



Invest in Youth; Build Community Resilience

Global Refugee Forum 2019 Pledge

The GYAC, with the support of UNHCR and Women's Refugee Commission, pledges strategic leadership and technical assistance to strengthen the skills, capacity and networking abilities of refugee, internally displaced and host community youth, in all their diversity, and the actors who work with and for them. This pledge is guided by a shared vision to support and encourage the potential, leadership and advocacy of youth, in displacement settings. Through this youth-to-youth initiative, young women and young men will empower themselves and each other to voice their views, protect each other, celebrate their diversity, and use their skills and abilities to contribute to their communities. This initiative also includes capacity building to enable practitioners who work with and for youth to facilitate an enabling and supportive environment. These efforts support UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.

GYAC pledges to contribute strategic leadership and technical assistance to connect and empower refugee youth. This includes a package of capacity development components during 2020-2023:

- 1. Support GYAC role in catalyzing global, national and local youth opportunities to implement the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).** GYAC members will provide guidance for displaced youth groups and organizations on participation and inclusion mechanisms; advocate for increased youth funding and opportunities to implement Core Actions for Refugee Youth; work with other partners to connect and support refugee youth groups to implement the GCR and the Core Action for Refugee Youth.
- 2. Map and strengthen inclusive mechanisms for refugee youth participation in 5 countries.** These mechanisms should enable refugee youth to advise relevant stakeholders on services and policy related to protection, education, health, psychosocial support and other issues that are important to them. Refugee youth participation mechanisms may take many forms depending on the existing youth structure in the selected countries. Such mechanisms might include the integration of refugee youth in existing national or local youth participation structures. They may also involve the establishment of *Local and National Youth Advisory Councils (LYAC/NYAC)* for refugee youth which will facilitate and sustain working relationships and structures that support ongoing collaboration between refugee and host community youth, in all their diversity and governments, humanitarian actors, development actors, private sector, civil society and other local actors. This



partnership will map the existing mechanisms and develop a plan to strengthen youth refugee participation and community cohesion in at least 5 countries.

- 3. Capacity building and support for youth-led action in 5 countries: (a) Training Package** materials for a series of complementary workshops and action planning sessions focused on improving how government, civil society and other partners work with and for youth, in all their diversity, at the local and national levels and building the capacity of youth leaders to work towards operationalizing the Core Actions for Refugee Youth will be implemented in 5 countries by UNHCR, WRC and the GYAC. The training materials are designed to promote sensitivity to and inclusion of young women and men including young persons who are LGBTQI, who live with disabilities, who are ethnic minorities or are otherwise vulnerable (b) Youth Action Planning Workshops: As part of building their own capacity, action planning amongst refugee and host community youth, refugee-led organizations, local and national authorities, NGOs and international organizations will be supported in 5 countries. Action plans will be developed by youth together with other actors and will outline the support to be provided by various actors to the priorities identified by the youth.
- 4. Increase visibility and support to youth-led initiatives.** UNHCR and WRC will work to increase the visibility and funding for youth-led initiatives in key areas that advance the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, such as protection, education, health, psychosocial support, peacebuilding, entrepreneurship and other livelihoods efforts. The support would also include identifying modalities to allow for a broader base of support for self-initiated youth groups and actions including young persons who are LGBTQI, who live with disabilities, who are ethnic minorities or are otherwise excluded.

WeBelieveInYouth

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