

Pledging for Youth: A Tip Sheet for GRF Pledges

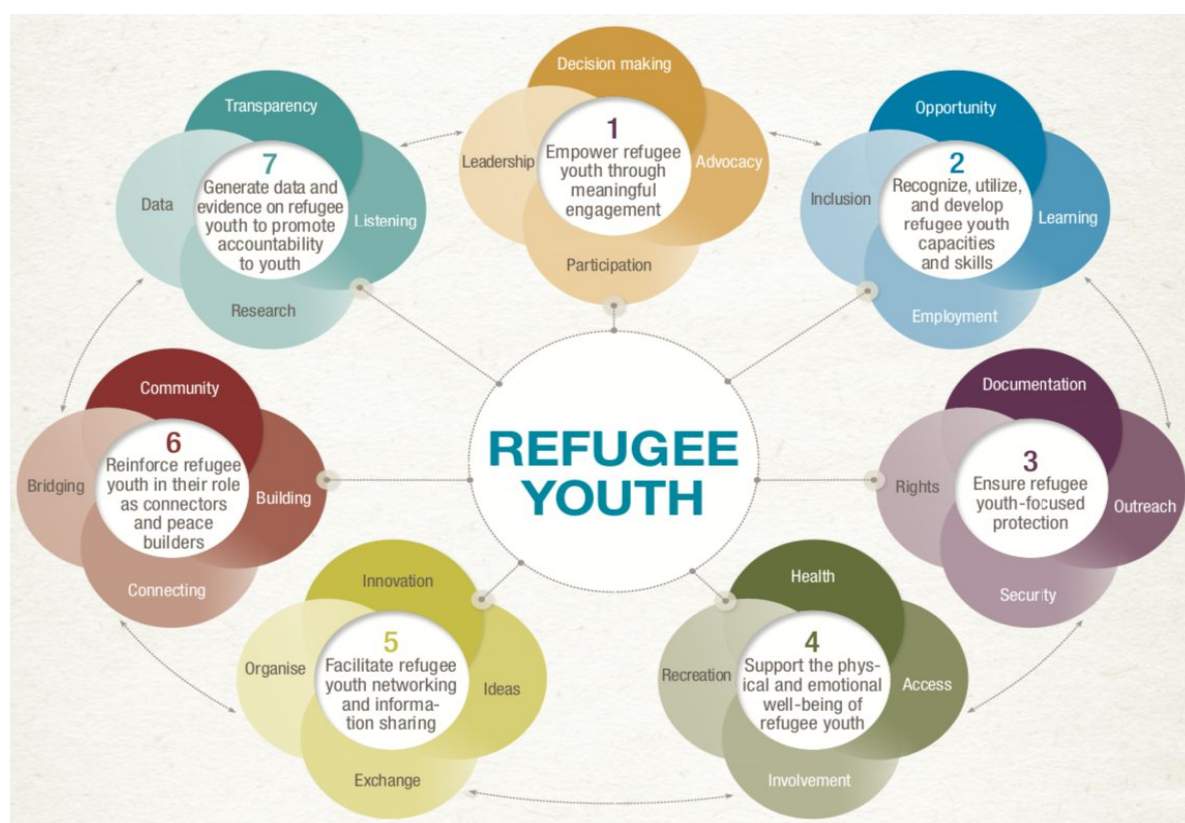
Recommendations on pledging for youth across the Global Refugee Forum Themes

<p>Why this Tip Sheet?</p>	<p>To help stakeholders understand why it is so important to include youth-sensitive, youth-specific and youth-led components within their pledges as a key aspect of an age gender and diversity (AGD) approach and to guide them on how to do that effectively.</p>
<p>Why pledge for youth?</p>	<p>Our world is young! Adolescents and youth currently make up 1.2 billion of the global population. Today some 408 million youth aged 15-29, or 23% of the global youth population, are affected by violence and armed conflict. Working effectively with young refugees and internally displaced youth is essential in shaping lasting peace and prosperity and can pay huge dividends in terms of economic growth, social cohesion and peace-building.</p>
<p>What does the Global Compact on Refugees say about youth?</p>	<p><i>The empowerment of refugee and host community youth, building on their talent, potential, and energy, supports resilience and eventual solutions. The active participation and engagement of refugee and host community youth will be supported by States and relevant stakeholders, including through projects that recognize, utilize and develop their capacities and skills and foster their physical and emotional well-being. (para 77)</i></p> <p>The Global Compact on Refugees (GRF) specifically mentions engagement of youth and youth-specific services as part of effective refugee responses not less than 17 times, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaningful participation: ...responses are most effective when they actively and meaningfully engage those they are intended to protect and assist, particularly youth. (para 34) • Whole of Society approach: ...recognizing the important work that civil society organizations do, including those led by refugee youth themselves. (para 40) • Sports ... recognizing ...the important role that sports and cultural activities can play...especially for youth and persons with disabilities. (para 44) • Addressing specific needs: ...the importance of meaningfully engaging and seeking input from those with diverse needs, including youth. (para 51, 59) • Education: ... States will contribute resources and expertise to expand and enhance the quality and inclusiveness of national education systems to facilitate access by refugee and host community youth to primary, secondary and tertiary education. (para 68) • Jobs and Livelihoods: ...mapping and recognition of skills and qualifications among refugees and host communities and strengthening of these skills and qualifications through specific training programs, in particular for women, persons with disabilities and youth. (para 71) • Fostering good relations and peaceful coexistence: ...Engagement of children, adolescents and youth will be fostered, including through sports and cultural activities, language learning and education. (para 84) • Solutions: ...Contribute resources and expertise to support countries of origin ...with respect to social, political, economic and legal capacity to receive and reintegrate returnees, notably women, youth, children, older persons and persons with disabilities. (para 89)

Core Actions for Refugee Youth

Why is it so important to pledge for and work with youth?

The international community is recognizing the importance of supporting processes targeting and led by young people, such as the Baku Commitment to Youth Policies, the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security, and the World Humanitarian Summit Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action. Pledges that address youth needs, support youth-sensitive and youth specific services, develop youth skills and capacities and that facilitate youth-led solutions at the community level are an essential investment.



Recommendations on how to pledge support for youth:

Refugee Youth Participation and Engagement

- ❑ Help youth to establish and sustain their own youth organizations and representative bodies, such as youth councils or advisory boards, to help them express themselves, represent their peers, and take action to support and protect their peers and communities.
- ❑ Involve youth as protection and peace actors within their communities.
- ❑ Engage with youth as substantive actors in collecting and disseminating information related to refugee protection, solutions, the protection environment and services for youth and their communities.
- ❑ Actively solicit youth input and ideas on how to reach out to young people and other community members on important issues.
- ❑ Encourage national, regional and global youth organizations, networks, and forums to engage with and include displaced and refugee youth in their organizations and activities to ensure that refugee youth are represented and their voices are heard.

Core Actions for Refugee Youth

Education

- Recognize refugees' existing education or vocational qualifications.
 - Expand access and quality across the full range of formal and non-formal learning opportunities, including literacy, numeracy and life skills.
 - Commit financing to expand scholarship opportunities to enable more refugee youth to access secondary, tertiary and vocational training, including youth with disabilities.
 - Support peer-to-peer transfer of knowledge and skills.
 - Conduct digital literacy capacity-building initiatives.
 - Provide child-care support for young parents to attend and complete education programmes.
 - Systematically provide sanitation/dignity kits for young women at school level.
 - Ensure flexible scheduling for education and learning programme for youth to allow young people to combine education with other responsibilities, such as work, parenting or child-care.
 - Provide cash assistance to off-set the cost of transportation, books and materials and school fees.
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Jobs & Livelihoods

- Provide young refugees with access to formal employment through recognition of qualifications, provision of work permits and information about employment opportunities.
 - Providing opportunities for skill-building, mentorship, and access to financial services to encourage youth entrepreneurship.
 - Promote apprenticeships, internships and other opportunities for youth to develop their skills by gaining on-the-job experience.
 - Commit material and financial resources to include displaced and refugee youth into national market-driven technical and vocational training program placements.
 - Facilitate youth-led efforts to develop and promote young refugees' talents and skills, including in cultural activities and sports, such as inclusion in national competitive leagues and associations.
 - Support small grant fund to support entrepreneurial youth-led initiatives.
 - Recruit and hire refugee, displaced and host community youth to work in humanitarian response initiatives.
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Protection Capacity

- Ensure that young people are able to secure personal documentation that enables them to access services, move freely and have personal security.
 - Prevent and address sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) by supporting peer-to-peer SGBV education and outreach to raise awareness amongst male and female youth and to help SGBV survivors to access support and services.
 - Acquaint refugee youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or Intersex (LGBTI+) with their rights and educate others about their rights.
 - Address the needs and challenges of unaccompanied youth, including those over the age of 18 and facilitate the complex process of family reunification for youth.
 - Support young refugees as active protection actors and involve them in assessments and provision of humanitarian assistance, and protection of youth, and other community members.
 - Engage youth to develop awareness about stress in displacement and actively support refugee youth peer-to-peer psychosocial first aid.
 - Involve local and refugee youth in raising awareness about sexual and reproductive health and ensure care is age- and gender- accessible and appropriate.
 - Create dedicated safe, welcoming and enabling spaces for youth to make friends and find peer support.
 - Enable refugee youth to participate in sports as part of efforts to promote peace-building. Support small grant funds to support youth-led protection initiatives.
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Core Actions for Refugee Youth

Energy & Infrastructure

- ❑ Boost internet connectivity for refugee-hosting areas and support youth-friendly spaces to enable internet-based learning, connection and access to information.
- ❑ Develop programs to encourage youth to develop, test and act in environment-friendly, community-driven solutions and environmental protection actions.
- ❑ Systematically engage youth in the development and provision of youth-sensitive sexual and reproductive health services.
- ❑ Systematically engage youth in the development and provision on youth relevant education and training facilities and services
- ❑ Building skills and capacity amongst youth related to and involve them in building and maintaining key infrastructure in the communities where they live.

Solutions

- ❑ Reinforce young refugees' abilities to build connections and relationships across social, cultural, linguistic, political and other differences and support them to contribute meaningfully to peacebuilding processes.
 - ❑ Work with youth as connectors between different ethnic, religious, and national communities to promote peacebuilding in peaceful co-existence.
 - ❑ Involve young refugee, displaced and host community youth to combat xenophobia and support smooth and sustainable local integration.
 - ❑ Involve young refugees in assessing conditions for safe and voluntary return and communicating with communities in the host country and country of origin.
 - ❑ Pledge resettlement spots and alternative pathways to youth.
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This Tip Sheet has been endorsed by the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action, whose members are: Action Aid, Act for Human Rights, ALEF Association, AJIL Anti-Tribalism Movement, arche noVa, Benetton, Group Barranquilla +20, CARE, Committee for ASEAN Youth Cooperation, Crown Agents, Denmark, Danish Refugee Council, FinnChurchAid, Germany, Global Development Community/Boston University, Global Platform for Syrian Students, GP4SYS, Gooddler, DOZ e. V., IASC Gender Standby Capacity Project/GenCap, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent – IFRC, International Federation of Medical Students Association – IFMSA, International Movement of Catholic Students - Pax Romana, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Population Council, Istanbul Youth Assembly, Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (Australia) – MYAN, Mercy Corps, Norwegian Refugee Council – NRC, Office of the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, Plan International, Population Council, Reach out to Asia – ROTA, Relief & Resilience through Education in Transition - RET International, ReBootKamp – RBK, Republic of Madagascar, Restless Development, Right To Play, Save Youth Future Society, Terres des Hommes – TDH, The Humanitarian Forum, United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth – UNMGCY, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network Youth – SDSN-Youth, United Nations Development Programme – UNDP, United Nations Population Fund – UNFPA, United Nations Human Settlements Programme - UN-Habitat, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – UNHCR, United Nations Children's Fund – UNICEF, United Nations Industrial Development Organization – UNIDO, United Kingdom Department for International Development- UK-DFID, United Muslim Relief – UMR, United Network of Young Peacebuilders – UNOY, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office - UN PBSO, UN Volunteers - UNV, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women - UN WOMEN, WeYouth, Women's Refugee Commission – WRC, World Food Programme, World Organization of the Scout Movement. – WOSM.