

Side event of the 76th session of the Executive Committee

Refugee leadership: Redefining localization in humanitarian action

Moderated by

Dr. Jamie Munn, Executive Director, International Council of Voluntary Agencies

Speakers:

Ms. Marta Valdés, Humanitarian Director, Oxfam

Ms. Rez Gardi, Co-Managing Director, Refugees Seeking Equal Access
at the Table

Mr. JeanPaul Kasika, Executive Director, RELON-KENYA and Vice-Chairperson
of the African Refugee-Led Network

Ms. Nili Yossinger, Executive Director, Refugee Congress

Mr. Eric Rugambwa Museveni, Founder and Director, Bortopra Group (pre-recorded message)



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Balancing the urgent need for short-term, life-saving interventions with the imperative to invest in longer-term, sustainable approaches presents a difficult and often painful dilemma. In an era of shrinking resources, these compromises are becoming increasingly stark — particularly in contexts of protracted displacement. At this pivotal moment, it is essential to advance locally-led action and promote commitments to more inclusive and accountable humanitarian responses. In a broader context where refugee protection is being undermined and the asylum space under threat, finding collective ways forward is more urgent than ever. This NGO-led side event will highlight how refugee leaders are redefining localization in practice — moving beyond participation toward transformative leadership. The panel will share lessons learned and explore how to scale these approaches in a context where the global humanitarian landscape is undergoing a profound shift and critical conversations are taking place within the framework of the Humanitarian Reset, the UN80 process and broader system reform efforts.

Friday, 10 October 2025

8:30 – 9:45

Palais des Nations, Building A, room V

Interpretation in English and in French will be available.

