

EU PLEDGES ANNOUNCED AT THE 2023 GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM

Contents

1) Supporting forcibly displaced persons fleeing the war in Ukraine	2
2) Rohingya Situation and Solutions	4
3) Syrian displacement crisis	5
4) Afghanistan displacement crisis	7
5) Resettlement and complementary pathways	9
6) Fostering mental health and psychosocial wellbeing	10
7) Refugee Education: Prioritising Inclusive, Resilient, and Equitable Learning for All	12
8) Economic inclusion, social protection and integration.....	14
9) Climate action	17
10) Leveraging the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to promote durable solutions to forced displacement.....	19
11) Inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in national statistical systems and surveys	21
12) Local integration: Call to Local Action and Solidarity in Secondary Cities & Local and Regional Governments	22
13) Gender equality and protection from gender-based violence.....	23
14) Children's rights	25
15) Supporting a high-quality asylum space	28

1) Supporting forcibly displaced persons fleeing the war in Ukraine

Background

The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has caused massive civilian casualties and the destruction of infrastructure, forcing people to flee their homes in order to seek safety, protection and assistance. Since February 2022, millions of forcibly displaced persons from Ukraine have crossed borders into neighbouring countries, including EU Member States, and millions more have been displaced within the country.

EU engagement

In the wake of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, Europe faced a significant displacement crisis, prompting a swift and unified response from the European Union which showcased a robust regional and multi-stakeholder approach involving national, local, regional authorities, civil society organisations and international stakeholders. In this context, several EU Member States, while being longstanding global refugee donors, also became major hosts for displaced persons from Ukraine. This exemplified the EU's commitment to sharing the responsibility associated with displacement, marked by a close collaboration with Ukrainian authorities and international partners, including the US, Canada, the UK, UNHCR, and IOM.

The EU's response to the displacement crisis resulting from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has been marked by decisive action and unwavering commitment. At the heart of this response was the historic **activation of the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD)** on the proposal of the European Commission. This allowed millions fleeing the war in Ukraine to benefit from immediate protection within EU Member States, streamlined administrative processes, and ensured their access to essential rights such as, among others, accommodation, education, healthcare, and employment. The TPD set the stage for an unparalleled whole-of-society effort, fostering innovation through pilot projects in sectors vital to displaced persons, including employment, education, housing, health and access to labour markets. The EU, standing in solidarity with Ukraine, **extended temporary protection until March 2025**, thus reaffirming its enduring support.

Since the beginning of the war in February 2022, the EU's humanitarian aid to Ukraine amounts to **EUR 785 million**, reaching approximately **4.8 million beneficiaries**, among the most vulnerable affected by the conflict, including internally displaced communities. This comprehensive support addressed critical areas like shelter, cash assistance, healthcare, education, and protection, providing immediate relief and paving the way for more long-term stability. Moldova also significantly benefited from the EU's humanitarian aid, receiving **EUR 58 million**, reaching 266,000 beneficiaries among refugees and host communities. The focus is on essential needs, protection, health, and shelter bolstered resilience among the displaced population.

Operationally, the EU harnessed various financial instruments, for example by making **EUR 400 million** accessible from the Home Affairs Funds for immediate needs. Revised cohesion policy fund rules allowed for the use of unspent funding and new 2021-2027 resources to support the response to the Ukraine crisis. Member States, alongside Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, and Iceland, pledged to host 17,870 people transiting in Moldova. The European Union Agency for Asylum

(EUAA) provided operational support to 13 Member States, assisting 10 of them with the implementation of the TPD.

Additionally, the Safe Homes project, backed by EUR 5.5 million from the Commission, is mapping housing needs of displaced people from Ukraine, supporting private hosting initiatives in several EU Member States and looking at lessons learnt that could help build similar schemes in the future. Through initiatives like the EU4Health Programme and the Network for Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS), the EU has also provided **EUR 20 million** to the International Federation of the Red Cross, to address the mental health needs of displaced individuals from Ukraine. The European Commission, jointly with the European Labour Authority, launched the **EU Talent Pool Pilot**, with the objective of linking displaced individuals from Ukraine with employment opportunities across the EU.

EU pledge

In order to ensure a continued response to the displacement crisis that resulted from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the EU pledges to:

- **Stand in support of displaced persons fleeing the war in Ukraine for as long as needed**, pursuing a strong and coordinated approach. The EU had already automatically extended temporary protection until March 2024, and Member States decided on 28 September 2023 to **prolong it for a further year, until March 2025**, on the proposal of the Commission.
- **Continue its operational support to EU Member States and external partners to address the Ukraine displacement crisis**, including through the involvement of EU agencies such as the European Union Agency for Asylum, Frontex, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and EUROPOL. For instance, the EUAA will build on its experience in supporting EU Member States in the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive to support access to international protection in EU Member States.
- Continue supporting Ukraine and the people affected by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine **through EU financing. This will include financing from the European Investment Bank**, with new operations totalling some **EUR 2.02bn** in preparation and are expected to be approved in the following months.
- **Continue to provide specific support, under its future programming and through the European Social Fund + and the AMIF 2021-2027, to displaced people from Ukraine** by supporting projects targeting third-country nationals and/or promoting first reception assistance, the social inclusion and integration of marginalised communities.
- **Continue to provide emergency support to people affected by the war, both within Ukraine and in Moldova, through humanitarian assistance** as long as needed. A total of **EUR 322 million** has been foreseen in support of Ukraine and neighbouring countries for 2023, and funding will continue for 2024.
- Continue to foster the socio-economic inclusion of the most vulnerable (including refugees from Ukraine and Roma communities) in the Moldovan society.

In addition, as the large majority of the displaced are women and children, the EU will:

- Ensure a continuous focus on **addressing the specific vulnerabilities and safety risks of women and children** and provide adequate responses, including the continuous implementation of the Common Anti-trafficking Plan that is monitored by the EU Anti-

trafficking Coordinator, and support to children in institutions as well as referrals to alternative care within Ukraine.

- Continue to support efforts by the ICRC and UN organisations to verify cases of deported children and facilitate family reunifications. Continue to work closely with its Ukrainian partners on how best to assist Ukrainian authorities and/or Ukrainian parents or legal guardians to facilitate the **tracing of missing children**. The EU Solidarity Platform for Ukraine will also work to support the coordination of the **transfer of unaccompanied children to family and community-based** care as needed.
- The Commission will also provide financial support for **strengthening the guardianship system** and supporting guardians, drawing on the lessons learnt from the Ukraine crisis (AMIF Thematic Facility 2023-2025, call for proposals of EUR 6 million on children for cross-border projects facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices, expected to start in 2024).
- Support financially the deinstitutionalisation process for displaced children from Ukraine who were evacuated to the EU with their alternative care institutions, i.e. movement towards smaller, family-like settings, in which children have more opportunities to integrate socially with local communities. The respective project will be replicable during the future reform of the alternative care system in Ukraine.

2) Rohingya Situation and Solutions

Background

Over 1 million Rohingya refugees, primarily residing in Bangladesh, face rapidly deteriorating conditions exacerbated by limited resources. Countries like Malaysia, India, Indonesia, and Thailand also host Rohingya refugees. In both Bangladesh and the region there is a pressing need to scale up support to meet the refugees' basic needs, and to stop the escalation in activities linked to the desperation of Rohingya refugees, including the undertaking of dangerous boat journeys, child marriage, drug trafficking and recruitment into armed groups.

Bangladesh is also one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, exposed to a variety of natural hazards including cyclones, floods and earthquakes.

EU engagement

The European Union has played a significant role in the international response to the Rohingya displacement crisis, providing humanitarian aid, development assistance, diplomatic support, and advocacy for a lasting resolution to the conflict. The EU's engagement reflects its commitment to upholding human rights, promoting peace, and addressing the plight of vulnerable Rohingya.

The European Union has supported the Rohingya refugee response through various financial instruments. The majority of the EU's humanitarian and development assistance in Bangladesh focuses on the Rohingya refugee response in Cox's Bazar, with a smaller portion directed to Rohingya refugees on Bhasan Char Island. Key sectors of intervention include Protection, Food Assistance, Nutrition, Health, Education, and Disaster Risk Reduction. The Commission has significantly contributed to the implementation of the Myanmar curriculum in refugee learning centres, and also invests in disaster preparedness in the country.

Interventions funded by different EU services are complementary and contribute to the implementation of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach. Since 2019, the EU has committed over **EUR 227 million** in humanitarian aid funding to address the Rohingya refugee crisis. This funding includes supports for food and nutrition security, education, and WASH services in Cox's Bazar and aims to strengthen the resilience of Rohingya refugees and host communities in an integrated manner in Cox's Bazar District. In 2022, humanitarian funding for the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh amounted to around **EUR 39 million**. Besides, the EU provides humanitarian support to Rohingya individuals in Myanmar's Rakhine State, with estimated funding exceeding **EUR 50 million** since 2019.

EU pledge

The European Union reaffirms its unwavering commitment to addressing the Rohingya displacement crisis, one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges of our time, with the goal of achieving a just and lasting solution to this crisis. The European Union commits to:

- Sustain humanitarian and development aid with a **EUR 70.5 million contribution**, ensuring that Rohingya refugees have access to vital resources such as shelter, food, clean water, healthcare, and education and extending support to alleviate the strain on Bangladesh's host communities by investing in gender-sensitive and climate-adapted longer-term resilience for both refugees and hosts.
- Continue **to work with all partners to address the Rohingya crisis**, with access to quality education, skills development and self-reliance for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh remaining key priorities. Enhancing protection especially of Rohingya women, children and the most vulnerable groups, seeking justice and accountability for human rights violations against the Rohingya, and supporting international initiatives that aim to address these atrocities. The EU will also keep **advocating for better conditions for Rohingya refugees in host countries** until safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable repatriation becomes an option, in particular through a peaceful and inclusive resolution to the conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine State, emphasizing the importance of addressing the root causes of the crisis.

3) Syrian displacement crisis

Background

The Syria crisis, which began in 2011, is a complex and protracted conflict involving various internal and external actors. It has resulted in widespread displacement, suffering, and significant socio-economic challenges. The conflict has led to the displacement of millions of Syrians, both internally and externally, with neighbouring countries hosting a large number of refugees. Humanitarian aid efforts have been extensive, but the situation remains challenging due to ongoing violence, limited access to essential services, and the destruction of infrastructure. International diplomatic efforts have been made to find a political resolution, but a comprehensive solution to the crisis remains elusive. The conflict's impact on the region and its people continues to be a matter of global concern.

EU engagement

European countries **host over 1 million Syrian asylum-seekers and refugees**. In addition to granting international protection and legal pathways to protection for Syrians in EU Member States, the European Union has adopted a comprehensive and integrated approach to support Syrians in the face of the ongoing crisis. The EU, in collaboration with its Member States, has consistently been the leading contributor of humanitarian and resilience assistance in Syria and its neighbouring countries since the outset of the crisis. Total assistance by the EU and its Member States to address the Syrian displacement crisis since **its beginning in 2011** has been more than **EUR 30 billion**.

This support spans essential sectors, including shelter, healthcare, education, food security, as well as protection services. The EU's action focuses on resilience-building, including livelihood support, vocational training, and economic empowerment programs. It also aims to support Syrian refugees hosted in neighbouring countries, for example in Türkiye, where the EU has contributed **EUR 10 billion** in development funding to support primarily Syrian refugees and host communities since 2011.

The EU has also provided substantial humanitarian and development support to displaced Syrians both inside the country and across the region. For instance, between 2019 and 2022, EU humanitarian funding for the Syria crisis, which includes funding for neighbouring countries, **amounted to over EUR 1 billion**.

Within Syria, EU support addresses humanitarian needs, ensures accountability, and promotes the resilience of the Syrian population. The EU supports local communities in Syria, enhancing social cohesion and livelihoods to welcome spontaneous returns of refugees. In neighbouring countries, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Türkiye, the support has focused on protection, social inclusion and access to basic services and infrastructure for refugees and host communities, as well as fostering livelihood opportunities and providing safe and legal pathways to protection to the EU.

In Türkiye, the European Investment Bank's Economic Resilience Initiative (ERI) mobilizes substantial funding to enhance resilience among refugees, migrant host and transit communities, and origin communities. Furthermore, the EU has actively participated in diplomatic efforts, aiming to facilitate a political resolution to the conflict. The EU remains dedicated to facilitating a Syrian-led political solution in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254 to enable safe, dignified, and voluntary returns while continuing to support host countries and address the needs of refugees and host communities through improved access to essential services and strengthened national capacities. This commitment is evident through conferences such as Brussels VI and VII in 2022 and 2023, where the EU pledged over **EUR 4.8 billion**, accounting for 70% of the total grant.

EU pledge

In the face of the ongoing Syrian displacement crisis, the European Union remains committed to provide substantial and targeted support to the affected populations, both within Syria and in neighbouring countries. The EU pledges to:

- **Financial commitments:** The total amount for the EU's commitments in 2023 and beyond is approximately **EUR 6.035 billion**. The EU's pledge emphasizes both immediate humanitarian relief and long-term resilience. This funding will not only address the urgent needs arising from

the recent earthquake, but also bolster essential infrastructure and provide socio-economic support.

- The total amounts pledged by the EU in 2023 and beyond is as follows:
 - 7th Brussels Conference Pledges (2023): EUR 3.8 billion (from European Commission and EU Member States)
 - European Investment Bank (EIB) Pledges for Syria (2023-2024): EUR 1.6 billion
 - in Jordan, support for basic services (2023): EUR 90 million
 - in Lebanon support for basic services (2023): EUR 140.5 million
 - in Syria support for resilience (2023): EUR 57 million
 - humanitarian assistance to Jordan, Lebanon and Syria for 2023: EUR 262 million (made up of Syria EUR 182.5 million, Jordan EUR 12,5 million, EUR Lebanon 67 million)
- **Safe resettlement opportunities for Syrian refugees:** Continue supporting Member States in their efforts to provide protection to Syrian refugees displaced in Türkiye, Lebanon and Jordan, through resettlement and humanitarian admission. Providing pledges for Syrian refugees remains a priority within the forthcoming EU resettlement and humanitarian admission scheme for 2024-2025.

4) Afghanistan displacement crisis

Background

It is more than forty years since the first Afghan refugees left their country, in what has become one of the largest and longest displacement crises in recent history. Today, the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan continue to host over 4 million Afghans in a refugee or refugee-like status while the total estimated number of Afghans living in the two countries is as big as 7.5 – 8 million.

After decades of conflict, natural hazards and chronic poverty, Afghanistan is facing one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. The situation is further fuelled by economic instability and natural hazards. Over 90% of the country's population lives below the poverty line, and around 17 million people are experiencing acute food insecurity. Millions do not have access to safe water or appropriate health care, which makes them more vulnerable to disease outbreaks. The international community is facing new challenges since the withdrawal of international troops and the Taliban takeover in 2021.

The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) focuses on voluntary return, sustainable reintegration, and supporting host countries. It emphasizes a humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) approach, aiming to enhance refugees' access to public services and protection while showing solidarity with host communities. Adopted in 2012, this strategy guides regional efforts for sustainable solutions for displaced Afghans. The Secretariat of the SSAR Support Platform was launched by the High Commissioner and the Governments of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan at the first Global Refugee Forum in 2019.

EU engagement

In the face of the crisis in Afghanistan, the European Union has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to provide vital support to those affected, including through the granting of international

protection to Afghans in the EU and support to Afghan refugees in neighbouring countries. Since the inaugural Global Refugee Forum in December 2019, the EU has played a pivotal role in addressing the Afghan displacement crisis, for example through its **EUR 1 billion Afghan Support Package** announced in 2021. Moreover, in 2021, the EU has put forward a Regional Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on the Afghan displacement situation gathering humanitarian and development actors from EU Services and 12 EU Member States. Under a humanitarian, development and peace nexus approach, the TEI covers Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Central Asia, with the aim of providing durable solutions to Afghan refugees through protection, emergency, basic needs and livelihoods support, as well as migration management. So far, TEI members have provided an indicative financial contribution of EUR 1.1 billion, out of which EUR 110 million in development support was committed by the EU. The EU was also Chair of the SSAR Support Platform until end of 2022, before handing it over to Qatar.

The EU has contributed substantial humanitarian funding initiatives since 2019, totalling over **€665 million** for Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, which assisted the most vulnerable communities, including Afghan refugees, to address humanitarian needs and build resilience. Priorities include multi-purpose cash assistance, protection, health/nutrition, education in emergencies and disaster preparedness. The EU's humanitarian aid efforts have significantly impacted a growing number of direct beneficiaries, increasing to **9.34 million in 2022**.

Alongside these efforts, around 46,000 Afghans at risk have been admitted to the EU since 2021. For 2023, the Member States collectively pledged 13,700 places for Afghans. This is mainly for humanitarian admission (12,500), but also for resettlement (1,170) – primarily from Pakistan, Iran and Turkey. In 2021-2022, around **EUR 300 million** have been set aside for incentive payments linked to the safe admission of Afghans. Additionally, EU Member States granted international protection to 180 025¹ Afghans since 2021.

The EU's commitment demonstrates its dedication to upholding the dignity and well-being of those affected by displacement, illustrating its holistic approach to fostering stability and supporting vulnerable communities.

EU pledge

In order to ensure a continued response to the Afghanistan displacement crisis, the EU pledges to:

- Support basic needs assistance as well as durable solutions for displaced Afghans and their host communities with **EUR 348,3 million** in humanitarian and development funding.
- Continue supporting Member States in their efforts to provide protection to Afghans at risk through resettlement and humanitarian admission under the forthcoming EU resettlement and humanitarian admission scheme for 2024-2025, with pledges for Afghans remaining a priority within this scheme. Continue playing a crucial role in supporting admissions for Afghan refugees and coordinating efforts with partners in this sense, including through the work of the **EUAA Expert Platform for safe pathways for Afghans**.

¹ [Statistics | Eurostat \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&code=sdg-10-10-1&plugin=1)

5) Resettlement and complementary pathways

Background

Resettlement is a crucial humanitarian and protection tool, and a way to demonstrate global solidarity with third countries hosting large numbers of refugees. Complementary pathways are a relatively new and evolving topic in the context of refugee policies. They refer to alternative legal channels that provide safe and regulated opportunities for individuals in need of international protection to migrate, often through avenues like work, education, or family reunification programmes. The concept of complementary pathways is gaining traction as a way to enhance legal migration options and address the needs of displaced populations.

EU engagement

Expanding the opportunities to provide third country solutions for refugees, namely resettlement, humanitarian admission and complementary pathways, continued to represent an important area of engagement for the EU since 2019. The EU supports resettlement, humanitarian admission and complementary pathways programmes which are implemented by the Member States on a voluntary basis. The European Commission facilitates joint efforts and offers political and financial support, while the EU Agency for Asylum provides operational assistance and supports capacity building. The Commission is exploring innovative models, particularly related to refugee labour mobility, to enhance safe and legal opportunities for those forcibly displaced.

Since 2015, **more than 119,000 individuals have found protection through joint EU resettlement schemes**. In 2022, 17,300 people were resettled in EU Member States. Syrians constituted 63% of those resettled. Additionally, more than 46,000 people, mainly at-risk Afghans, arrived in the EU via humanitarian admission since 2021. Member States receive financial support from the EU budget for both resettlement and humanitarian admission efforts.

For the year 2023, 17 EU Member States made over **29,000 resettlement and humanitarian admission pledges**, which are expected to be implemented by the end of 2023.

EU pledge

- The **EU is committed to promoting safe and legal pathways** for those in need of international protection and make a sizable contribution to meeting the ever-increasing global resettlement needs.
- For 2024-2025, 14 EU Member States affirmed their commitment to providing safe pathways to protection by **pledging collectively 61,000 places for resettlement and humanitarian admission combined**.
- In 2023, **the EU has so far provided financial support to the Member States for an amount of EUR 246 million** in relation to persons admitted through resettlement and humanitarian admission over the last two years. The EU **will continue** to support the Member States to underpin their efforts in the area of resettlement and humanitarian admission.
- The EU is also committed to promoting further complementary pathways linked to family reunification, work and higher education with a view to offering more safe and legal pathways as viable alternatives to irregular journeys. Moreover, the EU will continue to promote community

sponsorship schemes, as a way to underpin safe and legal pathways to protection. The EU will continue to work closely with international organisations and like-minded partners to advance in this policy areas.

- **The EU will provide up to EUR 6 million** for transnational projects to promote complementary pathways linked to work. Grants are expected to start in the first quarter of 2024, with funding from the AMIF Thematic Facility 2023-2025..
- **The EU will provide up to EUR 8 million** for transnational projects to support community sponsorship schemes and the integration of persons in need of protection admitted through resettlement, humanitarian admission or complementary pathways schemes. Grants are expected to start in the first quarter of 2024, with funding from the AMIF Thematic Facility 2023-2025.
- In 2024, the European Migration Network (EMN) will conduct a study on family reunification, including looking at national legislation and practices on family reunification of beneficiaries of international protection.
- The EU pledges to continue to fund the **Emergency Transit Mechanisms (ETM) for a minimum amount of EUR 56 million in the coming years** aimed at facilitating the evacuation of vulnerable refugees (often trapped in detention) from Libya to transit countries, by offering temporary hosting arrangements and enabling access to protection and to durable solutions, notably onward resettlement.
- **The EUAA will continue to expand the Resettlement Support Facility (RSF)** in Istanbul and plans to establish a small-scale pilot on refugee family reunification implemented through this Facility. The EUAA is also working on developing additional operational support structures for resettlement in other partner third countries.
- **The EUAA will promote information sharing and the diffusion of best practices on resettlement, humanitarian admission, and complementary pathways** through its dedicated Network, training activities, and operational tools.

6) Fostering mental health and psychosocial wellbeing

Background

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) are critical for refugees, both within the EU and in humanitarian settings worldwide. People affected by conflicts, natural disasters, displacement and diseases are more prone to mental illnesses and disorders. According to WHO, more than 1 in 5 people (22.1%) in post-conflict settings suffers from depression, anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorder.

The psychological well-being of refugees is essential for their integration and recovery. These services are vital for addressing the often-traumatic experiences of displaced populations, promoting their recovery, and reducing long-term psychological distress. They also contribute to their successful integration in the hosting community and resilience, be it outside or within the EU. By investing in mental health and psychosocial support, the EU recognises the value of a holistic assistance that addresses both the physical and emotional needs of refugees, fostering their well-being and enhancing their prospects for a stable future.

EU engagement

The EU is actively engaged in supporting mental health and psychosocial well-being among forcibly displaced populations, including for those displaced by the war in Ukraine. Through initiatives like the EU4Health Programme and the Network for Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS), the EU has provided **EUR 20 million** to the International Federation of the Red Cross, to address the mental health needs of displaced individuals from Ukraine.

Moreover, the EU's contribution through the UNOPS Lives in Dignity Facility to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) initiatives is a testament to its commitment to holistic well-being. In Colombia for instance, EU-funded projects provide vital psychosocial support to Venezuelan families in shelters, focusing on integration, identity reconstruction, and coping mechanisms. Similarly, in Lebanon, where the demand for healthcare has surged due to the arrival of refugees from Syria and other crises, the EU is aiding efforts to strengthen healthcare systems, including the provision of mental health services at the primary care level. Additionally, in Egypt, the EU's support package aims to improve access to mental health and psychosocial services for refugees, migrants, asylum-seekers, and host communities, contributing to overall well-being and self-sufficiency.

Overall, the EU disbursed **EUR 111 million** in humanitarian funding for MHPSS activities since 2019, following a horizontal, people-centred, multisectoral approach, encompassing healthcare, protection, education, nutrition and gender-based violence.

EU pledge

The European Commission, together with the governments of the Netherlands and Germany, developed a joint pledge to raise awareness of donors, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders on the importance of providing quality Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to displaced populations globally across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus, focusing on global policy and technical support to achieve these aims.

Through this policy and through technical work, we commit to ensuring meaningful implementation and promotion of **Conclusion 116 of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme on MHPSS (2022)**, and in line with the 2023 United Nations General Assembly Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage and the 2022 United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, specifically with regards to strengthening MHPSS approaches, enhancing MHPSS capacity; enhancing participation and contribution of displaced persons; and strengthening partnerships.

Acknowledging Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing as a fundamental condition for human dignity and self-reliance, promoted inter alia by the UHC2030 Initiative; welcoming the Global action plan on promoting the health of refugees and migrants (2019-2023, extended to 2030) put forward by WHO, IOM and UNHCR; we support the integration of structural, sustainable, high quality MHPSS measures in humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peacebuilding, following a do-no-harm approach, and commits to:

- **Facilitating and supporting the implementation of the Minimum Service Package on MHPSS** developed by the IASC Reference Group.

- **Financing quality MHPSS interventions** by partner organisations responding to the ever-changing needs of vulnerable people living in conflict affected areas worldwide.
- **Creating and further developing important tools** such as hotlines for psychological support, including MHPSS support within safe spaces for survivors of violence, particularly sexual and gender-based violence and **promoting innovative approaches** to help reaching out to vulnerable populations, particularly people on the move.
- **Providing EU funding for transnational projects through a call for proposals** on access to healthcare for migrants and refugees (including access to mental healthcare) under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).
- **Developing a number of support tools**, through the European Union Agency for Asylum, in the field of mental health, including child-friendly documents and videos and a practical guide.
- **Inviting others donors to join the EU** in ensuring meaningful implementation and promotion of the 2022 UNHCR ExCom Conclusions on MHPSS.

7) Refugee Education: Prioritising Inclusive, Resilient, and Equitable Learning for All

Background

Education is a powerful driver for individual and community resilience, benefitting economies, contributing to greater individual incomes, gender equality, healthier population, stronger environmental awareness, and a more peaceful society. Yet, close to half of all refugee children remain out of school. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the existing inequalities in education, disrupting education systems across the world, forcing school closures, and leading to drastic budget cuts.

EU engagement

The EU prioritises education in line with the European Consensus for Development (2017) and the EU Communication on Education in Emergencies (2018). The EU has been, and is, committed to intensify efforts for the equitable and sustainable inclusion of refugees in national education systems, using its funding programmes, policy and advocacy instruments, both across the humanitarian, development and peace pillars and within the EU.

Internally, the EU is dedicated, as highlighted in the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027, to creating inclusive education systems for migrants, including refugees, through various initiatives like the European Education Area and the Digital Education Action Plan. This includes several measures, such as providing guidance for more inclusive education from early childhood to higher education, focusing on faster recognition of academic qualifications and language learning, support from EU funds etc. Funding like the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund is also used to promote language training and integration services for newcomers.

Externally, the EU is investing significantly in education in fragile countries, allocating around **EUR 3.2 billion** from the EU budget for this purpose in the period 2021-2027. In response to crises and emergencies, **the EU commits 10% of its humanitarian budget and at least 10% of its**

international partnerships budget to education. In the period 2020-2023, the humanitarian investment in education in emergencies amounted to **EUR 670.8 million**, benefiting displaced children in conflict and disaster-affected regions. The EU is engaged in numerous education projects in countries hosting refugees, such as Colombia, Peru-Ecuador, Lebanon, and Turkey, to ensure access to quality education for both refugees and host communities. The EU has pledged to support the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the largest global fund solely dedicated to transforming education in lower-income countries, with **EUR 700 million** in the period 2021-2027, and Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the first global fund dedicated to education in emergencies, with **EUR 25 million**.

The EU's flagship program, **Erasmus+**, plays a pivotal role in promoting equal opportunities and inclusion in education, offering scholarships, virtual exchanges, and capacity building to enhance the quality and inclusivity of education systems. Furthermore, the EU invests in higher education and vocational training through initiatives like the Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) strand and the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package. These efforts reflect the EU's commitment to education as a means to foster stability, empowerment, and opportunities for displaced populations both within the EU and globally.

EU pledge

The European Union (EU) stands resolutely committed to actively advancing refugee education and training, recognising the pivotal role it plays in fostering the inclusiveness and resilience of societies across both EU Member States and host countries globally. In pursuit of this commitment and in line with the multi-stakeholder pledges on education, including education in emergencies, the EU pledges to:

- **Invest in Education:** The EU commits to continue prioritising education, including in emergencies and protracted crises, **dedicating 10% of its humanitarian budget and at least 10% of its international partnerships budget to support the creation of safe and enabling environments that support quality learning** for all students, regardless of legal status, gender or disability. The EU remains committed to intensify efforts for equitable and sustainable inclusion of refugees in national education systems, using its funding programmes, policy and advocacy instruments across the humanitarian, development and peace pillars. For 2024, the education in emergencies investment will amount to **EUR 156.9 million**. The EU education investments in fragile countries during the period 2021–2027 are expected to reach **EUR 3.2 billion**, from the EU budget. **Erasmus+**, the European Union flagship programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport, seeks to promote equal opportunities, inclusion and fairness for all, regardless of background, across all its actions, including for young refugees, students and staff. The 2021-2027 programme of EUR 26.2 billion features both an intra-European and a global dimension. In addition, the EU will continuously advocate for substantial public investment in refugee education and training and in their host communities, underscoring its commitment to providing opportunities for displaced learners.
- **Collaborate closely with international partners:** the EU will work to ensure refugee education and training actions are relevant, inclusive, equitable, effective, and sustainable. The EU will support the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the largest global fund solely dedicated to transforming education in lower-income countries, with **EUR 700 million** in the

period 2021-2027, and Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the first global fund dedicated to education in emergencies, with **EUR 25 million**.

- **Overcome Barriers:** the EU is committed to contribute to the identification and elimination of legal, cultural, economic, policy, and administrative barriers obstructing refugee children and youth's swift reintegration into learning and national education systems, within education systems across both EU Member States and host countries globally. Under the **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund**, the EU will fund transnational projects focusing on language learning to support the integration of migrant and refugee children in EU education systems with **EUR 6 million**. Grants are expected to start in the first quarter of 2024, with funding from the AMIF Thematic Facility 2023-2025.
- **Expand Access and Response:** the EU will actively partner with host countries to expand access to quality education, training and improved learning outcomes in refugee-hosting areas, as well as to bolster local educational institutions to meet increased demand.
- **Empower Local Actors:** the EU will increase its engagement with local stakeholders and refugee communities, empowering them to co-create and implement impactful education and training responses.
- **Empower Educators:** recognising the critical role of educators, the EU will assist teachers and school leaders in acquiring the necessary skills to support refugee learners.
- **Advance Gender Equality:** the EU will champion gender equality and empowerment for refugee girls through and within education and training, ensuring a safe, inclusive and enabling learning environment. The EU sets a target of 50% participation of girls in education in emergencies projects.
- **Strengthen Education Sector Resilience:** the EU will strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of education systems to prevent, minimise, prepare for, and respond to climate change, conflict and the digital transition to ensure continuous learning and quality of education for all learners.

8) Economic inclusion, social protection and integration

Background

Refugees often face significant challenges in achieving economic inclusion and accessing livelihood opportunities in host countries. The displacement experience can disrupt their socio-economic status and limit their ability to secure sustainable employment or engage in entrepreneurial endeavours. Overcoming these obstacles requires multifaceted approaches that not only address immediate humanitarian needs but also promote long-term self-reliance and resilience. Ensuring effective integration and inclusion of refugees is a social and economic investment that makes societies more cohesive, resilient and prosperous. Integration and inclusion are a win-win process, benefiting the entire society.

EU engagement

The EU has implemented a comprehensive array of initiatives to enhance the economic inclusion and social protection of refugees within its Member States. Through the **Common European Asylum System**, the EU ensures consistent and fair treatment of refugees, granting them access to labour markets and social welfare benefits. This commitment is reinforced by rigorous data-driven

policymaking, facilitated by entities like EUROSTAT, which gathers and analyses data vital for refugee integration. Financial support is provided through programs like the **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund**, **European Social Fund** and the **Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived**, aiding Member States in employment, education, and social inclusion efforts.

The revised **Blue Card Directive** makes it easier to work and move within the EU, recognizing the potential of highly skilled workers from diverse backgrounds, including beneficiaries of international protection, promoting in such way their economic integration. In the **European Partnership for Integration**, the Commission collaborates with social and economic partners to create and scale-up opportunities for refugees and migrants within the EU labour market, including by involving the private sector (e.g. Tent Partnership for Refugees). These multifaceted strategies underscore the EU's commitment to fostering inclusive societies and supporting the well-being of refugees both within its borders and globally.

The EU's dedication to refugee integration extends globally. In partner countries, vocational training, skills development, and entrepreneurship opportunities are supported, fostering refugees' meaningful contributions to host communities. Notable investments include **EUR 550 million** in Türkiye to enhance local labour markets and social protection measures such as healthcare, education, and legal assistance. The EU's humanitarian efforts also employ innovative methods: the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) in Türkiye, providing multipurpose cash assistance, exemplifies this approach.

EU pledge

The European Union (EU) commits to establish and fund comprehensive programmes focusing on the economic inclusion of forcibly displaced persons, in order to strengthen their access to social protection and equip them with the skills needed to integrate successfully into the workforce.

Within Europe, this includes notably the following measures:

- The EU will **enhance labour market integration**, promoting effective skills assessment, tailored training and language education for refugees. The EU will support refugee entrepreneurship and micro-enterprise development, providing access to resources and mentorship. Lastly, the EU will foster public-private partnerships for refugee employment opportunities.
- The EU will further mobilise the **European Social Fund** +, focusing on the priorities below:
 - Supporting labour market activation;
 - Ensuring quality, non-segregated early-childhood education; fighting early-school leaving; transitions school to employment;
 - Developing integrated services and multi-stakeholder partnerships;
 - Developing social innovation involving third-country nationals and migrants (e.g. entrepreneurship, social economy, user-led initiatives);
 - Implementing measures to overcome segregation, prejudice and discrimination, especially in the labour market.
- Through the **European Partnership for Integration** with social and economic partners, in line with the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027, the EU will further strengthen the cooperation between key labour market actors at local, national and EU level to advance the labour market inclusion of refugees.

- Under the **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund**, the EU will provide up to **EUR 6 million** for transnational projects to support multi-stakeholder initiatives for migrants' and refugees' integration into the labour market. Grants are expected to start in the first quarter of 2024, with funding from the AMIF Thematic Facility 2023-2025 work programme.
- The EU will continue to **consult refugees on developing and implementing policy initiatives concerning them**, via the Commission Expert Group on the views of migrants in the field of migration, asylum and integration. This Group, created in 2020, provides the point of view of migrants on legislative proposals, implementation of policies as well as on the support provided to meet refugees' and migrants' needs.
- The EU will launch in 2024 a new **Urban Agenda Partnership for the inclusion of Migrants and Refugees**. The Partnership will act as a forum where EU countries, cities, regions, umbrella organisations, migrant and EU institutions will exchange good practices, discuss challenges and implement actions for the inclusion of migrants and refugees.
- Under the **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund**, the EU will also provide up to **EUR 6 million** for transnational projects to help develop and implement local integration strategies as well as increasing the effectiveness of migrants' inclusion at regional and local level. Grants are expected to start in the first quarter of 2024, with funding from the AMIF Thematic Facility 2023-2025 work programme.

In support to **refugee hosting countries across the world**, the EU commits to:

- Implementing economic resilience programmes for refugees and their host communities through a total amount of **EUR 184 million**. This support includes, but is not limited to, flagship programmes such as the EU Alliance in support of the Horn of Africa Initiative, or the programme on Durable Solutions for displaced and vulnerable populations in Iraq.
- Facilitating private sector engagement, encouraging partnerships and investments.
- Investing in the production of **socioeconomic microdata** that appropriately identify and represent affected populations and provide timely analysis. This will be done in partnership with the UNHCR – World Bank Joint Data Centre.

Through these initiatives, the EU aims to create sustainable pathways for economic inclusion and social protection for refugees, supported by data-driven decision-making and comprehensive legal and policy frameworks.

9) Climate action

Background

Disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation significantly disrupt human mobility, leading to various forms of displacement. This displacement can occur internally within a country's borders or across international boundaries, amplifying the complexity of the issue. The nexus between climate change, disasters, environmental degradation and displacement underscores the urgent need for comprehensive and collaborative approaches. Addressing this multifaceted and global challenge requires integrating policies and actions across disaster response, climate adaptation, environmental conservation, and migration management, ensuring a holistic and effective response to the needs of displaced populations and vulnerable communities.

Support to addressing the challenges of climate-induced displacement should aim to provide accessible financing and support to empower communities in tackling the challenges of the climate crisis.

EU engagement

The European Union's comprehensive approach is outlined in the **2022 Commission Staff Working Document** "Addressing displacement and migration related to disasters, climate change, and environmental degradation". Part of the EU's work is the pivotal role played by the Joint Research Centre (JRC), which enriches our understanding of climate-induced migration through its insightful reports.

The EU holds the Chair for the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) since mid-2022 and until 31 December 2023. The EU has led a number of the PDD's initiatives, such as the development of the platform's future strategy, showcasing the EU's proactive and dedicated global leadership. In 2021, the Commission introduced its **Disaster Preparedness Guidance Note**, emphasizing multi-hazard preparedness and anticipatory action.

On programming, the Commission has decided to set a target of **30% of its development funds** to contribute to climate objectives, and Commission President von der Leyen announced an additional EUR 4 billion top-up for such actions during her 2021 State of the Union speech. Initiatives such as the "Great Green Wall" or the Team Europe Initiative on climate resilience in Africa indirectly support Initiatives such as the "Great Green Wall" or the Team Europe Initiative on climate resilience in Africa indirectly support action to tackle climate-induced displacement. Additionally, initiatives like the RE2CLID program, worth EUR 100 million, focus on climate change adaptation and disaster management in regions prone to climate impacts and forced displacement.

The EU is one of the first donors to have funded development initiatives in the field of climate-induced displacement through the **Pacific Response to Disaster Displacement project**. The European Union actively addresses the intricate challenges of climate-induced displacement through a multifaceted approach. This includes supporting disaster preparedness and response in vulnerable regions, evident in the funding of ongoing projects in countries like Pakistan and the Great Lakes region.

Annually, the EU also allocates significant funding to support early warning and monitoring systems and to fund projects which strengthen disaster response capacities at national and local levels. The European Commission is at the forefront of promoting risk reduction and anticipatory actions. As a

signatory to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), the EU supports the adoption of a risk-informed approach into all EU policies and programmes. The EU allocates on average EUR 50 million of its annual humanitarian funding to targeted preparedness actions. In 2022 and 2023, through the humanitarian instrument, the EU invested more than EUR 154 million in disaster preparedness actions in more than 40 countries.

A focus on the green transition in displacement contexts was already present under the EU Trust Funds as well, for instance in Ghana, Niger, Ethiopia and Somalia. The EU also engages in climate-smart agriculture and resilience-building projects for forcibly displaced in various countries, such as Costa Rica, Niger, Uganda and South Sudan. The European Investment Bank is actively involved in reducing climate impacts on migration and forced displacement by allocating a significant portion of lending to adaptation efforts, both inside and outside the EU.

EU pledge

The European Union remains committed to enhance its response to climate-induced displacement through the following initiatives:

- **Scaled up accessible finance:** the EU will strive to mainstream its support to refugees, other forcibly displaced persons and host communities, including those living in fragile and conflict-affected situations, within the scope of new and existing climate programmes.
- Moreover, the EU aims to **integrate environmental degradation and climate into humanitarian operations and development initiatives**, particularly in regions and countries hosting refugees. This integration ensures climate resilience becomes a central focus of sustainable development efforts. The EU reaffirms its commitment to reduce the environmental impact of humanitarian aid, including by implementing mandatory ‘Minimum Environmental Requirements’ for EU-funded humanitarian operations, ensuring that aid efforts are environmentally conscious and sustainable.
- The EU will support **a pipeline of projects and programmes in support of government priorities and plans** to develop solutions to the most pressing climate challenges they are experiencing, by building on existing climate action initiatives in displacement settings, including for fragile and conflict affected contexts. A substantial contribution of **EUR 303 million** will be allocated to **enhance climate resilience and disaster preparedness in affected countries**. This funding, distributed through various EU services, emphasizes **four key priorities:** risk-based and anticipatory actions, preparedness in conflict and fragile settings, climate and environmental resilience, and urban preparedness. These actions will be implemented in countries such as Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and regions such as the Great Lakes (Burundi, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania), the Indian Ocean as well as the Pacific. Special attention will also be given to Pakistan, addressing its vulnerability to climate change through **strengthening disaster preparedness and institutional resilience**.
- This pledge will be supported by cross-cutting commitments on **data and knowledge**, and **technical and institutional capacity building** to build the evidence base and strengthen the means of implementation for more inclusive and effective climate action. In this regard, the EU pledges support for global policy and advocacy processes, data collection, analysis, and

research related to climate-induced displacement to support evidence base programming. This includes financial contributions totalling **EUR 9.8 million** to initiatives and organisations such as the Platform on Disaster Displacement, the International Displacement Monitoring Centre, and the UNSG Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, emphasizing the importance of informed programs for mitigation and adaptation.

- Moreover, the EU will publish a dedicated technical report on disaster displacement and migration intentions in fall 2023, which will further contribute and nuance the discussion on climate change exposure, vulnerability, as well as climate-induced mobility in various forms and regions. Recognising that research and knowledge production activities remain crucial for understanding migration trends and interlinkages with development, cooperation and climate adaptation policies.

10) Leveraging the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to promote durable solutions to forced displacement

Background

In recent years, there has been a significant paradigm shift in the international response to forced displacement, moving beyond mere conflict prevention to addressing the root causes and creating pathways to lasting solutions, as reflected for instance in the Joint Communication on the Climate-Security Nexus adopted in June 2023. The increased adoption of Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus strategies in displacement situations, which involves a strengthened collaboration among humanitarian, development, and peace actors, and the inclusion of IDPs as well as host communities in this reflection, has proven to be instrumental. This approach harnesses the collective strengths of these sectors, aligning efforts towards the goals outlined in the Global Compact on Refugees. By ensuring a unified, comprehensive response, the HDP Nexus in displacement contexts effectively tackles immediate humanitarian needs, facilitates sustainable development, and contributes significantly to the establishment of enduring peace for displaced populations and their host communities, thereby promoting human security. The nexus approach increasingly considers the multi-dimensional factors of forced displacement, including the impact of disasters and climate change which intersect with conflict-related displacement.

EU engagement

The European Union strives to implement the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in displacement contexts by combining humanitarian aid, development assistance, and peacebuilding efforts to address the needs of displaced populations comprehensively and promote long-term stability in conflict-affected regions. The nexus approach is at the core of the EU's development framework to address forced displacement as reflected in the 2016 Communication "**Lives in Dignity: from Aid-Dependence to Self-Reliance**". This comprehensive policy framework for external cooperation on forced displacement aims not only to prevent prolonged forced displacement but also to gradually reduce dependence on humanitarian aid. It fosters self-reliance, enabling displaced individuals to live with dignity as valuable contributors to their host societies until voluntary return or resettlement becomes feasible.

EU initiatives address immediate humanitarian needs while promoting long-term development and stability. This coordinated approach ensures that emergency relief efforts pave the way for sustainable development, fostering peace and resilience in crisis-affected communities. Through various sectors and initiatives, the EU actively supports the HDP nexus, enhancing the impact of its programs and fostering positive change in vulnerable regions.

For instance, the EU's support for the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus is exemplified by its commitment of **EUR 30 million** to refugee projects under the UNOPS Lives in Dignity Facility. Guided by the Global Compact on Refugees and Sustainable Development Goals, the LiD Grant Facility adopts a pioneering approach, fostering self-reliance in communities. This approach, if conditions allows, involves collaboration with local authorities, and seeks above all to ensure sustainability even in challenging contexts such as Sudan, Afghanistan, and the Sahel. The EU's investment underscores the integration of humanitarian, development, and peace efforts for lasting impact. Another example is the EU vital contribution to the Support Platforms, such as the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), and the MIRPS, IGAD and CAR Support Platforms, fostering collaboration among diverse sectors. These platforms facilitate information sharing, align strategies, and pool resources, serving as catalysts for integrated programs. Operating within the HDP nexus, they address immediate humanitarian needs, promote sustainable development, and enhance peace and resilience in communities.

EU pledge

The EU reiterates its commitment to advancing durable solutions for forcibly displaced persons by embracing the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus. Aligned with the INCAF common position and the Global Compact on Refugees, the EU will focus on early mitigation of displacement shocks in low and middle-income countries, integrating comprehensive humanitarian, development, peace, and climate strategies. Emphasizing the inclusion of forcibly displaced populations in sustainable development and climate initiatives, the EU aims to tackle persistent drivers of displacement, facilitate solutions, and enhance preparedness to address emerging trends, underscoring its dedication to a holistic approach in resolving forced displacement challenges.

More specifically, the EU pledges to:

- A total amount of **EUR 126.5 million** for integrated programmes that address the immediate needs of displaced populations while promoting sustainable development, peacebuilding, and climate resilience. By aligning its policies and resources, the EU aims to foster durable solutions, reduce vulnerabilities, and enhance the overall well-being of displacement populations and their hosts. This funding includes but is not limited to:
 - Support UNHCR as part of a 3-year humanitarian programmatic partnership to further support the refugee response in Uganda, with predictable funding of an indicative amount of **EUR 6.5 million each year**. The new partnership will cover areas such as protection, health assistance, localisation, and the promotion of inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, thus offering more livelihood opportunities for refugees and local communities. These objectives are in line with the 2022-2025 Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan, the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework as well as with the thematic priorities promoted by the Government of Uganda in the framework of the GRF.

- **Provide EUR 5 million to the Support Platforms in Sub Saharan Africa (IGAD and CAR).**
- Provide durable solutions to the Burundian refugee crisis in the Great Lakes region (Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) with a total budget of **EUR 40 million** and an implementation period of 60 months (2023-2028).
- Provide Durable solutions for displaced populations in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a total budget of **EUR 75 million** and projects that shall be implemented between 2023 and 2026.

11) Inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in national statistical systems and surveys

Background

Accurately including forcibly displaced persons, stateless individuals, and host communities in censuses and surveys is crucial for enhancing the quality and quantity of socio-economic data. This data is essential for shaping programs and policies that improve the well-being and protection of these vulnerable populations. Statistical inclusion is a mechanism to help implement and assess the progress towards the Global Compact on Refugees and is key to keeping the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no-one behind.

EU engagement

EU Member States report detailed migration statistics to Eurostat, the EU's statistical office. *Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 on community statistics on migration and international protection* specifies the indicators to be reported, covering immigration, emigration, acquisition of citizenship, asylum, residence permits and enforcement of immigration legislation. The Regulation was amended in 2020, bringing some useful improvement to the range of data collected (e.g. better data on unaccompanied minors), the disaggregation, as well as the frequency of the data, thereby helping our evidence-based policy-making. The revised regulation is applicable from reference year 2021.

The EU's engagement in data related to forced displacement is evident through its support for the UNHCR – World Bank Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement (JDC), which the EU started funding in 2020. The JDC is a collaborative initiative between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Bank, established to address the urgent need for accurate and comprehensive data on forced displacement. This joint effort focuses on collecting, analysing, and disseminating data concerning refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and stateless populations. By serving as a knowledge hub, the JDC facilitates evidence-based insights into global forced displacement trends, aiding policymakers, researchers, and humanitarian organisations in making informed decisions. The added value of JDC's analysis and partnerships with various stakeholders has been underlined on many occasions, including during High Level Events.

The EU contributes to the JDC through projects like the 'Lives in Dignity – EU Global Facility,' by offering financial support. Additionally, the EU deploys coordination efforts, including its support for EGRISS (expert group on refugee, IDP and statelessness statistics), which involves collaboration between the EU statistical office Eurostat, national statistical offices of countries like Norway and Turkey, and UNHCR. Eurostat supports EGRISS through the translation, editing and publication of

the groups' two sets of international guidelines (International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics - IRRS and International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics - IRIS). These guidelines translated into French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian open the access to the methodological documentation for the experts from various countries and regions often very much concerned by forced displacement.

The Commission also collects data and indicators on inclusion of migrants, including refugees. These efforts include a set of common indicators for monitoring the situation of migrants (for example employment, education, health, social inclusion). In 2023, the EU cooperated with the OECD, to produce the EU-OECD joint “Indicators of Immigrant Integration²”. This comprehensive report presents a comparison of the integration outcomes of immigrants and their children in OECD, EU and selected other countries. It includes 83 indicators covering three main areas: labour market and skills; living conditions; and civic engagement and social integration. The publication also provides detailed data on the characteristics of immigrant populations and households.

EU pledge

The EU remains committed to increase data and evidence on migration and displaced populations, including the availability of statistics on forcibly displaced and stateless people, through their systematic inclusion in national data production systems. This will be done through the following actions:

- The EU will provide a financial contribution of EUR 3 500 000 to promote the inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless children in national statistical systems, surveys and other data work from 2024-2026. With the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC) as its implementing entity, the EU will support global, regional and national efforts to ensure that forcibly displaced and stateless children are seen and counted in policymaking and programming, thereby promoting their protection and empowerment.
- The EU will continue to monitor the ongoing program with the UNHCR – World Bank Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement with a particular focus on strengthened operationalisation of collected data.

12) Local integration: Call to Local Action and Solidarity in Secondary Cities & Local and Regional Governments

Background

Forced displacement has become an increasingly urban phenomenon. Globally, UNHCR estimates that more than 60% of all refugees and 80% of all IDPs are living in urban areas. The World Bank reports that 56% of the global population, or 4.4 billion people, reside in cities, a number expected to double by 2050. This rapid urbanization is coupled with an increase in displaced populations like refugees, resulting in challenges for urban areas.

The pressure often leads to the expansion of informal settlements, lacking proper planning and resources. Secondary cities and local governments are vital for integrating displaced individuals. However, these urban areas struggle due to limited resources, hindering their ability to provide

² <https://www.oecd.org/publications/indicators-of-immigrant-integration-67899674-en.htm>.

essential services and economic opportunities, particularly for vulnerable groups such as refugees, internally displaced persons, stateless individuals, women, and young people.

EU engagement

The EU aims to strengthen the economic and social inclusion of displaced populations in secondary urban areas, by promoting the action of local players, and by helping to strengthen the presence of the State at local level, through the provision of inclusive social, administrative and economic infrastructures. The aim is to strengthen the skills of local authorities, and the synergies between them, local authorities and decentralized State services in the management and inclusion of refugees and displaced persons. It is fundamental to simultaneously empower cities, civil society and Refugee-Led-Organisations to contribute to the implementation of programs and in so doing supporting refugee and migrant hosting municipal authorities to improve their institutional transparency, accountability, whilst providing access to resources and basic services to forcibly displaced communities and their hosts.

EU pledge

The EU pledges to support local authorities' actions to support the integration of refugees and IDPs in their host communities. This will be done through:

- **Increased programming for urban displacement:** the EU pledges **EUR 34.7 million** on urban displacement. This includes:
 - the flagship program “Sustainable Urban Integration of Displacement Affected Communities” which aims to support secondary cities in DRC, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.
 - durable solutions for displaced populations in Khartoum, and to support Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) direct displacement responses through regional cooperation and technical exchange in Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, and DRC.
 - In Somalia, the EU will continue to support Early Solutions and Enhancing progress towards climate-conscious durable solutions for displacement affected people in urban centres.
 - Lastly, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the EU will support inclusive cities programmes and support local actors to include refugees and IDPs into host communities, operating in Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Dominican Rep., Panama and Trinidad and Tobago.

13) Gender equality and protection from gender-based violence

Background

Gender Equality and protection from gender-based violence (GBV), both within and outside the EU, are key to the achievement of all GCR objectives. The 2023 GRF offers an opportunity to galvanize the collective action and accountability needed to address GBV and advance gender equality in the context of forced displacement. Gender and age-sensitive aid ensures that the most vulnerable populations receive appropriate support that caters to their specific needs.

EU engagement

The European Union is a global frontrunner on the protection from gender-based violence in all its external action, as well as a strong advocate for the inclusion of the needs of gender, age and diversity groups in all EU-funded external projects. The EU has furthermore been an active member of the **Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies** (Call to Action) since its start in 2013.

Within the EU, the **EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027** builds on and complements the **EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025** and takes into account personal characteristics and their combination, including gender and sexual orientation, in the integration and inclusion objectives it outlines for the Commission, EU Member States and other stakeholders. The Action Plan recognises that migrant women and girls, including asylum seekers and refugees, face additional obstacles to integration compared to men and boys. Refugee women face specific integration challenges associated with poorer health and lower education and labour market outcomes compared to refugee men, who are already disadvantaged in comparison with other migrant groups.

The EU has been steadily improving the integration of gender and age considerations into its humanitarian assistance. In line with the 2013 humanitarian gender policy, ‘Gender in Humanitarian Aid: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance’ and the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, the **Gender-Age Marker** was introduced on 1 January 2014 with the goal of making aid more effective, as highlighted in the [third assessment report](#) between 2018 and 2021. Specifically, **in 2021 96% of the EU’s humanitarian-funded projects have integrated gender and age considerations**, and in 2022, **EUR 41.3 million** of humanitarian funding was allocated to address gender-based violence and reproductive health and approximately **EUR 23.4 million** were allocated to sexual and reproductive health.

To further advance these efforts, the EU adopted its **third Gender Action Plan for 2021-2025**, outlining key priorities in humanitarian assistance such as combating gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, and the Gender-Age Marker.

The Gender Action Plan III forms a part of the EU's broader gender equality strategy, seeking to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in its external relations. This strategic approach focuses on several pillars, such as making gender equality a cross-cutting priority, accelerating progress, ending gender-based violence, and fostering equal participation and leadership. The EU aims to address the structural causes of gender inequality and advance its commitment to reaching Sustainable Development Goal 5 (gender equality) in all internal and external policy areas, underpinning its dedication to building a gender-equal world.

EU pledge

In line with its commitments to the Call to Action Road Map 2021-2025 and the EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027, the European Union commits to:

- Implementing the “**EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025**”, a policy framework with five pillars of action for accelerating progress towards meeting international commitments and a world in which everyone has space to thrive.
- **Implementing and disseminating** its relevant policies for the protection from and prevention of gender-based violence in emergencies. The EU is committed to UNSC Resolution 1325 on

Women Peace and Security and its follow-up resolutions. The EU commits to implementing the new “EU Strategic Approach to Women, Peace and Security” adopted in 2018.

- **Supporting capacity building** of its staff and partners to enhance systemic integration of gender considerations into humanitarian assistance, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, crisis response and development cooperation.
- **Supporting humanitarian interventions** which respond to SGBV and address sexual and reproductive health needs, through an integrated approach including medical care, mental health and psychosocial support, referral to legal services and livelihood support or socio-economic assistance.
- **Advocating on the need to address GBV in emergencies** and promoting the work of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies.
- **Reporting annually on funding allocations** for humanitarian targeted actions that respond to GBV.
- **Incorporating protection strategies** against gender-based violence in all aspects of humanitarian assistance in line with the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid (2008).
- **Promoting equitable partnerships** with local responders, including by supporting women’s rights and women-led organisations.
- **Ensuring** that actions on SGBV are provided with medium- and longer-term sustainability through the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus approach, i.e. through ensuring continuity, follow up and complementarity in development programming and supports to conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
- **Promoting** gender equality and gender mainstreaming throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes and projects supported under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2021-2027, including by launching a call for proposals for transnational projects on migrant and refugee women integration.

14) Children's rights

Background

Over half of the world’s refugees are children. Many will spend their entire childhoods away from home, sometimes separated from their families. They may have witnessed or are victims of violence, in all its forms including gender-based violence and, in exile, are at risk of sexual abuse – online or offline -, neglect, violence, (sexual) exploitation, trafficking, smuggling or military recruitment. Too many children worldwide still suffer from or are at risk of human rights violations, humanitarian crises, environment and climate crises, lack of access to education, malnutrition, poverty, inequalities and exclusion. They continue to be victims of discrimination and gender-based violence including child, early and forced marriages, and of female genital mutilation.

The EU is particularly concerned for the rights and well-being of children living in situations of armed conflict, forced displacement and protracted humanitarian crises. Children affected by armed conflict suffer from grave violations of their rights, including abduction, killing and maiming, attacks on schools and hospitals, and the denial of access to humanitarian aid. Children are inherently more

vulnerable to the immediate and longer-term consequences of such emergencies – including when displaced -, which increases their vulnerability to trafficking, threaten their physical and mental health, deprive them of access to basic social services, health care, education, parental care, and undermines their rights.

The EU is committed to putting children at the heart of its efforts to prevent and respond to children's needs, and specific vulnerabilities. It notably supports a comprehensive, integrated approach to child protection, and to step up their rights to participation, in order to help them reach their full potential.

EU engagement

Protection and promotion of the rights of the child is a core objective of the European Union's work on the EU territory and abroad. The new **EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child adopted in March 2021** reaffirms the EU's commitment to promote, protect, fulfil and respect the rights of the child globally. Through this strategy, the EU aims to strengthen its position also as a key global player in protecting and supporting children globally, by strengthening access to education, services, health, and in protecting from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect, including in humanitarian context. The New Pact on Migration and Asylum contains several proposals aimed at reinforcing the legal guarantees for children in asylum and migration proceedings across the EU, to ensure that the best interests of the child are the primary consideration in all decisions concerning them and that child-specific procedural guarantees and additional support are effectively provided. The EU has also strengthened its policy framework regarding the protection of children with the adoption in April 2021 of a new Strategy on combatting Trafficking in Human Beings which contains several elements focusing on the protection of child victims of trafficking, and in July 2020 of an EU Strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse, with specific actions aimed at developing a strong and comprehensive response to these crimes. The EU has also made the prevention and elimination of grave violations against children affected by armed conflict as well as their effective reintegration a priority. The EU remains committed to intensify advocacy activities promoting compliance with International Humanitarian Law and protection of civilians, including children. In this context, the EU will undertake a review process of its Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict. As a priority initiative in 2024, the Commission will present a recommendation, taking into account children's voices to support the development and strengthening of integrated child protection systems within the EU, which would also be inspirational to strengthen child-protection systems globally.

The EU provides strong support to children on the move. Last year, the EU allocated approximately **EUR 285.5 million** for protection in humanitarian settings, of which a significant part is directly allocated to activities targeting children. The EU continues to place an emphasis on child protection, addressing all types of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, against children in humanitarian emergencies as well as providing mental health and psychosocial support. This year, the EU joined voices with UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba, and called for the 'universal ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts (OPAC).'

The EU provides support to UNICEF in improving children's access to child-friendly justice through age and gender-sensitive juvenile justice mechanisms and alternatives to detentions for children on the move and vulnerable children in West Africa (nearly **EUR 8 million**). Additionally, in 2022, 17,116 children across six West African countries received psychosocial, legal or social work assistance through mobile teams and 'on-stop-centres' established as part of a child protection system strengthening approach.

The European Commission co-funds the **International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC)** (established in 2020) together with UNICEF, with support from IOM and UNHCR, to improve statistics and data on migrant and forcibly displaced children with the goal to support evidence-based policymaking that protects and empowers them. It is also funding the **Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report** (2021-2023, **EUR 1.820 million**), mandated to monitor progress on SDG 4.

Child participation is a priority of the EU, responding to children's rights to be heard. Responding to children's call for greater engagement in democratic life, the European Commission has created an EU Children's Participation Platform. This hub is connecting child participation mechanisms at local, national and EU level, and involves children in the decision-making processes at EU level. Through its Youth Action Plan in EU external action, the EU also makes children and young people actors of change for more democratic, equal, inclusive and peaceful societies in the world.

EU pledge

The EU commits to:

- **Continue dedicating special attention to children** in asylum proceedings to ensure that the best interests of the child are the primary considerations in decisions and that child-specific procedural guarantees and additional support are effectively provided.
- **Further support measures implemented by particularly affected Member States** to offer quality protection to children, including in particular to provide quality reception and care for unaccompanied children. To this end, a dedicated budget of additional EUR 70 million is made available.
- **Provide up to EUR 6 million** for transnational projects to support and strengthen guardianship systems for unaccompanied children, drawing on the lessons learnt from the measures taken to support displaced children from Ukraine.
- Continue to place an emphasis on **child protection in humanitarian crises**, addressing all types of violence against children as well as providing education, mental health and psychosocial support. Strengthen EU coherence and action to protect children affected by armed conflict and update the **EU's Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict**, particularly with the aim of strengthening collaboration with the UN and other partners and raising awareness and political visibility.

15) Supporting a high-quality asylum space

Background

A high-quality asylum space is paramount for forcibly displaced individuals as it provides not just physical shelter, but also a sanctuary of safety, dignity, and hope. In the midst of trauma and uncertainty, a secure and well-maintained environment offers a sense of stability, allowing refugees and displaced persons to rebuild their lives. Beyond the immediate protection from dangers, it fosters a supportive atmosphere conducive to healing and integration. Quality asylum spaces often offer access to education, healthcare, and vocational training, empowering individuals to regain independence and contribute meaningfully to society. Moreover, these spaces serve as a testament to the international community's commitment to upholding human rights, sending a powerful message of solidarity and compassion to those who have endured immense hardships.

EU engagement

The New **EU Pact on Migration and Asylum** presented in September 2020 aims at creating a fairer and more sustainable migration and asylum system in the European Union, to provide protection to persons fleeing war and persecution based on solidarity, responsibility and respect for human rights.

In addition to its commitment to a high-quality asylum space in the EU, supported by EU funding and operational support by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), the EU has long been cooperating with partner countries to support them in expanding protection space and enhancing their asylum and reception systems. Within the EU, the EU supports a high-quality asylum space mainly through support under the **Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)** and the work of the EUAA. The renewed AMIF, part of the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027 amounts to **EUR 10,2 billion** and aims to further boost national capacities and improve procedures for migration and asylum management, as well as to enhance solidarity and responsibility sharing between Member States, in particular through emergency assistance and the relocation mechanism.

Externally, the EU provides support to asylum capacity under the **Regional Development and Protection Programme** and through, the EUAA, including funding from the EU Member States.

As of 2023, the EUAA has established bilateral roadmaps for cooperation with all Western Balkan partners, Türkiye, Egypt, and Niger (currently on hold), and is cooperating with all countries in Northern Africa through a Regional Pilot Project on asylum and reception. For the 2019 GRF, the Agency provided an open pledge to the Asylum Capacity Support Group (ACSG). In line with its new External Cooperation Strategy, the Agency's new ACSG pledge for the 2023 GRF will focus on candidate and potential candidate countries who have already enquired about cooperation possibilities, provided that a shared agreement is reached with the competent authorities.

EU pledge

The EU commits to continue providing support to protecting refugees, strengthening access to international protection, as well as strengthening protection systems and capacities within Europe and in third countries hosting refugees:

- **The EU commits to providing a high-quality asylum space within the EU** including through financial support under the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021-2027 and operational support of the European Agency for Asylum (EUAA).
- Externally, **the EU will continue its support under the Regional Development and Protection Programme Phase VI** (2023-2025, funded from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and by Italy and Austria), to partner countries in North Africa and across the Atlantic and Mediterranean migration routes to consolidate their asylum systems and capacities to provide adequate reception, protection and durable solutions for vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees (**EU funding EUR 14 million** to UNHCR out of the total amount of EUR 25 million EU funding for RDPP, and in addition Italian funding EUR 1,8 M, Austrian funding EUR 500 000)
- **The EUAA will offer capacity building to support the efforts of the competent authorities of Ukraine and Georgia** to align their asylum and reception systems to the norms and standard of the Common European Asylum System, in close cooperation with the European Commission, the European External Action Service, and Member States and UNHCR.
- The EU will develop a **thematic development programme** to support the strengthening of asylum capacity along the migratory routes.