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The UN Refugee Agency

# BACKGROUND



A RECORD THAT SHOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN SET

more than **123 million**  
forcibly displaced



## Terminology

### Refugee

Any person who meets the eligibility criteria under an applicable refugee definition, as provided for in international or regional refugee instruments, under UNHCR's mandate, or in national legislation.

Under international law and UNHCR's mandate, refugees are persons outside their countries of origin who are in need of international protection because of feared persecution, or a serious threat to their life, physical integrity or freedom in their country of origin as a result of persecution, armed conflict, violence or serious public disorder.







### **Internally Displaced Person**

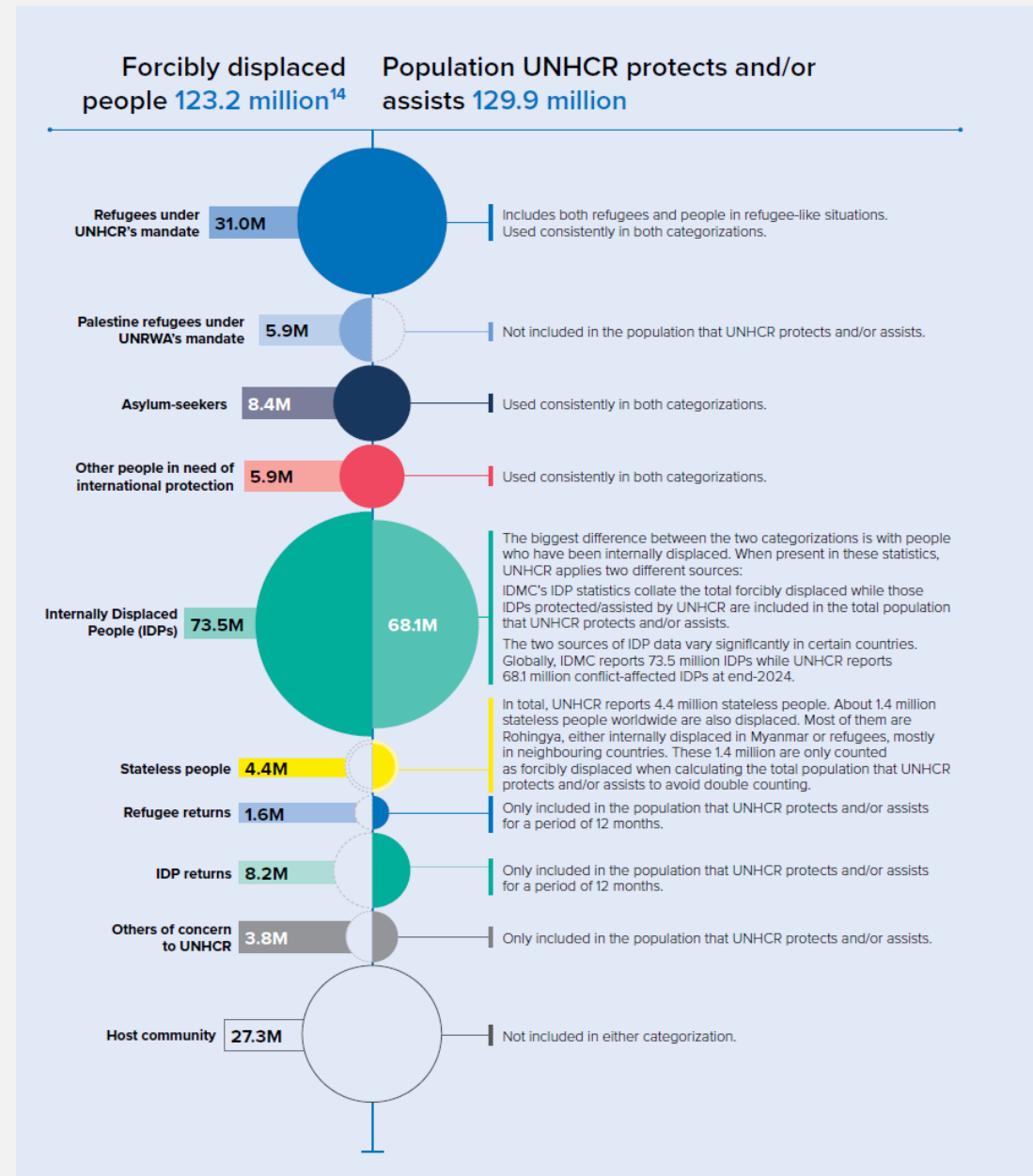
A person who has been forced or obliged to flee from their home or place of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflicts, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who has not crossed an internationally recognized State border.

### **Stateless Person**

A person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law, either because they never had a nationality, or because they lost it without acquiring a new one.

# An unprecedented number of displaced people globally

- Over 123 million people have been forcibly displaced and become **the most vulnerable group of people on Earth**.
- The UN Refugee Agency leads international action to protect people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution.
- We have sheltered and supported families in every major displacement crisis and **helped tens of millions of people rebuild their lives**.



# Figures at a glance

**73%** HOSTED IN  
LOW-AND MIDDLE-  
INCOME COUNTRIES

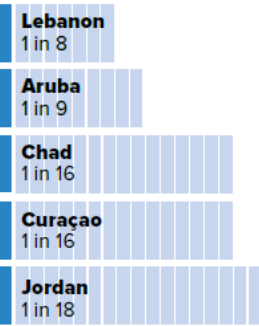
Low- and middle-income countries hosted 73 per cent of the world's refugees and other people in need of international protection.<sup>a</sup> The Least Developed Countries provided asylum to 23 per cent of the total.

**67%** HOSTED  
IN NEIGHBOURING  
COUNTRIES

67 per cent of refugees and other people in need of international protection lived in countries neighbouring their countries of origin.

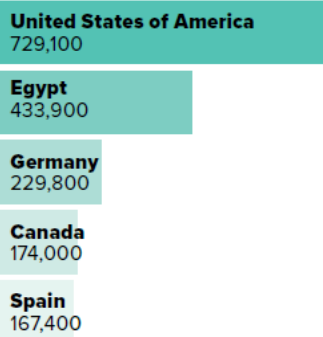
**1 IN 8**  
ARE DISPLACED

Relative to their national populations,<sup>7</sup> Lebanon (1 in 8) hosted the largest number of refugees and other people in need of international protection, followed by the island of Aruba (1 in 9), Chad (1 in 16), Curaçao (1 in 16) and Jordan (1 in 18).<sup>a</sup>



**3.1** MILLION  
NEW CLAIMS

The United States of America<sup>a</sup> was the world's largest recipient of new individual applications.



## SOLUTIONS

**9.8** MILLION  
DISPLACED PEOPLE  
RETURNED

9.8 million displaced people returned to their areas or countries of origin in 2024, including 8.2 million internally displaced people and 1.6 million refugees.

**188,800**  
REFUGEES  
RESETTLED

188,800 refugees were resettled in 2024, according to government statistics. UNHCR submitted 203,800 refugees to States for resettlement.

**47,200**  
STATELESS PEOPLE  
RECEIVED  
CITIZENSHIP

47,200 stateless people had their nationality confirmed or acquired citizenship during the year.



”

Our task is growing and becoming more complex. But we are determined to deliver, bolstered by a burgeoning global network of partners, and heartened by the great reserves of altruism, solidarity and generosity that persist in — and perhaps because of — our troubled world.

**FILIPPO GRANDI**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

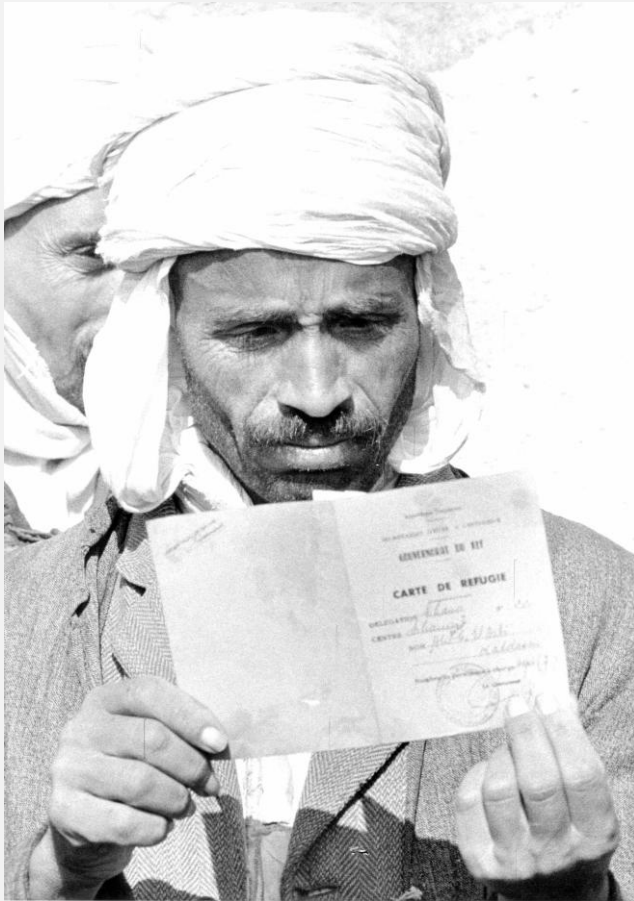


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WHO WE ARE



# 75 years leading refugee cause



© UNHCR/Stanley Wright

**1961** Tunisia



© UNHCR/Jim Becket

**1979** Thailand

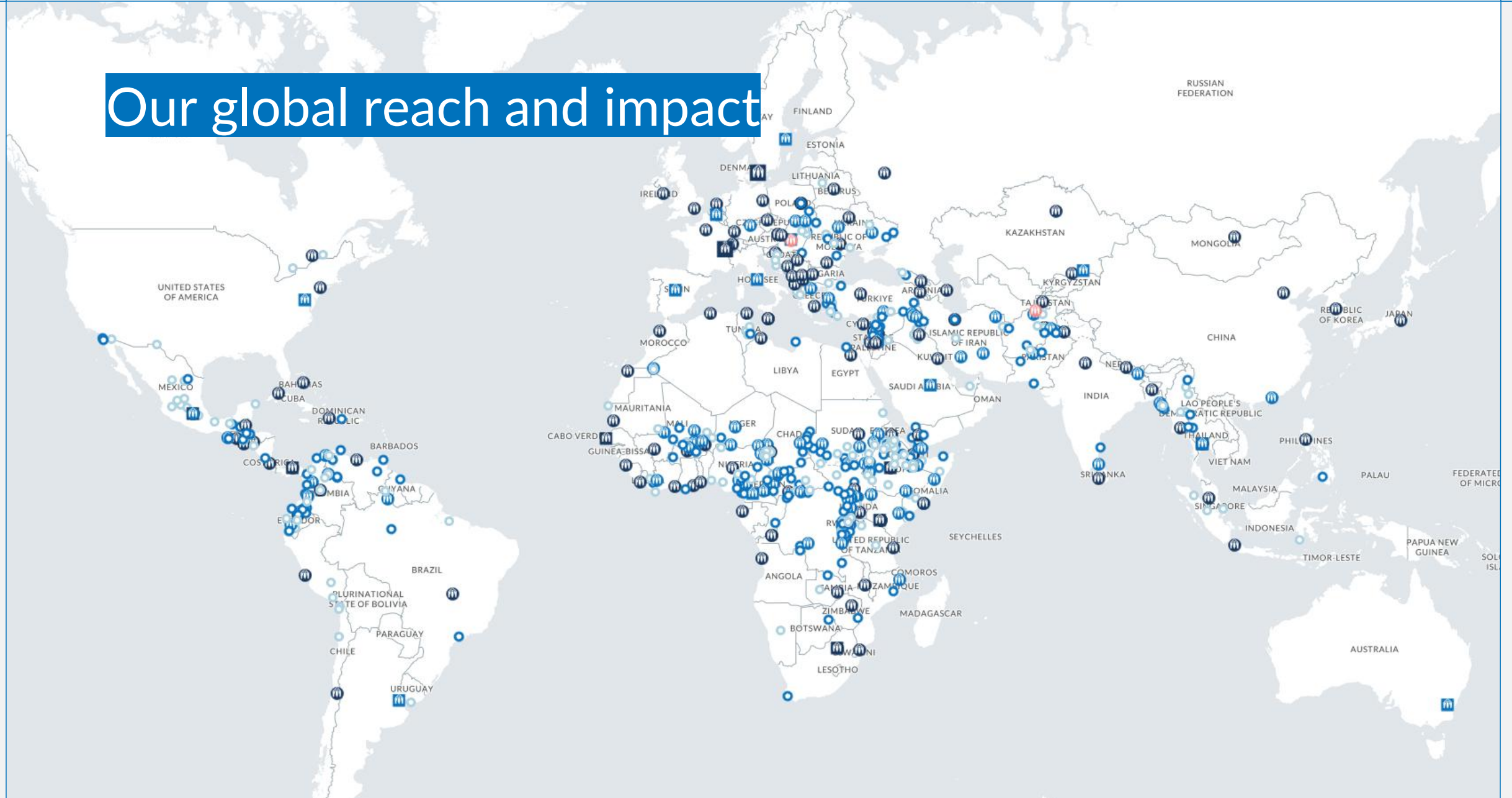


© UNHCR/Clive Shirley

**1999** Sierra Leone



# Our global reach and impact





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# WHAT WE DO







- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.
- Our primary purpose at UNHCR is to safeguard the rights and well-being of people who have been forced to flee.
- Together with partners and communities, we work to ensure that everybody has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another country. We also strive to secure lasting solutions.



# UNHCR's strategy



## PROTECT

Protect, secure, and defend the rights of people of concern to UNHCR.



## RESPOND

Respond rapidly and effectively in emergencies and beyond.



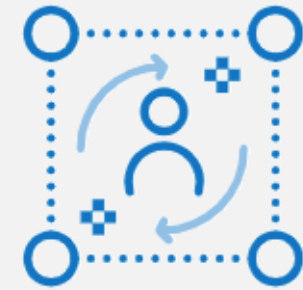
## INCLUDE

Promote inclusion and self-reliance.



## EMPOWER

Empower the people we serve to determine and build their futures.



## SOLVE

Pursue solutions to address the consequences of displacement and problems of statelessness.

# Life-saving assistance at a global scale

- Every year, we help hundreds of thousands of refugees find their way 'home' and begin rebuilding their lives.
- We deploy over 120 highly trained people within 72 hours of a crisis anywhere in the world
- We have 7 strategic warehouses pre-positioned emergency stockpiles of aid supplies
- We have the capacity to respond to a new, large-scale and multiple emergencies affecting up to 750,000 people within 72 hours.







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# DELIVERING RESULTS TOGETHER





# Background

## 2015: The tipping point

- Unresolved and prolonged conflicts
- Protracted refugee situations
- Inadequate humanitarian assistance
- Onward movements and associated risks



# Background

International refugee regime:

- Strong institution of asylum and refugee rights (1951 Convention)
- Need for greater burden and responsibility sharing through international cooperation



# The New York Declaration

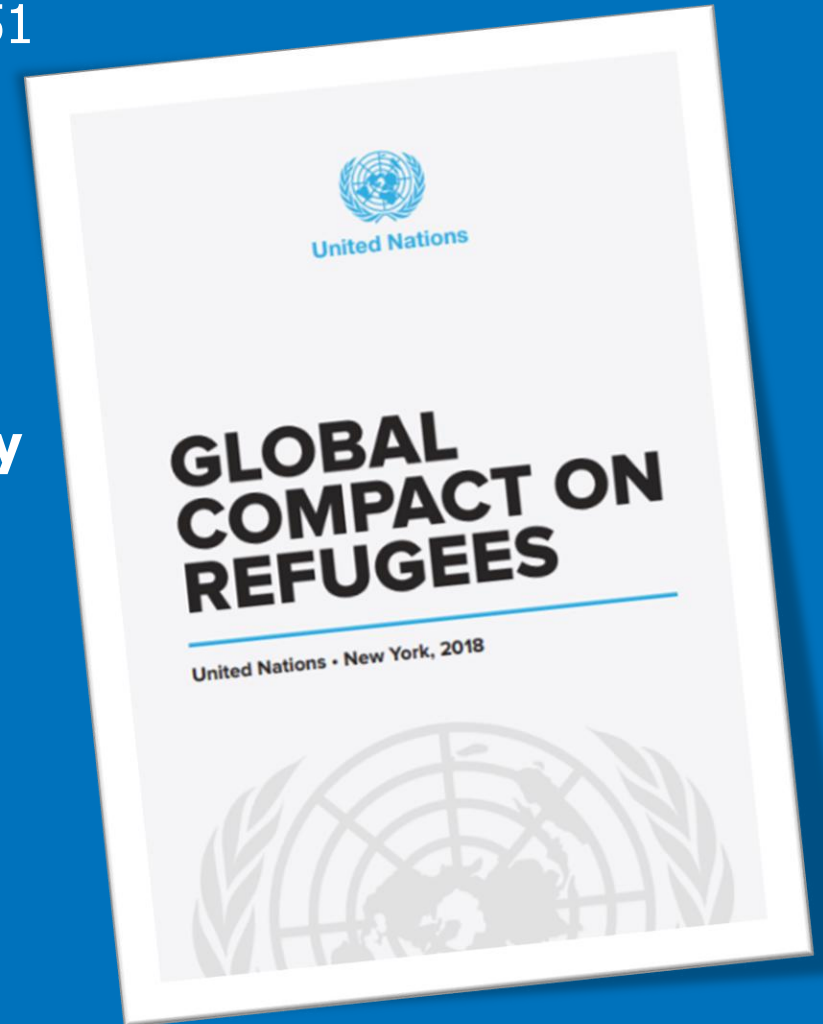
- Affirmed by the UNGA in 2016
- Strong reaffirmation of the central tenets of international refugee law
- Commitment to burden and responsibility sharing
- Set out a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework in the Annex
- Called for development of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration





# Global Compact on Refugees

- Affirmed by the UNGA in December 2018 to complement the 1951 Convention and regional legal frameworks
- Four Objectives:
  - **Ease the pressures** on host countries;
  - Enhance **refugee self-reliance**;
  - Expand access to **third-country solutions**;
  - Support conditions in countries of origin for **return in safety and dignity**.
- GCR policy process and mechanisms
  - **Global Refugee Forum** and **High-Level Officials Meeting** Cycle
  - **Multistakeholder Pledges**
  - **Support Platforms** and **national arrangements**
  - **GCR Indicator Framework** and **Report**
  - **Foundation for sustainable responses approach** (GCR para. 32)



# Purpose of the Global Refugee Forum (GCR, *paras. 17-19*)

Ease pressures, enhance self-reliance, expand third-country solutions, support conditions for return in support of **comprehensive responses**

## 1. Stocktaking

Progress towards the GCR objectives assessed through the GCR indicator report and reporting on pledge and initiative implementation

## 2. Pledging

High quality, pre-matched, joint pledges and initiatives implemented or announced in support of the 20 key recommendations from the High-Level Officials Meeting

## 3. Learning

Good practices, opportunities, challenges, and lessons learned shared to inform future action in support of the GCR objectives

Multi-stakeholder and partnership approach and meaningful refugee participation





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THANK YOU!



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