



**Virtual consultation on the 2021 High-Level Officials Meeting and proposed orientations for the
GCR indicators report**

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Chosen extracts

Speakers:

UNHCR:

- Raouf Mazou, Assistant High Commissioner for Operations
- Perveen Ali, Head of the Global Refugee Forum Coordination Team
- Nicolas Fasel, Senior Statistician, Global Refugee Forum Coordination Team / Global Data Service.

Available online: the [Agenda](#), UNHCR’s [PowerPoint Presentation](#), [Preliminary considerations for the high-level officials meeting](#) and the [Proposed orientations for the GCR indicators report](#).

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Opening remarks

- Since the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) took place, we encountered unprecedented challenges with the pandemic and escalating crisis, but many stakeholders have reported progress in implementing their pledges, of the 700 pledge updates we received formally and informally, it is encouraging that more than 3/4 are reported as in progress and 15% already fulfilled. The greatest areas of progress reported are in Responsibility-sharing, Education and Protection capacity and the majority of pledges fulfilled were related to solutions.
- The High-level officials meeting (HLOM) will be held every 2 years after a GRF to take stock of progress and maintain momentum towards the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). It is an opportunity to review how far we have strengthened support for host communities, increased opportunities for refugees to become self-reliant and participate actively in their communities, progress made on solutions including on statelessness.
- To build the evidence base for this discussion we will be launching the first GCR indicators report. We recognize States' important contributions on setting a baseline and establishing a comparable data collection system to measure progress against the GCR objectives.
- HLOM will also be an opportunity to draw upon the good practices and lessons learned over the past year to consider how we should focus our effort on the future to ensure that the GCR principles become realities.
- It is an opportunity for senior officials including heads of ministries responsible for refugee matters, to work together to recognize where progress has been made including in the months leading up to the HLOM and also to shape the way forward. The stocktaking will not only be a moment for reflection but will also present an opportunity for action.
- Partnerships, further support and pledges should be cultivated or deepened where required.

Preliminary considerations for the 2021 High-Level Officials Meeting

- The GCR envisioned regular periodic follow-up and review on progress towards the objectives: 1) GRF taking place every 4 years 2) Annual Report of the High Commissioner to the General Assembly 3) HLOM taking place every 2 years as an opportunity to take stock of progress and maintain momentum towards meeting the GCR objectives 4) The GCR indicators report which will be issued every 2 years. The first report will be launched in 2021.
- The main purpose of the HLOM is to take stock of the GCR objectives and maintain momentum. It is part of a dynamic process and we need to inform the next steps. We will be looking specifically at how we are working to ease pressure on host countries, how far we have come, how we have worked to enhance refugee self-reliance particularly in the areas of education, access to livelihoods, and the alleviation of poverty. We will also be looking at how far we have been able to expand access to third-country solutions, i.e. resettlement and complementary pathways, voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity, and in reviewing progress within the unique context of the pandemic and the particular pressures and challenges that it posed.
- We will start with stocktaking events at the regional level from:
 - a thematic perspective (Education, Solutions, Protection Capacity, Jobs and Livelihoods, Energy, Health and Infrastructure, Burden- and Responsibility-sharing).
 - a stakeholder specific perspective, looking at how private sector, refugees, NGOs, civil society, faith-based actors, sports organizations, academics and others engagement.
- The purpose of this stocktaking is to:
 - identify progress and challenges in areas for further engagement to meet GCR objectives.
 - opportunity for UNHCR to take into consideration challenges posed by COVID-19 in 2020, how we worked to address these or adapt and how the GCR provided tools.



- an opportunity to identify the next steps including the directions for the next GRF.
- We need to consider where are partnerships that need to deepen and where we need to bring new partners, where we need new pledges to address gaps, where we need support to ensure fulfillment of policy commitments that were made.
- The request to update on pledges implementation in 2021 (twice) will help UNHCR to look at what pledges have been fulfilled, are in progress, and are in planning, looking at a more granular detail to understand what that means in practice for specific pledges.
- Stocktaking will also look at key mechanisms and initiatives, e.g. Support Platforms, Asylum Capacity Support Group, Clean Energy Challenge, Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network, Three-Year Strategy on resettlement and complementary pathways.
- We will look at the CRRF implementation in major refugee situations.
- The road map starts with stocktaking at the regional level and global level, part of an agenda or already planned events or frameworks.
- 23 June: informal briefing on stocktaking preliminary outcomes. UNHCR hopes to find a way to start thinking on actions States and other stakeholders would like to take before the end 2021 and how they would like to frame their HLOM interventions and participation.
- 27 October: consultation on the modalities in the program for the HLOM.
- UNHCR aims to consolidate all of the outcomes of the stocktaking into a background paper for the HLOM, to help frame interventions that will be made in December.
- 14-15 December: the HLOM. We would prefer the meeting to be as inclusive as possible and to maximize opportunities for participation, any ideas or reflections would be welcome.
- For the HLOM program:
 - UNHCR would like to organize it around the 4 GCR objectives and proposes a series of multi-stakeholder panels. Panels would be an opportunity to reflect on the outcomes of the indicators report and highlight key findings. It would be an opportunity to look at the stocktaking and review lessons learned from the COVID-19 response.
 - UNHCR envisions a general debate with States and other stakeholders, with an update on pledges' progress and announcement on how they are engaging or planning to move in the future.
 - It could be an opportunity to make new pledges and also identify the next steps.
 - The closing session will summarize the key outcomes in the areas in need of action, support and the next steps. Hence, we will have a good sense of the framework and the approach we need to use in planning for the next GRF as well to identify where we need to focus our engagement to address some of the gaps to strengthen partnerships and ensure that the commitments made can be implemented.
 - UNHCR envisions few side events as well to address cross-cutting issues and welcomes suggestions for themes for these events and how we might consider organizing them.
 - We consider the possibility of a virtual exhibition to provide space for more stakeholders to share information about their experiences in pledges implementation, not only good practices but also the challenges. Statements could also be shared.

Orientations for GCR Indicators Report

- Framework [published](#) in July 2019. 15 indicators.
- Data source for most of these indicators can be obtained from statistical surveys, e.g. those implemented by national statistical offices and which can be supported by international partners and program data for some of the indicators. The indicators are also compiled by other international partners, e.g. the OECD on official development assistance.
- The purpose of these indicators is to help measure progress towards the 4 GCR objectives.



- The report is expected to support the follow-up, the review on the GCR, inform periodic stocktaking at the HLOM and in the context of other related reporting.
- This is consistent with the approach developed in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The list of indicators was not intended to be comprehensive. In the same vein, the report will also not be able to measure all aspects of the GCR due to a lack of data.
- To build on the indicators, UNHCR uses available indicators and ongoing data collections. The rationale is to reduce data collection from all stakeholders, starting with Member States.
- It is also proposed to include in the indicators report links in the analysis with the 2 related GCR processes: the GRF pledges and the process of measuring the impact of hosting, protecting and assisting refugees.
- It is also proposed to use complementary indicators to compensate data gaps, based on assessments regarding the relevance to the GCR and data availability.
- The report will seek to assess global progress and trends covering a period from 2016 to 2021, ideally to assess and contextualize the progress beyond the affirmation of the GCR and the adoption of the New York Declaration.
- To complement the primary global aggregated analysis, it is also proposed to include personal stories and analytical studies to illustrate the impact on refugees and host communities at country level.
- Another feature is to make the report accessible online using existing data platforms.
- Depending on the availability of data and related evidence, the report will include policy guidance for the Digital Dashboard.
- There is a critical need to improve data availability, taking into account the number of years, the number of countries, and level of disaggregation to be covered in the report, e.g. AGD.

Discussion

Morocco

- Morocco will contribute to the success of the 2021 HLOM. We are convinced the meeting will mobilize additional support for self-reliance and access to solutions for refugees, in line with the GCR objectives, taking into account the challenges posed by COVID-19.
- Efforts should be made to ensure that the humanitarian aspects prevail during this important meeting while preventing any attempts of politicization.
- We welcome the upcoming release of the first indicators report that should enhance data collection and efforts as well as provide access to more disaggregated data, including by countries. AGD and other characteristics are relevant to highlight in the report.
- The report should also target areas in need of support which are not explicitly addressed by the indicators as outlined in paragraphs 49 to 100 of the GCR, including under early warning and preparedness, safety and security, registration and documentation, specific needs.

Japan

- Japan is now planning to implement several Nexus projects to support UNHCR to ease pressure on host countries and enhance self-reliance. The process of resettlement and acceptance of Syrian refugee students in Japan is underway. We monitor closely the COVID-19 situation and will update the pledges status in the Digital Dashboard in due course.
- It is essential to measure the progress with the indicators, based on data and evidence to comprehend the results objectively. The indicators report will be a useful tool, at the same time it is important to know the challenges and the good practices as much as possible and that information cannot be obtained from data only.



- How and what form can States and stakeholders engage in panels and events for the HLOM?

EU

- The EU participated actively at the GRF. We brought together a diverse group of actors and generated numerous important financial, political, and practical commitments. Now is time for implementation. The EU is committed to a multilateral response to forced displacement in the EU's new Pact on migration and asylum. We reiterated our commitment to providing lifesaving, support to millions of refugees and displaced persons, fostering sustainable development-oriented solutions, taking into account host communities and countries and promoting legal pathways including resettlement.
- We support the response to the Syria crisis in supporting refugees and host communities in the vein of the GCR objective to ease pressure on host countries.
- The HLOM is an important moment to take stock of progress and to identify challenges and seek opportunities to strengthen the commitments. The HLOM should be forward-looking and present a vision for the next phase.
- The follow-up process must be driven from the bottom up and guided by the tracking of pledges implementation at country and regional level.
- The three regional Support Platforms are possibly the most tangible tool to achieve our joint commitments. The HLOM is an opportunity to take stock of achievements, lessons learned, and best practices across the three Support Platforms. It would be good to foster this exchange throughout 2021 and culminate the discussion at the HLOM. The EU, as a member of all three Support platforms and chair of the core group for the Afghan Support Platform is ready to engage and contribute to such an exercise.
- The GCR indicators framework is an important tool to track pledges implementation and ensure our collective accountability. We look forward to discussing more how these indicators will be applied and how different sources and indicators already used in humanitarian and development settings with quantitative and qualitative data will be used to complement the findings. We need to agree on targets and a common vision to strengthen our future commitments and our coordination, to avoid duplication of work.
- How the indicators report and the overall preparations for the HLOM will take into account and reflect the severe impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Kenya

- On the HLOM preliminary considerations paper, we agree it is important for the meeting to provide a review of the COVID-19 response and how the GCR was used during the pandemic.
- Can the paper be issued earlier than November to allow for sufficient time for consideration by capitals and the various stakeholders?
- We would highly appreciate additional information on which stocktaking regional consultations have taken place in 2020 and the circulation of the schedule of the regional thematic consultations envisaged in 2021.
- On response to the pandemic and how the GCR can guide future emergency preparedness, Kenya encourages UNHCR to make use of the HC's Dialogue on Protection Challenges.
- In addition to the events considered by the GRF team, can side events on statelessness and other topics be considered at the HLOM?
- We look forward to seeing how the exercise on the measurement of the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees will be integrated into the indicators report.



Germany

- We are encouraged by the many positive reports about the implementation progress of GRF, the precious vehicles of the Support Platforms and the involvement of new innovative formats such as a Clean Energy Challenge.
- We look forward to seizing the momentum of the 70th Anniversary of the Refugee Convention to mobilize engagement for the HLOM.
- We remain committed to the 4 GCR objectives and continue to be engaged in all these partnerships around GRF pledges. We should intensify efforts to match financial and policy practice and bring engagement of more partners including international or regional organizations, NGOs.
- One of the unique features of the GCR is the focus on cooperation and partnership. The success of the first GRF and also the second forum will depend on our ability to have significantly increased level of partnerships around common areas of interest. We count on UNHCR support to facilitate some of these partnerships especially by presenting concrete potential matching opportunities, but it is also our common responsibility to take steps and to build on these new partnerships and align with engagements and objectives.

USA

- On the HLOM, the stocktaking will include a look at the impact of COVID-19. We would like to ask what adaptations, innovations, etc. were – or need to be – made to overcome them?
- We appreciate the regional country thematic and stakeholder specific stocktaking. Local consultations are vital. Could you share any additional information on how these have gone in 2020 and any specific plans for 2021?
- On the GCR indicators report, which datasets will be used for which indicators and how they all fit together given the various frameworks have different baselines and benchmarks and targets? The paper also mentions an upcoming policy guidance and recommendations to improve data collection, who is the intended audience for this guidance?

Switzerland

- We welcome the road map leading to the HLOM. We hope the analysis will provide not just a picture of where we are globally but also at regional and country levels. To what extent the stocktaking will reflect elements of scale, of quality and impact?
- We would also suggest focusing on, beyond lessons learned, what is working, what is not working and why and how efforts can be adapted.
- We are wondering who will be invited to participate in the HLOM, in particular, will there be space for refugees to play a central role?
- How indicators were selected? What data collection processes are already in place for Tier 1 indicators and to what extent are they reliable for Tier 2 indicators?
- Those for which data collection is more challenging, what are next year's plans regarding these indicators and is there a role for donor States to play?
- Are we correct in assuming that countries are expected to provide only data that is already available to them?
- On the GCR indicators report, we are concerned that the term “refugee” may have a different statistical meaning for different countries. How does UNHCR ensure that this would not create a bias in statistics and in analysis?
- The GCR indicators report and the progress on the GRF pledges are two separate exercises, how do they come together?



Netherlands

- The roadmap to the HLOM refers to regional stakeholders' stocktaking events that have already taken place. Would it be possible to get an overview of it?
- Could you elaborate on the possibility of pledging entities to be involved in spotlight sessions?
- We have noticed the exhibition space in the paper, it looks like a little the 2019 GRF marketplace. We were wondering if UNHCR is also looking at possibilities to do something more substantial for side events.
- How donors will be highlighted during the HLOM? We need to show incentives for an unearmarked group humanitarians' ownership. The High Commissioner described a decreasing trend of unearmarked contributions as worrisome at the last UNHCR pledging conference in December 2020, so we need to think about pushing this more. I encourage more thinking on how we can enable that at the HLOM.

European Network on Statelessness

- 252 pledges were made by States to address statelessness at the 2019 GRF. This fed into the outcome document and should be monitored as part of its follow-up process. Never before so many States pledged to enact law reforms to prevent statelessness, to improve birth registration or to better protect stateless people in a migratory context.
- Key recommendations: 1) we hope to see dedicated stocktaking sessions on statelessness in the run-up to the HLOM, 2) If there is not enough space during the HLOM for a dedicated session, we hope that it will be nonetheless integrated and mainstreamed across other sessions given its cross-cutting nature, 3) It is important to include stateless people both at the HLOM and in the meetings leading to it, and 4) About utilizing the 70th Anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 60th Anniversary of the 1961 Statelessness Convention, we urge UNHCR and other stakeholders also to seize opportunities around its anniversaries to further momentum our collective efforts to address statelessness.

Finland

- The HLOM will be an important moment to start the planning and thinking towards the second GRF, reflecting on the preparatory process that led to the first GRF.
- We have excellent mechanisms such as the regional Support Platforms and other thematic fora which can be utilized when building momentum and encouraging new pledges to keep the process manageable and most efficient.
- Overlap with these and duplicating efforts should be avoided, acknowledging that identified gaps may need to be addressed by creating new temporary workstreams for preparations.
- On the indicators report, we appreciate how the use of existing data platforms and the availability of disaggregated data has been taken into consideration at this stage, even in the difficult situation of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Finland note that the pandemic has not prevented the implementation of our 3 pledges made at the GRF. We have fulfilled one and are in the process of fulfilling them all, i.e. Increasing our resettlement quota. Increasing our humanitarian funding, which we did by 45% in 2020 including additional support to UNHCR. On providing an expert on disability inclusion to UNHCR, the recruitment process is ongoing.



United Kingdom

- On stocktaking, we are keen to ensure that the meeting is not too much of a retrospective of what has been achieved. We must ensure clear outcomes and actions are going forward and it would be helpful if we can identify what actions and outcomes, we are hoping to achieve ahead of the HLOM so that participants can be aware in advance and react accordingly and not after the meeting.
- There will be an opportunity to look at lessons learned and wonder whether this could be a useful opportunity to identify what areas are not working or areas of focus that are not progressing as much as we would like. We would like to see the consideration of examples of coalitions to build on progress.
- What additional support can we seek to involve further in 2022 and 2023? It would be helpful to have ideas priorities, suggestions in advance of the HLOM.
- We would be interested to understand how you propose to ensure that refugee-led organizations are included in the preparation to the HLOM and at the HLOM?

Bangladesh

- We hope the HLOM will guide us to, first reinvigorate the pathways to accelerate durable solutions to the refugee crisis, this requires adequate attention to be given in the countries of origin, to create a conducive environment for sustainable return and reintegration. Second, to implement the principle of equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing.
- My delegation would be thankful to receive more information on the modalities of regional thematic and stakeholder events.

International Rescue Committee

- Can UNHCR release the first GCR indicators report a few weeks before the HLOM and can you let us know if it is possible, to allow for a more consultative/participatory process?
- Could UNHCR indicate whether the second CRRF Progress report was released?

Norway

- In the face of challenges posed by COVID-19, it is important that UNHCR remains committed to the GCR, its inclusive policies that provides refugees access to education, health services, vaccines, and income-generating activities. We must ensure protection against sexual and gender-based violence and other threats to the life and health of refugees and we must mobilize more States to contribute to national burden- and responsibility-sharing.
- The GRF and HLOM are important tools to reach this end. We fully agree that the HLOM focus should be on pledges implementation progress and to match them with host countries' needs.
- We made 20 pledges at the GRF related to SGBV, education, and solutions and we are pleased to report that we managed to fulfill most of our pledges, despite the pandemic.
- In 2021, Norway will provide UNHCR with 680,000,000 Norwegian kroner in unmarked funding, an increase of 80% compared to 2020.
- We will also maintain a high level of resettlement places for refugees with 3000 places in the spirit of burden- and responsibility-sharing.

Global Refugee-led Network

- We, as refugees, are trying to give structure, understanding about how we can be engaged in a meaningful way, because sustainable refugee response requires meaningful refugees' engagements, not only for the GCR but also highlighting it again in the indicators report. We



want to be involved in the global debate as an equal partner, not only as a speaker, not only as a storyteller but in designing the intervention and mechanism. We also want to be involved in the ExCom discussion.

UNHCR answers

- On the actual data sources, one third of those indicators are linked with the official development assistance. On other sources, many of those GCR indicators are also related to existing data collections that we find in next year's global trends publication and will also be used as part of the indicators report.
- On definitions, indicators will be based on existing international statistical and legal standards.
- On the link with the indicators report and the GRF pledges, there is a link, and we call on all stakeholders to link pledges and the indicators report.
- On the role of civil society in the development of the report: those indicators are part of the official statistical system collected by UNHCR and international organizations. Some actors might be involved in the data collection.
- We will not arrive at the end of the year only looking back on what we have managed to achieve but we will be already prepared to have a discussion about where we go from here. The HLOM will be guided by the implementation of the GCR at country level, i.e. in West and Central Africa, in December 2020, a first stocktaking event took place.
- We will communicate to ensure that everyone is informed on the stocktaking this year.
- On stocktaking at thematic level, we will be discussing with thematic leads within UNHCR and other stakeholders who are engaged as co-sponsors to think about how best to facilitate the stocktaking and we will map out these opportunities and share it with you.
- The briefing in June is to consolidate the broad lessons and outcomes that we are seeing emerging from the stocktaking.
- We are looking forward to further pledges implementation, further matching, ensuring that policy pledges and commitments made can be supported, looking at partnerships we have and considering where new ones are needed, thinking about how we need to adapt in the COVID-19 context and come to the HLOM with very solid recommendations for the future.
- The background paper will be issued in advance of the HLOM to see progress being made with the indicators but also with the pledges. We take note of the call and the request for this background paper to be released sufficiently early to enable careful reflection.
- We will be continuing to integrate statelessness pledges in all of UNHCR work and we will have dedicated focus on stocktaking on statelessness this year. We welcome suggestions.
- On participation at the HLOM, we hope it to be multi-stakeholder in nature and would work closely with States and other organizations involved as pledging entities or as co-sponsors, to think how best we can organize those and reflect on participation. The virtual exhibition space is not necessarily just an exhibition of practices but a way to facilitate conversations. There could be recorded interviews, conversation panels, other kinds of modalities.
- We very much take note of the importance of the inclusion of refugees, stateless, and other stakeholders – the private sector and emerging partners – in stocktaking and in the HLOM preparations and development. We welcome suggestions on how best to achieve this.
- The second progress report on the CRRF was released in December 2020 on the first anniversary of the GRF and sent to all of the participants to the Forum and pledging entities.
- On the lessons learned exercise that has been conducted for the first GRF, we have compiled the recommendations from that exercise. It shortly be published on the Digital Dashboard.