

UNGA 80: High-Level Side Event on Responses to the Global Displacement Crisis

United Nations General Assembly High-Level Week

September 11, 2025

Trinity Baptist Church, 250 E 61st St, New York NY

Background

As the international community observes the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 80), we are prompted to reflect not only on eight decades of multilateral progress but also on the ongoing challenges that continue to influence our world. Among the most urgent is the global displacement crisis, which has reached historic heights. According to the latest Global Trends Report from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than 120 million people were forcibly displaced by the end of 2024 due to conflict, climate change, economic instability, and persecution.^[1]

This growing crisis requires bold, coordinated, and inclusive solutions. While states and multilateral agencies have a key role, faith-based organizations have become vital partners. With deep community ties and the trust of displaced populations, these organizations often act as first responders, bridging critical gaps in protection, care, and advocacy.

This side event aims not only to amplify the voice and role of faith-based actors within the broader agenda of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), but also to call for deeper, more collaborative engagement from all sectors of the international community. Governments, UN agencies, civil society, private sector actors, and displaced persons must be meaningfully included in shaping solutions that uphold dignity, equity, and shared responsibility. In doing so, this gathering reflects the spirit of multilateralism the UN has promoted for 80 years and the inclusive leadership it must continue to foster for the future.

^[1] <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2024>

Objective

The event will convene UN Member States, UN agencies, faith leaders, and civil society to:

- a) Elevate faith-based and community-driven responses to forced displacement.
- b) Promote stronger partnerships between governments, multilateral agencies, and faith-based actors.
- c) Share best practices from key actors, including refugee-hosting nations.

Outcomes

- New or renewed partnerships between UN agencies, FBOs, and Member States
- Momentum toward deeper engagement of faith actors in global processes, including the 2026 Global Refugee Forum and implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees
- Strengthened alignment between displacement response efforts and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Format:

90-minute in-person interactive panel discussion

Participants:

- UN Member States
- UN Agency Leaders and Senior Officials
- Grassroots Faith Leaders and Refugee Representatives
- Representatives from NGOs and Civil Society

Date: September 11, 2025

Time: 1:30 pm

Venue: Trinity Baptist Church, 250 E 61st St, New York, NY, 10065

Priority SDGs

While all 17 SDGs are important and interconnected, this event prioritizes those most relevant to global displacement. The selected goals reflect our shared commitment to addressing urgent needs, reducing inequalities, and building strategic partnerships for lasting impact.

1 NO
POVERTY



Priority SDG: 1

Displacement often pushes already vulnerable populations deeper into poverty. Addressing poverty is essential to ensuring that both displaced people and host communities can access basic services, build resilience, and pursue long-term development.

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



Priority SDG: 10

Global displacement is both a driver and a consequence of inequality. This event will examine how policies and partnerships can mitigate disparities within and among countries by fostering the inclusion and dignity of refugees and displaced persons.



Priority SDG: 17

Tackling global displacement requires multi-stakeholder collaboration. Faith-based actors, governments, and civil society must collaborate to develop effective, inclusive, and sustainable responses that leave no one behind.

Trends at a Glance

73% HOSTED IN
LOW-AND MIDDLE-
INCOME COUNTRIES

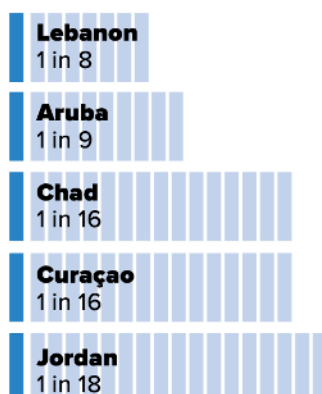
Low- and middle-income countries hosted 73 per cent of the world's refugees and other people in need of international protection.⁶ The Least Developed Countries provided asylum to 23 per cent of the total.

67% HOSTED
IN NEIGHBOURING
COUNTRIES

67 per cent of refugees and other people in need of international protection lived in countries neighbouring their countries of origin.

1 IN 8
ARE DISPLACED

Relative to their national populations,⁷ Lebanon (1 in 8) hosted the largest number of refugees and other people in need of international protection, followed by the island of Aruba (1 in 9), Chad (1 in 16), Curaçao (1 in 16) and Jordan (1 in 18).⁸



3.1 MILLION
NEW CLAIMS

The United States of America⁹ was the world's largest recipient of new individual applications.

United States of America
729,100

Egypt
433,900

Germany
229,800

Canada
174,000

Spain
167,400

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