

Roadmap to the High-Level Officials Meeting 2025

Background

The [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR) sets out a framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing, recognising that a sustainable solution to refugee situations cannot be achieved without international cooperation among States as well as other actors. It provides a comprehensive blueprint for governments, international organizations, and a broad range of stakeholders to ensure that host communities get the support they need and that refugees can lead productive lives. It is a unique opportunity to transform the way the world responds to refugee situations through easing the pressures on host countries, enhancing refugee self-reliance, expanding access to third-country solutions, and supporting conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

The GCR specifies that a Global Refugee Forum (GRF) be convened every four years for States and other stakeholders “to announce concrete pledges and contributions towards the objectives of the GCR and to consider opportunities, challenges, and ways in which burden- and responsibility-sharing can be enhanced;” and a high-level officials meeting (HLOM) held at the mid-point between Forums to take stock of progress and chart directions for the next GRF. The GRF and HLOM are key benchmarks in the process of strengthening sustainable and equitable engagement of States and other actors in implementing comprehensive responses to refugee situations.

The [GRF 2023](#) was widely hailed as a success, demonstrating diversity, dynamism, and positive community building despite growing global challenges. The participation of over 4,000 people in-person (including more than 320 refugees and stateless persons) and 10,000 virtually demonstrated remarkable political will and solidarity. More than 40 multistakeholder pledges were launched and led by [30 States and 86 non-state actors](#), and some 1,700 individual pledges were announced overall, 80 per cent of which were in support of the multistakeholder pledges.

Looking ahead to the next milestone – the HLOM in December 2025 – follow-up on the GRF pledges needs to be both ambitious and sustainable to facilitate comprehensive responses and protection, better inclusion, and bolder solutions in third countries as well as in countries of origin and asylum. The HLOM 2025 will consolidate stocktaking at country, regional, and global levels, and assess progress toward supporting low and middle-income countries’ policy pledges through the multi-stakeholder pledging architecture, focusing on key policy priorities and next steps in the lead-up to the GRF 2027. This note sets out the roadmap for advancing implementation of these pledges with a view to preparing for the HLOM 2025.

Follow-up process for the GRF pledges

In accordance with the GCR, UNHCR plays a role in facilitating progress towards GCR implementation, which includes GRF pledge follow-up. Maintaining political momentum and

facilitating GRF pledge implementation remains a joint endeavour between UNHCR and governments, partners, and stakeholders engaged in the pledging process.

The follow-up process will **focus on advancing the key outcomes** endorsed in the lead-up to the GRF 2023: easing pressures through quality financing and climate action, enhancing self-reliance through systems strengthening for inclusion and economic inclusion, and fostering solutions through third-country pathways, creating conditions conducive for voluntary return, and building peace; as well as the measures enabling progress toward those outcomes, through partnerships, protection, and regional approaches. These outcomes will be the basis of stocktaking efforts toward the HLOM and inform the design of the event programme.

To streamline and structure the process, the **multi-stakeholder pledges** announced at the GRF 2023 will be tracked against the relevant key outcomes as follows, while recognising that some may contribute to more than one of the outcomes:

Framing multi-stakeholder pledges in support of the GRF key outcomes

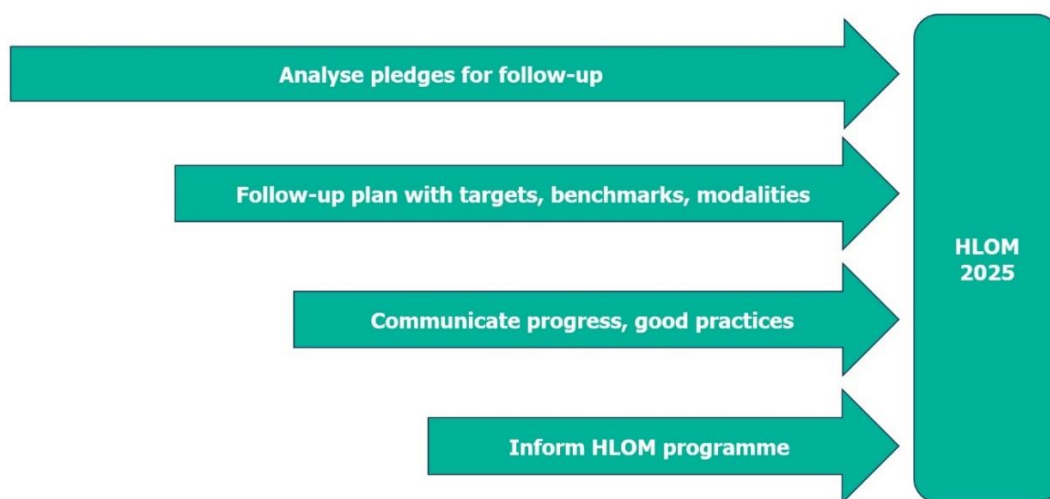
GCR Objective 1: Ease pressure on host countries Focus: Quality financing and inclusion in financing policies and instruments, including for climate	GCR Objective 2 Enhance refugee self-reliance Focus: Strengthening systems for inclusion in basic services and economic inclusion	GCR Objective 3 Expand access to third-country solutions	GCR Objective 4 Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety & dignity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality humanitarian funding OECD DAC INCAF Common Position Inclusion in national climate adaptation plans Refugee Environmental Protection Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Inclusion & Social Protection Agriculture Education (primary, secondary, tertiary and Connected Education) Health inclusion and Mental Health & Psychosocial Support Systems Connectivity Statistical inclusion Human Settlements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resettlement Community sponsorship Family reunification Skills-based pathways Machine-readable Travel Documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Housing, Land and Property rights Hate Speech, Misinformation and Disinformation
<p style="text-align: center;">Enabling measures to strengthen partnerships, localization, protection, and regional application across the four objectives</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">Partnerships</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Protection</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Regional approaches</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNCTs (UN Common pledge) Sports organisation NGOs (localisation, self-reliance) Cities (Call to Local Action) Academics (localisation) Refugees (meaningful participation) HDP nexus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asylum capacity support (ACSG) Legal community pledge (PILNET) Mixed movements (safety at sea, alternatives to detention, anti-trafficking) Violence prevention, gender, and children’s rights Statelessness 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IGAD (climate, solutions), Afghanistan (resilience and solutions) Cartagena +40 MIRPS (asylum capacity, integration, local governance) Rohingya situation (resilience, solutions)

Within this framework, the follow-up process will ensure that:

- **Low and middle-income countries’ policy commitments** to protect, include, and find solutions for refugees and stateless persons are the center of gravity for support and engagement.
- **Reporting and stocktaking remain light** and use existing multistakeholder mechanisms and multilateral or regional fora where possible.
- **Complementarity between country, regional, and global-level follow-up** supports pledge implementation, including for pledges from the GRF 2019 and 2023.
- **The GCR and GRF are recognised in multilateral processes** and financing mechanisms (ExCom, 2030 Agenda, HLPF, Summit of the Future, COP, New Agenda for Peace, etc.).
- **Communications show transformation and impact**, focusing on refugee voices, how the GCR makes a difference, and the evidence base (detailed in the [GCR Indicator Report](#)).

- **A pledging timeline from 2023-25** (since the last GRF) to accommodate different budgetary cycles (pledging entities can report at the HLOM what they have pledged since the GRF 2023).

The following key actions are envisioned at the country, regional, and global levels to maximise opportunities for pledge implementation and advance policy priorities leveraged through the GRF:



- **Analyse pledges for follow-up:** Analyse pledges at the country, regional, and global levels to identify areas for further engagement and support. UNHCR supports this process together with the relevant governments, regional actors, and multistakeholder pledge leaders.
- **Follow-up plan:** Develop follow-up plans to facilitate pledge implementation at the country, regional, and global levels, including targets, benchmarks, and key stakeholders, and identifying multistakeholder modalities (using existing ones where possible) for convening governments and stakeholders to collaborate on pledge implementation and take stock of progress made.
- **Communicate progress and share good practices:** Communicating about the GCR and GRF pledges humanises the story of forced displacement, recognises responsibility sharing in support of host countries, and demonstrates how the GCR can leverage transformation and significant impacts, including policy priorities and progress toward pledges.
- **Inform HLOM programme:** Contribute to the development of the event programme to ensure its content reflects strategic and timely policy priorities, partnerships, regional and stakeholder diversity, key findings from pledge stocktaking, and progress emerging through country, regional, and global-level follow-up.

The following chart outlines these key areas and specific considerations for the development of country, regional, and global level follow-up plans with a view to preparing for the HLOM 2025:

Level	Analyze and Prioritise	Follow-up plan	Communicate	HLOM	
Country	Country-specific pledges	Pledges that support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GRF key outcomes Protection and solutions strategy UN Country Team pledge 	Develop country, regional, and multistakeholder pledge-specific work plans that set out:	At the country, regional, and global levels, develop communications that showcase:	Propose good examples of pledge implementation, good practices, and key stakeholders, including refugees
	Policy pledges for matching				
Regional	Region/situation-specific pledges	GRF key outcomes	Targets and outcomes for the HLOM 2025 and GRF 2027	Pledge progress	Propose good examples, key stakeholders, events
	Regional trends	Route-based approaches Specific refugee situations	Benchmarks	Challenges and needs for support	Recommend underrepresented countries/regions
Global	Multistakeholder pledges	GRF key outcomes	Modalities for consultation and stocktaking (<i>existing processes and mechanisms, briefings, roundtables</i>)	Good practices, such as comprehensive approaches & refugee participation	Regional group briefings
	Global/unspecified pledges	Low and middle-income country policies that could be supported through the multistakeholder pledges			Stakeholders, including refugees, and their roles
	Matching opportunities				Propose good examples, stakeholders, events

Facilitating support for low and middle-income country policy commitments

Building on the validation and analysis of pledges, a decentralised but aligned follow-up process will connect country and regional policy commitments with thematic support through the multistakeholder pledges. UNHCR will support governments and multi-stakeholder pledge leaders in convening at capital level, building on existing mechanisms where possible, to discuss the policy commitments made, challenges, opportunities, and needs, as well as potential linkages with the multi-stakeholder pledges to facilitate support and partnerships.

Reporting

The [GRF pledges hub on the GCR digital platform](#) is continuously open for receiving at any time: **new pledges** and **updates on pledge implementation**.

Twice per year, the GCR team will share a “**snapshot**” of progress to date. Pledging entities will receive an e-mail informing them that UNHCR is getting ready to report on pledge progress, and encouraging them, if they wish, to submit updates to be reflected in the latest “snapshot.”

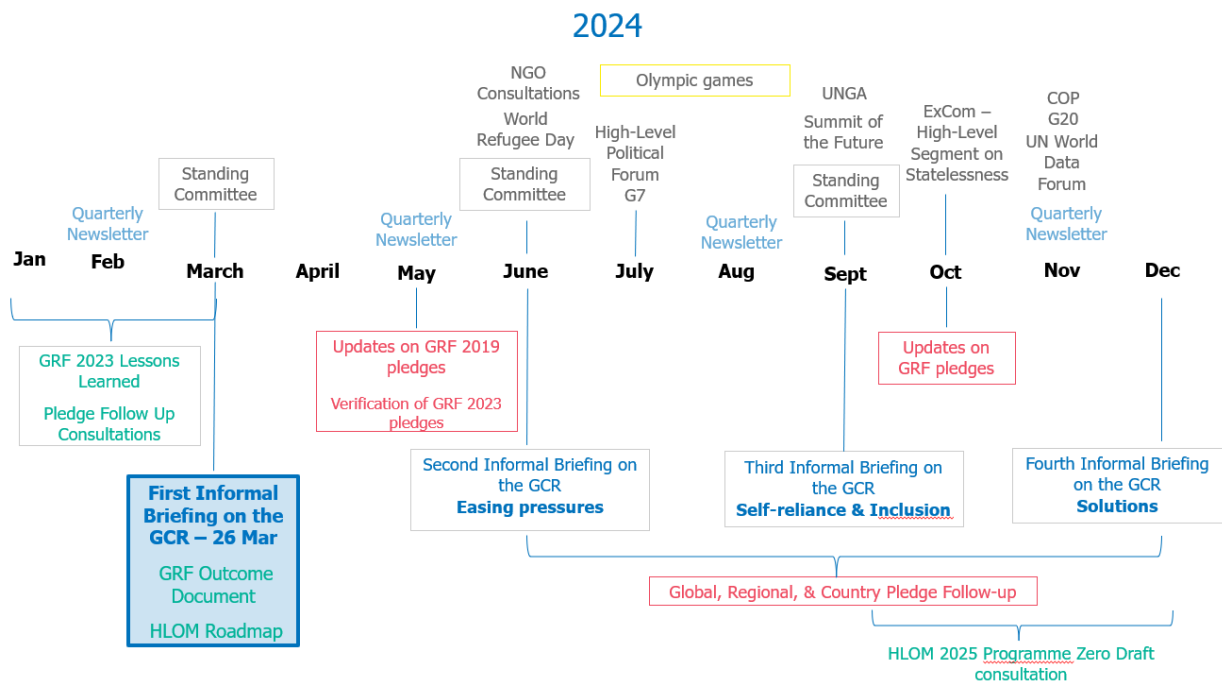
On the GRF pledges hub, **pledges can be sorted according to the multistakeholder pledge** against which they were tagged. This enables a snapshot of progress on implementation of individual pledges in support of each multistakeholder pledge.

In-depth stocktaking on pledge progress will be conducted through the global thematic multistakeholder pledges, regional roundtables, and country-level multistakeholder mechanisms over the next two years.

As part of the follow-up process, UNHCR will launch the **third GCR Indicator Report** in October 2025 to assess progress towards the four objectives of the GCR, applying a data-driven and evidence-based approach that builds on the agreed [GCR indicator framework](#) refined in 2022.

Global timeline to the HLOM 2025

In 2024, UNHCR will convene four quarterly informal global briefings on the GCR. The first briefing will focus on the GRF 2023 outcome document and roadmap to the HLOM 2025. The next three briefings will be organised around the key outcomes as follows: easing pressures, self-reliance and inclusion, and solutions. Multistakeholder pledge leaders will be invited to present at one of these briefings, setting out their work plans, what they hope to achieve by the time of the HLOM 2025, and how to contribute or get involved. States and stakeholders can also share progress towards pledge implementation as part of their interventions during the discussion.



In 2025, UNHCR will convene three preparatory meetings for the HLOM to serve as consultative mechanisms to clarify the focus, programme, and intended outcomes of the event. The HLOM will be convened in the week of 15 December 2025 (dates to be confirmed).

