PRESS RELEASE

PLACE
Aden

DATE
17 December 2024

High-Level Workshop in Aden Advances Government of Yemen's Pledges to the Global Refugee Forum

Aden – A two-day high-level workshop concluded today in Aden, reaffirming Yemen's commitments under the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) to address displacement challenges through protection, assistance, and advancing sustainable solutions. Organized under the leadership of the Prime Minister's Office, with support from UNHCR, the event brought together government officials, national and international partners, donors, technical experts, and refugee representatives to explore solutions that support refugees and host communities in Yemen.

In his opening remarks, Prime Minister Dr. Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak emphasized Yemen's leadership in addressing displacement through partnerships, solidarity, and practical solutions. Yemen remains the only country in the Arabian Peninsula to have acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention, hosting nearly 60,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, even amid ongoing challenges, alongside millions of internally displaced Yemenis and returnees.

Participants engaged in discussions on Yemen's commitments to improving refugee protection, expanding access to education and healthcare, addressing statelessness, and supporting host communities. The workshop also underscored the importance of transitioning from humanitarian aid toward sustainable development, fostering national systems, and enhancing responsibility-sharing among global partners.

Marin Kajdomcaj, UNHCR Representative in Yemen, commended the Government of Yemen's leadership and the strong collaboration among ministries, international partners, and the private sector. "This workshop highlights Yemen's determination to deliver on its commitments to the GRF, strengthening legal frameworks and advancing practical solutions for refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities. Shared responsibilities and collaboration remain key to achieving these goals," Kajdomcaj said.

Kajdomcaj also highlighted the vital role of women: "Women are central to rebuilding communities, driving progress, and fostering stability. Their participation is indispensable."

The second day featured contributions from technical experts, donors, and refugee representatives. Instisar Abdullah, a refugee representative, expressed her gratitude to Yemen for its hospitality and ongoing support but highlighted the challenges refugees still face. "We need stronger services and opportunities – education, health and livelihoods - to build a brighter future, particularly for women, children, and persons with disabilities, "she said.

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Representatives from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the European Union, the Republic of Korea, Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen acknowledged Yemen's longstanding commitment to hosting refugees and reaffirmed their support.

The workshop concluded with a roadmap for implementing Yemen's GRF pledges. This includes strengthening inter-ministerial coordination, aligning humanitarian and development efforts, and engaging civil society and the private sector to drive long-term solutions.

"This event is part of a continued process to ensure refugees, displaced persons, and host communities can rebuild their lives in dignity and contribute to Yemen's development and economic empowerment," Kajdomcaj concluded.

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