

GRF pledges on socio-economic inclusion

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Mega Pledge on Economic
Inclusion and Social Protection



Three pillars

- Law and Policy
- Programmes
- Data and evidence

OBJECTIVES OF THE LAW AND POLICY PILLAR

- Technical co-convenor: International Labour Organization

Pledges, from state and non state actors, **build enabling environments** for economic inclusion through **adopting and/or strengthening laws & policies** and/or **withdrawing reservations/declarations** to the 1951 Refugee Convention and/or the 1954 Statelessness Convention.

Among others, these may pertain to:

- Right to work
- Access to documentation and legal status
- Rights at work, including freedom of association and collective bargaining
- Access to financial services and to business development services
- Inclusive national social protection systems
- Access to justice and legal services
- Access to education and training
- Equality and non-discrimination
- Access to productive land and property
- Freedom of movement



RATIONALE

Restrictive environments are pushing refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless persons into informal, low-skilled, insecure employment exacerbating social tension, decent work deficits, abuse and exploitation (incl. SGBV, child labour, forced labour), and poverty.

Favourable environments enable refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless people, and members of host communities, to become potential workers, entrepreneurs and employers whose rights are protected in the labour market and are covered by social protection schemes that make them more self-reliant resilient to future shocks.

GOAL

- GOAL: Over the next four years, at least **15 States** - with the support of relevant stakeholders- adopt and/or strengthen laws or policies supporting economic inclusion and social protection.



EXAMPLE 1 – INCLUSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION

PLEDGE: Adopt/amend law and implementing decree/regulation to build inclusive national social protection schemes benefitting host communities and refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

Some benefits of inclusive national social protection:

- Builds resilience and protection from future shocks
- Provides sustainable and cost-effective solutions to move out of humanitarian assistance, particularly in protracted situations
- Increases the number of social security contributions (better risk-pooling)
- Reduces social tensions between host communities and refugees (no parallel systems)



EXAMPLE 2 – FINANCIAL INCLUSION

PLEDGE: Adopt/amend regulatory policies allowing refugees, other forcibly displaced persons and stateless persons to access and use financial services.

Some benefits of financial inclusion:

- Promotes resilience and self-reliance as they can build up savings
- Capacitates them to rebuild livelihoods, especially with access to credit and insurance
- Empowers them to build assets and make productive investments in both origin and host countries
- Increases their economic participation enabled by the facilitated day-to-day financial transactions, profiting the local economy



Pillar 2: Programmes - INTRODUCTION

Building on the **enabling environment** created by **Law and Policy** development and reform, as well as on evidence generated to inform Programming from **Data and Evidence**, **Programmes** seeks to implement initiatives through:

- **Programmes support, technical assistance, partnerships, initiatives and financing mechanisms** to enhance Economic Inclusion and Social Protection initiatives benefitting forcibly displaced and stateless persons, as well as host communities in refugee-hosting States;
- Financial, technical and partnership support to Economic Inclusion and Social Protection initiatives of **refugee-hosting States**



GOAL OF PROGRAMME PILLAR

Over the next four years, at least **1 million forcibly displaced and stateless persons**, as well as members of **host communities** are reached with **holistic and sustainable economic inclusion and broader social protection programming**, resulting in:

- expanded **access** to basic services necessary for human development,
- **participation** in economic activities,
- enhanced employment, entrepreneurship and decent work **opportunities in local and global markets.**



EXAMPLE OF PLEDGE – **INCLUSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION**

PLEDGE: Support national government or other relevant entities to enable the inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in national social protection services and schemes through monetary, technical and/or partnership support.

Some benefits of support to national social protection systems:

- Forcibly displaced and stateless persons, as well as members of host community, receive improved social protection support.
- National governments' capacity to respond to social protection needs is strengthened.
- Reliance on humanitarian assistance is reduced and resilience to external shocks is promoted.



EXAMPLE OF PLEDGE – **ECONOMIC INCLUSION**

PLEDGE: {number} forcibly displaced and stateless persons have effective access to sustainable and decent self and wage-employment, including digital work, by {date}

Some benefits of support to economic inclusion systems:

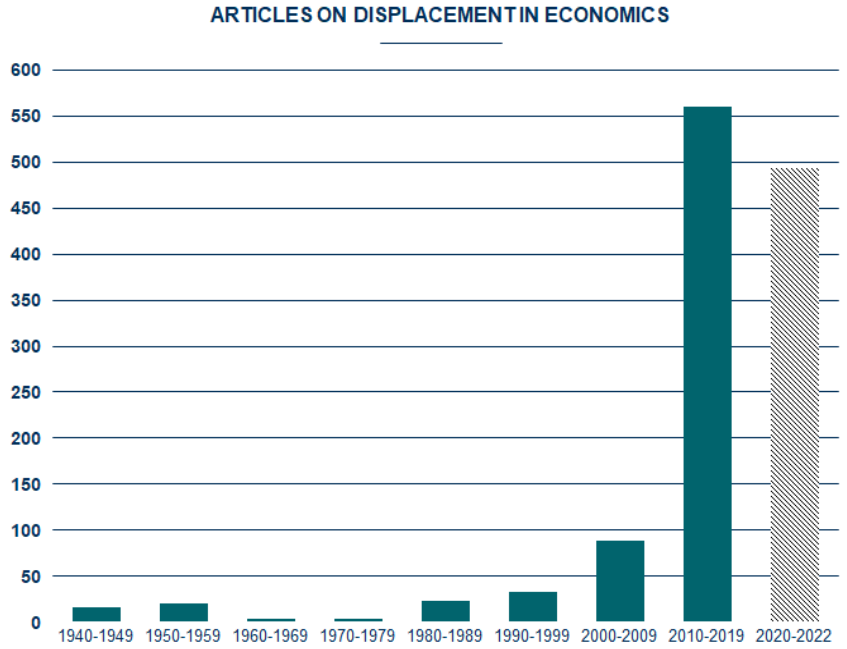
- Increased access of forcibly displaced and stateless persons to formal self and wage-employment in the host country.
- Enhanced local economic development and job-matching in host country.
- Reduced reliance on humanitarian assistance and promoted resilience to external shocks.



Pillar three: Data and evidence – Introduction

Co-convener: World Bank – UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement

- The number of **research articles on displacement in economics** exploded after 2010.
- A similar trend can be observed also in other disciplines
- But gaps persist, in knowledge and use of evidence.



Data and Evidence – The Goal

- Expand quality data and evidence responding to identified knowledge gaps related to design and outcomes of programmes and policies for economic inclusion and social protection for refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless people, and host communities.
- Over the next 4 years, research will be undertaken to address at least 75% of key evidence and knowledge gaps identified in a common learning agenda on self-reliance, economic inclusion and social protection.



Data and Evidence – Pledge example

- **(Donor)** pledges to grant *XXX* over a *YYY months/ years* for individuals and institutions conducting research on economic inclusion and social protection, including to support *ZZZ* refugee-led research initiatives or collaborations that include researchers with lived displacement experience.



Overall pledging guidance

- Multi-stakeholder pledges are encouraged
- Pledges should be SMART
- Informed by data and evidence
- Support the reform and implementation of law and policy on socio-economic inclusion
- Ensure an age, gender, diversity approach
- Apply to all forcibly displaced populations

Context-specific pledge proposals - data

- **Government/public authority** commits to include refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless persons in (specific **surveys/monitoring exercises**, e.g. household surveys, labor force surveys, social protection monitoring), collecting, analyzing and sharing data **disaggregated by legal status**, thus contributing to representative data on socio-economic profiles / access to employment, entrepreneurship, financial services, social protection, etc.
- **Government/public authority/research institute** pledges to conduct socio-economic assessments or longitudinal studies on integration of forcibly displaced and stateless persons to guide integration policies and programmes.

Context-specific pledge proposals - Municipalities

EFFECTIVE INCLUSION OF REFUGEES

PARTICIPATORY
APPROACHES FOR
PRACTITIONERS AT
THE LOCAL LEVEL



- Create dedicated municipal office or dedicate liaison officer within existing municipal entity for inclusion to develop and implement a multi-year integration plan
- Set up holistic integration schemes, offering combined support for decent work opportunities, long-term accommodation, language classes and access to other key services and community integration assistance.
- Set up a pilot housing program to expand access to housing for refugees and vulnerable members of the host community (e.g. by acquiring properties from private landlords or real estate agencies, making use of incentive schemes to free up unoccupied properties, renovating rundown properties; and assigning a quota for refugees).

Context-specific pledge proposals – Decent work

REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT PLATFORM

The entry point for refugee employment

A digital tool that connects companies with refugee job seekers. This job matching platform provides what employers need to hire refugees and brings together all that refugees require to find decent work.



FOR EMPLOYERS

JOB MATCHING

FOR REFUGEES

- ✓ Access to pools of candidates
- ✓ Guidance & good practices on hiring refugees
- ✓ Guidance & support for employers post-hiring
- ✓ Clear guidance on refugees' right to work
- ✓ Network of like-minded partners

- ✓ Access to vacancies, apprenticeships, internships and mentorships
- ✓ Certified online/language learning courses
- ✓ Skills assessment tools
- ✓ Templates (e.g. letters of reference, CV)
- ✓ Resource information
- ✓ Employment-enabling support and services

- ✓ **Guidance on skills assessment & recognition, training, and upskilling**



Resource information

- Job fairs & networking opportunities
- Opening a bank account and other financial services
- Social services (childcare, housing)
- Integration/inclusion programmes
- Good practices underway in the country



Employment-enabling support and services

- Personal skills assessment
- CV-building support
- Application assistance
- Cultural orientation
- Post-hiring support



Essential site properties

- Data & analytics
- Privacy policy
- Feedback mechanisms

Context-specific pledge proposals – Financial inclusion and entrepreneurship

- Research institute: Conduct a market assessment to identify relevant actors, profiles, gaps and potentials on refugee financial inclusion and entrepreneurship.
- Financial service provider: Facilitate access to bank accounts to (# of refugees) through multi-lingual information, interpretation, mainstreamed procedures across branches.
- Micro-finance institution: Facilitate access to micro-finance and/or business development services to (#of refugees).
- Regulatory body: Address legal and de facto barriers hindering refugees to access financial services through amending law x / developing targeted policy / including refugees in financial inclusion strategies and measures / publishing instructions to MFIs / providing targeted guidance / raising awareness.
- Ministry of Labour / Local government / Donor / Private sector: Provide budget for business development services and start-up grants for refugees with an entrepreneurial profile.

Thank you!

