HOW CAN WE BRIDGE THE
Humanitarian-Development Divide
AND WHY DOES IT MATTER FOR REFUGEES?

THE FACTS: DISPLACEMENT IS A LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT ISSUE

65 million people were displaced as of 2015¹
21 million displaced people were refugees³

88 percent of refugees live in low- and middle-income countries²
3 out of 4 refugees live outside of camps³

10 years is the average time a refugee is displaced⁴

MIDDLE EAST: 60%
AFRICA: 20%
OTHER: 8%

THE PROBLEM: THE TRADITIONAL APPROACH TO REFUGEE RESPONSE IS NOT SUSTAINABLE

Humanitarian assistance is short-term, self-contained, and meant to save lives in crisis

Driven by international donors and agencies
Focused on immediate needs like food, water, medication, and temporary shelter

Development assistance is long-term, integrated with country systems, and meant to reduce poverty

Coordinated with national and local governments
Focused on long-term needs like jobs, education, health, and infrastructure

THE SOLUTION: COMPACTS TO BRIDGE HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES

PRINCIPLES FOR DESIGNING EFFECTIVE REFUGEE COMPACTS

Balance the needs of refugees and host communities
Improve data, evidence, and innovation to drive outcomes
Strengthen and align incentives to achieve results

¹UNHCR data as of December 2015.
²UNHCR data as of December 2015; World Bank classifications for FY2017.
⁴Devito and Do. 2016. “How Many Years Have Refugees Been in Exile?”. 

CGDEV.ORG/REFUGEE-COMPACTS | RESCUE.ORG/REFUGEE-COMPACTS
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DESIGNING

Effective Refugee Compacts

Balance the needs of refugees and host communities, with a focus on key policy constraints

1. Develop and use standardized assessment tools
2. Create a refugee policy index
3. Take a portfolio approach
4. Create structures for inclusive stakeholder engagement

Improve data, evidence, and innovation to drive outcomes and get the most value for money

5. Improve data collection and availability
6. Use and generate evidence
7. Establish standards for measuring cost-efficiency and cost-effectiveness
8. Incentivize and fund innovation

Strengthen and align incentives to achieve results

9. Pay for results
10. Increase use of beyond-aid tools and crowd in partners