

# FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPREHENSIVE REFUGEE RESPONSES SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE NEW YORK DECLARATION



*In Kenya, Red Cross Society, partner agencies, local authorities, students and refugee community refugees came together to plant over 1000 indigenous and fruit trees in a new greenbelt in Ifo 2 refugee camp, of Dadaab on the occasion of celebrating the International Day of Forests.  
© UNHCR / Assadullah Nasrullah*

### CONTENTS

<b>Introduction: The New York Declaration and progress since its adoption</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Sustained global attention on refugee issues</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Objective One: Easing pressures on host countries</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Objective Two: Enhancing refugee self-reliance</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Objective Three: Expanding access to third country solutions</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Objective Four: Supporting conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Conclusion: Towards a global compact on refugees</b>	<b>15</b>

## Introduction: The New York Declaration and progress since its adoption

On 19 September 2016, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the ***New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants***.<sup>1</sup> The New York Declaration is a milestone for global solidarity and refugee protection; the commitments agreed by Member States reflect an understanding that protecting those who are forced to flee, and supporting the countries and communities that shelter them, are shared international responsibilities that must be borne more equitably and predictably. The New York Declaration contains a **Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)** to guide enhanced international responses,<sup>2</sup> and set in motion two processes for the development of two ‘**global compacts**’—one on refugees and the other for safe, orderly and regular migration—to strengthen further the ways in which the international community addresses human mobility. **The global compact on refugees (GCR)**<sup>3</sup> was affirmed as part of the annual UNGA resolution on UNHCR in **December 2018**. **The GCR has four objectives**, namely: 1. to **ease pressures** on countries that host large numbers of refugees; 2. to enhance **refugee self-reliance**; 3. to expand **access to third-country solutions** (i.e. resettlement and complementary pathways for admission); and 4. to support **conditions in countries of origin** that enable refugees to return in safety and dignity.

Much of the progress made since September 2016 has been in the context of the practical application of the CRRF and the process leading to the GCR. Progress has also been made in other settings, including at the global level (the pledges made at the 2016 **Leaders’ Summit on Refugees**, work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the follow-up to the World Humanitarian Summit, for example), within international and regional organizations and fora,<sup>4</sup> and in individual States.

Likewise, whilst UNHCR has taken a leading role in relation to some developments, others have been led by States, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, and civil society partners, consistent with the whole-of-society, multi-partner approach advocated in the New York Declaration.

2019 marks a new stage in our global and collective effort to deliver more sustainable and smarter responses to refugee situations. The GCR is the new blueprint – an operational tool - to guide responses that meet the needs of refugees while ensuring that host communities also benefit.

This document sets out examples of the progress that has been made since the adoption of the New York Declaration, in terms of the **sustained attention** that the Declaration and GCR have brought to refugee issues. The examples highlighted in this document are non-exhaustive in nature and—in line with the ever-evolving nature of refugee protection—the document is being updated regularly.

## Sustained global attention to refugee issues

The period since the adoption of the New York Declaration has seen sustained attention on refugee issues at the global, regional and national levels.

At the **global** level, the process leading to the development of the GCR has triggered—and benefited from—a high level of engagement from across the international community. Of particular note is the attention that has been given to the contribution that hosting States make to the international refugee protection regime and to the need for more equitable and predictable burden- and responsibility-sharing.

<sup>1</sup> See [www.unhcr.org/newyorkdeclaration](http://www.unhcr.org/newyorkdeclaration)

<sup>2</sup> See [www.unhcr.org/crrf](http://www.unhcr.org/crrf)

<sup>3</sup> See [www.unhcr.org/refugeecom pact](http://www.unhcr.org/refugeecom pact)

<sup>4</sup> See, for example, the World Bank’s **Forcibly Displaced: Toward a Development Approach Supporting Refugees, the Internally Displaced, and Their Hosts** and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development’s **Responding to Refugee Crises in Developing Countries: What Can We Learn From Evaluations?**

**Regional and sub-regional** action has also been strengthened since the adoption of the New York Declaration, most notably in East Africa with the adoption of the *Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia* and in Central America with the *Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework* (also known by its Spanish acronym, 'MIRPS'). These regional approaches allow neighbouring countries facing similar problems to work together to protect and find solutions for refugees, with the support and assistance of the international community. The AU has declared 2019 the year of "Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons". ***African nations are setting an example for richer countries when it comes to the treatment of refugees***, said UN Secretary-General Guterres at the annual African Union Summit in February 2019.

At the **national** level, an increasing number of countries are committed to adopting comprehensive responses under government leadership that engages all relevant stakeholders (including government ministries that have not traditionally focused on refugee issues).

At all levels, the potential role of the **private sector** in comprehensive refugee responses is being increasingly recognized and harnessed, particularly in the relation to livelihoods, infrastructure, connectivity and energy. The IKEA Foundation, for example, has helped to transform a remote refugee-hosting community in the Dollo Ado region of south-east Ethiopia, donating \$100m to improve living standards and foster self-reliance among 200,000 Somali refugees and locals. The money has been used to build irrigation systems, train farmers, provide small business loans, and create sustainable energy solutions. As a result, school enrolment rates are up, malnutrition rates are down, and youth employment is growing as economic activity picks up.

### **Objective One: Easing pressures on host countries**

The first objective of the GCR — to ease the pressure on host States—recognizes the enormous role that host countries play in supporting the international refugee regime and the pressures that States face when hosting large numbers of refugees. The period since the adoption of the New York Declaration has seen increased recognition of these realities, and a more concerted effort to ease pressures.

In accordance with a request from the General Assembly,<sup>5</sup> UNHCR has commenced coordinating an effort to **measure the impact of hosting, protecting and assisting refugees on host countries**. It is envisaged that this work—which will be undertaken with technical expertise from Member States



*Members of the Makonde community discuss displacement and statelessness issues during a consultation in Kwale, Kenya. © UNHCR / Roger Arnold*

<sup>5</sup> See [A/RES/72/150](#).

and relevant international organizations—will assist in the assessment of gaps in international cooperation and promote more equitable, predictable and sustainable burden- and responsibility-sharing.

Whilst humanitarian assistance will continue to be invaluable in meeting immediate needs, there is a growing recognition of the **development challenges posed by large-scale displacement**, particularly when such displacement becomes protracted. In response, clear evidence is emerging of bilateral and multilateral **development actors giving greater priority to forced displacement** and its developmental consequences, including by increasingly allocating funding to programmes that benefit displaced populations and their hosts. Its full effects will take some time to materialise, but some changes can already be observed.

Over the past three years, DAC members have contributed **ODA bi-laterally or through pooled funds to international organisations to programmes and projects supporting refugees and host communities for a total of US\$25.98 billion** and an addition of US\$ 2.99 in 2018 (year-end figure for 2018 not yet available)<sup>6</sup>. Growth of ODA between 2015 to 2017 has remained steady and even slightly positive. DAC members mostly indicated that their ODA would remain the same or increase in the future. In this context, the balance between humanitarian and development ODA remains, however, somewhat skewed with 70 percent of the ODA going to humanitarian and short-term programmes and projects in 2017.

In addition to improving burden- and responsibility-sharing, the process leading to the global compact on refugees has also examined ways to **broaden the base of support** available to hosting States, to ensure the **early involvement of development actors** in refugee situations, including through the engagement of countries of origin, to address all phases of displacement and to begin addressing root causes early, and to enhance **accountability for commitments** of support.

## **Objective Two: Enhancing refugee self-reliance**

Significant progress since September 2016 has also been made against the second objective: to enhance refugee self-reliance. Following on, in many cases, from the pledges made during the Leaders' Summit on Refugees, a number of States have revisited laws and policies (or are in the process of doing so) to support refugee inclusion and self-reliance, including by guaranteeing their rights and promoting their social and economic inclusion.

A number of States have enacted or are in the process of enacting **new refugee laws and regulations guaranteeing the rights of refugees and expanding refugee access to national systems and services**. Ethiopia's revision of its refugee law comes just weeks after the UN General Assembly agreed to the GCR on 17 December 2018. Making it one of the **most progressive refugee policies in Africa**, this historic new refugee law will now allow refugees to obtain work permits, access primary education, obtain drivers' licenses, legally register life events such as births and marriages and open up access to national financial services, such as banking.

**Bilateral development partners** (including ADA, BMZ, DANIDA, DEVCO, ENABLE, JICA, SIDA, the Netherlands) have stepped up bringing **longer term investments** and a **sustainability** lens to the response. Increased bilateral development cooperation is exemplified through JICA's sub-office in Arua, Northern Uganda, where two senior Japanese technical advisors are supporting local government with tailored planning tools adapted to cope with the population increase. For the first time **DANIDA** has initiated works with a project in favor of refugees in Uganda, dedicating up to 60% of its country program to the nexus. Its new program - NURI (Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative) - has just completed community access roads while ensuring that beneficiaries are given up to 4 years

---

<sup>6</sup> OECD-DAC, "Financing refugee-hosting contexts. An analysis of the DAC's contribution to burden- and responsibility-sharing in supporting refugees and their host communities", December 2018.



*Ariat Ochocka Odulla swaddles her three-week-old son and holds his birth certificate, one of the first issued to a refugee child in Ethiopia. © UNHCR / Diana Diaz*

proper follow-up support. **SIDA** is meaningfully building the capacity and the systems of the national hospitals in Uganda to reduce neonatal mortality. Since Dec 2016, more than 130,000 pregnant women and 550,000 children under five have been assisted through **UNICEF**'s Health Systems Strengthening project. The **EU Trust Fund** for Northern Uganda, run through a NGO Consortium led by DRC and bilateral agencies such as the Belgian Development Agency (Enable), has made visible progress in securing an income for over 6650 beneficiaries. Particularly encouraging are the 6-months vocational trainings for youth directly benefiting from internships on the job market leading to permanent employment by CEOs. In **Chad**, AFD's transborder project RESILAC, for persons of concern and hosts, works in four regions (from lac Tchad to Etat de Borno in Nigeria) to help increase the resilience of 1,600,000 beneficiaries. It is the first time in Chad that AFD includes refugees in their programming.

Refugee **education** has received particular focus since the adoption of the New York Declaration:

- Uganda's Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities (ERP) was launched on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The Plan – the first of its kind worldwide – represents a huge policy step forward for refugee education. It is the exemplary work of a multi-stakeholder approach with the Ministry of Education in the lead. It has been developed with support from humanitarian and development partners, through the contribution of financial support, technical expertise and practical input. It sets out a realistic and coordinated plan to ensure quality, accredited education for refugees and host communities within a national education system on a multi-year basis.
- Ethiopia has enrolled more than 56,000 refugees across all levels of education, in line with its Leaders' Summit pledge to expand access to education for refugees. Chad has officially converted all refugee community schools into government public schools and has enrolled refugee teachers in official teacher training colleges affording them national certification. In 2018, refugee schools in Kakuma, Kenya were registered as public schools with the Ministry of Education.
- The countries hosting large numbers of Syrian refugees have increased the rate of inclusion of Syrian refugee children in national education systems, which have in turn been strengthened, with the support of the international community.
  - For example, since the 2016 decision of the Government of Turkey to include refugees in the national education system, the number of refugee children enrolled in Turkish schools has risen dramatically; today, more than 63% of all refugee children receiving an education in Turkey are attending Turkish schools (In the 2014-2015 academic year, only 17.3% of Syrian



*Syrian refugee children attend class in a Turkish cultural centre that has been converted into a school with the support of the Government of Turkey. © UNHCR / Diana Diaz*

- refugees were enrolled in Turkish schools). More than 20,000 Syrian students are enrolled in Turkish universities and benefit from a tuition fee waiver granted by the Turkish Government.
- Across the five major host countries for Syrian refugees (Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt), the number of school-age Syrian children enrolled in formal or regulated non-formal education increased over the course of 2017 from 1.04 million (59%) to 1.25 million (65%).
  - There have also been noteworthy developments relating to education at the regional level through the adoption of a range of commitments to strengthening national education systems for the benefit of refugees, including:
    - the [Djibouti Declaration on Regional Refugee Education](#), wherein IGAD Member States commit to including refugees in national education systems by 2020;
    - the [Buenos Aires Declaration](#), adopted by the Regional Meeting of Ministers of Education of Latin America and the Caribbean;
    - the [Eastern Africa Ministerial Statement](#), adopted by the Regional SDG Forum of Ministers of Education for Eastern Africa;
    - the [Nairobi Declaration and Call for Action on Education](#), wherein the Pan African High Level Conference on Education reaffirmed commitments to ‘making our educational systems more responsive, flexible and resilient to include refugees and internally displaced people’; and
    - the [Dubai Roadmap for Education 2030 in the Arab Region \(2017-2018\)](#), wherein a wide range of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders note their dedication ‘to the inclusion of refugee children and youth systematically in national educational planning processes in order to monitor their participation and educational attainment’.
    - The [Strasbourg Declaration](#) in November 2018 committed to taking further legal and policy measures in Europe and North America to make education systems more equitable and inclusive of migrants, refugees, displaced persons, stateless children and asylum seekers.
    - The [Global Education Meeting](#) in Brussels in December 2018 called for commitment to include migrants, displaced persons and refugees in education and training systems and to facilitate the recognition of their qualifications, skills, and competencies, in line with national legislation and international agreements.
  - Global efforts to mobilize funding for education in emergency contexts resulted in the establishment of [Education Cannot Wait](#) (ECW) in 2016. ECW aims to ensure that every crisis-affected child and young person is in school and learning, and is committed to aligning with the

GCR/CRRF in multi-year funding. Funding to date has been allocated for refugee children in Uganda, Ethiopia, Chad and Bangladesh and for returnees in Afghanistan.

- The [Global Partnership for Education \(GPE\)](#) is working with UNHCR to support refugee inclusion in multi-year national education sector planning, to increase the inclusion of refugee data in national education information management systems, and to boost development education support from the international community to host governments. It has also encouraged governments to use the GPE Acceleration Fund in refugee emergency contexts; Chad accessed this funding for the Lake Chad crisis, using it to amplify services for refugee, returnee and local children and youth in the region.
- The [Connected Learning in Crisis Consortium \(CLCC\)](#) was founded in 2016, and is co-chaired by UNHCR and the University of Geneva-InZone. The efforts of the Consortium's twenty-three members have resulted in support for over 7,000 refugee and host community students in 12 countries to participate in connected learning courses. These courses expand access to face-to-face tertiary education by utilizing digital tools and connectivity to link students to content, peers and professors from around the world. They assist refugees and others to obtain relevant, accredited diplomas, degrees, and professional certificates from recognized institutions both in-country and globally, overcoming geographical and temporal challenges by enabling students to study where they reside and at times that adapt to their daily routines.
- In 2018, UNHCR reached the [milestone of 1 million out of school children enrolled](#) in primary education since 2012 through the [Educate A Child](#) Programme. The programme, implemented across 12 countries, helps UNHCR and its partners identify and enrol out of school children, and ensure their retention through improving the quality of teaching and learning, ensuring safe learning environments for children, promoting awareness and advocacy on the importance of education, and strengthening capacity and partnerships with Ministries of Education and others to enable more refugee children to attend school. Improved data management now allows UNHCR to more effectively track out of school children and youth and provide tailored interventions, as well as monitor students' progress through the education system.
- In 2018, over 6,500 refugee students enrolled in higher education at more than 700 universities in 51 countries with the support of the [Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative \(DAFI programme\)](#). Each DAFI scholarship covers tuition, a financial stipend and provides an array of support services. Substantial funding increases from the Government of Germany and private donors enabled the tripling of available DAFI scholarships over the last three years. The number of applications received, however, continues to eclipse the number of scholarships available, underscoring the ever-increasing demand for higher education opportunities among refugees. DAFI scholarships are also available to refugee returnees in several countries in order to support the development of skilled young women and men who can contribute to the future of the country they've come home to.
- Recognising the need to expand flexible, certified education options for over age, out of school children and youth, UNHCR and partners of the Accelerated Education Working Group assisted the Ministries of Education in Kenya, Pakistan and Uganda to build capacity and to develop national guidelines based on the Working Group Principles for Accelerated Education. UNHCR will continue to strengthen the quality of [Accelerated Education \(AE\)](#) programmes providing flexible opportunities for over age out of school children and youth to access certified education programmes to catch up and transition to formal education, vocational training or livelihoods.
- The [Instant Network Schools](#) programme, a joint project of the Vodafone Foundation and UNHCR, aims to integrate technology in classrooms by providing training, solar power, connectivity and tablets with offline content. The programme places refugees and their host communities at the centre during a three-day design process that culminates in a tailored classroom design. Outside school hours, some of these classrooms transform into community hubs, opening up learning opportunities for a much broader group of people. Since the programme began in 2014, the Instant Network Schools project has worked in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, South Sudan and Tanzania and has benefitted some 62,000 young refugees and over 850 teachers.

- UNHCR continues to advocate for and build partnerships to support expanded access to national [Technical and Vocational Education and Training \(TVET\)](#) programmes for refugees as an additional pathway to skills development and employability. In 2018, UNHCR’s Tertiary Education and Livelihoods teams presented a joint workshop on higher education and transition to employment for UNHCR staff and partners from countries hosting Afghan refugees. The workshop was the first in what will be an ongoing collaboration to strengthen linkages between education and economic inclusion programming.
- UNHCR’s Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa convened more than [50 private sector companies](#) in Nairobi to discuss and find ways to support [post-secondary education of refugees](#) across the region. While this is only in its very early stages, Private Sector Partners Equity Bank and MasterCard Foundation in January 2019 opened their [Wings to Fly](#) comprehensive secondary school scholarship programme, previously open to only Kenyan nationals, to [South Sudanese refugees](#).

Strong progress has also been made in the field of [jobs and livelihoods](#):

- In Djibouti, the refugee ID card now allows its bearer to seek employment.
- In Costa Rica, refugees and asylum seekers have also been included in the “My First Job” initiative, aiming to stimulate the private sector through a subsidy system for those hiring persons of concern, especially youth and people living with vulnerabilities. Mexico has taken steps to guarantee the access of refugees to livelihood training, employment programmes and financial services, and Guatemala is providing access to job support services.
- In Ethiopia, work is ongoing towards the development of the Ethiopia Economic Opportunities Program to create opportunities for refugees alongside Ethiopian nationals, including in industrial parks. The Government’s Roadmap includes a target of 100,000 economic opportunities, of which 30% will be for refugees. Funding to support this work is coming through the World Bank (which has committed \$200 million through the IDA 18 sub-window for refugees and host communities) and a Multi-Donor Trust Fund (which includes loans worth \$250m from the European Investment Bank and \$80m from the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development to support investment in Ethiopia, including for construction of an industrial park in Dire Dawa).
- In Zambia, regulatory action in March 2017 legalized refugees opening bank accounts and possessing mobile wallets.



*Since fleeing Columbia, the Ángel Velásquez family have built a successful bakery business in Costa Rica. © UNHCR / Santiago Escobar-Jaramillo*



- In Chad, the World Bank launched in December 2018 the USD 60million “Refugee and Host Communities Support Project” (*Projet d’appui aux réfugiés et aux communautés d’accueil, PARCA*). It is a major plan to improve access to basic social services and livelihoods for refugees and host communities, benefiting an estimated of 1.1 million persons whom between 30% and 50% are refugees in refugees-hosting areas. The EU recently launched *DIZA*, a 3-year €15mill. development project for refugee hosting areas; to be implemented in east and south Chad.
- In **Rwanda**, in partnership with Inyenyeri, a local renewable energy company, a new business model for sustainable cooking fuel has been introduced. As UNHCR shifted to un-restricted cash-transfers instead of in-kind firewood provision, 95% of refugee families are choosing to buy Inyenyeri’s solution which includes the Mimi Moto, the world’s cleanest biomass-fuelled cook stove that reduces fuel consumption by more than 80% and exposure to harmful smoke emissions by 98%. Several refugees are now also employed in decent jobs by the company. Inyenyeri was recently featured on the front page of the *New York Times* for their innovative business model.
- With the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, UNHCR has developed a [joint action plan for the employment of refugees](#) that offers a list of ten concrete actions to support the successful inclusion of refugees in labour markets.
- To support private sector engagement in support of livelihoods, the International Finance Corporation has conducted a consumer and market study of the town and refugee camp in Kakuma, Kenya, that highlighted the untapped potential for private sector investment and activity. UNDP and the Uganda Investment Authority have furthermore produced [investment profiles](#) in 11 refugee-hosting districts to support the business case for investment and development there.
- The International Labour Organization has developed and adopted two important instruments promoting decent work for refugees, namely the [Guiding principles on the access of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons to the labour market](#) (November 2016) and the [Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation](#) (June 2017).
- Contributions of the ILO resulted in [market systems and value chain analysis](#) of economic opportunities refugee communities in Zambia, Pakistan and Jigjiga Ethiopia in 2018.

### Financial inclusion

- In response to the CRRF, the [United Nations Capital Development Fund \(UNCDF\)](#) developed a Financial Inclusion Framework for refugees. As part of this Framework, UNCDF and UNHCR have launched a technical assistance facility to support financial service providers to enhance their efforts and strengthen their capacity to reach refugee and other displaced populations, as well as host communities.
- Sweden is rolling out a credit guarantee facility to incentivise impact investors to provide debt funding to financial service providers who, in turn, are willing to provide microcredit loans to refugees and residents of host communities for business or personal needs.
- In **Lebanon**, among the pioneer financial service providers (FSPs) lending to refugees, Al Majmoua, a Lebanese MFI, recorded the highest outreach in the provision of loans for consumption and business to refugees, with exceptional repayment rates. As of the end of April 2018, the MFI was serving 8,520 Syrian refugee clients through both individual and group lending methodology, with a portfolio at risk over 30 days.
- In **Jordan**, Microfund for Women (MFW), a Jordanian MFI, achieved in 2018 an impressive portfolio of 4,047 Syrian refugee borrowers. In June MFW also began disbursing start-up business loans and educational loans to Syrians.
- In **Malawi**, New Finance Bank Malawi opened their first branch in Dzaleka camp in 2018, the first financial institution to establish a service centre in the camp. The official launch took place mid-April and at that time there were already more than 1,000 account holders, and two refugees were employed by the bank. Following consultations with refugee leaders, the livelihoods partner,

Government and UNHCR, NFB started with offering various services including savings accounts, ATM access, Forex services and remittance services.

- In **Rwanda**, 495 Congolese refugee entrepreneurs were trained in business skills in August 2018 and received strategic business consulting services from INKOMOKO. After conducting their due diligence, INKOMOKO provided 5,400,000 Rwf loans to 14 Congolese refugees to grow their businesses. Previous loans provided to refugee entrepreneurs had a 98% successful repayment rate.
- In April 2018, UNHCR organized a workshop with **Moroccan** microfinance institutions (MFIs) in a number of cities in the country to advocate for access to microcredit loans to refugees. Soon thereafter, two MFIs – Atil and Inmaa – agreed to extend their financial services to refugees. A MoU was signed with the UNHCR operations in Rabat and lending to refugees started early in 2019.

Refugees have been included in the national **health** systems in a number of countries, including Uganda, Zambia, Kenya and Djibouti,<sup>7</sup> with the international community providing support to build the capacity of those systems for the benefit of refugees and host communities:

- UNHCR operations in Senegal, Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Mali, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Kenya, Djibouti and Iran support the enrolment of refugees into national health insurance schemes (and into private health insurance in Malaysia).
- **Uganda's five-year** integrated health sector response plan, launched in January 2019, provides integrated services for refugees and refugee-host communities in all refugee-hosting districts and **government funding to support the partial implementation of the plan**. This plan offers a framework to continue efforts from development partners, such as SIDA's and UNICEF's joint effort since 2016 to strengthening the capacity of Arua Regional Hospital to reduce neonatal mortality.
- At the global level, the World Health Organization, in collaboration with UNHCR and IOM, developed in 2017 a **Framework of Priorities and Guiding Principles to Promote the Health of Refugees and Migrants**. The World Health Assembly passed a resolution in May 2017 urging States to 'strengthen international cooperation on the health of refugees' and to consider promoting the Framework of Priorities and Guiding Principles.
- The **World Health Organization** has also mobilized funds for emergency health responses for refugees and migrants in transit through Guatemala and continues to advocate for strengthened government capacity in line with the priorities identified in Guatemala's MIRPS national chapter.
- **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance** encourages governments to integrate refugees in their national immunization programmes. In 2017, it updated its **Fragility, Emergencies, Refugees Policy** to ensure greater flexibility and tailored support to Gavi-eligible refugee-hosting countries, including through additional vaccines to cover a broader age or antigen ranges and additional support for the operational costs of vaccination campaigns. Through this policy, Gavi has supported Governments and partners in Rwanda, Uganda and Bangladesh with vaccines to protect refugees. In 2018, Gavi supported the Government of Uganda to include refugees in the national targets for routine immunization programs, and also supplied vaccines to address the outbreak of diphtheria in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh.

Links between humanitarian assistance and **national social protection** systems are also being increasingly strengthened:

- Refugees are being enrolled in safety net programmes in Ecuador, Costa Rica, Cameroon, Chad, Brazil, Bolivia, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela and South Africa. In Costa Rica, refugees living in poverty are now able to access welfare programmes on the same footing as nationals.
- The European Union is funding a programme to be operated by UNHCR, the World Bank and civil society actors that links Somali refugees in the Jijjiga camps of Ethiopia to the National Productive

<sup>7</sup> Refugees were given access to the national health system in Djibouti in January 2018.

Safety Net Programme of Ethiopia, while working to build livelihoods and labour opportunities enabling refugees to graduate out of safety net payments.

- UNHCR and UNICEF are working with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Interior in Iraq to build the Ministries' capacities to manage child protection and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), train social workers and put in place referral processes between humanitarian child and SGBV protection services and government social welfare services.

#### Improved access to water for both refugees and hosting communities

- **Ethiopia TANG Water Project integrated into national systems:** A MOU between Itang Town Water Utility Office and IRC has been signed, allowing the Water Utility Office and the Water Bureau to take over and manage the Itang Water Facility from December 2018. Before the handover, the Itang Water project was managed by the Itang Town Water Utility on a pilot basis with technical support from UNHCR, UNICEF and IRC. The Itang Water Project is a joint CRRF project funded by UNHCR, UNICEF, the Government of Ethiopia. The Project provides **water** to three refugee camps, Nguenyiel, Teirkidi and Jewi as well as over 25,000 host community members in Itang Woreda. The handover will help ensure the **sustainability of the water project** going forward.
- With support from **BMZ**, the first motorized solar pump water station has been operational in Northern Uganda since April 2018, supplying clean drinking water to over 30,000 people in Imvepi settlement.
- In Kiryandongo (Uganda), an ongoing construction of a new water pump station, supported by the **Austrian Development Agency** and run by the **National Water and Sewerage Corporation**, is bringing tap water to people's houses or reducing the walking distance to drinking water to a maximum of 100m.
- Water truck tracker pilot: to more accurately monitor and measure the amount of water delivered to refugee and host communities during emergency water trucking operations, a new system adopts technology commonly used in the fuel industry and applies it to measurement of water supplies - **a potential „game changer’ for WASH monitoring in refugee settings**. Monitoring started in Uganda in January 2019. Already some of the data has revealed inconsistencies in water deliveries. The advantage of the system is that it is proven (petroleum companies use similar systems), simple (using low bandwidth frequencies), cheap (\$59 per fixed station), covers massive areas of territory and does not require additional staff to check individual tanks.



### Political Commitments



4 regional agreements steer comprehensive approaches, regionalizing solutions and building common approaches across national borders, namely: *San Pedro Sula, IGAD Nairobi, Djibouti Declarations and SSAR*

The African Union executive council called for all AU Member States to include refugees, IDPs and persons at risk of statelessness in **civil registration and vital statistics systems**.



In the Americas, **180** concrete commitments by host countries charted a new course for refugee protection and solutions, with a mechanism for tracking implementation.



**15** countries have initiated legal or policy changes toward greater refugee inclusion and self-reliance.



**15** countries have adopted or are developing CRRF plans under Government leadership with participation of Line Ministries and local government partners.

**13** CRRF Countries have acknowledged the right of refugees to work and generate an income - although restrictions on the location and type of work may be in place



### Economic Social and Financial Inclusion



Mexico, Zambia, Ethiopia have all committed to increasing access to **financial services** refugees

In August 2018, the Central Bank of Djibouti gave refugees the right to open bank accounts.



In Ethiopia, a projected 100,000 job opportunities will be created, of which **30%** are for refugees.



In Uganda, **32,841** people benefitted from livelihood support in 2016, 30% host population.



In Chad, **108** schools in refugee areas have been nationalized, and 1032 teachers trained and employed. In Ethiopia, an additional **57,000** refugees are attending school



In Uganda, **610,012** people served through new sustainable water supply systems in refugee hosting districts, 22.5% from the host population.



In Uganda, **38** health facilities (92%) accredited for inclusion into the national system, now serving refugees and hosts alike.



### Asylum, Registration and Access to Documentation



All the MIRPS countries are improving their asylum systems with a focus on improved information sharing, more efficient identification of vulnerable persons and status determination procedures



**12** countries have committed to improved access to documentation.



**Mexico** issues asylum-seekers with national population registration numbers, the same as nationals, which will enhance access to work, education and health services.



**4** countries are expanding alternative to camp opportunities, with Djibouti entirely reversing encampment legislation.



In Costa Rica refugees have been included in all programs of social welfare and poverty reduction using the same criteria as for nationals.

Table: Snapshot of progress from CRRF roll-out in 15 countries (2016-2018).

- At the national and global levels, there has also been increasing recognition of the importance of the **participation of refugees** in processes that affect them:
- Refugees participate in CRRF facilitation mechanisms (Steering Groups and Secretariats) in Uganda, Djibouti and Ethiopia. Uganda is in the process of establishing a Refugee Advisory Forum to represent refugee voices. More than 1,000 persons of concern were consulted as part of the preparations for the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework, particularly in designing national action plans in Mexico, Costa Rica and Panama. Refugees have also been key participants in the Geneva-based process for the development of the global compact on refugees.
- In 2017, the High Commissioner for Refugees launched a Global Youth Advisory Council to give the voices and perspectives of refugee youth a global platform, and to advise UNHCR on issues relating to protection and young people. The Council has 15 members from around the world.



Aya Mohammed Abdullah, an Iraqi refugee and a member of the High Commissioner's Global Youth Advisory Committee, addresses the stocktaking meeting for the global compact on refugees.

© UNHCR / Jean Marc Ferré



*Somaya Alchabli, a Syrian refugee, and Dr Nhung Tran-Davies, her Canadian sponsor. Dr Tran-Davies herself came to Canada as a sponsored refugee from Vietnam.*

### Objective Three: Expanding access to third country solutions

In 2016, global refugee resettlement reached a twenty-year high as States continued to expand their programmes to welcome more refugees from Syria and other emergency situations. Although the number of refugee resettlement places has fallen since then, a number of underlying trends have emerged or expanded since the adoption of the New York Declaration that show promise in being able to support expanded access to third country solutions for refugees:

- A number of **traditional resettlement States**—including Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom—have expanded or are expanding the numbers of refugees they resettle. In November 2017, the European Commission proposed a new resettlement scheme encouraging EU Member States to resettle at least 50,000 refugees by October 2019. All 50,000 places have already been pledged.
  - Important progress has been made in response to UNHCR’s call in October 2017 for States to provide 40,000 resettlement places for the 15 asylum countries along the central Mediterranean Route as part of the recently-established Core Group for Enhanced Resettlement and Complementary Pathways along the Central Mediterranean Route. Thanks to the collective efforts of States, UNHCR has so far received a total of 39,698 places out of the 40,000, which is an important demonstration of how collective efforts can contribute to responsibility-sharing.
- The pool of States with resettlement programmes is also expanding thanks to a number of **emerging resettlement countries**. Although this trend pre-dates the adoption of the New York Declaration (the total number of resettlement States expanded from 21 to 35 in the period 2003-2017), it is being strengthened and consolidated through the **Emerging Resettlement Countries Joint Support Mechanism**, which was launched at the Leaders’ Summit on Refugees and which provides a platform to facilitate strategic support and capacity-building efforts for the development of robust and sustainable resettlement programmes in new resettlement countries. The Mechanism is already providing support to Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Chile, and is looking to expand further.
- Access to resettlement is also being facilitated through the establishment and expansion of **private and community sponsorship** programmes for refugees. In addition to providing more opportunities to protect refugees and offer them durable solutions, these sponsorship programmes strengthen community and civil society engagement in supporting refugees, create a more welcoming environment for refugees, and build more diverse and inclusive societies. The **Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative**, which seeks to promote and support this trend, was launched in September 2016. The Initiative is currently assisting the establishment or expansion



*Somaya Alchabli, a Syrian refugee, and Dr Nhung Tran-Davies, her Canadian sponsor. Dr Tran-Davies herself came to Canada as a sponsored refugee from Vietnam. © UNHCR / Jimmy Jeong*

of sponsorship programmes in a number of established, new and emerging resettlement countries, including the UK, Ireland, Spain, Argentina, New Zealand and Germany among others.

- The use of **Evacuation Transit Facilities**—both as a protection tool for refugees in need of urgent or emergency resettlement and as an alternative site for refugee processing—has expanded.
  - Since being established in late 2017, the Emergency Evacuation and Transit Mechanism has been used to evacuate 2,491 people (as at 18 February 2019) from Libya to Niger for onward solutions, including resettlement, voluntary return or local integration, as well as access to labour mobility schemes, family reunification, humanitarian admissions, and scholarships in third countries.
  - In Central America, the Protection Transfer Arrangement (PTA), with the strong support of the United States of America, has been a practical, life-saving protection tool providing safe access to durable solutions for individuals at heightened risk. The United States, Canada, Australia and Uruguay have resettled persons at high risk from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala through the PTA. Brazil and Argentina have also committed to joining, as part of their cooperation with the MIRPS.
- The development of a 3-year strategy (2019-2021) on resettlement and complementary pathways is foreseen in the [Global Compact for Refugees \(GCR\)](#) (paragraph 91) as part of global efforts to promote durable solutions and enhance responsibility-sharing. UNHCR has recently initiated a multi-stakeholder consultative process to develop this strategy, which will have the overall objective of expanding resettlement and complementary pathways for refugees.
- Noteworthy progress has also been made in the development of **complementary pathways for the admission of refugees to third countries**. With a view to coordinate efforts, UNHCR has convened a multi-stakeholder meeting on complementary pathways in February 2019, bringing together States, civil society representatives, private sector representatives and other relevant stakeholders. The meeting was an important opportunity for UNHCR to articulate its views and vision on Complementary Pathways and ensure alignment in the different stakeholders approaches.
- **Progress has also been witnessed in making more complementary pathways accessible for refugees.** The United World Colleges Refugee Initiative is supporting refugee students to move to a third country to study for the International Baccalaureate, and Japan and France have established university places for Syrian refugees. In 2018, Canada initiated a pilot programme to provide labour mobility opportunities for refugees living in Kenya through Canada's economic

migration program. Talent Beyond Boundaries has established a talent register of 9,000 refugees seeking employment through labour mobility schemes, and the adoption in January 2018 of the African Union's protocol on *Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment* holds great promise in allowing refugees to access third-country solutions within the region.

- **Safe Pathways for Refugees, UNHCR-OECD “Study on third-country solutions for refugees:** family reunification, study programmes and labour mobility” is the **first publication of its kind**. It builds on commitments made by the international community in the NYD to improve international cooperation to enable the systematic collection, sharing, and analysis of data related to the availability and use of resettlement and complementary pathways. The report aims to address the current absence of **comprehensive data on the use of complementary pathways** by refugees and through that, supports efforts to achieve solutions for refugees.

## Objective Four: Supporting conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity

There have been some promising developments that hold the promise of future success in this area:

- The regional CRRF application for the Somalia refugee situation has a strong focus on supporting conditions in Somalia that are conducive to refugees' return in safety and dignity. IGAD Member States, including Somalia, have committed to taking concrete steps to improve the security situation in Somalia, to build the capacity of relevant authorities to undertake urban planning and resilience programming, and generally to support activities in line with Somalia's national development planning processes. A landmark development in this respect is the explicit recognition of the need for durable solutions to displacement and the reintegration of former refugees in Somalia's 2017-2019 National Development Plan, which will help to ensure the sustained attention of the government and development actors on these key issues.
- The Governments of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan established the *Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to Support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries (SSAR)* in 2012. The SSAR offers a comprehensive and integrated regional framework for joint interventions and cross border initiatives, aimed at facilitating the voluntary and gradual return of Afghan refugees and their sustainable reintegration, while providing assistance to their host communities and countries.
- The MIRPS incorporates countries of origin, transit and destination into its framework, reflecting the circular displacement patterns in the region. It highlights the need to work on the root causes of forced displacement, especially through the strengthening of national protection mechanisms. The framework includes forward-looking national action plans to address forced displacement and the protection and inclusion of returnees in countries of origin. This includes galvanising bilateral and multilateral development actors to address root causes sustainably.
- Canada is supporting several resilience and capacity building initiatives in countries of origin, including to enable greater food security for returnees and local populations. In Central America, for example, it has committed almost \$35m for a range of projects aimed at addressing the impact of violence, especially violence involving children, and increasing national legal capacities.
- The United Nations Secretary-General's reform agenda, in particular in relation to **peacebuilding and sustaining peace**, is aiming to make the UN system more effective in preventing conflict, and in restoring peace when it does break out. The peacebuilding fund has increased financing for activities aimed at understanding and addressing the root causes of forced displacement and supporting countries in addressing the barriers of sustainable reintegration and return.
- A range of peacebuilding and development actors are paying increasing attention to preventing and addressing issues related to abandoned land, housing and property as a major obstacle to durable return in safety and dignity, including UNDP, UN-Habitat and OHCHR.

- In the GCR, States and others have reiterated their determination to work together to address the root causes of large refugee situations, including through heightened international efforts in the fields of conflict prevention and resolution, upholding international humanitarian law, poverty alleviation in and development assistance to countries of origin in line with the 2030 Agenda, and promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

### **Conclusion: the global compact on refugees in action**

As the examples in this document highlight, noteworthy progress has been made since the adoption of the New York Declaration in the operationalization of its core principles and towards the achievement of the four objectives of the GCR. The continuation of these trends—with the support of the international community as a whole and with a focus on all four objectives—will be essential to the effective implementation of the global compact on refugees following its adoption in December 2018.