

2025 HLPF Inputs – UNHCR

(a) Your assessment of the impacts of the multiple and interconnected crises on the implementation of SDGs 3,5,8,14 and 17.

The multiple and interconnected crises, including conflict, violence, and forced displacement pose significant challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, critically undermining the principle of leaving no one behind. This is especially true for vulnerable groups such as refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless people, who face compounded barriers to inclusion and progress, and are also among the hardest hit by climate impacts. By mid-2024, 123 million people around the world were forcibly displaced – representing the highest number on record – half of which were women and girls. This means millions of women and girls facing deprivation, marginalization, and heightened risks of sexual violence.

Building on the commitments made at the GRF 2023, UNHCR has catalysed the implementation of [multi-stakeholder pledges](#) that advance the well-being of refugees and host communities, aligning with the SDGs and advancing the principle of "leaving no one behind." Several of these pledges align with and contribute directly to the SDGs that will be discussed at the 2025 High-Level Political Forum, including pledges on [Economic Inclusion and Social Protection](#) (SDG 8), [National Health System Inclusion](#) (SDG3); [Fostering Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing](#) (SDG3); [Gender Equality and Protection from Gender Based Violence](#), [Closing the Digital Gap](#), and [Avec Elles](#) (SDG5). These pledges bring together Member States, civil society, private sector, and other actors into a "whole-of-society" approach essential to addressing forced displacement and achieving the 2030 Agenda more broadly.

(b) Three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and Leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.

Below are three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions are effectively delivering results for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind, particularly for refugees, IDPs or stateless persons.

- **Education.** Using the example of [EMIS in Jordan and HIECON](#), UNHCR highlighted how the disaggregation of data by protection status and the need for higher education data on refugees, gives visibility to this vulnerable group visibility in the systems.
- **Climate** – the 2024 report [“no escape: on the frontlines of climate change, conflict and forced displacement”](#) published by UNHCR in close collaboration with 13 expert organizations, research institutes and refugee-led organizations, provided substantive data and evidence on the complex links between climate change, conflict and forced displacement.
- **Data-** EGRIS, the expert group on Refugee, IDPs and Statelessness statistic published a [paper](#) which provides an analysis of data collection practice and computation methods for 14 prioritized Sustainable Development Goals indicators and identifies specific considerations that may be required to produce better data on refugee, IDP and stateless populations for these SDG indicators. This includes primarily an assessment of existing metadata and a review of the planning, design, and data collection phases for household surveys to identify technical and operational considerations.

- **Engagement with women-led organizations (WLOs):** UNHCR is pursuing innovative approaches and new partnerships with organizations led by forcibly displaced women. 21% of UNHCR funded partnerships identify themselves as women-led organizations including seven per cent that are led by forcibly displaced and stateless women. WLOs constitute more than 21% of all UNHCR partners. UNHCR is increasing direct funding amounts (in total and per organization) and putting in place more agile and flexible funding modalities such as grant agreements to registered and unregistered organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons. For example: Regional grant agreements initiatives such as the "Strengthening Accountability for Affected Populations (AAP) Grant in the MENA region have enabled UNHCR to provide technical support and flexible funding to several women-led organizations. ["Femmes Ressources" based in Mbera refugee camp in Mauritania](#) was supported for its outreach capacity to identify and refer refugees at heightened protection risks, including older women with disabilities. The UNHCR Refugee-Led Innovation Fund provides funding, mentoring, and technical expertise to support refugee-led grass root organizations. In 2023, 40% of the funded organizations were WLOs. Further, UNHCR is leveraging the expertise of WLOs in coordination and decision-making forums. In 2024, [UNHCR-NGO Global Consultations on Gender Equality](#) recognized the unique capacity and expertise of WLOs and provided recommendations to the UNHCR, UN member states and NGOs to further strengthen engagement and support to these organizations. UNHCR will continue to open more opportunities and funding to these organizations in line with the UN Gender Equality Acceleration Plan.

Three examples of measures to accelerate progress towards SDGs through well-coordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress

1. Energy Access and affordability.

UNHCR's partnerships support sustainable energy access for displaced populations and host communities. Through the [Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings \(ESDS\) program with GIZ](#), over 160,000 people gained improved energy services, including cooking solutions and mini-grids, while capacity-building initiatives enhance community energy resilience. **NORCAP** provided expertise and launched the Female Accelerator Programme, advancing women's roles in the energy sector. The [Geneva Technical Hub \(GTH\)](#) aided 16 countries with energy and environmental assessments, supporting renewable energy adoption and planning. Tools like the *Greenhouse Gas Emission Calculator* and studies on e-waste and clean energy together with the [Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne \(EPFL\)](#).

At the Global Refugee Forum, UNHCR launched the first [Multistakeholder Pledge on Climate Resilient, Sustainable Human Settlements for Refugees and their Hosting Communities](#). The Pledge co-led by UN-Habitat and the Government of Ethiopia aligns with SDGs 6, 7 and 11 and focuses on establishing inclusive human settlements that provide equitable access to basic services, including energy, for both refugees and hosts. Nine Pledges were energy-focused, supporting the access of refugees to clean cooking and sustainable energy solutions, while for an additional sixteen comprehensive pledges, access to energy as basic service plays a major role/ is a component. The pledge, is framed around 6 priorities (urban planning; policy and governance; housing and shelter; basic services; economy and finance; and environmental and climate action) and brings together

national and local governments, individuals, private sector, NGOs and international organizations for coordinated humanitarian and development responses to invest in Climate Resilient, Sustainable Human Settlements to the benefit of refugees and host communities, setting two targets:

- Promoting sustainable and integrated approach to environmental and climate action, housing, land use, access to basic services and urban planning for climate resilient human settlements for refugees and their hosting communities;
 - Mobilizing stakeholders to enhance support and visibility for coordinated climate-resilient development.
- UNHCR continues to partner with ITU, GSMA and the Government of Luxembourg, with additional support from the Government of Spain and Cisco, to convene the [Connectivity for Refugees](#) initiative to advance the availability and affordability of digital connectivity for 20 million refugees and their hosts by 2030. In 2024 the initiative has been partnering with UNHCR country operations and partners to lay the foundations for transformational change in 12 countries across 3 continents. In these countries, the initiative is convening a range of partners across government, humanitarian, private sector, and other actors to develop evidence-based action plans and to drive forward projects which will bring meaningful connectivity to forcibly displaced people and the communities who host them.
 - UNHCR continues to collaborate with Utrecht University and the European Union to understand access to sustainable electricity for refugee settlements in sub-Saharan Africa. As an output from a collaboration in 2022, the [Clean Energy Access Tool](#) visualizes and analyses information on electricity access in sub-Saharan Africa with respect to refugee settlements. Indicators such as distance to main grids or costs to provide renewable versus non-renewable energy sources are indicative of the main challenges that remain to achieve SDG 7 and leave no one behind.

2. Jobs and Social Protection

- At the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, UNHCR co-led the [Multi-stakeholder Pledge: Economic Inclusion and Social Protection | The Global Compact on Refugees | UNHCR](#) securing 270 pledges from 88 states and over USD 1 billion in immediate investments.
- UNHCR's [2023 Global Compact on Refugees "Indicator Report"](#) covering 99 countries and 32 million refugees showed progress: 67% of refugees had legal right to work in 2023 (52% in 2021). However, only 45% could exercise this right in practice but a marked improvement from 18% in 2019. A global survey from 132 countries also showed 40% of countries offered social protection to refugees and over half of them had the right to open a bank account. Report from 5r UNHCR operations indicated that 44% of refugees had an account at a bank, financial institution, or mobile money service provider in 2023, up from 30% in 2022.
- UNHCR is a member of the [Global Task Force on Refugee Labour Mobility](#) co-leading the [Multi-stakeholder Pledge on Skills-Based Pathways](#) which aims to connect 200,000 refugees to labour mobility and education pathways over the next 5 years.

3. Statistical inclusion

- Statistical inclusion is key to assess the progress towards the SDGs and is key to keeping the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no-one behind. Through multi-stakeholder approaches, efforts are underway to accurately capture forcibly displaced, stateless people and host communities in censuses, administrative data sources, or nationwide household surveys. Accurate and disaggregated data on displaced and stateless persons, such as demographics and socio-economic conditions, is essential for governments to make informed policy decisions that support well-being and durable solutions. Insights from the data – particularly when it can be compared to data on non-displaced populations or the general population living in the same country – can guide the design and implementation of more integrated policies, that better meet the specific needs of forcibly displaced and stateless persons. These policies could be governing access to health, education, or work. Moreover, when this data is provided by trusted national systems that are guided by professional independence and accountability. In the GCR, 100 pledges have been made to include forcibly displaced population in national survey. EGRIS is comprised of members from 60 national statistics authorities from different regions of the world and 37 regional and international organizations.
- [The World Bank UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement](#) was established in response to the increasing magnitude, length, and complexity of displacement as well as the need for a development agenda to address these issues.

(c) Follow up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcome of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

As part of the official programme of the 2024 Summit of the Future, UNHCR hosted a virtual event co-sponsored by Colombia and Canada that highlighted the linkages and mutual reinforcement of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Pact for the Future (Pact). The event featured speakers from the whole of society who are leading on multistakeholder pledges launched at the Global Refugee Forum 2023 which have direct thematic and operational relevance to the 15 Actions Statements of the Pact. These included the multistakeholder pledges on Climate Action, Economic Inclusion and Social Protection, Education Inclusion, Gender Equality and Protection from Gender-based Violence, and Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention. The ongoing implementation of these and other multistakeholder pledges by governments and partners in civil society, the private sector, academia and beyond demonstrate active progress on the goals of the Pact for the Future and the 2030 Agenda at large.

(d) Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration for the 2025 HLPF

On Climate

1. Protect displaced people fleeing climate impacts and disasters by applying and adapting existing legal tools.
2. Include the voices and specific needs of displaced populations and host communities in climate finance and policy decisions, and ensure they have a seat at the table.
3. Invest in building climate resilience where needs are greatest, especially in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

Social and Economic Inclusion

1. Access to employment and financial services is critical to breaking the cycle of dependency. There has been a positive trend towards granting refugees the legal right to work (67% in 2023, up from 52% in 2021). While there is strong evidence of progress in economic inclusion, refugees remain highly vulnerable and exposed to the risk of economic downturns. We urge member states to continue including refugees into social protection systems and labor markets. This inclusion not only supports refugees but also benefits host communities by driving economic growth, tax revenues, and social cohesion.

Health

1. More member states are committing to the inclusion of refugees in national health systems including through over 150 pledges at the GRF, and we call for this to be scaled up with support of the international community where needed. This is necessary to advance towards universal health coverage and achievement of SDG 3. Promoting the health of refugees allows them to be productive members of society and also protects all on the territory, e.g., through the control of communicable diseases.