



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM — 2023 —

PLEDGES BY
THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA

BACKGROUND

The Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) was endorsed by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2018. The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) as part of the GCR provides guidelines to be applied to situations of forced displacement to achieve a more predictable and effective response implemented by a broad range of stakeholders. The GCR envisages the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) as an instrument to achieve the objectives of the GCR. It is an opportunity to take stock of progress in implementing the GCR, mobilize support for refugees and host communities, and to exchange on good practices and lessons learned in applying the new approach. At the Forum, Member States and other stakeholders announce pledges and commitments to make the objectives of the Compact a reality.

As a recognition of Uganda's championing role in implementing the CRRF, Uganda will be co-convenor of this year's Global Refugee Forum (13th -15th December 2023). Being the largest gathering on Refugees sitting this December after four years, Uganda with the challenge of looking after over 1.5 million Refugees, should put a case to solicit for support for the national refugee response. Therefore, in preparation for the Forum, the Government in consultation with stakeholders, has identified five priorities for presenting at the forum this December to attract pledge matching and commitment from the international community. They include:

- 1** **Increasing resilience and self-reliance:**
Empowering refugees to secure their own livelihoods.
- 2** **Taking actions against climate change:**
Protection of the environment and increasing access to sustainable energy sources in refugee hosting areas.
- 3** **Localizing the Refugee Response:**
Strengthening the role and impact of national responders.
- 4** **Building durable solutions:**
Refocusing commitments and efforts to support Uganda.
- 5** **Transition management:**
Pathways to Sustainable Burden-Sharing.

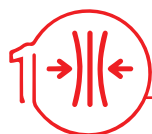
The Government of Uganda intends to pledge in each of these thematic areas. This document provides an overview of these policy pledges.

OVERVIEW OF GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA PLEDGES

1. Uganda pledges to create a minimum of 300,000 viable economic opportunities for refugees and host communities by 2027. This shall be realized by including refugees in agricultural value chains, increasing agricultural production and productivity, enabling private sector investments, promoting graduation and market systems development approaches, increasing access to formal and non-formal vocational skills training, promoting the development of market relevant skills and employment creation.
2. The Government of Uganda commits to include refugees and their specific situations in its nationally determined contributions and adaptation plans to effectively reduce the carbon emissions from deforestation and to enhance access to safe, clean, and affordable energy in refugee hosting districts by 2027.
3. The Government of Uganda pledges to support peace-building processes and negotiations that will lead to voluntary repatriation of refugees back home.
4. The Government of Uganda pledges to provide opportunities to all refugees to access electronic Conventional Travel Documents and birth certificates by 2027 to foster socio-economic rights and the rights of the child.
5. The Government of Uganda pledges to include localization provisions in strategies and frameworks for the refugee response to strengthen the role of national and local responders and gradually achieve the Grand Bargain commitments by 2027.
6. The Government pledges to continue managing and integrating the infrastructure and services specifically in health, education and water aligned with the government requirements in a phased approach. This will call for alignment of partner investments within the National Development Plan and District Development Plans.
7. The Government commits to put in place a transitional strategy and guidelines to facilitate coordinated transition planning and management.

BREAKDOWN OF PLEDGES BY THEMATIC AREA

THEMATIC AREA 1:



Increasing Resilience and Self Reliance

Uganda pledges to create a minimum of 300,000 viable economic opportunities for refugees and host communities by 2027. This shall be realized by including refugees in agricultural value chains, increasing agricultural production and productivity, enabling private sector investments, promoting graduation and market systems development approaches, increasing access to formal and non-formal vocational skills training, promoting the development of market relevant skills and employment creation.

The Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development

will contribute to the achievement of this pledge by:

- 1) **Promoting the development of relevant labour market skills and employment creation** through establishment and operationalization of 5 regional job centers with satellite stations in 13 refugee settlements (including Kampala urban) and host communities by 2027, to enhance skills needs assessment, employability skills training (basic, technical, and soft), counseling and guidance, mentorship and job matching services for at least 1,500 refugees and host community members.
- 2) **Developing national minimum standard indicators** for measuring self-reliance and resilience of refugees and host communities in order to measure partner commitments, and investments and contribute to building an evidence base on sustainable livelihoods and self-reliance in Uganda by:
 - Improving the measurement and understanding of key drivers of self-reliance and resilience
 - Developing and deploying a measurement tool to assess: the movement towards or away from self-reliance among refugee and host community households, the types of households that tend to make more or less progress, and the identification of some of the key barriers and enablers of self-reliance.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

will contribute to the achievement of the Resilience and Self-reliance pledge by:

- 1) Increasing sustainable agricultural productivity** from the current average of 50% to 75% of the yield potential by 2027 for food, nutrition and income security in the refugee settlements and host communities. This shall be achieved by:
 - Promoting climate-resilient productivity through climate-smart agriculture practices and natural resource management
 - Increasing access to small and micro-scale irrigation facilities for at least 300,000 small-holder farmers in the refugee settlements and host communities
 - Increasing access to appropriate agricultural mechanization technologies for at least 300,000 smallholder farmers in refugee settlements and host communities
- 2. Promoting value addition of agricultural produce** through provision of matching grants and subsidies for machinery, clean energy, post-harvest management, secondary processing equipment, packaging materials and appropriate infrastructure facilities.
- 3. Facilitating sustainable development** of at least 15 agricultural value chains in refugee settlements and host communities to contribute to the creation of 300,000 economic opportunities.
- 4. Scaling-up private sector initiatives** and engagements in refugee settlements and host communities through market systems development.
- 5. Increasing access to Agricultural Extension Services** to at least 300,000 smallholders in refugee settlements and host communities.

Ministry of Education and Sports

The Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Education and Sports is committed to ensure that all children in the country are provided with the opportunities to access inclusive and quality education at all levels.

The Ministry of Education and Sports will contribute to the achievement of the Resilience and Self-reliance pledge by:

- 1. Increasing the number of students** and other non-formal trainees accessing vocational education skills from the current 13,680 to 54,720 by 2027 through:
 - Providing sponsorships to 54,720 refugee and host community students and other trainees, including youth and women in non-formal skilling programmes in TVET institutions
 - Strengthening affirmative actions to increase the number of students with special needs and other persons with disabilities accessing vocational education skills from the current 1,200 to 4,800
 - Providing startup kits for 54,720 trained refugee and host community students to attain self-employability, income security, self-reliance, and resilience
 - Developing a national qualifications framework to guide the skilling of refugees and host communities
 - Developing 45 formal and non-formal modules for skilling refugees and host communities
 - Awarding and certifying 54,720 refugees and host community candidates with certificates, diplomas, and certificates of competence

will contribute to the achievement of the Resilience and Self-reliance pledge by:

1. **Spearheading the development and implementation of an incentives regime** for the refugee hosting districts in order to stimulate investment and trade of at least 240,000 refugees by 2027. Incentives include:
 - Setting up at least 13 workspaces with common user facilities in 13 refugee settlements
 - Setting up refugee-friendly procedures and charges for certification of products made by refugees through a 10% reduction on such charges and simplification of procedures
 - Setting up at least 7 inclusive business incubation hubs in 13 refugee settlements
 - Spearheading initiatives to allocate at least 10% of the proportions of stalls in markets to refugee market vendors, prioritizing new markets and gradual enrolment in old markets
 - Providing tailored business development services to 240,000 refugees, for family businesses and companies
 - Spearheading initiatives to facilitate business registration by 5% cuts on fees and simplification of procedures
 - Automate application and issuance of clearance certificates for foreign traders
 - Carrying out ideations to promote innovations in refugee settlements

THEMATIC AREA 2:



Addressing Environment, Climate Change, and Energy Challenges

The Government of Uganda commits to include refugees and their specific situations in its nationally determined contributions and adaptation plans to effectively reduce the carbon emissions from deforestation and to enhance access to safe, clean, and affordable energy in refugee hosting districts by 2027.

The Ministry of Water and Environment

will contribute to the achievement of this pledge by:

- Promoting gender-responsive, low-carbon and climate-resilient development** through the application of science- and nature-based solutions in all refugee hosting districts especially:
 - enhance climate-smart agriculture through: a. 400 Ha of climate smart agriculture established across 12 refugee hosting districts, b. 200 Ha of climate-smart irrigation established in 12 refugee hosting districts.
 - Improve access to climate resilient WASH facilities – 80% of refugees and host communities to have access.
- Strengthening of early-warning systems for climate-related disaster risk reduction by:**
 - installing 20 hydrological monitoring stations (10 surface water and 10 groundwater systems) including rehabilitation of 10 existing surface water monitoring stations.
 - digitalization of all existing data and capacity building of Water Resources Managers in the use of Hydrological Applications in analytical skills.
 - promote rational and sustainable use of water for various uses through the issuance of water permits and enforcement of permit conditions.
 - establishment of 33 weather stations in the refugee hosting districts to strengthen weather monitoring.
 - acquire High Performance Computing facilities including 1 Supercomputer to improve meteorological data processing and generation of area specific and tailored early warning information on weather and climate for the refugee hosting districts.
 - build capacity of both producers (UNMA staff) and end users (40% and 70% respectively) of weather and climate information to improve the quality, increased access, and utilization of early warning information.
 - strengthening dissemination of early warning information on weather and climate to the last mile (up to 80% of the refugee communities) for planning and decision making to ensure early action and climate change adaptation.
 - developing 12 Climate Action Plans and promoting climate change awareness and capacity-building programmes in each refugee host district.

3. **Promoting sustainable ecosystems and livelihoods by:**
 - restoring 1,600 hectares of degraded ecosystems (forests, wetlands, riverbanks, lakeshores) and demarcating 400 kilometers as buffer zones.
 - supporting 2,400 households (with a specific focus on women-headed households) with assorted sustainable and environmentally friendly livelihood interventions.
 - Preparation and implementation of community-driven micro-catchment management plans through:
 - Preparation of 24 Micro Catchment Management Plans including costed reports on confirmed and priority measures,
 - 50 water source protection plans around selected water sources,
 - Implementation of confirmed priority measures in refugee host districts to enable the sustainability of water resources.

4. **Strengthening the waste management of plastic, solid, and e-waste through public-private partnerships by:**
 - installing 2 incinerators (one in the South-West Region and one in the West-Nile Region)
 - establishing 2 landfill sites (one in the South-West Region and one in the West-Nile Region)
 - launching 12 waste management plans in 12 refugee hosting districts

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development

will contribute to the achievement of this pledge by:

1. **Promoting access to and utilization of safe, clean, and energy-efficient technologies** for cooking, lighting, and productive use in all refugee hosting districts by:
 - Connecting 267,000 households, institutions, and other public spaces in the refugee settlements and refugee hosting districts to the grid and 13,500 to the off grid.
 - Ensuring that 2,500 businesses/institutions are using clean energy for productive use within refugee settlements and refugee hosting districts.
 - Ensuring that 2,600 refugee households and refugee hosting districts have access to user-friendly clean cooking.
 - Promote e-mobility within refugee settlements and refugee hosting districts.

THEMATIC AREA 3:



Localising the Refugee Response: Strengthening the Role of Local and National Responders

The Government of Uganda pledges to include localisation provisions in strategies and frameworks for the refugee response to strengthen the role of national and local responders and gradually achieve the Grand Bargain commitments by 2027.

This will be achieved by:

1. Developing a detailed implementation plan to enforce the Grand Bargain commitments of international actors:
 - Requiring the integration of localization in INGOs plans, including institutional capacity development of local actors.
 - Ensuring a gradual funding of 25% of partner resources is directed to local actors. Requiring the integration of localization in INGOs plans, including institutional capacity development of local actors.
 - Ensuring transparency and accountability of national and local actors by strengthening their accounting systems, reporting mechanisms, and ensuring oversight by relevant government bodies.

THEMATIC AREA 4:



Securing Durable Solutions for Refugees

The Government of Uganda pledges to support peace-building processes and negotiations that will lead to voluntary repatriation of refugees back home.

The Government of Uganda pledges to provide opportunities to all refugees to access electronic Conventional Travel Documents and birth certificates by 2027 to foster socio-economic rights and the rights of the child.

This will be achieved by:

1. Creating conditions conducive to safe, dignified, and voluntary returns as well as support sustainable re-integration of refugees in their home societies by investing in peace-building processes that enable sustainable peace and security, mitigate, and manage insecurity, violence, and conflicts.
2. Promoting the right to identity for refugee children born in Uganda by enhancing their access to birth registration and issuance of birth certificates (to be performed through the interoperability of the online birth registration system with the Uganda refugee registration database). This will support the identification of their nationalities upon return to their countries of origin and provide documentation supporting third country solutions, including family reunification.
3. Improving access to electronic Conventional Travel Documents to all refugees through the development of an online application platform subject to additional resources being availed to Uganda.

THEMATIC AREA 5:



Transition Management: Pathways to Sustainable Burden-Sharing

The Government pledges to continue managing and integrating the infrastructure and services specifically in health, education and water aligned with the government requirements in a phased approach. This will call for alignment of partner investments with in the NDP and DDPs.

The Government commits to put in place a transitional strategy and guidelines to facilitate coordinated transition planning and management.



