

**Press release from Ingka Group  
(Ingka Holding BV and its controlled entities)**

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## **Biggest step in IKEA history taken to support integration of refugees by 2022**

IKEA today announced new commitments across its value chain for refugees at the first Global Refugee Forum in Geneva, Switzerland:

- Ingka Group plans to support 2,500 refugees through job training and language skills initiatives in 300 stores and units in 30 countries.
- Inter IKEA Group will create sustainable livelihood for 400 women through its partnership with Jordan River Foundation.
- The IKEA Foundation commits EUR 100 million in grants over the next five years for programmes that help refugees and their hosting communities improve their incomes and become more self-reliant.

IKEA Retail (Ingka Group), Inter IKEA Group and IKEA Foundation have committed to different actions in the coming years that will help to advance the integration of refugees in society. The common standpoint is that IKEA believes refugees with their skills and experiences bring value to business and society.

“Great things are achieved when people work together towards a common goal. That’s why everyone – business, government, individual, NGOs - needs to be involved and work together to create a fairer and more inclusive society where everyone, including refugees, can have a better everyday life”, said Tolga Öncü, IKEA Retail Operations Manager, Ingka Group.

Ingka Group plans to support 2,500 refugees through job training and language skills initiatives in 300 IKEA stores and units in 30 countries by 2022. Since 2017, 90 IKEA stores in 11 countries have supported refugees.

“Work is a key driver for integration into society. With this initiative we play an important role in equipping and qualifying refugees to get a job and build their own connections in the local communities. Collaborating with refugees brings new skills, diversity and different perspectives to our business”, said Tolga Öncü.

The Inter IKEA Group contribution to the refugee commitment started with the partnership with Jordan River Foundation in 2017. The partnership co-creates and develops IKEA textile products produced by refugee and local women in Jordan.

“We are now taking the next step with this partnership. Ingka Group’s commitment to sell not only single products, but entire collections, in all countries will make it possible to create sustainable livelihood for even more women, going from today’s 250 to 400 women in the coming years. IKEA commits to scaling the initiative through a clear focus in all parts of IKEA – from developing the partner and the range offer, to a clear focus in sales”, said Vaishali Misra, Business Leader IKEA Social Entrepreneurs, IKEA of Sweden/Inter IKEA Group.

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IKEA Retail business

The IKEA Foundation has committed EUR 100 million in grants over the next five years for programmes that help refugees and their hosting communities improve their incomes and become more self-reliant. The IKEA Foundation and its partners will work in both urban and rural areas to improve people's employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, to improve agricultural value chains and increase the use of renewable energy in homes and businesses—all of which will contribute to refugees and host communities earning an income their families can thrive on.

Per Hegggenes, CEO of the IKEA Foundation stated: "Record number of people are being forcibly displaced from their homes and 80 percent of the world's refugees are being hosted in neighboring countries. Many of these countries are already struggling with high levels of unemployment, making it even more difficult for refugees and their host communities to coexist peacefully. We are supporting programmes that help both people who have been forced to flee as well as the communities hosting them to develop the skills and resources they need to earn a better income, find employment, or start their own businesses."

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**About IKEA Foundation**

The IKEA Foundation (Stichting IKEA Foundation) works to create a better everyday life for the many people. As the philanthropic arm of INGKA Foundation, the owner of the IKEA Group of companies, we focus on improving the lives of vulnerable children by enabling their families to create sustainable livelihoods, and to fight and cope with climate change. Learn more at [www.ikeafoundation.org](http://www.ikeafoundation.org) and [www.facebook.com/IKEAfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/IKEAfoundation)

**About Inter IKEA Group**

Inter IKEA Group has as overall purpose to secure continuous improvement, development, expansion and a long life of the IKEA Concept. It consists of three core businesses: Franchise, Range & Supply and Industry. The three core businesses work together to build a stronger franchise system. IKEA Range & Supply, consisting of IKEA of Sweden in Älmhult and IKEA Supply AG in Pratteln, Switzerland, have the responsibility to develop, design, produce and supply IKEA stores and sales channels around the world with home furnishing solutions available to the many people. Each year IKEA Range & Supply introduces 2,000 new products. The total range is almost 10,000 products.

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**About Ingka Group**

Ingka Group (Ingka Holding B.V. and its controlled entities) is one of 12 different groups of companies that own and operate IKEA retail under franchise agreements with Inter IKEA Systems B.V. Ingka Group has three business areas: IKEA Retail, Ingka Investments and Ingka Centres. Ingka Group is a strategic partner in the IKEA franchise system, operating 374 IKEA stores in 30 countries. These IKEA stores had 839 million visits during FY19 and 2.6 billion visits to [IKEA.com](http://IKEA.com). Ingka Group operates business under the IKEA vision - to create a better everyday life for the many people by offering a wide range of well-designed, functional home furnishing products at prices so low that as many people as possible can afford it.