

**NGO statement on Agenda item 2:
Draft indicators for progress towards the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees**

Dear Chair,

This statement was developed in consultation with a range of NGOs.

We thank UNHCR for the opportunity to provide inputs on the indicators. In preamble, we recommend that indicators should not be conceptualized as a menu of options but as required reporting for all refugee situations. While recognizing State ownership of the GCR, its long-term impact will be curtailed if UNHCR does not hold its global oversight, coordinator, and standard-setting role.

Moreover, NGOs recommend the following:

1. **Include access to asylum and *non-refoulement* as a precondition for effective measurement.** The scope of the current indicator framework is limited to recognized refugees. Without measurements related to access to asylum and *non-refoulement*, many undocumented refugees and asylum-seekers will be excluded.
2. **Include indicators of physical and psychological integrity and safety.** None of the proposed indicators measures freedom from violence. However, physical and psychological integrity is a precondition for refugee self-reliance and, ultimately, for durable solutions. We recommend addressing this important omission.
3. **Focus on quality rather than quantity.** Most of the proposed indicators define an output measurement quantifiable in *numbers* of interventions, benefitting *numbers* of people. More outcome-oriented indicators are needed, for example measuring ability to access and enjoy rights without discrimination. As such, the GCR monitoring framework should align its outcomes and indicators to the SDGs, so that both refugees and host populations can be taken into account in national development plans.
4. **Add concrete targets.** Also in line with the SDGs, the GCR monitoring framework should propose concrete, time-bound targets to achieve objectives. At a minimum, the framework should provide guidance on how to develop national medium-term targets for refugees in line with SDG targets set for national populations. Data collected towards national targets could then be aggregated across countries to show global progress.
5. **Clarify definitions with reference to existing rights-based frameworks.** Several terms used in the proposed set of indicators may be interpreted differently if not well-defined. Contested meanings may question the credibility of reporting, thereby undermining accountability. For example, it is not commonly agreed when an individual return is safe, voluntary and *sustainable*; when an emergency response plan is *comprehensive*; or what *access* to education entails. Indicators should be based on established refugee rights; on a shared understanding of collective outcomes; and should draw on existing benchmarks for achieving solutions. We suggest producing a glossary defining all terms with reference to established rights-based frameworks and guidance.
6. **Identify data sources and responsibility for collecting data.** It is crucial that indicators provide guidance for how data will be collected and by whom. Without this clarity and transparency around data sources, indicators may simply not be reported on, or in a very inconsistent manner with weak accountability and limited effect. We recommend establishing overall guidelines for data collection and analysis in the next iteration of the indicator framework.
7. **Disaggregate by age, gender, disability, and length of displacement or duration of assistance provided.** None of the proposed indicators suggests disaggregation by these critical categories. However, doing so would ensure adequate sensitivity to the diverse needs and challenges of different groups of refugees and host populations. GCR indicators should reflect diversity.

8. Include indicators to measure the implementation of a multi-stakeholder and partnership approach, including refugees' access to decision-making. A comprehensive refugee response requires a multi-stakeholder approach, and therefore indicators to measure multi-stakeholder contributions. Measuring contributions of NGOs and refugees in national CRRF secretariats would be one example of an indicator on good, multi-stakeholder governance.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide inputs. NGOs look forward to further engaging in this process.

A detailed version of this statement is available on icvanetwork.org.

Thank you.