



Outcome Statement

Innovation Lab: Shifting Power to Children and Youth in Displacement Situations

2022 High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges

7-8 December 2022

Excellencies, colleagues, children and young people, The Global Refugee Youth Network, Migration Youth and Children Platform, Save the Children and UNICEF, present this statement as an outcome of the Innovation Lab "Shifting Power to Children and Youth in Displacement Situations."

Development solutions to displacement can only work if they ensure that refugee and internally displaced children and youth can meaningfully participate in shaping them. Children and youth comprise half of all refugees and IDPs. Governments and other stakeholders must be accountable for upholding their rights.

To achieve this, governments and development actors working in displacement situations must invest in three priorities:

- Firstly, development initiatives aiming to address displacement situations must fully include the views and needs of children and youth. This means investing in and establishing platforms for systematic and meaningful consultations with organisations and networks led by refugee, IDP and local children and youth, and ensuring that progress is transparently reported to them.
- Secondly, barriers to the participation of children and youth must be addressed and removed. This includes raising awareness of their rights and responsibilities, combatting racism, xenophobia and discrimination, building their skills for active participation, and compensating them for their time and contributions.
- Thirdly, data on development outcomes for refugee, internally displaced and host community children and youth must be collected, analysed and reported based on internationally agreed standards. Adequate disaggregation must be prioritized in order to make sure no one is left behind.

During 2023 and leading up to the second Global Refugee Forum, the Global Refugee Youth Network, Migration Youth and Children Platform, Save the Children and UNICEF, with the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts will work with children and youth, as well as authorities at different levels to test new ideas and share promising practice to encourage joint action. This is critical to make the 2023 Global Refugee Forum a success and accountable to all refugees.

We invite all Member States and other stakeholders to join us to deliver on our commitment to ensure meaningful engagement of refugee and IDP children and youth in development initiatives.