

REFUGEE HIGHER EDUCATION *GLOBAL NEWSLETTER*



Photo credit: Antoine Tardy

Welcome to this edition of the Global Refugee Higher Education newsletter. In this issue, you will find highlights and updates about initiatives, partnerships, projects and opportunities in refugee higher education, links to research relevant resources, information on upcoming events and ways to get involved.

Please share this newsletter widely across your networks to help us grow the community. If you have any suggestions for improvement or interesting updates, events, research, youth-generated content, or articles for forthcoming issues, you are always welcome to submit a contribution to stulgait@unhcr.org

#15by30 Roadmap: News and Highlights



DAFI Scholar and Tertiary Refugee Student Network leader speaks at opening of the Summit of the Future

“My recent journey to New York for the United Nations General Assembly Summit, themed ‘*Pact for the Future*’, was both inspiring and transformative. Representing the Tertiary Refugee Student Network (TRSN), I felt the weight of responsibility and opportunity as I stepped into one of the world's most significant international gatherings. Walking into the United Nations headquarters, I was reminded of the immense power of global cooperation in creating a future that respects and protects the rights of every individual, including refugees and young people.

I had the honour of delivering a speech at the opening ceremony, an experience that allowed me to elevate the voices of displaced youth and shed light on the unique struggles and resilience of refugee students worldwide. Speaking before such an esteemed audience, including world leaders and key decision-makers, was both humbling and empowering. I shared personal insights from my journey, discussing the challenges faced by refugee students striving for quality education and a chance to impact their communities. I emphasized that sustainable development must include young refugees who are eager to contribute meaningfully to society but are often held back by systemic barriers.

This opportunity was made possible through the support of agencies like the United Nations Youth Office, UNHCR, and UNDP, each playing a role in facilitating my journey to New York. This experience has strengthened my commitment to advocacy and reinforced my belief in the power of education to transform lives. As I return home, I am more determined than ever to work for a future where

every refugee has the chance to thrive and make meaningful contributions to a more inclusive world.”

High Level Dialogue during the Summit of the Future



UNHCR, along with LO, UNICEF, Youth Compact partners, and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), co- led the "[Young Refugees’ Participation, Leadership and Self-Reliance, The Future We Cannot Afford to Ignore](#)" during the Summit of the Future. Supported by the Government of the Netherlands, this high-level event was attended by over 200 participants and brought together refugee youth leaders, policymakers, and partners from more than 40 countries to address urgent needs in education, employment, and leadership development for refugees.

The Dialogue provided a platform for youth leaders to share their experiences and advocate for enhanced global investment in refugee education, economic inclusion, and meaningful participation of young people in decision-making. Key outcomes emphasized the necessity of reducing barriers to access, promoting inclusive policies, and enabling refugee youth to lead and participate in initiatives that impact their lives and their futures. Speakers underscored the commitment to fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment for refugees, particularly through partnerships that elevate refugee voices and actions in global policy discussions.

Launch of the ‘Each One Take One’, a Global University Solidarity Movement during the World Academic Summit in Manchester

The World Academic Summit (WAS), held from October 7-9 at the University of Manchester, convened over 700 leaders from 60 countries to explore universities’ evolving role in addressing global crises such as displacement and conflict. Under the theme "*Making a Difference: The Purpose of Universities in a Rapidly Changing World*," the event spotlighted how universities can tackle global challenges while fostering equitable partnerships with institutions in refugee-hosting and lower-resource settings. The Summit underscored the responsibility of higher education institutions to lead in creating sustainable, inclusive futures, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNHCR played a pivotal role, showcasing the *Each One Take One (EOTO)* campaign, a global solidarity movement calling for expanded refugee enrolment in higher education. EOTO provides a platform for every university in the world to support the 15by30 goal of increasing tertiary education access for refugees to 15% by 2030. UNHCR also led discussions on Transnational Education (TNE) and hybrid learning, featuring successful models from York University's Borderless Higher Education for Refugees, the Sérgio Vieira De Mello Chairs, the Higher Education Alliance in Jordan, and Oxford's Refugee-Led Research Hub. The Summit culminated in a strong call to action for universities to adopt sustainable, innovative practices that support refugee inclusion and empower displaced communities through education.

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Launch of the SAFE Project

A new initiative funded by the European Union, the *Supporting At-risk researchers with Fellowships in Europe (SAFE)* project, was launched on 1st September 2024. SAFE is a fellowship programme for non-European researchers facing danger in their home country. A 12M€ pilot scheme, SAFE will support 60 doctoral and postdoctoral researchers of any non-EU nationality to work at higher education and research institutions based in the EU for up to 24 months. Researchers will be selected on the basis of the scientific excellence of their proposed research, as well as the quality of the hosting measures offered by their potential host institution. The implementing consortium is led by DAAD and brings together Campus France, the PAUSE programme hosted by the Collège de France and UNIMED, with implementation support from: Alexander-von-Humboldt-Foundation, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Czech National Agency for International Education and Research (DZS), European University Association (EUA), Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI), Nuffic, Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA), Sofia University. The project recommendations will support the establishment of a permanent European support mechanism for researchers at risk. The call for applications will be launched in mid- November 2024, **for more information** see: www.saferesearchers.eu

Expansion of Sergio Vieira De Mello Chairs Programmeme

Univeristé Joseph Ki-Zerbo in Burkina Faso signed an De Mello Chairs agreement with UNHCR on World Refugee Day 2024. The agreement will support activities relating to promoting and disseminating international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law in West Africa, supporting academic research and pedagogical initiatives on forced

displacement, by integrating these themes into the university agenda; and, facilitating the integration of refugees through educational, university and awareness programmes, recognizing their potential and valuing their contributions to society. **More details** and photos of the signing ceremony [can be found here](#).

Carleton University has signed into the scheme and is now the first De Mello Chair in Canada. The agreement will advance the ongoing work between Carleton and UNHCR Canada in experiential learning, research, and policy engagement, as well as support new areas of cooperation, including joint fundraising efforts and the development of an education pathway to permanent residence in Canada for refugees through Carleton's Graduate Diploma programmes. A full 3-year workplan has already been developed and can now be put into practice. A story about the signing event [can be found here](#). With these new additions, the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chairs network now includes **57 chairs in 11 countries**, expanding the scope of refugee-focused academic initiatives across the globe. Welcome to our newest members!

The Global University Academy (GUA)

Led and supported by the University of Oslo, the Global University Academy (GUA) addresses the urgent need for improved access to higher education for refugees, displaced people, and their communities, aligning with UNHCR's goal to increase refugee access to higher education to 15 percent by 2030. By uniting universities worldwide, GUA aims to create a scalable, universally recognized higher education model that provides foundational and bachelor's degree-level programmes, accessible to refugees where they reside. Over the next 18 months, GUA partners will focus on designing an effective approach to mutual course recognition, ensuring high-quality standards, and sustainable financial support, aiming to launch pilot programmes in 2026/2027.

The GUA also serves as a responsive support network during immediate refugee crises, contributing expertise and resources to expand educational opportunities for displaced learners. Current members include leading universities such as Arizona State University, KU Leuven, SOAS, University of London, University of Oxford, University of Geneva and the University of Cape Town, as well as organizations like the Norwegian Refugee Council and UNHCR to name a few. **For more information**, [see here](#).

Join the Largest Global Mapping of Higher Education Opportunities for Refugees!

Times Higher Education, in collaboration with UNHCR and other partners, launched an unprecedented global survey to map higher education opportunities for refugees worldwide. This initiative seeks to identify and expand access to universities, scholarships, and training programmes, ensuring refugees have pathways to higher education no matter where they are. By contributing to this survey, institutions and educators worldwide can help create a richer, more inclusive educational landscape, bridging the gap for millions of talented refugee students eager to learn and contribute. Don't miss this chance to be part of a game-changing effort in refugee education. Participate in the survey today and make a difference! **Read more** [here](#).

Gender responsive education: Addressing gender disparities in and through higher education in crisis contexts - Uganda

For over 30 years, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), in partnership with other stakeholders, has provided education and livelihoods programmes in Uganda. Through the “Empowering urban young female students and female teachers” project in Kampala, JRS, with Entreculturas and the “Luz De Las Maestras Programme” (The Teachers Light), issued scholarship to 20 young women to pursue bachelor’s degrees in education at Kisubi and Makerere Universities.

In 2023, Kisubi University and UNHCR conducted a scholarship mapping and verification exercise confirming the limited opportunities for secondary and tertiary education available to refugee households in Kampala. Many refugee households headed by single mothers and girls were affected by persistent barriers such as limited access to quality education, livelihoods opportunities, healthcare services, and protection concerns. “The scholarship has given hope to these young women, particularly the mothers, who had previously relinquished aspirations of returning to school and instead engaged in menial jobs in the camps to sustain themselves. With the support of the scholarship, they are resolute in enhancing their circumstances, crafting promising career paths that will provide for both them and their families.” JRS Kampala Education Coordinator. **For more information** please contact: JRS Uganda christina.zetlmeisl@jrs.net or JRS Eastern Africa obed.ombuna@jrs.net

DIME transitions to become the Regional Office for U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)

Diálogo Intercultural Mexicano (DIME) has transitioned to become the regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI). Established in 1911, USCRI is a nongovernmental, not-for-profit international organization dedicated to addressing the needs and rights of refugees and immigrants, and supporting their transition to a dignified life. Working with its affiliates, USCRI provides legal, social, and health services to refugees, unaccompanied migrating children, trafficking survivors, and other immigrants in all 50 states, El Salvador, Honduras, Kenya, and Mexico. USCRI advocates for the rights of refugees and immigrants both nationally and globally, helping to drive policies, practices and law.

This transition marks the culmination of years of conversations, analysis, and partnership that date back to 2020, when DIME and USCRI first worked together to launch the U.S.-Mexico Border Programme to advocate for access to asylum. The Habesha Project will continue under the leadership of USCRI Latin America and the Caribbean, which will continue creating opportunities for young refugees from around the world. **For more information** on USCRI, [see here](#).

Supporting the Right to Education for Women and Girls Affected by Displacement and Crisis

On March 19, [Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan](#) hosted a virtual session at the [NGO/Committee on the Status of Women 68](#) event, highlighting the critical issue of education for women and girls impacted by displacement and crisis. The event, titled *Exploring International Obligations, Innovations, and Good Practices*, gathered experts to discuss innovative solutions and best practices in ensuring access to gender-responsive and human-rights-based education for women in conflict

zones. Featuring key speakers including Dr. Lauryn Oates, Nick Sabato, Hawa Abdiaziz, and Francis Randle, explored how educational resources are being mobilized to bridge gaps in education when access is suspended, particularly in cases like Afghanistan where the state denies education to girls and women. As Dr. Oates emphasized, “There’s already much to build on...doing better is entirely within our reach.” The session provided a platform for ongoing dialogue on how the international community can enhance its support for educational initiatives in crisis-affected regions. **For more detail**, you can watch the event [here](#).

HOPES-LEB: A Journey of Hope and Impact in Lebanon

From April 2020 - October 2024, the EU-funded HOPES-LEB project offered higher and further education opportunities to vulnerable Lebanese and refugees in Lebanon. HOPES-LEB has awarded over 1,500 scholarships to Lebanese and refugee students to complete a university degree or for short-courses focused on language skills, vocational training and labour-market access. Individual support was complemented by institutional funding for innovative short-term education projects, including 20 projects implemented by local Lebanese institutions aimed at institutional capacity building, access to and completion of higher and further education, and labour market integration. Moreover, HOPES-LEB has established a regional alumni network with 1,010 members and organised several stakeholder dialogues and events focusing on higher education in times of collapse. **Read more** in the [HOPES-LEB e-newsletter](#) and to watch videos and see alumni testimonies click here: hopes-madad.org/voices-of-hopes-leb/

RUFORUM and Mastercard Foundation announce scale up of TAGDev programme which will support access to Higher Education & TVET Training for 300,000 Refugees and Displaced Persons



During the Triennial Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) conference in Windhoek, Namibia, which took place from 12th-16th August 2024, RUFORUM and the Mastercard Foundation announced the scale-up of their successful programme Transforming Africa’s Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa’s Development (TAGDev 1.0), unveiling TAGDev 2.0.

Building on the success of TAGDev 1.0, the scale up of TAGDev 2.0 not only continues the mission of fostering academic excellence and social responsibility but also deepens its focus on inclusivity and targeted support for underrepresented groups. TAGDev 2.0 aims to scale these achievements, updating 1,600 courses across 80 academic programmes and impacting 1.2 million people, including 820,000 young women, 300,000 refugees and displaced persons, and 120,000 persons with disabilities. This intentional focus on the most vulnerable ensures that the benefits of agricultural education and innovation reach those who need it most. **To learn more** about TAGDev 2.0, please click [here](#).

XV National Seminar of Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chairs: Migration and Refugees as Law and Public Policy

From October 16th to 18th, UNHCR, in collaboration with Brazilian universities, hosted the *XV National Seminar of Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chairs* at the Federal University of Bahia. The seminar, themed "Migration and Refugees as Law and Public Policy: The Role of Universities in Interculturality," included an opening conference, the presentation of the UNHCR Report on the [Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chairs](#), and panels on public policies such as COMIGRAR. The event also featured lectures, working groups, book launches, and meetings with members of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair (CSVM) network. Since 2003, this initiative, in cooperation with national universities, has supported refugees and promoted education, research, and academic outreach aimed at populations in refugee situations. The seminar was a collective effort supported by UNHCR and its partners, showcasing the critical role Brazilian universities play in advancing policies and actions for migration and refugee protection.

Amala Achieves Historic International Accreditation for Refugee Education Programme

In February, Amala's *Global Secondary Diploma (GSD)* programme, designed specifically for refugee youth, achieved international accreditation from both the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). This marks the first time either organization has granted accreditation to a programme operating within a refugee context. The accreditation is a groundbreaking step, opening up more educational opportunities for Amala graduates, including access to higher education. Amala's GSD, operating in Jordan and Kenya since 2020, has enabled more than 400 displaced students to complete their secondary education. The accreditation validates the programme's quality and will allow even more students to pursue higher education, as evidenced by alumni like Majd, a Syrian refugee who has gone on to study Psychology in Canada who says "When I graduated from Amala, I applied to many universities and colleges with my diploma. A number of different admissions officers told me that Amala's approach to learning was the future of education. The moment I received my letter of acceptance, my hope was reignited. I think that this accreditation will help open up hope for my peers too." **Read more:** [Amala Education Website](#)

CONNECTED HIGHER EDUCATION

A path to dignity: Enhancing access to higher education in crisis contexts - Jesuit Refugee Service

In partnership with Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) and the Global Education Movement (GEM), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Kenya provided high-quality, low-cost higher education to over 200 forcefully displaced learners in 2024. The online programme allows learners to pursue internationally recognized, accredited degrees at their own pace. With an 85% completion rate, students are successfully completing their degrees and advancing toward promising futures, including 14 graduates secured scholarships to pursue master's degrees in the last two years. Students also benefit from dignified economic opportunities through internships that facilitate professional growth and development. Beyond academics, JRS Kenya ensures holistic support for student well-being, offering mental health and psychosocial support, alongside housing, medical, transportation, and food assistance. Engaging activities, such as student clubs and associations, foster community and personal growth in refugee learners' journey toward a brighter future. As one student shares, "The SNHU programme has been life changing. As a Rwandese refugee in Kenya, pursuing higher education felt impossible. However, with the scholarship, I experienced incredible personal and professional growth, improved my communication skills, and secured a job at RefugePoint—an opportunity I never imagined." **For more information** please contact: JRS Kenya geoffrey.shikuku@jrs.net or JRS Eastern Africa obed.ombuna@jrs.net.

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PATHWAYS

Higher education opportunities in Mexico for refugees from around the world

USCRI's Habesha Complementary Pathways project creates higher education opportunities and durable solutions for displaced and refugee youth around the world through academic scholarships in Mexico, in a comprehensive model of international protection and local integration. In April 2024, four South Sudanese students arrived in Mexico as part of the project marking the beginning of their integration year, which includes cultural orientation, Spanish classes, and application for refugee status. Thanks to support from the UNHCR, the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance and the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations, a Syrian student also recently joined the 2024 Habesha Project cohort, despite the complex coordination and implementation factors. The student, who is excited to study design and start a new life, reflected on his first days in Mexico, "From the moment my plane landed in Mexico, I was struck by a sense of positivity... Upon arriving in Aguascalientes, I fell in love with the city. Its beauty, the range of activities available, and, most importantly, the warmth and hospitality of the people left a lasting impression." **For more information** on the Habesha project [see here](#).

JICUF and ICU Launch New Education Pathways Scholarship for Refugee Students

Launched in August 2024, the Japan ICU Foundation (JICUF), in collaboration with the International Christian University (ICU) to offer the *Education Pathways Scholarship (EPS)*. The scholarship covers 100% of tuition and fees, on-campus accommodation, and a living stipend and will be awarded to two new undergraduate students with refugee backgrounds each year with the first students commencing their studies in April 2025. The initiative demonstrates a strong commitment to

expanding educational access for displaced students, with costs shared between JICUF and ICU. **Read more:** [JICUF Launches Education Pathways Scholarship](#).

REUK Welcomes the First Refugee Student in its ‘Displaced Students Initiative’ Scheme

In September, Refugee Education UK (REUK) welcomed the first refugee student through its Displaced Student Initiative (DSI). This pilot complementary education pathway is led by REUK and runs in partnership with *Elimisha Kakuma*, providing higher education access support to refugee young people in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya.

The first student has started an undergraduate psychology degree at the University of Exeter. Besides a university scholarship covering tuition fees, accommodation, and a stipend, the DSI provides wrap-around support, including pre-arrival assistance, staff accompaniment during the transition to university, and ongoing academic and pastoral support. REUK plans to welcome more students to the programme next year! **For more details check out:** [REUK | Elimisha Kakuma](#) | [University of Exeter](#)

Resettled Scholar: Pamir Hazem – From Afghanistan to California

Pamir Hazem, a former law professor in Afghanistan, was forced to flee his country due to threats from the Taliban. With the support of the UC Davis Threatened Scholars Committee and the Global Community Emergency Fund, Pamir and his family were resettled in Sacramento, where he completed his LL.M. at UC Davis School of Law and sat for the California Bar. Pamir is now working at an immigration clinic supporting Afghan refugees and collaborating with academic refugees to create educational opportunities for Afghan women. **Read more:** [UCD Crowdfunds to Help Threatened Scholars – Davis Enterprise](#)

TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

UNHCR Promotes Refugee Inclusion at Africa Skills Week 2024



Partners from UNHCR, BMZ, GIZ, Finn Church Aid and ILO. Photo credit: Amir Radfar

The African Union's Africa Skills Week 2024 was held in Accra, Ghana from October 14-18, focusing on "Skills and jobs for the 21st century: quality skills development for sustainable employability in Africa". At Skills Week, UNHCR, with partners Finn Church Aid, GIZ, and ILO, convened a side event on TVET and Higher Education for refugee empowerment, attracting 70 participants, including refugee youth representatives from Ghana. For more details on the side event, read the Finn Church Aid article: [At inaugural Africa Skills Week, FCA, GIZ, ILO and UNHCR bring refugees to the table](#). A number of refugee youth also contributed to the event's Youth Summit, sharing their perspectives on TVET policies and programmes. Critically, Skills Week featured presentation of the AU Continental TVET Strategy, the draft of which includes specific support for refugees in a commitment to "promote access of refugees and forcibly displaced populations to TVET," and addresses mobility of refugees and migrants. To read more about Africa Skills Week 2024, **check out:** <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20241024/africa-skills-week-2024-concludes-bold-call-institutionalization-and-youth>

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

WUSC and Mastercard Foundation Partner on DREEM Project

The DREEM project is a collaboration between the [World University Service of Canada \(WUSC\)](#) and [Mastercard Foundation](#) where WUSC serves as the Foundation's technical partner on the inclusion of refugee and displaced persons (RDP). The foundation has committed 25% of education opportunities for RDP youth with WUSC supporting the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme university partners to reach this target. In doing so, WUSC arranges outreach visits to refugee camps and settlements with the partners, providing opportunities for refugee youth to access information about higher education directly from university representatives. The outreach sessions also provide avenues for universities to gain a better understanding of refugee contexts and to gain exposure to the challenges that refugees face when applying to university. Inspired by their experiences in the refugee camps, some universities have taken action to amend various admissions policies to be more inclusive of refugees such as raising the age limit for application, adopting rolling admissions for refugees, and allowing refugees to submit physical applications. Additionally, outreach actions create moments for university partners to exchange best practices and to network, while the presence of refugee alumni serves as inspiration to other young people that these opportunities are real and refugees are truly being included. You can **learn more** about the [Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme and participating universities here](#).

Photo exhibition: "Resilience Revealed, Dreams That Cross Borders" presented by the Tertiary Refugee Student Network (TRSN) and UNHCR Mexico

This exhibition highlighted the transformative power of tertiary education for young refugees in their host countries. The project was presented in February at the museum of the Autonomous Popular University of Puebla (UPAEP), a private university currently hosting refugee students, including one DAFI scholar studying nursing. UNHCR and TRSN convened a conference targeting the academic and



teaching community of the university to sharing information about tertiary education for refugee youth, the 15by30 strategy and the powerful impact of education in restoring lives after forced displacement. It was a valuable opportunity for UNHCR and TRSN leaders to engage with students and teachers, including a social dinner meeting of refugee students living and studying in Puebla. The event concluded with a concert offered by a DAFI scholar who is pursuing a BA in Classical Music (Violin).

USCRI Student Leadership Meeting

In July, USCRI Mexico held its fourth Student Leadership Meeting, promoting coexistence and learning between USCRI's refugee student community and Local Student Committee (LSC) Network. The three-day event offered students opportunities to interact, develop skills, and participate in workshop and discussion sessions. Sessions led by refugee students and LSC representatives covered topics such as self-care, cultural exchange, and committee capacity building. The student-led activities fostered connections between local and refugee students and strengthened the LSC Network's capacity to integrate refugee students into university communities. Other key participants included representatives from the National Employment Service, UNHCR Mexico, and the 2024 Migration Summit.

Events

Refugee & Migrant Education Network: Pathways for Hope, Understanding, and Meaningful Integration

On 6-8 November, 2004, RME Network, together with co-hosting partners Jesuit Refugee Services, Scalabrini International Migration Institute, John Carroll University, and Villanova University Strategic Initiative for Refugees and Migrants, held an international conference for scholars, researchers, community leaders, and practitioners in education and migration. The event explored innovative educational practices that promote mutual understanding, participation, and integration of refugees, migrants, and displaced people. Through panels and workshops, the conference aimed to enhance awareness of refugee and migrant narratives, the global migration phenomenon, and the right to quality education for all. **Read more:** [RMEN Conference](#)

Save the Date: UNHCR High Level Official's Meeting

The second High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM) will take place on 16-17 December 2025, with an advance day on 15 December. This event will build on stocktaking efforts at country, regional, and global levels, to maintain momentum and assess progress against the implementation of the pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) towards the advancement of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and also outline next steps in the lead up to the GRF in 2027. This is an important moment to reflect and to advance momentum on the [Global 15by30 Multistakeholder Pledge on Refugee Higher Education and Self-Reliance](#). **Read more: HLOM**

→ Global Refugee Forum pledge updates are ongoing!
Update your #15by30 pledge progress or submit a new 15by30 pledge here!

Save the Date: Global 15by30 Summit

A global convening on #15by30 will be convened in June 2025 marking the halfway point of the 15by30 roadmap. The 15by30 Summit will be dedicated building on progress and commitments to elaborate a strategic plan of action positioning inclusive higher education and skills development at the center of sustainable responses to displacement and emergency situations. Watch this space for more information!

Invitation and registration – fourth quarterly informal briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees, Monday, 2 December 2024, from 15:00 to 17:00 hours CET

This meeting will take place on Monday, 2 December 2024, from 15:00 to 17:00 hours CET, in room II at the International Labour Organization (ILO). A Zoom link is provided below for participants not based in Geneva.

The meeting will be co-chaired by the Assistant High Commissioner (Protection), Ms. Ruvendrini Menikdiwela, and the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office at Geneva, H.E. Ambassador Gustavo Gallón.

The briefing will focus on solutions, a key objective of the Global Compact on Refugees. A select group of pledge representatives will provide an overview of efforts to implement pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum 2023, and plans for stocktaking leading to the High-Level Officials Meeting in 2025. The [agenda](#) of the informal briefing is available on the following webpage: [Briefings and meetings in 2024 | UNHCR](#).

Participants wishing to make an intervention during the discussion may use this opportunity to share their updates on pledge implementation and to make calls for further action. Please note that the discussion will be informal, and interpretation will be available in English, French and Spanish.

Registration to attend the briefing in-person is required and accessible [via this form on the Digital Platform for the Global Compact on Refugees](#). Participants are kindly requested to **register by 18:00 CET on Friday, 29 November 2024** and to bring an identification document bearing a photograph (passport or national identity document) to gain access to the venue. Upon the presentation of their

identification, participants will receive a visitors' badge, which should be returned at the end of the briefing. Badges can be collected as of 14:15 on the day of the briefing, and participants are invited to come early to facilitate timely access.

To participate in the informal briefing virtually, please use the following log-in details, indicating your name and organization via the Zoom chat function:

Join Zoom meeting:

<https://ilo-org.zoom.us/j/95016066946?pwd=bb1h6G4S1n9Rzy9wRA0NaR4aPo8Fck.1>

Meeting ID: 950 1606 6946

Passcode: 461892

Researching education, displacement & (im)mobility: connecting the global and local context.

In 2023, the IASFM (International Association for the Study of Forced Migration) issued an invitation to its members to establish an international research cluster to address a key migration challenge. With this in mind, a group of partners created the 'Education, Displacement & (Im)mobility' research cluster. The cluster views education in displacement through the lens of 'Lifelong Learning,' in that it should be accessible to everyone across ages, abilities, and at all levels from language acquisition to primary, secondary, tertiary and higher education. The aim of the cluster is to explore connections between education, displacement, and how responses from nation states and local education providers, can both mobilise and immobilise access for students experiencing displacement.

You are invited to join the cluster as a member or get to know the work of the research cluster at the IASFM20 conference in Indonesia (21st - 23rd January 2025). Complete this form or visit the website: <https://iasfm.org/edi/> for further information.

Resources

Follow Our UoS Journey: University of Cumbria's Sanctuary Blog

The *University of Cumbria* has launched a blog to document their progress as a University of Sanctuary, detailing their journey in organizing lectures, workshops, scholarships, and partnerships. This blog will provide updates on how they are supporting sanctuary initiatives within their institution. **Read more:** [University of Cumbria Sanctuary Blog](#)

Pathways to Higher Education Japan: Empowering Refugee Students Through Education

Pathways to Higher Education Japan's latest report showcases the resilience and accomplishments of refugee students who have overcome significant challenges to pursue higher education. The report highlights personal journeys of students from various countries, detailing their perseverance in the face of displacement and the transformative impact that educational opportunities have had on their lives. **Read more** and explore the stories: [Pathways to Higher Education Japan Student Report](#)

Guidance for Universities on Responding to the Crisis in Palestine

The *University of Sanctuary Steering Group* has developed guidance on how UK universities can support Palestinian students, teachers, academics, and institutions during the ongoing crisis. This guidance provides universities with practical advice and information on initiatives they can engage with, offering feedback from both the Higher Education and refugee sectors, as well as from Palestinian institutions. **Read more:** [University of Sanctuary Guidance](#)

Annual Report: DAFI Scholarships Empower Refugees for Brighter Futures

In 2023 alone, thousands of DAFI scholars embarked on academic journeys that have equipped them to become role models, leaders, and advocates for their peers, embodying the programme's vision of resilience and empowerment. This year's report includes first person success stories, detailing how DAFI and other similar scholarship programmes support refugee students to overcome immense challenges—from navigating displacement shocks to adapting to and thriving in new educational systems. It emphasizes the importance of education as a transformative force, helping refugees achieve stability, fulfil their potential, and support social cohesion within their communities. With the goal of reaching 15% refugee enrolment in higher education by 2030, the programme remains pivotal promoting other academic access and scholarship programmes aligned to the 15by30 initiative. **For more** on the programme's achievements and the journeys of DAFI scholars, read the full report [here](#).

Research Highlights on Refugee Inclusion in Higher Education by Elisa Gamba, PhD Candidate, University of Padua, Italy

Elisa Gamba, a PhD candidate in Human Rights, Society, and Multi-level Governance, shares her research and insights on the inclusion of refugees and students at risk within the higher education system. With over 14 years of experience working in international student services at Italian universities, Elisa has contributed several articles on this topic.

Articles:

1. [Refugees in the Higher Education System: Overcoming the Challenges of Inclusion](#)
2. [Di-segni di Pace: Reflecting About Peace with Refugee Students](#)
3. [Becoming Who You Are: Studying Despite Displacement – Exhibition in Berlin](#)

Research & Publications

"It's the only hope': Inside the effort to help Gaza university students continue their studies." *The New Humanitarian*, 26 Sept. 2024 [[text](#)]

Supporting refugee students: How and why universities should prioritize inclusivity. Univ. of Michigan, Sept. 2024 [[text](#)]

Gallagher, M., Nanyunja, S., Akello, M. *et al.* Hopeful futures for refugees in higher education: cultivation, activation, and technology. *Int J Educ Technol High Educ* **21**, 38 (2024).

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s41239-024-00470-5>

Asire, L. A. (2024). Exploring Stakeholders' Interventions in Addressing Gender Roles and Norms that Obstruct Refugee Women's Access to Higher Education: A Case of Bidibidi Refugee Settlement in Northern Uganda. *East African Journal of Education Studies*, 7(1), 253-272. <https://doi.org/10.37284/eajes.7.1.1768>.

Green, D., Unangst, L., Tomita, E. (2024). Refugees by Another Name: Displaced Learners in Japanese Higher Education. In: Momesso, L., Ivanova, P. (eds) *Refugees and Asylum Seekers in East Asia*. Palgrave Macmillan Studies on Human Rights in Asia. Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-2867-1_6

South Sudanese Refugee Higher Education Access in Uganda: An Intersectionality Enquiry. Christine Semambo Sempebwa DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37284/eajes.7.3.2112>

Beyond Access: Building the Resilience of South Sudanese Refugee Higher Education Students from the Bidi Bidi Settlement, Uganda. Christine Semambo Sempebwa DOI: [10.37284/eajes.7.2.1934](https://doi.org/10.37284/eajes.7.2.1934)

UNHCR Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa - Education Newsletter Quarter 3, 2024 [Available online](#).

UNHCR Regional Bureau for Eastern, Horn and Great Lakes of Africa - Regional Education Newsletter Quarter 2, 2024. [Available online](#).

Evaluating the Journey to Sanctuary: Oxford Brookes University **Read more:** [Oxford Brookes Sanctuary Research Project](#)

Scholarships & Opportunities

MSCA4Ukraine fellowship programme

[MSCA4Ukraine](#) was established in 2022 as part of the European Union's direct response to the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine. The fellowship programme is funded through the European Commission's [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#), and allows researchers displaced from Ukraine to continue their work at academic and non-academic organisations in EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries, while maintaining their connections to research and innovation communities in Ukraine. MSCA4Ukraine's initial funding amounted to €25 million, which was increased by a further €10 million in 2024. Two calls for application have taken place, which will result in the funding of approximately 175 fellowships by April 2025. **For more information** please visit [MSCA4Ukraine - SAR Europe](#) or email MSCA4Ukraine@mu.ie.

MPOWER Refugee Scholarship by Global Citizens Fund – Where Potential is Borderless

Global Citizens Fund, an arm of MPOWER Financing, announces the *MPOWER Refugee Scholarship*, offering three awards totaling US\$5,000 to support students fleeing harsh conditions who are studying in the United States or Canada. All eligible students must submit an online application by

November 30, 2024. Winners will be selected based on their essay submissions. **For eligibility details** and to apply, visit the [MPOWER Financing Scholarships Page](#).

UNHCR Opportunities Portal Refresh

The UNHCR Opportunities Portal has undergone a facelift to improve the effectiveness and user experience of this resource for refugee education and pathways opportunities. Please remember to check it out, post your update your higher education opportunity and share this resource widely! For more information [see here](#).

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About this newsletter

The Refugee Higher Education, Skills and Self-Reliance community is large and diverse - and growing. It is becoming increasingly important to build connections, exchange ideas, and share knowledge among this vast group of stakeholders. This newsletter is a medium to promote exchange, intended for anyone interested in refugee higher education and skills, or who would like to learn more about recent progress, announcements, updates, events, research, or exciting resources in this area. Please note: The newsletter includes a selection of content that represent the views of the respective organizations and authors. We have shortened and adapted texts where appropriate.