

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 increase the availability and effectiveness of asylum capacity support to States. 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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Advance development and fulfillment of pledges on asylum capacity



The GCR relies on pledges and commitments by States and diverse stakeholders to advance its objectives. In this regard, the ACSG has been and will continue to assist States and stakeholders with preparations for the GRF on asylum capacity pledges, offer guidance and assistance in formulating and prioritizing pledges including on joint and pre-matched commitments, as well as share good practice examples of pledges and initiatives supporting asylum capacity. The aim of this support is to ensure the development of high-quality, multi-stakeholder pledges and guide engagement on asylum capacity issues. The ACSG has produced [pledging guidance](#) which outlines four priority pledging areas. New pledges, both commitments for improvements and offers of support, can be submitted through the [online form](#) available on the GCR digital platform.

The GRF 2023 was an opportunity to build on the progress made since the GRF 2019 and to seek new pledges and initiatives to advance the objectives of the GCR. Looking ahead, the ACSG will continue to work to concretize pledges into actionable requests or offers of support and 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 under [matches on the ACSG Portal](#). As per the process established on [tracking progress](#), all GRF pledging entities are periodically asked to provide pledge implementation updates. Updates on ACSG specific achievements will be featured on the ACSG Portal and discussed through the Dialogue Platform.

Mobilize and expand engagement on asylum capacity support



In addition to the asylum capacity support provided through the matching of GRF pledges, such support is also 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, for the pledges made thus far, there are more requests for capacity support than offers of support available, leading to unmet needs. To address this gap, the ACSG has opened the possibility to showcase on the ACSG portal support provided as part of bilateral and multilateral arrangements, including without formal pledges. 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.

Where there are insufficient offers of support or the offers do not address the identified needs to implement a State request for capacity support, the ACSG Secretariat may proactively approach stakeholders with demonstrated expertise to seek support. This could include States and other

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.

Enhance technical expertise on asylum capacity strengthening



The exchange of knowledge and expertise is a core aspect of the ACSG's work. This is achieved by convening global-level discussions on asylum capacity as well as enabling the sharing of good practices and lessons learned on asylum capacity development projects and initiatives via the ACSG portal. 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. 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.

Implement 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 the engagement of the ACSG to organize consultations with States and diverse stakeholder groups in the development and implementation of the strategy.



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Respond to evolving needs

The ACSG continues to achieve its objectives through the implementation of its key workstream activities and by responding to evolving needs. Looking ahead, the ACSG will play a critical role in the lead up to the High-Level Officials Meeting 2025 and where relevant 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, May 2024

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