



# OECD'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO BURDEN AND RESPONSIBILITY SHARING FOR HOSTING THE WORLD'S REFUGEES

## The collective response to forced displacement is gaining momentum

The number of refugees at the end of 2018, estimated at 25.9 million, is the highest ever recorded. In total, over 70 million people were forcibly displaced by the end of 2018, including internally displaced people and asylum seekers. Up to 80% of refugees remain in countries neighbouring their country of origin.

Refugee situations are context-specific, bringing together large movements of people, significant vulnerabilities and fragilities and frequently, a disrupted economic and financing landscape.

Large scale refugee situations begin in crisis, but they endure to become long-term phenomena, requiring a development response. By the end of 2018, 78 per cent of all refugees - 15.9 million - were living in protracted situations of more than five years. Cycles of displacement are common and refugees often reside in urban areas or in the poorest areas of host countries.

Development, humanitarian and peace actors have taken important steps to advance global refugee policies and collective responses, through the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). In 2019, the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) adopted the DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus in developing countries, which also applies in refugee situations.

The OECD is committed to a bold, global and comprehensive policy response that demonstrates responsibility sharing with hosting the world's refugees.

## Recent OECD publications on refugee situations

### *Financing for Refugee Situations (Policy Paper, 2019)*

The OECD Policy Paper on "Financing for Refugee Situations" highlights good practices and challenges around the "right" financing for refugee situations. This involves bringing together international and national, public and private development finance

flows to ensure the right amount of finance at the right time, sequenced over time and promoting the right incentives in refugee situations. The OECD conducted four country studies in different refugee situations – the Central African Republic, Colombia, Lebanon and Uganda – to provide analysis on the "right financing" in development contexts. The case studies examined both refugee hosting countries and countries of origin in different geographic regions at different income levels and priority areas.

### *Financing Refugee Hosting Contexts (Survey, 2018)*

To better target financing where it is most needed, the OECD in partnership with UNHCR, conducted a survey of DAC members providing aggregate data on Official Development Assistance (ODA) going to programmes and projects benefitting refugees and host communities. It found that in 2015-2017, members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) contributed a total of almost USD 26 billion to these programmes. The survey outlines contributions that the OECD's DAC are making to the sharing of responsibilities, including through highlighting trends in ODA, plans for future funding and non-funding efforts. It also examines strengths and challenges of current donor practices, and recommends a set of priorities to guide future donor support.

### *UNHCR-OECD Joint Action Plan on Engaging with Employers in the Hiring of Refugees (Publication, 2018)*

To help host countries benefit from the skills and talents of refugees and help refugees better integrate into their new societies, the OECD and UNHCR have developed an innovative Action Plan to expand employment opportunities for refugees. The plan identifies the challenges, opportunities and best practices in the integration of refugees to the labour market and offers a list of concrete actions to support the successful employment of refugees. It draws on extensive consultations with those who play a key role in promoting the integration of refugees in local and national labour markets - employers and their employers and their associations, trade unions, relevant civil society organisations – as well as refugees themselves. The Action Plan has been translated into several languages and was presented in almost 30 countries around the globe.

## Ready to Help? Improving Resilience of Integration Systems for Refugees and other Vulnerable Migrants (Publication, 2019).

The Report is the output of two years of work across the OECD following the increase in demand for protection in the mid-2010s. It looks at ways to improve the resilience of systems to deal with the unexpected arrival of large inflows of refugees and other vulnerable migrants. It provides an overview of the recent flows of migrants seeking protection, discusses their expected economic impact, and surveys the multilateral response. It examines the process of integrating refugees and other vulnerable migrants, in terms of their economic and social outcomes, as well as specific factors of vulnerability. It provides a comprehensive assessment of the transition policies in place to support their livelihood in destination and transit countries, as well as in origin countries upon return. Finally, the report tackles issues of anticipation, monitoring and reacting, examining the role of early warning mechanisms and the challenge of improving information so as to better monitor integration outcomes and frame policies.

## Collecting data to support comprehensive refugee responses and measuring progress against Global Compact on Refugees' objectives

International statistics in support of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) need to include statistics on financial support to programmes and projects benefitting refugees, persons in refugee like situations and host communities. This information contributes to (i) effective programming, (ii) measuring progress achieved against the four GCR objectives and (iii) addressing the impact of large refugee movements on host countries.

In support of GCR objectives, the OECD is committed to provide data on a regular basis for six indicators of the Global Compact on Refugees' Indicator Framework<sup>1</sup>. These include:

- **Non-humanitarian complementary pathways for persons with international protection** including education, labour mobility and family reunification. As part of the *UNHCR Three-Year Strategy (2019-2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways* and more specifically of its Goal 2 “how to advance complementary pathways”, the OECD and UNHCR work together to collect and analyse data on the use of complementary pathways as a means to strengthen the evidence base for increasing the accessibility and predictability of these pathways. A joint UNHCR-OECD report *Safe Pathways for Refugees* was published in 2018 and will be issued every two years.
- **In-donor refugee costs in DAC Member Countries:** Official sector expenditures for the sustenance of refugees in donor countries can be counted as ODA during the first twelve months of their stay.
- **ODA going to projects and programmes benefitting refugees and host communities in developing countries:** The survey of DAC members - “Financing Refugee-Hosting Contexts” – will be repeated every two years and its methodology reviewed in line with GCR objectives, and based on lessons learned from the initial 2018 survey.
- **Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD):** The TOSSD framework developed by the International Task Force for which the OECD serves as the Secretariat will provide the opportunity to expand the collection of data on financial support to refugees and host communities to a wider range of development cooperation providers. TOSSD measures resources provided by both emerging and traditional providers as well as multilateral institutions, including through South-South and triangular co-operation. TOSSD will provide information on financial and in-kind resources going to projects and programmes benefitting refugees, persons in refugee-like situations and host communities in hosting countries and countries of origin. It also includes support to refugees returning voluntarily and in safety and dignity to their countries of origin.

OECD also contributes to improving knowledge and data on the labour market integration of refugees. The OECD regularly collects statistics on the labour market integration of refugees – through national and sub-regional administrative data or surveys – and has provided many research studies on the topic over the last four years. The OECD is also involved in the UN Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics, which established the 2018 UN/Eurostat International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics. The OECD expertise in the measurement of refugee integration is based on its broad experience in the data collection of indicators of immigrant integration. From 2012 onwards, the organisation releases every three years the OECD/EC joint publication *Settling in*, which presents a comprehensive international comparison across all EU and OECD countries - as well as selected G20 countries - of the integration outcomes of immigrants and their children, using 74 indicators on labour market, skills, living conditions, civic engagement and social integration.

1. Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Framework: <https://www.unhcr.org/5cf907854>. The OECD will contribute to indicators 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 3.2.1, 4.1.1 and 4.1.2.