



PLAN INTERNATIONAL'S PLEDGES FOR THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM

Advancing gender equality and child rights in refugee response

THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM

In December 2018, Member States took a great step to improve refugee responses around the globe, with the historical affirmation of the Global Compact on Refugees. The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) is a framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility sharing, recognizing that a sustainable solution to refugee situations cannot be achieved without international cooperation.

Although great steps were taken with the approval of the GCR in December 2018, there is still a long way to go to ensure that stakeholders live up to their commitments in addressing the challenges on the ground for a diverse group of refugees, in particular girls and young women in refugee settings.

The Global Refugee Forum provides a critical opportunity to build momentum towards achieving the objectives of the GCR and strengthen our collective response to refugee situations. The Global Refugee Forum, convened at the ministerial level, is a unique occasion for UN Member States and other stakeholders to deliver concrete pledges and contributions that will advance the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees and achieve tangible benefits for refugees and host communities.

PLAN INTERNATIONAL'S COMMITMENTS

AGE, GENDER AND DIVERSITY

1. Advocating for gender, age and diversity responsive refugee policies

Plan International commits to use our global position and resources to advocate at local, regional and international levels for the inclusion of the specific needs and rights of children in refugee policy and response plans, with a particular focus on adolescent girls and young women.

2. Strengthening refugee response to be more responsive to age, gender and diversity

Plan International commits to use an age, gender and diversity approach in order to improve refugee response and policies at local, national, regional and international levels to address the impact of refugee crises on all children, particularly on adolescent girls. We will:

- **Strengthen accountability** to all children and support other actors to implement mechanisms and systems of accountability that are gender sensitive and responsive to children.
- Invest resources in **gender and age sensitive analysis and needs assessments** in refugee responses, seeking to work with partners and in direct consultation with children, particularly adolescent girls, to understand and address the intersecting factors that affect their access to rights, including the root causes of vulnerability and gender inequality.
- Strengthen the **integration of age, gender and diversity** within our own refugee programming and train staff and partners on the implementation of the holistic and multi-sectoral Adolescent Programming Framework.

Age, Gender and Diversity in the Global Compact on Refugees

Para 13 – “The programme of action is underpinned by a strong partnership and participatory approach, involving refugees and host communities, as well as age, gender, and diversity considerations, including: promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls; ending all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation and abuse, and harmful practices; facilitating the meaningful participation of youth, persons with disabilities and older persons; ensuring the best interests of the child; and combating discrimination.”

Para 74: “States and relevant stakeholders will seek to adopt and implement policies and programmes to empower women and girls in refugee and host communities, and to promote full enjoyment of their human rights, as well as equality of access to services and opportunities.”

EDUCATION

1. Advocacy to enhance the safety, quality and inclusiveness of national education systems

Plan International commits to increase activities aimed at addressing discriminatory policies, practices and norms that currently prevent refugee girls from accessing national education systems, from pre-primary to secondary education. In particular, we will:

- **Increase research and evidence-based policy analysis and advocacy** in support of local and national policy and legal frameworks, practices and norms.
- Proactively influence national **governments, donors and international partners to mobilize resources and action** in support of inclusive, safe, quality and gender-transformative education for displaced children, particularly girls, from pre-primary to secondary education.

2. Addressing the specific education needs of refugee children and youth and their integration in national systems

Plan International will increase efforts to ensure the development and implementation of programme responses in support of safe, quality, inclusive, gender-transformative education for displaced and host community children and youth, particularly girls and young women. In particular, we will:

- Support access to safe, inclusive and quality learning environments by addressing gender-related barriers, supporting the transition of girls from primary to secondary schools, building the capacity of school management committees to create safe and inclusive schools, and linking education personnel with community-based child protection mechanisms.
- Increase access to early childhood education for young children from refugee and host communities, including support for parents and caregivers through the provision of gender-responsive, play-based early learning approaches for children in crisis settings.
- Increase the provision of teacher training and professional development opportunities, particularly for female and refugee teachers at secondary level.
- Provide alternative education opportunities for out-of-school children and young people, with a focus on adolescent girls, through accelerated education, skill-based learning and vocational training.

Education for Refugee Girls in the Global Compact on Refugees

Para 68: "States and relevant stakeholders will contribute resources and expertise to expand and enhance the quality and inclusiveness of national education systems to facilitate access by refugee and host community children (both boys and girls), adolescents and youth to primary, secondary and tertiary education."

Para 69: "Additional areas for support include efforts to meet the specific education needs of refugees (...) and overcome obstacles to their enrolment and attendance, (...) especially for girls, as well persons with disabilities and psychosocial trauma."

3. Access to inclusive quality formal vocational education

Plan International commits to step up its work to provide market-relevant education to refugee youth on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination. For this purpose, we commit to work with training providers to address gender barriers in training content and delivery, and to prevent gender-segregated learning and job functions by making non-traditional vocational opportunities equally available to women and men. We will also invest technical and financial resources to increase the availability and quality of technical vocational education and training offered to refugee youth, particularly young girls and their host communities.

CHILD PROTECTION

1. Advocacy for child protection

Plan International commits to be a strong voice at all levels to ensure that the protection of refugee and host community children, particularly girls, from all forms of violence, including SGBV, is prioritised in refugee policy and programming. We commit, as co-leads of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, to engage, together with UNHCR, Member States and peer NGOs to advocate for increased support to gender-responsive child protection interventions in refugee responses that effectively respond to the specific needs of girls and advance their rights.

2. Capacity building of child protection practitioners

Plan International commits to invest financial and technical resources to strengthen the capacity of child protection practitioners to design, implement, monitor and evaluate gender-responsive child protection interventions that are tailored to refugee settings. As an integral part of this commitment,

Child Protection and SGBV in the Global Compact on Refugees

Para 74: “States and relevant stakeholders will seek to adopt and implement policies and programmes to empower women and girls in refugee and host communities, and to promote full enjoyment of their human rights, as well as equality of access to services and opportunities.”

Para 76: “(...) States and relevant stakeholders will contribute resources and expertise towards policies and programmes that take into account the specific vulnerabilities and protection needs of girls and boys, children with disabilities, adolescents, unaccompanied and separated children, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, and harmful practices, and other children at risk.”

Para 77: “(...) The active participation and engagement of refugee and host community youth will be supported by States and relevant stakeholders, including through projects that recognize, utilize and develop their capacities and skills, and foster their physical and emotional well-being.. (...)”

we will contribute to the upskilling of actors working on child protection issues to design prevention and response interventions that meet the needs of children, using an age, gender and diversity approach.

3. Contribute to preventing and responding to SGBV, with a focus on child survivors and child marriage in refugee settings

Plan International will commit to invest technical and financial resources to prevent and respond to SGBV against girls in refugee settings. In addition, Plan International will work with adolescent girls and their families to design a programme model to tackle child marriage in humanitarian settings. The development of this model will be designed and piloted in two refugee contexts, namely Ethiopia and Colombia.

YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

1. Access to financial services, removing legal and gendered barriers to labour market and fostering employment opportunities for young people, particularly girls and young women

Plan International commits to foster and support access to safe and legal employment opportunities as a durable solution pathway for young people, particularly young women from both refugee and host communities to fulfil their educational goals and life ambitions. In particular, we will:

- Work with all stakeholders to remove the practical and normative barriers to employment affecting young women and their host communities.
- Work with private financial institutions to make gender-friendly and youth-friendly financial products and services available to refugees.

INTEGRATED PROGRAMMING

1. Child and girl centered integrated programming

Plan International commits to develop and roll out integrated, multi-sectoral programming approaches, to address the root causes of vulnerability and gender inequality that prevent adolescents from fulfilling their rights in refugee settings. In particular, we will:

- Produce research with partners on the use of Cash and Voucher Assistance into programmes to achieve protection, education and well-being outcomes for crisis-affected adolescents.
- Invest in the refinement and expansion of a parenting education and support approach, encompassing health, nutrition, WASH, protection, early learning, responsive caregiving and has a particular focus on adolescent mothers with children under three.

OUR PRIORITY COUNTRIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THESE PLEDGES WILL BE:

