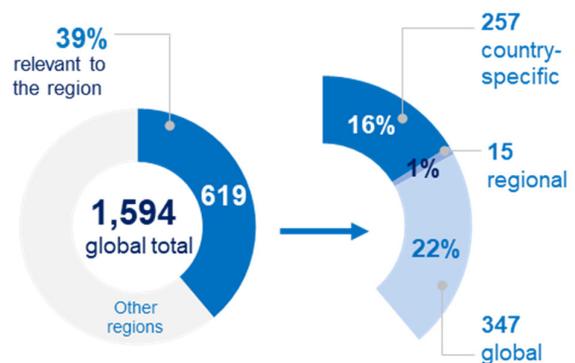


REGIONAL BUREAU FOR EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES

Update on GRF follow-up in the region: Tracking progress on pledge implementation

This update highlights progress made with regards to the implementation of flagship pledges in the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (EHAGL) region. These important pledges were made by States, NGOs, private sector partners, and other stakeholders during the 2019 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and focus on [Burundi](#), [Djibouti](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Kenya](#), [Rwanda](#), [Somalia](#), [South Sudan](#), [Sudan](#), [Tanzania](#) and [Uganda](#). In addition, key pledges made during different refugee-related events in recent years in the region are included, as well as updates on flagship initiatives, stocktaking events and publications. Many pledges made by donors and partners demonstrate the commitment across the humanitarian-development nexus towards a more equitable burden and responsibility sharing and the political will to find durable solutions.



IN BRIEF GRF Pledge Outcomes

Out of the 1,594 total pledges received globally, more than 600 pledges are potentially relevant to the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region. Out of these, 257 are country-specific pledges whose country of implementation targets at least one host country from the region. Majority of the country-specific pledges were announced by host governments from the region (31%) and by NGOs (30%), mainly around three of the six thematic focus areas: education (25%), statelessness (20%) and jobs and livelihoods (16%). Close to 150 pledge updates have been received out of the 257 total pledges specific to the region. 83% of those updated are reported in progress, and 18 pledges have been fulfilled. States and NGOs continue to lead the pledges in progress, while pledges from other stakeholders combined (the private sector, academics, etc.) are also in progress.



The first Global Refugee Forum took place in 2019 and brought the international community together to demonstrate solidarity with the world's refugees and their host communities. Guided by the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), the Forum aimed to translate the principle of international responsibility into action. States and other stakeholders demonstrated leadership, vision, and ambition to share the responsibility for refugees by announcing pledges to improve the lives of refugees and their host communities.

Highlights of pledge implementation and key achievements by **Host Governments**

Despite the pandemic, we witnessed substantial progress in pledge implementation by states in the region. Numerous government-led consultations took place, and several assessments were conducted at country level. Strategies, roadmaps and action plans for the implementation of GRF pledges have been developed leading to tangible progress.

BURUNDI

While the Government of Burundi did not make any pledges at the GRF, the following two initiatives continue to demonstrate the GCR in action:

1) UNHCR and UNDP are jointly spearheading the Burundi Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan which is an interagency response to support repatriation and reintegration of returnees as a durable solution, spanning the humanitarian-development nexus.

2) The national Durable Solutions Working Group was reactivated in 2021. It brings together the Government and partners and is chaired by the *Direction Générale de la Réintégration des Sinistrés* and co-chaired by UNHCR and UNDP. This group will also lead the updating of the National Strategy on Durable Solutions which is expiring by the end of this year.

DJIBOUTI

The Government of Djibouti made five GRF pledges that focus on the inclusion of refugees into national development plans, as well as on education and health. Building on the national refugee legal framework and the political commitment of the Government of Djibouti, UNHCR works with a range of stakeholders to facilitate the inclusion of refugees into national systems.

Health: Djibouti is committed to fulfilling its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) commitments and has included refugees in its COVID-19 vaccination programmes.

Education: In September 2020, the Ministry of Education passed a decree - "Djibouti High School Leaving Certificate" - which allows refugee students to sit for the high school examination as nationals. A total of 32 students sat for the exam the school year 2019-2020. In 2019 the government adopted a plan to boost vocational and professional training called "*Politique Nationale de la Formation Professionnelle 2021-2035*" which includes refugees.

Inclusion into national systems: An assessment was carried out in 2019 by UNHCR and WFP, through the Ministry of Social Affairs and the National Institute of Statistics, looking at the eligibility of refugees to access the social security system. As a result, 11,500 refugees were integrated this year in the national social safety scheme that includes access to the national health insurance scheme. In addition, refugees were recently invited to join the national jobs database.

ETHIOPIA

The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) made four GRF pledges that focus on education, jobs and livelihoods, energy and protection capacity. UNHCR's main government counterpart in the refugee response in Ethiopia is the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), former Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA).

Education: A high level commitment for the inclusion of refugees into the national TVET system is manifested in Article 24(2) and 26 of the refugee proclamation 1110/2019. To implement this policy commitment, a government led - joint UNHCR and GIZ initiative was initiated, to develop a national roadmap.

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) are funding the *Qualifications and Employment Perspectives for Refugees and Host Communities in Ethiopia Programme (QEP)* to provide accredited skills training. This programme is being implemented in Addis Ababa, Somali region, Benishangul-Gumuz region, Gambella region and Tigray region.

Jobs and Livelihoods: To create socio-economic opportunities through agricultural and livestock value chains that benefit both refugees and host communities, over 1,100 hectares of land have been made generously available by the Government of Ethiopia, mostly in Melkadida (Somali Region). Development, humanitarian, and private sector partners have established multi-year initiatives in refugee hosting areas that are focused on contributing to the creation of economic opportunities in the agriculture and livestock sectors. In addition, residence permits have been issued to refugees by the Government of Ethiopia during 2020.

Protection Capacity: Notable progress has been made following the pledges made by the GoE in 2016 to ensure access of refugees to civil documentation. Refugees and other POCs were included in a Comprehensive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) assessment conducted by Immigration Nationality and Vital Events Agency (INVEA) released in April 2021. Refugees and other persons of concerns to UNHCR have been included in the 2021/22 – 2025/26 Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (CRVS) Improvement Strategy and Costed Action Plan of Ethiopia, which was informed by the comprehensive CRVS assessment.

RRS, with the support of UNHCR, have made significant progress with regards to secondary legislation and specific directives as part of efforts to operationalize the Refugee Proclamation No.1110/2019 and implement the wide range of rights of refugees provided therein. RRS has issued four Directives: Directive to Determine the Conditions for Movement and Residence of Refugees Outside of Camps, Directive No.01/2019; the Directive to Determine the Procedure for Refugees Right to Work, Directive No. 02/2019; the Directive on Refugees and Returnees Grievances and Appeals Handling, Directive 03/2019 and the Environment and Social Management Guideline. In September 2021, the Federal Jobs Creation Commission and RRS signed a Memorandum of Understanding to include POCs in the [labour market](#). More news on Ethiopia's pledge implementation progress is available [here](#).

Energy and Environment: An Energy and Environment Working Group co-chaired by UNHCR, RRS and the GIZ was established to oversee strategies and initiatives in humanitarian settings. To support the GoE in the fulfilment of its energy pledges, UNHCR has funded the Sustainable Energy Initiative (SEI). SEI aims to increase the cooking energy access for refugees and hosting communities in Afar refugee camps. Funded by the European Union's Regional Development and Protection Program project, Danish Church Aid and in collaboration with RRS, UNHCR and Ethiopian Electric Utility, On-Grid electricity infrastructure in Aysaita and Barahle Refugee camps located in Afar region of Ethiopia was established. The national grid electrification of the two camps now powers basic and social services, street lighting, communal kitchens and provides energy to refugee households. The project is expected to support refugees and host communities to access sustainable cooking energy and electrification. Another important pledge matching initiative is the GIZ Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings project in Gambella refugee camps, that aims to improve sustainable energy supply.

KENYA

The Government of Kenya (GoK) made three GRF pledges that build on ongoing GCR-related activities focussing on protection, education and solutions, and seven pledges on Statelessness. The Government of Kenya has made significant progress with regards to pledges related to improvement of their asylum system and to address statelessness.

Asylum system and documentation: The GoK pledge to strengthen institutions and community structures that manage asylum, deliver services and provide security in refugee-hosting areas has been supported by UNHCR and UNICEF. UNHCR is working to strengthen the capacity of the Civil Registration Department, which led to the issuance of 550 birth certificates in 2020.

Education: The GoK Ministry of Education has included refugees in the national COVID-19 education response plan as a key beneficiary group.

Statelessness: Progress was made on the pledge to address statelessness when the GoK registered 1,670 members of the Shona Community as Kenyan citizens in July 2021. A further 1,300 stateless persons who left Rwanda in the 1930s were recognized as citizens with their registration planned to take place in 2021.

A Concept Note on education and livelihoods in support of the Voluntary Repatriation and Reintegration Strategy for Somali refugees was validated and endorsed in November 2020.

RWANDA

The Government of Rwanda (GoR) made seventeen pledges – nine at the GRF and eight at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness (HLS). The GRF pledges focused on education, livelihoods, protection, environment, energy and health. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been encouraging progress in all pledging areas.

UNHCR and the GoR developed a joint Roadmap on GRF Pledge Implementation. Action plans are in place for each pledge and are supported by technical committees (education and health). The meetings are convened by the Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA) and include other relevant ministries and agencies with activities that support the implementation of the pledges.

Statelessness: The GoR has established a National Taskforce on Statelessness. In December 2019, a 13-member taskforce was formed to draft a National Action Plan and oversee the implementation of its activities. The taskforce lead by the Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE). In July 2021 the GoR gazetted the Organic Law N° 002/2021 of 16/07/2021 governing Rwandan nationality which repeals and replaces Organic Law N° 30/2008 of 25/07/2008. The law provides for a facilitated pathway to acquisition of Rwandan nationality for stateless persons.

Education: The GoR's policy commitment to improve the quality of education by upgrading school infrastructure and allocating scholastic materials has been supported by the World Bank (WB) financed Jya M'bere project. Over 51 classrooms and 70 latrines at three schools hosting over 15,000 refugee students were constructed. In addition, UNHCR and its partners constructed 32 classrooms and constructed/rehabilitated 9 playgrounds. The Jya M'bere project is also funding feasibility studies on environmental rehabilitation in all six refugee camps.

Livelihoods: Technical meetings have been held to expand job opportunities on tea plantations. Progress has also been made on joint agricultural projects between refugees and host communities and YouthConnekt - a national initiative inclusive of refugee youth. The Jya Mbere project also provides access to finance to refugee-led businesses and their host; so far over 500 businesses received matching grants to support their businesses totalling USD 1.9 M.

Energy: UNHCR and partners continue to support the GoR pledge on renewable energy solutions and providing clean cooking energy to refugees and host communities, leading to the installation of 185 solar streetlights in three camps. Additionally, UNHCR provides gas-powered clean cooking for refugee families in Mahama and Mugombwa camps and school feeding centres. Some 50% of all refugees' households have access to LPG for cooking.

Environment: In support of the Government's pledge on environmental rehabilitation, over 82,600 trees were planted in 2020. Over 600 metres of retaining walls and 1,575 meters of water drainage facilities have been constructed in refugee camps. The refugee-led Nursery Cooperative in Mahama camp alone raised over 70,000 tree seedlings of different species in 2021.

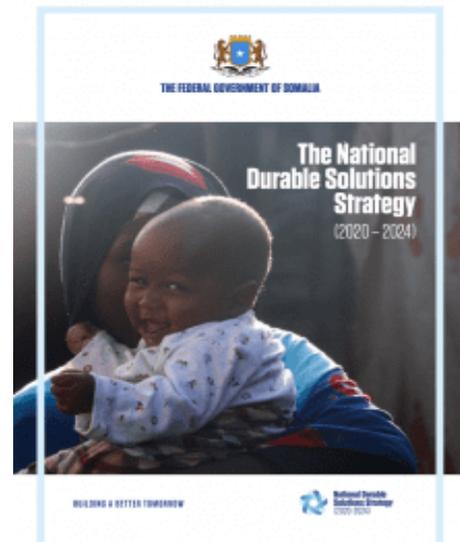
Health: In relation to the GoR pledge to include refugees in the national programme for viral hepatitis infection treatment 78% of the 81,421 camp-based refugees aged 15 years and above have been screened. A total of 8,188 of the those who screened negative to Hepatitis B have been vaccinated so far, making a vaccination coverage of 13.5%.

SOMALIA

The Government of Somalia announced four pledges focusing on burden and responsibility sharing, livelihoods and solutions at the GRF. In addition, the Government made two pledges on statelessness at the October 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness.

Government-led consultations led to the preparation of key strategy documents including the [National Durable Solutions Strategy \(NDSS\) 2020 - 2024](#). As a milestone of [Somalia's National Development Plan](#), the Solutions Strategy provides clear and measurable benchmarks to help to address internal displacement. The realignment of the National Action Plan on Durable Solutions with the NDSS is a key implementation guideline for the GCR in Somalia and guides the implementation of GRF pledges at the federal and state levels.

The Federal Government of Somalia has engaged key development actors like the WB and other bilateral donors to provide support needed to implement its pledges.



Livelihoods: Somalia's Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs organized a job creation workshop in December 2020 with participation of the National Chamber of Commerce, Federal Member States and Federal Government departments and ministries, resulting in a '*Strategy on job creation for Returnees and IDPs*'. Some of the action points included forging more partnerships with the private sector, enhancing TVET programmes and building a new innovative employment service centre.

Burden and responsibility sharing: In support to Somalia's pledge on sustainable flood management to avert continued displacement in Somalia, the UN Country Team's nexus taskforce on water management and flood mitigation has undertaken a mapping of the flood-prone areas, cooperated with partners with expertise in sustainable flood mitigation and put together available technical resources. Engagements have also been undertaken with local communities and authorities, especially in South-Central Somalia to secure their buy-in and availability of land for project implementation. By mid-2020, the local authorities and leaders had been able to mobilise local resources and donations up to USD 1.5 M to kickstart the project, a clear demonstration of local ownership that should be matched with donor resources.

Integration into national systems: In line with its commitments of relocation and reintegration of refugees, refugee returnees and IDPs and strengthening the provision of durable solutions to displacement affected populations, the Federal Government of Somalia signed the Saameynta project with several UN agencies (2021-2024) which aims to promote the sustainable integration of displacement affected communities in the urban areas of Baidoa, Bossaso and Beletweyne. Saameynta project, implemented jointly by UN-Habitat, IOM and UNDP, aims at reducing the number of people living in forced displacement through leveraging value generated by urbanization to deliver durable solutions at scale in three Somali cities.

The National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) undertook an assessment of IDPs that have been staying in Mogadishu for the last 25 years, to serve as basis for a pilot relocation/reintegration programme for IDPs in 2021. The Federal Government, with support from UNHCR did a re-orientation CRRF session in three federal member states of Hirshabele, Southwest and Galmudug, to oversee the implementation of the GRF's pledges.

SOUTH SUDAN

The Government of South Sudan's nine pledges focus on education, livelihoods, energy and infrastructure, solutions and statelessness. These commitments include taking concrete steps in the area of rule of law and access to justice; peace building initiatives to promote sustainable and durable solutions; expand access to education and reduce school drop out by 2024 by improving school infrastructure, training of teachers; promote and expand economic opportunities for refugees areas through vocational training, expanding access to arable land and promoting improved agricultural techniques; and facilitate improved access to sustainable and green energy solutions for refugees and host communities by planting of 100 million trees in line with the national reforestation program and policy; piloting of innovative approaches to resilience and climate-smart adaptation.

Solutions: Through the facilitation role of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and with the support of UNHCR, the Government of South Sudan has finalized in July 2021 the development of a draft National Durable Solutions Strategy and an Action Plan for Refugees, Returnees, Internally Displaced Persons and Host Communities. This Strategy builds on the 2019 National Framework and its Action Plan adopted in 2020 and focuses on solutions for refugees in South Sudan. While the implementation of the 2018 Revitalized Peace agreement has been slow, the Government collaborated with UNHCR to facilitate the participation of refugees and displaced persons in peace processes and national dialogue.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2567 (2021) calls on the United Nations Mission to South Sudan to ensure protection of civilians, create conducive conditions for humanitarian assistance and solutions and support the implementation of the peace process in the country. In April 2021 UNHCR and UNMISS signed a partnership agreement to coordinate their support to authorities in the areas of return and solutions, strengthening of access to justice and rule of law and participation of refugees and IDPs in peace process.

The Revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly (RTNLA) was constituted in August 2021 after delays exacerbated by the COVID pandemic. The reconstitution of the national assembly offers South Sudan opportunity to ratify the two conventions and domesticate the Kampala Convention.

Livelihoods, Energy and Infrastructure: Under South Sudan's national legislative framework, refugees and asylum-seekers enjoy the right to access employment and essential services, such as health and education, through national systems. In refugee hosting areas in JamJang and Bunji, refugees and host communities access services such as health, education, as well as water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). Working with the WB, and supported by UNHCR, the government has also developed a request for access to resources through WHR IDA Window 19. If successful, this eligibility and eventual resource allocation will support South Sudan's effort to implement the GCR Pledges.

Education: The Government of South Sudan has developed a national action plan to implement the 2017 Djibouti Declaration on Education and has allocated resources for its implementation. The implementation of this action plan has been hampered by school closure during the height of COVID-19 pandemic, lack of capacity of key government institutions and resource constraints.

Statelessness: The Government of South Sudan has reported progress on all five of its Statelessness pledges. In August 2020, The Minister of Interior endorsed the National Action Plan for the eradication of Statelessness. A National Working Group on Statelessness has been formed and will work on the recommendations to amend the nationality legislation regarding statelessness and present to the Ministry of Interior and other line Government agencies. The late birth registration procedures will be included in the recommendation of the Working Group for the amendments of the Nationality Legislation. The Civil Registry Act has been adopted but is yet to be implemented. Meanwhile, the Directorate for Civil Registry, Nationality, Passport and Immigration and Civil Society Organisations are working together to identify groups at risk of statelessness.

SUDAN

The Government of Sudan announced nine pledges at the GRF, focusing on all six GRF thematic areas. In July 2021, Sudan's Minister of Cabinet Affairs established a high level inter-ministerial joint mechanism to implement the pledges and commitments of the CRRF.

The Juba Peace Agreement, signed by the Transitional Government of Sudan (TGoS) and the Armed Movements, aims to address root causes of conflicts. Efforts from the TGoS and many international partners are underway to develop durable solutions to the root causes for forced displacement for refugees and IDPs.

Open-door policy pledge: Sudan continues to maintain an open-door policy for refugees and asylum-seekers. Several measures have also been adopted by the TGoS to ease access and the movement of humanitarian workers to all areas where refugees are hosted.

Inclusion into national systems: The TGoS and the Government of South Sudan, under the IGAD-led Solutions Initiative, are in the process of adopting national and a regional strategies and action plans for durable solutions to address the situation of the 7 million refugees, IDPS, returnees and host communities in both countries. The TGoS indicates that 70% of the refugee population in Sudan are from South Sudan and 70% of those refugees are living out of camps in open urban areas, where they continue to benefit from national education and health system.

UGANDA

The Government of Uganda (GoU) has made a total of six GRF pledges focusing on health, water, energy and education.

Uganda's new National Development Plan III (2020/21-2024/25) highlights explicitly the need to include refugees in national, sectoral and local government plans and in national statistics. In 2020, the Government of Uganda included refugees in the resource allocation for refugee-hosting districts.

Health: To operationalize the health pledge, the Ministry of Health has worked with various stakeholders to support the inclusion of refugees into national health service delivery. So far, more than 70% of health facilities in refugee-hosting districts have been accredited and coded by the MoH and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED). Some refugee health services are being managed by the MoH/District Local Governments as part of the district-wide health services. The [Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan \(HSIRRP\)](#) (2019-2024) aims at ensuring equitable and well-coordinated access to health services for refugees and host communities.

Water and Energy: A three-year costed [water and environment response plan](#) for refugees and host communities (2020-2022) is under implementation. In 2020, in line with the Water and Environment Sector Response Plan, the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), together with its partners, continued to work towards the transition of service delivery from NGO partners to the National Water and Sewerage Corporation or Umbrella Authorities. To date, a total of 8% of the total daily water supply in refugee hosting areas has shifted to national utilities and most of the daily water demand is supplied through permanent water schemes. The first large scale pilot can be seen in Rwamwanja refugee settlement in South West Uganda, where the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) took over the management of water supply. In Northern Uganda, six water schemes are managed by the Northern Umbrella Authority, which is supported by development partners to build capacity to manage water supply in all Northern/West Nile settlements.

To complement efforts to promote inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems across Uganda's refugee hosting districts, a Sustainable Energy Response Plan, is being finalized under the leadership of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, with support from an inter-agency task team comprised of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), the CRRF Secretariat, the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), UNHCR, WB and GIZ. An extension of the national grid to refugee-hosting areas, supported by development partners and implemented by the Rural Electrification Agency is anticipated. Yumbe District in Northern Uganda, for example, has benefitted from national grid extension and efforts are under way to support electricity connections in Bidibidi refugee settlement.

Education: As Uganda's 2018-2021 [Education Response Plan](#) (ERP) is coming to an end, the development of ERP II (2021-2025) is ongoing, which will be fully aligned with Uganda's [National Development Plan III](#). Despite COVID-19-related school closures, Uganda has made progress to strengthen systems for the inclusion of refugees and effective service delivery at national and district levels in line with its costed Education Response Plan. Refugee-hosting districts made considerable progress including refugees and host communities in District Development Plans. Currently, nine out of thirteen refugee hosting districts have approved district Education Response Plans embedded in the District Development Plans. Refugees were also included in the Ministry of Education and Sport's COVID-19 Response and Preparedness Plan and received home learning packages, developed by the National Curriculum Development Centre. GRF pledges made by the LEGO Foundation and Denmark, among others, are contributing to the implementation of the ERP.

Progress in resource mobilization and pledge matching

Progress has also been made in mobilizing resources and supporting pledge matching, to pair pledges made by host countries with pledges made by donors providing the financial, material, or technical support necessary for their implementation.

Ethiopia's jobs and livelihoods pledge has been supported by development, humanitarian, and private sector partners, who have established multi-year initiatives in refugee hosting areas that are focused on contributing to the creation of economic opportunities in the agriculture and livestock sectors. These include: The IKEA Foundation's and UNHCR's Livelihoods and Resilience Project, Strengthening Host and Refugee Populations (SHARPE), WFP's Livelihoods and Resilience Project, UNCDF's IDEAS project, GIZ's Qualifications and Employment Perspectives (QEP), as well as Good Neighbours Ethiopia's Assosa livelihoods and economic inclusion of refugees and host communities project. These projects have a cumulative value of USD 88.5 M. The following entities are contributing to the pledge on Jobs and Livelihoods: Donors (FCDO (UK), DANIDA, SIDA, EU, Government of Italy, GIZ, Government of South Korea; UN Agencies (UNHCR, WFP, ILO, UNCDF); INGOs (Mercy Corps, Farm Africa, ZOA, NRC, DRC, Concern International, Good Neighbours Ethiopia, DCA) and the Private Sector.

The Government of **Rwanda's** jobs and livelihoods pledge has been supported by the **Government of Denmark**, which has committed to provide USD 1.6 M to support agricultural projects in Nyamagabe and Gatsibo Districts, benefiting 1,883 households (40% refugees, 60% hosting community members).

The **Government of Denmark** delivered on its pledge to promote access, quality and inclusiveness of the national education system for refugees and host communities in support of **Uganda's** Education Response Plan and to advance the resilience and economic development among refugees and host communities through the expansion of the *Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI)* programme. In addition, the Government of Uganda's education pledge has been supported by the LEGO Foundation, which is supporting Play Matters activities on early childhood education.

Republic of Korea pledged to continue providing its multi-year contribution of USD 5 M to the CRRF in **Uganda** from 2020 to 2022, with USD 1.7 M provided to UNHCR in 2021. Amid the COVID-19 outbreak, the Korean government has also supported humanitarian activities in countries with protracted crises and emergencies. Korea has contributed to the Country-Based Pooled Fund to help Sudan and Ethiopia among other countries.

To match **Uganda's** pledge on natural resources, the EU launched the new "Response to Increased Environmental Degradation and Promotion of Alternative Energy Sources in Refugee Hosting Districts" programme with a funding of USD 11 M.

Water for People has invested over USD 2.30 M to strengthen district-wide WASH systems in Kamwenge, Uganda. This has been achieved by intensively working with the National Water and Sewerage Corporation in Kamwenge district in an effort to progress toward universal service. Existing networks were expanded with nearly 9km of pipe work to reach underserved areas.

Avanti Communications have fulfilled their pledge to donate satellite connectivity to seven sites in Ugandan refugee settlements, enabling access to information, humanitarian and livelihood services. **Avanti, in partnership with UNHCR**, has delivered and installed free solar powered satellite broadband connectivity and laptops to seven UNHCR sites in remote and off grid refugee settlements in Uganda, connecting refugees to livelihood opportunities in the remotest of locations.

The **Swedish Development Agency** (SIDA), UNHCR and Greentec Capital Africa Foundation launched a four-year programme to promote access to financial and non-financial services for refugees

and host communities in **Uganda**. The project is currently piloted in Palorinya refugee settlement and in Kampala and will be gradually expanded to other targeted refugee-hosting districts.

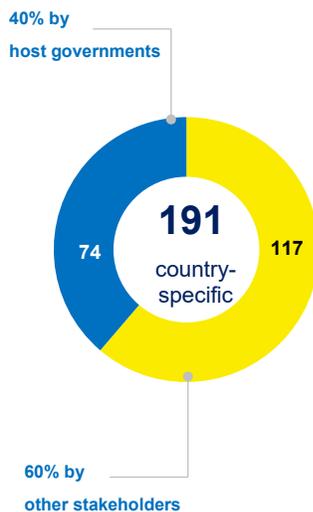
We see also substantial progress regarding the financial inclusion of refugees and Ugandans. SIDA has committed funding for a Microfinance project with Grameen Crédit Agricole Microfinance Foundation (GCAMF). The project aims to improve the financial inclusion of 55,000 refugees and 51,000 host community members in Uganda (USD 2.9 M). SIDA has also continued to support implementation of the CRRF in Uganda through the Strategy for Sweden’s development cooperation with Uganda 2018-2023. SIDA also supports the UNCDF working to increase digitalisation and empower rural communities with particular focus on refugees and the poor in the host communities.

In the context of COVID-19, Sweden adapted its support at a time of crisis through reallocation of funds in three partnerships (UNCDF, WFP and UNICEF) and through disbursing additional funding of USD 4.6 M to UNICEF for Emergency Response and Continuity of Essential Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition Services. The support specifically targeted vulnerable refugees and host populations in Uganda’s West Nile sub-region.

ANALYSIS OF GRF PLEDGES RELEVANT TO THE REGION

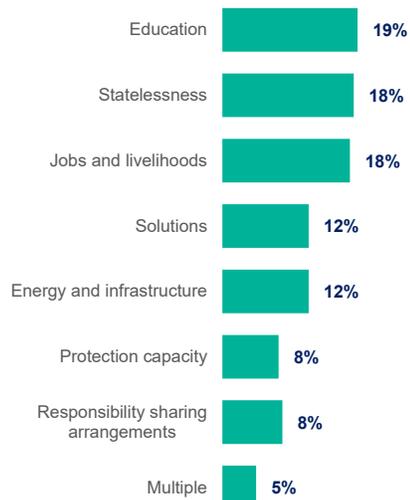
TYPES OF PLEDGES

Almost half of the 191 country-specific pledges (74 pledges) were announced by governments in the region (40%)



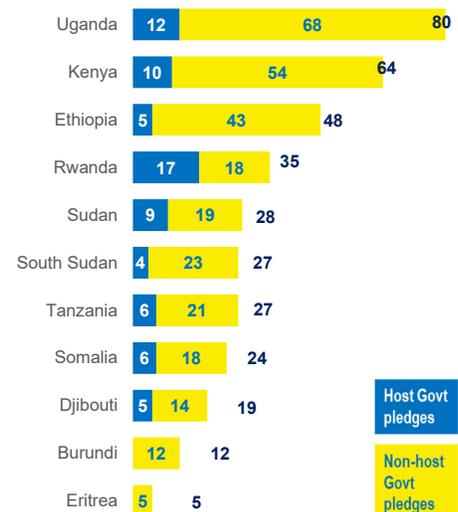
AREA OF FOCUS

The 3 main areas were **education** (19%), **statelessness** (18%) and **jobs and livelihoods** (17%).



PLEDGING ENTITIES

Some of the non-host government pledges are counted twice in the graph as they apply to multiple countries.



Highlight from **multi-country flagship pledges**

UNHCR/FAO partnership: In support of the operationalisation of the UNHCR-FAO MOU and follow up of FAO's GRF pledges, UNHCR and FAO have recruited a joint Partnership Officer and Energy/Environment Officer. Technical support focuses on promoting the resilience and self-reliance of refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities in the context of strengthening agricultural livelihoods while supporting sustainable natural resource management. FAO contributed to the Stocktaking Event on the UN and IASC pledges in May 2021. FAO-UNHCR collaboration processes include comprehensive information and knowledge sharing on FAO's policies and research materials using various official platforms and events on rural development in displacement contexts, economic inclusion, climate action, and other related topics. The two agencies continue to strengthen joint programming, including in **Rwanda, Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda**. In mid-2020, the IKEA Foundation agreed to fund a USD 4.7 M FAO 4-year project titled RAVES: Refugee Agricultural Value Chains for Economic Self-Reliance in Kenya and Uganda. In **Burundi**, FAO is a partner agency in the Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan, seeking to provide support to reintegration and specifically supporting agriculture livelihoods and agriculture value chain/value addition development. In **Tanzania**, FAO is contributing to the UN area based Kigoma Joint Programme.

The **Netherlands** committed USD 588 M for the Prospects Partnership (2019-2023) to support the WB, IFC, ILO, UNICEF and UNHCR in taking a joint, integrated approach to improve prospects for refugees and host communities. Prospects Partnership funded Projects are being implemented in Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, **Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia**. The partnership focuses on, protection, and employment activities, aiming to shift the paradigm from a humanitarian to a development approach in responding to forced displacement crises. It is grounded in the consensus of the GCR that helping refugees and their host communities thrive, not just survive will reduce the risk of protracted stays and lessen refugees' dependence on humanitarian aid.

The **IKEA Foundation** has committed USD 111.26 M in grants for programmes that help both refugees and host communities to become more self-reliant. In addition, IKEA Foundation supports UNHCR, and partner advocacy for refugee economic inclusion of refugees, and has committed multi-year funding to the Nansen Refugee Award. IKEA Foundation also continues funding the livelihood and energy projects in Dollo Ado in **Ethiopia**. Further, IKEA Foundation is planning to support the WB – UNHCR Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement. This will enhance research and evidence gathering on protection and wellbeing of people affected by forced displacement. In **Rwanda**, the Misizi Marshland project supports farmers to improve farming skills and in accessing agricultural labour and commercial markets. Energy solutions to refugees and host communities are delivered in Rwanda under the Renewable Energy for All project (RE4R) in partnership with Practical Action. The Foundation's urban livelihoods programme *ReBuild* is being implemented by International Rescue Committee (IRC) and other organizations in **Kenya and Uganda**. The *ReBuild* project will explore local and regional private sector partnerships to support refugee-led businesses and integration of refugees into local value chains.

The **African Entrepreneur Collective (AEC)** is providing support to entrepreneurs in the region. AEC's is providing skills building and resources to help entrepreneurs grow their business, achieve financial sustainability, and create jobs. AEC is operational in **Rwanda and Kenya**. Shortly activities will start in **Ethiopia** with offices in two refugee hosting regions. A total of 29,450 refugee and host community entrepreneurs are receiving business development support services and access to low-cost financing. As a result, the businesses have in turn created USD 27 M in new revenues circulating in refugee hosting communities and created over 15,000 new jobs. AEC has also received USD 7.2 M from the Mastercard Foundation for covid-relief grants to support business growth and pivoting, as well as expansion to Dadaab.

The **International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of Africa Secretariat** has made great progress resulting in: *2017-2024 Consolidated Action Plan of ICGLR on the eradication of statelessness in the Great Lakes* being endorsed in November 2020 and *regional study on risks of statelessness among protracted refugee situations and prospects for durable solutions in the Great Lakes* steered by ICGLR Secretariat with UNHCR being launched in early 2021. This study's milestones include (i) the selection of four case studies of very protracted refugee situations respectively in **DRC, Uganda, Rwanda** and **Tanzania**, (ii) the constitution of a Regional Advisory Group to provide technical inputs to the study composed of UN Special Envoy Office on the Great Lakes and Special Rapporteur on refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and returnees and a consortium of NGOs, ReDSS (iii) the recruitment of a Snr. Expert Consultant who has developed a field research toolkit.

The **Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS)** pledged to advance multi-stakeholder engagement to sustain solutions locally, nationally and regionally in the East and Horn of Africa region. This is to be achieved through area-based planning, locally led approaches, measuring collective outcome, rethinking displacement financing and regional and cross-border engagement. The area-based approach aims to invest at sub-national levels in supporting Durable Solutions Working Groups and local solutions hubs bringing together humanitarian, development and peace building actors to support locally led processes and to link durable solutions programming to district development plans. ReDSS launched research to help rethink the displacement financing architecture with *case studies on Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia* available and expanded the area-based approach to supporting solutions through a dedicated training package rolled out in **Ethiopia**.

The **Amahoro Coalition** has achieved notable progress in accelerating private sector leadership to drive sustainable market-based interventions for displaced populations. The Coalition has engaged over 200 private sector companies and convened multiple roundtable discussions, and webinars to discuss the role of companies in promoting economic inclusion for refugees. In addition, the Coalition has produced a CEO handbook that provides a roadmap on how to meaningfully engage with displaced communities. The Coalition has also published two research briefs - *Doing Well While Doing Good — Opportunities for the Private Sector in Empowering Refugee Communities* and *Bridging Profit and Purpose — How the Private Sector Can Support Displaced Communities*. The Coalition is one of the first organisations to successfully apply for a Class M work permit that allows refugees to work legally in Kenya. This year, Amahoro, in partnership with UNHCR, is also organising the inaugural **36 Million Solutions: Africa Private Sector Forum on Forced Displacement** to be held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 30 November – 2 December 2021. The event will convene 200 delegates in person (and many more virtually) including Africa's business leaders, refugees and refugee focused organisations to inspire private sector firms to pledge funding, employment opportunities, and other in-kind support to refugees and host communities across the continent.

International Rescue Committee (IRC) have fulfilled two of their pledges to conduct research, influence policy and inform pilots in support of women's economic empowerment in displacement settings. In 2020 IRC researched financial strategies deployed by forcibly displaced persons, funded by BMZ and the Open Society Foundation. Based on the research findings, the IRC is implementing a pilot with refugee and host community farmers in rural **Uganda**. In November 2020, IRC published a report on "COVID-19 and refugees' economic opportunities, financial services and digital inclusion" – analysing amongst others, the policy context in **Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia**. The report was launched at the European Microfinance week, where researchers from Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt presented findings alongside speakers from WFP Kenya and the FMO, the Netherlands Development Finance Company. IRC's pledge on women's economic empowerment as informed by refugee women themselves resulted in research and pilot projects (Germany, Kenya, Niger) with the final research reports for all three countries and a summary report [published](#) in October 2020.

The **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** have fulfilled their pledge to publish a [Policy Paper](#) on Financing for Refugee Situations. The OECD conducted four country studies including in **Uganda** to provide analysis on the ‘right financing’ in development contexts. This policy paper presents seven principles for improving financing for refugee situations, based on global trends and case studies in three hosting countries (Uganda, Lebanon, and Colombia) and one origin/return country (Central African Republic).

Smart Communities Coalition (SCC) will continue to serve as a platform for knowledge sharing, matchmaking and project ideation for humanitarian organizations working in connectivity, digital tools and energy access service delivery in displacement settings in **Kenya** and **Uganda**. The SCC has launched its first innovation fund for technology providers in the humanitarian context, created a COVID-19 funding tracker. The SCC has also deployed the collective expertise and resources of its members to develop innovative pilot projects and partnerships addressing energy, livelihoods, and financial inclusion; stimulate the expansion of refugee and host-owned businesses considering age, gender and diversity; and build a knowledge base around emerging business models in the humanitarian context in areas like off-grid connectivity, pay-as-you-go (PAYG) service delivery, and last mile distribution.

Progress in implementation and key achievements on [regional commitments](#)

In addition to supporting UNHCR country operations with their GRF follow-up, the UNHCR Regional Bureau for the EHAGL region has supporting numerous regional initiatives.

The Solutions Initiative for Sudan and South Sudan - a flagship activity of the IGAD Support Platform, launched in October 2020 on the margins of the ExCom, aims to galvanize a stronger collective response to create enabling conditions for durable solutions (voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement/complementary pathways) as well as to strengthen asylum by addressing the humanitarian, development and peace-related needs in communities affected by forced displacement in and from Sudan and South Sudan. In line with the GCR, the Solutions Initiative supports the operationalization of the durable solutions-related provisions of the two countries’ respective peace agreements, which include provisions on durable solutions. It also complements collective efforts to revive the economies of both countries, which include undertaking critical economic and policy reforms. By creating enabling conditions for durable solutions, the Initiative will also contribute to addressing some of the drivers of forced displacement. Both Sudan and South Sudan made policy GRF pledges that reflect the government policy commitments in support of solutions. The National Strategies and Action Plans have been prepared and validated in both countries and form the basis of the Regional Strategy and Action Plan currently under development. A high-level information sharing event was held in October 2021 on the margins of ExCom, while IGAD Ministerial Meetings and the Heads of State Summit are planned for 2022.



IGAD Support Platform:

The IGAD Support Platform launched at Global Refugee Forum is proof of commitment to progressive refugee policies by Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

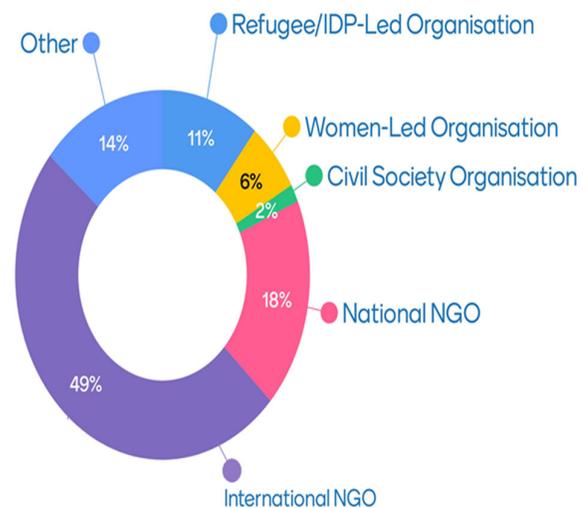
The Solutions Initiative for Sudan and South Sudan is a flagship of the IGAD Support Platform.

The 1st Regional Technical Experts’ meeting on the Kampala Declaration on jobs, livelihood, and self-reliance for refugees, returnees, and host communities was organized by IGAD in April 2021. The meeting brought together nearly 100 experts from Member States, regional and international partners to take stock on achieved milestones, discuss challenges, best practices, and opportunities on their GRF pledges for improved economic inclusion of refugees. During the stocktaking meeting the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) shared their findings of a research into displacement financing conducted together with IGAD, the WB, the EU and other partners. The findings highlighted the need for flexible funding solutions that would enable bridging the humanitarian short term funding with the longer-term development approach to create solution for displace populations, and enable members states to fulfil their pledges. It highlighted the continued for need for donors to support states in the plight for more responsibility-sharing in line with the GCR objectives.

In May 2021, the **EU-ACP joint Parliamentary Assembly**, co-led with UNHCR’s Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, discussed progress in the implementation of GRF pledges and opportunities for matching. The Special Envoy called for further parliamentary engagement. Further discussions will be held for parliamentarians to be briefed on success stories in Africa, and to receive examples of needed EU support to achieve pledges. In addition, there will be a possibility for parliamentarians to undertake a mission to a refugee-hosting area and experience the reality of large refugee-hosting countries. The role of members of parliament is critical to mobilize political support and advocacy to further the objectives of the GCR.

Regional Economic Inclusion working group: UNHCR and NRC have initiated a monthly virtual [economic inclusion working group](#) on forced displacement. In this forum members of regional INGOs, UN agencies, IFIs, CSOs, research institutes across the humanitarian-development nexus in Eastern Africa, meet to share research, pledge progress and best practices related to the livelihoods and economic inclusion of refugee, returnees, other persons in displacement and their host communities. It is an open platform for discussion of partners advocating, researching, investing and realizing projects that strengthen self-reliance and resilience, reduce the need of assistance, contribute to economies, increase protection and enhance durable solutions.

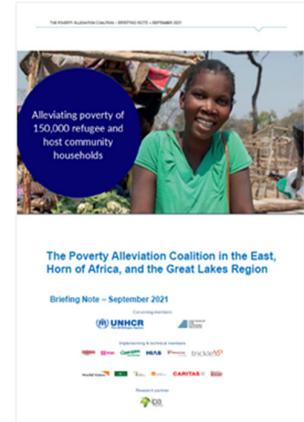
Regional NGO Consultations 2021: The Regional Bureau, in collaboration with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), organized the 2021 Regional NGO Consultations. The sessions on the *Implementation of the Global Refugee Forum Pledges*; and *Socio-Economic Inclusion of Refugees* served as opportunities for stocktaking on the implementation of the GRF pledges made by NGOs. An interactive session, co-chaired with the Regional Durable Solution Secretariat (ReDSS), presented an opportunity for NGOs to showcase their progress, challenges and opportunities in GRF pledge implementation. Even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, NGOs have proven that it is possible to turn challenges into opportunities through adaptation or acceleration of the pledge implementation. The pandemic has also revealed the critical importance of empowerment of refugees and other persons of concern as well as local communities and national NGOs and refugee-led organization as first responders.



An overview of organisations represented during the Regional NGO Consultations held in May 2021

The [regional ReDSS study on displacement financial architecture and its findings](#) complemented and affirmed the challenges, achievements and observations shared by the NGOs in the implementation of their GRF pledges.

Poverty Alleviation Coalition (PAC) side event: During the 2021 [Regional NGO consultations](#), the PAC organized a side event to discuss interventions that are successfully promoting self-reliance of Persons of Concern and hosting communities through [The Graduation Approach](#). During this event over 90 participants discussed success stories and challenges faced by PAC partners. One of the key recommendations raised by partners was the need for more visibility of the achievements to date as well as improve knowledge sharing. UNHCR together with PAC partners have published a briefing note that explains the graduation approach, highlights its importance for the region, and shows progress to date. PAC partners in the region would like to support 150,000 households by 2025 in reaching self-reliance. 48,000 households are expected to become self-reliant by the next GRF in December 2023. Read the September 2021 PAC update [here](#).



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS - REGIONAL NGO CONSULTATIONS

- ➔ Financing can be used, even in small amounts, to create an enabling legal and policy environment for solutions.
- ➔ Building government-led approaches and ensuring multi-stakeholder engagement is key from the beginning, and financing can be used to support this. Set up strong partnership with local governments/actors and tap into the opportunities which lie at sub-national levels when engaging with and empowering persons of concern and host communities.
- ➔ Investments can be layered and sequenced. Humanitarian and development financing do not smoothly move from one to the other. Catalytic and transitional financing is needed, and this will not come from traditional grant mechanisms alone. These can be used to provide innovative solutions in the face of rapidly changing environment and new challenges.
- ➔ Strengthen the capacity of POC led organisations to engage in the implementation of pledges not only through one-off trainings but through institutional strengthening and long-term partnership.
- ➔ Meaningful engagement of POCs not as passive actors but to ensure they are at the centre of programming and policy decision making.
- ➔ Innovation in financing for solutions and UNHCR's support in advocacy for more flexible and long-term solutions funding.
- ➔ Involvement of national and local authorities should be strengthened in the implementation of pledges and planning linked to national and local development plans.
- ➔ NGOs should ensure documentation of good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of pledges with a focus on what works and what doesn't to facilitate cross-learning and information exchange.
- ➔ Better coordination among actors implementing pledges in the same area should be strengthened to avoid duplication and encourage area-based approaches.
- ➔ Better coordination on pledge matching is highly recommended and UNHCR's support particularly needed in this aspect.

GLOBAL OVERVIEW – OUTCOMES OF THE 2019 GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM

1,590+ pledges

across 6 areas of focus: burden- and responsibility-sharing; education; jobs and livelihoods; energy and infrastructure; protection; and solutions

1,230+ pledges

Global Refugee Forum

360 pledges

High Level Segment on Statelessness

Pledges to enhance refugee self-reliance, including:



100+ pledges

in support of inclusive national policies



100+ pledges

addressing jobs and livelihoods



180+ pledges

focused on expanding access to quality education

Pledges to ease pressures on host countries, including:



280+ pledges

contained a financial commitment



40 States

and other stakeholders committed to support green energy and conservation efforts

Pledges on solutions, including:



180+ pledges

focusing on achieving lasting solutions, including voluntary repatriation



120+ commitments

aimed at expanding third-country solutions

Visit our **Global Compact for Refugees Digital Platform** for more information:

<https://globalcompactrefugees.org/>

If you have any further questions or comments, please contact

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