



KENYA

National Refugee Youth Consultation

Summary Report

2nd – 5th May, 2016



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Global Refugee Youth Consultations

Background

The Global Refugee Youth Consultations (GRYC) were launched in July 2015 at the UNHCR-NGO Consultations in Geneva. A joint initiative of UNHCR and the Women's Refugee Commission, supported by the Youth and Adolescents in Emergencies Advocacy Group (YAE)¹, the GRYC are supported by a Coordinator, Project Officer and Advisory Committee (consisting of national and international NGOs, youth representatives and an independent youth expert).

Refugee youth are often left out of activities and programmes organised by the UN, NGOs and other organisations. Youth have skills, capabilities, aspirations and needs that often go unrecognised and are not understood. There is a need to reach out and hear from them about the challenges they face, their visions and what support they need to shape positive futures. The consultations are providing opportunities for refugee youth to discuss issues that affect them with host country youth and representatives from the United Nations, international NGOs, national NGOs and other organizations working with youth in the country. The process aims to place youth at the centre of decision making processes that affect them and to recognize their potential. The target group for this project are young refugees that fit the United Nations definition of 'Youth' which is all boys and girls, young women and young men between the ages of 15-24 years.

The consultations took place between November 2015 and June 2016. They included national level consultations in Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa. The 'National Consultations' were led by national NGOs from each country with UNHCR and an international NGO partner. Similar consultations were held with refugee youth in North America, Australasia and Europe. Opportunities to participate in smaller consultations and online were also provided through a designated toolkit and a Facebook platform. The process culminated in a global consultation in Geneva in June 2016 and participation by young people in the 2016 annual UNHCR-NGO Consultations, the overarching theme of which is Youth.

Objectives and design

Underpinning the design of the national consultations are the four core objectives of the GRYC:

1. To create structured spaces for young refugees to have a voice and engage in participatory dialogue with other youth and relevant stakeholders at local, national, regional and global levels
2. To improve access for young refugees to local, national, regional and global youth alliances and networks
3. To foster and support participation, leadership and empowerment opportunities for young refugees
4. To consolidate and channel the learning from the consultations into the development of guidelines and policy recommendations on youth-inclusive programming, to improve the humanitarian sector understands of, and work with, young refugees

¹ The Youth and Adolescents in Emergencies Advocacy Group (YAE Group) includes representatives from more than 15 humanitarian organizations that are committed to achieving better outcomes for young people in humanitarian situations.

A participatory approach was used throughout. The session plans were developed by the GRYC Coordinator, in consultation with UNHCR and WRC. They were designed through a collaborative and iterative process, including:

- An extensive review of literature and other materials relating to consultations with youth, displaced populations and participatory research methods, in order to learn from previous experience and to adapt relevant pre-existing models.²
- The active input of a group of young refugees and asylum seekers during a two-day residential workshop in Malta, in October 2015, organised in partnership with UNHCR Malta and a Maltese NGO, Organisation for Friendship and Diversity (OFD). The group consisted of males and females representing the full age range of the global consultations (15-24 year olds), and five countries - Libya, Somalia, Mali, Eritrea and Palestine.
- Input into the development of the session plans and the content of the national consultations was also sought from members of the GRYC Advisory Committee - in person with the Regional Leads representing Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America during a two-day meeting in Geneva, and by email and skype with the full GRYC Advisory Committee.³
- A full pilot national consultation in Uganda that provided an opportunity to learn from the participants and adapt the approach and session plans accordingly.

Kenya National Consultation

National NGO Partner

World Vision Kenya in partnership with UNHCR Geneva, the Women's Refugee Commission, UNHCR Kenya, Film Aid, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) hosted the Global Refugee Youth Consultation meeting with 28 refugee youth from Dadaab, Kakuma and urban refugees in Nairobi. This took place in Nairobi at Corat Africa hotel in Karen. Unlike other countries that have hosted the national consultations, Kenya decided to take a consortium approach and to involve a number of humanitarian and non-governmental organizations to collaborate around hosting the consultation.

Facilitators

Each of the organisations in the steering committee provided a facilitator to run the different sessions. This was matched to the different skill set within the organizing team. The lead facilitator, (Dennis), from DRC took on most of the sessions with the other three facilitators supporting during the small group sessions.

The youth got into groups of four during the first day, and after getting to know each other during the first sessions, the groups were then reorganised and the new groups were maintained throughout the consultation.

² Some examples of key resources accessed include: Youth Consultations for a Post-2015 Framework: A Toolkit. Youth in Action (2013); A Kit of Tools for Participatory Research and Evaluation with Children, Young People and Adults. Save the Children Norway (2008); Listen and Learn: Participatory Assessment with Children and Adolescents. UNHCR (2012); Community Consultations Using Extended Dialogue Methodology. UNHCR (2010-11); Post 2015 Youth Engagement Event Planning Kit. World Vision (2012); Considering Consulting? A Guide to Meaningful Consultation with Young People from Refugee and Migrant Backgrounds. The Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (2007).

³ The Advisory Committee Regional Leads include: World Vision (Africa); Save the Children (MENA); RET (Americas) and APRRN (Asia-Pacific).

Interpreters

The primary language used for the facilitation was English. We had one purely French speaking participant. For this reason, we had another participant act as a translator. Considering we did not have time nor the funds to hire a translator, this worked well.

Venue and Accommodation

The consultation was held between 2 - 5 May, 2016 at Corat Africa in Karen. The same venue was used for all the activities throughout the 4 days of consultations. All the participants from Nairobi, Kakuma and Dadaab regions were hosted in the same venue for the 4 days.

Evening social activities

Throughout the consultations, we had musicians, professional advisors on refugee matters, and social influencers come and spend time with the youth. The youth were also given opportunities to showcase their talents and play sports in the evening.

Dissemination, Application, and Selection Process

We had Film Aid in charge of Dadaab refugee camp, NRC in charge of Kakuma refugee camp and DRC in charge of the urban refugees in Nairobi. World Vision Kenya was leading on the coordination with the help of UNHCR Kenya. Each of the teams was responsible for recruiting as per the recruiting guidelines, and coordinating the logistics in each of the regions.

The guideline and the forms were printed out and distributed through the committee members in the different regions. The interviews and selections were done at the camps' level and there was balance in terms of selection of the youth.

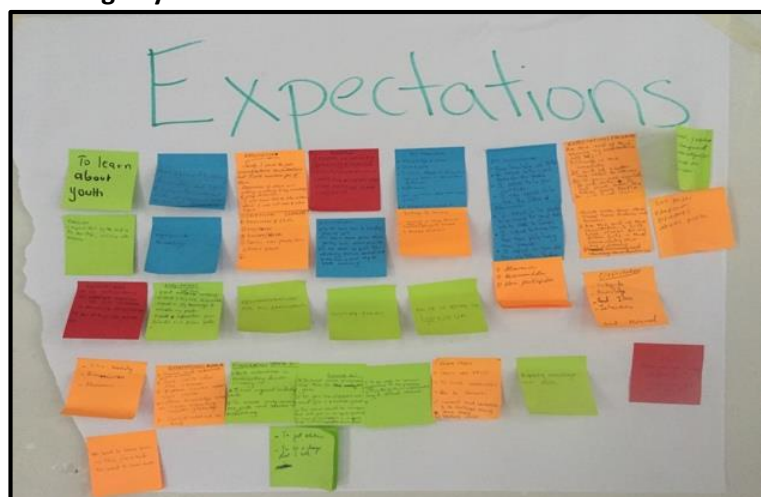
Youth Participant Profiles

In total, 28 youth participated in the consultation and were between the ages of 16 – 24 years with one minor. There was representation from Congolese, Somali, South Sudanese, Burundians, Ethiopian, Rwandese, Ugandan refugees and as well as host communities represented in the consultation.

Most of the participants expressed similar concerns that cut across all the camps as well as the urban area. Amongst some of the issues raised were: lack of education, access to permits to run businesses, exclusion of people with a disability, and lack of equal opportunities for the refugee youth. Most of the youth wanted to voice out the issues mentioned above, and were keen to meet with the stakeholders who would advocate for some of the issues they raised.

Bringing together host community and refugee youth

One of the objectives of the national consultations was to provide an opportunity for refugee and host country youth to meet, exchange ideas, build friendships and alliances and establish connections. It was hoped that, as a result of the consultations, refugee and host country youth would gain a better understanding of the issues they face – as youth – and that there would be opportunities for refugee youth to work more closely with national



youth organisations. The consultation provided a space to share their ideas with humanitarian agencies and private sector policy bearers and decision makers. The Kenya group were asked the question on day one, “*Why did we invite refugee and national youth to this consultation?*” The answers were as follows: To have equal opportunities between the communities, to learn the challenges and experiences from each other, to share solutions that are relevant for both communities.

National Consultation Structure

The National Consultations have two components, with the same structure for all locations. The first component is a three-day consultation with the selected youth (refugees and national youth) working together in small groups and plenary to be heard, develop ideas, build alliances and networks, and contribute to improving work with young refugees globally. The second component is a half-day ‘stakeholder dialogue’ where participants share consultation outcomes and recommendations with key local, national and international agencies and organisations and develop next steps for the post-consultation period

The Kenya Consultations agenda:

Day One

- Introductions and icebreakers
- Overview, Objectives, Expectations, Informed consent and Ground Rules
- Who am I? Activity

Day Two

- Who Are We? Activity
- Youth Participation Part 1, 2 and 3
- Identification of Needs and Issues
- Diamond Ranking
- Problem Tree Part 1 and 2

Day Three

- Solutions and what’s our role?
- Stakeholders Analysis & Design Stakeholders meeting
- Communicating our messages
- Stakeholders Meeting Planning: Part 1

Day Four

- Stakeholders Meeting Planning: Part 2
- Rehearsal and Peer reviews
- Prep for Stakeholders meeting
- Stakeholders Meeting
- Group Action Plan – What Next?

Main Themes from Kenya Consultation

The following is an overview and analysis of the key themes and issues that emerged during this consultation:

- **Youth with disabilities are not involved in decision making:** The youth with disabilities are not being given a chance to speak out on issues affecting them and the focus was only on the youth who are not affected by any form of disability. The youth with disabilities are not a priority when it comes to addressing youth issues in the communities.
- **Refugee youth lack access to quality education:** The refugee youth are being overlooked and most emphasis is on helping the host community youth. Refugee youth are not considered a priority when it comes to giving access to quality education to improve on livelihood activities, and given gateways to job opportunities.
- **Refugee youth are not involved in decision making and planning of youth program activities (idleness):** When it comes to advocating for youth matters, youth voices are not being listened to and taken seriously. They are not being given an audience to hear about issues that affect them directly.
- **Refugee youth are not given equal job opportunities:** During hiring for employment, the refugee youth are overlooked because they are not considered as employees who would stay for long and will have to go back to their countries soon. The employers do not see them as a permanent part of the organisation and hence would go for a youth who is a resident of the community.

Main Findings from Kenya Consultation

The following section provides a summary of the main points to have arisen in each session during the four-day consultation with refugee youth in Kenya. The structure of each exercise is described and followed by the main findings:

Perceptions and facts about refugees and youth

This exercise provided an opportunity for the participants to discuss, in small groups, the facts and perceptions associated with the words 'refugee' and 'youth' with their ideas recorded on flipchart paper and shared with the whole group.

Below are some of the quotes that came out of the discussions:

"Being a refugee is not an identity but a situation"

"Youths are active, talented and productive if they are given the opportunity – we are not given the opportunity."

In these discussions, the following words were used to describe the youth:



PERCEPTIONS	FACTS
<p>We are perceived as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hopeless • Dangerous people/violent • No status • Poor • Dependent on aid • Illiterate • Irresponsible • Lazy/Idle • Drug addicts/users • Immature • Criminals/Gang members • Immoral • Responsible for the conflict • Thieves • Uniformed/uneducated • Terrorists • Unable to contribute anything • Reliant on UNHCR • Not capable of leading or contributing to society • No future for refugees 	<p>The truth is that we are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victims/Innocent • Capable of running businesses and working • Real people just like everyone else • Hopeful • Learned and educated • Talented • Peace makers • United • Social • Hardworking • Moral • Creative • Energetic • Skilled • Informed • Not lazy • Hard workers • Busy trying making new things • Trying to fight terrorism and drug abuse • Respectful of other cultures • Innovators

Why do these perceptions exist?

There is lack of awareness; cultural beliefs; some terrorists happen to also be refugees; war; revenge; lack of involvement at government/business levels; because refugees are aliens; illiteracy; perceived as liars; past experiences; refugees receive support from UNHCR hence they must be rich and have money; refugees did not go to school; no one listens to refugees; high school drop-out rate; youth are victims of attacks; misconceptions exist globally; outsiders think refugees are not talented and cannot contribute anything positive.



Youth Participation

This exercise was structured around a set of three questions, which the young people voted on and then discussed.

Question 1: Should NGOs and UNHCR listen/engage with youth in designing and planning their services and activities for refugee youth?

All participants considered that it was important for NGOs and UNHCR to listen and engage with youth in designing and planning services and activities for refugee youth.

Question 2: Have you taken any steps to communicate with NGOs and the UN to talk about the issues you face?

In response to this question, all youth voted yes.

Question 3: Do you feel it is easy to interact with NGOs and UNHCR to talk about what you face?

16 youth answered 'no', voicing the fact that they know where to find the NGOs and UNHCR offices but mostly follow ups or even getting audience to voice their issues are part of the challenges.

Youth Visions for Participation:

In the next stage of this session, the participants had the opportunity to discuss in small groups their ideas and visions for youth participation and then to present these ideas visually through posters. Ideas for youth participation included youth-led talks, documentaries, and other opportunities to share their realities, experiences and to give 'clear and accurate information'; dance and urban or street art to convey messages; creating an organization or group that helps new arrivals to access services; environmental protection activities; and organizing a festival.



Identification and Prioritization of Needs and Issues

Each group identified needs and issues that were important to them. Once they had identified them, they then placed the most important ones in a 'diamond ranking' diagram. While all the issues that were identified were important, the youth were then asked to rank the issues that they had raised. This was an emotional session because most of the youth raised issues that were personal experiences to them and the individuals considered them just as important as any other issues raised. There was a lot of back and forth on what the most important issues were and the youth came to a realisation that by addressing one general issue, they could have a direct positive effect on other issues that they had come up with. As the youth started to think about how all these issues were connected, there was consensus on what the top issues were and that this could result in addressing other related issues.

Some of the needs that were identified by the groups were opportunities; There was lack of equal representation of the youth on education matters, which involved teacher allocation, scholarships programs, education centres, provision of an ecosystem to engage in income generating activities, space to apply for university, medical facilities, legal representation, access to work permits; lack of work permits to start businesses, no freedom of movement, and religious barriers. Other issues identified were female genital mutilation, human trafficking, environmental degradation, conflict and violence, insecurity and idleness, early marriages, forced marriages and food insecurity.



Diamond Ranking

After the Needs and Issues identification, the youth placed their top 9 issues and/or needs in a diamond ranking chart. The following is a summary of each of the identified issues:

- Job opportunities x 2
- Quality education x 3
- Poor health/medical facilities x 2
- SGBV/FGM x 4
- Food security x 2
- Resettlement
- Insecurity x 2
- Freedom of movement
- Talent promotion
- Basic needs and livelihoods
- Police harassment and exploitation
- Lack of involvement in decision making x 2
- Integration
- Long waiting periods for cases to be heard
- Drug abuse
- Inadequate shelter
- Lack of information
- Stigmatization
- Religious issues/conflict
- Idleness
- Corruption
- Tribalism
- Humiliation
- Discrimination

Some participants were very emotional about some issues discussed, especially the involvement of people with disabilities, harassment, and humiliation when looking to get assistance from different agencies.

Group 1 had a member who is a person living with a disability. The group generally felt they wanted his plight addressed but also the plight of all other people living with disabilities, in their communities. The group felt that steps to involve youth in the process of making different decisions was in place, but there is still a lot to be done when it comes to persons living with disabilities.

Identifying Causes and Impacts of Issues using Problem Trees:

The Problem Trees were created flowing on from the diamond ranking charts, to highlight what each group perceived as their number one problem. The following is a summary of each group's problem tree:

Group 1

Problem: "Youth with disabilities are not involved in decision making"

Impacts: Their opinions are disregarded. This leads to low self-esteem and vulnerability. They are considered beggars who are poor and lack the enthusiasm to become involved in income generating activities. They are also considered hopeless.

Group 2

Problem: "Refugee youth lack access to quality education and hence lack the adequate skills to get employment"

Impacts: This hugely impacts youth morale towards achieving their dreams. They get into idleness and this yields a large population of youth who are engaged in gang activities and who are not interested in positive living.

Group 3

Problem: "Refugee youth are not involved in decisions making and planning of youth program activities (idleness)"

Impacts: Danger of STD/HIV; SGBV: over reliance; drug abuse; theft; suicidal thought or acts; early marriage; early pregnancy; violence; stress and deprivation; prostitution

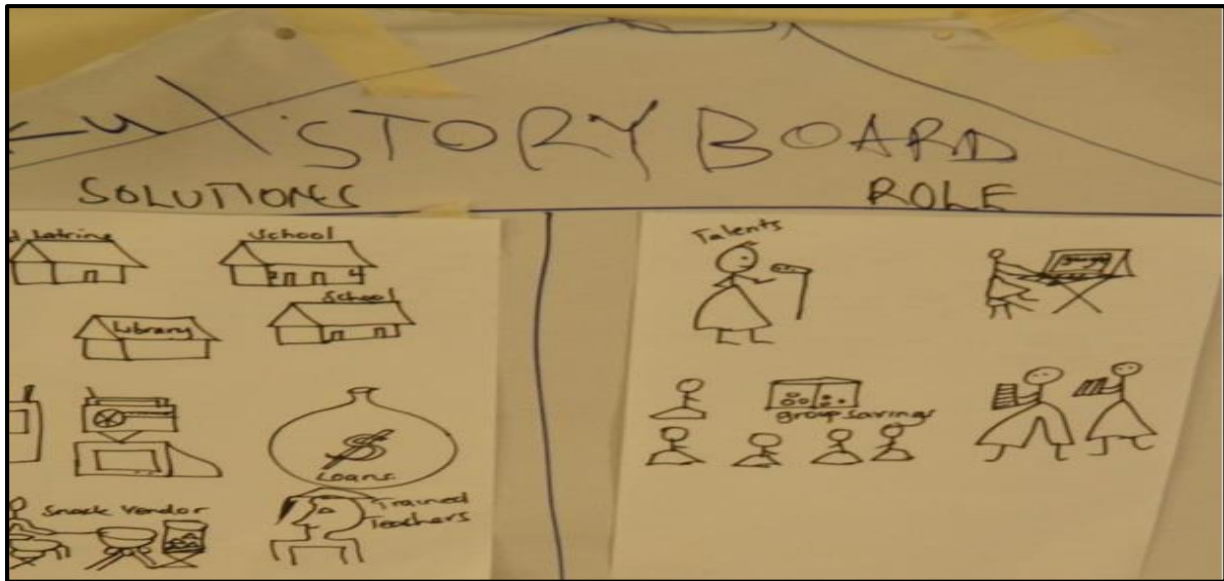
Causes: Lack of education; lack of employment; lack of empowerment; lack of talent promotion; lack of youth centers; stress and trauma; lack of self-esteem; lack of mentorship; hopelessness; gender discrimination; focus on resettlement; negative peer influence.

Group 4

Problem: "Refugee youth are not given equal job opportunities"

Impacts: Idleness; stagnation/no growth in business; hopelessness and drug abuse; radicalization; demoralization; hatred; stress and involvement in crime

Causes: Corruption; lack of work permits; bias from some organizations; few available job opportunities; perceptions; stereotypes; restriction of movement



Identifying Solutions using Storyboards

A follow up exercise on day three focused on how to tackle the root causes of these issues, finding solutions, identifying the role of youth and other stakeholders in implementing that solution, and identifying the impact of solutions on the lives of refugee youth.

Group 1 focused on the issue where *Youth with disabilities are not involved in the decision making*. The youth felt that persons living with a disability do not get a chance to voice their issues and are mostly overlooked when it comes to matter affecting the youth. The youth felt that persons living with a disability are mostly considered uneducated and less qualified for work; that they are always needy and not productive.

Group 2 focused on the issue of *Refugee youth lack access to quality education*. The youth expressed the fact that the camp sites are not a priority for the country when it comes to education matters. This, as a result, leads to a lot of the youth in the camps having too little skills to even apply for a job. The youth voiced that the system has completely neglected them and does not consider them important enough to be educated.

Group 3 focused on the issue of *Refugee not being involved in planning for youth programs*. Youth opinions are not being considered at all when the NGOs and humanitarian organisations are deliberating on youth issues. They are considered without much critical thinking abilities to contribute to the discussions.

Group 4 focused on the issue of *Refugee youth not being given equal opportunities*. The refugee youth felt that they are disregarded when it comes to opportunities in the work place, in education and other livelihood opportunities. The host community youth took precedence when it comes to giving livelihood opportunities. The employers, for instance, considered the refugee youth as non-permanent employees and as people who would eventually leave soon.

Recommendations, Solutions and Core Actions

Each group was encouraged to generate solutions for the problems they identified in their Problem Tree.

Group 1 – Youth with disabilities are not involved in the decision making

- Valuing their ideas
- Educating disabled people about their rights/generating awareness
- Building a center for mentorship programs
- Avoid discrimination
- Creating facilities that are user friendly
- Affirmative actions for people with disabilities
- Decision making structures with advocacy for disabled people

Group 2 – Refugee youth lack access to quality education

- Building universities in the camps
- Bring schools closer to the communities
- Advocacy for policy change
- Construction of many schools and classrooms
- Provision of loans to provide start up kits for businesses so that parents can be able to provide scholarships for their children
- Employing qualified personnel/teachers
- Good and fair payment for teachers
- Providing professional development for teachers
- Proper control and management from parents, teachers, and the community at large to overcome laziness, truancy and moral decay

Group 3 – Refugees youth are not involved in decision making and planning of youth program activities (idleness)

- Involvement of youth in identifying the needs
- Creating job opportunities
- Building rehabilitation centers
- Building youth centers
- Creating awareness
- Creating more schools
- Improving sport activities for youth/cultural activities
- Create livelihood activities
- Include youth in all processes of decision making
- Provide tertiary education to youth
- Strengthening youth leadership structures
- Giving them opportunities to show case their talents at an international level
- Raising the quality of education
- Providing equipment and facilities for youth activities
- Youth should be involved in all sectors of leadership e.g. Politics, education, welfare and finance
- Looking at the youth as pillars of innovation, development and change implementation
- Forums between youth and the community

Group 4 – Refugees are not given equal opportunities

- Self-employment (innovations)
- Allow refugees to work anywhere in Kenya and other countries
- Integrate refugees who want to be Kenyan and give them jobs
- Shorten the process of getting a work permit
- Support livelihood activities that create employment for youth
- Enhance and promote youth talents
- Resettlement to countries with more job opportunities
- Support education for the youth to become more competitive (both technical and professional)
- Provide loans to youth who want to start businesses (factors of production)
- Support peace initiatives in countries of origin for refugee youth to go back home and work
- Give equal opportunities to youth
- Introducing anti-corruption programs
- Giving internship opportunities to youth to gain work experience

Stakeholders Dialogue

The stakeholder's dialogue was held from 2 pm to 6pm on Thursday May 5th. Some of the organisations represented were:

- NRC Kenya
- Oxfam
- World Vision Kenya
- GIZ
- World Vision Kenya
- Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA)
- RefugePoint International
- KNOD Foundation
- FilmAid
- Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK)
- AAHI
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- UNHCR
- UNHCR ambassador / Musician

Stakeholder dialogue structure

The stakeholder's dialogue was held from 2 pm to 6pm on Thursday. This was to give time for the youth to run through their presentations in the morning. The day started off at 8am with the youth recapping on what they were to present to the stakeholders. This then fed into the afternoon session where the youth coordinated the day's schedule.



Group presentations

On Wednesday evening the youth had already identified the issues that they were to present to the stakeholders. Each of the groups got a chance to present to the facilitators and get feedback on their presentation on the 4th. The youth then got a chance to recap and practice their presentation on the morning of the 5th and have their thoughts fresh in their minds as they presented to the stakeholders in the afternoon. Each of the presentations lasted 5 minutes with each group presenting their issues in the way they saw best e.g. song, poems and skits.

Round table discussions

After the presentations from each of the groups, the participants went into the World Café, where they got a chance to interact with the stakeholders. This was set up in a rotational basis where the stakeholders were allowed to go around the room to each of the groups and listen to the youth voice the issues they had come up with throughout the consultations. The stakeholders also got a chance to ask questions and get feedback from the youth in the round table discussions. At the end of this

session, each of the stakeholders got a chance to interact with all the groups and the youth also got a chance to interact with each of the stakeholders present.

Key discussion points and outcomes

During the World Café session, the youth got a chance to express themselves and voice out the issues that they go through in their lives. The youth were very expressive because they knew that the right people were in the room and were listening and responding to their plight. They also got feedback on what each of the stakeholders had in mind including some of the challenges and setbacks that the organisations go through. Some of the issues that were discussed were on access to education, inclusive dialogue with persons with disabilities, equal job opportunities for all the youth and access to business opportunities.

Open Discussion ('Open Mic')

During the 'open mic' session, everyone in the room could speak out on what they thought about the entire consultation, what had been shared by the youth, and what was given as feedback from the stakeholders. During the open mic session, the stakeholders also got a chance to explain further some of the challenges that are present when it comes to addressing refugee matters. This was in response to what the youth raised as some of the main points they have. At the end of this session, the youth got to understand the dynamics of how the organisations address refugee matters, and the challenges faced. The youth also got a chance to point out some of the possible solutions to addressing the challenges both organisations and youth face.



Next Steps/Future Action

It became clear that both the youth and UNHCR/NGOs have challenges that need to be worked around. During the 'what's your role' session, the youth were of the realisation that they also need to engage more at their level and not necessarily wait for assistance from big organisations. It became clear that each person has a role to play and we should work with what we have as a start and combine our efforts for greater impact. We had youth leaders participating in the forum who committed to lead the charge on engaging with the youth at the camp level. The organisations represented in the stakeholders meeting were open to getting guidance from youth who are actively engaged in the communities and receiving ideas they want to pursue. It was also clear that the youth need to have a plan of action ahead of time before engaging with the organisations present. The meaningful engagement of host communities into refugee programming came through a clear theme as well as more dedicated youth programming. The youth themselves formed a WhatsApp group which is still active with the aim of keeping in touch with one another and sharing information and ideas.

Evaluations

Final Participant Evaluation

At the end of day four, participants had the opportunity to share their opinions on the consultation, what they had learned and their suggestions and recommendations for future consultations through a written evaluation form. This was an important tool for participants to provide anonymous, individual feedback at the end of the consultation. Forms were translated and completed in French and English.

The written evaluation forms also provide targeted feedback on how well the participants felt they had contributed to the core GRYC objectives and outcomes. Participants were given the intended GRYC outcomes and asked to comment accordingly: completely agree; mostly agree; partially agree; do not agree. They were also given space to comment on each outcome. Over 95% of the participants were happy with how the consultation went. One issue that was pointed out was on the translation made to the French speaking participant who had felt somewhat left out during some of the sessions.

Lessons learned

The lessons learned from each national consultation inevitably inform the next consultations. Below is a summary of the main strengths and challenges encountered in Kenya.

Challenges

The time that was allocated to run the Kenya consultation was limited and reflected in some aspects of the workshops as it felt a bit rushed in places. Kenya needed more time to engage with partners from the three regions and conduct a comprehensive plan of activities at camp level. Short timing also impacted on the youth who were selected to go to Geneva because of the visa processes that were to be coordinated. Funding to run the Kenya consultation was minimal and hence presented challenges when it came to outsourcing services like translation to better include those who couldn't speak the language that was used throughout the consultation.

Strengths

The steering committee approach that the Kenya consultation took worked out well because the organisations involved brought different strengths to the table. Coordination was strong, and each partner worked on what they were responsible for which made it much easier to coordinate the activities in each of the camps. Each organisation in the committee provided a facilitator, and hence helped save on outsourcing costs for most of the activities. The comprehensive session plans provided by the GRYC team resulted in a lot of participation from the youth. This made it easier for the facilitators to engage with the youth in a very guided and controlled way. We were also lucky to have a group of very vibrant youth who were active and participated throughout the consultation.

Conclusion

The Kenya consultation brought together youth from different ethnic backgrounds, with different experiences and different education and skill levels to deliberate on issues that affect them. Most of the issues brought up cut across all the camps and the youth shared common challenges. The youth also brainstormed and came up with solutions that can work in any setting and that can be used in all the three regions. Most importantly, the youth from the different camps got to share and learn from each other, and form connections that have potential to change their lives. The people who have the best solutions are the ones who have experienced the issue. The GRYC provided youth an opportunity to directly interact with policy makers and present their issues for consideration from policy level downwards.