

Wednesday 12 June 2013

International Conference Center Geneva (ICCG)

8h00 – 9h00 • Room 6 (3rd floor)

Harnessing the Potential of Displaced Youth: *Gaps in Services and Response*

Moderator: Rachael REILLY, *Women's Refugee Commission*

Speakers: Katrine WOLD, *Norwegian Refugee Council*
Daisuke FUNAI, *International Rescue Committee*
Faduma GEDDI, *Centre for Refugee Research, University of New South Wales*
MaryBeth MORAND, *UNHCR*

Introduction:

Young people aged 10 – 24 make up over 33% of the world's displaced populations: 8 million young people have been forced to flee armed conflict and human rights abuses. Despite making up such a large proportion of refugee and displaced populations, displaced youth are too often ignored in humanitarian response programmes. There is very little earmarked funding for youth programming and very few youth-focused programmes. Programmes that do exist are often short-lived, ad hoc and vary enormously from country to country.

Displaced young people face serious challenges: many of them are living in a state of "limbo" with limited access to post-primary education or skills training opportunities, few livelihood and wage-earning options and scant hopes for durable solutions. This state of limbo makes it very difficult for young people to envision a future, map out plans or take meaningful life decisions. Yet young people often show great resilience in difficult situations and demonstrate enormous energy, talent and ability to adapt. If these assets can be nurtured and capitalized young people can make an important contribution not only to their communities, but also to humanitarian operations.

Structure of Side Event:

In this side event, we will hear from international and local NGOs working with displaced youth, as well as from UNHCR. The presentations will be followed by what we hope will be a lively discussion on how best to respond to gaps in services and response for displaced youth, with examples from country operations. The event will be moderated by the Women's Refugee Commission.

Moderator: *Rachael Reilly, Geneva Representative, Women's Refugee Commission*

Presentations: 35 minutes

Welcome and Introduction: *Rachael Reilly, Women's Refugee Commission*

Making the case for youth: why do youth matter; how do we define youth; how do we programme for youth and what are the challenges? [5 mins]

Katrine Wold, Youth Adviser, Technical Support Section. International Programme Department, NRC: A real-time perspective of NRC programmes to assist Syrian refugee youth in Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan, including a short video. This presentation will focus on strategies to meet the needs

of youth at the onset of an emergency, including education, livelihoods and recreation programmes [7 mins].

Daisuke Funai, Youth and Livelihoods Officer, Child and Youth Protection and Development technical unit, IRC: An overview of IRC livelihood programmes for displaced youth. The IRC will explain how it integrates youth programming into its overall emergency and humanitarian response. This presentation will look at the post-emergency phase drawing on examples from protracted refugee camps in Ethiopia and urban refugees in the slums of Nairobi [7 mins].

Faduma Geddi, Centre for Refugee Research, University of New South Wales: A personal perspective from a young refugee woman. This presentation will highlight the priorities and gaps in programming identified by refugee youth themselves. What are the key protection risks and challenges identified by refugee youth? What opportunities are there for young people to be listened to, participate in and contribute to humanitarian programmes? How can we ensure better participation of youth in the planning, design and implementation of humanitarian programmes? [7 mins]

MaryBeth Morand, Policy Development and Evaluation Service, UNHCR: UNHCR will give an overview of the key findings of its recently published *Global Review of UNHCR's Engagement with Displaced Youth* and provide some concrete examples of identified good practices in youth programming [7 mins].

Discussion: 35 – 40 minutes

During the discussion we hope to hear the perspectives and ideas of young people themselves, as well as share good practice examples of effective youth programming amongst the NGOs present. We hope to highlight some of the key challenges in youth programming, as well as identifying the long-term benefits for a community of investing in youth. We hope to conclude the event by gathering some key action points on how we can raise the profile of youth in humanitarian action and improve collaboration between the different actors.