

# Call to Action in Response to the Global Refugee Crisis

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There are 21 million people in the world today who have crossed international borders in search of refuge and more than 65 million who have been displaced – the greatest movement of people since the Second World War. The despair that drives people to flee their homes is heartbreaking, but their resilience is awe inspiring. Refugees are a valuable untapped resource and, with our support, they can thrive and contribute wherever they reside.

In addition to contributing billions of dollars to meet the immediate humanitarian need of displaced people and planning to welcome 85,000 refugees this year, the United States is rallying other countries to step up their efforts. This September, President Obama will host a summit on the global refugee crisis for heads of state during the high-level week of the UN General Assembly. This summit will follow a vigorous, sustained effort over the coming months to secure new commitments from countries to: increase support for UN humanitarian appeals; create greater opportunities for legal resettlement; and, enact policies that allow refugees to be self-reliant.

A crisis of this scale, however, requires more than state action. Drawing on their unique expertise and entrepreneurial spirit, corporations have already launched initiatives aimed at helping refugees regain control over their lives and integrate into their new communities. But much more must be done. For this reason, the **White House is calling on companies to stand with us and make new, measurable and significant commitments that will have a long-term, sustainable impact on refugees residing in countries on the frontlines of this crisis and in countries of resettlement**, like the United States, including by:

1. Facilitating refugee children and young adults' education by ensuring that refugee students can access schools of all levels and creating quality long-distance learning platforms and programs.
2. Helping refugees enter the workforce by providing, or helping refugees obtain, vocational training and needed language-skills, and developing tools that match refugees' skills with existing employment opportunities.
3. Providing, or helping refugees obtain, technical assistance and seed funding to allow them to start new businesses.
4. Promoting refugee employment by hiring refugees, procuring goods and services from refugee-hiring businesses, making investments in frontline states that will generate jobs for both refugees and their host communities, or facilitating access to jobs.
5. Helping refugees maintain communications connectivity, including access to wireless services in refugee camps and continuity of mobile services across borders.
6. Ensuring that refugees can access key financial services, notwithstanding their lack of a permanent residence.
7. Providing or facilitating refugees' access to quality, affordable housing.
8. Helping governments take new or additional steps to support refugees, such as by assisting them in resettling additional refugees or helping them implement policies designed to allow refugees to work and attend school.

*For more information visit: [www.aidrefugees.gov](http://www.aidrefugees.gov) or [www.partnershipforrefugees.org](http://www.partnershipforrefugees.org)*