## See the source image

## Global Compact for Refugees

ECOWAS Implementation Action **Plan 2023-2026**

**Version: 06/22/2022**

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# Acronyms

**CEMAC** Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa

**CPF** **Conflict Prevention** Framework

**ECOWAS** Economic Community of West African States

PRC – ECOWAS Permanent Representative Committee

**GCR** Global Compact for Refugees

**GRF** Global Refugee Forum

**HLSS** High-level Segment on Statelessness

**IDPs** Internally Displaced People

**MS** Member States

**UNHCR** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

# Operational and Institutional Context

At the end of 2021, the number of refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) hosted by countries in this region respectively amounted to 518.397 and 5.201.131[[1]](#footnote-2). Insecurity, violent extremism, and community conflicts remained the key drivers of forced displacement, and the activities of non-State armed groups in the central Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin continued to threaten lives and hamper humanitarian access. The negative effects of climate change were increasingly visible across the region, and tensions over resources – especially water – fuelled violence in some locations. The rate of displacement has doubled in the first quarter of 2022 compared to 2021, with a notable spike in displacement in Burkina Faso and in Mali as people seek to escape the expanding reach of non-state armed groups. Increasing numbers of displaced people are moving southward towards coastal countries. These displaced persons and refugees often face risks that boil down to threats, rights violations, vulnerability, lack of protection services, limited access to humanitarian aid and social tensions with local communities.

The protection of refugees in the ECOWAS region has, historically, been guided by the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951), the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (1969), ECOWAS Common Approach on migration (2008), ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy (2012), and national legislative instruments on refugees. The resolution on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which affirms the global compact on refugees (as contained in A/73/12 (Part II)) was adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2018 (A/RES/73/151). The resolution underscores the importance of the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) as a representation of political will and the ambition to operationalize the principle of burden- and responsibility-sharing, to mobilize the international community as a whole, and to galvanize action for an improved response to refugee situations.

The objectives of the GCR are to: (i) ease pressures on host countries; (ii) enhance refugee self-reliance; (iii) expand access to third country solutions; and (iv) support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity. The global compact seeks to achieve these four interlinked and interdependent objectives through the mobilization of political will, a broadened base of support, and arrangements that facilitate more equitable, sustained, and predictable contributions among States and other relevant stakeholders.

Since 2018, the ECOWAS Commission and Member States have been working with the UNHCR to operationalise the GCR, which seeks to ensure enhanced protection of refugees. During the 2019 High-level Segment on Statelessness (HLS) and the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), ECOWAS and Member States made pledges on the protection of refugees in line with GCR. The operationalisation of the GCR was recommended by the ECOWAS Permanent Representative Committee (PRC), during the 2019 Biennial ECOWAS Ambassadors’ retreat in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. In December 2020, UNHCR, ECOWAS and the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) organised a workshop to take stock of actions needed to operationalize the over 140 GCR pledges recorded for the CEMAC and ECOWAS region. During the 2021 Biennial ECOWAS Ambassador’s retreat on the GCR that took place in Abuja Nigeria, on 17-18 May 2021, the ECOWAS PRC strongly supported the development of a GCR Action Plan to ensure protection of refugees in the ECOWAS region. ECOWAS, in fulfilment of one of its pledges, has also been playing a coordinating role in developing a four-year GCR plan of Action.

# Approach of the Action Plan

This plan, developed under the UNHCR-ECOWAS partnership framework, outlines strategies that Member States, will implement to translate the arrangements set out in the GCR into action. Recognizing the primary responsibility and sovereignty of States, a multi-stakeholder and partnership approach will be pursued, in line with relevant legal frameworks and in close coordination with national institutions.

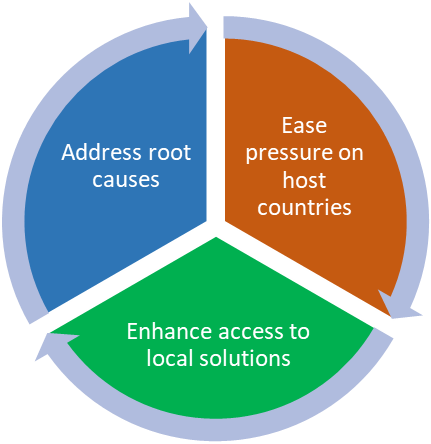
In addition to the exercise of its mandate responsibilities, ECOWAS will play a supportive and catalytic role. The implementation of the pledges of the ECOWAS Commission and its Members States within the framework of the GCR thus translates into three types of efforts that together aim at strengthening regional integration of the management of forced displacement: to address root causes of forced displacement; to ease pressure on host countries; and to enhance access of refugees and IDPs to local solutions.

While these three types of efforts will structure the four-year action plan as strategic objectives, the actions will also be divided according to: (i) what ECOWAS will do to implement its own pledges; (ii) what ECOWAS will do to support the implementation of the pledges of its Member States (MS); and (iii) what the Member States will do to implement their own pledges. The figure below illustrates the approach of the action plan.

* **ECOWAS actions to implement its own pledges**
* **ECOWAS’ actions to support the implementation of the pledges by its Member States**
* **Member States’ actions to implement their own pledges**



**Regional Integration of forced displacement management**



**ECOWAS approach to implement the GRF pledges**

# Outcome matrix

In this line with this approach, the action plan will be structured according to both the three strategic objectives and the three respective responsibilities of the Commission and the Member States. 13 expected strategic outcomes have been identified to implement the GCR. The figure below illustrates the outcome matrix that frames the whole action plan.

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|  | Strategic objectives | | |
| A. **Address root causes of forced displacement** | B. **Ease pressure on host countries** | C. **Enhance access of refugees and IDPs to local solutions** |
| ***Responsibility*** | **Strategic outcomes** | | |
| ***ECOWAS Commission’s responsibility to implement its pledges*** | **A.1** Policy dialogue on peace and conflict resolution is sustained  **A.2** ECOWAS capacity to mitigate the risk of conflict outbreak is sustained | **B.1** The coordination of the implementation of the GCR is enhanced at regional level | **C.1** Country efforts to improve the normative frameworks related to forced displacement are supported |
| ***ECOWAS Commission’s support to MS pledges’ implementation*** | **A.3** MS’ capacities to mitigate the risk of conflict outbreak are sustained  **A.4** MS’ capacities to address root causes in a holistic approach are sustained | **B.2** The coordination of the implementation of the GCR at country level is supported  **B.3** Pledge implementation efforts of the pledging entities for the ECOWAS region are encouraged | **C.2** MS’ initiatives to support local solutions for refugees and IDPs are encouraged |
| ***MS’ responsibility to implement their own pledges*** | **A.5** Country-level and local drivers of peace and social cohesion are sustained | **B.4** The potential of leverage of the country pledges is sustained | **C.3** Key country normative frameworks related to forced displacement are improved  **C.4** Access to local solutions and opportunities for refugees, IDPs and returnees is reinforced |

For each strategic objective, the related expected outcomes will guide the interventions of ECOWAS and its Members States. The following sections outline those interventions by strategic objective, with indicators and timeline. The detailed calendar is outline in the last section of the report.

# Strategic Objective A: To address the root causes of forced displacement

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| --- | --- |
| **ECOWAS related pledge** | |
| GRF-00177 | Tackle root causes of displacement in West Africa |
| **ECOWAS Member States’ key related pledge** | |
| GRF-00777 | Nigeria – Continue playing an active and constructive role in regional and sub-regional efforts to address the root causes of displacement |

ECOWAS acknowledges the fact that efforts to protect forcibly displaced persons should be accompanied by comprehensive strategies to address the root causes of forced displacement. While forced movements, in the ECOWAS region, during the 1990s and early 2000s were largely caused by political conflicts, contemporary forced displacement is largely driven by conflicts caused by governance issues, violent extremism, community tensions, and political conflicts. ECOWAS has, over the years, adopted various strategies to prevent conflicts and facilitate peacebuilding. **ECOWAS**Member States **have, since 2008, adopted the Conflict Prevention** Framework (CPF) to address intractable and emerging conflicts.

ECOWAS Member States further acknowledge the fact that environmental degradation, climate change and natural disasters cause crop failure, food insecurity and poverty, which contribute to conflict and forced displacement, especially from the Sahel region. Ambassadors and High Commissioners of ECOWAS Member States, during the retreat held on 16th-17 April 2021 in Nigeria, identified good governance and poverty reduction as some of the mechanisms to deal with these root causes of forced displacement.

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| A. **Address root causes of forced displacement** | | Indicator | Timeframe |
| ECOWAS Commission’s responsibility to implement its pledge | | | |
| **Outcome A.1** | **Policy dialogue on peace and conflict resolution is sustained** | % of conflict situations tackled by ECOWAS Commission | 2026 |
| Output A.1.1 | Commission members are engaged on socio-political issues in the ECOWAS region | # of exchange sessions | 2023-2026 |
| *Activity A.1.1.1* | *Organize regular exchange sessions involving interventions from regional academicians and researchers* | | |
| **Outcome A.2** | **ECOWAS capacity to mitigate the risk of conflict outbreak is sustained** | Existence of updated ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework | 2026 |
| Output A.2.1 | ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework is reviewed and adapted to the evolution of the contexts | # of technical sessions | 2023-2026 |
| *Activity A.2.1.1* | *Organize technical sessions of review of ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework* | | |
| *Activity A.2.1.2* | *Propose amendments of the Framework for possible adoption* | | |
| ECOWAS Commission’s support to MS pledges’ implementation | | | |
| **Outcome A.3** | **MS’ capacities to mitigate the risk of conflict outbreak are sustained** | % of conflict triggers that are mitigated | 2026 |
| Output A.3.1 | MS’ capacities to implement the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework are strengthened | # of workshops and trainings | 2023-2026 |
| *Activity A.3.1.1* | *Organise regular advocacy workshops on good governance for government officials* | | |
| *Activity A.3.1.2* | *Design and organize training programmes on the implementation of ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework* | | |
| **Outcome A.4** | **MS’ capacities to address root causes in a holistic approach are sustained** | # of effective country nexus coordination mechanisms | 2026 |
| Output A.4.1 | MS’ technical capacities to implement the peace – humanitarian – development nexus are strengthened | # of exchange sessions | 2023-2026 |
| *Activity A.4.1.1* | *Design and organize exchange sessions with government officials and international partners on the nexus approach* | | |
| MS’ responsibility to implement their own pledges | | | |
| **Outcome A.5** | **Country-level and local drivers of peace and social cohesion are sustained** | % of locally resolved conflicts | 2026 |
| Output A.5.1 | Traditional capacities of mediation, conflict prevention and peace resolution are strengthened | % of community committees engaged in peace resolution | 2023-2026 |
| *Activity A.5.1.1* | *Carry out a baseline study of the local / community-based drivers / initiatives of peace and social cohesion* | | |
| *Activity A.5.1.2* | *Organize peace promotion awareness-raising campaigns for and with religious and traditional leaders* | | |
| *Activity A.5.1.3* | *Financially and technically support the existing community conflict management committees* | | |
| Output A.5.2 | Good governance and democracy are promoted at country level | # of exchange sessions with political parties | 2023-2026 |
| *Activity A.5.2.1* | *Organize regular exchange sessions with political parties and civil society organizations to promote democracy and fair elections* | | |

# Strategic Objective B: To ease pressure on host countries

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| **ECOWAS related pledge** | |
| GRF-00176 | Coordinate Regional Adoption and Implementation of Refugee and IDP Strategies |

ECOWAS Member States that receive and host refugees, often for extended periods, make an immense contribution from their own limited resources to the collective good, and to the cause of humanity. In ECOWAS region, most refugees live in protracted situations, often countries facing their own economic and development challenges. Assisting both host countries and host communities on the one hand and refugees on the other, requires the mobilization of a wider range of local, national and international stakeholders in a coordinated and systematic manner. Humanitarian and development actors can best assist host countries and host communities, and ensure complementarity of their efforts, through close coordination with national institutions. National leadership is essential in coordinating and facilitating the different contributions and ensure efficient and effective use of resources. National arrangements serve the purpose of planning and facilitation/coordination of efforts and derive their importance from the centrality of national leadership in applying comprehensive responses.

Local authorities and other local actors in both urban and rural settings, including local community leaders and traditional community governance institutions, are often first responders to large-scale refugee situations, and among the actors that experience the most significant impact over the medium term. In consultation with national authorities and in respect of relevant legal frameworks, support by the international community as a whole may be provided to strengthen institutional capacities, infrastructure and accommodation at local level, including through funding and capacity development where appropriate.

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| B. **Ease pressure on host countries** | | Indicator | Timeframe |
| ECOWAS Commission’s responsibility to implement its pledge | | | |
| **Outcome B.1** | **The coordination of the implementation of the GCR is enhanced at regional level** | Existence of the 4-year Plan of Action | 2023 |
| Output B.1.1 | A 4-year Plan of Action of GCR implementation is designed and adopted | Occurrence of the Ministerial Meeting | 2023 |
| *Activity B.1.1.1* | *Develop the plan of Action* | | |
| *Activity B.1.1.2* | *Adopt the Plan of Action in a Ministerial Meeting* | | |
| ECOWAS Commission’s support to MS pledges’ implementation | | | |
| **Outcome B.2** | **The coordination of the implementation of the GCR at country level is supported** | % of national arrangements that improved their coordination practices | 2023 |
| Output B.2.1 | Best practices of government-led arrangements are shared among MS | # of exchange sessions | 2023 |
| *Activity B.2.1.1* | *Carry out a baseline study on the current national arrangements for coordinated comprehensive responses to refugee situations* | | |
| *Activity B.2.1.2* | *Organize sessions of exchange on the best coordination practices for government officials and national arrangements’ focal points* | | |
| **Outcome B.3** | **Pledge implementation efforts of the pledging entities for the ECOWAS region are encouraged** | % of pledges with updated progress | 2026 |
| Output B.3.1 | Implementation progress of the MS’ pledges is monitored at regional level | # of pledges for which progress in implementation is reported  Existence of mid-term review  Existence of final review | 2024-2026 |
| *Activity B.3.1.1* | *Follow up and ensure that pledging entities report and update on the GRF pledges on the GCR Dashboard on a biannual basis* | | |
| *Activity B.3.1.2* | *Undertake a mid-term review/stocktake of the action plan achievements, gaps and ways forward* | | |
| *Activity B.3.1.3* | *Review achievements at the end of the Plan time period (2024-2025), to at learnt lessons to be, good practices and ways forward* | | |
| MS’ responsibility to implement their own pledges | | | |
| **Outcome B.4** | **The potential of leverage of the country pledges is sustained** | # of pledges that made substantial progress | 2023 |
| Output B.4.1 | Country and international pledges are matched and coordinated responses are improved | % of ECOWAS countries having adopted a specific country pledge mobilization strategy | 2023 |
| *Activity B.4.1.1* | *Carry out a pledge matching exercise, linking country pledges to pledges from the humanitarian, development, and private donors* | | |
| *Activity B.4.1.2* | *Design and implement a country-specific pledge mobilization strategy based on the matching exercise* | | |
| *Activity B.4.1.3* | *Report the progress of the country pledges in the GCR Dashboard* | | |

# Strategic Objective C: To enhance access to local solutions for refugees and IDPs

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| **ECOWAS related pledges** | |
| GRF-00176 | Coordinate Regional Adoption and Implementation of Refugee and IDP Strategies  “Continue the promotion of the adoption, domestication and implementation of the AU Kampala Convention and other normative frameworks having to do with displacement through high-level sensitization and advocacy and support to legislative processes in Member States”  “Renew its commitment to encourage Member States to adopt Local Integration (LI) as a durable solution to refugee issues” |
| GRF-00178 | Support the Enhancement of Solutions  “Mainstream across its institutions, the principal objectives of GRC in its approach to response and finding solutions to refugee and internal displacement issues and seeks to bolster the achievements of resilience, promote education and youth employment for the most vulnerable segments of the populations by mobilizing resources and implementing appropriate programmes to assist Member State's institutions.” |
| **ECOWAS Member States’ key related pledges** | |
| GRF-00319 | Benin - L’Amélioration des conditions de l’autosuffisance |
| GRF-00353 | Burkina Faso - Promouvoir les solutions locales |
| GRF-01552 | Côte d’Ivoire - Délivrance de la carte de la couverture maladie universelle aux refugies |
| GRF-01645 | Ghana - Issue the Ghana Card (National Biometric Identity Cards) to Refugees |
| GRF-01646 | Ghana - Commits to finding solutions for Refugees through an alternative legal status that promotes durable local integration |
| GRF-00596 | Guinea - Faciliter l'acquisition des documents biométriques (Cartes d'Identité de réfugié, Titres de voyage, etc.) et autres documents à tous les réfugiés à l'horizon 2022 |
| GRF-00597 | Guinea - Faciliter l'inclusion socio-économique des jeunes et femmes réfugiés dans les programmes et projets nationaux à l'horizon 2024 |
| GRF-00569 | Liberia - Access to land for 5,000 Ivorian refugees for shelter and livelihoods in Liberia as part of solutions’ strategy |
| GRF-00633 | Mali - Elargir l'accès aux solutions durables |
| GRF-00637 | Mali - Intégration des réfugiés dans les plans nationaux |
| GRF-00638 | Mali - Réforme du cadre normatif |
| GRF-00762 | Niger - Assurer l'accès légal au foncier à 40,000 réfugiés au sein de zones d'habitation mixtes (hôtes et réfugiés) |
| GRF-00778 | Nigeria - Ensure the availability and access to durable solutions for refugees and IDPs |
| GRF-00779 | Nigeria - Include refugees, IDPs, returnees and their host communities in National Government development plans |
| GRF-00945 | Senegal - Pledge in the Area of Education (3) |
| GRF-00946 | Senegal - Pledge in the Area of Health (2) |
| GRF-00948 | Senegal - Pledge in the Area of Jobs and Livelihoods (4) |
|  | Cote d`Ivoire, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Republic of Guinea, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso pledged to domesticate the 1954 Convention on the status of stateless persons, trough a domestic regime establishing Statelessness Determination Procedures and granting rights to stateless individuals |

While voluntary repatriation remains the preferred solution in most refugee situations, it is also important to support countries who elect to resolve a refugee situation locally. Local integration is a sovereign decision and an option to be exercised by States guided by their treaty obligations and human rights principles. In addition to local integration - where refugees find a durable solution to their plight - some host countries may elect to provide other local solutions to refugees. Such solutions entail interim legal stay, including to facilitate the appropriate economic, social and cultural inclusion of refugees, and are provided without prejudice to eventual durable solutions that may become available.

**Asylum and Protection of IDPs**

With the recent history of massive displacement in West Africa and the significant deterioration in West African economies through the 1980s,1990s to date, the ECOWAS Member States have showed unprecedented hospitality to displaced populations in opening their borders, providing protection and solutions. However, in the ECOWAS region, one country do not have any asylum law in force. A total of 10 reform or adoption processes are underway at various stages across the region. Such frameworks are essential to regulate access to asylum as well as the rights and obligations of asylum-seekers and refugees in a transparent and predictable manner. Moreover, five countries never ratified or acceded to the African Union convention for the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons in Africa (Kampala Convention). Only one country domesticated the Convention through the adoption of a dedicated law. Such legal frameworks are crucial to regulate the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in a transparent and predictable manner. ECOWAS will then support the necessary reforms of normative frameworks. With UNHCR, ECOWAS seeks to adopt a directive providing common minimum standards on refugee protection and solutions within ECOWAS, dealing with the entire protection cycle, from the entry on the territory of asylum to the search for a durable solution.

**Socio economic inclusion**

In exercising work rights, refugees can bring new skills, goods and services to host countries, filling labour and skills shortages or gaps in local markets and benefiting refugee as well as host communities through diversification, growth and prosperity. Commercial activities of refugees help create job opportunities for other refugees as well as locals. Access to legal work improves the stability and safety of communities as it minimizes reliance or recourse to negative coping strategies. Working allows for more interaction between refugees and host communities and helps foster peaceful coexistence. Working also prepares refugees for longer- term solutions, whether that they return to their countries of origin, resettle in third countries or locally integrate in the country of stay. live in dignity, progressively attain greater self-reliance, and are able to actively participate in the social and economic life of host countries through access to economic opportunities on par with host populations. Support will then be provided for programmes fostering respect and good relations and to facilitate access to livelihood opportunities for integrating refugees, including through analysis of economies in refugee hosting areas, taking into account local labour market assessments and skills profiles, including of women and young adults. Investments in areas where refugees will settle, in support of national development plans and strategies and in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, will be actively promoted.

In line with national health care laws, policies and plans, and in support of host countries, States and relevant stakeholders will contribute resources and expertise to expand and enhance the quality of national health systems to facilitate access by refugees and host communities, including women and girls; children, adolescents and youth; older persons; those with chronic illnesses, including tuberculosis and HIV; survivors of trafficking in persons, torture, trauma or violence, including sexual and gender-based violence; and persons with disabilities.

Despite the absence of legal barriers to refugee children's access to the national education systems of their countries of asylum in the region, forcibly displaced communities still face significant challenges in accessing quality early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary education, technical and vocational training, and overall, lifelong learning opportunities. The security situation across the region has been evolving in an alarming manner and children and adolescents have been severely affected by the crisis. In particularly vulnerable regions such as the Central Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin, the right of children to education is constantly challenged. Armed groups have directly targeted school buildings, teachers and pupils through physical attacks, threats, abductions, and killings. Fear and school closures have contributed to families’ decisions to flee to safer areas, mostly urban and semi-urban centres where education capacities have become overburdened. ECOWAS Member States recognize the need to work with international partners to address these barriers to access to education for refugees.

**Individual documentation**

Recognizing that statelessness may be both a cause and consequence of refugee movements, support will be provided to Member States through sharing of good, gender-sensitive practices for the prevention and reduction of statelessness, and the development of, as appropriate, national and regional and international action plans to end statelessness, in line with relevant standards and initiatives, including UNHCR’s Campaign to End Statelessness. States that have not yet acceded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness will be encouraged to consider doing so. Impetus will be put of ratification and domestication of both statelessness Convention, including ECOWAS support to it member States, trough the provision of a regional Model-Law on the protection of stateless persons and solutions to their predicament.

Civil and birth registration helps States to have accurate information about the persons living on their territory, and is a major tool for protection and solutions, including for refugee women, girls and others with specific needs. While it does not necessarily lead to conferral of nationality, birth registration helps establish legal identity and prevent the risk of statelessness. In support of host countries, States and relevant stakeholders will contribute resources and expertise to strengthen the capacity of national civil registries to facilitate timely access by refugees and stateless persons, as appropriate, to civil and birth registration and documentation, including through digital technology, such as biometric ID cards, and the provision of mobile services, subject to full respect for data protection and privacy principles.

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| C. **Enhance access of refugees , IDPs and stateless persons to local solutions** | | Indicator | Timeframe |
| ECOWAS Commission’s responsibility to implement its pledge | | | |
| **Outcome C.1** | **Country efforts to improve the normative frameworks related to forced displacement are supported** | % of updated frameworks | 2023 |
| Output C.1.1 | Advocacy efforts to improve the normative frameworks related to asylum and to the protection of internally displaced people are strengthened | # of exchange sessions | 2023 |
| *Activity C.1.1.1* | *Commission and Parliament to organize information / exchange sessions led by MS “champions” on successful legal reforms and on the basis of Common minimum standards on refugee protection and solutions within ECOWAS* | | |
| ECOWAS Commission’s support to MS pledges’ implementation | | | |
| **Outcome C.2** | **MS’ initiatives to support local solutions of refugees and IDPs are encouraged** | % of MS with adapted normative frameworks  % of host MS delivering biometric ID cards to refugees | 2024 |
| Output C.2.1 | Best socio-economic inclusion practices of government-led initiatives are shared among MS and further opportunities are explored | Existence of mapping study  # of exchange sessions | 2023-2024 |
| *Activity C.2.1.1* | *Map the current opportunities for socio-economic area-based inclusion of refugees and IDPs in national and local development plans of education, health, urban and rural livelihoods* | | |
| *Activity C.2.1.2* | *Organise exchange sessions showcasing the current national initiatives for local solutions for refugees, IDPs and returnees and exploring options to take benefit of the mapped opportunities* | | |
| Output C.2.2 | MS’ efforts to issue biometric ID cards and other relevant identification documents to refugees, IDPs and persons at risk of statelessness are supported | Existence of mapping studies  # of exchange sessions | 2023-2024 |
| *Activity C.2.2.1* | *Map international and country initiatives meant to bring individual identification processes up to international biometrics standards* | | |
| *Activity C.2.2.2* | *Map the opportunities for interoperability of the current and future digital identification systems with the current refugee identification systems* | | |
| *Activity C.2.2.3* | *Organize workshops to encourage MS to make national identification systems and refugee identification systems interoperable* | | |
| *Activity C.2.2.4* | *ECOWAS to draft a regional Model-law on statelessness determination procedures and the protection and solutions for statelessness, to support and guide Member States pledges to domestication the 194 Convention on the status of stateless persons.* | | |
| MS’ responsibility to implement their own pledges | | | |
| **Outcome C.3** | **Key country normative frameworks related to forced displacement are improved** | # of socio-economic inclusion policy changes | 2023 |
| Output C.3.1 | Country normative frameworks related to asylum and protection of IDPs are reviewed and improved | # of legal reforms adopted | 2023 |
| *Activity C.3.1.1* | *With the support of UNHCR, when appropriate undertake the necessary steps for the effective domestication of the Kampala Convention* | | |
| *Activity C.3.1.2* | *When appropriate, review the legal framework relating to asylum* | | |
| **Outcome C.4** | **Access to local solutions and opportunities for refugees, IDPs and returnees is reinforced** | % of refugees with biometric ID cards  % of forcibly displaced included in development plans | 2026 |
| Output C.4.1 | Efforts to issue biometric cards to refugees are supported | Existence of action plan and implementation mechanisms to issue biometric ID cards to refugees | 2023-2026 |
| *Activity C.4.1.1* | *Develop and implement an action plan to strengthen the existing foundational/functional ID systems by establishing digital ID platform that meet the international biometrics systems standards* | | |
| *Activity C.4.1.2* | *Develop and implement an action plan to make national identification systems and refugee identification systems interoperable* | | |
| *Activity C.4.1.3* | *Produce and issue biometric ID cards to refugees* | | |
| Output C.4.2 | Government-led initiatives of socio-economic inclusion for refugees, IDPS and returnees are stepped up | # of socio-economic inclusion policy changes | 2024-2026 |
| *Activity C.4.2.1* | *Develop, adopt and implement national initiatives of inclusion of refugees and IDPs into primary and secondary health development plans* | | |
| *Activity C.4.2.2* | *Develop, adopt and implement national initiatives of inclusion refugees and IDPs into education development plans, including early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary education, technical and vocational training* | | |
| *Activity C.4.2.3* | *Develop, adopt and implement national initiatives of inclusion refugees and IDPs livelihoods development plans, including access to job market in urban settings, rural livelihoods and social protection interventions* | | |

# Commitment Calendar

In order to clarify the organization of the different activities, the schedule of the action plan will be divided between ECOWAS commitments and those of the Member States. The former correspond to both ECOWAS actions to implement its own pledges and ECOWAS’ actions to support the implementation of the pledges by its Member States, and the latter correspond to the Member States’ own actions to implement their own pledges.

## ECOWAS Commitments

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| *#* | Activity | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 | Q6 | Q7 | Q8 | Q9 | Q10 | Q11 | Q12 | Q13 | Q14 | Q15 | Q16 |
| **Address root causes of forced displacement** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *A.1.1.1* | *Organize regular exchange sessions on peace and conflict resolution involving interventions from regional academicians and researchers* | **X** |  |  | **X** |  |  | **X** |  |  | **X** |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| *A.2.1.1* | *Organize technical sessions of review of ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework* | **X** |  |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| *A.2.1.2* | *If relevant, ropose amendments of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework for possible adoption* |  | **X** |  |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| *A.3.1.1* | *Organise regular advocacy workshops on good governance for government officials* |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| *A.3.1.2* | *Design and organize training programmes on the implementation of ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework* |  | **X** |  |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| *A.4.1.1* | *Design and organize exchange sessions with government officials and international partners on the peace – humanitarian – development nexus approach* | **X** |  |  | **X** |  |  | **X** |  |  | **X** |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Ease pressure on host countries** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *B.1.1.1* | *Develop* the GCR implementation Plan of Action | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *B.1.1.2* | *Adopt the Plan of Action in a Ministerial Meeting* | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *B.2.1.1* | *Carry out a baseline study on the current national arrangements for coordinated comprehensive responses to refugee situations* | **X** | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *B.2.1.2* | *Organize sessions of exchange on the best coordination practices for government officials and national arrangements’ focal points* |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *B.3.1.1* | *Follow up and ensure that pledging entities report and update on the GRF pledges on the GCR Dashboard on a biannual basis* | **X** |  |  | **X** |  |  | **X** |  |  | **X** |  |  | **X** |  |  | **X** |
| *B.3.1.2* | *Undertake a mid-term review/stocktake of the action plan achievements, gaps and ways forward* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **X** | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *B.3.1.3* | *Review achievements, lessons learnt, good practices and ways forward* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **X** | **X** |
| **Enhance access to local solutions for refugees and IDPs** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *C.1.1.1* | *Organize information / exchange sessions led by MS “champions” on successful legal reforms and on the basis of Common minimum standards on refugee protection and solutions within ECOWAS* |  | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *C.2.1.1* | *Map the current opportunities for socio-economic area-based inclusion of refugees and IDPs in national and local development plans of education, health, urban and rural livelihoods* |  |  | **X** | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *C.2.1.2* | *Organise exchange sessions showcasing the current national initiatives for local solutions for refugees, IDPs and returnees and exploring options to take benefit of the mapped opportunities* |  |  | **X** | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *C.2.2.1* | *Map international and country initiatives meant to bring individual identification processes up to international biometrics standards* |  |  |  |  | **X** | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *C.2.2.2* | *Map the opportunities for interoperability of the current and future digital identification systems with the current refugee identification systems* |  |  |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *C.2.2.3* | *Organize workshops to encourage MS to make national identification systems and refugee identification systems interoperable* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *C.2.2.4* | *Draft a model law on statelessness determination procedures and the protection of stateless persons, for adoption at least at ministerial level* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Member States Commitments

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *#* | Activity | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 | Q6 | Q7 | Q8 | Q9 | Q10 | Q11 | Q12 | Q13 | Q14 | Q15 | Q16 |
| **Address root causes of forced displacement** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *A.5.1.1* | *Carry out a baseline study of the local / community-based drivers / initiatives of peace and social cohesion* |  |  | **X** | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *A.5.1.2* | *Organize peace promotion awareness-raising campaigns for and with religious and traditional leaders* |  |  |  | **X** | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *A.5.1.3* | *Financially and technically support the existing community conflict management committees* |  |  |  |  |  | **X** | **X** |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| *A.5.2.1* | *Organize regular exchange sessions with political parties and civil society organizations to promote democracy and fair elections* |  | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| **Ease pressure on host countries** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *A.4.1.1* | *Carry out a pledge matching exercise, linking country pledges to pledges from the humanitarian, development, and private donors* |  | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *A.4.1.2* | *Design and implement a country-specific pledge mobilization strategy based on the pledge matching exercise* |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *A.4.1.3* | *Report the progress of the country pledges in the GCR Dashboard* |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |
| **Enhance access to local solutions for refugees and IDPs** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *C.3.1.1* | *When appropriate undertake the necessary steps for the effective domestication of the Kampala Convention* |  |  | **X** | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *C.3.1.2* | *When appropriate, review the legal framework relating to asylum* |  |  | **X** | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *C.4.1.1* | *Develop and implement an action plan to strengthen the existing foundational/functional ID systems by establishing digital ID platform that meet the international biometrics systems standards* |  |  | **X** | **X** | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *C.4.1.2* | *Develop and implement an action plan to make national identification systems and refugee identification systems interoperable* |  |  |  | **X** | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *C.4.1.3* | *Produce and issue biometric ID cards to refugees* |  |  |  |  |  | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| *C.4.2.1* | *Develop, adopt and implement national initiatives of inclusion of refugees and IDPs into primary and secondary health development plans* |  |  |  |  | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| *C.4.2.2* | *Develop, adopt and implement national initiatives of inclusion refugees and IDPs into education development plans, including early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary education, technical and vocational training* |  |  |  |  | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| *C.4.2.3* | *Develop, adopt and implement national initiatives of inclusion refugees and IDPs livelihoods development plans, including access to job market in urban settings, rural livelihoods and social protection interventions* |  |  |  |  | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |

1. UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, Regional View 2021. Online : <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/rbwca>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)