



2023 Global Refugee Forum

Multi-stakeholder pledge on Secondary Education

Background

Secondary Education (SE) provides learning and educational activities building on primary education and preparing for both first labor market entry as well as post-secondary non-tertiary and tertiary education. Refugee and displaced adolescents and youth continue to be two-thirds more likely to be out of secondary school, and half as likely to complete secondary education¹. Yet, secondary education is a critical protective tool for refugee adolescents and youth and their abilities to navigate pathways towards self-sufficiency. The call to integrate refugee adolescents into national and local secondary education systems seek to improve access to quality, holistic inclusion, and sustainability.

Multiple factors drive low enrolment and high dropout rates amongst adolescents and youth at secondary education levels. Firstly, limited financing and supply of secondary education in contexts affected by displacement continue to leave out adolescents and refugees. Secondly, refugee adolescents and youth's learning opportunities sit alongside economic and social pressures, including employment and childcare² (Salem, Drzewiecki, and Concina 2023).

There is a unique opportunity at GRF 2023 to create positive change for refugee and displaced adolescent and youth, and a lasting impact for them and their host communities by leveraging equitable financing, ethical policies, and inclusive interventions with strong links to Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) objectives, and the need to advance progress on SDG4.

Multi-stakeholder pledge on Secondary Education

The Secondary Education pledge will contribute to supporting short and long-term positive impact on uninterrupted educational paths and holistic well-being of refugee, displaced and host community adolescent and youth through:

1. Refugee host governments are pledging to ensure long-term funding through National Budgets for Secondary Education and additional services and facilities which are needed to ensure that education access is protective, inclusive and gender-responsive and relevant for refugees at secondary levels.
2. Donors including bi-lateral and multilateral donors pledging to ensure multi-year funding for Secondary Education with alignment of grants with academic year. Donors and INGOs

¹ Henderson, C. Mansour, S. & Hough, W. (2023), The Missing Piece. Secondary Education in Crisis Context

² Salem, H., Drzewiecki, J., and Concina, G., Gender-Responsive Accelerated Secondary Education: Purpose, Barriers, and Potential 2023.



pledging for multi-year funding of Secondary Education Working Group (SEWG), established in 2020 with a vision to support all crisis-affected young people to have equitable access to quality, inclusive, and relevant secondary education they can complete in safety.

Pledging examples are available to support the development of concrete pledges.

Commitments and pledge contributions include supporting contexts where host governments foster the inclusion of refugee and displaced adolescent and youth in national systems through provision of SE services. These services include for example health, Mental Health and psychosocial support and protection.

Linked pledges

Economic Inclusion and Social Protection Pledge, UN Common Pledge 2.0, Child Rights Pledge, Health Inclusion pledge, Localization Pledge, Meaningful Refugee Participation Pledge, Education Mega Pledge, GBV pledge.

Contact details

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Further information on secondary education in crisis contexts can be accessed here: <https://inee.org/collections/secondary-education>

For more information on pledging at the [Global Refugee Forum](#) or the [GRF Education Alliance](#) please visit UNHCR's website.