

Women's Refugee Commission Global Refugee Forum – Update on Pledges

December 14, 2020

1) Disability and GBV – COMPLETED

We have completed our **pledge on the inclusion and protection of women and girls with disabilities in displacement settings** by supporting the inclusion of GBV in the IASC Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and carrying out virtual trainings for GBV practitioners and persons with disabilities in: Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

The trainings highlighted that **access to digital technologies is not evenly distributed**. *The humanitarian sector needs to invest greater time and resources to ensuring that the “digital ecosystem” in conflict-affected and resource limited settings develops in a way that promotes inclusion and equity for refugees, persons with disabilities, older persons, and women, among others to overcome the barriers around the affordability and accessibility of technology, as well as gaps in technological experience, skills, and literacy.*

2) Jobs and Livelihoods – RSRI – IN PROGRESS

The **Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative**, co-led by RefugePoint and the WRC, with 15 partners has made progress on our **joint pledge to promote refugee self-reliance** by:

- launching the Self-Reliance Index this May and rolling it out in 7 countries, with a further 17 countries being supported to start using the SRI;
- increasing access to self-reliance programming for thousands of refugees, including in Kenya, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey; and
- conducting research that highlights the benefits of self-reliance.

The Self-Reliance Index (SRI) is the first global tool to measure the progress of refugee households on their paths to self-reliance. It will help build an evidence base of ‘what works,’ so the humanitarian community can scale up the most effective programmes.

If anyone is interested in learning more or using the SRI, please get in touch or join our pledge.

3) Protection Capacity (Youth) – IN PROGRESS

WRC is **supporting the Global Youth Advisory Council to contribute strategic leadership and technical assistance to connect and empower refugee youth**. Young refugees have stepped up to fill the void left by organisations that had to restrict their movement due to COVID-19. They have taken an active role in responding to the challenges caused by the pandemic within their communities, including by

- Using art, music, and drama to educate the community on how to end GBV.
- Identifying protection concerns, such as domestic violence or sexual assault, and raising these to the attention of authorities or other protection actors.
- Raising funds to purchase food and hygiene items for vulnerable members in their communities.

We encourage States and other stakeholders to recognise and reinforce youth-led efforts by continuing to support youth by working as equal partners with them.

For more information, please contact: genevarepresentative@wrcommission.org