

Thematic Issues

Global Impact on Refugees

The 3RP will continue to advance implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) during the 2021-2022 cycle to ensure more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing and that host countries and communities receive the support they need and that refugees can lead productive lives. The four key objectives of the GCR are to:

- Ease the pressure on host countries
- Enhance refugee self-reliance
- Expand access to third-country solutions
- Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity

3RP countries will take part as needed in the three interconnected periodic review initiatives referenced in the GCR. This includes the indicator framework for the GCR which is mainstreamed into 3RP monitoring and reporting; progress towards implementing pledges and initiatives announced at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF); and the exercise on measuring the impact of hosting, protecting and assisting refugees. More information on each of these initiatives is available at <https://www.unhcr.org/the-global-compact-on-refugees.html>.

The conclusions of these periodic review initiatives, as well as the 3RP's own monitoring will be used to further strengthen the response, including driving joint humanitarian and development responses to long-term displacement, as well as contributing to normative discussions at the global level to inform similar responses in other settings.

One Refugee Approach

Each of the 3RP countries continues to host populations of other nationalities aside from Syrians or Palestine Refugees, including registered refugees, stateless persons and asylum seekers. As of December 2020⁵, this accounts for an estimated 715,000 people, including 320,000 persons in Turkey⁶, 17,000 in Lebanon, 89,000 in Jordan, 91,000 in Iraq and 198,000 in Egypt. As outlined in the Regional Needs Overview, many of this population face similar, or in some cases even greater, vulnerabilities than Syrian refugees.

While the 3RP was established in response to the Syria crisis and focuses on Syrian refugees, 3RP partners adopt and continue to advocate for an inclusive, “one refugee,” approach for all persons of concern, Syrian and non-Syrian alike, in all sectors and services. This approach seeks to reduce and ultimately eliminate differences in rights and services based on nationality in approaches to protection and assistance. Such an approach is in line with the Global Compact on Refugees and the Sustainable Development Goals’ vision of ‘leaving no one behind’.

While the financial requirements outlined in the 3RP are specific to Syrians, it is important to note that 3RP partners often provide protection, assistance, and services to other populations in their countries at the point of delivery in a non-discriminatory manner. There are also successful examples, particularly in the context of COVID-19, where existing national and local mechanisms and resources were extended to other nationalities. While some progress has been made on data and information on the needs of different population groups, more is required. During the 2021-2022 planning cycle, the 3RP will continue to look at how the one refugee approach or in some countries, inclusive approach, can be implemented, including in terms of moving towards an inclusive planning framework that covers all population groups. Furthermore, the 3RP continues to encourage and advocate that national planning initiatives generally target all population groups on an equal basis. While doing so, the 3RP recognizes that, as a nationally driven plan, the feasibility of such an approach needs to be assessed and carefully tailored to the country context.



3RP and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Governments of Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt and Iraq are all committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. However, the protracted Syrian crisis and COVID-19 unavoidably affects host countries’ ability to deliver on this ambitious agenda. In this regard, it is important to consider how the 3RP and country response plans can be leveraged to advance the implementation of the SDGs, tailored to national priorities.

Consistent with the 2030 Agenda’s overarching principle of leaving no one behind, and bringing together humanitarian and development approaches, the 3RP and country response plans strive to reduce vulnerabilities and provide sustainable opportunities and solutions for all women, men, boys and girls affected by the crisis. In line with other key implementation principles of the 2030 Agenda, the 3RP also fosters national ownership, fulfilment of human rights, multi-stakeholder partnerships and innovation, integrated approaches, as well as the development of strong accountability and monitoring frameworks. The 3RP aims at strengthening the resilience of refugees and host communities (“Resilience for All”), and as such offers an immediate contribution to the achievement of SDG Target 1.5: “By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations, and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters”.

Inherently, 3RP interventions contribute to a wide range of SDGs and targets. 3RP partners work together towards ensuring an effective and equitable access

of both refugees and host communities to education, health, sanitation and other key socio-economic goods, services and infrastructures as well as to sustainable livelihoods opportunities (SDG 1 to 11). In some countries, interventions already seek to address broader sustainable development challenges such as environmental and ecological vulnerabilities (SDG 15), while ongoing efforts to expand protection, strengthen capacities of national and local institutions, and promote social cohesion and stability in affected communities are of direct significance to SDG 16.

Looking ahead, the establishment of explicit linkages between the 3RP, country response plans and the SDGs, including integrating SDG-relevant indicators (disaggregated by sex, gender, age, affected populations and areas) in monitoring & evaluation frameworks would help leverage and track 3RP partners’ specific contributions to the implementation of the SDGs. In Jordan, for instance, the new cycle of the Jordan Response Plan already linked sectoral response areas to specific SDGs, whilst targets and indicators from the SDG framework and national strategies and plans have also been used to identify priority interventions.

In line with the 3RP key principles, such a process of alignment should be nationally owned and driven, aligned and at pace with host countries’ own efforts to integrate the SDGs in their national development plans and strategies and define their SDG priorities. This should be supported by renewed commitments to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus and bridge humanitarian and development funding streams to cover critical gaps in the delivery of ‘SDG services’ at national and local levels.

THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development



Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus

By bringing more than 270 humanitarian and development partners together under a single, coordinated response, the 3RP has helped put the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDP Nexus) into practice. 3RP partners strive to address both the immediate humanitarian needs and the long-term development goals of refugees, host communities and host countries, whilst building resilience for all.

By strengthening the national, municipal and local capacities of host countries, the plan seeks to boost local service delivery to meet the needs of vulnerable communities in an equitable manner and enhance the national ownership of the crisis response. In line with the Peace element of the Nexus, the 3RP also focuses on addressing tensions that can arise between Syrian refugees and the communities hosting them by developing conflict-sensitive programming to reduce underlying socioeconomic and political sensitivities, address root causes of instability and foster social cohesion. This is important both in contexts where tensions are already manifesting in view of COVID-19, but likewise as a preventative measure making the impact of our programs more effective and reducing potential future risks.

With the compounding impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its widespread ramifications on the lives, livelihoods, health systems and economies across the region, bridging divides between humanitarian and development action has become more critical than ever. The growing vulnerabilities and deprivations facing refugee and host communities and risks of misinformation and stigma associated with the pandemic also underscores paying a sustained attention to social cohesion across all 3RP interventions.

Through joint assessments, research and joint programming, 3RP humanitarian and development partners have been leveraging their comparative advantage to promote a holistic, integrated and more effective response to the crisis. For the 2021-2022 plan, 3RP partners remain committed to further strengthening the operationalization the Nexus in the Syria crisis response.

Turkey: WFP's "Kitchen of Hope" Syrian refugees and Turkish nationals are skilling up in a flagship project to boost the resilience of vulnerable communities.

Özlem in action during the Kitchen of Hope project's culinary training.

Programming at the HDP Nexus

- In Lebanon, UN Women, UNFPA, WHO and the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) have been collaborating on the "Gender Alert: Lebanon COVID-19 series". The publications explore how COVID-19 affects women's and men's health, their protection risks, economic prospects, and the roles women and men play in Lebanon's healthcare system. Each agency provides contributions to the study based on their comparative advantage and area of focus.

- In Turkey, UNDP, UNHCR and FAO worked together to foster enterprise development and inclusive business initiatives to employ Syrians under temporary protection and host community members. This included fostering enterprise development in a sustainable and long-term manner, developing the institutional capacity of local techno-parks and providing support to businesses, on the job trainings and skills development to both Syrians under temporary protection and host communities.

- In Jordan, WFP, FAO and IFAD are working together to create job opportunities for smallholder farmers, targeting both Syrians and Jordanians. The MADAD-funded project will focus on strengthening the capacity of national institutions to provide extension services to vulnerable and smallholder farmers and will also enable refugees and host communities to improve their access to finance services and family business investments.



Palestine Refugees from Syria

Palestinian refugees affected by the Syria crisis face worsening socio-economic conditions, increased vulnerability and depleted coping mechanisms. This includes over 438,000 Palestine refugees inside Syria, and more than 45,200 who are currently reported in Lebanon and Jordan, as well as an estimated 3,000 Egypt and under 1,000 in Gaza. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in increased hardship, as many Palestinian refugees rely on daily paid and informal employment opportunities which have been curtailed by the lockdowns and the other restrictive measures adopted to contain the spread of the virus.

Many Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) who have been able to reach Jordan and Lebanon face a difficult and marginalized existence due to their uncertain legal status and limited social protection mechanisms. In Lebanon, PRS are confronted with the impacts of multiple crisis, including the economic crisis that has been affecting the country since October 2019, coupled with the health and non-health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Effectively denied access to most public services and barred from working in several syndicated professions, many PRS in Lebanon are at risk of slipping into deeper poverty. In Jordan, PRS struggle with limited coping mechanisms and many continue to face protection challenges due to their precarious legal status. In recent months, the spread of COVID-19 and the related socio-economic consequences have exposed PRS in Jordan to further vulnerability and hardship.⁷

New Urban Agenda

The New Urban Agenda (NUA), sets a new global standard for sustainable urban development, which will help rethink how we plan, manage and live in cities. The Agenda provides guidance for achieving the SDGs. Through the NUA, world leaders are committing to ensure that all citizens have access to equal opportunities and face no discrimination and that the rights of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons are fully respected regardless of their migration status. As 95 per cent of Syrian refugees reside in urban areas, 3RP partners will be supporting national governments and local authorities implement the Agenda, with technical and financial partnerships and assistance from the donor community.

No Lost Generation

Following a challenging year due to the COVID19 pandemic and its secondary impact on the lives of the most vulnerable, as well as changes in the socio-political context, No Lost Generation (NLG) will strengthen its advocacy in 2021, making the case for a more visible and renewed drive for the plight of Syrian children.

NLG will advocate for specific changes in three key areas: increase inclusion and access to education services and interventions for Syrian children and adolescents, across all ages and modalities; sustainable solutions with and for Syrian adolescents and young people in the transition from education to employment, while addressing harmful coping mechanisms, especially child marriage and child labour; and the systematic and sustainable provision of mental health and psychosocial support for children, adolescents and young people in NLG countries, including clear strategies for the provision of MHPSS within traditional sectors.

NLG will prioritize those thematic advocacy messages while at the same time actively promoting sustained investments in national systems; continued engagement with donors and renewed advocacy and partnerships with national governments, private sector, NLG champions and regional and global initiatives; strengthened focus on increased evidence-based and solutions-oriented advocacy; addressing the specific needs and vulnerabilities girls face across different ages and services, including sexual and gender-based violence; promoting the active participation of adolescents and young people across all NLG interventions; and promoting the use of innovation across all priorities.

