



# Global 15by30 Refugee Higher Education Conference:

*Maximising the Potential of Refugee Youth | Amplifying the Role of Higher Education Institutions*

Istanbul, Türkiye - 16 June 2025

*in conjunction with*

Times Higher Education Global Sustainable Development Congress 2025

## The Road to 15by30

In 2019, UNHCR and partners, understanding the necessity of higher education for unlocking the potential of young refugees, set the target of 15% of refugees in higher education by 2030, up from 1% in 2019. Since then, a multi-stakeholder coalition collaborated to develop the [15by30 Roadmap](#) (2023), which outlines the actions, partnership and policy shifts required to reach this urgent goal.

## Coming Together in 2025

The 15by30 Conference is a critical moment to gather whole-of-society stakeholders to affirm the commitment to higher education for refugees aligned to the 15by30 Roadmap. The Conference will help us shape future progress towards the 15by30 target and firmly centre higher education as critical to building sustainable and equitable humanitarian responses.

At the same time, the context both in the humanitarian and higher education sector is changing. The humanitarian sector is straining under increasing needs and fewer resources, while the higher education sector is being challenged on its purpose in a changing world. We aim to take stock and devise solutions together, including youth at the centre of this process as the leaders who will shape the future.

At the midway point to 2030, the Conference will focus on the critical role of partnerships between higher education institutions, youth and humanitarian and development actors to inform the strategic development of commitments aligned to the 15by30 Roadmap. The 15by30 Conference comes nearly two years after the launch of the [global multi-stakeholder pledge on higher education and skills](#), which inspired over 100 pledges from stakeholders worldwide. The 15by30 Conference is a platform to bring together an even more diverse coalition of committed actors— from students to policymakers, universities to NGOs, governments to the private sector— to share insights, forge partnerships, and develop concrete strategies.



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## Objectives

Deepen awareness of the critical role of higher education institutions in advancing sustainable humanitarian responses in the shifting humanitarian and development landscape, and create conditions for information sharing, stronger partnerships, innovation and adaptation among refugee higher education stakeholders.

Identify ways to systematise and strengthen the role of refugee and youth leaders in shaping strategic directions for education access, higher education programme design and implementation, and education-to-employment approaches, ensuring their voices and expertise are central to the 15by30 agenda.

Inform the strategic development of pledges and commitments aligned to the 15by30 Roadmap through interrogation of available data and evidence, identification of critical gaps in information and resources, and commitment to jointly addressing evidence needs.

## Outcomes

- ✓ A joint statement signed by conference attendees and other stakeholders articulating a proactive and responsive position for higher education institutions in the humanitarian and development landscape.
- ✓ Spotlight on stakeholder contributions and commitments in the conference outcomes document, on the Each One Take One website and through new recognition channels, which will serve as stepping stones to the High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM) in December 2025, and further at the 3rd Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2027.

## Join Us!

You are invited to [register for the Global Sustainable Development Congress 2025](#) (GSDC2025).

Registration includes access to the 15by30 Conference. A limited number of complimentary registration vouchers are available for stakeholders who require financial support, are committed to attending and able to finance their own travel. If you wish to be considered for a voucher, [please fill this form](#).

## Further Information

The Global Sustainable Development Congress 2025 (GSDC2025), co-hosted with Türkiye's Council of Higher Education and convened by Times Higher Education, brings together the world's leading thinkers, policymakers and actors from different sectors to drive new alliances and create positive action for a more sustainable future.

The 15by30 Conference will take place on Day 1 of GSDC2025, followed by 3 days of additional content and sessions, including many relevant to promotion of inclusive higher education models. The 3 days following the 15by30 Conference will also be an important time for our community to network, engage new partners, participate in sessions, have bilateral and follow up planning meetings and keep the momentum going! You are invited to refer to the following links for more information:

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| • <a href="#">15by30 Conference Agenda</a>            | • <a href="#">TRSN Website</a>                   |
| • SDGC 2025 <a href="#">agenda</a>                    | • <a href="#">15by30 Report</a>                  |
| • <a href="#">Event location/hotels and visa info</a> | • <a href="#">15by30 Multistakeholder Pledge</a> |

