



Business Refugee Action Statement on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Securing SDG progress and inclusion for refugees

'As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind... we wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. And we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first.'¹

The success of the Global Goals depend upon ensuring meaningful progress for everyone. Yet, refugees are already being left behind. The majority of refugee hosting countries are fragile and conflict affected states² and research shows that up to four in five are off track to meet the SDGs.³ Because refugees are not counted in national surveys or included in SDG progress reports, they are neglected in the global pursuit of the goals. By taking urgent action now, we can ensure that no one is left behind.

Business has a key role to play in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs for refugees. In countries affected by crisis businesses can create economic opportunities and bring knowledge, resources, funding, capacity and infrastructure. When numbers of refugees increase in stable contexts, businesses can contribute to their economic inclusion by providing employment and training opportunities.

We, the undersigned, recognise this role of business in improving the lives of refugees. To this end, we have committed to measures such as: hiring refugees; integrating refugees into core business activities; developing vital goods and services; providing investment and funding for humanitarian response and livelihoods; and building strong, collaborative partnerships to benefit refugees.

In order for businesses to build on their current efforts, and to accelerate progress and refugee inclusion in the SDGs, we call on governments to:

1) Align the Global Compact on Refugees to the SDGs by:

- pledging support towards refugee livelihoods and women's economic empowerment at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019, marking one year since the agreement on the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).

2) Measure refugee progress towards the SDGs by:

- including refugees in national and sectoral plans, as well as SDG progress reports (Voluntary National Reviews).
- ensuring indicators designed to measure GCR progress are aligned to SDG indicators.

3) Create and support a policy environment open to refugee employment and economic inclusion by:

- enabling entrepreneurship and permitting labour market access and the right to work, thereby increasing refugees' access to decent work and self-reliance.
- prioritising and resourcing refugee women's economic empowerment as a vital step towards achieving gender equality and inclusive economic growth.

¹ A/RES/70/1 – Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations.

² Overseas Development Institute & the International Rescue Committee (2018) 'SDG Progress: Fragility, crisis and leaving no-one behind'.

³ Or 82% are either off track or lack the data for an assessment of progress. Overseas Development Institute & the International Rescue Committee (2018) 'SDG Progress: Fragility, crisis and leaving no-one behind'.

Business takes a stand for refugees

We, the undersigned, recognise the role of business in improving the lives of refugees and call on governments to promote refugee inclusion in the Sustainable Development Goals.

