“ON THEIR OWN TERMS”

UNHCR’S YOUTH INITIATIVE FUND: SUPPORTING YOUTH-LED PROTECTION
SUMMARY REPORT
Just today, a refugee woman noted that she ‘saw two youth walking by the river, one of Agnuak, one of Nuer ethnicity, and they were together thanks to the Youth Initiative.’ These words are reassuring to all of us and confirm that the [Youth Initiative Fund] approach works – we are creating a space where the two groups feel safe to speak to each other and to interact again...

UNHCR Protection staff in Pugnido Camp in Gambella, Ethiopia
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UNHCR’s Youth Initiative Fund: Supporting Youth-Led Protection

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WHY YOUNG PEOPLE?

With a reported 600 million young people living in fragile states and conflict-affected areas,¹ the youth demographic represents one of the largest population groups UNHCR and partners work with. In the challenging contexts where UNHCR works, the transition of young people to adulthood is often marked by exposure to complex protection risks that can adversely affect their development and well-being. Yet, young people are resilient and possess the ability to adapt, frequently playing substantive roles in positive change. Unfortunately, they are also often overlooked when it comes to dedicated programmes and opportunities to meaningfully engage in decision-making processes.

THE YOUTH INITIATIVE FUND (YIF)

In 2013, UNHCR published a review of its engagement with displaced youth, identifying and making recommendations for action (2013 Global Review).² The Youth Initiative Fund (YIF) was developed on the basis of the review’s recommendations, and provided for the first time the space and budget for young people to design, implement and monitor community-based protection projects within their communities. UNHCR and partners have played a supportive role, facilitating the further development of young people’s existing capabilities and capacities. Between 2014 and 2016, 62 youth-led protection projects were implemented in 32 countries, generating a significant amount of learning, which is reflected in this report. This report identifies a number of common enabling factors in YIF projects that facilitated positive outcomes for youth and their communities and which contributed towards the fulfilment of the Core Actions for Refugee Youth.³

WHAT ROLES DID YOUTH FULFIL IN YIF PROJECTS?

• Youth identified and referred vulnerable persons in need to organisations providing assistance and support.
• Youth disseminated vital information within their communities on available services and resources.
• Youth worked with individuals and groups to provide peer-to-peer support, mentoring and psychosocial first aid.
• Youth raised awareness of, sensitised their communities to and offered solutions for local protection challenges.
• Youth convened groups from diverse backgrounds, promoting social cohesion and peace building.
• Youth created learning, social, creative, recreational and economic opportunities for themselves and their communities.

Addressing violence and discrimination in Skopje, FYR Macedonia – 2014

A group of thirty Kosovan young people worked with UNHCR and City Cross to raise awareness of violence and discrimination amongst their host community peers. The group used Forum Theatre as a community education tool. After training in communication, teamwork, SGBV and discrimination prevention, the youth group wrote, produced and performed plays in schools based on their real-life experiences. As the Forum Theatre process is interactive, they encouraged their peers to act out reiterations of the plays that explored safe ways to prevent and respond to violence and discrimination when experienced or witnessed. The youth successfully addressed prejudices against Kosovan youth. They also learned to adopt non-violent behaviour, increased their self-esteem and confidence, and strengthened their integration with the local community.

What outcomes did we see for youth through the YIF?

For the young project leaders and participants, the YIF provided a platform to contribute positively to their communities, have their voices heard and increase visibility and understanding of what young people can achieve when supported with meaningful opportunities. Capacity development and project management experience, both central to all YIF projects, were essential for increasing self-confidence and building life skills and hope for young people’s futures. By mobilising, sensitising and supporting their communities and partnering with multiple stakeholders, youth strengthened their social capital, support networks and sense of belonging. Intergenerational relations were frequently strengthened and the understanding of young people’s potential to contribute to their communities was greatly increased. As a result, youth reported feeling more valued. Although the YIF does not always directly target groups from the ‘hardest-to-reach’ or most marginalised young people, the projects young people have developed have proved very effective in this regard. In addition, the YIF has enabled young people to be young – to interact with their peers, to learn about themselves and self-care, to be creative and productive and to have fun.

“This is a unique space for young people, we know that this project is ours, and we feel we can freely express our ideas and feelings. We feel supported and we feel we have a voice through which we can help our community.”

Soacha, Colombia – Young participant
**ENABLING FACTORS FOR YOUTH-LED PROTECTION INITIATIVES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support youth in roles as Connectors and Peacebuilders</th>
<th>Youth proved effective at convening and building relationships between people from diverse backgrounds</th>
<th>Helps build cultural understanding, social cohesion and peace</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Create safe spaces where youth can share ideas, be heard and exercise agency</td>
<td>Facilitates youth ownership, peer-to-peer engagement and relevant responses to youths’ needs</td>
<td>Increases sense of belonging, develops capacity for protection and strengthens life skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support youth to contribute to community protection</td>
<td>Youth have vital skills and knowledge for mitigating risks and often want to engage positively in their communities</td>
<td>Increases sense of belonging, self-worth and social capital. Strengthens community-based protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support youth to work with a multitude of stakeholders</td>
<td>Facilitates an integrated response, capacity development and provides support structure for youth</td>
<td>Strengthens intergenerational relations, youth participation, self-esteem and sense of belonging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support youth to be recognised as protection actors by their communities</td>
<td>Provides opportunities to influence decision making and ensure community buy-in and mobilisation</td>
<td>Strengthens intergenerational relations, youth participation, self-esteem and sense of belonging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate learning and capacity development</td>
<td>Youth often lack learning opportunities and are keen to share their skills and knowledge with others</td>
<td>Strengthens youths’ resilience &amp; hope. Enables a ‘multiplier effect’ – transfer of skills and knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support innovation in addressing wellbeing and protection needs</td>
<td>The arts and sport was of interest to youth and proved effective at addressing wellbeing and protection concerns when used as part of the initiative</td>
<td>Strengthens life skills, social cohesion and psychosocial wellbeing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support an age, gender and diversity approach</td>
<td>Youth are not an homogenous group – they have varied needs and capacities</td>
<td>Can help address diverse needs &amp; gender inequality and promote participation of the most marginalised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment strengthening and networking of youth organisations</td>
<td>Provides representative bodies for youth, promotes solidarity and provides platforms for participation and protection</td>
<td>Increases youths’ participation, visibility and learning &amp; collaboration opportunities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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6 **“ON THEIR OWN TERMS”**
I have learnt to interact with people. Before this project, I was a girl who sits in the house all the time. But now I passed the test and graduated from primary school, started working with my friends. I am very happy about my life and I have hope to live.”

Adolescent female leader in Kampala, Uganda

What change have we seen through the YIF?

The YIF has helped to build trust in the capacities of young people as protection actors, improved the understanding of UNHCR offices and partners of the needs of young people. The YIF has highlighted some of the many roles young people can play in community-based protection and humanitarian response. It has enabled the young people leading projects to challenge negative perceptions of youth, and has assisted UNHCR to adapt not only how it works for, but also with young people and their communities more broadly.

The first three cycles of the YIF have also succeeded in addressing a number of the recommendations in the 2013 Global Review.

This includes:

1. Working to realign the way that UNHCR staff and country offices view and engage with young people;
2. Developing an understanding of adolescents and youth as particular social groups that have specific needs associated with their stage of development;
3. Developing a culture of understanding within the humanitarian community that adolescents and youth are rights holders with agency in their own right;
4. Advocating for increased engagement with young people in humanitarian situations; and
5. Developing an understanding of the kind of programmatic responses that work with young people in humanitarian contexts.
ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report aims to provide a broad understanding and overview of the first three years of the global roll out of the UNHCR Youth Initiative Fund (YIF) programme. The report highlights a number of common enabling factors identified across the YIF projects that facilitated positive outcomes for youth and their communities and which contributed towards the fulfilment of the Core Actions for Refugee Youth.4 The terms ‘adolescent’, ‘youth’ and ‘young people’ are used interchangeably throughout this report. At the global level, in line with United Nations definitions, UNHCR considers youth to be those aged between 15 and 24, adolescents to be those aged between 10 and 19 years and young people to be all of those between 10 and 24 years, recognising and respecting the various regional, inter-governmental and national interpretations and understandings of all of these terms.5

Following this introduction, the report is presented in three main sections:

SECTION ONE

Outlines the case for a dedicated focus on adolescents and youth as population groups that require dedicated programming and support in forced displacement contexts. This section also outlines the evolution of UNHCR’s work in this area since the 2013 Global Review,6 including an introduction to the YIF as a dedicated response to some of the needs of young people.

SECTION TWO

Explores ‘what works’ in adolescent and youth programming by: (i) introducing existing frameworks for working with young people in forced displacement contexts, (ii) highlighting common enabling factors that have supported young people to effectively implement YIF projects and participate in their communities as active protection actors, and (iii) exploring the extent to which the YIF is already working towards achieving the Core Actions for Refugee Youth. This section also provides practical examples from field locations to support learning and replication of good practice.

SECTION THREE

Explores the reported outcomes of YIF projects at the field level. It examines: (i) how participation in projects has impacted on young people as active protection actors; (ii) how perceptions of youth in humanitarian contexts have changed at the individual, community and organizational levels; and (iii) how the YIF projects supported the strengthening of skills, capacity and resilience of the young people that led projects, and those that were targeted through the interventions.

Interspersed throughout the report are four case studies from YIF projects implemented in Bangladesh, Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Iran. The case studies aim to help readers to develop a stronger understanding of how the YIF was implemented at the field level. These examples highlight the varying nature of the protection challenges that young people and their communities face, as well as the responses that young people have developed to address them. The report concludes with a brief summary that highlights areas of interest for further work and study.

5 The UN defines youth as young men and women aged 15 – 24 years, while recognizing that “the meaning of the term youth varies in different societies around the world. In the same way adolescents are considered to be those aged 10 – 19 years. ‘Young people’ is a catch-all term that includes adolescents and youth. See: http://goo.gl/v8gNWB
In Kalemie town, young people identified Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), especially in school settings, as one of the main protection challenges they face. Young people who applied to the YIF were supported to establish and run ‘Peace and Non-Violence Clubs’ in ten secondary schools. The project was led and supported by local community-based organisation ‘Sauve la Femme et la Jeune Fille de Katanga’ (SAFEKA).1 The peace and non-violence clubs aimed to support adolescents and youth to learn about SGBV prevention, to support survivors and to establish a youth network to support protection and response activities. Each club had twenty-five members – publicly voted for by their schools – with five from each club elected as a Management Committee. The Management Committees were trained on leadership, peace education, participatory theatre techniques and action research methodologies as well as being trained as trainers on SGBV prevention and how to support survivors of SGBV. Each Management Committee then returned to their school and trained the other twenty club members.

Through awareness sessions, participatory theatre and exchange visits with other schools, the Peace and Non-Violence Clubs succeeded in raising awareness of SGBV issues. The learning programme of the Peace and Non-Violence Clubs was also shared on local radio stations, where SAFEKA field officers, club members and teachers held discussions on SGBV prevention and non-violent behaviour. The project exceeded expectations for outreach in 2014 with almost 15,000 people reported to have participated in or seen performances of the Peace and Non-Violence Clubs in schools and public places. With lessons learned from 2014 mainstreamed, the Peace and Non-Violence Clubs were again supported through the YIF in 2016, reaching a further 15,000 people.2 The UNHCR office in Kalemie reported that school heads, local government, teachers and parents were very enthusiastic and supportive of the clubs. The positive review resulted from the positive changes they had observed in their children, including improved conflict management skills. Club leaders reported that they had improved conflict resolution skills, a knowledge of SGBV and its impact on individuals and communities. They also reported increased confidence in their capacity to engage peers and their communities on SGBV prevention, an increased sense of responsibility to raise awareness about SGBV and the adoption of non-violent behaviour.

1 SAFEKA’s mission is to prevent and assist survivors of violence against women and girls in the Katanga region of the DRC. They specialize in the prevention and response of SGBV as well as service delivery to survivors of SGBV in displacement settings.

2 This included approximately 8,210 male and 7,020 female students.
Section One: Why Focus on Adolescents and Youth?

Adolescents and youth are at a pivotal period in their development as they transition from childhood into adulthood. Although understanding of ‘adolescence’ and ‘youth’ varies from one country location, ethnic group and organisation to the next, the process of transitioning to adulthood is one of major physiological and cognitive change. In forced displacement contexts, this often confusing and overwhelming period can be compounded by new challenges and responsibilities that emerge as a result of displacement. In these contexts, the specific resources and support that young people need frequently remain out of reach, and their capacities and capabilities are left untapped. Adolescents and youth still consistently fall between gaps of programmes aimed at younger children and adult populations. Although progress has been made, dedicated programmes remain limited in humanitarian contexts, and vary enormously in design, quality and impact. In addition, gaps remain with regards to meaningful consultation with boys and girls, young women and young men on their ideas and needs as well as programmatic responses that facilitate their participation in programme design and implementation.

This leaves many young people living in a state of ‘limbo’ with limited access to education, flexible learning or skills training opportunities, few livelihood and safe wage-earning options and scant hopes for durable solutions. Envisioning a future, mapping out plans or taking meaningful life decisions become increasingly difficult. As a result, young people often feel isolated and frustrated, with an increased risk of experiencing psycho-social and mental health problems. Serious protection risks are common, including engagement in hazardous and unregulated employment activities, exploitation and SGBV, forced recruitment into gangs and armed groups and risks of harassment, arrest and detention by security and law enforcement forces. In addition, young people often lack safe access to appropriate health care, in particular sexual and reproductive health services and information.

It is a testament to the resilience and strength that young people possess that despite what often seems like unsurmountable challenges, and the persistent gaps in programming, many continue to find ways to exercise agency and adapt to their situations. The fact that they continue to defy the odds does not mean that a dedicated focus is not required – it is exactly for this reason that the unique talents, skills and resources that adolescents and youth possess should be nurtured and channelled in order to ease their transition to adulthood, and to support them in making considerable contributions to their communities, to humanitarian response, economic recovery, peace-building and conflict mitigation initiatives. Without dedicated programmes and the kind of targeted support that younger children often receive, further generations of young people will lose out on opportunities. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants notes the importance of programmes targeting young people, and explicitly recognizes the potential of young people to be drivers of development when adequately supported and included in national systems and plans.

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7 See: http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/topics/adolescence/dev/en/
8 See: We Believe in Youth, p. 22. See also Mercy Corps, Age of Unrest: Syrian Refugee Youth at the Crossroads, 2015, p. 11, available at: https://goo.gl/pcttB
9 See: We Believe in Youth, p. 20. See also UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, SCI, Situation Analysis of Youth in Lebanon Affected by the Syrian Crisis, p. 131, available at: http://goo.gl/7Q2eQG
10 See: Mercy Corps and Norwegian Refugee Council, Don’t Forget us, Voices of Refugees and Migrants in Greece, available at: https://goo.gl/XLFv3K
11 See: INEE, Engaging Youth-Led and Youth Serving Organizations in Disaster Relief Efforts, available at http://goo.gl/g8S5Un8
12 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, UN Doc. A/71/L.1, paras. 82, 84.
UNHCR’S ENGAGEMENT WITH ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

Until recently, despite constituting a large proportion of persons under UNHCR’s mandate, young asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, refugees, returnees and stateless persons have consistently lacked dedicated and age appropriate programming. This lack of dedicated programming has been compounded by limited data collected on this demographic, meaning there remains a lack of understanding about who and how many they are, and the challenges that they face.  

Recognising this gap, in 2013 UNHCR published A Global Review: UNHCR’s Engagement with Displaced Youth (2013 Global Review), supported by the US Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration (PRM). The review indicated that at the time of drafting, UNHCR had no policies, strategies or dedicated guidance specific to youth. The review also noted that UNHCR did not have a dedicated youth focal point at the global level, despite the fact that a survey conducted with UNHCR field staff indicated that 70% of respondents worked either directly or indirectly with youth. Further to this, whilst existing strategies and frameworks for Child Protection, Education, SGBV, Livelihoods and Health implicitly covered the adolescent and youth demographic, there was no specific focus on them or their specific needs within these documents.

Following the review, UNHCR created the first dedicated global position on youth in 2014. The first initiative to emerging as a result of the creation of this dedicated capacity on youth was an adapted and scaled up programme that became known as the Youth Initiative Fund. In the three years since, the YIF has received hundreds of proposals from groups of young people globally. Between 2014 and 2016, the Division of International Protection supported 62 groups of young people with funds to design and implement their own protection projects, building on their capacities and capabilities to engage as effective protection actors.

In addition to the YIF, UNHCR has worked hard internally and externally to meet and highlight the specific needs and capabilities of young people, and to make sure that their voices are heard on humanitarian issues. The Global Refugee Youth Consultations facilitated by UNHCR and partners during 2015 and 2016 is one example of this effort to raise awareness of the specific needs and capabilities of young people. Almost 1,500 youth, from refugee and host communities in 23 countries were consulted. In June 2016, a Global Consultation in Geneva supported 30 of these young people to share their stories and bring together the experiences of refugee youth from across the world. Representing their peers they developed policy recommendations in the form of seven Core Actions for Refugee Youth, providing a framework for future action. Many of these young people also participated in the youth-themed 2016 Annual UNHCR-NGO Consultations and the 2016 High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges, organized around the theme of Children on the Move.

Also in 2016, in the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit, UNHCR co-led the development of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action (Compact). The Compact commits signatory organizations to inform, consult and meaningfully engage young people throughout all stages of humanitarian action. It outlines ‘Five Key Actions’ for young people that complement the ‘Core Actions for Refugee Youth’. Finally, in October 2016, States adopted Executive Committee Conclusion No. 113 on Youth, helping to deepen the normative framework and shape the direction for the future engagement of UNHCR with young people.

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14 This position was created as a consultancy with support from PRM.
15 We Believe in Youth.
17 UNHCR, Conclusion of the Executive Committee on Youth No. 113 (LXVII) 2016, 6 October 2016, available at: http://www.refworld.org/docid/57f7b5a84.html
UNHCR’S YOUTH INITIATIVE FUND

The YIF represents one of the ways in which UNHCR has adapted and reoriented its approach to working with adolescents and youth. It provides the young people that UNHCR works with and for the support and space they need to design, implement and monitor protection projects that directly address challenges they have identified. Each year, UNHCR launches a call for proposals for the YIF, inviting groups of young people to develop protection projects in partnership with UNHCR and partners. Once selected for funding, the groups of young people, supported by UNHCR and partners, implement activities and track their progress using participatory monitoring tools that also help them to capture the impact of their project.18

Funding disbursements are small, up to a maximum of USD 10,000 per project. The success of YIF projects is not measured through the size of disbursements. Rather, they are measured through visibly addressing the isolation within communities and the learning gaps that forcibly displaced young people often experience. The YIF approaches working with young people differently, engaging them on their own terms and focusing on nurturing existing skills and capabilities, rather than focusing on their vulnerabilities through top-down protection approaches. The YIF views project participants as active protection actors and aims to build sustainable community capacity and an enabling environment for participants to empower themselves. By engaging young people in all aspects of the project cycle, the YIF supports the identification of solutions and strengthens transferrable skills and knowledge that

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18 Please see Annex 1 for a sample Call for Proposals.

19 Participating adolescents and youth document the process using video or photos, while catch up calls are held on a regular basis with UNHCR staff and some youth participants. Outcomes are assessed through use of the Stories of Most Significant Change tool and focus group discussions conducted three months after project completion.
young people can then invest in their communities and their own lives. In this sense, the YIF supports both a ‘Youth Development’ and ‘Youth Involvement’ approach, in that it promotes and supports young people’s personal development and their potential to positively impact and engage in the communities and societies within which they live.\(^2\) The approach of the YIF is closely aligned with the whole-of-society approach recommended in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.\(^2\)

The YIF provides the space and opportunity to genuinely listen to and work with young people as active protection actors and agents of positive change. In essence, it encourages the handing back of power, engaging young people as partners rather than as “beneficiaries” of top-down programmatic responses.

The first three cycles of the YIF have succeeded in addressing the recommendations of the 2013 Global Review by:

1. Working to realign the way that UNHCR staff and country offices view and engage with young people;
2. Developing an understanding of adolescents and youth as particular social groups that have specific needs associated with their stage of development;
3. Working towards developing a culture of understanding of adolescents and youth as rights holders with agency in their own right;
4. Advocating for increased engagement with young people in humanitarian situations;
5. Developing an understanding of the kind of programmatic responses that work with young people in humanitarian contexts.


\(^2\) New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, para 69.
Youth Initiative Fund in Practice: Iran – 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Shiraz and Marvdasht, Fars Province</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focus</td>
<td>Child Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Led by</td>
<td>Steering Committee of 6 youth (3 males and 3 females aged 17-29 years old from Afghanistan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementer</td>
<td>256 Afghan and Iranian youth (members of 9 football teams aged 15-29 years old)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Shiraz, young women and young men, girls and boys representing 9 football teams felt that child labour, early school leaving, poor health and a lack of documentation were serious protection challenges for children within the Afghan community. The UNHCR office in Shiraz supported youth from the teams to develop and lead a YIF project to use sports, mentoring and advocacy to address the protection concerns they had identified. Supported by an Advisory Group of adults, the group carried out community canvassing to confirm the protection concerns they believed were prevalent. Simultaneously, they also began to identify vulnerable children.

Many of the children they targeted lacked any previous access to recreational activities, meaning that organised sports training and tournaments provided an ideal entry point. Through these organised sports activities, youth leading the project were able to provide mentoring and psychosocial support with the support of a qualified counsellor. The counsellor also held weekly sessions for the Steering Committee, football team members, children and their family members. These sessions included, but were not limited to, a focus on child protection, how to build trust, how to respect confidentiality within communities, and ways in which community members could support each other.

To address the education challenges they had identified, the Steering Committee and team members successfully advocated with the local government and children’s families to ensure access to school. In partnership with UNHCR, the group also advocated successfully for particularly vulnerable children to be exempted from tuition fees and for support for older children to access literacy programmes until they reached an appropriate level to return to school. Many undocumented children were also referred to the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants’ Affairs for documentation and to the Ministry of Education to enrol in school. Through the group’s activities, illiterate adults were also identified and referred to UNHCR in Shiraz to be included in literacy and numeracy courses implemented by their partner Literacy Movement Organization. The group also partnered with the Afghan Health Volunteers to conduct general health awareness sessions for children and their families, distributing a large number of hygiene kits to vulnerable families at no cost to them.

“I am now in grade 4 and joined the Youth Initiative to play football 6 months ago. It's the first time I have played sports in my life. I have made new friends and I feel that my own behaviour has improved. I have stopped working although I still help out at home.”

Female participant (age 9)
The project continued in 2016 without funding. Over the two years, community protection mechanisms were strengthened and 717 children engaged, enabling many to stop working, go back to school or enrol in a literacy programme. One hundred and twenty of the most vulnerable children were referred to UNHCR and to local authorities for additional support. Youth leading the project described having increased confidence, improved academic outcomes, an increased sense of responsibility related to themselves and their environment, improved life skills and stronger social networks. The UNHCR office in Shiraz reported that the initiative helped to build trust between UNHCR and refugee communities. Inspired by the project outcomes, the UNHCR office funded another youth-led initiative engaging university students. The office explained the expansion of youth initiatives by noting that young people have the best access to their communities and if supported, they can help to identify people in need more efficiently than UNHCR.

“"For three years, I used to collect garbage and clean shoes, and used to earn a dollar a day. I also used to attend literacy classes before, but after I joined this project, I started going to school and now I’m in the 4th grade...and I am a goalkeeper. The manager of the football team identified me on the street and started talking to my parents. He insisted that my parents stop me from working; they were not happy. But now they are happy that I’m playing and making friends. I have seen that I am kinder to others and I know that playing is good for health. It is better than working.”

Male participant (age 13)
Section Two:
Exploring what works in adolescents and youth programming

This section has three main purposes:

1. Introduce existing frameworks for working with young people in forced displacement contexts, specifically the Core Actions for Refugee Youth and the Five Actions of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action (Five Actions) with the aim of developing an understanding of existing approaches aimed at ensuring that programmes for young people tap into their capabilities, meet their needs and support their development.

2. Highlight common enabling factors that have supported young people to effectively implement projects and participate in their communities as active protection actors through a review of the 62 YIF projects supported by UNHCR between 2014 and 2016. Examples to support learning and replication of good practice are provided.

3. Examine the extent to which the YIF is already working towards achieving the Core Actions for Refugee Youth.

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CORE ACTIONS FOR REFUGEE YOUTH

UNHCR and partners undertook the Global Refugee Youth Consultations (GRYC) to amplify youth voices in decisions that affect them and their communities. 1,482 young people participated in 65 national or local consultations held in 23 countries between October 2015 and June 2016. Consistent themes emerged across the hundreds of context-specific solutions, actions, and recommendations that participants developed during the consultations. These were organized and consolidated by participants at a ‘Global Consultation’ into seven Core Actions for Refugee Youth.

The Core Actions for Refugee Youth are intended as a framework to guide humanitarian actors to shape youth-specific, policy, guidance, and programmes. The Core Actions for Refugee Youth present a holistic and systems approach to addressing the interconnected challenges that young refugees face. Coherent programming for youth should ensure that the Core Actions for Refugee Youth are considered in an integrated manner as the actions are mutually reinforcing.

The Core Actions for Refugee Youth are:

1. Empower refugee youth through meaningful engagement.
2. Recognise, utilize and develop refugee youth capacities and skills.
3. Ensure refugee youth focussed protection.
4. Support the physical and Emotional well-being of refugee youth.
5. Facilitate refugee youth networking and information sharing.
6. Reinforce refugee youth in their role and connectors and peace builders.
7. Generate data and evidence on refugee youth to promote accountability to youth.

UNHCR is working to operationalize the Core Actions Framework in its work with young people in forced displacement contexts globally.

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22 Nine enabling factors were identified through analysis of conversations, focus group discussions, written reports and participatory monitoring tools.
FIVE ACTIONS OF THE COMPACT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The Five Actions of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action are another recently developed framework for working with young people in humanitarian contexts. The Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action, developed in the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in 2016, is a collective commitment of more than 50 organisations to work towards ensuring that the priorities, needs and rights of young women and young men, girls and boys affected by disaster, conflict, forced displacement and other humanitarian crises, are addressed, and that they are informed, consulted, and meaningfully engaged throughout all stages of humanitarian action. The members of the compact commit not only to specifically fund, research and address the needs of youth in crisis settings, but also to ensure they are part of designing and leading those responses.

The Five Actions are:

- **Action 1**: Make humanitarian programmes contribute to the protection, health and development of young women, young men, girls and boys.

- **Action 2**: Support systematic engagement and partnership with youth in all phases of humanitarian action, especially decision-making and budget allocations.

- **Action 3**: Strengthen young people’s capacities to be effective humanitarian actors, and supporting local youth-led initiatives and organizations in humanitarian response. This includes young refugees and internally displaced persons living in informal urban settlements and slums.

- **Action 4**: Increase resources to address the needs and priorities of adolescents and youth affected by humanitarian crises and use the new gender and age marker for better tracking and reporting.

- **Action 5**: Generate and systematically use age- and sex-disaggregated data.

The members of the Compact agree to collectively review at regular intervals and be accountable for progress on the implementation of the Compact. UNHCR is a Compact member and the Five Actions of the Compact correlate strongly with the Core Actions for Refugee Youth.

COMMON ENABLING FACTORS IDENTIFIED ACROSS YIF PROJECTS

The enabling factors outlined below have been identified across multiple YIF projects to support young people to effectively implement projects and participate in their communities as active protection actors. These nine enabling factors were identified by stakeholders, including the YIF participants themselves, as having a clear influence on their ability to make projects a success. Examples from field operations are provided to illustrate how the enabling factor supported effective adolescents and youth programming and to support learning and replication of good practice.

Support youth to take on roles as connectors and peace builders

Young people leading YIF projects consistently identified barriers to inclusion and integration in the host country as a major concern. For many YIF participants, managing conflict, violence, discrimination and xenophobia were common problems. Youth leading projects understood this and took on roles in conflict management and resolution, in peacebuilding and as connectors. Just under one third of YIF projects focused on promoting peaceful coexistence between refugee and host communities, within displaced communities or between religious or ethnic groups. The majority of these projects worked to facilitate social cohesion and integration by providing a space for youth from diverse backgrounds to work together. Through their projects, they created opportunities for different social groups, ethnicities, nationalities and communities to interact and share experiences and resources. Youth participants frequently used cultural, recreational and social exchanges to strengthen understanding, address prejudices and dispel misconceptions.
In Kenya, Kakuma Refugee Camp, a collective of youth groups known as United Drama 4 Peace came together to promote peaceful coexistence and reduce conflict using community theatre. They produced an advocacy film called Fight for Peace and held screenings to bring people together for regular group discussions to support understanding and peace. In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, young people at the Hope Urban Refugee Youth Association held joint sporting events with youth from the host community as well as with other sports clubs based in schools, police stations and health centres to promote inter-community and intergenerational interaction and understanding.

Create safe spaces for youth to express themselves and exercise agency

The YIF has facilitated the creation of “safe spaces” for young people who have participated, both those who have led the projects and those who have been targeted. Projects have supported young people to come together, share their experiences and ideas, identify issues of concern to them, develop solutions and put them into action. The approach of simply creating space also provides an enabling environment for creativity and meaningful engagement, supporting participants to exercise agency and have their voices heard by their communities, humanitarians and in many case, state actors. Ensuring the availability of safe spaces was also central to building the trust and ownership needed for effective youth-led community-based projects to succeed.

In Lebanon, a group of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) youth came together to discuss and better understand their protection issues and the kind of support available. After participating in a training-of-trainers workshop run by local organisations, the group helped to build the capacity of frontline staff of humanitarian agencies in order to improve service provision for LGBTI youth. They also produced a short film based on testimonies of SGBV survivors which continues to be used for training and advocacy with service providers and other refugee groups.

Read more at: http://www.unhcr.org/ke/258-kakuma-refugees-make-a-movie.html
A common concern for YIF participants was the lack of opportunities for civic engagement and to influence decision-making processes. Participating young people frequently shared ownership of their projects by consulting and working with and within community structures. This engagement resulted in youth feeling more supported in implementing their activities, helped to manage expectations of the project within their communities, and increase project outreach. This was particularly true when youth actively engaged their community leaders, religious leaders and elders. This enabled youth and their projects to gain credibility and more easily mobilise community members to participate. It also supported youth to navigate cultural barriers and adapt projects to ensure cultural sensitivity, raise awareness of their concerns, and challenge cultural norms in a safe and supported manner. Some groups also directly targeted parents, engaging them in their activities to improve parents’ understanding of specific issues affecting children and young people. This led to greater acceptance of the YIF projects and helped to increase project outreach, whilst recognising the responsibility and capacity families have for protection.

In Ban Don Yang Camp, Thailand, the ‘Youth Cabinet’ leading the project found it difficult to mobilise their community to attend awareness-raising on child marriage and substance abuse. The group addressed this by engaging community leaders, who supported them to join camp coordination meetings so that they could introduce their activities and secure support. In Kabul, Afghanistan, youth began to hold bi-weekly meetings with their elders where they discussed their ideas and concerns. This provided a unique space as traditionally youth were not listened to by elders. They advocated for increased participation of women and girls in the community and gained their elders’ support to launch a campaign against substance abuse.

The majority of YIF projects used a community-based approach, had an outreach component and focused on supporting the community. Projects provided a platform for adolescents and youth to analyse and better understand protection challenges within their communities through research, training on protection issues, consultation with community members and drawing on their own experiences. Outreach activities often focused on building awareness of protection issues and the negative impact of harmful practices. They aimed to develop capacity and support structures in partnership with different stakeholders to strengthen the resilience of their communities. Youth participants adopted roles as advocates for human rights, improved access to and quality of existing services and provided skills building opportunities for their peers and other community members.

In N’Djamena, Chad, a small group of youth held community networking forums to better understand protection challenges and identify ways to address them without relying on outside assistance. They used the forums to disseminate information on available services, resources and activities. The group also made home visits and set up telephone helplines to identify and support particularly vulnerable people within the community, making referrals to UNHCR and partners for those who needed specialised support. In Tahoua, Niger, 2 existing Youth Committees were trained to raise awareness about birth registration and statelessness and the procedures involved in securing birth certificates and how this benefits children. They also promoted the use of health care facilities and worked with other community members to support pregnant women to access them.

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24 This approach recognizes the resilience, capacities, skills and resources within communities, and builds on these to deliver protection and solutions, while supporting the community’s own goals.
Facilitate youth to access and work with a multitude of stakeholders

The YIF has provided the space and opportunity for young people to work and partner strategically with humanitarian actors, as well as professionals outside the humanitarian sector, with whom they would not ordinarily have contact. This has included government agencies, Camp Coordination and Camp Management Committees, international and national non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations and academic institutions. These partnerships have supported youth to manage their initiatives, fill protection gaps and address needs that were previously unmet, while also enhancing their skills and capacities. Furthermore, YIF groups were able to pool resources with others, become more efficient, and receive support in mobilising the community and access expertise when and where it was needed. Partnering with a broad cross-section of stakeholders contributed to increased resilience and sustainability of initiatives by linking them with, and at times integrating them into existing structures.

In Goudoubo, Burkina Faso, a group of young people established a cattle fattening management project. Partners provided training in livestock management and supported the group with the construction of a barn, helping them to identify a site that did not disturb households, respected the camp boundaries and ensured access to water resources. In Kerman, Iran, youth trained as community facilitators conducted training in hygiene, life skills and child protection in remote villages. The Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants’ Affairs supported the project by enabling the facilitators to make referrals when needed. The community supported the project by providing training venues such as mosques, the offices of local organisations, schools and peoples’ homes. This reduced costs, ensured the training was accessible and helped to embed the project in the community.

Facilitate learning and capacity development

YIF project leaders highlighted that they face a lack of meaningful opportunities to utilise, share and further develop their capabilities and knowledge. Capacity development is a core objective of the YIF, with all projects supporting formal or informal training and skills building opportunities. Young people leading projects recognised their own need for support to achieve their project objectives, and included in their project proposals workshops and trainings supported by UNHCR and partners for themselves, their peers and communities. In addition, projects also often capacitated young people as educators and mentors, providing training and support to their communities. As a result, young people were able to feel greater ownership of the process, increase the outreach and the impact of their projects through peer-to-peer support and transfer of skills and knowledge. Capacitating young people to support their peers to learn, network, have fun and address their protection concerns also provided a platform for psychosocial support based on a resilience approach which “emphasises the importance of self-help, social mobilisation, and collective empowerment.”

As a result of the YIF, young people and their communities have increased their knowledge on human rights, entrepreneurship and livelihoods, business management, sports programming, arts and crafts, child protection, psychosocial first aid, peace-building, SGBV prevention and response and civic engagement.

In Damascus, Syria, 3 youth committees collaborated to train young people from local and internally displaced communities in active citizenship and community leadership. They established youth groups and supported them to deliver small protection initiatives for children, women and youth. In Djohong, Cameroon, youth were trained as peer educators to raise awareness about the impact of early and unwanted pregnancies, child marriage, drug use, the importance of education and contraception methods. They held mass mobilisation sessions

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through educational talks, theatrical performances, film screenings and door-to-door visits. They also set up helplines and provided basic counselling for their peers, referring them to the appropriate services when needed.

Support innovative approaches to addressing well-being and protection needs

YIF participants highlighted the adoption of negative coping strategies amongst their peers and mental and emotional health difficulties as areas of concern. YIF projects frequently utilised the arts and sport as forms of psychosocial support that helped to meet their own and their community’s needs. The projects provided opportunities for young people to have fun, express themselves, strengthen life skills and gain confidence. At times, arts, crafts, games and sport created opportunities for girls and young women to participate where this was previously impossible or opportunities did not exist. In many cases, it also contributed towards challenging negative cultural norms. Young people also used creative, social and interactive methods to engage, mobilise and sensitise their communities on protection challenges. They created opportunities not only for themselves but also for their peers, families and other community structures to learn more about the issues, their impact, and the identification of solutions. These media capacitated young people to engage with difficult problems, generate discussion, raise awareness of protection issues and disseminate information on support services.

In Tongogara Refugee Camp, Zimbabwe, trained youth mental health promoters reached out to newcomers and existing refugees in need of psychosocial support. In addition to providing basic counselling and making referrals to specialised and non-specialised agencies, they also raised awareness of mental health through film screenings, group discussions, a talent show and sport events. In Kiziba Refugee Camp, Rwanda, youth established a club and engaged vulnerable young people in the martial art of Kung Fu to reduce high levels of anxiety and destructive coping strategies including drug and alcohol consumption. The participating youth also organised monthly group discussions and community sensitisation sessions on common problems faced by young people in the camp.
Support an age, gender and diversity inclusive approach

The YIF encourages young people developing and leading the projects to ensure they are inclusive and consider age, gender and diversity when designing and implementing projects, in line with UNHCR’s *Age, Gender and Diversity Policy.* Facilitating equal participation and leadership of girls and young women, boys and young men has been central. Projects helped to promote gender equality through targeted activities and more organically through adolescent girls and boys, young men and young women having a shared space, goals and resources. Youth groups frequently reported difficulties in ensuring the participation of adolescent girls and young women and their adoption of leadership roles. However, youth found ways to mitigate this through door-to-door or home visits to engage parents and guardians, negotiating with community leaders to support the participation of girls and women, and girls and young women setting up youth groups where they had dedicated spaces to improve their visibility and engagement in community life. A number of projects also sought to promote the equal inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities, youth from the LGBTI community, indigenous youth, young children and the elderly.

In *Oruchinga, Uganda,* a group of young women formed an organisation that included survivors of SGBV and single mothers. They used the arts to deliver advocacy campaigns on SGBV prevention and provided peer-to-peer psychosocial first aid. They set up a small enterprise to enable self-reliance, recruited young men to join the group and inspired the formation of another youth group of young women and men to fight SGBV. In *Chocó Province, Colombia,* youth from indigenous Wounaan communities formed the *Cultural Identity Research*

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26 UNHCR’s Age, Gender and Diversity Policy aims to ensure all persons of concern enjoy their rights on an equal footing and are able to participate fully in the decisions that affect their lives and the lives of their family members and communities. UNHCR, *Age, Gender and Diversity Policy. Working with people and communities for equality and protection,* 2011, available at: [http://www.refworld.org/docid/58bd552b4.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/58bd552b4.html)
Task Force to document and preserve their cultural heritage, which had been impacted by conflict and forced recruitment into armed forces. They engaged their elders, jaibanas (spiritual healers) and women to collect indigenous knowledge on traditions and shared the findings through cultural events.

Facilitate the establishment, strengthening and collaboration of youth groups

Over a third of the YIF projects established new youth structures. These structures included clubs, committees, community-based organisations and broader networks. They also supported young people to participate in existing networks to which they previously had no access. This assisted young people to increase their participation and visibility within their community, to get organised and collaborate with other young people in solving problems as well as providing a platform for them to define and progress their own agenda. In some cases, existing youth groups purposefully supported the establishment of other youth clubs, to increase their own outreach, share knowledge and provide opportunities for more young people. A small number of YIF projects supported new or existing youth groups to network, learn together, coordinate to address protection challenges across larger geographical areas and create a momentum for change. In addition, existing groups were also able to seize opportunities to scale-up their activities, develop their capacity and support existing initiatives in their location.

In Tripoli, Lebanon, Syrian and Lebanese youth established a youth committee to promote peaceful coexistence and address shared protection concerns. Committee members participated in training-of-trainers sessions that built their capacity on leadership, conflict resolution, advocacy and human rights and first aid. The committee then engaged marginalised groups in their community through dedicated activities, including youth with disabilities, children living on the street and the elderly. In 2015, the committee established a youth networking forum and developed an action plan for mitigating urban vulnerabilities. In 2016, they continued implementing their planned activities and established more youth clubs in North Lebanon, partnering with local community-based organisations to improve social integration. In Khartoum, Sudan, Eritrean and Ethiopian students of Ahfad University for Women established the Refugee Student Support Committee. The committee mobilised their peers to raise awareness of refugee rights in schools, universities and in the media and worked to improve the quality of education in refugee schools.

ACHIEVING THE CORE ACTIONS FOR REFUGEE YOUTH THROUGH THE YIF

The enabling factors described above and found across YIF projects have a strong link with the Core Actions for Refugee Youth, with some almost exactly mirroring one specific Core Action and others in various ways contributing to two or more. In many ways, identifying the factors across projects that enable young people’s engagement and project’s success, provides a baseline for future YIF programming, with UNHCR operations and partners able to clearly see where the strengths in programming are and where there is room to strengthen approaches in line with the Core Actions for Refugee Youth. For example:

- One of the common enabling factors that came through strongly was ‘Supporting youth to take on roles as connectors and peace builders’, and is the essence of Core Action 6 (Reinforce youth in their role as connectors and peace builders), recognising the ability of young people to reach across boundaries, where often adults cannot.

- The enabling factor ‘Creating safe spaces for youth to express themselves and exercise agency’ speaks to both Core Action 3 (Ensure refugee youth-focused protection) and Core Action 2 (Recognize, utilize and develop refugee youth capacities and skills) and highlights how the Core Actions can best be used in combination to achieve results for young people that reach across traditional humanitarian sectors.
The enabling factor facilitate the establishment, strengthening and collaboration of youth groups touches upon and contributes toward the achievement of Core Actions 1 (Empower refugee youth through meaningful engagement), 2 (Recognize, utilize and develop refugee youth capacities and skills), 5 (Facilitate refugee youth networking and information sharing) and 6 (Reinforce youth in their role as connectors and peace builders).

The Core Action that does not come out strongly directly from the enabling factors identified across projects is Core Action 7 (Generating data on youth for accountability to youth). Whilst not specifically highlighted in the focus group discussions, participatory tools, reports and other data sources, an understanding of the need to collect data on youth programming and for the participants to be a part of the data collection process has been written into the YIF from the beginning. This focus on generating data about adolescents and youth programming enabled this report to be written, but more needs to be done to generate evidence for ‘what works’.

If it is possible to achieve many of the aims of the Core Actions for Refugee Youth without deliberately factoring them into programme design and implementation, then a proactive awareness and purposeful attempt to operationalize the Core Actions through YIF projects should have a markedly more positive outcome. If participating young people, UNHCR and partners have an understanding of the Core Actions as a framework for adolescents and youth programming prior to programme development and implementation, this should result in an increase in the protection and development outcomes for the young people involved and their communities. In future iterations of the YIF, the Core Actions for Refugee Youth could be used as an audit tool or a checklist for ensuring that YIF projects have effectively integrated the Core Actions.
In Sao Paulo, young refugees of twelve nationalities identified discrimination, misinformation about refugees in the media and marginalisation as protection challenges that they wanted to work to address. The group of young leaders worked together to develop a proposal for the YIF. They decided that the best way to address the issues was to raise awareness of refugee and asylum-seeker rights, and promote integration with the local community. The young people decided that they would carry out a sensitisation campaign and develop a tool that could reach large numbers of people, and positively influence the lives of refugees and asylum-seekers across Brazil.

With this in mind, the group developed a creative, friendly and communicative multilingual song and video, which celebrated their cultural diversity and shared their experiences of displacement and their new lives in Brazil. The group partnered with Brazilian professionals and university students for training and development of the song and video. The group established a website to share their stories, provide advice to other refugees about Brazil and share information about their countries to dispel myths and misconceptions about refugees.

The song and the video “Refugees in Brazil” were launched at three events during 2015 and following growing public interest, the song and video received significant media attention in Brazil and were presented on TV channels, on radio stations, in universities and at human rights fora. The YouTube video has received more than 65,000 views, and has been used by different stakeholders to raise awareness on the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers across Brazil.

The young people who participated in the song and video reported that they had acquired new knowledge and skills in technical areas including writing, acting and producing. They also highlighted how interacting with Brazilian students and professionals inspired them to continue their education, with some of the group actively pursuing a career in the creative arts. The group also made new friends, strengthened their networks and integration into the host community. The cultures of group members were shared and many felt that their own culture was better understood and valued. The core members explained that their participation had improved their capabilities to work and communicate in a mixed group. Overall, the group felt a sense of pride in the end product which surpassed their own expectations. They felt they had produced something that could benefit not only their own lives but the lives of other refugees in Brazil.

“This project sends a message of humanity: that we are all brothers and sisters that we all have the same origin and that humanity lives together. Unfortunately, displacement will not stop, but problems like discrimination and xenophobia must be addressed.”

Young participant in Sao Paolo, Brazil – focus group discussion

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1 The youth came from a diverse group of countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Pakistan, Colombia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Angola, Iraq, Mali and Iran.
2 You can find the video and song Refugees in Brazil at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZTg7tJf7W6U&t=3s
3 Up to the end of June 2017.
Section Three: Outcomes at the Field Level

Looking beyond the common enabling factors that were identified across YIF projects and their contributions to achieving the Core Actions for Refugee Youth, the YIF programme has also provided the opportunity for a considerable amount of learning from and by programme participants, UNHCR teams and partners. This learning contributes to UNHCR’s overall understanding of the kind of programmatic responses that can work to support the development of young people and strengthen our engagement with them in forced displacement contexts.

Below is a summary of the reported outcomes of participation in YIF projects from different stakeholders, including the young people, their communities and those working directly with them. While all of the groups of young people were provided with participatory tools for monitoring process and outcomes, they were applied with varying degrees of rigour across projects and locations. As such, it was not possible to carry out a comprehensive assessment of projects. Instead, key trends as reported by the stakeholders involved have been gathered from conversations, focus group discussions, written reports and the participatory monitoring tools. These are discussed below under 3 main headings and are supported with quotes from participants and UNHCR staff.

YOUTH AS PROTECTION ACTORS

Youth spearheaded community mobilisation and action

UNHCR staff reported that characteristics commonly associated with youth such as creativity, willingness to learn, energy and a focus on the future were key to driving projects forward. Staff noted that programme participants were full of ideas on how to address protection challenges. Many had valuable first-hand experience of the protection risks they were trying to address, that provided important insight into mitigating challenges and identifying solutions. In addition, UNHCR staff explained that young people who participated in YIF projects had been very keen to be engaged in a productive manner and often had a passion for working with and helping their communities.

A number of UNHCR field staff highlighted that the young people they worked with were particularly effective at community engagement, designing and delivering awareness raising and sensitisation campaigns on protection issues. They reported that young people used interactive, creative and engaging means to bring people together and disseminate information.

Use of peer-to-peer engagement was also highlighted by field staff as a particularly effective approach for community action, engaging, mobilising and positively influencing their peers on substantive issues. Both youth and UNHCR staff reported that through having a platform to act as agents of change, YIF participants became role models for other young people in their communities. They relished the opportunity and responsibility of leadership roles in their community, embracing positive coping strategies and actively engaging with others in problem solving. YIF participants also supported other young people to participate in their communities and become more organised. A number of the project locations such as Uganda, Lebanon, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe experienced large increases in youth organisation and volunteerism during individual projects life spans. YIF participants in Soacha, Colombia commented that:
“I feel so fortunate to have met this inspiring group of young people this year. I have continuously been impressed by their initiative to plan, coordinate, and implement their own activities. The members of BEY [youth group] have demonstrated strong leadership, cross-cultural, and project management skills. BEY has demonstrated that when given the opportunity and a voice, young people can be effective agents for peace and change.”

UNHCR Protection staff, UNHCR Field Office Mae Sot, Thailand

Both young people and UNHCR staff reported that leaders of projects shared the knowledge and skills they possessed freely and eagerly within their groups. They were also keen to share the knowledge they gained from participation, through both formal and informal channels. These included workshops, presentations and social, creative and recreational channels in their communities. Young people frequently reported feeling that they successfully mobilised their peers, leaders, local authorities and wider community in their community protection efforts. UNHCR field staff in Djohong office in Cameroon commented that:

“Young refugees have become more sociable especially as a result of their participation in meetings in campsites and other activities. They seem more motivated and committed to community activities. The peer educators of the project have remained young people towards whom the others turn more easily for certain orientations and advice.”

YIF participants also reported influencing positive attitude and behaviour change. They felt they had a positive influence on their peers and communities on child marriage and child labour, dropping out of school, SGBV, inter and intra community conflict, sexual and reproductive health, inclusion of marginalised groups and substance abuse. In a focus group discussions with young female participants in Kampala, Uganda, participants commented that:

“We taught different communities to stop early and forced marriage, FGM and to educate girls. We also trained new girl members on leadership skills. We broke the silence of refugee girls.”

In addition, participants often reported that their initiatives improved solidarity and trust amongst youth within and across communities. Many of the young people involved felt they were successful in bringing different social and cultural groups together. Often this was achieved by working in teams from diverse backgrounds, helping to engage people across communities. As a result, they reported their initiatives helped to improve tolerance and cultural understanding and reduced tensions where they existed by creating opportunities for different communities to interact. Participants also highlighted how they had helped to address prejudices within and across communities, thereby improving integration with host communities.
Youth strengthened connections between UNHCR, youth and their communities

UNHCR offices reported positively on the impact of young people as protection actors, highlighting that they had helped to improve communication and engagement between UNHCR offices and refugee communities more broadly. They also reported that youth had supported UNHCR and partners to identify vulnerable and marginalised individuals and families, share important information about available services and make referrals to UNHCR and partners, including government agencies. In N’Djamena, Chad, UNHCR child protection staff highlighted that:

“UNHCR also benefited from this project... We were able to better understand certain issues which can help us with our daily work. We had more in-depth contact with the youth especially, but also with other community members. Additionally, the group of youth involved is a great asset as they can keep sharing relevant and positive messages to the community and can keep referring to us vulnerable cases”

In addition, in locations including Cameroon, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Lebanon and Zimbabwe, youth and UNHCR reported that participants had become focal points for service referrals to UNHCR and partners in their communities. They explained that the participants’ peers and their communities sought their guidance in accessing support and seeking general advice, which in turn helped to identify and support those in need. In a number of locations, youth reported they were able to reach out to and support people with specific needs including children, people with disabilities and the elderly. One young participant in Shiraz in Iran highlighted:

“I am the chair of the steering committee involved in this project. Over the past year, [...] I have gained a lot more confidence [...] our teams have gained a lot of respect in the community. They want us to do more for them [...] UNHCR trained us on how your systems work. So now we can explain it better to our communities. UNHCR is more transparent now than before. One of the biggest positive changes has been our relationship with the government [...] We are inspired by this project as it has made us do good things to help our community [...] We are also seen as an inspiration to other Afghans.”

The UNHCR office in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, reported that prior to the initiation of a YIF project in 2015, community mobilisation had practically ceased in the camps. However, over a two-year period during which two YIF projects were implemented, this changed dramatically. Through their consistent and dedicated community engagement, young people and others in the camps played a vital role in improving the social fabric of their communities. The office saw cross-generational cooperation and a growth in youth groups and other community-based organisations. The number of people volunteering and contributing to community initiatives continues to increase.

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

The YIF highlighted the benefits of community-led initiatives

UNHCR field staff reported that the YIF provided a unique space for them to engage and work with young people on different, more positive terms. They consistently commented how the YIF differed from the traditional approaches to programming and had provided the structure to listen to and engage directly with young people. It was frequently highlighted that one of the main strengths of the YIF approach was the ownership it provides to young people and their communities, encouraging capacity development, participation, leadership and sustainability.
UNHCR staff consistently reported that the YIF projects demonstrated the benefits of genuinely engaging with displaced populations as partners. Reasons given for this included the cost efficiencies of working through youth, and the effectiveness of working with young people directly to mitigate the protection risks faced by young people and their communities. In some locations, the YIF provided a framework and processes on which to ‘hang’ other community-owned and managed initiatives. A number of UNHCR staff stressed that ensuring that support structures were in place had been an intensive and time consuming process, but one that was necessary, as they had built trust, ensured coordination with different actors and developed capacity. In general, UNHCR staff reported the outcomes of the initiatives were worth this additional initial investment.

In Shiraz in Iran, UNHCR field staff highlighted this positive initial investment as follows:

“...the positive impact on the children, sport team members and the refugee families was remarkable. It took some time to build the trust of refugees and also to explain the procurement and budgeting process. The project however led to immense changes in the approach that UNHCR staff took towards refugees and has resulted in more actively listening to their concerns and recommendations.”

The YIF increased confidence in youth as protection actors

The opportunity to work with youth as partners provided UNHCR staff with the space to learn more about their needs, capacities and their potential to create change. As a result, the confidence and trust in young people’s capacity to mitigate protection risks was enhanced in many UNHCR operations, resulting in an increased commitment to engage them as protection actors. In some locations, this inspired UNHCR operations to examine how young people could better inform protection programming and how existing programming could be adapted to better meet their needs. In other locations such as Lebanon, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, youth became mainstreamed into protection programming. This included UNHCR continuing to partner with youth groups after YIF project implementation had been completed, such that operations continued to work with youth groups to respond to new emergencies and influxes, particularly where they were linked to existing camp management or community governance structures. In Tongogara camp in Zimbabwe, young people who participated in the YIF Project in 2015 reported that:

“We feel more confident participating in activities as a result of participation in the YIF. Youth are now more active, organised and recognised. Churches and organisations are engaging Youth Mobilisers in sensitisation campaigns and other camp activities. Having a youth representative in the [Camp] Committee in Tongogara Refugee Camp leadership also inspires confidence knowing our voice is heard.”

Young participant, Soacha, Colombia, focus group discussion

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Young participant, Soacha, Colombia, focus group discussion
A number of the YIF projects were also successful in encouraging increased investment. The positive outcomes of these youth-led initiatives as well as young people’s improved ability to advocate for support, helped them to secure additional funding. Projects in Iran, Kenya, Uganda and Malaysia all managed to secure additional funding. In some locations, the number of proposals received from specific country locations and supported by UNHCR offices increased from one year to the next, highlighting the growing interest from both youth and operations in youth-led initiatives. UNHCR staff in the Kampala office in Uganda, which has been particularly successful in receiving funding for youth-led initiatives, highlighted that:

“It was a great opportunity for UNHCR staff and implementing and operational partner staff as well as youth groups to discover the talents and skills young people possess and to demonstrate how these young people’s human capital can be developed and used to influence the environment around them.”

During a 2015 post-project focus group discussion with a group of young returnees who designed and implemented a project in Kabul, Afghanistan, participants noted that:

“Our prestige in the community is now raised and we are recognised as active members of the community. Previously youths in the community were viewed with lots of pessimism of being addicts, or passing their time in activities which were not perceived well by their elders [...] Youth are now having their own initiatives in undertaking campaigns against abuses in our community and bad practices as well as continuing their sports activities...”

One young YIF participant living in Zataari refugee camp in Jordan highlighted that even the simplest things can help to improve young people’s lives and restore a semblance of normality:

“[The] planting of home gardens and trees help us to change the environment of the camp to be more colourful which helps us to reduce our stress. Engaging in the project helped us to not miss home. We felt we were learning and doing things we used to do there.”

The YIF improved intergenerational relations

Youth participants in a number of locations reported that adults in their communities often had a negative perception of them. Adults presumed that young people were engaged in substance abuse, lacked respect for their culture and elders and were not capable of delivering on their projects. Civic engagement, outreach to their communities and personal development provided a strong platform for young people involved to deconstruct this image. Higher levels of trust were reported between adults and young people engaged in projects. In many locations, it was considered that youth had proven their potential to contribute positively to the community. In Cameroon, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, and Colombia, youth reported that their elders and the local authorities were engaging with them on a more meaningful level. UNHCR offices also highlighted that youth had improved their ability to communicate with people in positions of authority, reporting that they were listening to youth more seriously. UNHCR field staff who supported projects also noted that young people had become better advocates in interactions with UNHCR, their elders, community leaders and local authorities for support, and for opportunities to be involved in decision-making processes.
SKILLS, CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE

The YIF improved confidence and self-esteem

The positive outcomes most frequently reported by young people participating in YIF projects were: increased confidence and a sense of self-worth. These outcomes were often attributed to improved opportunities and the ability to use those opportunities to contribute meaningfully to their communities. Participants consistently reported realising, through engagement in the YIF, their potential as leaders within their communities. YIF participants also reported feeling improved self-esteem as a result of being recognised as agents of positive change by their communities, UNHCR and partners, and most importantly by their peers. They felt more respected and valued for their contribution to community life, and felt that their social status had been improved. UNHCR field staff in Kakuma refugee camp highlighted how participation in the YIF was positively impacting on the young participants:

“UNHCR and other partners were able to see how in a short period the project was building the self-esteem of the youth and how relevant the projects are to address protection issues. [...] The youth were able to convince UNHCR as well as other partners to fund other community-based projects led by youth.”

The YIF strengthened life skills

In addition, young people consistently reported improved life skills as a result of the practical experience of having led and managed projects. They strengthened and learned new communication, teamwork, decision-making, problem-solving, event and time management, and leadership skills. These positive learning experiences, supplemented by more formal training and learning opportunities through their projects often resulted in participants reporting feeling more hopeful about their futures. They explained that their increased knowledge and improved skills strengthened their ability to navigate life and made them feel more resilient. Young people also reported having clearer life goals, more aspirations and stronger motivation in relation to education, employment and livelihood opportunities.
In projects including those in Israel, Kazakhstan, Ethiopia and Afghanistan (Herat), adolescents and youth not only reported improved motivation to succeed in school, but reported improved academic outcomes. UNHCR staff explained that participants had become more self-reliant, evident in the fact that they started to take on more responsibility, self-organising and using their own initiative to respond to needs they identified. UNHCR staff in the Khartoum Office in Sudan highlighted that:

“In addition to learning to be more comfortable leading groups, the youth feel that they learned how to think quickly and smartly. They learned to adopt ideas and the means of conveying them to fit the audience that they were presenting to. This required team spirit, initiative and always having a plan “B”. Gaining confidence in leadership is a skill that the youth feel they will use in other future endeavours.”

Although not as frequently reported, participants also noted a reduction in negative coping strategies. This was often related to having constructive activities to be engaged in, increased and more positive peer support. In real terms, this often meant a reduction in the violence tolerated and used to communicate, reduced drug and alcohol consumption, reduced anti-social behaviour and less anxiety and stress linked to the hardship of everyday life. As one young participant from Kiziba refugee camp in Rwanda highlighted:

“Before joining Kung-Fu, I was very violent but it changed my life. I am now more disciplined and healthy.”

UNHCR staff and youth leading projects commonly reported that young people who participated in the projects improved their knowledge of their rights, their ability to identify and understand protection issues in their communities and how their community could respond to these challenges. As a result, many young people exhibited an increased sense of civic responsibility and desire to help others. They shared information on the formal support systems and services in place, created support networks and sensitised their peers and communities on the impact and risks of these issues.

Finally, across a broad array of projects, improved gender relations and an increased awareness of gender issues were reported. This included young women reporting that they felt more empowered by their participation, that they had been more active outside of their normative roles in society and better able to advocate for their rights. Improved understanding of SGBV prevention and response and an enhanced ability to engage both their male and female their peers on sensitive gender issues as well as an enhanced understanding of diverse sexual identities were also reported.
Youth Initiative Fund in Practice: Bangladesh – 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cox’s Bazar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focus</td>
<td>SGBV Prevention and Promotion of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Led by</td>
<td>Two Rohingya Youth Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementer</td>
<td>2 Rohingya youth groups, 54 members (31 males and 23 females aged 16-25 years old)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Cox’s Bazar, a group of young women expressed an interest to work on improving the participation of girls and women in community life. Their idea was to develop leadership opportunities and a platform for reaching out to their peers. The group developed a proposal and applied to the YIF to support their project ideas. Through the funds received, two youth groups were established – one in each of Kutupalong and Nayapara camps. Both groups were made up of female and male members.

Through consultations with adolescent girls, parents and with community leaders, the youth groups aimed to understand the protection concerns that girls and young women faced, and to explain the objectives of the project to the community. Their research verified that harassment in public places often caused adolescent girls and young women to be confined to the home, to drop out of school or to experience child or forced marriage – often as a way of reducing the risk of SGBV. Through the YIF project, the group leaders and the UNHCR office in Cox’s Bazar provided the space for adolescent girls and young women to join the youth group at their own pace, providing additional support to those in need. This included access to conservative clothing1 and engaging their parents or husbands to ensure they understood the nature and purpose of the youth groups.

Following training, the female members of the youth groups made regular home visits to confined girls and young women, conducting recreational activities and training in life skills such as decision-making, self-esteem and leadership. The group reached approximately 200 adolescent girls aged 12 to 19, many of whom had dropped out of school and who had little or no freedom to move around within the camps. Young men in the youth groups worked to sensitise the wider community on the impact of harassment, while the young women spent time with their peers. The groups went on to build a girls and women only sports ground that enabled them to meet other girls and women and feel more integrated within their community, and contributed to various other community initiatives.

UNHCR staff in Cox’s Bazar staff explained that one of the real strengths of the project was the influence that the young women in the youth groups had on their peers, especially their ability to inspire and motivate the adolescent girls they engaged. In addition, they highlighted that the initiative had contributed to a shift that was taking place in Cox’s Bazar, where young women were becoming more central actors in the youth groups. The office also reported that the project had brought youth closer to their community, improved intergenerational relations and supported youth to become agents of positive change. Youth who led the project felt they had an increased understanding and awareness of protection risks, a stronger sense of belonging and of having contributed to the community, as well as improved life skills such as communication and organisation. The adolescent girls engaged through home visits reported improved social networks, a capacity to make crafts, an awareness of protection risks and available services and learning what to do in the case of sexual assault.

“I learn about equality between women and men, and the consequences when we don’t have it.”

Youth group member in Nayapara camp – Most Significant Change Tool

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1 Some young women had only one burqa available in their household and could not go into the community without one, so UNHCR provided additional burqas to ensure that young women could lead the initiative.
Impact of the YIF

From its inception in 2014, the YIF has pursued multiple aims, including contributing to the learning of UNHCR and partners and of the young people themselves of what works in programming for adolescents and youth. The quality of the protection programmes that young people developed and implemented is important, but the YIF also aims at creating opportunities for UNHCR and partner staff to engage with young people on their terms – as true partners. The YIF sought to counter perceptions of youth as either a problem to be solved or as vulnerable victims lacking agency. Through YIF projects, UNHCR and partners have realised how powerful young people can be as protection actors. More than this, in many locations, those individuals and offices working directly with young people have adapted their approaches to working with communities to mirror the YIF, highlighting the efficacy of the approach.

From the perspective of young people who participated in YIF projects, the YIF has provided a much needed safe space, an outlet and opportunity through which young people have meaningfully engaged in humanitarian response and their communities. It has offered those leading and participating in projects some normalcy, opportunities to learn and grow, and fill some of the spaces that have appeared in their lives as a result of their experiences of displacement. While the YIF does not always directly target the hardest to reach young people, it has consistently seen participants themselves reaching out to the most vulnerable in their communities – often more easily and effectively than UNHCR and partners. Most of all, young people have reported feeling valued and useful when involved in their YIF projects. For young people, the YIF has provided them with the opportunity to directly inform and guide learning and future programming for youth in displacement contexts.

Finally, in many ways the YIF has contributed to the realisation of the Core Actions for Refugee Youth, developed by the youth who participated in the Global Refugee Youth Consultations in 2015-2016. The enabling factors described in this document have much in common with the Core Actions for Refugee Youth and are helping to guide their eventual implementation. If participating young people, UNHCR and partners have an understanding of the Core Actions as a framework for adolescents and youth programming prior to future YIF programme development and implementation, this should result in an increase in the protection and development outcomes for the young people involved and their communities.

As changes are gradually introduced into the funding and reporting mechanisms for the YIF – including the establishment of a European Youth Initiative Fund in 2018 and greater engagement of the Regional Bureaux in the selection of projects in 2018 – UNHCR will apply the lessons learned and documented in this report in future iterations. UNHCR will also seek to improve documentation and sharing of learning from the YIF in order to strengthen UNHCR’s programming and approaches to working with and for youth.
Annex 1:
Youth Initiative Fund Call for Proposals

Call for Proposals
“We Believe in Youth”
UNHCR YOUTH INITIATIVE FUND – 2017

Introduction
During 2017 and 2018 UNHCR, States and partners will develop and adopt a new “whole-of-society approach” to working with refugees through the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. The whole-of-society approach, which closely aligns with that of the Youth Initiative Fund (YIF), further embeds UNHCR’s unique community based and participatory models of working with refugee, asylum-seeker, returnee, IDP and the stateless populations. The young people from these populations that UNHCR works with are diverse, creative and dynamic. Over the last five years, the Youth Initiative Fund has highlighted time and again – through its unique approach of youth-led protection projects – that when provided with support, training and resources, young people can be creative problem solvers, and are able to design, lead and implement successful projects that benefit, not only themselves, but their entire communities. Working together in groups to develop projects provides a strong basis for young people to share ideas, develop positive relationships and share learning. They also provide a platform to voice their concerns and views on issues that are important to them, and move for positive change.

What is the Youth Initiative Fund?
In 2018, the YIF enters its sixth year. The YIF was initiated by the Division of International Protection in Geneva to support community based protection projects imagined, designed and led by young people. Since 2013, the YIF has supported more than 100 youth led projects globally that have addressed protection challenges including sexual and gender-based violence, peaceful coexistence, child protection and psychosocial well-being.

The YIF is unique in that it targets and builds upon the existing capacities and capabilities of young people, rather than focussing on vulnerabilities. The YIF creates an enabling environment that provides young people with the space and support necessary to become active protection actors within their communities. In this way, the YIF assists young people in unlocking their untapped potential, to build life skills that strengthen resilience, to become empowered and thus smoothen the transition to adulthood. This is achieved through the realisation of three main objectives:

1. Participation: Young people have genuine opportunities for community participation and opportunities to effect decision making processes, especially in the area of protection;

2. Empowerment: Young people learn about project management, use their initiative, evaluate options, learn to make informed decisions and choices, developing and enhancing leadership skills;

3. Innovation: Young people develop innovative, youth-appropriate protection solutions to addressing personal, group and community challenges.
How do we ensure meaningful participation of young people?

Genuine participation of young people in project design, implementation and monitoring of the project is essential – young people should be the guiding force behind the project and lead it from start to finish. UNHCR offices and partners should work with young people by providing guidance, advice and skills building opportunities when necessary, making sure to do so in a way that maintains and supports young people’s ownership of the project.

Please remember young people are a diverse group with different needs and interests. Age, Gender and Diversity must be mainstreamed into all proposals, with specific attention paid to the gender dimensions of all projects. Please see attached guidance notes on gender equality and inclusion of young people with disabilities that should be shared with all groups.

Projects should take into consideration the following approaches

Community-Based Protection and Capacity Development:

Young people should be encouraged and supported to imagine, research, design and implement projects based on protection concerns they identify within their communities, using the guidance provided. Projects designed should be community based, and should incorporate a learning component that helps to further develop young people’s capacities in areas such as life skills, business or community work. Capacity development should be sustainable so that acquired skills and knowledge remain in communities after the project. Projects may also wish to support young people develop links and relationships with host community groups and groups from their own or other communities to promote peaceful coexistence and address discrimination and xenophobia.

Bangladesh

Two youth groups were set up to support young women and men to increase participation in their communities, address sexual and gender based violence and provide support networks to girls confined to the home. They held consultations with over 100 adolescent girls, their parents and community leaders to verify the protection risks they experienced – mainly public harassment. The young women in the groups made home visits, bringing a mobile library, arts and life skills training to isolated adolescent girls. Young men in the groups raised awareness of the impact of SGBV among the community, accompanying their female peers during home visits. They also worked together to build a sports ground for females-only to offer safe recreational activities.

Support Innovation and Partnerships:

Initiatives should aim to address identified needs and use the preferred delivery method of the young people, while providing opportunities for young people to further develop their capacity and skills. Young people should be supported to utilise and engage in arts, sports and music as vehicles for learning and addressing protection objectives. Projects may also seek to provide opportunities for some young people to be trained and work as mentors, trainers, facilitators and young leaders to encourage a multiplier effect. Where possible, young people should be supported to identify and partner with a broad cross section of stakeholders within and outside of their community to promote an integrated approach, learning opportunities and sustainability.
Iran

Nine football teams of young women and men organised training and tournaments for vulnerable Afghan children. With training in mentoring skills, they supported them to avoid negative coping mechanisms. Working with a qualified counsellor, Health Volunteers and the Ministry of Education, they held door-to-door and group sessions with the children and their families on basic health awareness, the importance of school and the impact of child labour. These young footballers were key in identifying and referring vulnerable children to government agencies and UNHCR in need of documentation and support in accessing education, successfully improving access to education.

What have we learned so far?

Please consider the following when developing your proposals:

- Funding allocations are relatively small and should be allocated directly to project activities where possible, rather than capital expenditure unless directly linked to achieving the project objectives.
- Consult the procurement team in your location to ensure there is clear understanding of procurement procedures and processes, and how this may affect the timeline of the project.
- Please avoid including a large number of activities in proposals to reach the maximum budget allocation. Projects that concentrate on a single issue and demonstrate effectively how this will be addressed, whilst building capacity, are more likely to be funded.
- Consider the Core Actions for Refugee Youth developed through the Global Refugee Youth Consultations (GYRC). You can find the full GRYC report at: http://goo.gl/ZCZjCQ.

Core Actions for Refugee Youth

- **Core Action 1:** Empower Refugee Youth through meaningful engagement;
- **Core Action 2:** Recognize, utilize, and develop Refugee Youth capacities and skills;
- **Core Action 3:** Ensure Refugee Youth-focused protection;
- **Core Action 4:** Support Refugee Youth physical and emotional well-being;
- **Core Action 5:** Facilitate Refugee Youth networking and information sharing;
- **Core Action 6:** Reinforce Refugee Youth as connectors and peace builders;
- **Core Action 7:** Generate data and evidence on refugee youth, to promote accountability to youth.
10 Quick steps to receive funding

1. Please read this call for proposals carefully.
2. Contact the youth and adolescents focal point or appropriate partner/s to discuss.
3. Identify a potential group/groups of young people to participate (existing or new group).
4. Organise participatory meetings with groups of young people to discuss project ideas.
5. **Young people and UNHCR** prepare and submit the proposals on the 3 templates provided.
6. Proposals are evaluated by the YIF review panel in Geneva.
7. Successful projects announced...
   
   let’s begin 😊😊😊

8. Monitor the progress of the project using participatory tools provided.
9. Submit all reporting requirements.

Remember, genuine participation means that young people should design, lead and implement the project.

**Submission**

There are 3 forms to be completed. The youth group/s should develop the main proposal and a basic log frame, based on the guidance provided. The participating office should then complete the third form and submit them all together. Countries with multiple operations may submit more than one proposal. A panel in Geneva will review the proposals and select those to be supported. Projects should be implemented before 31st December 2018. The **maximum funding allocation per project is US$ 10,000**; there is no minimum. Projects that have been previously funded may apply, but must demonstrate how continued funding will add value. Proposals can be submitted in English, French or Spanish.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is 24th November 2017.

**Reporting and Visibility**

Reporting will be completed through the use of participatory assessment tools designed to highlight the process and measure changes for the group leading the initiative. **A Focus Group Discussion, a most significant change exercise and a short final report** capturing the processes and potential impact on the young people involved will be required. Each group will be assigned a profile on the online collaborative platform – Slack ([https://slack.com/](https://slack.com/)) – so that the group can post captioned photo-updates of the project on a regular basis. Guidance on all reporting tools is provided. **All reporting is due by 15th January 2019.**

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27 Projects that do not demonstrate timely implementation will have their funding withdrawn and reallocated.
## Annex 2:
### Youth Initiative Fund project matrix 2014 – 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>Kabul (Informal Settlements)</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>Youth participation.</strong> Formed youth committee to deliver sports tournaments, rights awareness training and community dialogue with elders. Participants: Afghan IDPs (75 young men and 60 young women engaged in activities).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>Herat Province</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>Youth participation/SGBV prevention.</strong> Formed 12 self-help groups and a youth network to provide life skills training and psychosocial support through art and sport and a volunteering programme. Participants: Afghan returnees (72 adolescent boys and girls/young men and women).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>Herat Province</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Gender equality.</strong> Built on 2014 project on adolescent girl empowerment through peer-to-peer training in Taekwondo as well as training in child rights and SGBV. Participants: Afghan returnees (80 adolescent girls/young women).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Cox’s Bazar</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Psychosocial well-being.</strong> Capacitated youth in Forum Theatre for community engagement on protection issues and as a form of psychosocial support. Participants: Youth from Myanmar (42 boys/young men and 7 girls/young women).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Cox’s Bazar</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>SGBV prevention/Social inclusion.</strong> Built on 2015 project by Formed youth groups to sensitise the community on SGBV and supported capacity development of girls and women confined to their homes. Participants: 23 young women and 31 young men engaged with 200 girls and women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Sao Paolo</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>Social integration.</strong> Delivered a public advocacy campaign through song and video produced by youth on cultural diversity. Youth from Angola, Bangladesh, Colombia, Ghana, Guinea Conacry, Iran, Iraq, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Syria. Participants: 7 young men and 7 young women engaged 50 men and 15 women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>Goudoubo Refugee Camp</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>Livelihoods.</strong> Formed youth groups which established a cattle fattening management unit and worked to address harmful cultural practices through a public advocacy campaign. Participants: 11 young men and 11 young women from Touareg, Belha, Peuhl and Sonrai ethnicities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Djohong District</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>SGBV prevention.</strong> Youth group carried out community sensitisation, basic counselling services and referrals led by peer educators. Participants: 16 young women and 24 young men.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>N’Djamena City</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Strengthening Community-Based Protection Mechanisms.</strong> Youth group supported their community to access resources and services through information seminars, homes visits, helplines and referrals. Participants: 2 young women and 6 young men.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Bogotá, Altos de la Florida</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>SGBV prevention/Gender Equality.</strong> Youth group facilitated workshops, field trips with parents, sports and community outreach. Participants: Colombian IDPs (32 girls/young women and 31 boys/young men).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Chocó Province, Eastern Colombia</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Strengthening Community-Based Protection Mechanisms.</strong> Formation of a Youth Cultural Identity Research Task Force to preserve Wounaan cultural identity and heritage engaging the elders of six communities. Participants: 12 boys/young men and 13 girls/young women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Brno City</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>Social integration.</strong> Established a youth group to deliver a public advocacy campaign including public discussions and conferences to improve understanding of refugee rights. Participants: Youth from Czech Republic and Syria (6 young men and 4 young women).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)</td>
<td>Goma</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Peaceful coexistence/SGBV prevention.</strong> Formed a youth group to deliver an awareness raising campaign in schools, at Summer Camps and through cultural events. Participants: 100 young men and women from DRC, Rwanda and Burundi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Project Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>Kalemie Town</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>SGBV prevention.</strong> Formed Peace and Non-Violence Youth Clubs in secondary schools using theatre as a tool for engagement. Participants: Young IDPs and residents of Kalemie (27 girls/young women and 23 boys/young men trained 200 other youth club members).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>Kalemie Town</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>SGBV prevention.</strong> Continuation of Peace and Non-Violence Youth Clubs concept in secondary schools using theatre as engagement tool. Young IDPs and residents of Kalemie. Participants: 25 girls/women and 25 boys/men trained 200 youth club members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>Zongo City and Mole Refugee Camp</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Peaceful coexistence.</strong> Selection and training of 60 Youth Peace Ambassadors (YPA) from both the Christian community in Mole and Muslim community in Zongo. YPA delivered cultural and sports events. Participants: Youth from Central African Republic (20 young men and young women).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>Zongo City and Mole Refugee Camp</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Peaceful coexistence.</strong> Continuation of previous project through training of 30 Peace Ambassadors to establish Peace Committees, and hold cultural and sport events. Participants: Youth from Central African Republic (15 young men and 15 young women).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Other Project Details</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Addis Ababa</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Peaceful coexistence/psychosocial well-being.</strong> Youth group formed to deliver sports and training in life skills with host community. Participants: Youth from Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, Burundi, Somalia (25 boys/men and 10 girls/women engaged 91 boys/young men and 36 girls/women).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Tigray, Shire</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Peaceful coexistence.</strong> Project facilitated the formation of football teams, a football tournament and discussion groups for young men on relevant protection issues. Participants: 16 male students (both refugee and local residents) of Azum University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Cairo and Alexandria</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Peaceful coexistence.</strong> An existing youth group utilised theatre to engage young refugees and advocate around specific protection issues. Participants: Youth from Egypt, Syria, Somalia, Eritrea (12 girls/young women and 12 boys/young men).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>Kerman</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Strengthening Community-Based Protection Mechanisms.</strong> Formed a youth led community facilitator network delivering peer education and community sensitisation on protection issues. Participants: 34 young women and 9 young men.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>Shiraz</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Child Protection.</strong> Existing soccer teams developed project to use sport for mentoring and advocacy to reduce protection risks for vulnerable Afghan children and make referrals. Participants: Steering Committee of 3 young women and 3 young men engaged 256 youth from 9 soccer teams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>Tehran Province</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Social integration.</strong> Delivered Training and organised community-based initiatives to support integration, youth participation and awareness of refugee rights. Participants: Steering Group of 16 young men and women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Basirma Camp, Erbil</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Strengthening Community-Based Protection Mechanisms.</strong> Used social media platform to share information on available resources and services in the camp, facilitated informal feedback mechanism and supported advocacy campaigns. Participants: Management Board of 4 young men and 4 young women with 30 volunteers (16 men and 14 women).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Tel Aviv</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Child Protection.</strong> Used three-pronged approach of soccer, a study centre and a social club to engage adolescent boys in structured activities with a personal developmental focus. Participants: 32 adolescent boys.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivory Coast</td>
<td>Guiglo</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Peaceful coexistence.</strong> Formed Youth Peace Committees to prevent and solve land disputes and initiate outreach activities to promote social cohesion. Participants: 10 young women and 15 young men.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Zataari Refugee Camp</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>Livelihoods.</strong> Developed an agricultural vocational training programme for young people that enabled them to share and further develop their agricultural capacity. Participants: 10 Syrian young women and young men.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>Almaty City</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>Social integration.</strong> The project used sports, the arts and journalism to promote integration of Afghan children and adolescents. Participants: 19 boys and 21 girls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kakuma Town</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Peaceful coexistence.</strong> The project utilised community theatre and the production of an advocacy film for community engagement and social cohesion. Participants: 51 youth from 8 countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Kakuma Refugee Camp</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Social Inclusion.</strong> Youth groups focussing on disability capacitated to sensitise the community and promote the rights of young people with disabilities. Participants: 30 youth from two different organisations for people with disabilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Project Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Tripoli</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>Peaceful coexistence.</strong> Formed Youth Committee to organise training, recreational, community outreach and awareness raising activities. Participants: Youth from Lebanon and Syria (6 girls/ young women and 4 boys/ young men).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Tripoli</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Peaceful coexistence.</strong> Continuation of Youth Committee project. Delivered community outreach projects, formed of other Youth Clubs and supported youth organisations to network and collaborate. Participants: Youth from Syria and Lebanon (35 members).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Wadi Khaled Village, Akkar District</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Social inclusion.</strong> Pre-existing youth groups raised awareness of the rights and protection concerns for youth with disabilities. Group delivered training, community awareness sessions, and photography and handicraft exhibitions. Participants: Youth from Syria and Lebanon (16 girls/ young women and 9 boys/ young men).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Mount Lebanon</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Social inclusion.</strong> LGBTI youth group trained frontline NGO staff on their needs (LGBTI) and protection concerns to improve service provision, produced a short advocacy film and provided psychosocial support through the arts. Participants: 15 youth from Syria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Beirut/Mount Lebanon</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Peaceful Coexistence.</strong> Existing Youth Committees held joint fora for mutual learning, coordination of activities and the development of an ‘Agenda for Youth’. Participants: Youth from Lebanon and Syria (27 young women and 23 young men).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Barelias, Bekka Valley</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Peaceful Coexistence.</strong> Youth group formed and organisation of training, recreational activities, awareness raising and community service projects. Youth from Lebanon, Syria and Palestine (48 young women and 22 young men).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FYR Macedonia</td>
<td>Skopje, Struga, Tetovo and Kumanovo</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>Peaceful coexistence/social integration.</strong> Group formed to use Forum Theatre as engagement tool to raise awareness on prevention and response to violence and discrimination. Participants: Youth from Kosovo (14 young men and 16 young women).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Child protection.</strong> Youth group formed to raise awareness on child marriage with Rohingya young people. Participants: Youth from Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Pakistan (2 girls/ young women and 4 boys/ young men engaged 250 Rohingya young people).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Tenosique Municipality, Tabasco State</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Social integration.</strong> Painted public mural with local youth to address isolation and social cohesion and lack of recreational activities for young people staying at “La 72” shelter. Participants: 10 youth from Mexico and 10 young men and 6 young women from the shelter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>Tabareybarey and Mangaize Refugee Camps, Tillabery Region</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Strengthening Community-Based Protection Mechanisms.</strong> Three existing Youth Committees trained in child and youth rights, developed sensitisation messages on key protection issues and presented them at community cultural events. Participants: 90 youth from Mali.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>Tahoua City</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Child Protection.</strong> Two existing youth committees addressed statelessness issues by raising awareness of the importance of birth registration and access to health facilities and registration processes. Participants: Youth from the Tuareg and Fulani ethnic groups (22 young women and 28 young men).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>Nyabihebe and Gihembe Refugee Camps</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Psychosocial well-being.</strong> Established libraries in youth centres for children and youth to access age appropriate information on protection services, youth-led recreational activities for children and life skills training for youth. Participants: 20 boys/ young men and 46 girls/ young women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>Kiziba Refugee Camp</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Psychosocial well-being.</strong> Established and supported Kung Fu club for vulnerable children and youth including group discussion and community sensitisation on protection issues. Participants: 48 boys/ young men and 12 girls/ young women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>Yavuniya Town</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>Livelihoods/SGBV prevention.</strong> Established sustainable poultry farm as an income source to help address address undocumented migration and delivered a street drama campaign on SGBV. Participants: IDPs and returnees (10 young men and 6 young women (farm), 15 young men (street dramas)).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>Kilinochchi District</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Psychosocial well-being.</strong> Trained volunteers to provide psychosocial first aid, home visits and referrals in support of District Mental Health Unit. Participants: IDPs and returnees (55 young women and 5 young men).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>Khartoum</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Peaceful Coexistence/Social integration.</strong> Formed a Refugee Student Support Committee at local university to raise awareness of refugee rights through lectures, drama in schools/universities and promoting positive media coverage. Participants: 10 committee members from Eritrea and Ethiopia. 60 additional members from Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, Congo, Hong Kong, Mexico, Spain and Nigeria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Project Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>Khartoum</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Education.</strong> Improved the quality of education and the school environment through teacher training and recreational activities with the aim of reducing early school leaving. Participants: Refugee Student Support Committee (22 young women and 6 young men).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>Damascus</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Youth participation.</strong> Delivered training-of-trainers in active citizenship for three youth groups and set up community-based youth groups to deliver small protection initiatives. Participants: 100 Syrian youth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>Hassakeh Governorate</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Peaceful coexistence.</strong> Youth worked as outreach volunteers supporting new arrivals in camps and providing relevant protection information. Participants: Youth from Syria and Iraq, 25 from the host community and 25 refugee youth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>Nyarugusu Refugee Camp</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Psychosocial well-being.</strong> Youth group formed to be trained in break dancing as a psychosocial activity and to teach young children how to breakdance. Participants: Youth from Burundi and the DRC (48 young men and 15 young women).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Mae Sot, Tak City</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>SGBV/Drug use/Early school leaving prevention.</strong> Formed a youth group to use sport and the arts to raise awareness of child marriage and the impact of early school dropout and drug use among adolescents. Participants: 7 girls/young women and 7 boys/young men from Myanmar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Ban Don Yang Refugee Camp</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>SGBV/Drug use prevention.</strong> Existing Youth group expanded their activities and used sport, art and community outreach activities to engage other young people and sensitise the community on protection issues. Participants: 11 adolescent boys and 11 adolescent girls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Ban Mai Nai Soi Refugee Camp</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>SGBV/Drug use/Early school leaving prevention.</strong> Existing Karenni Youth Club from Myanmar used sport, art and community outreach activities for community protection. Participants: 23 girls/young women and 23 boys/young men.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Kampala</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>SGBV prevention.</strong> Established a girls’ support group to conduct community sensitisation using the arts, provided entrepreneurship activities and formed support groups for adolescent girls. Participants: Youth from Somalia (8 adolescent girls/young women engaged 40 members).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Druchinga Refugee Camp, Isingiro District</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>SGBV prevention.</strong> Formed a group for young women. Used sports and arts to facilitate community dialogue around SGBV, provided peer-to-peer support and entrepreneurship training for girls/young women in the community. Participants: 16 girls/young women from Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, later adding 4 young men as members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Kampala</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Peaceful coexistence.</strong> An existing youth organisation used soccer, capacity development and community service projects to facilitate peaceful coexistence between refugee and host communities. Participants: 5 young women and 9 young men engaged 270 further youth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Kampala</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Peaceful coexistence.</strong> Existing youth organisation capacitated youth and community leaders as peace builders and engaged in community outreach through dialogue, film making and theatre. Participants: 2 young women and 5 young men engaged 50 youth in training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>Mayukwayukwa Refugee Settlement, Kaoma</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>Education.</strong> The project promoted chicken rearing and the sale of eggs to support children / adolescents pay school fees and stay in school. Participants: Youth from the DRC, Rwanda, Burundi and Angola (9 girls/young women and 6 boys/young men).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>Mayukwayukwa Refugee Settlement, Kaoma</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>SGBV prevention/Child Labour prevention.</strong> A youth group was formed, and designed and disseminated protection messages using audio, video and print media. Participants: Youth from the DRC, Rwanda, Burundi and Angola (10 boys/young men and 5 girls/young women).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Tongogara Refugee Camp</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>Youth participation.</strong> Youth mobilisers engaged in training, community mobilisation, peer education and advocacy campaigns on protection issues. Participants: 30 youth from DRC, Rwanda, Burundi and Ethiopia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Tongogara Refugee Camp</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Psychosocial well-being.</strong> Youth mental health promoters conducted protection seminars, youth dialogue sessions, peer-to-peer psychosocial first aid, recreational activities and made referrals. Participants: 7 young men and 5 young women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Tongogara Refugee Camp</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td><strong>Livelihoods.</strong> A Junior Farmer Field and Life School was formed to improve practical agricultural skills and life skills of youth in Tongogara. Participants: 15 young men and 15 young women (out-of-school youth) and 10 boys and 10 girls (in-school adolescents).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>