

**GLOBAL
REFUGEE
FORUM**



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



17-18 DECEMBER 2019

PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

What will happen at the Global Refugee Forum?

At the Global Refugee Forum, States and other stakeholders will announce concrete pledges and contributions to bring the goals of the Compact to life.

Contributions may take the form of financial, material, and technical assistance; resettlement places and complementary pathways for admission to third countries; as well as other actions that States and other stakeholders have elected to take. Contributions can be made either individually or jointly with other actors.

The Global Refugee Forum will also serve as a space to share good practices, experiences, and lessons learned identified with respect to specific country or regional situations, as well as on a global level.

The exchange of good practices will support the international community in developing forward-looking and impactful contributions that will transform the lives of refugees and their host communities.

The first Global Refugee Forum, will focus on six areas:

1 Arrangements for burden and responsibility-sharing

The Global Compact calls for more equitable, sustained and predictable support to refugees and the countries that host them, including the mobilization of additional funding, regional and sub-regional approaches to refugee situations, better data and evidence, and efforts to prevent forced displacement and address its root causes.

2 Education

Education is crucial to the self-reliance of refugees, enabling them to build their knowledge and skills to lead productive, fulfilling and independent lives. It is also central to the development of the places that have welcomed them, and to the future prosperity of their own countries.

3 Jobs and livelihoods

Promoting economic opportunities for refugees enables them to rebuild their lives and once again become productive members of a community. Their efforts, in turn, can help create jobs, stimulate international trade and investment, and boost innovation, enterprise and growth in host communities.

4 Energy and infrastructure

Human dignity and self-reliance cannot be achieved without light, heat and power – yet only about 10% of refugees worldwide have reliable access to electricity. In situations where firewood is the main source of fuel, environmental degradation is inevitable and can be long lasting and difficult to reverse. The vast majority of refugees today are hosted in low and middle-income countries, putting extraordinary pressures on local services and the local environment.

5 Solutions

One of the primary objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees is to facilitate access to solutions. For many refugees, that may mean returning to their country of origin. Those who cannot return because of continued war or persecution may find a home in another country, through resettlement and other complementary pathways. Another alternative is integration within the host community.

6 Protection capacity

Strong public institutions are essential to identify and address the protection needs of refugees and their host communities, while at the same time ensuring support to national early warning, preparedness and contingency planning systems.

What is the Global Compact on Refugees?

On 17 December 2018, the UN General Assembly affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees.

The Global Compact on Refugees aims to improve the international response to new and existing refugee situations.

Its four key objectives are to:

- ① ease pressures on host countries;
 - ② enhance refugee self-reliance;
 - ③ expand access to third-country solutions;
 - ④ support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.
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One year after the Global Compact on Refugees was affirmed by the UN General Assembly, the first **Global Refugee Forum** is a critical opportunity to build momentum towards achieving the objectives of this new commitment and strengthen our collective response to refugee situations.



Syrian DAFI scholars Bassam (left) and Mazen (right) pose for a picture in the Beqaa Valley, Lebanon. © UNHCR/Antoine Tardy

Front photo: Somali refugee Ifrah cooks gourmet dishes for friends of all origins in Brussels, Belgium. © UNHCR/Kristof Vadino

For more information:

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unhcr.org/global-refugee-forum.html

