Title:

**Youth - Advancing the agenda**

Sponsors and Organizers:

Co-sponsored by the Qatar Permanent Mission to the UN and the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN

Co-organized by UNFPA, IFRC, Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth , UNICEF, UNHCR and NRC [on behalf of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action].

**Date and Time**: 24th of June 2019 1h15-2h45

**Venue:** Palais des nations Room XII

This is one of the side-events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year’s theme:

*“Promoting action to save lives, reach those in need and reduce humanitarian risk, vulnerability and need: looking towards the seventieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the climate summit called for by the Secretary-General”.*

**Background**

Today, 40 percent of the 1.4 billion people living in countries impacted by crises are under the age of 15, and young people constitute a significant proportion of the population in many conflict and post-conflict settings.[[1]](#footnote-1) The humanitarian responsibility to protect the rights and address the specific needs of young people, including adolescents, and to engage them and their unique capacities in humanitarian preparedness, response and recovery is vital to humanitarian effectiveness, risk reduction, and the protection of affected populations. Adolescents and youth are a vital positive force in emergency preparedness and response.

The World Humanitarian Summit, on 23-24 May 2016 in Istanbul, emphasized the urgent need to safeguard the rights of young people and engage them in humanitarian response efforts. A new Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action was launched, under the leadership of IFRC and UNFPA, as a concrete and deliberate step by the humanitarian community to work with and for young people.

Under the umbrella of the Compact, several promising initiatives have taken shape which together are advancing the work of making the humanitarian system more inclusive of young people. In this side event, two initiatives will be presented and discussed to showcase how the Compact is advancing this agenda.

**Initiative 1:**

In 2017 under the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE)’s Adolescents & Youth Task Team an advocacy subgroup was formed to conduct a desk review to respond to the fact that they have wide-ranging capacities and unique needs, but they often get lost between programming for children and programming for older adults. While some guidance on adolescent and youth programming existed, there had never been a systematic consolidation or compilation of these tools nor any review of gaps in available guidelines for programming in an emergency context. The desk review, as a contribution to the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action, was a response to this gap and demonstrated the need to put adolescent and youth at the centre of programmatic guidelines in and across all sectors in emergency settings.

Under the umbrella of the Compact, UNICEF and the Norwegian Refugee Council are leading the development of an inter-agency guideline for working with and for young people in humanitarian settings. This will be an easy-to-use field programming tool for adapting to context, with principles, tips, and examples for how to plan, design, implement, and monitor interventions with and for young people along the humanitarian programme cycle. These guidelines are not just ‘mainstreaming’ their needs, but about reinforcing the contributions they make to humanitarian programming, improving responses. These guidelines address a gap in humanitarian tools that tend to overlook young people, a specific but broad demographic with interlinked needs across multiple sectors.

**Initiative 2:**

Under another initiative, the State of Qatar, through Reach Out to Asia (ROTA) has taken the responsibility of building the capacity of young people in the Middle East and North Africa Region to enhance their understanding and engagement in humanitarian response. The overall aim of this regional initiative is to serve as a platform for piloting and incubating new approaches for introducing young people to knowledge and skills required to contribute in crisis affected contexts.

In 2017, ROTA along with partners from the Compact (OCHA, UNHCR, UMR, Norwegian Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee, CARE International, Mercy Corps and others) launched the MENA Youth Capacity Building in Humanitarian Action (MYCHA) Initiative. Its goal is to catalyse local youth-led humanitarian action and generate evidence on appropriate methodologies for helping them gain the necessary capabilities to act effectively. At the core of the Capacity Building Initiative is a series of three regional-level trainings being held annually in Doha. Two iterations of the training have so far been held; convening over 250 young people from across the region.

Components of the initiative are being synthesized into open source tools and resources which are replicable and adaptable by other agencies to meet their needs for engaging youth at the local level. The main such tool is a facilitator’s guide/toolkit for replicating trainings at national and local levels.

**Intended outcomes**

1. Commitment to implementing the inter-agency guidelines (currently being finalised) as a key deliverable to the promise of transforming humanitarian action with and for young people which the Compact members made at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016
2. Share experiences and achievements so far in implementing the regional capacity building initiative and awareness of upcoming launch of training toolkit for introducing youth to humanitarian action.
3. Emphasize the need to work with and for young people in humanitarian action and raise their profile as key actors of positive change; engage with young first line responders in emergencies.

**Run of Show**

**Monday 24th of June - 1h15- 2h45**

**1h15- 1h17 min UNFPA - on behalf of the Compact -** Monica Ferro - Director of the UNPFA Office in Geneva- Welcoming remarks TBC - on behalf of Secretariat 2min

**1h17 -1h20 Video** [**“ Igniting hope”**](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.youtube.com/watch?v%3DMiCkK2IK8rQ%26feature%3Dyoutu.be&sa=D&ust=1560782765597000&usg=AFQjCNH0TKWeN1KuOXgJbzag1TDGE1Cdgg) [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MiCkK2IK8rQ&feature=youtu.be**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MiCkK2IK8rQ&feature=youtu.be)

**1h20 -1h26 min Opening remarks:** Qatar and Denmark - Chair - 3min each

* Reflecting overall commitment to the Compact, congratulating on the progress, highlight the potential of young people as positive agents of change as demonstrated through the actions of the Compact

**Panel discussion**

**1h26- 1h30 Moderator (Mai Nasrallah) will introduce people (3 min)**

**1h30-1h35** [**Video**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TWsBywQWPc) **- GYAC (showing on recommendations) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TWsBywQWPc>**

**Moderated discussion - Intervention by panellist - Question 1 min - response approx 3min each**

**1h40- 1h44 Foni / South Sudan - Global Youth Advisory Council member**

Question: To GYAC - We just saw in the video…can you tell us what has happened since then - how have young people been involved since ?

**1h44-1h48 UNHCR :** **Mrs. Kelly Clements**, Deputy High Commissioner

UNHCR - Can you tell us about UNHRC’s commitment to the engagement of youth in the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees ?

* + UNHCR’s commitment to youth- put youth at the centre Global Youth Advisory Council- important actors in humanitarian action - Mention the Compact and UNHCR commitment to it

**1h48-1h53 UNICEF**: **Meritxell Relano**, Deputy Director, EMOPS UNICEF Geneva

UNICEF -What is UNICEF’s role in the Compact for young people in humanitarian action? Why is this partnership important for UNICEF's work on the ground to engage and empower adolescents and youth?

**1h53- 1h56 Youth representative - Areen Al-Mayrih, Youth refugee from Palestine in Jordan / MGCY MENA Regional Focal Point for Humanitarian Affairs / Participant in MYCHA capacity-building initiative**

**1h56- 2h00 NRC : Jan Egeland**, Secretary General

NRC - In your long career in humanitarian action you met many young people - what have they been telling you - what are your ideas to increase accountability to young people and involve them meaningfully in the localization of humanitarian action?

Building on the guidelines , Jan Egeland will give his reflection of the young people he has met during the year - how we need to be accountable to young people in humanitarian action

**2h00 - 2h05 Video from OSGEY Jordan - showing localization of the Compact on the ground (METTE to share the video and ensure a diversity of Compact members are showcased in the video)**

**2h05 - 2h08 Youth representative - Omran Musa, Youth from Sudan living in Qatar / MGCY MENA Regional Focal Point for Humanitarian Affairs / Participant in MYCHA capacity-building initiative**

Question - MGCY commitment / thoughts to the Compact - ? what do they want to see next/ what does localization mean to MGCY?

**2h08- 2h30 Questions and Answers with the audience**

Remarks from the floor from ROTA, Ms. Arwa Musaaed

 Remarks from WFP, Ms. Fatiha Terki Nutrition Deputy Director – will make the announcement of WFP joining the Compact

 Remarks from Action Aid –, Ms. Kirsten Hjørnholm, Humanitarian Policy and Programme Manager will make the announcement of ActionAid joining the Compact

**2h30-2h40 Mai gives the floor back to the panellists to ask for a rapid fire commitment- related to the five key actions. - powerpoint will show the hands slide with the five commitments**

**2h40- 2h45 Qatar and Denmark close the meeting**

**Discussion points are mentioned below:**

Note: Interventions from the high level panel should include commitments from partners on how their agencies will ensure needs and priorities of adolescents and youth across all sectors and in all phases of humanitarian action (preparedness, response, transition and recovery).

* Efforts needed to scale up and strengthen age and gender responsive programmes in humanitarian contexts
* Efforts needed to ensure engagement and meaningful participation of adolescents and youth in all phases of humanitarian action
* Efforts needed to increase resources intended to address the needs and priorities of young people affected by humanitarian crises

**Format**

This side event will feature an intergenerational and interactive discussion with members from civil society, youth-led organizations, UN and member states. Videos produced for the event will be shown through the course of the event.

In addition to the high-level opening and closing segments, the event will feature a range of speakers, each presenting concrete examples of how their organizations show continued commitment to the 5 actions of the Youth Compact. Presentations from Compact members will be supported by statements (video/visuals) from young people on the ground. Closing remarks from the Compact co-chair(s) will reflect on the next steps for the Compact, particularly ways to localizing the action at the field level in the year to come.

Co-chairs

Qatar and Denmark

Moderator:

Mai Nasrallah, NRC Youth Technical Coordinator f from NRC

Background Material

* [1-pager overview](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IleQO_24Np0oO6SmTOsaGsm-5Fgy8b7WWp13osaroGA/edit) of the forthcoming Inter-agency Guidelines on working *with* and *for* Young People in Humanitarian Settings (TF1)
* 1-pager overview of the forthcoming Facilitator’s Guide for Introducing Young People to Humanitarian Action (TF3)

Contact

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NOTE: Meeting of the speakers and organisers at 11am in the Delegates Lounge

1. OECD report on States of Fragility, 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)