



A pledge for children

Multistakeholder Pledge: Child Rights

Global Refugee Forum 2023



A JOINT COMMITMENT WITH & FOR CHILDREN

Children make up an estimated 40% of the world's displaced population¹. Between 2018 and 2022, over one million children were born as refugees. Most children who are displaced today will spend their entire childhood in protracted displacement.

The Global Refugee Forum (GRF) 2023 process and its pledges offer a crucial opportunity to ensure children are at the heart of commitments on refugee inclusion. Pledges with and for refugee and displaced children at the GRF are crucial to put the Global Compact on Refugee (GCR)'s many positive provisions for children in all their diversity into action, with concrete commitments to protect, include and empower children.

THE GOAL OF THE CHILD RIGHTS MULTISTAKEHOLDER PLEDGE

The goal of the Child Rights Multistakeholder Pledge (child rights pledge) is to promote a collaboration between stakeholders with a common objective of **ensuring children's non-discriminatory inclusion in and access to quality national and local systems and services** so that children: are protected from violence, abuse and exploitation; can meaningfully participate in decisions that affect their lives; have access to key and child sensitive services including social protection, healthcare and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS); and have access to early years, primary, secondary and tertiary education in a protective environment.

The Child Rights Multistakeholder Pledge is a platform and space for match pledging, coordination, sharing learning and good practices, and bringing together resources and commitments with and for children.

Children's needs and rights must be considered holistically because their lives are not siloed into different sectors.

By promoting pledges for children and coordinating with other multistakeholder pledging initiatives, **the Child Rights Pledge serves as the 'home' for commitments made with and for children.**

¹ <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2022>

PLEDGING WITH AND FOR CHILDREN

Stakeholders can contribute to the Child Rights Pledge by making commitments in any of the following **4 key priority areas**:

1. **Child Protection**
2. **Empowerment and Meaningful Child Participation**
3. **Access to key services including social protection, healthcare and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)**
4. **Protective and Inclusive Education**

Commitments can include: provisions to address barriers in legal and policy frameworks; multi-year investments; increasing the capacity of the workforce; ensuring the provision and coordination of services.

To pledge for children, stakeholders can:

1. Make a holistic pledge that addresses child rights, focusing on or cutting across the priority areas under the Child Rights Multistakeholder Pledge;
2. Make a specific pledge on child protection or child participation under the Child Rights Multistakeholder Pledge; or
3. If involved in other Multistakeholder pledges, make commitments that address the specific needs of children or child sensitive services as part of those pledges and tag the Child Rights Pledge (for example by promoting protective education through an education pledge, or by pledging on child-focussed and child-sensitive services in Healthcare and MHPSS, Social Protection and Economic Inclusion, Gender Based Violence, or others relevant multistakeholder pledges).

Stakeholders can submit their pledge in the [GCR website](#) by:

- ✓ Tagging the Child Rights Multistakeholder Pledge.
- ✓ If supporting or mainstreaming child rights in other multistakeholder pledges, tagging **both** the Child Rights Pledge and the other multistakeholder pledge.

Supporting children and upholding children's rights also means assessing if **any pledge** can have either a positive or negative impacts on children.

Register your interest in [collaborating on the Multistakeholder Pledge: Child Rights here](#) or contact us through the Co-Chairs of the Initiative:

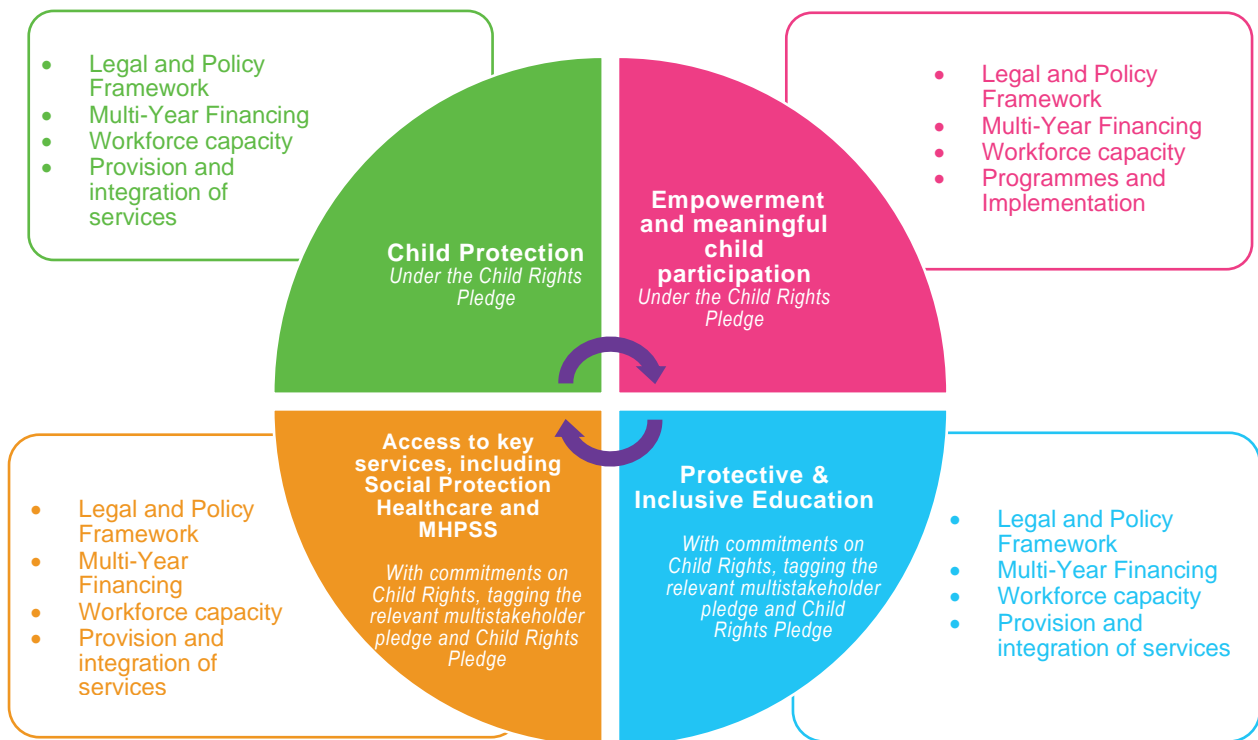
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The next section of this document outlines the key priorities, goal, and example commitments of each priority area of the Multistakeholder Child Rights Pledge as well as the other multistakeholder pledges that this relates to where relevant.

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

CHILD RIGHTS PLEDGE PRIORITY AREAS



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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:

- **Legal and Policy Framework** - 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;
- **Financing** - Making commitments to predictable multi-year, flexible financing for inclusive child protection services;
- **Workforce Capacity** - Investing in and increasing the capacity of the social service and child protection workforce; and
- **Services and links** - Strengthening prevention and response services that support refugee, displaced and host community children who are exposed to or at risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation, separation and violence.

GOAL: In the next four years, at least 15 States - with the support of relevant stakeholders - strengthen laws and policies, multi-year investments, workforce capacity and key services on child protection.

Child Protection pledges can be made under the Child Rights Multistakeholder Pledge.

Other pledging areas where child protection can be supported include:

- Multistakeholder Pledge: Gender Equality and Protection from Gender-Based Violence
- Multistakeholder Pledge: Supporting Refugee Family Reunification



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EXAMPLES OF PLEDGES ON 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.

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 supporting the recruitment, training and deployment of at least [number] social service/social welfare/child welfare 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 piloting mobile child protection services or other integrated solutions under the oversight of [Ministry responsible for child protection] with a focus on serving refugee and displaced 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].

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.

In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to systematically strengthening linkages between gender-based violence (GBV) response services/systems and child protection response services/systems, with an aim to better meeting the needs of both child survivors of GBV and the children of adult GBV survivors.



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 commit to ensuring that child-friendly communication and accountability mechanisms are in place in all pledges.

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:

- **Legal and Policy Framework** - Addressing policy, practical and gender-specific barriers to the meaningful engagement and inclusion of children and young people in refugee and host communities;
- **Financing** - 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;
- **Workforce Capacity** - Strengthening capacities at local and national levels 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; and
- **Programmes and implementation** - 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.

GOAL: Over the next 4 years, at least 15 states will have a funded plan to support the meaningful participation of refugee and displaced children including through establishing platforms, training adults, and supporting children to organize themselves to inform the development of policies and responses and hold governments accountable.

Pledges for child participation can be made under the Child Rights Multistakeholder Pledge.

Stakeholders are also encouraged to include a commitment to supporting and facilitating child participation in other multistakeholder pledges.

EXAMPLES OF PLEDGES ON 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.



ACCESS TO KEY SERVICES, INCLUDING SOCIAL PROTECTION, HEALTHCARE, AND MHPSS

We commit to ensuring children's non-discriminatory inclusion in and access to key services, including **social protection, 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:

- **Legal and Policy Framework** - 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, health care, MHPSS and other key services;
- **Financing** - Ensuring that the transitioning to predictable multi-year financing for social protection/ other key services includes the cost of child friendly services;
- **Workforce Capacity** - Strengthening national and subnational capacities to plan and deliver services that meet the needs of refugee and displaced children; and
- **Services and Coordination** - Strengthening linkages between key social services for children, including social protection programmes, health services, MHPSS, gender-based violence, family reunification, child protection and education, including by creating or strengthening referral pathways and case management.

GOAL: Over the next four years, reach xx refugees, forcibly displaced and stateless children, and members of host communities with holistic economic inclusion and broader **social protection** to effectively address poverty and vulnerabilities.

Over the next four years at least xx countries make pledges to strengthen healthcare mental health and psycho-social support services, that are inclusive of and explicitly address the specific needs of refugee and host community children.

Commitments on child rights and Social Protection, Healthcare and MHPSS can be made under the Child Rights Pledge and the relevant multistakeholder pledge, tagging both, including:

- Multistakeholder Pledge: Economic Inclusion and Social Protection.
- Multistakeholder Pledge: National health system inclusion
- Multistakeholder Pledge: MHPSS

EXAMPLES OF PLEDGES ON SOCIAL PROTECTION, HEALTHCARE AND MHPSS

Social Protection

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 national **social protection** programmes that are 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 services.

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.

Healthcare and MHPSS

By [year] the [Government, donor] in [country] commits to foster equal access to quality health services that respond to the specific needs of children and their families, in line with the principles of primary health care and universal health coverage. This commitment will entail supporting national health systems to facilitate inclusion through policy changes, aided by financial, material and capacity strengthening.

By [year] the [Government, donor] in [country] commits to advance inclusive vaccination coverage equitably for all children, including specific supply and demand-side needs of refugees and displaced populations so that children and their communities enjoy lives free from vaccine-preventable diseases (VPD). This commitment will be developed working with partners and using integrated health systems

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

By [year] the [Government, donor] in [country] commits to systematically integrate mental health and psychosocial support in humanitarian, development and peace-building programmes through policy changes towards inclusion, supported by financial, material and capacity strengthening, to foster access to quality services and support for all refugees and host community children and their families-

By [year] the [Government, donor] in [country] commits to ensuring healthcare systems meet the needs of child survivors of violence, including increased access to clinical management of rape services and stronger capacity within the frontline health and social services workforce to care for child survivors of sexual abuse



PROTECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

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

- **Legal and Policy Framework** - 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.
- **Financing** - 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.
- **Workforce Capacity** - 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.
- **Services and Coordination** - Integrating education with key services such as child protection, social protection, MHPSS, and healthcare, including by creating or strengthening referral and case management.

GOAL: Over the next 4 years, with the support of donors and other stakeholders, at least 15 hosting countries ensure refugee and displaced children's non-discriminatory inclusion in and access to a safe and protective learning environment where education is coordinated with services that support children's needs and children can access well-funded quality and accredited learning and skill training.

Commitments on Protective Education can be made through the Child Rights Pledge and by supporting children's access to a protective learning environment in the relevant multistakeholder pledge on education, tagging both pledges, including:

- Sharing Responsibility to include refugees in national education systems
- Achieving 15% Enrolment by 2030 to Expanding Refugee Access to Higher Education and Self-Reliance

EXAMPLES OF PLEDGES ON PROTECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

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

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, including through monitoring and reporting mechanisms and adopting an all-hazard approach to keeping children safe in and around schools.

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 in a safe and protective environment

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 [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] 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.

By [year] the [Government, civil society, donor] in [country] commits to implementing concrete measures to make schools safer and more accessible for all teachers and learners, including particular consideration for gender and by disability.

About the Initiative

This pledge is being led by 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).



www.childrenonthemove.org

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