

ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOS

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International Conference Center Geneva

BACKGROUND PAPER

Session title: Life-long learning: facilitating transitions from school to workplace

Date: June 17th 2016

Time/Room: 10:30 – 13:00

Moderators

Joseph Munyambanza, Education Director
Coburwas Uganda

Foni Joyce Vuni, Chairperson *DAFI Kenya Students*
Organization Kenya

Speakers

Patrick Mukendi Bituta, *JC:HEM* Malawi

Simon Marot Toulong, *youth representative*
Uganda

Background:

This session will explore challenges, gaps and promising practices to support the transition from school to work for refugee adolescents and youth. Drawing on the participants rich experience, the session aims at developing recommendations for UNHCR and partners on how to increase opportunities for life-long learning and transition from formal and non-formal education into the workplace.

Last year the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted. [SDG 4](#) aims at ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting life-long learning opportunities for all. One of its targets is to substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship (Target 4.4). In the same sense the [UNHCR Education Strategy](#) aims at ensuring that “opportunities for education are lifelong and available to all according to need”.

For adolescents and youth around the world, the transition from school to work is a pivotal phase that can present many challenges. For refugee youth, there may be specific challenges related to limited access to quality education as well as limited possibilities of integration into meaningful and decent livelihoods opportunities. Globally it is estimated that around 80% of young refugees are out of formal secondary education and only about 1% of refugee youth accesses tertiary education services. But young refugees, communities, UNHCR and partners around the world are engaged in activities to ensure the opportunity of lifelong learning and to facilitate the transition from school to work by increasing enrolment in quality secondary and tertiary education: by linking schools and universities to the workplace through curricular or extra-curricular activities that include work orientation, internships, entrepreneurship trainings etc.: by providing non-formal education that combines literacy and numeracy skills with technical skills training as a pathway for youth who had dropped-out of formal education and by supporting to youth engagement and community-based approaches.

The session will provide space for NGO representatives, youth representatives and UNHCR staff to exchange their experiences of challenges, gaps and promising approaches to support the transition from school to workplace for young refugees.

Some of the questions to be addressed are:

- What are the opportunities for refugee youths regarding life-long learning, including innovative ways such as the use of blended and online learning, technological solutions and community based programmes?
- How can we facilitate the transition from school to work (from different levels of education)?
- What non-formal and community based options can be explored? What are young refugees already doing in this regard?

The session will be facilitated by two young refugees who are engaged in supporting their communities and peers through education and lifelong learning programmes. To set the scene, two speakers, Patrick Mukendi Bituta and Simon Marot Toulong, will share their experiences on community based

interventions on lifelong learning support. Participants will then work in smaller groups on specific challenges and summarize and present them in a creative way to the rest of the group.

Short BIOs of facilitators and speakers

Joseph Munyambanza - facilitator

Joseph Munyambanza, a 25-year-old from the D.R. Congo, fled from his home country to Uganda at the age of six due to conflict. At the age of 14, he co-founded the organization CIYOTA which runs a self-supporting primary school in Kyangwali. He helps youths build agribusinesses and attend secondary schools in Uganda and universities around the world. Joseph is one of 15 young people chosen to serve as advisors on Global Education First Initiative of the UN Secretary General. Joseph was recognized along with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia as one of four Global Citizen Award winners of 2013. He was named one of the 99 most influential Foreign Policy Leaders under the age of 33 by the Diplomatic Courier magazine in 2013. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biochemistry from Westminster College/University.

Foni Joyce Vuni – facilitator

Foni Joyce Vuni is originally from South Sudan but living in Kenya with her parents and 4 younger siblings. Her parents came to Nairobi in 1991 due to the war that broke out in her home country. She recently graduated from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology with a degree in Mass Communication attaining a first class honors. She is part of the Youth and adolescents in emergency working group and a youth representative on the Global Refugee Youth Consultations. She is passionate about advocating education, policy, inclusion, involvement and empowerment of refugees.

Patrick Mukendi Bituta

Patrick Mukendi Bituta was born first in 1974 into a family of 9. Congolese by nationality, he graduated in law studies in 2000 at the University of Kinshasa but had to flee war and political persecution in his home country in 2008 and is since living in Malawi. In 2013, he started his refugee community support by studying the child protection and participation community-service-learning track (CSLT) at JC-HEM-Dzaleka and graduated 6 months later. In 2014, he was appointed facilitator of the same course. In 2015, he was selected as Youth Work CSLT developer and facilitator in the same institution. He is the chairperson of the child protection committee and the Initiator of the children's parliament in Dzaleka.

Simon Marot Touloung

Following the conflict in South Sudan, Simon Marot was forced to flee his country at the age of 8 in 2000 and arrived in Keri Transit camp in Uganda after a 21 day walk. Simon studied Petroleum, Geoscience and Production Studies under a DAFI Scholarship at Makerere University. He engaged in leading positions in several organizations such as the Unity State students' association in Northern Uganda and the DAFI university students association. Simon is a co-founder and Public Relations Officer for the Youth Empowerment Network for Peace and Reconciliation (YENPR) in Kiryandongo refugee settlement, a youth initiative that advocates for peaceful coexistence amongst different South Sudanese communities as well as host communities in Uganda. Simon is alumni of President Obama's Young African Leader Initiative (YALI) Youth Network. He also runs a voluntary mentorship, computer training and coaching programs for refugee students in vacations and in schools in Kiryandongo refugee settlement.