Dear colleagues,

Germany welcomes the efforts of UNICEF and UNHCR to join forces for the support of refugee children and their host communities to improve their inclusion and access to services. Partnerships like this, where humanitarian and development actors make use of their complementary advantages to ensure the most effective and beneficial response in the sense of the HDP nexus are the backbone of a successful implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees. We strongly support UNHCR’s role in facilitating and fostering comprehensive responses and new partnerships in large and protracted situations of displacement around the world that shall ultimately decrease humanitarian needs of the displaced and those who host them.

Considering the vast needs – particularly in the fields of WASH, education and child protection – and protracted displacement situation in the respective countries, we welcome the selection of Bangladesh, Cameroon, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya and Rwanda as focus countries for UNHCR’s and UNICEF’s Blueprint Initiative.

Through its long standing humanitarian assistance, Germany has been supporting its humanitarian partners in the above mentioned countries in providing protection and urgently needed assistance to millions of displaced persons and their hosts. In the light of Covid-19 where the humanitarian situation - in particular of children - has been deteriorating, Germany has provided 450 Million EUR of flexible “fresh money” for the humanitarian Covid-19 response – out of this 55 Million EUR for UNHCR and 20 Million EUR to UNICEF, who joined forces in the context of the G-HRP.

Through its Special Initiative on Forced Displacement Germany intends to support joint WASH projects of UNICEF and UNHCR in different settings of displacement in East Africa under the KfW “Regional Open Programme for Sustainable Water and Sanitation Services for Refugees, IDPs and Host Communities” (ROP), starting with a commitment of 26 Million EUR in 2020. Its objective is to support and manage the transition from a care and maintenance water and sanitation supply model for refugee and IDP settlements to an integrated supply model, serving both displaced and host communities, based on sustainable service delivery and an improvement in cost efficiency.
This cooperation shall also be linked with our development-oriented Global Programme supporting UNHCR in its role as facilitator of the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees in the HDP Nexus. The programme consolidates and analyses lessons learned from different displacement settings for a more strategic, more coherent and more efficient approach of humanitarian and development actors in supporting refugees, IDP’s and their hosts.

Our positive experience with the close cooperation between UNHCR and UNICEF as well as today’s presentation emphasize once again that the complex humanitarian and development needs throughout the world’s crisis settings can only be tackled jointly. Germany has also been funding large scale joint resilience programmes with UNICEF, WFP and FAO. Here, too, implementing jointly ensures increased efficiency and, most importantly, bigger and more sustainable impact. We strongly welcome UNICEF’s push towards ever deeper partnerships with its sister agencies. Increasing funds received through inter-agency arrangements, pooled funds and UN Joint Programmes are another sign of UNICEF’s positive efforts. We expect UNICEF to systematically assess lessons learned from its partnerships and joint programmes and to improve internal processes and systems accordingly and to ensure that the next Strategic Plan presents yet another major step forward by providing the best basis for more integrated and more collaborative UNICEF work.

I thank you.