PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION – UNDP AND UNHCR COOPERATION ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND STATELESSNESS

The Global Collaboration Framework for Inclusion and Solutions, 2023-2025
PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION – UNDP AND UNHCR COOPERATION ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND STATELESSNESS

FOREWORD

Forced displacement is increasing in scale, driven by conflicts, persecution and disasters. Crises in Gaza, Myanmar, Sudan, Ukraine and elsewhere add to existing global displacement. Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities are in need of support and opportunities.

Greater international responsibility sharing and more effective measures to support forcibly displaced and host communities are needed. Joining together humanitarian, development and peacebuilding responses is key to prevention and finding durable solutions for the displaced and the stateless, while supporting the communities and governments that host them and countries of origin to create conducive conditions for return. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) are combining our resources, networks and humanitarian, development and peacebuilding expertise in some of the most complex displacement crises around the world. We are working together to create livelihoods, promote the rule of law and local governance, integrate displacement into national and local development plans, and prevent conflict and build peace.

This report gathers together examples of joint work as part of the direction of travel cemented by the UNDP-UNHCR Global Collaboration Framework for Inclusion and Solutions, 2023-2025. In Afghanistan, UNDP and UNHCR have linked humanitarian and development actions to benefit returnees and host communities in 25 priority areas. Responding to the Syria crisis, the agencies co-lead the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), a platform which has channelled over US$24 billion to hosting countries. In Mexico and Central America, we are working with municipalities on the protection and inclusion of forcibly displaced people.

The examples illustrate the diverse ways in which UNDP and UNHCR collaborate to increase the benefits to forcibly displaced, stateless and host communities – from multi-country regional platforms through to country-specific projects, data and analysis. As needs grow, we are committed to expanding this work and combining our knowledge, capacity and funding in pursuit of inclusion and durable solutions.

Raouf Mazou
Assistant Secretary-General,
Assistant High Commissioner for Operations

Shoko Noda
Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Crisis Bureau
CONTENTS

Foreword 2

1. Introduction 4

2. Collaboration: a global picture 7

3. Collaboration in practise 10
   Afghanistan 10
   Myanmar 11
   Uzbekistan 12
   Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) to the Syria Crisis 13
   Burkina Faso 15
   Democratic Republic of Congo 16
   Mozambique 17
   South Sudan and Sudan 18
   Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) for Central America 19
   Colombia 20
   Other examples 21

4. Financing 22

Annex 23

   International pledges at the Global Refugee Forum 23
1. INTRODUCTION

Over 60 years of UNDP-UNHCR partnership has been cemented through the Global Collaboration Framework for Inclusion and Solutions, 2023–2025 (GCF), but countries and communities are looking for more support as the impact of forced displacement deepens.

This report presents examples of UNDP-UNHCR collaboration on inclusion and durable solutions for displacement, from large, multi-year multi-country frameworks to individual countries. The GCF identified seven areas where working together will have the biggest impact.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thematic area</th>
<th>Expected results area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>• Decent work for displaced people and host communities in the digital economy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Improve access to sustainable jobs and livelihoods for displaced people and host</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG integration</td>
<td>• Reflect displaced and stateless persons in regional, national and sub-national</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>frameworks, including UN and interagency frameworks on achieving the Sustainable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule of law and local governance</td>
<td>• Support national and local-level governance and rule of law institutions to prevent,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>respond to and solve protracted and recurrent displacement and statelessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict prevention and peacebuilding</td>
<td>• Increase cooperation on knowledge development and capacity-building on conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>prevention, peacebuilding and social cohesion to benefit displaced, stateless people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and host communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature, climate and environment</td>
<td>• Expand access for displaced people and host communities to clean and renewable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>energy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Integrate displacement and related considerations into climate change adaptation and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>disaster risk reduction policies, strategies and plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Reduce environmental degradation and mitigate climate-related hazards for displaced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and host communities, including through community preparedness for climate shocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>through early warning and early action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal displacement</td>
<td>• Adopt a durable solutions and development approach to internal displacement, in line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Durable Solutions Framework and the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Action Agenda on Internal Displacement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Strengthen national and local capacities based on the Guiding Principles on Internal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Displacement to prevent, address and resolve internal displacement, including through</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>local and community-based programmes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statelessness</td>
<td>• Mainstream statelessness in national development institutions, regional and global</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>forums, and within development plans and discourse.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The GCF is informed by age-, gender- and diversity-sensitive data and real-time evidence; country-facing and responsive to evolving needs; aligned with UN system-wide approaches; united by common planning frameworks; and driven by senior leadership.
Global displacement

The need for UNDP-UNHCR collaboration on achieving inclusion and durable solutions for the forcibly displaced is increasing as conflicts and natural disasters continue to force people to flee their homes.

The rise in overall forced displacement – to 120 million by May 2024 – was the 12th consecutive annual increase and reflects both new and mutating conflicts and a failure to resolve long-standing crises.

The devastating conflict in Sudan uprooted 10.8 million people. Up to 1.7 million people (75% of the population) had been displaced in the Gaza Strip by the catastrophic violence, most of whom were Palestine refugees, according to UNRWA.

Meanwhile, existing displacement crises endure in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar and South Sudan. Syria remains the world’s largest displacement crisis, with 13.8 million forcibly displaced in and outside the country. In many cases situations of displacement are more than a decade old, and whole generations are growing up in situations of displacement.

On top of this, the numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees able to return in safety and dignity to their homes remain far below what is needed.


---

Development needs

The global development context in which many forcibly displaced persons and host communities find themselves is alarming. As pointed out in the The 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Report, there is a growth in global income inequality, the number of people affected by conflict and those living in slums. Conflict, climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges are undermining progress towards the SDGs.

Among those who are most affected are refugees and IDPs, besides other marginalised groups. In 2022, low- and middle-income countries hosted 76% of the world’s refugees and other people in need of international protection. Similarly, a large majority of the world’s IDPs are in low- and middle-income countries.

The 2023 SDG Report recommended that efforts be made to integrate refugees, IDPs and communities affected by instability, conflict or violence into national systems of health care, education and employment. Integration is exactly part of what inclusion and durable solutions means and what the collaboration framework aims for.

On current trends...

![Number of people forecast to be living in extreme poverty in 2030](575 million)

![Number of countries forecast to halve national poverty levels by 2030](1/3)

![Number of people forecast to be without electricity in 2030](660 million)

Source: 2023 SDG Report

Future plans

In 2024 and 2025, UNDP and UNHCR will continue their efforts to collaborate, guided by the GCF, and in line with the UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and the UNHCR Strategic Directions 2022-2026. The GCF supports the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, the Secretary-General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A number of major international pledges were made at the second Global Refugee Forum in December 2023 that are relevant to the GCF, including UNDP’s institutional pledge and a multistakeholder pledge on leveraging the humanitarian, development and peace (HDP) nexus in forced displacement settings (see Annex). Building on the pledges, we are committed to combining our knowledge, capacity and funding in pursuit of inclusion and durable solutions for displaced peoples and host communities.
2. COLLABORATION: THE GLOBAL PICTURE

Collaboration between UNDP and UNHCR is diverse in type, focus and scale, ranging from collaboration in regional platforms, through to country-specific projects, joint activities, advocacy coordination mechanisms with partners, and jointly developed tools. Its covers all of the GCF thematic areas, concentrating on internal displacement, livelihoods, rule of law and local governance, SDG integration, and conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Given the variety of collaborative approaches, no single indicator accurately captures its extent and nature. Some figures – such as numbers of formal joint projects and UNDP spending on resilience – are indicative of positive trends and potential, as is the range of countries where the agencies have examples of notable collaboration.

Collaboration in numbers in 2022 with indicators

© UNHCR/Colin Delfosse 2023
AT A GLANCE: COLLABORATION
IN 2023

Note: there may be examples of significant UNDP-UNHCR collaboration that are not reflected in this map.
3. COLLABORATION IN PRACTICE

AFGHANISTAN

Across 2022-2023, UNDP and UNHCR have linked humanitarian and development actions to benefit returnees and host communities in 25 priority geographic areas. The agencies are looking to extend their collaboration to all 80 priority areas. The collaboration is built on UNHCR’s Community-based Protection and Solutions Programme Response (Co-PROSPER) and UNDP’s Area-Based Approach for Development Emergency Initiative (ABADEI).

Co-PROSPER creates conditions for return in dignity, for sustainable reintegration of IDP and refugee returnees, and for IDP co-existence with host communities in areas identified as Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARR). It increases service delivery capacity in sectors such as education, health, shelter, community infrastructure and water, sanitation and hygiene. It also supports livelihood and economic inclusion activities while increasing investments in green energy and mitigating climate change. ABADEI supports the delivery of essential services, providing basic income for people with special needs, bolstering livelihoods opportunities through provision of cash grants to small and medium enterprises, and investing in disaster risk-reduction. Women IDPs and returnees in Herat and IDPs and refugees in Nuristan have benefited from this collaboration.

The collaboration has demonstrated how the HDP nexus can be put into practice in Afghanistan, and it is encouraging partnerships with other organisations too. The collaboration is in line with the three pillars of the long-standing regional Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) and its international Support Platform, namely (i) creating conditions conducive to voluntary returns, (ii) building refugee capital based on livelihood opportunities, and (iii) enhancing support for host communities.

UNDP and UNHCR’s collaboration in Afghanistan has included a letter of intent and project agreement in 2021, and deployment of a consultant to develop a pilot project in Herat. The agencies have also joined in missions, such as FAO–UNDP–UNHCR ‘virtual missions’ in December 2022 and September 2023 for the SSAR Support Platform. Such initiatives provide opportunities for donors to visit projects virtually and interact with communities in contexts where there are travel constraints. The virtual missions are helpful for Steering Committee members and stakeholders of the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan to learn how their support is impacting people’s lives.

References

- UNHCR, ‘Afghanistan: Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration,’ August 2023
- UNHCR, ‘Impact Stories: Area-Based Approaches for Return, Reintegration, Resilience and Solutions – Afghanistan, 2022’
- UN Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan, ‘Durable solutions: Building resilience for IDPs and refugees in Afghanistan,’ videos about UNDP and UNHCR collaboration for IDPs and refugees in Herat, Laghman and Nuristan, March 2023
- UNDP Afghanistan, ‘UNDP and UNHCR are working together to support families returning home for better and sustainable livelihoods,’ video, October 2022
In Myanmar, UNDP and UNHCR collaborated in a five-year initiative, the Rakhine Triple Nexus Programme. This aimed to create conducive conditions for refugee voluntary returns from neighbouring Bangladesh, by putting the HDP nexus principles into action and supporting recovery and resilience-based development for the benefit of all communities in Rakhine State. The project built on the experience of a prior area-based programme in Rakhine and past efforts by UNDP, UNHCR and humanitarian actors to support IDPs and host communities.

Part of the project was based on a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNDP, UNHCR and the Government of Myanmar, signed in 2018. This aimed to secure the government’s commitment to work for comprehensive and durable solutions to the displacement of persons in and from Rakhine State and incorporate the recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission.

The project and MoU have provided for a process of rapid needs assessments, quick-impact project (QIP) design, technical working group meetings and QIP implementation. As of October 2023, 112 QIPs had been implemented, 74 of them in Rakhine North and 38 in Rakhine Central. QIPs and activities have included interventions to improve access to food and income by providing agricultural and other inputs, revitalising livelihoods, local production and markets, improving access to essential services and developing community systems to promote social cohesion.

In 2020, COVID-19 caused restrictions country-wide and a suspension of activities. The operational context was again complicated by the military takeover in February 2021, by Cyclone Mocha in 2023 and by an escalation of violence in the last quarter of 2023, which affected Rakhine State. However, joint activities and planning has continued.

Other collaboration in Myanmar has included UNDP and UNHCR co-leadership of nexus working groups for different parts of the country.

References

- UNDP, ‘Rakhine State: Bringing together humanitarian, development and peacebuilding activities’
The Surkhandarya region in south-eastern Uzbekistan faces dust storms and erosion, which can be mitigated through tree-planting and afforestation. Uzbekistan is not yet a signatory to the Refugee Convention and does not have a national asylum system. People seeking international protection there are unable to access socio-economic rights—including employment—or essential services.

In 2023, UNDP and UNHCR collaborated to enhance resilience to climate-related and environmental risks, and provide livelihoods opportunities for refugees and host communities. The project contributed to raising awareness about climate and environmental risks and gave the opportunity to over 400 refugees from Afghanistan and around 200 host community members to take part in the planting of tree seedlings in a 100-hectare green belt and a number of parks.

Participants from both Afghanistan and Uzbekistan benefited from training on tree planting and maintenance, and they were supported in a cash-for-work arrangement. The initiative raised awareness, built social cohesion and benefitted displaced people and the local environment. It provided an opportunity to work with the local government on issues related to displaced people, and how they can contribute to solving environmental challenges.

Although small, the initiative was actively linked with a national environmental programme, the five-year Yashil Makon (Green Nation) initiative for nationwide afforestation, which was launched in 2021 and aims to increase green areas from 8% of the country to 30%.

In this project, UNDP and UNHCR partnered with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and with the national ministries of finance, water resources and social support, and the regional forestry committee.

References

- UNHCR, ‘Ministry of Natural Resources jointly with UNDP, UNHCR, UNECE support humanitarian needs in Surkhandarya region through afforestation activities,’ press release, March 2023
- UNDP, ‘New joint project kicks off to support ‘Yashil Makon’ initiative through the development of Master Plan and innovative financial solutions,’ press release, September 2022
The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) is co-led by UNDP and UNHCR. It combines humanitarian and development responses for five countries hosting Syrian refugees – Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye. The 3RP provides 270 partners a platform for coordination, planning, advocacy, fundraising and programming. Between 2015 and 2023, the 3RP channelled over US$24 billion from more than 20 donors. The 3RP was the first multi-agency partnership to operate on such a scale with the purpose of addressing strategic and structural issues resulting from a protracted crisis, and with an approach of integrating humanitarian and development responses.

In 2024, the 13th year of the Syria crisis, the 3RP aims to benefit 6.3 million refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless persons and 6.6 million host community members. An independent evaluation in 2022 outlined the achievements and areas of improvements, with clear steps taken to implement the recommendations. The 3RP is governed by a MoU which provided for the creation of a Joint Secretariat.

The Joint Secretariat has overseen the processes of producing and advising on the overall regional and country-level plans, and developed a wide range of research and operational guidance notes. Recent examples include a report on social cohesion and dynamics between host communities and refugees, with recommendations on how social cohesion approaches can be strengthened, and an accompanying Guidance Note. In 2022, the 3RP published a report on how to maintain environmental sustainability and clean energy access. It highlighted the links between ecological fragility and humanitarian and development needs, and made recommendations.
Under this regional partnership umbrella between UNDP and UNHCR, anchored in the roles and responsibilities outlined under the 3RP, there are a variety of examples of best practices of productive collaboration between UNDP and UNHCR at country level.

In Lebanon, UNDP and UNHCR have developed a strong partnership through the country chapter of the 3RP – the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan includes collaboration on data, analysis and joint programming. The agencies have been collaborating on the Tensions Monitoring System since 2017, which provides recommendations to national and local stakeholders on a more conflict-sensitive response. The system uses perception surveys, incident monitoring, conflict mapping and inputs from UN agencies and NGOs to produce wider analysis for partners. As part of the system, UNDP and UNHCR draft a bimonthly update. With national partners, they lead four regional tensions monitoring groups which take early action.

In Türkiye, UNDP and UNHCR have supported the establishment of a National Reference Group on Aid Localisation in 2023. The group accelerates progress on the quality and quantity of funding that NGOs can access and enhances their role in decision making. It also ensures that humanitarian and development programmes are grounded in local realities and are implemented in ways that strengthen local NGOs. The reference group is led by the Refugee Council of Türkiye (TMK) and the Turkish Localisation Advocacy Group, with UNDP and UNHCR as the primary UN members.

Türkiye was also one of the pilot countries for use of the UNDP–UNHCR Appraisal Tool on Inclusion on the Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons in National Frameworks for the Achievement of the SDGs. During the piloting, UNDP and UNHCR focused on data and refugee inclusion in municipalities. The findings indicated that only a few municipalities included refugees in their plans, and those that did were treating the refugee situation mostly as a burden.

References

- 3RP, *Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan*, website
- 3RP, ‘Regional Strategic Overview 2023,’ 2023
- 3RP, ‘Social cohesion: An Overview of Host Community-Refugee Dynamics in the 3RP Context,’ July 2022
- 3RP, ‘Integrating Social Cohesion in the 3RP: A Regional Guidance Note,’ June 2022
- 3RP, ‘Mainstreaming Environmental Sustainability and Clean Energy Access in the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan in Response to the Syria Crisis (3RP),’ September 2022
- TMK, Localisation Advocacy Group and 3RP, ‘From global to the national: Moving localisation forward through the launch of the National Reference Group,’ January 2023
Collaboration in Burkina Faso began in 2015. UNDP brings its knowledge and experience on social cohesion and operationalising the HDP nexus and UNHCR brings its knowledge and capacities for responding to forced displacement, and a strong field presence.

The agencies carried out a 2021 study on inter-communal conflict, forced displacement and local land governance in Cascades and Hauts-Bassins. A follow-up 2023 study on gender-sensitive community security was conducted in specific communes in the Cascades, Hauts-Bassins and Sud-Ouest regions. The studies make recommendations on improving security, including the roles of national defence and security forces, consideration of gender in community security, and the engagement of IDPs and civil society. The studies have supported the government in developing a 2023-2027 national strategy for recovery and assistance for IDPs and host communities. It was prepared through a participatory process, overseen by a government committee. Embedded in the strategy is the HDP nexus.

UNDP and UNHCR are discussing a joint action plan which will take account of a MoU on inclusion and solutions for refugees, stateless persons, IDPs and host communities. The MoU will establish frameworks for coordination and reflection to help with the development of common approaches and mobilising resources for joint projects through 2024.

References

- UNDP and UNHCR, ‘Etude des Conflits et de la Gouvernance Locale du Foncier dans les Regions des Cascades et Hauts-Bassins,’ May 2021
In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), UNDP and UNHCR have increased collaboration, building on past experience of co-funded pilot projects in four eastern provinces.

The pilot projects helped to develop local government planning tools in areas of internal displacement and return, where public services and administrative capacity were absent. They increased access to justice and security for refugees and IDPs in remote areas by supporting mobile courts and investigations. The projects supported the formulation of a provincial strategy for IDPs, a durable solutions working group set up by the provincial government, multi-sectoral interagency needs assessments and a co-financed initiative for integration.

UNDP and UNHCR prepared a larger joint programme in 2023 to support local governance and development in zones of return for refugees and IDPs in eastern DRC. A pilot phase included preparation of local development plans, assessment of local finances, and preparation of a recovery plan, budgets and local security plans. The programme and the pilot are guided by developing durable solutions that will enable successful reintegration.

UNDP and UNHCR have managed their collaboration through various means, including co-financing and a joint planning workshop in April 2023. The workshop provided an opportunity to reaffirm commitments to collaborate and agree on priority intervention areas and geographic zones where further collaboration should be pursued.

References

In Mozambique, UNDP and UNHCR are collaborating across data and analysis, policy and strategy and programme response.

The collaboration aims to ensure that the needs of forcibly displaced populations and host communities are recognised and included in provincial and national planning and budgeting. For example, with UNDP’s assistance, UNHCR supported a national ‘Leaving No One Behind’ analysis led by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, and the Ministry of State Administration and Public Function. In Nampula province, UNDP and UNHCR supported efforts to revise the ten-year provincial development strategy. In Cabo Delgado province, the epicentre of the conflict in 2017, UNHCR and UNDP collaborated on the revision of a development strategy, including the participation of displaced people and host communities. UNDP is collaborating closely with UNHCR in implementing a two-year stabilisation programme in the province. UNDP has supported cash-for-work opportunities in districts where IDPs return and promotes peacebuilding. It is envisioned that the collaboration within the stabilisation programme will extend to other areas, such as rule of law and preparedness and response to extreme weather events, such as the cyclones and flooding that Mozambique is vulnerable to.

The agencies have also rolled out the joint appraisal tool to assess and address the level of inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in Mozambique’s overall efforts to achieve the SDGs.

The collaboration has supported a transition from development and humanitarian responses delivered separately to one where HDP nexus coordination is central. In 2022-23, the collaboration was non-transactional, rather than based on financial contributions from each organisation. However, moves towards formalising the collaboration are being made.

References

- UNHCR, ‘Mozambique: A country where humanitarian and development partners work together towards sustainable solutions to forced displacement,’ blogpost, October 2023
- UNDP Mozambique, ‘Stabilization Programme: Report Quarter 2 2023, Cabo Delgado,’ August 2023
Following the April 2023 outbreak of conflict in Sudan, UNDP and UNHCR are looking to boost local capacities and socio-economic inclusion for displaced people and host communities in South Sudan. Many of the roughly 273,000 people who fled Sudan to South Sudan were South Sudanese returnees who were previously refugees in Sudan.

UNDP and UNHCR will look to scale up support to the regional initiative managed by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). That initiative, the Sudan-South Sudan Solution Initiative of the IGAD Support Platform aimed to support operationalising commitments that IGAD members made at the first Global Refugee Forum in 2019.

Previous collaboration in Sudan includes UNDP and UNHCR co-leading a national-level working group on durable solutions, which has been replicated in some states. The working group has contributed to a UN Country Team programmatic framework on durable solutions. In South Sudan, UNHCR input into a revitalised national development strategy for 2021-2024, preparation of which was led by UNDP. This strategy addresses the needs of refugees, IDPs and host communities in South Sudan, along with the wider population.

In October 2023, UNDP and UNHCR Sudan agreed a joint action plan for deepening collaboration in Sudan, which includes conducting a joint assessment of the impact of the conflict on displacement and host communities.

References

- IGAD, ‘Special Session of the IGAD Support Platform and its Solution Initiative for the Refugee Situation in Sudan and South Sudan’ October 2021
Collaboration between UNDP and UNHCR in Central America and Mexico was developed under the umbrella of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), which includes Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama. Established in 2017, the MIRPS aims to strengthen regional cooperation and responsibility-sharing in matters of prevention, protection, and solutions – which includes facilitating collaboration between refugee-hosting cities and municipalities.

Together with the Organisation of American States (OAS), UNHCR plays a prominent role in the MIRPS Technical Secretariat, including the management of a regional annual work plan and thematic consultations between States. UNHCR assumes the lead role in protection-oriented working groups on asylum and internal displacement, while UNDP co-leads two solutions-oriented working groups, focused on jobs, livelihoods and local governance.

The local governance working group was established in the context of a ‘Cities of Solidarity’ initiative and provides a platform for local authorities to share experience, good practices and knowledge on the protection and inclusion of forcibly displaced people. With the support of the MIRPS Technical Secretariat, the working group convened consultations with nine municipal authorities in 2021 in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama. The consultations focused on legal frameworks and the identification of people with specific needs; coordination, partners, and service delivery; local development planning and multisectoral needs assessments; and community consultation and validation of municipal development plans.

Following these consultations, UNDP and UNHCR launched a Regional Local Governance Framework, with an associated toolkit joint publication, to support municipal authorities in Central America and Mexico to advance protection and inclusion for forcibly displaced persons. The toolkit is divided into four pillars: incorporation of forced displacement in local development planning; protection and access to essential services; rule of law and e-governance; and socio-economic integration and social cohesion. Subsequently, UNDP and UNHCR piloted support activities, based on resource availability, in nine municipalities spread across Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama.

UNDP and UNHCR’s collaboration within the MIRPS working group on local governance continues. At present the collaboration is primarily focused on policy support and development, through joint consultation and coordination, benefiting four of the seven Member States of the MIRPS. The collaboration has potential to be further developed and serves as a platform for resource mobilisation.

References
- MIRPS, The Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS)
- UNDP and UNHCR, ‘Facing the Challenges of Forced Displacement in Central America and Mexico,’ October 2021
- MIRPS, ‘Concept note – MIRPS Working Group on Local Governance,’ September 2022
In Colombia, collaboration between UNDP and UNHCR has shifted to new areas and priorities since the 2016 peace agreement. During 2012-2015, UNDP and UNHCR collaborated in a transitional solutions initiative to help IDPs and vulnerable communities access their rights, in particular for access to land, basic services and local economic development, and for legalisation of informal settlements. The $14.7 million initiative was implemented in 17 communities in areas of return, relocation or urban integration.

Following the 2016 peace agreement, UNDP and UNHCR collaborated in a joint programme on human security and inclusion of IDPs, host communities and former combatants in five municipalities. The programme aimed to increase understanding on ways to build new economic opportunities across the country, reintegrate former combatants and promote social cohesion. Part of the programme explored how to help the private sector work with government and communities to address security and development needs and build sustainable peace. The programme was implemented in partnership with a Colombian business initiative for peace, Peace Startup, and the London School of Economics as a research partner.

In 2022, a joint UN-government steering committee on durable solutions was set up, co-led by UNDP and UNHCR. The committee aims to accelerate action on durable solutions through advocacy and advice to national, departmental and local authorities on policy and legal and institutional frameworks, especially on urgent issues such as land, housing, income generation and livelihoods. It also demonstrates examples of solutions with national, departmental and local authorities that are replicable, scalable and measurable. The steering committee has an initial two-year work plan.

UNDP and UNHCR have provided technical assistance to the national government authority for migration affairs, Migración Colombia, on the Temporary Protection Permit for Venezuelans. UNDP has helped design and implement an income-generation strategy for displaced people from Venezuela and host communities. It has also been supporting analysis of how national budget investment can accelerate both the socio-economic inclusion of IDPs and refugees, and SDG progress.

References

Other examples

In the Central African Republic, UNDP and UNHCR have been collaborating on the development of a new national strategy on durable solutions for 2023-2027. In Chad, the agencies have worked together on a joint project on citizenship and prevention of statelessness among IDPs. In Syria, the agencies have worked together on the development of an area-based approach for those who have exercised their right to return. In the Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation, they have been cooperating on regional socio-economic inclusion.

Inclusion to achieve the SDGs: a joint appraisal tool

UNDP and UNHCR collaborated during 2020-2022 on the development of a joint tool for identifying the critical gaps and opportunities for including forcibly displaced and stateless persons in the implementation of the SDGs.

The Appraisal Tool on the Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons in National Frameworks for the Achievement of the SDGs aims to:

- Facilitate joint and consultative analysis;
- Identify short- and medium-term actions for national or local governments, UN Country Teams and other stakeholders to reach the furthest behind;
- Articulate country-specific linkages and opportunities between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact on Refugees;
- And promote multistakeholder partnerships and resource mobilisation for joint interventions.

The tool was developed through consultations and peer review in nine UNDP and UNHCR country offices, and its use was piloted in six countries before being extended. By the end of 2023, it had been used in countries ranging from Costa Rica and Iraq to Mozambique. Development of the tool was a deliverable of the Global Collaboration Framework, and was jointly financed by UNDP and UNHCR.

UNDP-UNHCR regional GCF consultations

In September 2023, UNDP and UNHCR representatives from 11 countries in Africa met in a workshop focusing on how to take forward collaboration.

The workshop provided an opportunity to learn about efforts to develop common tools and assessments. Examples include work on recovery and peacebuilding in the Lake Chad Basin and joint assessment tools on social cohesion in Cameroon. Representatives from refugee-led civil society organisations and donor countries, attended some of the sessions giving their perspectives and recommendations. The workshop also provided an opportunity to discuss obstacles to collaboration, such as cultural, systemic and structural differences between UNDP and UNHCR, and how these can be overcome to enable effective collaboration.

Participants at the workshop resolved to:

- Step up collaboration in a manner that remains aligned with national and regional priorities, that is country-facing, and that is driven by senior leadership and supported by technical advice;
- Accelerate the shift from principles to action through concrete actions defined in joint country action plans;
- Nominate collaboration focal points and develop resource mobilisation plans for collaborative interventions;
- And commit to convening further regional meetings, to take stock of progress and challenges.

4. FINANCING

Collaboration increases the chances of achieving inclusion and durable solutions that benefit both forcibly displaced populations and host communities and countries. It brings coherence between humanitarian, development and peace actions. And it improves the impact and efficiency of support that the UN system brings - reducing duplication of efforts, offering synergies and achieving results which cannot be delivered working separately.

Sometimes, collaboration yields benefits without requiring significant financial allocations or without changes to existing financing arrangements, such as in cases outlined here in Afghanistan and Mozambique. In other circumstances, collaboration can benefit from seed financing. Increased or sustained collaboration can also have financial implications. Collaboration can help to mobilise resources for the benefit of UN, international partners and national partners – the 3RP being an example of collaboration facilitating large-scale resource mobilisation.

3RP: mobilising funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding received ($bn)</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>2.88</td>
<td>2.47</td>
<td>3.47</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>2.54</td>
<td>2.39</td>
<td>1.32*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 3RP Regional Financial Dashboard
* Full 2023 figure not available at time of reporting

Average annual expenditure and number of donors for UNDP projects where UNHCR is a partner, 2018-2022

$42.2m
44 donors

Source: UNDP Transparency Portal
International pledges at the Global Refugee Forum

A number of major international pledges were made at the second Global Refugee Forum in December 2023. Some pledges have a bearing on collaboration between UNDP and UNHCR. Others relate to particular refugee situations and prospects for scaling up UNDP-UNHCR collaboration in specific countries and regions.

UN Common Pledge 2.0

UNHCR, the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) led a multistakeholder pledge for UN common support for refugee-hosting countries to:

- Achieve measurably improved access to strengthened national service for refugees, thereby contributing to the achievement of sustainable and dignified living standards for refugees and the communities that host them.
- Secure a strengthened, and more predictable whole-of-UN collective and coherent approach in refugee situations, to ensure that refugees are not left behind.
- Generate learning from a wide stakeholder group including UN Country Teams, donors, refugees, and refugee-hosting countries, on what works to progress refugee inclusion.
- Shift away from unsustainable humanitarian practices.
- Include refugees in national plans, datasets, budgets and service-delivery systems.
- Give refugees access to decent work.

The pledge builds on the 2019 UN Common Pledge and aims to bring improvements to the lives of 15 million refugees and the communities that host them. More than 30 UN Country Teams have made specific, measurable and costed commitments to the pledge.

UNDP’s Institutional Pledge

At the second Global Refugee Forum, UNDP announced an institutional pledge to expand its support to host and return countries to ease pressure and protect development gains.

Leveraging its country presence and development expertise, UNDP will strengthen the capacities of national and local institutions, promote investments in local economies, infrastructure and service delivery systems that benefit both host communities and refugees, and enhance social cohesion.

This will include:

- Strengthening local governance, access to justice, area-based and urban planning, service delivery systems, livelihoods, and access to decent jobs.
- Promoting increased access to development financing for host countries, including through Integrated National Financing Frameworks.
- Addressing the drivers of forced displacement (including conflict, violence and aggravating effects of climate change) and expanding work in peacebuilding.

As part of the pledge, UNDP aims to mobilise by 2027 additional funding for more than 30 countries impacted by forced displacement.
Multistakeholder Pledge on Leveraging the Humanitarian, Development and Peace (HDP) nexus in Forced Displacement Settings

Greater coherence is needed between humanitarian, development and peace actions. At the second Global Refugee Forum, the Government of Japan and UNDP co-led a new a multistakeholder pledge aimed at enhancing the use of HDP nexus approaches in forced displacement situations in pursuit of the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.

The pledge is premised on the understanding that life-saving humanitarian assistance for forcibly displaced people needs to be complemented by development cooperation (to ease pressures on host countries and communities, and enhance self-reliance), and peace-related activities (to build or restore social stabilities and create conditions for returns). The pledge encourages increased collaboration between humanitarian, development and peace actors to address forced displacement situations and complements the Multistakeholder Pledge on Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention, in which UNDP is also involved. Further information about the pledge, its implementation and impact is available here.

Multistakeholder Pledge on Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention

The Governments of Colombia, Egypt, and Norway and the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) launched a MultiStakeholder Pledge on Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention at the second Global Refugee Forum.

A total of 112 commitments have been made by a wide range of stakeholders, including UNDP, under three tracks:

- Inter-UN agency (led by the Peacebuilding Support Office through the UN Peacebuilding Contact Group, a global interagency coordination platform).
- Intergovernmental under the leadership of Colombia, Egypt and Norway.
- Regional and sub-regional (through regional or sub-regional bodies and organisations).

Commitments focus on the following sub-themes:

- Participation and leadership of refugees and IDPs in peacebuilding processes.
- National capacity sharing on peacebuilding and conflict prevention.
- Climate and environmental peacebuilding.
- Conflict prevention through addressing root causes including enhancing the resilience of communities and livelihood opportunities.
- Global commitments focusing on elevating forced displacement as a key consideration as part of global peacebuilding policy and programming.

Multistakeholder Pledge on Climate action

The Government of Ethiopia and UNHCR co-led a multistakeholder pledge on climate action. The pledge aims to increase ambition and implementation of commitments in climate-vulnerable displacement settings.

It encourages stakeholders to take actions in three areas:

- Scaled-up accessible finance.
- Inclusive climate action laws, policies and plans.
- Generating a pipeline of projects based on good practice.

The pledge starts from a recognition that many of the countries most affected by forced displacement (either as countries where displacement occurs, or as countries hosting refugees) have contributed little to global emissions and yet are being hit the hardest. These countries often have less capacity to adapt, prepare for, and address loss and damage. And forcibly displaced and stateless people, and host communities, are too often excluded from large-scale and long-term climate action. The pipeline of projects which the pledge...
aims to generate includes support from two UNHCR-managed funds, the Environment and Climate Action Innovation Fund and the Refugee Environmental Protection Fund.

**GRF pledges for refugee situations**

The second Global Refugee Forum saw multistakeholder pledges made for a number of major refugee situations around the world, including:

**Afghanistan**

The multistakeholder pledge for the Afghanistan situation, ReSolve for Resilience and Solutions, brings together country-specific pledges for Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, with the overarching common aim of enhancing the resilience of Afghans and communities hosting them.

In Afghanistan the pledge aims to support returnees, IDPs and host communities through multi-sectoral interventions in education, health, community infrastructure and livelihoods, with a special focus on women and girls. In Iran the pledge aims to help the government maintain its inclusive policies for refugees on education, health and livelihoods. And in Pakistan, the pledge aims to reinvigorate support through existing and new programmes focused on healthcare, education, livelihoods, protection, green energy, and bridging humanitarian and development assistance.

The pledge is led by UNHCR and the Core Group of the SSAR Support Platform (Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Qatar, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and UNDP).

**Rohingya**

The Rohingya refugees multistakeholder pledge, Expanded Solutions and Enhanced Resilience, aims to ease pressure on host countries through enhancing resilience and expanding solutions for Rohingya refugees.

The pledge considers that a paradigm shift is needed to transform the Rohingya refugee response into comprehensive and coordinated action that can lead to sustainable solutions and resilience. At present, individual countries in the region have been hosting Rohingya refugees, in the absence of a regional response mechanism. Initiatives to create third-country solutions are being developed. And efforts are being made, through interventions to expand access to education, skills development and livelihoods, to support refugee self-reliance, resilience and preparedness for sustainable reintegration where return becomes possible. These initiatives need to be scaled up.

The pledge is led by a group of States, supported by UNHCR. It encompasses support for technical, financial, advocacy-based and policy-based initiatives.

**East Africa**

The multistakeholder pledge for delivering comprehensive solutions in the IGAD region, Beyond Borders, Beyond Barriers, will support the operationalisation of regional frameworks, agreements and commitments related to comprehensive solutions for refugees, IDPs and returnees.

Commitments within this pledge aim to create conducive and enabling environments for comprehensive solutions by supporting IGAD Member States to develop and/or operationalise laws, policies and practices that advance protection, inclusion and solutions for the displaced and host communities. The pledge also includes commitments to mobilise more predictable and sustained financial, political and technical support, and commitments to address state fragility and establish regional peace mechanisms in the IGAD region.

The pledge is led by IGAD Member States and Core Group members of the IGAD Support Platform (the EU, Germany, World Bank, Sweden, USA and UNDP), with support from UNHCR.
Many national and local governments will need targeted assistance in scaling up their work on durable solutions. Along with the continued vital contribution of humanitarian organisations in laying the groundwork for solutions, there is an urgent need for stepped-up, earlier and more predictable engagement of development actors. I express my full support for a shift towards a strengthened development approach to solutions and confirm the UN’s commitment to deliver in this direction.

UN Secretary-General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement

This year’s pledges and commitments breathe life into the great promise of the Global Compact on Refugees not only to support refugees, but to ease pressure on host countries and tackle the systemic issues that cause people to flee in the first place. They also give me hope that we can forge global consensus to address, once and for all, the great challenges of our time that are fuelling the refugee crisis. From climate breakdown, a growing cause of displacement. To the development crisis, which is starving many countries of the resources they need to invest in social protection, health and education systems, leaving their citizens and refugees alike without ladders of opportunity. And above all, to the crisis of peace in our world today. We need to build much stronger political will to end conflicts, and reverse the cycle of division, destruction and denial of human rights that drives people from their homes and places tens of millions of people in harm’s way.

UN Secretary-General at the second Global Refugee Forum
The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, including UNHCR, UNDP, or the UN Member States.

UNDP is the leading United Nations organisation fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet. Learn more at undp.org or follow us at @UNDP.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organisation dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution.

We lead international action to protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.