

*UNHCR's inputs to the SG Report on SCP Agenda 21
"Promoting sustainable consumption patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development, Building on Agenda 21"*

Follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Forced displacement and poverty, also hampered by the negative impact of climate change, are becoming increasingly interconnected. As forced displacement spikes dramatically across the globe, its impact on SDGs progress cannot be disregarded. **The poverty rate of refugees, including children, is higher than nationals** and may vary from 5% in Chile, up to 120% in Ethiopia. SDG1 and the 2030 Universal Social Protection Agenda cannot be achieved unless forcibly displaced persons gain access to national social protection services. However, they are often left without coverage either by law or by operational barriers, such as limited local government capacity (53%), lack of documentation (52%), and/or insufficient funding (46%). The same can be said for access to employment and decent work. **55% of refugees live in countries with restricted or no access to formal employment and 61% live in countries requiring a work permit¹.**

Refugee food security is largely dependent on the legal frameworks governing refugees' access to rights including access to land, employment, financial services, association and freedom of movement. **85% of refugees** are hosted in developing countries **where national resources and capacities are insufficient** to meet their needs that can span beyond food, such as adequate shelter, access to safe water and sanitation, modern energy, among others. Burkina Faso, Mali, South Sudan, Sudan are among the countries where acute food insecurity is expected to significantly deteriorate. Refugee rations have been reduced significantly in half of refugee operations², while tens of thousands of refugees are cut off from assistance altogether due to lack of funding. **Various forms of malnutrition persist among the refugee population** with a global GAM³ and stunting prevalence of respectively 10%, and 30% against the global 7% GAM and 22% stunting⁴. Refugee children in emergency situations experiences even higher levels of malnutrition (in the Sudan situation 1 in 3 children are affected by acute malnutrition). **The global food crisis is not just about hunger, it is also exacerbating acute protection risks, especially for forcibly displaced, with a heightened risk for women and girls.**

Sustainable Consumption and Production

UN Development System's support for the implementation of SDG 12

At the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) the Governments of Norway, FAO and WFP, supported by UNHCR have launched the [Multistakeholder Pledge: Agriculture, Food Systems, and Food Security](#) aims at leveraging the immediate needs of refugees, other forcibly displaced and their hosting communities, while building their long term resilience and self-reliance. The Global Network Against Food Crises will be a key platform to align the relevant global and regional policy efforts.

The multipledge has a **policy dimension** (support and promote an enabling policy environment for forcibly displaced); **programming dimension** (programmes and initiatives preventing the deterioration of food security whilst fostering climate resilient food system and agriculture through, among others, climate smart agriculture);

¹ [2023 UNHCR global survey on livelihoods and economic inclusion](#)

² Bangladesh, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Burundi, Tanzania, South Sudan, Chad, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi

³ Global Acute Malnutrition

⁴ data from the Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) from 117 sites across 18 countries

and **evidence generation dimension** (to increase understanding and expand the evidence based on the impact of inclusive agriculture, food security and food systems policies and programming for forcibly displaced)

ICRC, IFRC and UNHCR have launched on May 2021, a [research and development project to design eco-friendly tarpaulins](#) and reduce the environmental impact.

UNHCR is committed to reduce its environmental footprint by reducing gas emissions and minimizing negative impact of the environment⁵, in line with the UNSG call to make UN operations “green.” Examples include clean energy solution for country based offices and staff accommodation, replacing diesel generators and reducing transport emission through fleet management systems; environmental inventory which gathers data on carbon emissions, waste production and water use. UNHCR is committed to maintaining carbon neutrality (achieved for the first time in 2018) through offsetting its emissions. In line with its commitment to sustainable procurement, UNHCR prioritizes goods and services that minimize the negative impact on the environment, which are sustainable through their entire life cycle and whose providers operate in sustainable manner. Social and environmental considerations form part of the evaluation and selection criteria for goods and services, including manufacture, transport, package, use and disposal.

The **UNHCR’s Greening the Blue Strategy** includes the **Green Box Initiative** supports the installation of electricity meters in UNHCR offices, connects meters to a global dashboard monitoring offices’ power consumption, ad helps to identify alternative energy options; the **Green Fund** supporting the conversion of UNHCR’s country based compounds and offices from diesel to renewable energy to achieve both carbon and financial savings. It allows offices to enter into long term contracts with private sector power suppliers for the set-up, operations and maintenance of solar plants. Finally, the **Green Data** establishing systems and policies for real-time, high quality data collection of GHG emissions, energy, waste and water across UNHCR, creating a data warehouse and dashboards for easy monitoring, reporting and decision-making.

Strengthening Science-Policy Interface

Through the establishment of its Global Data, Digital, and Innovation Services, UNHCR continues to develop skills and capacity to ensure better programming and services for forcibly displaced and host communities. All three services seek to foster a cross-organizational culture of learning and experimentation for continuous technological and data science and digital innovation. This ranges from applying innovative geospatial analysis techniques, investment in improved statistical methods, digital platforms to engage forcibly displaced populations, as well as funds and mentoring to support refugee-led innovation initiatives. This ecosystem is both internally and externally facing. These cultural shifts improve programming, response and advocacy while innovative means to engage and empower affected communities remain a strategic priority.

UNHCR also works in collaboration with national authorities and other humanitarian organizations to ensure joint data collection and analysis exercises employ robust methodological and analytical techniques. UNHCR and partners also work collectively on data, analytic tools and expertise to fill data gaps and refine or develop new indicators to estimate new trends in forced displacement, in-depth socio-economic studies as well as real-time feedback systems with forcibly displaced and host populations. Relatedly, efforts continue to ensure digital platforms, data interoperability and analysis create efficiencies, improve knowledge sharing, collaboration, mobilize resources and increase impact for those we serve.

Partnership for Sustainable Development

⁵ [UNHCR Strategic Framework for Climate Action](#)

There has been important progress made in the engagement of development actors to promote more inclusive and sustainable approaches to address forced displacement, in the areas of climate smart agriculture, renewable energy, and the solarization of boreholes for more sustainable water access. UNHCR has been deepening its partnerships with development actors, including IFIs, bilateral development actors, and UN development agencies, by tapping into their expertise and leveraging their financial and technical resources in the areas of sustainable development to increase productivity and enhance the self-reliance of forcibly displaced and hosting communities.

The inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in national data is fundamental for monitoring progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goal of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB). The Global Compact on Refugees also emphasizes the importance of data and evidence to assess progress towards more equitable and predictable burden- and responsibility-sharing in hosting and providing solutions to refugees. The 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) included a [Multistakeholder Pledge on Statistical Inclusion](#) led by the Republic of Djibouti, represented by Institut National de la Statistique de Djibouti (INSTAD), the World Bank - UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement and the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS), with support from UNHCR. The GRF saw the submission of 99 pledges on statistical inclusion by a range of stakeholders including States (52) and international organization (36), among others. The pledge on statistical inclusion is linked with other pledges such as economic inclusion and social protection, education, protection, ending statelessness, and the humanitarian, development and peace nexus, exemplifying the role of data in enabling the broader work to improve the lives of forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

Conclusions

- ***Ensure no one is left behind:*** Enable highly vulnerable countries and communities, including forcibly those hosting displaced, to meaningfully participate in policy discussions, recognizing the capacities and leadership they bring as critical to inclusive solutions
- ***Increase food security, improve nutrition levels, and reinforce resilience of refugee, IDPs and hosting communities including through transformation of local food systems*** (improved/scale up of agriculture production, processing, storage, marketing, transport), **to contribute to the drive to reduce global food waste.** UNHCR calls for increased bilateral and multilateral donors' support to the most exposed refugee-hosting countries, in the spirit of burden sharing promoted by the Global Compact on Refugees, to develop such sustainable food systems, with forcibly displaced people as part of the solution to global food waste.
- In this respect, operationalize the pledge made at the Global Refugee Forum by the Government of Norway, WFP and FAO, with UNHCR support led a pledge on [Agriculture, Food System, and Food security](#) whose key outcomes look at leveraging food assistance, food systems and agriculture to meet the immediate needs of refugees, stateless and other forcibly displaced people in refugee hosting countries, fostering their inclusion while building their long-term resilience and self-resilience through the implementation of durable solutions.
- Support refugee hosting communities to develop their sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, with the support of refugees and forcibly displaced people.