



REPUBLIC OF RWANDA
MINISTRY IN CHARGE OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

**GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM: RWANDA'S 2019 PLEDGES ON
REFUGEES**

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|--------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. EDUCATION | 2. JOBS AND LIVELIHOOD | 3. ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT | 4. PROTECTION & SOLUTIONS | 5. HEALTH |
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Referring to focus areas of the Global Refugee Forum held in Geneva in December 2019 and in line with the key objectives of the Global Compact on refugee to ease the burden of countries hosting refugees, The Government of Rwanda presented the following pledges which will need contributions from different stakeholders to be able to achieve them.

1. Education:

- Improve the quality of education by upgrading school infrastructure in refugee hosting districts, equipping them and allocating scholastic materials to accommodate refugees and the host community.
- Expand technical and vocational education and training to benefit 30 % of refugees and host communities by constructing or upgrading TVET infrastructure in refugee hosting districts, equipping them, and allocating scholastic materials.

Pledge definition:

The Government of Rwanda considers education as key tool to be used towards refugee self-reliance and durable solutions. Education is articulated in the Government of Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation (2017-2024) as a tool for social and economic transformation.

The Government of Rwanda in 2016 pledged to integrate refugee students into Rwanda National Education System and has ensured that more than 85% of refugees had access to primary and secondary education alongside their hosts.

Along the same lines, the Government of Rwanda in 2019 pledges to focus on enhancing the capacity, quality, and inclusiveness of national education systems to facilitate the access of refugee and host community children (both girls and boys), adolescents, and youth to primary, secondary education. Rwanda further commits to ensure refugee access to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) with an aim to provide knowledge and skills for employment as it is recognized to be a crucial vehicle for social equity, inclusion and sustainable development.

This will be done by upgrading the schools that host refugees and host community and increasing the number of classrooms, constructing other infrastructures, providing sufficient scholastic materials, training teachers for primary, secondary schools. With respect to TVET the focus will be on introducing new and innovative subjects based driven by the market demand in the local and national labor market.

2. Jobs and Livelihood

a) Agriculture sector

- Promote joint agriculture projects between refugees and host community households to create jobs, increase agricultural production paving a way to self-reliance;
- Expand tea plantations and improve necessary infrastructure that increase job opportunities for refugees and host communities; at least 30% of new job opportunities will target refugees.

Pledge definition:

Provision of jobs to refugees can foster inclusive economic growth for host communities and refugees and this contributes to self-reliance. Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation (2017 -2024) envisages a globally competitive knowledge based economy through, among other strategies, creation of decent and productive jobs. In line with the Strategic Plan for Refugees Inclusion (2019-2023), the Government of Rwanda, humanitarian and development partners have been providing livelihoods interventions aimed at self-reliance and graduation off humanitarian assistance.

It is in this context that the Government of Rwanda pledges to work with different stakeholders to involve refugees in agriculture related activities.

This pledge will open doors to donors and private sector enterprises to invest in joint agriculture project by increasing hectares of arable land around refugee camps and employ refugees in this sector.

This pledge is aiming but not limited at facilitating refugees to join host community in cultivating marshland and working in tea plantations. The target is to create new jobs connected to joint agriculture project and up to 30% and beyond of those jobs will target refugees.

b) Youth empowerment

Promote refugee **youth empowerment** through Youth Connekt or other initiatives aiming at socio economic transformation of youth. 100% of refugee youth, who meet the competitive criteria for Youth Connekt, will have access to this national innovative business-enterprise initiative and best business ideas will be awarded based on available resources.

Pledge definition:

The Government of Rwanda, through MINEMA and UNHCR, launched a joint strategy for Economic inclusion of refugees that aims to promote self-reliance of refugees. The aim of the strategy is to support refugees and neighboring communities to be able to fulfil their productive potential as self-reliant members of Rwandan society who contribute to economic development of their host districts. Because a large number of refugees are youth; the Government of Rwanda pledges to equip young refugee entrepreneurs with a strong foundation in basic business skills, including finance, accounting, marketing, and communications, motivate and inspire them to be pioneers of change in their respective communities and camps.

It is aiming also at exposing youth refugee entrepreneurs to a strong local support network of actors in entrepreneurship, including mentors, peers, colleagues, and more importantly experts/mentors to boost entrepreneurship and innovation spirit among them

3. Energy, infrastructure and Environment:

- Undertake environmental protection and rehabilitation in refugee hosting areas.
- Build resilient refugee settlements that promote conscious land use and reduce adverse impact on environment
- Ensure sustainable use of natural resources by providing clean and renewable energy solutions in refugee and host community households, in order to discourage the use of firewood.

Pledge definition:

The Government of Rwanda pledges to put in place mechanisms and measures to protect the environment in and around refugee camps in the country. Rwanda's Policy on Environmental and Climate Change (2019) reiterates the GoR's intent to pursue a green growth approach to development. In the same vein, the Energy Sector Strategic Plan (2018/19 -2023) underscores the need for clean, renewable energy sources to fuel the journey towards sustainable development

This pledge aims to contribute to the overall national goal of protecting the environment and the conservation and management of natural resources. Through this pledge the lands in and around refugee camps will be protected from soil erosion and degradation. It will help to reduce the pressure on the environment, specifically on the forests, in and around the camps by reforestation; reparation of ravines; better water management is also a priority.

This pledge also helps the government and its stakeholders to think about resilient refugee settlements that promote conscious land use and reduce adverse impacts on environment.

This pledge will also help the Government of Rwanda to promote the use of clean and renewable energy. It is expected to bring in projects that will help to decrease the volume and demand for use of firewood among households in the refugee camps by switching to alternative sources of energy and increasing environmental awareness and education among refugees and host communities

4. Protection& Solutions

- Build an effective and efficient registration documentation system including birth and marriage registration and the recognition of the legal status of displaced persons and their families.

Pledge definition:

The Government of Rwanda guarantees the protection of all refugees hosted on Rwandan territory and has been actively implementing to its commitment made at the Leader's Summit in 2016, to provide identity cards to all refugees on the territory. Documentation is critical to access services. In this context, it pledges to ensure that 100% of new born refugee babies are registered on time as an effective and efficient birth registration system is critical both as a fundamental right and is a strong mechanism to promoting the wellbeing of children and protect them against all forms of violence and deprivation.

The Government of Rwanda also pledges to promote legal marriage among refugees by ensuring that those in need have access to civil registration services through digital technology and or/mobile services.

5. Health

Through joint efforts with UNHCR and other partners, necessary resources will be mobilized to include refugees in the national program for viral hepatitis infection treatment to ensure HCV elimination by 2024 in Rwanda

Pledge definition:

In December 2018, Rwanda announced the country's firm decision to eliminate viral Hepatitis C (HCV) by 2024. By doing so, Rwanda will become the first country in the Sub Saharan region to eliminate Hepatitis C, much ahead of WHO's recommendation to eliminate Hepatitis C worldwide by 2030. It is in this context that the GoR pledges to collaborate with UNHCR and other partners to mobilize resources to enable refugees to be included in national program for viral hepatitis infection treatment