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Livelihoods and self-reliance: Formal and informal inclusion for vulnerable populations

## UNHCR's approach to Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion for Refugees

Self-reliance as the pathway to durable solutions

Focus heavily on administering marketoriented interventions

Support refugee voices and inclusion in programme development

#### This approach to economic inclusion involves:

Avoiding creating parallel systems.

Attracting additional development funding to reinforce national systems.

Ensuring consistency in the level of services offered to nationals and nonnationals.

Reducing risks of social issues caused by exclusion (poverty, delinquency, radicalism, negative livelihoods strategies, etc.).

Bringing diversity and richness to many areas such as the economy, culture, education, sports, and art.

Achieving economy of scale.

Complying with human rights conventions.

## New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

- 1. Milestone for global solidarity and refugee protection;
- 2. Shared international responsibility for protection and support that must be borne more equitably and predictably.
- 3. Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) to guide enhanced international responses
- 4. Development of two 'global compacts': on refugees and for safe, orderly and regular migration

### **Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework**



Enhance refugee selfreliance Expand access to third-country solutions (i.e. resettlement and complementary pathways for admission)

Support conditions in countries of origin that enable refugees to return in safety and dignity



### **Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework**



### Seeking the economic inclusion for refugees: The graduation approach in Ecuador Key findings from a



Key findings from adapting the graduation approach to refugees

- In Ecuador, the average household per capita income increased to US \$86.09 in 2017 from US \$66.31 in 2015.
- Participant households' access to formal financial institutions increased by 95% in Ecuador.
- Out of 3,200 participants served by UNHCR Egypt, over 700 participants had their own business after the programme's end and 636 participants found jobs.
- The average income earned per participant per month increased by an estimated 18% in Cairo and 27% in Alexandria (Egypt).

## Win-win situations: refugees as resources

### **Refugees as professionals**

- Chile: 73% of women and 52% of men had technical or university degrees
- Argentina: 75% some higher education



# Refugees as complementary to the workforce

 Natives and foreigners typically have a different set of skills and compete for different types of jobs

#### **Refugees as entrepreneurs**

 Migrants engage in entrepreneurship at much higher rates than natives.

### **Refugees as contributors**

 Economic integration is not only beneficial for migrants, but for host communities as well, who gain new workers, ideas, and skill sets which can boost economic innovation and job creation.

