

ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOs
15 – 17 JUNE 2016
International Conference Center Geneva

BACKGROUND PAPER

Session title: Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

Date: 17th June 2016

Time/Room: 10.30 – 13.00, room 3 and room 21

This session will explore challenges and opportunities on supporting refugee youth to become self-reliant through wage-employment and entrepreneurship. In UNHCR's [Global Strategy for Livelihoods 2014-2018](#), self-reliance is defined as “the ability of an individual, household or community to meet essential needs and to enjoy social and economic rights in a sustainable manner and with dignity”. Supporting self-reliance for young refugees is critical as it can enable them to live active and productive lives by empowering them to build strong social, economic and cultural ties with their host communities, and by strengthening their capacity to claim their rights during displacement. More so, through supporting young refugees' self-reliance through wage-employment and entrepreneurship, young refugees may become better equipped to find their own solutions: Fundamentally, how a displaced person fares in the future, whether in the country or place of asylum, country of origin or in a third country, depends on the assets – understood broadly as encompassing belongings, wealth, health, skills, experience – maintained and developed while displaced. With these assets, young refugees may be better placed to become positive agents of change in their communities, including in areas of return or relocation, or in countries of asylum or resettlement. Moreover, young refugees can help addressing root causes to displacement in their countries and areas of origin.

While young refugees have the potential to become self-reliant and be positive agents of change, they face a number of specific challenges towards accessing wage-employment and entrepreneurship. To explore how to best support them towards self-reliance, the three following key questions will be guiding the session:

- 1) What are the main challenges that young refugees face towards becoming self-reliant through wage-employment and entrepreneurship?
- 2) What key learnings do we have on supporting young people (including refugees') self-reliance through wage-employment and entrepreneurship?

3) What are the key recommendations on supporting refugee youth to become self-reliant through wage-employment and entrepreneurship?

Aiming to benefit from the rich knowledge and experiences from all participants attending the session, it will be highly interactive. Participants will be divided into 8 groups that will be challenged with exploring the key questions as put forward. Some groups may have a specific regional focus, to allow both for general and more context specific discussions to emerge. The discussions in each group will be co-facilitated by a youth representative and a NGO facilitator.

Reflecting the three questions put forward, the session is divided in three main parts: In the first part, the 8 groups will be discussing different sub-questions designed to address question number one on the main challenges towards young refugees' self-reliance through wage-employment and entrepreneurship. In the second part of the session, addressing the second question, six speakers with different experiences from the field will be offering their 3-5 key learnings on how to support young refugees' self-reliance through wage-employment and entrepreneurship. Finally, in the third part of the session, with point of departure in the challenges identified and the key learnings presented, participants will be back in their groups to identify one key recommendation per group on how to support young refugees towards becoming self-reliant through wage-employment and entrepreneurship.

Tentative Schedule:

	Topic	Details	Presenters	Facilitator	Venue
10.30 – 10.35	Introduction	Presentation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective and expectations - Program and practicalities on venues - Addressing R2W barriers 	Paul Newnham, Global Youth Engagement Director, World Vision. Ziad Ayoubi, Senior Livelihoods Officer/Head of Livelihoods Unit, UNHCR.	N/A	Room 21
10.35 – 10.55	Outlining key challenges	Work in groups addressing the key question, “what are the main challenges for young refugees towards becoming self-reliant through wage-employment and entrepreneurship?”. The discussion in each group will be co-facilitated by a youth representative and an NGO focal point, and will be guided by 2-3 sub-questions.	N/A	8 youth representatives and 8 NGO focal points.	
10.55 – 11.15	Wrap up	Groups reporting back – maximum 2 minutes per group.	NGO focal points in each group (to be specified).		
11.15 – 11.20	<i>Move from room 21 to room 3</i>				

	Topic	Details	Presenters	Facilitator	Venue
11.20 – 12.10	6 brief presentations on key learnings.	Each presenter to share the 3-5 main learnings on how to support young refugees in becoming self-reliant through wage-employment and entrepreneurship.	Aaron Ausland, World Vision: Setting the scene: Youth Ready - Employment Viability approach. OctoPizzo, UNHCR Ambassador: Unleashing the talent of youth for entrepreneurship. RET from Kakuma (via. Video/skype): Digital work. Private sector representative: Jobs in the private sector. Graham Doxy, KNOD: Fueling entrepreneurship and employability in young people. Ziad Ayoubi, UNHCR: UNHCR’s approach to livelihoods programming.	Paul Newnham, Global Youth Engagement Director, World Vision.	Room 3
12.10 – 12.15	<i>Move from room 3 to room 21</i>				
12.15 – 12.35	Identifying recommendations	Work in groups: based on the challenges identified and the learning shared, identify one key recommendation for how to support refugee youth to become self-reliant through wage-employment and entrepreneurship.	N/A	8 youth representatives and 8 NGO focal points.	Room 21
12.35 – 12.50	Wrap-up	Groups reporting back, sharing one main recommendation maximum 1 minutes per group.	NGO focal points in each group (to be specified).		
12.50 – 13.00	Closure	Wrap up and “RAP” up - performance by Octopizzo	Paul Newnham, Global Youth Engagement Director, World Vision. Ziad Ayoubi, Senior Livelihoods Officer/Head of Livelihoods Unit, UNHCR. Octopizzo, UNHCR Ambassador.	N/A	