

Reporting by Session Note-takers at the 2019 Annual Consultations with NGOs

Date:	05/07/2019
Session Title:	Inclusion of Refugees and Other Persons of Concern
Moderator:	Najeeba Wazefadost, Global Refugee-led Network (GRN) Asif Safdary, Global Youth Advisory Council (GYAC)
UNHCR focal point:	Asif Safdary, Global Youth Advisory Council (GYAC)
NGO focal point:	Najeeba Wazefadost, Global Refugee-led Network (GRN)
Major points arising from speakers and discussions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of refugees is multi-dimensional. It has many aspects including physical, educational, social, economic and psycho-social aspects. Refugees receiving education in the same classroom as host communities. Making friends with host communities. Psycho-social support to build mutual trust as well. (Mariama Sow, GYAC) • A good practice program is introduced in exploring new approaches to empower refugees. With a call for proposals, the program looks at identifying and empowering refugee self-initiated associations through providing managerial skill training, communication channels and networking opportunities. Key outcomes include (1) refugee association become the point of references at refugee reception center, e.g. for LGBTI groups; (2) increased capacity of refugee-led CBOs in funding and fund raising for self-sustaining. This is a program in partnership with UNHCR in Italy. (Cesare Fermi, INTERSOS) • Toxic narrative is a problem and the absence of refugee organizations was reinforcing these narratives. Invest in refugees and give refugees the opportunity to be social entrepreneurs, to take action and leadership roles in the host community. Allow refugees to organize themselves in leadership roles. It will help to changing perceptions as well. 	
Recommendations/Conclusions/Decisions on the way forward	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include refugees. Invest in refugee leadership and management capacity. There will be multiplying effects for their social and economic inclusion. • For youth organizations specifically, the best way for refugee inclusion is to create opportunities for them to work together. (Enayatullah Safi, refugee panelist, Founder of the Dhabakitchen). • Recognize more refugee-led initiatives and make more support available, especially when there is favorable policies in the country. Adopt a strength-based approach, instead of purely needs-based approach. Share more good examples to change the narrative and labels on refugees. Consider setting up Refugee Initiative Awards (Robert Hakiza, Refugee panelist, Founder for YARID) 	
Top two quotes from the session	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give refugees the opportunity to be social entrepreneurs, to take action and leadership roles. Invest in them and you will see them feed back to the host community and their own. (Enayatullah Safi, refugee panelist, Founder of the Dhabakitchen) 	

- “Looking at my passport [with a refugee visa] he said ‘you don’t look like a refugee’. I asked him ‘How do a refugee look like?’.” (Robert Hakiza, GRN)
- “People [from host communities] need psychological support. Because if they are comfortable inside their heads, they are able to accept better what is different than what they are used too.” (Mariama Sow, GYAC)
- “Human beings are always on the move. How they move depends on you.” (Najeeba Wazefadost, Global Refugee-led Network (GRN))

Any general points regarding UNHCR-NGO partnerships

Questions on refugee representative’s legitimacy and representation were raised in pigeon hole, which includes some elements on how UNHCR facilitates the participation of refugee representatives. GRN and GYAC clarified the issue respectively from both GRN and GYAC point of view. No UNHCR comment on this (no panelist/moderator from UNCHR).