

# The Global Compact on Refugees and Identity

Andrew Hopkins

Chief, Identity Management and Registration

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**51 million**





70+ million





**85 per cent** of the world's refugees are hosted in countries in developing regions

**1/3** are hosted in the world's least developed countries

In the first 6 months of 2018  
**only 124,100 refugees**  
returned home



# The Global Compact on Refugees

- In December 2018, the UN General Assembly affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees, after extensive consultations with Member States, international organizations, refugees, civil society, the private sector, and experts.
- A framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing, for a multi-lateral sustainable solution to refugee situations.
- Provides a blueprint for governments, international organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure that host communities get the support they need and that refugees can lead productive lives

# The Global Compact on Refugees

- UNHCR is exploring how Digital ID for refugees can contribute to the goals of the Global Compact on Refugees, such as:
  - easing the pressures on host communities
  - enhancing refugee self-reliance
  - expanding access to third-country solutions
  - supporting conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity

See Virtual Consultation: [www.unhcr.org/idecosystem](http://www.unhcr.org/idecosystem)

*“We want every refugee to have a unique digital identity. This will enhance accountability and facilitate two-way communication between refugees and service providers.”*

The High Commissioner,  
Opening Speech at the  
UNHCR Executive Committee (ExCom),  
2 October 2017



# Asylum seekers, refugees and legal identity

- [1951 Refugee Convention](#) provides that host States:
  - shall provide identity papers to any refugee in their territory who does not possess a valid travel document (Art. 27)
  - shall provide travel documents to refugees who are lawfully resident, with exceptions (Art. 28)
- If States are unable/unwilling, UNHCR, with the consent of the authorities of the asylum country, can certify that a person is considered a refugee within UNHCR's mandate  
(cf [1951 Convention Art. 25](#) and [1950 UNHCR Statute](#))



# Key GCR Objective 1: Registration and Documentation

- **Registration and Documentation**
  - Crucial role of registration and documentation recognized for assistance and protection, integrity, fighting corruption, fraud and trafficking in persons and solutions
  - UNHCR's commitment:
    - Provide resources and expertise to contribute to national capacity for registration and ID, including for women and girls
    - Promote digitalization, biometrics and other relevant technology
    - Collect, use and share of quality registration data, disaggregated by age, gender disability and diversity in line with relevant data protection and privacy principles













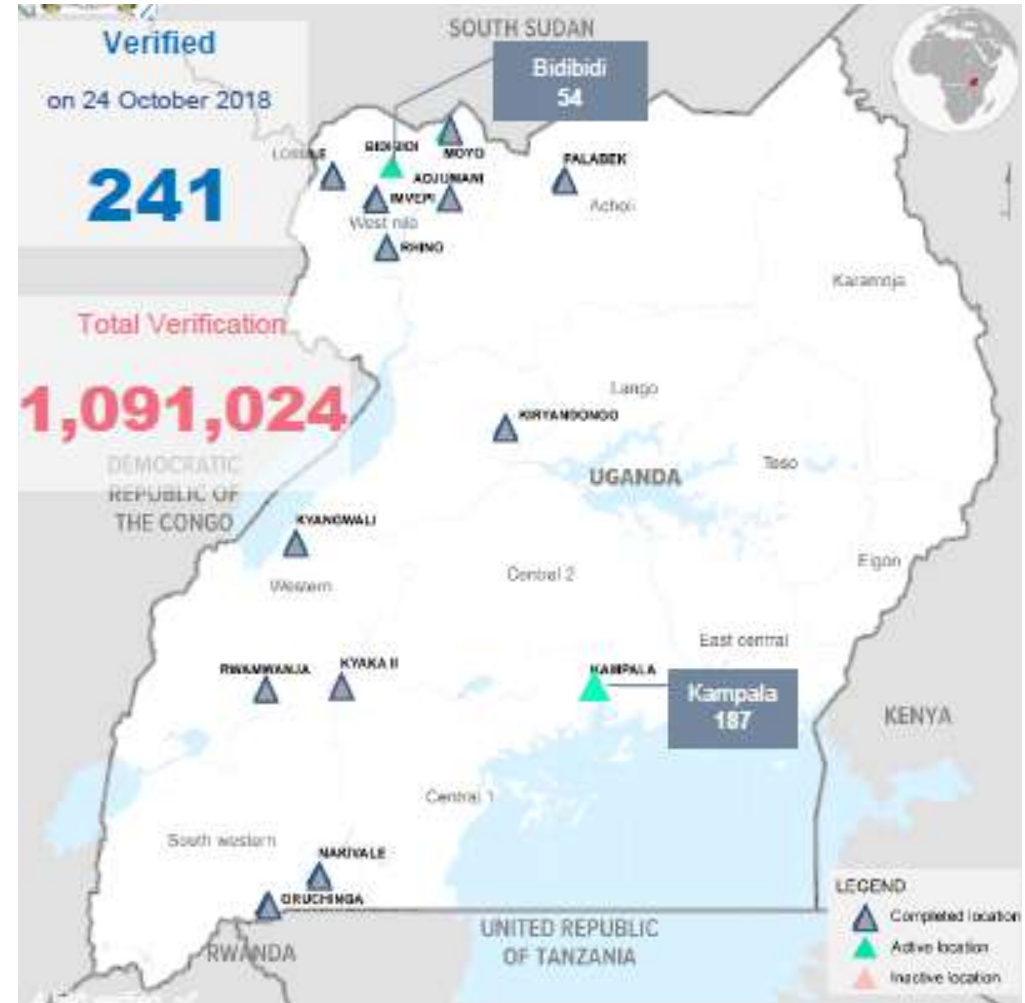








## Key Facts





VERIFICAÇÃO BIOMÉTRICA  
# MOÇAMBIQUE

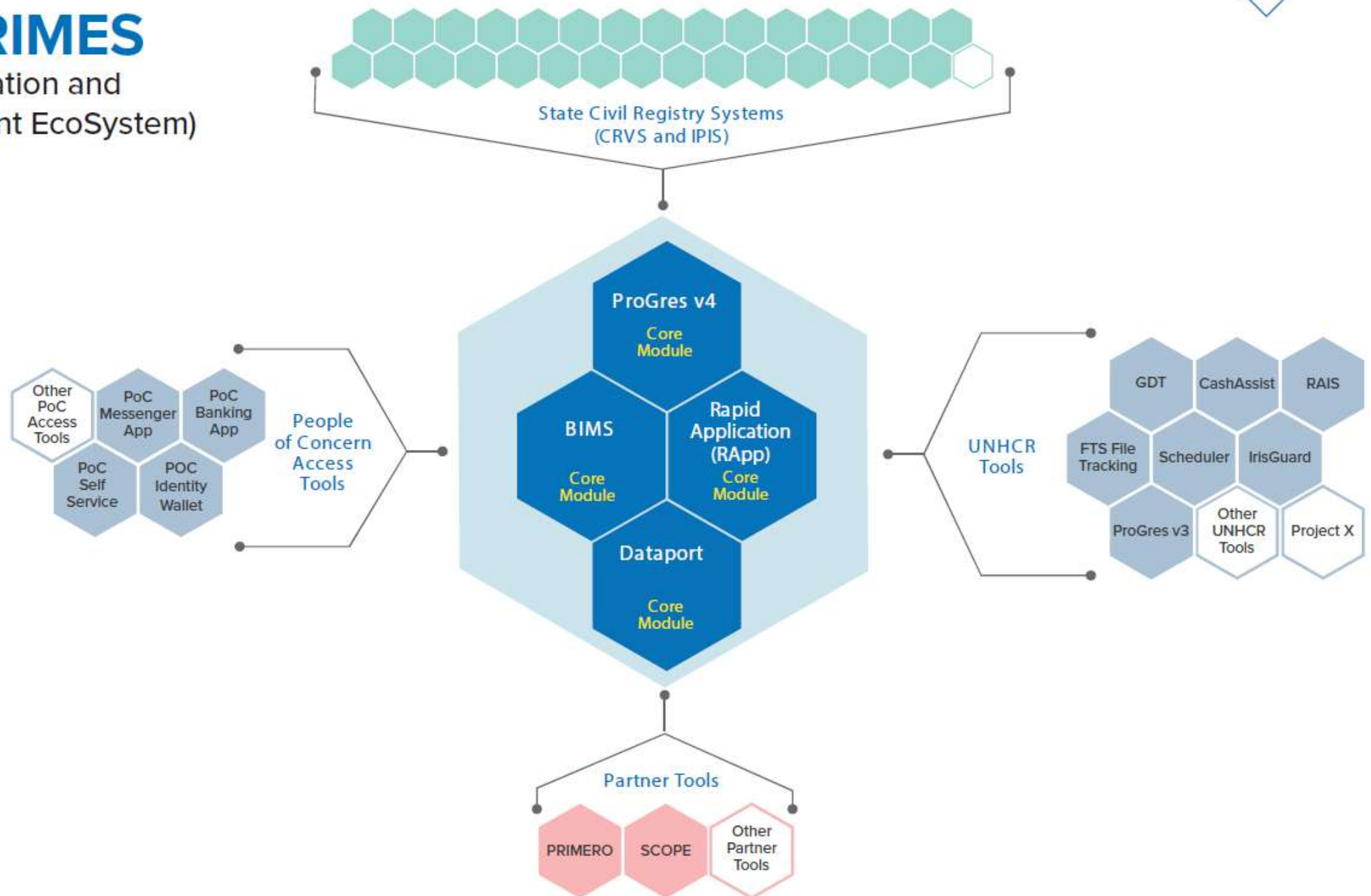


# Key GCR Objective 2: Civil Registries

- UNHCR will support the inclusion of asylum seekers and refugees in States Civil Registration and ID systems, promoting legal identity for all.
- Key measures:
  - Provide resources and expertise to strengthen national civil registration and ID capacity to facilitate timely access for refugees and stateless persons to civil and birth registration
  - Digital technology and mobile solutions
  - Respecting data protection and privacy principles
- **Example:** Interoperability between PRIMES applications used by Government Refugee Departments and the host State's Civil Registration/Integrated Population Registries (e.g. Kenya)

# UNHCR PRIMES

(Population Registration and Identity Management EcoSystem)

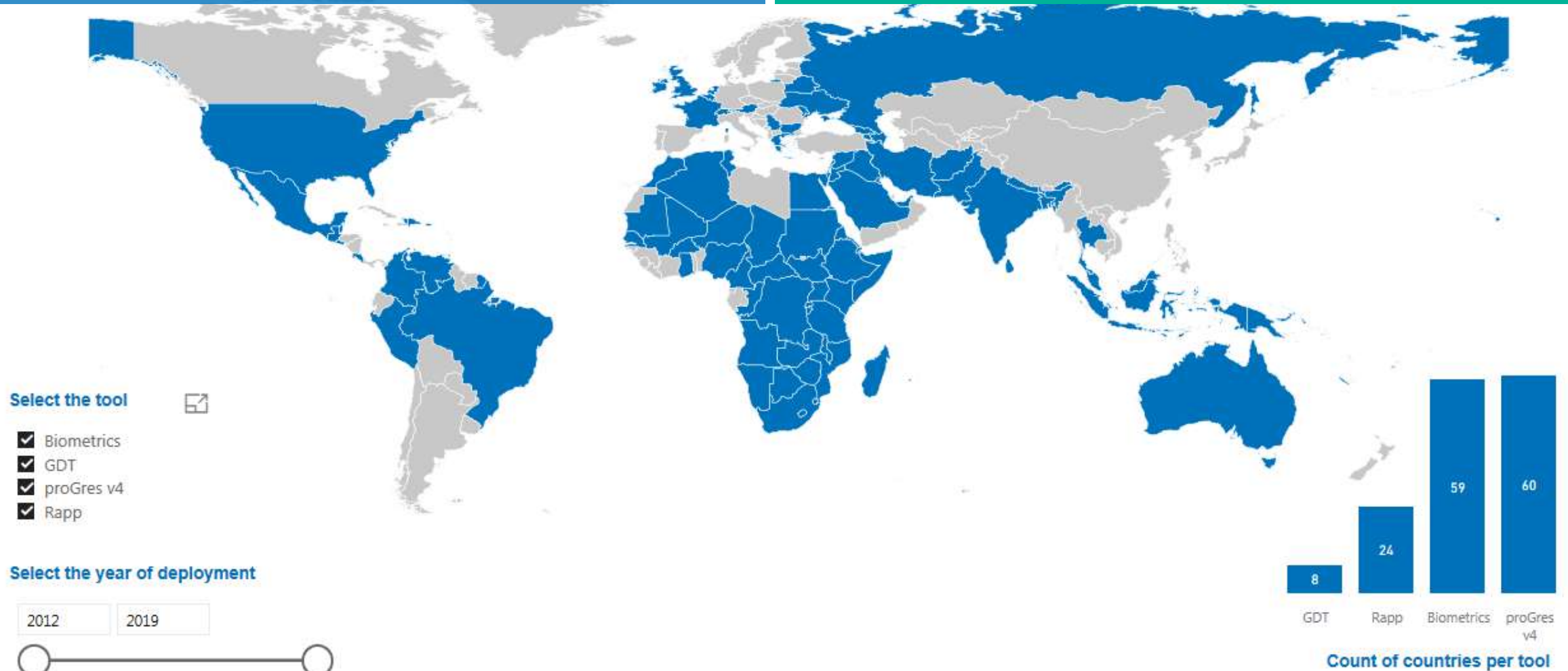




# PRIMES: Registration and case management

10.5 Million individuals

119 Operations







# Since 2002

Afghan returns

Widespread roll-out  
Africa / Asia

Syria Situation  
Cash/Food/NFI delivery

2015 DPP  
Access and Transfer

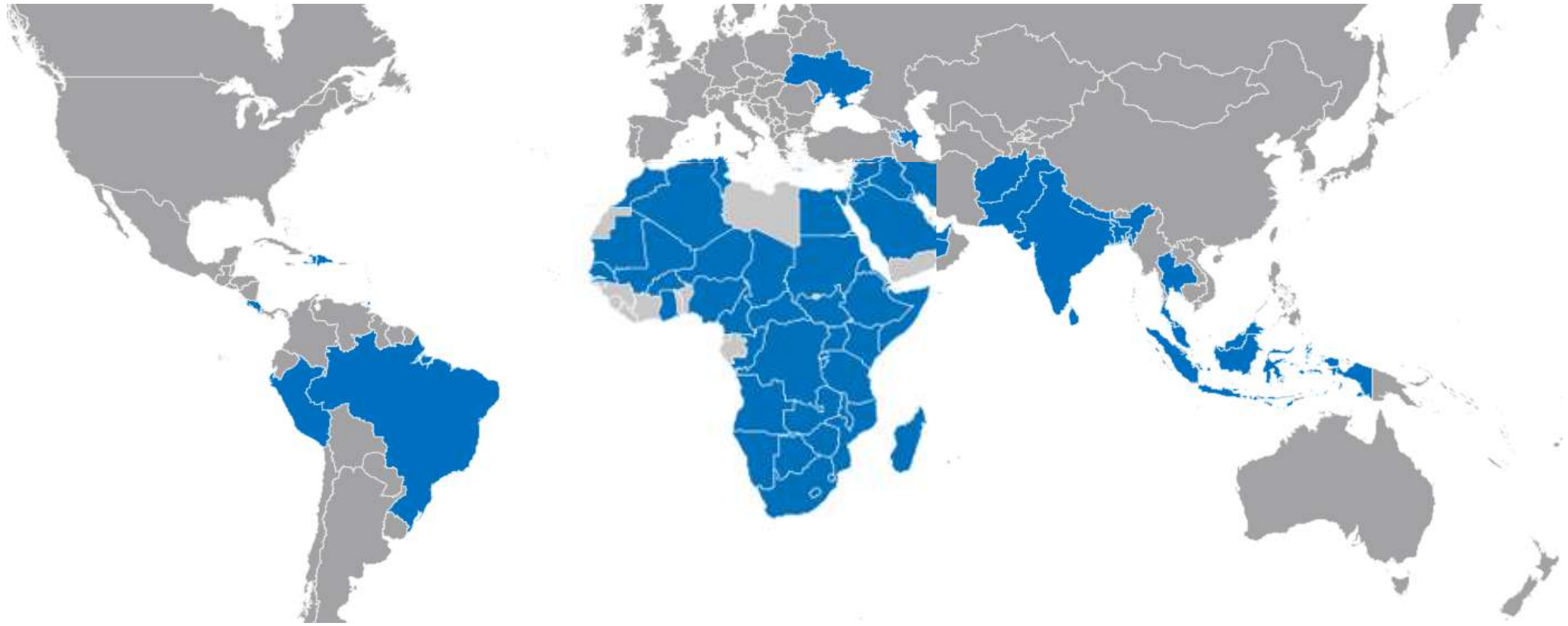
↓ Today.



# PRIMES: Biometrics

7.7 Million records

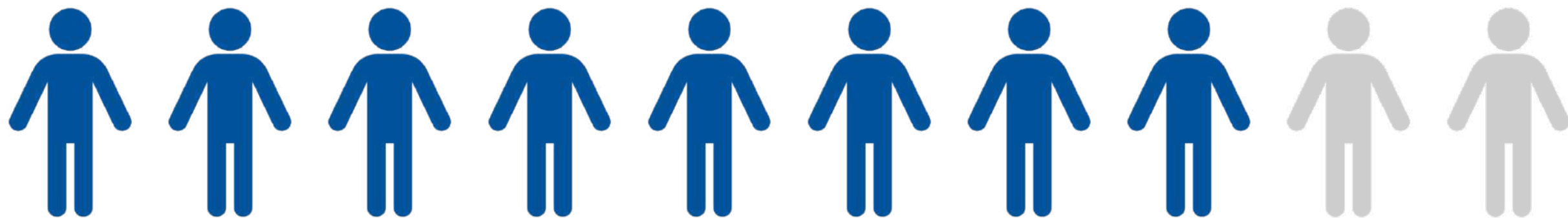
63 Operations



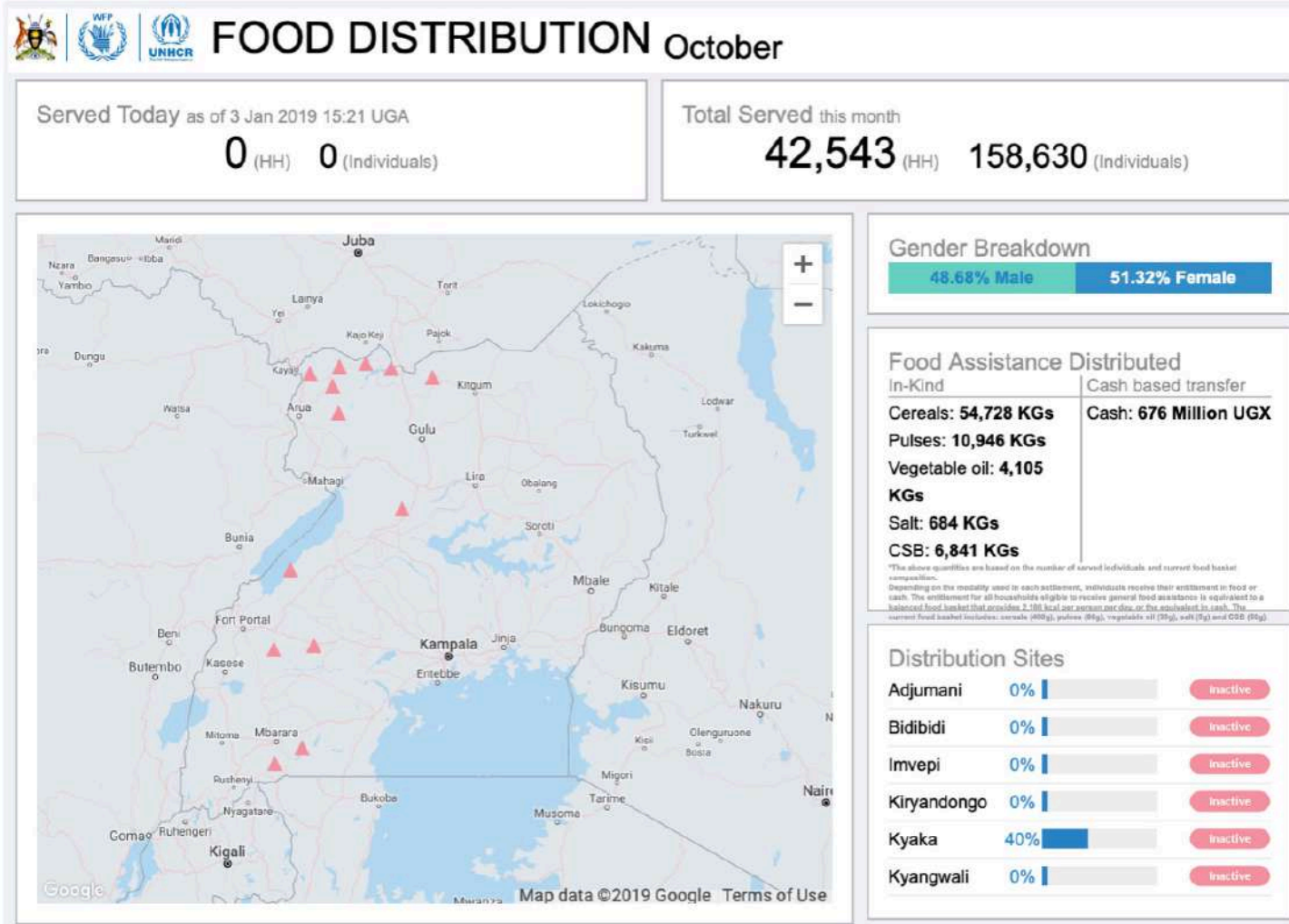


# Biometrics coverage

8 in every 10 refugees registered by UNHCR now has a biometric identity



# PRIMES: Global Distribution



# Irrefutable linking of food collection to refugees, even by remote



## Efficiency savings



## Centralized and real-time reporting



# POLICY

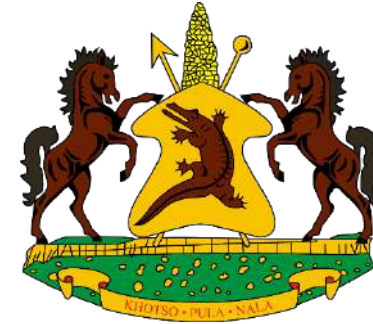
## on the Protection of Personal Data of Persons of Concern to UNHCR



**DATA  
PROTECTION  
POLICY**



# Data Access: Data Sharing





# Strengthening integrity in refugee resettlement processes

- Data Access throughout processing



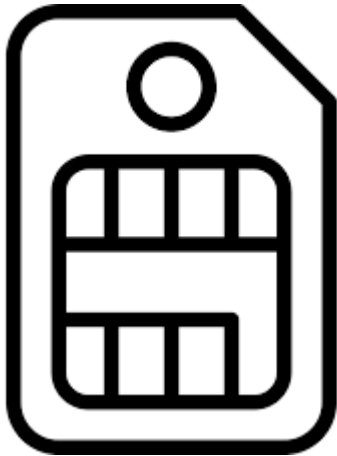
# Key GCR Objective 3: Cash based transfers, Economic inclusion and livelihoods

- Move away from assistance in kind to increasing the use and coordination of cash based interventions, including digital platforms  
“The Grand Bargain” at the World Humanitarian Summit, May 2016
- 2016-18 UNHCR distributed \$1.8bn in cash based assistance (95% unrestricted cash and 5% vouchers)
- Promotion of the economic inclusion of refugees, contributing to host communities and facilitating inclusive growth  
New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, GCR and SDG Target 8.10.2



# Gaps in trust in asylum seeker and refugee ID for connectivity and financial services

Survey data of 20 States hosting refugees  
ID requirements assistance services



SIM registration

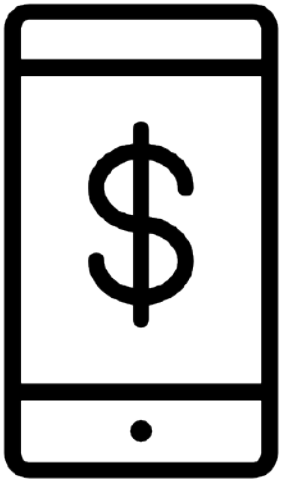
Asylum Seeker ID

0 recognized / 4 seldomly recognized / 16 not recognized

Refugee

10 recognized / 7 seldomly recognized / 3 not recognized

# Gaps in trust in asylum seeker and refugee ID for connectivity and financial services



Mobile money

Asylum Seeker ID

2 seldomly recognized / 16 not recognized

Refugee

6 recognized / 8 seldomly recognized / 4 not recognized



# Gaps in trust in asylum seeker and refugee ID for connectivity and financial services



## Bank Accounts

### Asylum Seeker ID

3 seldomly recognized / 17 not recognized

### Refugee ID

10 recognized / 7 seldomly recognized / 3 not recognized

# Key Recommendations - UNHCR

- Promote good practices in Government ID issuance & Policy
- Facilitate faster biometrics registration & documentation
- Explore eKYC and other digital authentication means
- Meet privacy and data protection standards
- Encourage Service Providers to be 'Refugee Ready'



# Key Recommendations - Governments

- Include forcibly displaced in Foundational ID Platforms
- Clarify existing Customer Due Diligence ID requirements
- Coordinate across Government with Humanitarian Partners
- Issue ID more expeditiously and assist authentication
- Consider tiered approaches (accounts with limits) to increase access
- Ensure policy change is well managed

# Conclusions

- Strengthening capacity in refugee registration and ID will be a crucial enabler to realise the goals of the Global Compact on Refugees
- UNHCR will work with States providing direct operational support in all registration contexts or through digital tools.
- UNHCR will work with States to ensure that the enabling regulatory environment both protects refugees and provides access to key services.













