



A pledge for children

2023 Global Refugee Forum



ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

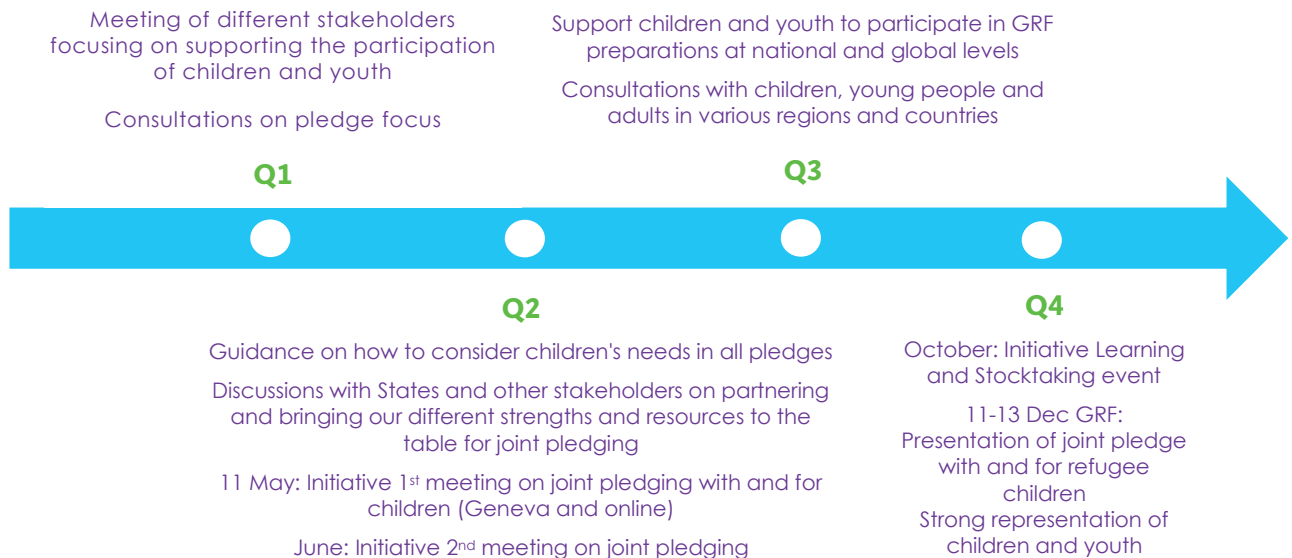
The Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts (the Initiative), one of the GCR Initiatives, has over 30 members - including UN entities, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, philanthropic foundations, individual experts and special procedures – united to ensure that children's rights are central in the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

ROADMAP TO A PLEDGE FOR CHILDREN

The Initiative is facilitating discussions with Member States and other stakeholders about making a **joint commitment with and for refugee and displaced children** to put the **GCR's many positive provisions for children** in all their diversity into action. Our priority is to ensure children's non-discriminatory **inclusion** in and **access** to quality national and local systems and services.

Through this joint pledging collaboration for children, stakeholders will have the opportunity to: adopt a holistic approach to child rights and needs; access opportunities for learning and exchange; partner with children and youth; and work with new and different partners.

Our journey to a joint pledge at the Global Refugee Forum will involve:



Join us on this journey and be a champion for children.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN BEING PART OF A JOINT PLEDGE FOR CHILDREN?

A bold and unified commitment to and partnership with children should translate into concrete joint pledging at the 2023 GRF followed by bold action. Children and young people should be partners in the process.

Being part of this pledge means upholding **child rights in your pledges**; considering the potential positive or negative **impacts of any pledges on children**; **pledging *with* and *for* children**; and **involving others**. It is an opportunity to:



PROPOSED DRAFT JOINT PLEDGE FOR CHILDREN

We, the undersigned, pledge to prioritise the rights, needs and best interests of children in refugee and displacement situations and their inclusion in national and local systems and services. We will do this through specific commitments and concrete actions with and for children. By joining forces, we bring together our different strengths, resources, capacities and experience towards a common vision that places children at the heart of refugee and displacement responses.

As children make up an estimated 43% of the world's displaced population, we commit to **review all our pledges and refugee responses through a child-rights lens** and adapt them accordingly to ensure they address the needs of children, recognising that forced displacement affects children differently depending on their age, gender, disability, and other characteristics.

Our joint pledge with and for children recognises that children's lives are not siloed into different sectors and considers their needs and rights holistically. It prioritises the **inclusion of refugee and displaced children in national and local systems and services** to ensure that children are safe and protected, can access education and learning, can integrate and thrive in the communities where they live, and can meaningfully participate in decisions that affect them.

We acknowledge that each party to this pledge has unique remits, responsibilities, resources and capacities. In line with our respective areas of competence, through this pledge, we commit to concrete actions in one or more of the following four areas of focus in specific geographical contexts:

1. CHILD PROTECTION

We commit to facilitating children's non-discriminatory inclusion in and access to quality national and local child protection systems and services to ensure refugee and displaced children are protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence, including gender-based violence and harmful practices. Our concrete commitments include a focus on:

- Addressing barriers in the legal and policy framework to protecting children with specific measures to tackle discrimination based on their displacement status, gender, disability and other forms of diversity
- Making commitments to predictable multi-year financing for inclusive child protection services
- Investing in and increasing the capacity of the social service and child protection workforce

- Strengthening prevention and response services that support refugee, displaced and host community children are exposed to or at risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation, separation and violence

2. SOCIAL PROTECTION AND KEY SERVICES

We commit to ensuring children's non-discriminatory inclusion in and access to social protection and other key services, including healthcare and mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS). This will help refugee and displaced children to integrate and thrive in the communities they live in, strengthen their resilience against shocks, and support their and their family's security and stability, protecting them from poverty and exclusion. This contributes to ensuring sustainable solutions for children. Our concrete commitments include a focus on:

- Ensuring the legal and policy framework, national development plans, budgets and programmes are child-sensitive and inclusive of refugee and displaced children in all their diversity so that children can access social protection and other key services
- Transitioning to predictable multi-year financing for social protection/ other key services
- Strengthening national and subnational capacities to plan and deliver services that meet the needs of refugee and displaced children
- Strengthening linkages between key social services for children, including social protection programmes, health services, child protection and education, including by creating or strengthening referral pathways and case management

3. PROTECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

We commit to refugee and displaced children's non-discriminatory inclusion in and access to quality, protective and inclusive early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary national education and learning systems (in line with the 15by30 goal). We commit to children's access to quality and accredited learning and skills training in a safe and protective environment that promotes inclusion, protection, gender equality, dignity and participation and equips them with the skills to succeed in school, work, and life. Our concrete commitments focus on:

- Addressing barriers in legal, policy and administrative frameworks to ensure access for refugee and displaced children to national education systems and learning without discrimination on the same terms as the host community
- Making predictable multi-year financing for refugee and displaced children's access to the national education system and its integration with child protection provision and other key services
- Investing in and improving the recruitment, retention and continuous professional development of the education workforce, including refugee

and community-based teachers and facilitators. This includes providing the necessary resources for and training on child protection to respond to the needs of refugee and displaced children

- Integrating education with key services such as child protection, social protection, MHPSS, and healthcare, including by creating or strengthening referral and case management

4. EMPOWERMENT AND MEANINGFUL CHILD PARTICIPATION

We commit to creating accessible, inclusive, child-friendly and safe platforms and processes to support children and young people to meaningfully participate in the design, implementation, and review of refugee responses to ensure that children are empowered and participate in decisions that affect them.

We also pledge to ensure the meaningful participation of refugee and displaced children and young people in the lead-up to and during the GRF, with clear timeframes and financial commitments and resources. Our concrete commitments focus on:



- Ensuring that the views of refugee and host community children and young people are systematically used to review, inform and adapt policy and investments, using trusted, safe, confidential and child- and youth-friendly feedback mechanisms
- Addressing policy, practical and gender-specific barriers to the meaningful engagement and inclusion of children and young people in refugee and host communities
- Strengthening capacities at subnational and national level to improve the meaningful engagement of refugee and host community children and young people as partners in the design of inclusive laws, policies and solutions
- Taking targeted actions to raise and respond to children and young people's voices, views and concerns and mobilizing increased investment in refugee, women-led and youth-led organizations as partners in the response

PLEDGE FRAMEWORK

To achieve changes in these areas for children through this joint pledge, we need to collaborate, make realistic commitments of support that respond to the needs of children and their families, ensure sufficient financial, material and technical resources, work to clear timeframes, and put in place a monitoring and accountability mechanism.

Each member of/ party to this pledge outlines their commitment, defining its financial, material and technical support, geographical focus and implementation timeline:

Register your interest in [**collaborating on a joint pledge for children here.**](#) See the latest overview of the [**Components and Framework of the pledge.**](#)

Together, we will make a positive and lasting impact on the lives of refugee children and their families.

WHAT COULD SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS UNDER THIS PLEDGE LOOK LIKE?

1 CHILD PROTECTION

By [year] the [Government, civil society, donor] in [country] commits to identifying and removing legal, procedural and/or practical barriers hindering refugee and displaced children from accessing child protection services in at least [number] refugee-hosting [locations].

In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to amend the legal framework to guarantee non-discriminatory access of refugee and asylum-seeking children to child protection services.

In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to supporting the recruitment and training of at least [number] social service workers, including refugees, to directly serve vulnerable refugee, displaced and host community children in [number] refugee-hosting [locations] by [year].

In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to supporting the recruitment, training and deployment of additional [number] government social welfare/child welfare workers to [number] refugee hosting locations by [year].

In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to piloting mobile child protection services or other integrated solutions under the oversight of [Ministry]

[responsible for child protection] with a focus on serving refugee children, as part of a longer horizon plan to scale up successful models and solutions by [year].

In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to systematically strengthening alternative care [including supporting refugee foster families and supervised independent living solutions] for unaccompanied refugee children under the oversight of the [Ministry responsible for child protection] in [number] refugee-hosting [locations] by [year], with plans to scale up in an additional [number] refugee-hosting [locations] by [year].

By [year] in [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to establishing/ expanding and enacting national laws, regulations, policies, procedures and practices to prevent family separation, foster family unity in reception systems and reunify unaccompanied and separated children with family, based on the best interests of the child and including clear referral pathways with accelerated procedures for children and cross border cooperation between relevant actors for family tracing and reunification.

By [year] the [Ministry responsible for child protection] in [country] commits to integrating refugee children in relevant sectoral or ministerial plans / operational budgets / Information Management Systems / guidelines / Standard Operating Procedures / in-service curricula and clarifying the roles, specific functions and accountabilities of existing [duty bearers with CP mandates working in different capacities and at various levels] in serving refugee children across [country].

By [year] the [Government, civil society, donor] in [country] commits to providing sustained, predictable, flexible and direct funding, which is crucial for results including for both strengthening child protection systems and services, as well as supporting children, families and communities' efforts to care for and protect children.

In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to resourcing child protection system strengthening including policy and legal reform and strengthening capacity of the workforce to implement and monitor the policies and reforms.

In [country], the [government] commits to ending child immigration detention by including a prohibition in law and policy integrating the elements needed to bring this prohibition into practice in relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning frameworks; and by increasing the capacity of child protection and social welfare services to provide non-custodial family or community-based reception and care for children and families and full access to services. This pledge will be implemented with support from civil society, donors and other key actors.

In [country], the [government] commits to establishing a Memorandum of Understanding to define responsibilities and provide common guidelines for all relevant government agencies on non-detention of (displaced) children on the grounds of their or their parents' migration status.

In [country], the [government] commits to establishing Standard Operating Procedures and training front-line staff, including border, asylum and immigration and child justice authorities, on child-friendly screening, assessment and referral processes that channel refugee children and families into appropriate family or community-based social services and alternative care.

2 SOCIAL PROTECTION AND KEY SERVICES

By [year] the [Government, donor] in [country] commits to ensuring healthcare provision for refugee and displaced children are fully integrated into the national healthcare service delivery system and the national health budget.

By [year] the [Government, donor] in [country] commits to strengthening access to primary and secondary quality health services for refugee and displaced children including the provision of vaccination, medicines, medical equipment and trained medical personnel.

By [year] the [Government, donor] in [country] commits to earmarking resources for the expansion of mental health and psycho-social support services that are inclusive of refugee and host community children, and to strengthen proactive outreach and targeted approaches to overcome barriers.

By [year] the [Government, donor] in [country] commits to promoting structural, long-term mental health and psychosocial support in development cooperation.

By [year] the [Ministry responsible for social protection] in [country] commits to integrating refugee and displaced children in legal and institutional frameworks at national and local levels.

By [year] the [Ministry responsible for social protection] in [country] commits to integrating refugee and displaced children in existing/ new social protection programmes, including those that address financial and social barriers at national and local levels.

By [year] the [Government, civil society, donor] in [country] commits to put in place measures to strengthen the shock-responsiveness of the social protection system that are inclusive of displaced children.

In [country] the [Government, donor] commits to earmarking resources for expansion of social protection that is inclusive of displaced and host community children by [year].

By [year] the [Government, civil society, donor] in [country] commits to supporting the outreach, identification, and provision of assistance to vulnerable families with children through creating or strengthening referral pathways and harmonized social registries for social assistance, education, and child protection.

By [year] the [Government, civil society, donor] in [country] commits to strengthening national and subnational capacities to better plan and link social protection programmes for host and displaced communities with sector budgets.

In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to enhancing the delivery capacity of local governments/ authorities, including through recruiting and training additional [number] staff to be deployed to refugee hosting locations by [year].

By [year] the [Government, civil society, donor] in [country] commits to strengthening national and subnational capacities to integrate child protection and social protection programme objectives for an integrated approach that

offers holistic case management and support services to vulnerable families receiving social assistance.

In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to generating evidence to strengthen the investment case for child-focused and inclusive social protection [year].

By [year] the [Government] in [country] commits to include displaced children and their families in national data systems, surveys, sector analyses, plans and budgets, including data-collection efforts, data analysis and evidence generation processes, with appropriate and safe data disaggregation.

By [year] the [Government] in [country] commits to join the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC) and provide political and technical support to achieve IDAC's objectives to improve outcomes for all children and end the invisibility of refugee children through better data.

3 PROTECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

By [year] the [Government] in [country] commits to delivering quality, safe, accredited education to refugees through the development of inclusive national plans.

By [year] the [Government, civil society, donor] in [country] commits to identifying and removing legal, procedural and/or administrative barriers hindering refugee and displaced children from accessing education.

By [year] the [Government, civil society, donor] in [country] commits to providing an increase in multi-year funding by X% for the delivery of safe, quality education for refugee children.

By [2030] the [Government, civil society, donor] in [country] achieves the goal of enrolling 15% of refugee and displaced children in higher education.

By [year] the [Government, civil society, donor] in [country] commits to providing access to quality literacy, numeracy and social and emotional learning competencies in early grades, and a breadth of skills beyond.

By [year] the [Government, donor] in [country] commits to developing a specific national child protection policy for educational settings and to making child protection formally part of the education agenda and that this is applied in practice.

By [year] the [Government, civil society, donor] in [country] commits to strengthening the capacity for child protection in educational settings to provide a protective environment for children and young people. This will include teacher training, awareness-raising including trauma-sensitive training, information-sharing and the provision of materials on child rights and child protection.

By [year] the [Government] in [country] commits to removing barriers and take proactive measures to ensure that qualified educators from the refugee community

can be employed in the national education system and are included in national teacher development plans and programmes.

By [year] the [Government] in [country] commits to developing an integrated preparedness plan to ensure the continuity of learning and wellbeing for refugee and host community children in future crises.

By [year] the [government] in [country] commits to including refugee education data in national Education Management Information Systems, disaggregated by gender, age, disability, migration and protection status.

By [year] the [Government, civil society, donor] in [country] commits to strengthening national and subnational capacities to integrate education with other sectors, including health, MHPSS and child protection, including through integrated case management and referral mechanisms.

By [year] the [Government, civil society, donor] in [country] commits to expand coverage and quality of TVET/vocational education and digitally powered learning to earning for displaced young people and host community youth, with a focus on reaching adolescent girls and young women.

4 EMPOWERMENT AND MEANINGFUL CHILD PARTICIPATION

In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to creating safe spaces to support children and young people to meaningfully participate in the design, implementation, and review of refugee responses.

In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to working for and with children to ensure their voices are heard and their perspectives are taken into account in all aspects of refugee responses.

In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits funding and skilled staff support [provided by] to ensure the meaningful participation of children and young people in providing input into policy and planning in the lead-up to, during, and after the Global Refugee Forum (GRF).

In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to funding and skilled staff [provided by] to support child-friendly accountability mechanisms that enable children to hold duty-bearers accountable for [specify].

In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to flexible, multi-year financing for refugee- and youth-led organisations, in particular girl-led organisations, making sure the financing reaches the most vulnerable in under-resourced areas.

In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to establishing safeguarding procedures and participation spaces for children/ youth networks in partnership with trained and vetted professionals, ensuring the rights of children and youth - particularly girls and those from vulnerable backgrounds - to safely participate in decision-making at all levels, regardless of individual resources and background.

In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to establishing participatory mechanisms, such as youth advisory groups, that enable a diverse group of children and young people (including adolescents and youth) to participate in decision-making processes related to policy, budgeting, programming and other decisions that are relevant to their lives in a manner that is safe, supported and sustained and that facilitates ongoing partnerships with youth-led groups and supports youth-led action.



www.childrenonthemove.org

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