Team
- David Manicom, Special Advisor, Resettlement and Complementary Pathways, Division of International Protection
- Jaime Bourbon de Parme, Senior Advisor, Division of External Relations
- Yosola Olorunshola, Associate External Relations Officer.

Available online: [Agenda](#), UNHCR's [PowerPoint Presentation](#), and [video recording](#).

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### Opening remarks

- **Slide 5:** The GCR has proved some level of agility/flexibility to meet new crises. COVID-19 has provided the opportunity to orient some pledges, e.g. strengthen refugees' access to health systems. Initially, health attracted relatively few pledges but now it is a global priority.
- The pandemic also demonstrated the GCR imperative vision of collaboration, global solidarity and responsibility-sharing. Be resilient not only with pandemics but also for other future changes, including climate change or natural disasters.



- An important lesson that we are learning is the importance of communications generally.

#### Update on follow-up to the Global Refugee Forum

- Slide 7: we have a general road map that we have been following this year to institutionalize the follow-up to the Forum, both internally and externally, with all our partners.
- The first part of the road map, earlier in the year, was the analysis of the pledges, identifying where the largest percentages of pledges lay and where the gaps and opportunities were.
- The second part was working on ways to concretize pledges and match them.
- The third part is tracking progress of pledges.
- The fourth part is thinking through what we want to achieve by the time of the next Forum.
- Where we stand now: identifying where we stand with the pledges. Many different pledging entities reported progress and we are working closely with many pledging entities to concretize and match pledges.
- Pledges now need to be directed to support different host countries. We are working very closely with donors to identify where those opportunities might best fit their contributions.
- We are also working on potential matching of pledges. We already have 160 pledges that have been matched. Meaning that 80 pledges made by host countries are matched with 80 pledges that are going to support their implementation. This is promising and just a start.
- We are also working at the regional level to develop mechanisms for follow-up and this will vary from region to region.
- In some regions, we have the Support Platforms which can be good in mobilizing mechanisms. We will also be organizing different kinds of regional groups committees or events to take stock of progress and to plan for the future.
- Finally, we are working to continue to work closely with the co-conveners, the co-hosts, and the co-sponsors of the Forum in various aspects of engagement and follow-up.
- States in Geneva received a joint letter by the co-conveners and co-hosts of the Forum encouraging continued support and engagement. Strong signal of political engagement. We will continue working closely with different actors moving forward into planning for 2021.
- Slide 8: We are undertaking a lesson learned exercise. We have recruited a consultant who is working with UNHCR to conduct this exercise independently and will be producing a set of recommendations and considerations for the future, to be made public towards the end of the year. We hope it will inform the way we plan for both the high-level official meeting which will be held in December of 2021 to take stock of progress as well as to think through how best we should prepare for the next Global Refugee Forum.
- In the lead up to this high-level official meeting, we are anticipating a series of regional and thematic stocktaking opportunities. This could bring together key stakeholders at those events, to identify how progress has been made on pledges, where gaps are, where opportunities are, where we need to go in the future.
- There will be a number of regional opportunities aligned with ongoing regional processes.
- We will be producing an indicator report, providing us with a good sense of what our baseline is and where we need to go in the future. We hope the stocktaking and the indicators report will help us develop a road map for 2023.

#### Progress towards key initiatives launched for the Global Refugee Forum

- Slide 9: We are on track to deliver by the end of 2021 a comprehensive report on the impact of the various GCR initiatives and related indicators.
- We recently onboarded a dedicated Statistician that will be leading the process. We will start with the development of data collection drawing from existing data as well as those provided by some of our partners, the World Bank, OECD, and others.



- Slide 10: update on pledges implementation. Progress reported in total about 340 voluntary submissions made by States and others.
- Encouraging simply by the fact that it represents around 1/4 of all the pledges that were made at the Forum. Does not necessarily reflect others that have not yet made voluntary submissions and we recognize there is a variance between what could be characterized as 'in progress' but nevertheless, it is encouraging in terms of basic statistics.
- The majority of the update submissions were made by States, followed by NGOs. Europe and global pledges made up around 60% of the update and the areas the most reflected were Protection Capacity, Education, and Solution.

#### Support Platforms for IGAD, MIRPS, and the SSAR

- The 3 Support Platforms are very concrete examples of solidarity and responsibility-sharing. We see an active and enthusiastic engagement of stakeholders and partners.
- Slide 12: The SSAR Support Platform.
- The core group currently includes 8 States as well as the World Bank and UNDP. The upcoming core group meeting is on October 7. It will be an opportunity for reinvigorated support by the international community. It will be critical for our actions in coming months.
- Note the upcoming 2020 conference on Afghanistan confirmed for 23-24 of November. It will provide a chance to ensure that solutions for Afghan refugees are firmly embedded in Afghanistan long-term strategies and plans, including the Afghanistan national peace and development framework.
- Slide 13: The MIRPS Support Platform.
- We are energized and highly encouraged by Spain's exemplary dynamic leadership of the platform. Spain has shown great commitment at a critical time when the structural causes of forced displacement in Central America is getting worse.
- Spain has already helped raise awareness for the complex displacement crisis in Central America, and to mobilize new partners. E.g. Spain has reached out to all its embassies and Chambers of Commerce in the subregion to prompt private sector engagement.
- Ten States are members of the platform as well as two observers as part of the platform's work plan opportunities for bilateral cooperation to strengthen asylum systems.
- Spain also organized at the UN GA last week a high-level event on regional cooperation, where Canada confirmed its role as next chair of the Support Platform, from June 2021.
- Slide 14: The IGAD Support Platform.
- A meeting was convened with UN Permanent Missions in Geneva to discuss next steps in the operationalization of the platform. The IGAD Secretariat in Djibouti is now leading preparations for the first support platform meeting in 2020. Widening and deepening the participation of other partners in the Nairobi process is a priority. The first regional support platform meeting will provide the opportunity to move on this agenda.
- The digital platform will host the portal for each Support Platform to ease information sharing and experience sharing amongst the three platforms.

#### Asylum Capacity Support Group

- Slide 15: The ACSG is a mechanism and its objective is to help match pledges made by States that request support with corresponding offers, i.e. pledges of support of technical material or financial capacity.
- Drafted in close consultations with stakeholders the ACSG working modalities and its associated guide are available on the Dashboard and in multiple languages. It clarifies the process and outline generally what States are expected to do in the first instance, i.e.



capacity assessment and make commitments to improve one or more aspects of their system prior to making a request for support.

- The vision of our work is to ensure the implementation of this mechanism proceeds in a very decentralized manner. The work is mainly going to be done at national and regional level with the engagement of States.
- The ACSG Secretariat has been set up within DIP at UNHCR headquarter in order also to enable a cross-regional matching of support.
- We are working on a daily basis to take the 50+ pledges that we have received to concretize them and to try to match them.
- We have been engaging with Permanent Missions to ensure everyone is on the same page.

#### Pledges from the High-Level Segment on Statelessness

- Slide 16: 396 pledges.
- Examples of implementation: 15 pledges are now fully implemented and they are notable. We have seen accession laws, amnesty laws, changes in legislation that benefit stateless persons and enable birth registration. We have seen national action plans developed; we have also even seen implementation of specific points in national action plans.
- E.g. we have finalized an update of the good practice guide on setting-up statelessness determination procedures, one theme that came up systematically in various pledges. Now we are also working on updating the good practice guide on reduction of statelessness.
- Grateful for receiving targeted funding, specifically from the US. We are prioritizing the rollout of these extra funding through some of our country operations to support the implementation we would like to see going forward.
- We would like to see other interested States come forward and make a pledge of support.
- E.g. The Inter Parliamentary Union and national parliamentarians who might have recently changed their respective laws could do peer-to-peer support to other States.

#### Multi-stakeholder engagement (cities, faith communities, parliamentarians)

- Slide 17: Mayors immigration council and United Cities in partnership with local governments led to 5 GRF city pledges.
- The municipality of eThekweni in Durban, South Africa is the first city to have pledged on improving social cohesion and the provision of services to refugees.
- We are encouraged by progress made on pledges by cities, despite the COVID-19 challenges.
- This city workstream continues to align with good practices of the global city ecosystem including the global task force on migration that will be launched on 30 September, a commitment that was made in the Gaziantep Declaration late last year. This will be a mechanism also to build up further pledges ahead of the 2023 GRF.
- We also continue to share cities best practices through UNHCR, with refugees' initiatives and through a series of regional webinars held in the context of inclusive cities and COVID-19 responses which can be found on the Dashboard.
- A key global pledge is from IPU, which committed to raise parliaments' awareness on progress and challenges in compliance with refugee responses at each IPU event, including the recent 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference of speakers of parliaments held on 19-20 August.
- Pledges by IPU also include capacity building initiatives for Parliamentarians in legislative work that can be complementary to national and regional pledges. On this, a series of parliamentary roundtables are being organized to encourage North-South parliamentary cooperation and solidarity for strengthening effective parliamentary engagement.
- The first parliamentary roundtables on 30 September in support of implementing pledges will be focusing on the support platform objectives and recent developments on forced

displacement in the IGAD region, bringing together parliamentarians from IGAD countries and members of the EU Parliament.

- We aim to create peer-to-peer support networks through these synergies.
- We are producing guidance notes for parliamentarians including responses to COVID-19 and also engagement through updates shared.
- There are commitments from religious leaders' faith representatives, religious institutions as well as commitments on addressing the root causes of conflict. Prevention, reconciliation, peacebuilding and the promotion of social cohesion need further strengthening.
- Fostering greater collaboration with religious institutions and communities on addressing root causes, is one of our objectives.
- The first high-level consultations with religious leaders on 14 September, with faith representatives and institutions committed to form a multi-religious council of leaders at global level to support UNHCR's efforts in the buildup to the next Forum in 2023.

#### Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network

- Slide 18: GAIN aims is to contribute to research and teaching on forced displacement and scholarship in support of displaced students which is envisioned in GCR para. 43.
- Some research will highlight several of contributions in the written mid-term report coming out in a few months.
- Highlight one development: a youth-led film screened in the margins of UNGA today, telling the story of 5 different refugee families in slums of Nairobi and their experience during the pandemic. This is one small part of a 3-year project by the International Institute for Environment and Development, which will continue to help us and strengthen the evidence-base for the GCR from now until 2023.
- Thanks to UK funding, another development for those interested in tertiary education and support to refugee students, is a protracted displacement virtual conference taking place in the MENA region, from 18 October, where refugee students and a coalition of academics will share best practices and lessons learned on integrating refugees into tertiary education.
- Another pledge was made by the [San Remo International Institute of Humanitarian Law to provide an online annual GCR course](#). Registration is now open; it begins on November 16.
- E.g. contributions from the ASILE discussion forum. There will be a series of blogs by a number of different academics as well as a primer on forced displacement and COVID-19.
- E.g. The WB-UNHCR Joint Data Center on forced displacement has just updated and published on their website, a compilation of a variety of different projects around the world that are currently researching forced displacement and the pandemic.
- Highlight UNHCR's role in the establishment, in partnership with the University of Essex, of the secretariat for the Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network.

#### The Three-Year Strategy and Complementary Pathways

- Slide 19: the graphic shows a timeline with key numerical milestones to build new advocacy and program design partnerships and some of the research and communications infrastructure that underpins our efforts.
- Following the launch of the Strategy last July, the GRF resulted in 78 related pledges.
- After intensive post-GRF consultations, an action plan was issued in March of this year, detailing concrete activities by several dozen partners, a working platform for collaboration.
- The next reporting milestone will be a strategy report later this autumn.
- Sadly, the 2020 goal of resettlement departures will not be met due to the pandemic.
- UNHCR staff continued the resettlement process as much as possible. Arrivals are now restarting slowly. We are currently at about 12,000 resettlements departure for the year.



- We work closely in collaboration with OECD. We will update the available data of refugee arrivals in third countries, using other pathways such as labor, reunification, and education.
- The first global task force and education pathways have now met virtually twice as a result of a pledge by the Japanese International Christian University Foundation. Several sections of a new online discussion forum on education pathways in Asia is brought together. It is an entirely new network of experts and advocates already leading to concrete results. This will also amplify our efforts to convene an experts' roundtable in Asia including States to build third-country solutions in that region.
- In January of the year, UNHCR and IOM launched the joint initiative « Sustainable resettlement and complementary pathways initiative » (CRISP) to support States and stakeholders to establish or expand programs in advanced pathways.
- The new website of the joint initiative has provided the resource platform for capacity building and partnerships and we have commissioned research to map opportunities and provide an evidence-base on the outcomes of resettlement.
- The Government of Canada recently announced an ambitious new goal of plus 500 refugees resettled families via their existing Economic Mobility Pathway.
- 20 refugee students also arrived under a brand-new education-based version of Italy's humanitarian corridors initiatives.

### Clean Energy Challenge

- The Clean Energy Challenge is a campaign. Its ambition and clear target to reach jointly is to bring cleaner and safer energy to all refugees' settlements and host communities in this decade of action.
- It is also a marketplace where we try to unearth what the demand is in the field and match it with the global supply.
- We are focusing not just on refugees but also on host communities through a long-term and development focus, bridging the humanitarian-development gap.
- The focusing on refugee self-reliance and energy is the system changer. Energy has a massive impact on the environment, healthcare, and jobs but in COVID-19 times, you need to have access to connectivity. It could help you access to online finance, jobs, education, so it is essential to focus on energy.
- At the GRF, we started with 30 members and it has now grown to 80 entities.
- Slide 21: the Challenge focus on four outcome areas, first on emergencies.
- The second focus is around immediate energy for cooking. Refugees have to fight for their own energy needs to survive and there are strong environmental, security, and health impacts related to cooking that we have to address.
- The third focus is on electricity, to find your way around at night in a camp setting, charge your phone, etc. Energy is something needed in emergency phase, yet the humanitarian community has not adopted it as a primary need, but it has been moving in that direction.
- Lastly, we need stable energy for facilities such as health care centers, water supplies, education centers.
- Slide 22: we work on 3 areas to make the outcomes happen. The first one is data: We are working on a baseline to identify global opportunities to know what is the need and what best energy solutions could fulfill the need. We need to identify common indicators, so we centralize the standard-setting, decentralize data gathering, call for action to support on energy feasibility studies and ask entities that have that expertise to move also in our space.
- The second area is project pipelines and we have created a marketplace to match demand and make it visible. We have projects from Colombia, Tanzania, Uganda, Bangladesh, Sudan.
- My call for action to all of you is to develop and share project with us and particularly those that can be scaled up.



- The third area is financing/fundraising. How we can bring in money and also investments into this space? We clearly noted that we need to de-risk investments in the humanitarian space. We are looking at guarantee mechanisms and other mechanisms to do so. Our call for action to you is to support and enable large-scale long-term investments and this will be often public-private engagements.
- Slide 24: The Global Plan of Action is creating a 10-year road map with targets and milestones. The roadmap will be finished soon and shared with all.
- Slide 23: Some pictures that refer to electrification, healthcare facilities. Cooking solutions are still incredibly primitive and these need to be upscaled.

#### Digital Platform

- Progress since the last briefing in terms of analytics, we received 16,000-page views per month on average and the most visited area of the website is the pledges and contributions which shows how much interest there is.
- In June, we published more than 350 good practices. Encourage all to share a good practice.
- We have improved the filters to help the search by area of focus, by region, or by topic.
- The first progress update (newsletter) was published in September, highlighting some pledges, the support platforms, and GCR initiatives. If you have not received it, encourage you to sign up to our newsletter (contact slide 29).

#### Discussion

1. Germany
2. UNICEF
3. United Cities and Local Governments
4. Ecuador
5. Danish Refugee Council
  - DRC has published a study exploring the impact of COVID-19 on the Global Compact on Refugees, see [here](#) and on behalf of the Danish Refugee Council and the Mixed Migration Center invite for a webinar on 14 October on COVID-19 and the Global Refugee and Migration Compacts: What learning and way forward?
6. EU
7. Spain
8. Sweden
9. Norway
10. Italy
11. USA
12. UNDP
13. Switzerland
14. Kenya
15. International Institute for Environmental Development
16. Rwanda
17. HIAS
  - Part of the Poverty Alleviation Coalition and will provide an update on the pledge made by the Coalition to elevate the poverty of 160,000 refugees and host community households in 26 countries. The Coalition's current funding is around \$11,000,000 with these we are able to meet our target 11,000 households or 54,000 individuals in Bangladesh, Ecuador, Jordan, Kenya, Peru, Somalia and Mozambique.
  - The main donors of the Coalition are Canada, the European Union, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Novo Nordisk Foundation.



- In light of COVID-19, refugee self-reliance has disproportionately been impacted with grave consequences for their well-being and protection.
  - Donors and the international community are requested to step up funding to help the coalition achieve commitments set out in the pledge in support of the second GCR objective.
18. Denmark
19. United Kingdom
20. ICVA (on behalf of NGOs). A short NGO statement was delivered. See the [statement](#).
21. International Rescue Committee
- Fully support ICVA statement and questions raised: Can we have the opportunity to discuss the GCR implementation more broadly and also to look at other pledges where we do not have progress reports? It is very encouraging to hear that over 300 updates have been submitted but what about the other ones? We have 1400 pledges overall.
  - IRC was not able to submit updates on all pledges because mainly of technical issues: we could not find our pledges on the Dashboard. Is there an email address that we can use to ask for help in navigating the Dashboard?
  - Elaborating on the matching criteria as civil society I would very much like to contribute to the matching exercise. Can we set aside some time to discuss the criteria that UNHCR has used so far to combine policy pledges with financial or other kinds of pledges?

#### Closing remarks

- Was a little worried that COVID-19 would put us off track, that we would lose momentum but while some pledges implementation are delayed, we are basically keeping that momentum.
- Several of you commented on the importance of showing impact, of demonstrating generous donations we had – Germany, Sweden, Denmark and others – that we need to be able to achieve the principles of the Compact. Instruments like the Dashboard are starting to demonstrate that, but we hope as months go by, we will be able to give a much more comprehensive analysis to demonstrate what impacts.
- We will be reporting on the pledges' implementation.
- Mention the importance of some comments made on current socio-economic challenges, the importance of partnerships, particularly in working with faith-based groups, the importance of local government, the importance of the UNICEF blueprint, the importance of the ACSG, strengthening of leadership and advocacy, the role of financial institutions and the importance of engagement and integration of NGOs.
- Many of you have mentioned the importance of the support platforms. There is a growing interest in the 3 platforms, and it is going from strength to strength.