

Asylum Capacity Support Group (ACSG): Fact Sheet

The Asylum Capacity Support Group (ACSG) is a special initiative of the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR) that aims to ensure that asylum capacity support between States and other stakeholders is provided in a consistent and most impactful manner. The ACSG was launched at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and its activities are coordinated by the ACSG Secretariat, set up within UNHCR's Division of International Protection. The ACSG promotes collaboration among States and other stakeholders by mobilizing asylum capacity support and facilitating exchange of knowledge and expertise in this field. To achieve its objectives, the ACSG has established a [Dialogue Platform](#), a virtual space for hosting global meetings, thematic events and activities which advances its four distinct yet interconnected workstreams (outlined in further detail below). The [ACSG portal](#) provides more information regarding the work of the ACSG and its workstreams and gives visibility to asylum capacity projects and initiatives.



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Mobilizing asylum capacity pledges for the GRF



This workstream seeks to mobilize support for States seeking to make positive improvements in the fairness, efficiency, adaptability and integrity of national asylum systems. This is largely implemented through matching pledges and commitments made at the GRF by States and other stakeholders. The GRF 2023 is an opportunity to build on the progress made since the last GRF and to seek new pledges and initiatives to advance the objectives of the GCR. The ACSG is working to mobilize new pledges and commitments by States and diverse stakeholders in the area of asylum capacity. States are encouraged to take on policy commitments to improve aspects of their national asylum systems. In addition, States and stakeholders are encouraged to pledge offers of asylum capacity support, especially in areas in which they hold expertise, to ensure that the needs of States improving their asylum systems can be met. The ACSG has produced [pledging guidance](#) which outlines priority pledging areas and supports pledge formulation to promote the development of high-quality, joint and potentially pre-matched pledges. Pledges, both commitments for improvements and offers of support, can be submitted through the [online form](#) available on the GCR digital platform.

The ACSG is working, and will continue to work after the GRF, with all stakeholders to concretize their pledges into actionable requests or offers of support. The ACSG will address prioritization of matches in line with the criteria outlined in the [ACSG Guide to Working Modalities](#). Information on pledges, be they offers for support or requests, and the support provided by matched entities will be reported on the [ACSG Portal](#). As per the process established on [tracking progress](#), all GRF pledging entities are periodically asked to provide pledge implementation updates. For tracking ACSG specific achievements, matched entities will be invited to share periodic updates geared towards detailing **good practices and assessing impact to be featured on the ACSG Portal** and discussed through the Dialogue Platform.

Expanding engagement on asylum capacity support



In addition to the asylum capacity support provided through the matching of pledges, the ACSG recognizes that asylum capacity support is being provided as part of existing bilateral and multilateral arrangements. The ACSG encourages States and stakeholders to make asylum capacity pledges and commitments through the GRF, however, in the event that bilateral support is provided, the ACSG proposes that information about such support is showcased via the ACSG portal. Having such information available will ensure consistency and coherence in capacity support, with a focus on addressing critical gaps in a comprehensive manner. Importantly, the reporting helps the ACSG to avoid duplication of efforts and resources for greatest impact as well as showing where capacity support is needed.

The ACSG Secretariat may further proactively approach stakeholders with demonstrated expertise to seek support in situations where there are insufficient offers of support or the offers do not address the identified needs. This could include also States and stakeholders who have not made a pledge, but who have known expertise or implemented work on asylum capacity bilaterally so as to benefit from all support opportunities available. Such support will be essential to ensure the implementation of those pledges that remain pending completion.

Enhancing technical expertise on asylum capacity strengthening



The exchange of knowledge and expertise is a core aspect of the ACSG's work. Such exchange has been implemented by convening global-level discussions on asylum capacity as well as sharing good practices and tools on asylum issues via the [ACSG portal](#). These efforts contribute to raising awareness and momentum on key asylum issues, enable cross-fertilization in addressing challenges, create opportunities at national, regional and cross-regional level and help to increase the effectiveness of capacity support projects of the future.

The portal features a collection of [good practices and tools](#) useful for those involved in or supporting national asylum systems. States and stakeholders can on an ongoing basis share tools and practices through its [online submission form](#). Additionally, through the Dialogue Platform, technical [events](#) or roundtable discussions are being organized on topics that are not covered by other fora or that need elevating to a global level to complement ongoing regional-initiatives. The technical dialogues or events present a unique opportunity to address specific issues that States, and other stakeholders are keen to explore further.

Developing UNHCR's strategy on Asylum Capacity Development



An [evaluation](#) of UNHCR's efforts in enhancing asylum capacity was published in February 2022. This evaluation included several recommendations, one of which emphasized the need for UNHCR to adopt a more strategic and effective approach in supporting national asylum systems. UNHCR welcomed the conclusions of this evaluation as an opportunity to strengthen its work in this critical area and is in the process of developing a strategy on asylum capacity development to outline how UNHCR will support the strengthening of national asylum systems globally until 2030. In order to align with the different asylum capacity development efforts ongoing globally, UNHCR has sought to use the ACSG as the vehicle for organizing consultations with States and diverse stakeholder groups in the development of the strategy and its implementation.



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Addressing evolving needs

The ACSG continues to achieve its objectives through the implementation of its key workstream activities and by responding to evolving needs. Where relevant the ACSG Secretariat will hold dedicated Stocktaking sessions or other High-Level events to reflect on progress, challenges and continue to seek enhanced ways of engagement to strengthen the ACSG collaboratively.

ACSG Secretariat, November 2023

Contact: Questions relating to the ACSG can be addressed via email to acsg@unhcr.org