

BURDEN AND RESPONSIBILITY SHARING



Brazilian children welcome Venezuelans arriving at the Aldeias Infantis shelter after being relocated in Igarassu, Pernambuco state of Brazil, thanks to a local relocation programme supported by UNHCR, civil society and UN agencies. © UNHCR/Allana Ferreira

Facts and Figures

The world's forcibly displaced population remains yet again at a record high. Today there are **25.9 million refugees in the world**.

An estimated **2.8 million refugees and asylum-seekers** people were newly displaced due to conflict or persecution in 2018. Countries in

developed regions hosted 16 per cent of refugees, while **one-third of the global refugee population** (6.7 million people) were in the **Least Developed Countries**.

Altogether, more than two-thirds (67 per cent) of all refugees worldwide came from just five

countries: the Syrian Arab Republic (6.7 million), Afghanistan (2.7 million), South Sudan (2.3 million), Myanmar (1.1 million), and Somalia (0.9 million).

For the fifth consecutive year, Turkey hosted the largest number of refugees worldwide, with 3.7 million people, followed by Pakistan (1.4 million), and Uganda (1.2 million).

Lebanon continued to host the largest number of refugees relative to its national population, where 1 in 6 people was a refugee.

In 2018, nearly 4 out of every 5 refugees lived in countries neighbouring their countries of origin.

With the **vast majority of refugees hosted in low and middle-income countries**, responsibility too often falls on host countries whose infrastructures – such as schools, shelters, health centres, water, and sanitation and hygiene, to name a few – are already overstretched and poorly equipped to support large numbers of new arrivals, putting extraordinary pressure on limited resources and host communities. Also, insufficient or inefficient funding of humanitarian operations means that refugee populations who depend on humanitarian assistance struggle to survive. Such pressures can also fuel harmful attitudes, approaches, and coping mechanisms in refugee contexts.

Ultimately, addressing the drivers of displacement through **conflict prevention and peace-building** are the key to addressing these challenges.

At the same time, adequate **humanitarian and development funding** and the systematic inclusion of refugees and host communities in development planning and funding are crucial. These can ensure both that needs are addressed at the onset of a crisis, and that refugees are equipped with the means to become self-reliant over the medium to longer term, making them less dependent on humanitarian assistance and less vulnerable.

Solid and reliable **data** about refugee populations is also needed to inform policies towards refugees. Data can help to build the evidence base for determining what approaches

work best in responding to refugee situations. It is also crucial to challenge misinformation about refugee situations.

Achieving these goals requires a sound level of **participation by all**. This requires the commitment of more actors, from States, to international organizations, the private sector, development actors, NGOs, and refugee themselves to engage and work better together.

Much more needs to be done to address the needs of refugees and receiving States – to achieve a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees, while taking account of existing contributions and the differing capacities and resources among States. Only in partnership and with significant, multi-year domestic, humanitarian and development investments now and for many years to come will it be possible to counter these trends.

The Global Compact on Refugees

In recognition of these significant challenges, through the 2018 [Global Compact on Refugees](#), UN Member States committed to **share responsibility** with the host countries. The compact aims to transform the way the world responds to large-scale displacements, by putting into practice the principle of international responsibility-sharing that underpins the protection, assistance, and ultimately pursuit of solutions for refugee situations.

It has **four key objectives**: to a) ease pressure on host countries; b) enhance refugee self-reliance; c) expand access to third country solutions; and d) support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

The Global Compact on Refugees is a framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing, recognizing that a sustainable solution to refugee situations cannot be achieved without international cooperation. It provides a blueprint for governments, international organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure that host communities get the support they need and that refugees can lead productive lives.

The Global Refugee Forum

The Global Compact on Refugees envisions the convening of a periodic Global Refugee Forum for States and other stakeholders to make commitments towards the objectives of the compact. The first **Global Refugee Forum** will take place on 17 and 18 December 2019, with an advance day of events on 16 December 2019. This will be a unique opportunity to mobilise all actors to contribute to forging a stronger, global response to refugee situations.

To achieve this, governments, development and humanitarian partners and the private sector will come together to discuss and report on efforts to provide more, better coordinated and systematic funding for refugee situations and support to host communities, as well as to address and prevent the root causes of refugee situations.

They will also have an opportunity to showcase good practices that have made a demonstrable difference in the lives of refugees and their host communities.

These could include pledges, contributions and good practices in areas such as:

- More financial, material and technical **support to host countries;**

- Additional **resettlement places, humanitarian visas**, and education and other opportunities for refugees;
- **Changes to national laws and policies that enable refugees to become more self-reliant** and better included in local societies and economies;
- **Private sector investment, beneficial trade arrangements, and expanded educational and economic opportunities** for refugees and host communities, which can play a catalytic role;
- Innovative public-private partnerships to **leverage domestic capacities** and resources.

Transforming responses to meet contemporary forced displacement needs a more diverse coalition of support and action – from development organizations, to civil society, to the business community. All have a key role to play.

For more information please read the:

Guidance on [pledges and contributions](#)

Guidance on the [submission of good practices](#)

List of [Burden- and Responsibility-Sharing co-sponsors](#)

UNHCR Global Trends [Report](#): Forced Displacement in 2018.

Contact the Global Forum Team at hqgrf@unhcr.org for more information