



GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM

17 AND 18 DECEMBER 2019

Guidance Note
Pledges and Contributions
and Good Practices

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[Cover photograph: A worker from the local Tanzanian host community waters young saplings at the tree nursery project established by the non-governmental organisation, Relief to Development Society, at Nduta camp. The project employs Burundian refugees as well as trains local people in horticulture. ©UNHCR/Georgina Goodwin.]



*Morsal, 19, attends a decorative wood work class in Varamin, a city in South East Tehran Province. The Iranian government provides free vocational training for Afghan refugees in collaboration with UNHCR.
© UNHCR/Sebastian Rich.*

Refugee situations continue to increase in scope, scale, and complexity. There are 25.4 million refugees around the world, and 85 per cent of them are hosted in low- and middle-income countries facing their own economic and development challenges. Despite the tremendous generosity of host countries and donors, the gap between needs and the resources available to meet them continues to grow. There is an urgent need for a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees. Refugees and host communities should not be left behind.

Against this background, the Global Compact on Refugees was affirmed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018. It represents the determination of the international community to strengthen solidarity with refugees and the countries that host them. The Compact sets out arrangements to ensure that host countries receive predictable and sustainable support; that refugees can contribute to their host communities and secure their own futures; and that solutions are sought from the outset.

One year after the affirmation of the Global Compact on Refugees, the first Global Refugee Forum will be a unique opportunity for the international community to come together and lay the foundations for the implementation of the Global Compact over the longer term. The first Global Refugee Forum will take place in Geneva, Switzerland on 17 and 18 December 2019.

Introduction

At the Global Refugee Forum, States and other stakeholders¹ may announce pledges and contributions² and exchange good practices in relation to the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.³

This note provides guidance on the development of contributions and the identification of good practices for the first Global Refugee Forum. It sets out key considerations and next steps in the process. It also includes an annex providing examples of contributions and good practices in each of the key areas of focus for the forum.

Key considerations

Contributions and good practices could include:⁴

- financial, material, and technical assistance
- places for resettlement and complementary pathways for admission to third countries
- other actions that States and other stakeholders have elected to take, for example, through policies and/or practical steps to promote refugee inclusion, or through launching an initiative.

¹ Including United Nations Member States and non-member observer States and relevant stakeholders (international organizations within and outside the United Nations system, including those forming part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; other humanitarian and development actors; international and regional financial institutions; regional organizations; local authorities; civil society, including faith-based organizations; academics and other experts; the private sector; media; host community members, and refugees themselves) (Global Compact on Refugees, para. 3).

² For the purposes of this Note, pledges and contributions will be referred to as 'contributions'.

³ The objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, are to: (i) ease the pressures on host countries; (ii) enhance refugee self-reliance; (iii) expand access to third-country solutions; and (iv) support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity (Global Compact on Refugees, para.7). Many contributions may address one or more of these objectives.

⁴ See Global Compact on Refugees, para. 18.

Contributions and good practices would:

- Support or facilitate the achievement of the **objectives** of the Global Compact on Refugees
- Address one or more of the **areas of focus** for the first Global Refugee Forum, where possible
- Contribute to **burden and responsibility sharing**
- Broaden the **support base** beyond countries and stakeholders that have traditionally contributed to responses to large-scale refugee situations
- Respond to identified **needs** and have tangible **benefits** for refugees and host communities
- Be developed and/or implemented in **partnership** with other stakeholders, including refugees and host populations
- Take into account **age, gender, disability, and diversity** considerations
- Make a **sustained, positive difference** in the lives of refugees and host communities

All contributions and good practices related to the Global Compact on Refugees are welcome.

To provide a strategic focus and maximize the impact of the first Global Refugee Forum in 2019, contributions and good practices are encouraged in the following **areas of focus**:

Arrangements for burden and responsibility sharing

- Funding and the effective and efficient use of resources
- Regional and sub-regional approaches
- Support platforms
- Data and evidence
- Prevention and addressing root causes

Areas in need of support

- Education
- Jobs and livelihoods
- Energy and infrastructure
- Solutions
- Protection capacity

Within an area of focus, such as education, contributions and good practices could address:

- a **sub-theme** (such as higher education);
- a **specific refugee situation** (such as education in the Somalia situation); and/or
- a **specific group** (such as education for girls)

Contributions

Contributions for the first Global Refugee Forum would be:

- new or additional (which also could include strengthening and building upon good practices or ongoing commitments, particularly since 2016, when the development of the Global Compact on Refugees commenced)
- realistic, forward-looking, specific, and action-oriented
- measurable within a specified period, where possible, bearing in mind the opportunities for stocktaking in 2021 and 2023

States and other stakeholders may announce contributions either **individually or jointly**.

Joint contributions

In the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees, joint contributions in particular could help focus on longer-term cooperation to build a broad, sustainable base of support for refugees and their hosts. Joint contributions could include:

- **Partnership contributions**, where a group of States and/or other stakeholders form partnerships and announce contributions (based upon their respective capacities and areas of expertise) towards the achievement of a shared goal. For example, to support the decision of a host country to implement a policy providing refugee children with access to the national education system, donors, including other States and stakeholders, could provide the necessary additional financial, material, and technical assistance to support the implementation of this policy through funding, providing training for teachers, and building new school infrastructure.
- **Common contributions**, where a coalition of States or other stakeholders would announce identical or near-identical commitments. For example, a group of States could announce that they each will include refugees in their Voluntary National Reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Matching contributions**, where States or other stakeholders announce contributions, which would be matched in scale and scope by contributions from other stakeholders. For example, a private sector actor may pledge to contribute \$10 for every \$10 pledged by other entities to support a specific refugee situation.

Good practices

The Global Refugee Forum will inspire the imagination of the international community through the exchange of good practices. Good practices illustrate how comprehensive responses, as envisioned in the Global Compact on Refugees, can transform the lives of refugees and host communities in many parts of the world. They demonstrate ways to achieve the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees at the local, national, regional, or global level.

States and others are encouraged to exchange good practices at the Forum, and in the period leading up to it, to learn from one another about what works well, what can be replicated in other situations, and what can be scaled up with further support.

It is hoped that good practices will inform the development of contributions for the first Global Refugee Forum and in the future.

Good practices would:

- have the potential to be adapted, replicated, and/or broadened in scale
- highlight opportunities to maximize the effective and efficient use of resources
- inspire or form the basis of contributions to be announced at the Global Refugee Forums in 2019 and beyond

Next steps

States and other stakeholders may consider the following steps to develop contributions and identify good practices:

- At the **national or regional level**, States or regional organisations may consider convening **consultations** with the relevant government departments and/or other stakeholders (including refugees and host communities, where possible) to discuss priorities and identify contributions that could be made in support of these priorities.
- In addition, at the **global level**, States and other stakeholders may become a **co-sponsor** of one of the areas of focus for the first Global Refugee Forum, to mobilize contributions and identification of good practices (more information is available [here](#)).

Co-sponsors would form a broad alliance of support around an area of focus, and would each engage according to their capacity. UNHCR would play a facilitating role, to ensure information sharing between the co-sponsors, alignment of activities, and coordinated engagement in the lead-up to the Forum.

Co-sponsors

Based upon their respective capacities, co-sponsors could:

- **lead by example**, either by having already made contributions, or by announcing new ones, to the area of focus that they are co-sponsoring;
- **share thinking** about contributions they have made or will announce in the area of focus;
- **act as advocates** and mobilize contributions to the area of focus from a range of stakeholders, for example through using their networks to broaden the base of contributors, or convening roundtables in the lead-up to the Forum to discuss areas for cooperation and contributions;
- **ensure high-level representation** at the Forum as a demonstration of political commitment;
- **exchange good practices** in the area of focus in their own responses to refugee situations to inspire the development of future contributions;
- **share information** about needs, gaps, and challenges in the area of focus to encourage others to lend their support; and/or
- **play a role in shaping** this area of focus in the programme of the Forum, for example through support for organizing panels, side events, or exhibits.

- States and other stakeholders may consider discussing anticipated contributions and good practices at the preparatory meetings for the Global Refugee Forum or at other relevant events in advance of the Forum. This can help to generate discussion, invite support and cooperation, and inspire thinking about the kinds of contributions that can be made.

UNHCR will advise and support States and other stakeholders in these efforts. Please contact UNHCR representation in your country/region and/or the Global Refugee Forum Coordination Team at UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva at hqgrf@unhcr.org for more information.

Contributions may be entered by completing the *Template for Pledges and Contributions* either online or on paper (using the Word document version). The online and Word document versions of the template are available [here](#). Contributions entered on paper may be sent to hqgrf@unhcr.org.

Contributions will be collated by UNHCR for showcasing at the Global Refugee Forum and inclusion in the outcome document for the Forum.

Good practices may be shared by completing the *Template for Good Practices* (available [here](#)) and sending it, along with any related attachments, to hqgrf@unhcr.org.

Good practices can be included on the Global Refugee Forum website in advance of the Global Refugee Forum. They can also be included in the digital portal for the Global Compact on Refugees, which is currently under development.

States and other stakeholders are encouraged to share with UNHCR their contributions and good practices **as early as possible** in advance of the Global Refugee Forum. This will facilitate their consolidation and presentation in time for the Forum. However, as necessary, contributions and good practices may still be shared at any time in advance of or during the Forum.

As provided for in the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR will develop a process to follow up outcomes of the Global Refugee Forum.⁵

⁵ *Global Compact on Refugee, para. 103.*

ANNEX

Examples of contributions and good practices in the areas of focus

Following are some examples of contributions and good practices in the areas of focus for the first Global Refugee Forum. These examples are intended to serve as inspiration for the kinds of contributions that could be announced and the good practices that could be exchanged at the global level or with regard to specific refugee situations. Inspiration for the development of contributions and identification of good practices also may be found in the relevant sections of the Global Compact on Refugees, cited in each of the sections below.

Arrangements for burden and responsibility-sharing

The Global Compact on Refugees sets out a series of arrangements for more equitable, sustained, and predictable contributions among States and other stakeholders, and that support the search for solutions. The first Global Refugee Forum presents an opportunity to lay the foundations for the sustainable application of these arrangements over the longer term, both at the global level and in relation to specific situations. Following are examples of contributions that could be made and good practices that can be exchanged in this area.

Funding and the effective and efficient use of resources

The mobilization of additional, timely, predictable, and sustainable financial resources is key to the successful implementation of the Global Compact.⁶ The Global Refugee Forum will serve as an opportunity to strengthen the humanitarian development nexus in refugee responses, to expand the base of financing beyond traditional donors, and to identify opportunities to continue maximizing the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of funding.

⁶ See *Global Compact on Refugees*, para. 32.

Individual and joint contributions and good practices could include:

- Establishing or expanding arrangements that provide rapid, predictable, and flexible funding for humanitarian responses. This could include the provision of multi-year, un-earmarked funding for responses to new and protracted refugee situations.
- Increasing financial support for local and national responders, and for cash-based programming, where appropriate.
- Including refugee-hosting areas and displacement issues as priorities in bilateral or organizational development programmes. For example, dedicated budgetary allocations or funding streams could be established or expanded for (a) programming that targets refugees, host communities, and/or countries of origin, or (b) countries that include refugees in their national development planning and/or national sector-specific plans.
- Establishing or expanding grant and/or concessional financing facilities aimed at supporting development efforts in low- and middle-income countries hosting large numbers of refugees. These facilities could be provided by international financial institutions, regional development banks, and bilateral development finance institutions, with budgetary support from members.
- Exploring the potential for financing mechanisms and instruments to mobilize financial support for refugee responses, including by private sector actors.
- Including refugees and host communities in project funding allocated by vertical funding initiatives, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the International Finance Facility for Immunisation, the Green Climate Fund, and the Global Environment Facility. [Vertical funding initiatives focus on single issues, and are administered by an international body, committee, or board that decides on criteria for allocating funds and funding portfolios.]
- Providing financial, material, or technical support to enhance the capacity of host governments to respond effectively and efficiently, including through support to establish whole-of-government national arrangements for comprehensive responses.
- Providing in-kind support to humanitarian actors and refugee-led and local organizations to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency. This could include support from the private sector, in the form of technical assistance, expert advice, staff deployments, or skills training.
- Providing financial, material, or technical support to enhance the capacity of host governments (at the national and sub-national levels) and other implementing organizations to absorb and administer funds and projects.

Regional and sub-regional approaches

Refugee movements often have regional or sub-regional dimensions.⁷ While the priorities and interests of regional and sub-regional mechanisms and groupings may vary, they often play an important role in channelling regional solidarity in support of comprehensive responses. They can allow neighbouring countries facing similar challenges to work together to protect and find solutions for refugees, and to address the root causes of displacement, with the support and assistance of the international community.

Individual and joint contributions and good practices could include:

- Providing financial, material, and/or technical contributions towards new or existing regional or sub-regional initiatives for refugee protection and solutions, such as those currently being pursued under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in the East and Horn of Africa, or the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework ('MIRPS') in Mexico and Central America.
- Developing agreements by regional and sub-regional organizations, and their Member States, to enhance their capacity to address asylum and refugee issues at the regional/sub-regional level. These could address the gradual harmonization of asylum systems, the development of regional resettlement programmes, and the establishment of regional free movement areas, including for work and education.
- Providing support to such efforts by other regional and sub-regional organizations, in order to facilitate the enhancement of capacity and the exchanging of good practices in a spirit of partnership.
- Making commitments to regional cooperation on specific aspects of refugee responses. Good practice examples include the *Djibouti Declaration on Regional Refugee Education*, or the *Kampala Declaration on Jobs, Livelihoods and Self-Reliance for Refugees, Returnees and Host Communities*.

⁷ See *Global Compact on Refugees*, paras. 28-30.

Support platforms

The Global Compact on Refugees provides for the activation of State-led ‘Support Platforms’ to enable context-specific support for refugees and host countries and communities and, where relevant, countries of origin.⁸ The functions of a Support Platform would include galvanizing political commitment, mobilizing assistance, facilitating coherent humanitarian and development responses, and supporting comprehensive policy initiatives to ease pressure on host countries, build resilience and self-reliance, and find solutions.

If one or more Support Platforms is activated in advance of the Global Refugee Forum, individual and joint contributions and good practices could include:

- Taking a leadership role in a Support Platform to galvanize political support for prevention, protection, response, and solutions.
- Mobilizing financial, material, and technical resources to support government-led responses.
- Facilitating coherent humanitarian and development responses, including by ensuring the early and sustained engagement of development actors in support of host communities and refugees.
- Participating in a resettlement core group established in the context of a Support Platform.
- Supporting the organization of a Solidarity Conference, where appropriate, to galvanize political commitment for comprehensive responses and solutions.

⁸ See *Global Compact on Refugees*, paras. 22-27.

Data and evidence

Reliable, comparable, and timely data is critical for evidence-based policies, programmes, and investments that improve socio-economic conditions for refugees and host communities.⁹ It is also a key element of the search for durable solutions. Quality data can further provide a better understanding of the scale and direction of refugee movements. When properly disaggregated across age, gender, diversity, and disability, it can provide insights into the assistance and protection needs of persons with specific needs.

Individual and joint contributions and good practices could include:

- Providing financial, material, technical, and/or technological support to government-led efforts to (a) include refugees in national data and statistical collection processes, such as poverty assessments and censuses, and (b) ensure that refugee data is appropriately disaggregated and shared with relevant stakeholders.
- Providing financial, material, technical, and/or technological support to enhance the capacity of national systems and service providers to track service provision to refugees, including in the context of national social safety nets, and to share this information with relevant stakeholders.
- Providing financial, material, technical, and/or technological support to regional and international joint data platforms, such as the Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement.
- Developing, scaling up, and sharing innovative technologies for the collation and analysis of data, in line with relevant data protection and privacy principles.
- Supporting or launching new data initiatives to support identity management, border security, and credible documentation, for the benefit of refugees and governments.

⁹ See *Global Compact on Refugees*, paras. 45-48.

Prevention and addressing root causes

The Global Compact on Refugees calls upon all States and relevant stakeholders to tackle the root causes of large refugee situations, including through heightened international efforts to prevent and resolve conflict, and to promote, respect, protect, and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.¹⁰ The Global Refugee Forum represents an opportunity for States and other stakeholders to contribute to efforts to address the drivers and triggers of large refugee movements, in line with ongoing efforts in the areas of prevention, peace, security, sustainable development, migration, and peacebuilding.

Individual and joint contributions and good practices could include:

- Ensuring due consideration of refugee and displacement issues in activities relating to conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and sustaining peace. For example, ensuring that the participation and rights of displaced persons are mainstreamed in work towards the Women, Peace, and Security and Youth, Peace, and Security agendas.
- Providing financial, material, and/or technical assistance for programming in fragile and conflict-affected situations to address potential drivers of displacement, including through the promotion of human rights and the rule of law.

Areas in need of support

Contributions for the first Global Refugee Forum are encouraged in the following five areas in need of support: education, jobs and livelihoods, energy and infrastructure, solutions, and protection capacity. Following are examples of contributions in these areas.

Education

Education is central to refugee self-reliance and to solutions, in both emergency and protracted situations. It enables refugees to develop the skills they need to contribute to the economic development of their host countries, and to prepare for a durable solution. Contributions to education at the Global Refugee Forum would focus on enhancing the capacity, quality, and inclusiveness of national education systems to facilitate the access of refugee and host community children (both girls and boys), adolescents, and youth to primary, secondary and tertiary education. They would also focus on minimizing the time that refugee and asylum-seeking girls and boys spend out of education, and on seeking flexible options for those who have missed substantial amounts of education.¹¹ Contributions would support the

¹⁰ See *Global Compact on Refugees*, paras. 8-9.

¹¹ *Global Compact on Refugees*, para. 68.

achievement of SDG 4, which recognizes that education is one of the most important ways to build resilience, including for refugee populations, especially in protracted situations.

Individual and joint contributions and good practices could include:

- Providing timely, amplified support to learning programmes during emergency phases, including through existing accelerated funding mechanisms for emergency education response. This support would focus on emergency responses that strengthen local education systems and facilitate refugee inclusion.
- Ensuring that refugees are included in national education sector plans and budgets and have access to national schools.
- Ensuring that both host and refugee community children and youth benefit from increased access to the full cycle of quality primary and secondary education.
- Supporting efforts to meet the specific education needs of refugees, including through “safe schools” and innovative methods, such as blended learning and connected education.
- Supporting efforts to overcome obstacles to refugees’ enrolment and attendance, such as through flexible certified learning programmes, especially for girls at the secondary and tertiary level, and persons with disabilities and psychosocial trauma.
- Developing and expanding accelerated education to provide flexible certified programmes for over-age out-of-school refugee and host community children and youth.
- Strengthening teaching capacities, including support for, as appropriate, refugees and members of host communities who are or could be engaged as teachers, in line with national laws and policies.
- Constructing and upgrading physical infrastructure to meet the increased demands brought about by refugee inclusion.
- Providing digital education programming that promotes access to digital content, online learning platforms, and digital literacy training to enhance the quality of education and support the acquisition of digital skills.
- Providing language training to refugees and to teachers delivering national curricula to refugee students whose home language is different than curricular languages.
- Promoting access to accredited tertiary education, including technical and vocational education and training, including through scholarships, certified blended learning programmes, and the elimination of systemic barriers.

- Providing pathways for refugee teachers to obtain transferable teacher training certification.
- Developing regional and national measures for cost-effective recognition of academic, professional, and vocational qualifications, as well as recognition of prior learning and cycle/level completion to ensure that refugee children and youth can continue their studies at an appropriate level that lead to recognized certification.
- Facilitating access for refugee students at secondary and tertiary levels to internships, traineeships, apprenticeships, mentoring programmes, and career readiness training to support successful transition to employment.
- Preventing and eliminating sexual and gender-based violence and harassment of girls in school.
- Conducting longitudinal research to strengthen the evidence base for education programming for displaced populations.



Syrian refugee Hanan Dacka (centre), does classroom work alongside her new Brazilian friends at the Duque de Caxias Municipal School, in the Glicerio neighbourhood of downtown Sao Paulo, Brazil. ©UNHCR/Gabo Morales.

Jobs and livelihoods

Promoting economic opportunities, decent work, job creation, and entrepreneurship programmes for host community members and refugees, including women, young adults, older persons and persons with disabilities, can foster inclusive economic growth for host communities and refugees.¹²

Individual and joint contributions and good practices could include:

- Identifying gaps and opportunities for employment creation and income generation, and the kinds of policies that could enhance livelihood opportunities for refugees and improve socioeconomic outcomes for host communities (including through the economic activity generated and the taxes paid by refugees).
- Supporting sustainable economic recovery and growth in host countries and, where appropriate, countries of origin, including a legal and policy framework that facilitates access to safe job and entrepreneurial opportunities for refugees and nationals.
- Identifying opportunities for private sector investment in areas hosting large numbers of refugees, for the benefit of refugees and host communities, and supporting policies and actions that encourage private sector development, export promotion, preferential trade agreements, and de-risking arrangements that encourage investment, and support to specific sectors where refugees are or could be employed.
- Facilitating the access of refugee women and men and host communities to affordable financial services that can support general consumption, economic growth, and increase of opportunities for livelihoods. Examples include: low- or reduced-cost mobile and internet access to financial services, financial literacy support, business start-up grants and loans, transfer of remittances, and other services needed for economic recovery.
- Mapping skills and qualifications among refugees and host communities, and providing support for (a) strengthening these skills through specific training programmes (in particular for women, persons with disabilities, and youth) that are linked to market opportunities in host countries and fields required for reconstruction in countries of origin; or (b) for recognizing and certifying refugees' skills and qualifications, whether in a country of asylum, a country of origin, or a third country.
- Expanding employment opportunities for refugee and host communities in refugee-hosting areas, including in urban displacement contexts, such as through online livelihood opportunities.

¹² See *Global Compact on Refugees*, paras. 70-71.

- Committing to hire specified numbers of refugees, to include them in supply chains, or to offer training, apprenticeship, and mentorship opportunities. Such opportunities could be in the country of asylum or third countries.
- Supporting new and ongoing programmes aimed at alleviating poverty amongst refugees, including through using microfinance and the graduation approach. These could focus on specific groups, such as women or refugees with disabilities, who may be particularly exposed to protection risks associated with economic vulnerability.
- Supporting the expansion of pilot programmes for refugee labour mobility, including by facilitating the provision of visas and employment opportunities.

Energy and infrastructure

The Global Refugee Forum will provide the opportunity to address the accommodation and environmental impacts of large numbers of refugees. Contributions could focus on strengthening infrastructure to facilitate access to appropriate accommodation for refugees and host communities. They could also focus on supporting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems in both urban and rural areas.¹³

Individual and joint contributions and good practices could include:

- Ensuring that refugees and host communities have access to sufficient amounts of safe and sustainable energy for domestic and productive uses, including through support for the strengthening and expansion of national energy infrastructure.
- Facilitating internet connectivity for refugees and host communities.
- Reducing the reliance of refugees, host communities, and humanitarian organizations on high-emissions sources of electricity (such as diesel generators) by replacing them with low-emissions alternatives (such as solar panels).
- Constructing water infrastructure that allows identified refugee settlements and host communities to become connected to a water supply network, obviating the need to truck water.
- Addressing health and environmental hazards related to solid waste by supporting innovations and improvements to eliminate open solid waste burning in refugee-hosting areas.

¹³ See *Global Compact on Refugees*, paras. 78-79.

- Planning for environmentally-conscious land use in refugee-hosting areas.
- Facilitating the inclusion of refugees in climate change resilience and adaptation programming, in particular by international financial institutions and relevant funds.
- Working to make the activities of organizations that deliver humanitarian assistance to refugees carbon neutral, including to reduce demand and improve efficiency.
- Facilitating the inclusion of refugees in national health systems through health infrastructure and national insurance systems.
- Including refugees in disaster risk reduction strategies related to infrastructure for essential services.



Refugee and host community-trained technicians maintain a solar panel that was broken. ©UNHCR/Diana Diaz

Solutions

One of the primary objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees is to facilitate access to solutions, including by planning for solutions from the outset of refugee situations.¹⁴ The Global Refugee Forum represents a unique opportunity to work towards the progressive achievement of this goal through increased international cooperation, solidarity, and support, particularly for voluntary repatriation, resettlement and complementary pathways, local integration, and local solutions.

Individual and joint contributions and good practices could include:

Voluntary repatriation

- Removing obstacles to return, such as humanitarian demining and activities to sustain peace.
- Providing direct repatriation support, including cash assistance, for returnees.
- Developing national capacity to facilitate sustainable return and reintegration, including: the provision or replacement of civil documentation, reconstruction of infrastructure and re-establishment of relevant services, and creation of livelihood and education opportunities, with attention to the specific needs of women, youth, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities.
- Including refugee returnees in land allocation and social/affordable housing programmes.
- Providing financial, material, and/or technical assistance for the development or reform of laws and processes related to the distribution of land and access to services.
- Providing financial, material, and/or technical assistance for the enhancement or establishment of mechanisms for (a) the restitution of housing, land, and/or property, and (b) the effective and timely resolution of disputes relating to housing, land, and/or property.
- Planning for development that addresses the needs of refugee returnees and local communities and promotes sustainable and inclusive reintegration.
- Facilitating long-term efforts for transitional justice and security development, linked to the prevention of new and further displacement.
- Ensuring for the participation of refugees, especially refugee women and youth, in peace, justice, and reconciliation processes.
- Where appropriate, developing tripartite agreements between States and UNHCR to facilitate voluntary repatriation.

¹⁴ See *Global Compact on Refugees*, paras. 85-100.

Resettlement and complementary pathways (including in the context of the forthcoming three-year strategy on resettlement and complementary pathways)

- Expanding the size of existing resettlement programmes and/or establishing new resettlement programmes that are predictable and prioritize multi-year commitments.
- Providing identified financial and technical support to the establishment or expansion of resettlement programmes in other States, including through existing or future capacity-building arrangements coordinated by UNHCR.
- Expanding the diversity and responsiveness of national resettlement programmes through resettling refugees from at least three priority situations identified by UNHCR and by allocating places for urgent and emergency cases.
- Expediting the resettlement process, including through flexible processing modalities and the use of emergency transit facilities, with a view to resettling at least 25 per cent of annual targets within six months of UNHCR referral.
- Taking specified steps to build welcoming and inclusive societies that can support the integration of resettled refugees, including through the active engagement of citizens, civil society, and the private sector in refugee integration.
- Establishing, in coordination with UNHCR, resettlement core groups to facilitate a coordinated response to specific refugee situations, with due regard to protection needs and security considerations.
- Establishing or expanding humanitarian admission, humanitarian visa, and community-based sponsorship programmes for refugees that are complementary and additional to resettlement.
- Opening up existing or establishing new protection-sensitive employment or education pathways for refugees, including through removing legal, administrative, and physical barriers limiting refugee access and providing employment and education opportunities by private sector and academic institutions.
- Facilitating refugees' access to family reunification processes through streamlined administrative and other procedures, and establishing expanded family reunification programmes allowing refugees to reunite with extended family members.
- Establishing multi-stakeholder/multi-sectoral partnerships involving governments, civil society, the private sector, and other partners to promote and support the establishment of resettlement and complementary pathways programmes.
- Maximizing the quality and effectiveness of resettlement and complementary pathways processes, including through the regular monitoring and evaluation of activities and ensuring meaningful refugee participation throughout.

Local solutions

- Where decided upon by the government, developing relevant national legislation and policy to enable appropriate economic, social, and cultural inclusion of refugees.
- Developing areas hosting significant numbers of refugees, in line with relevant national development plans as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Upgrading refugee settlements and including them in national service delivery and governance systems.
- Resolving a protracted refugee situation by providing for the naturalization of refugees who have been living in a host country for an extended period of time.



Finally reunited in their new home in Thun, Switzerland. The family can put behind them the horror of being apart for three years. ©UNHCR/Mark Henley

Protection capacity

Strong public institutions are essential for refugee protection and the wellbeing and absorption capacity of host communities. The Global Compact on Refugees provides for areas where protection capacity of institutions may be strengthened through early warning, preparedness, and contingency planning for large-scale influxes; immediate reception and admission arrangements; safety and security; registration and documentation; addressing specific needs; and identifying international protection needs,¹⁵ as well as through support for institutions engaged in meeting needs and supporting communities in the context of hosting refugees.¹⁶

Individual and joint contributions and good practices could include:

- Contributing early warning and preparedness resources and expertise to State-led plans aimed at enhancing absorption capacity and reinforcing community resilience in advance of a refugee emergency.
- Providing financial, material, and/or technical support to government-led plans to develop or reinforce host area emergency preparedness, absorption, and resilience measures.
- Making new or existing standby arrangements available for emergency responses to refugee situations.
- Supporting government-led efforts to strengthen justice and security institutions, prevent and combat sexual and gender-based violence, and develop community-oriented policing, access to justice, and alternatives to detention.
- Supporting, through the Asylum Capacity Support Group and in other contexts, efforts to establish asylum systems and appeals processes; establish frameworks and procedures for temporary and group protection; strengthen human resource management in asylum systems to promote professional development and expertise; strengthen the workforce of asylum systems, including decision-makers and legal representatives; and enhance the efficiency of asylum decision-making processes, including through the appropriate use of simplified and/or accelerated case processing.
- Strengthening legislative institutions and developing laws and policies sensitive to forced displacement.
- Enhancing institutional capacities for and improving access to birth, civil status, and housing, land, and property registration, as well as documentation.

¹⁵ See *Global Compact on Refugees*, paras. 52-63.

¹⁶ See *Global Compact on Refugees*, paras. 64-84.

- Announcing or exploring the ratification or accession to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and/or its 1967 Protocol, as well as the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and/or the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- Announcing or exploring the withdrawal of reservations to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and/or its 1967 Protocol, as well as the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and/or the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.