

# Global Programme – Refugee Inclusion Accelerator (RISE)

Co-Creating Perspectives for People Forced to Flee

## Context

While the number of forcibly displaced people is rising beyond 120 million, humanitarian financing is declining. This trend reveals the limitations of the traditional humanitarian parallel system of refugee protection and assistance, which will be an unsustainable model for the future. The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) emphasises a shift towards early inclusion of refugees into national systems as well as support to hosting communities. Central to this approach is the transition from parallel structures towards long-term solutions embedded in national development strategies.

To implement the strategic partnership between BMZ and UNHCR within the framework of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), BMZ has initiated two global projects: SUN (2018–2025) and RISE (2025–2027). The aim is to overcome the parallel humanitarian system and ensure the early inclusion of refugees in the national health, education and social security systems of the host countries. SUN laid the foundation by piloting inclusion in various sectors in eleven countries and gathering valuable experience. The follow-up programme, the Refugee Inclusion Accelerator (RISE), builds on this foundation of the GP SUN to support refugee inclusion at the global, national and local levels.

## Refugee Inclusion Accelerator

The Refugee Inclusion Accelerator, commissioned by the BMZ and implemented by GIZ in cooperation with national governments and UNHCR strategically supports the early and sustained inclusion of refugees into national systems in education, social protection and economic sectors. RISE is implemented through advisory services to national governments as well as innovation

spaces and learnings that co-create tailor-made approaches for refugee inclusion and host community resilience in displacement contexts. This approach not only benefits refugees but also host communities and governments.

Project name	Refugee Inclusion Accelerator (RISE)
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Strategic Partner	UNHCR
Project Countries	Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Mauritania
Political Partners	Refugees and Returnees Affairs Service Ethiopia, Ministry of Interior and National Administration Kenya, Ministério dos Negócios Estrangeiros e Cooperação Mozambique, and Ministère de l'Intérieur et de la Promotion de la Décentralisation et du Développement Local Mauritania
Duration	2025-2027

Our mission is to promote the transition from parallel humanitarian aid for refugees to sustainable solutions that enable their inclusion in host communities. In our vision, all refugees are included in their host communities as valued members of society.

## Our approach

The Global Programme RISE partners with like-minded countries and international organisations to develop solutions and shape inclusive futures for both refugees and host communities. The three central pillars of RISE are: (1) GCR advisors in government



structures in host countries, (2) innovation labs as learning spaces, and (3) integration of findings into international policy and reform processes, particularly in the debate on reimagining the international refugee aid system.

- 1. **Innovation Labs:** RISE Innovation Labs bring together governments, communities, and international partners to co-create practical solutions tailored to local realities. Innovation Labs are implemented to design, test and co-create practical solutions for refugee inclusion and host community resilience.
- 2. **Embedded Advisors:** RISE places international and national experts in partner countries to provide advice to create better perspectives for refugees and host communities. In Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritania, and Mozambique, the GCR Advisors support the implementation of refugee inclusion strategies (such as Ethiopia’s *Makatet Roadmap* or supporting local integration under Kenya’s *Shirika Plan*). By fostering collaboration within national and local institutions, the advisors contribute to whole-of-government approaches in refugee responses. The GCR Advisors play a key role supporting the country-level innovation labs.
- 3. **Coalition Building:** RISE fosters global coalitions and creates synergies for the inclusion of refugees in host communities and government systems. The programme synthesises



insights from its GCR Advisors and Innovation Labs to inform global debates on responses to forced displacement. It gathers lessons from UNHCR’s Sustainable Response Approach in contexts like Ethiopia’s Melkadida region, where models for transitioning from parallel humanitarian structures towards inclusion into national systems are being developed and tested. These locally grounded experiences are translated into strategic knowledge products and exchanges. By bringing lessons from country-level implementation to international dialogue and policy processes, RISE promotes the global refugee inclusion agenda.

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