

ACTION FOR REFUGEE EDUCATION

CHARTER FOR ACTION

We gather here in New York and across the world to achieve a common aim: to ensure all refugees have access to quality educational opportunities.

In 2016 world leaders adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants with the aim to strengthen the international response to the global refugee crisis and grow support to meet the needs of refugee and host communities. A significant commitment was made in respect of realising quality education for refugees within the national education systems. Since then important progress has been achieved within the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and driven by the development of the Global Compact on Refugees.

Now is the time to deliver the commitments we have made to refugee learners and their peers in host communities.

WE REAFFIRM:

1. The commitments made in the New York Declaration 'that all children are receiving education within a few months of arrival', and that we "will prioritise budgetary provision to facilitate this, including support for host countries as required' and the related commitments, including paras:
44. Recognizing that the lack of educational opportunities is often a push factor for migration, particularly for young people, we commit to strengthening capacities in countries of origin, including in educational institutions.
81. We are determined to provide quality primary and secondary education in safe learning environments for all refugee children, and to do so within a few months of the initial displacement. We commit to providing host countries with support in this regard. Access to quality education, including for host communities, gives fundamental protection to children and youth in displacement contexts, particularly in situations of conflict and crisis.
82. We will support early childhood education for refugee children. We will also promote tertiary education, skills training and vocational education. In conflict and crisis situations, higher education serves as a powerful driver for change, shelters and protects a critical group of young men and women by maintaining their hopes for the future, fosters inclusion and non-discrimination and acts as a catalyst for the recovery and rebuilding of post-conflict countries.

2. The intention to deliver these commitments through the Programme of Action of the Global Compact on Refugees.

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES WE ARE DETERMINED TO:

1. Galvanise political will and leadership to turn our promises into tangible changes for refugees; in long-term plans that we invest in, implement and review in collaboration with host countries.
2. Progress and support actions in partnership that advance the inclusion of refugees in national education systems and improve the access for host community learners.
3. Promote the inclusion of refugees in the design and implementation of activities to improve the access and quality of education; as learners, leaders, partners and advocates. This requires engagement and close consultation with refugee children, youth, parents and teachers.
4. Recognise that some refugees are further marginalised and enable additional support to ensure their access to quality education – including girls, children with disabilities and children who are working.
5. Gather and use better data and evidence to understand and address the challenges faced by refugee children and youth in receiving quality education that is inclusive and efficient and ensure the inclusion of refugees in national education data systems.
6. Mobilise the funding necessary to scale up access to quality learning opportunities for refugees and host communities.
7. Hold ourselves and others to account for the promises we have made here today. We agree to review our commitments on a regular basis and publish the results of those reviews.