

Call for Proposals

“Supporting Youth-Led Protection”

UNHCR European Youth Initiative Fund – 2019

Introduction

With the Global Compact on Refugees and Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, States and partners will develop and validate a multi-stakeholder “whole-of-society approach”, engaging local authorities, international organisations, civil society partners, the private sector, media and refugees themselves. The whole-of-society approach further embeds UNHCR’s community-based and participatory models of working with refugee, asylum-seeking, returnee, and internally displaced populations. Youth have a particular role to play in building cohesive and inclusive relations between host and displaced communities.

Over the past six years, UNHCR’s Youth Initiative Fund (YIF) has highlighted through its unique approach of youth-led protection projects, that when provided with support, training and resources, young people can be creative problem solvers, and are able to design, lead and implement successful projects that benefit themselves and their communities. Diverse projects from filmmaking to language exchange have seen youth participants enhance their social capital, support networks and sense of belonging. Acknowledging the potential of young people to contribute to their communities strengthened inter-generational relations and resulted in youth feeling more valued¹.

As Europe continues to receive and host displaced children and youth, the need to mobilise and foster positive relationships within communities, and support this specific age group, which often faces particular challenges, remains high. The projects provide a vehicle to build bridges, enabling many young people to learn new skills, address protection concerns, and gain much needed space, attention and respect in their communities.

What is the European Youth Initiative Fund?

The global Youth Initiative Fund (YIF) was first initiated by UNHCR’s Division of International Protection (DIP) to support community-based protection projects imagined, designed and led by young people. These projects incorporated the local community and addressed an area of concern or interest that youth would like to address through non-formal education methods, small scale events, and advocacy activities. Since 2014, the YIF has supported more than 100 youth-led projects globally that have addressed protection challenges including sexual and gender-based violence, peaceful coexistence, child protection and psychosocial well-being.

In 2018, the Regional Bureau for Europe launched a Europe-focused Youth Initiative Fund (EYIF) building on the success of the global Youth Initiative Fund led by DIP. The EYIF supported 10 projects across Europe led by young people both from displaced and host communities focusing on social inclusion, integration into the labour market, life skills, participation and psychosocial well-being.

¹ UNHCR ‘On Their Own Terms’ YIF Summary Report, 2014 – 2016, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5b7297e74.pdf>

The EYIF remains closely aligned to the global initiative and aims to target and build upon the existing capacities and capabilities of young people, rather than focusing on vulnerabilities. This is achieved through the realisation of three main objectives:

- 1. Participation:** Young people have genuine opportunities for community participation and opportunities to effect decision-making processes, especially in the area of protection;
- 2. Empowerment:** Young people learn about project management, use their initiative, evaluate options, learn to make informed decisions and choices, developing and enhancing leadership skills;
- 3. Innovation:** Young people develop innovative, youth-appropriate protection solutions to addressing personal, group and community challenges.

How do we ensure meaningful participation of young people?

- Genuine participation of young people in **project design, implementation and monitoring** of the project is essential - young people should be the guiding force behind the project and lead it from start to finish.
- UNHCR offices and partners should work with young people by:
 - providing guidance, advice and skills building opportunities when necessary, making sure to do so in a way that maintains and supports **young people's ownership** of the project.

Please remember **young people are a diverse group** with different needs and interests. **Age, gender and diversity considerations must be mainstreamed into all proposals.** Projects should use participatory methodologies to promote the role of women, men, girls, and boys of all ages and backgrounds and abilities as agents of change. Please see attached guidance notes on gender equality and inclusion of young people with disabilities that should be shared with all groups.

Projects should take into consideration the following approaches:

Community-Based Protection and Capacity Development:

- Young people should be encouraged and supported to imagine, research, design and implement projects based on protection concerns they identify within their communities.
- Projects should incorporate community engagement throughout, and should include a learning component that helps to further develop young people's capacities in areas such as life skills, business or community work.
- Capacity development should be sustainable so that acquired skills and knowledge remain in communities after the project.
- Projects may also wish to support young people to develop relationships with host community groups and groups from their own or other communities to promote peaceful coexistence and address discrimination and xenophobia.

Innovation and Partnerships:

- Initiatives should aim to address identified needs within the community and use the preferred implementation method of the young people, while providing opportunities for young people to further develop their capacities and skills. Needs can vary and are not necessarily material, for example projects may offer skills-building, psycho-social support, and educational activities.
- Young people should be supported to use arts, sports and music as vehicles for learning and addressing protection objectives.

- Projects may also seek to provide opportunities for some young people to be trained and work as mentors, trainers, facilitators and young leaders to encourage a multiplier effect.
- Where possible, young people should be supported to identify and partner with a broad cross-section of stakeholders within and outside of their community to promote working together, offer learning opportunities and encourage sustainability.

What have we learned so far?

Please consider the following when developing your proposals:

- Consult all staff in your location to ensure there is a clear understanding of the proposal content, timelines and staff commitments for supporting the young people and the project.
- Projects that concentrate on a single issue and demonstrate effectively how this will be addressed, whilst building capacity, are more likely to be funded.
- Past global YIF project practices and common enabling factors are summarised in the report YIF summary report “**On their Own Terms**”.
- The **Core Actions for Refugee Youth** were developed through the Global Refugee Youth Consultations (GRYC)² and are summarised in the Final Report ‘**We Believe in Youth**’³.

10 Quick steps to an EYIF project

1. Please read this call for proposals carefully.
2. Contact the youth and adolescents focal point or appropriate partner/s to discuss.
3. Identify a potential group/groups of young people to participate (existing or new group).
4. Organise participatory meetings with groups of young people to discuss project ideas. Don't forget to take a photo of the process – you need it for your submission!
5. Young people and UNHCR prepare the project proposal and the log frame on the templates provided and submit through the link.
6. Proposals are evaluated by the EYIF review panel in Geneva.
7. Successful projects announced... let's begin 😊 😊 😊
8. Monitor the progress of the project using participatory tools provided.
9. Young people and UNHCR prepare reports and evaluations.
10. Submit all reporting requirements.

Remember, genuine participation means that young people should design, lead and implement the project.

Submission

There are two forms and one log frame to be completed. The youth group/s should develop the **main proposal** and a **basic log frame**, based on the template and guidance provided⁴.

The participating office should then complete the [online submission form](#)⁵, and attach [the forms completed by young people](#), as well as a photo of the process⁶ and any other supporting documents. Countries with multiple operations may submit more than one proposal. Each project proposal submission should contain a complete set of documents – two forms and a log frame – one to be submitted by UNHCR online with the proposal and the log frame to be attached. You may join our Info-Webinar on 17 Dec 2018 for more information.

² UNHCR, “We Believe in Youth” - *Global Refugee Youth Consultations Final Report, 2016*, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/57ff50c94.html>.

³ UNHCR, “We Believe in Youth” - *Global Refugee Youth Consultations Final Report, 2016*, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/57ff50c94.html>.

⁴ Also available at UNHCR Intranet *Regional Bureau for Europe Page*, <https://intranet.unhcr.org/en/regions-countries/regional-bureau-for-europe.html>

⁵ Proposal Submission link: <https://enketo.unhcr.org/:az523UX8>

⁶ For internal use only, will not be distributed or circulated without permission.

A panel in Geneva will review the proposals and select those to be supported. Projects should be implemented before 31st October 2019⁷. **The maximum funding allocation per project is EUR 10,000**; there is no minimum. Projects that have been previously funded either through the DIP fund in 2017 or earlier, or the European Youth Forum fund in 2018 may apply, but must demonstrate how continued funding will add value to their current project. Proposals should be submitted in English.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is 28 January 2019.

Reporting and Visibility

Reporting will be completed through the use of participatory assessment tools designed to highlight the process and measure changes for the group leading the initiative. **A Focus Group Discussion, a 'most significant change' exercise and a short online final report** capturing the processes and potential impact on the young people involved will be required. Each group will be asked to join the online collaborative platform – Slack (<https://european-yif.slack.com>) - so that the group can post captioned photo-updates of the project on a regular basis. Guidance on all reporting tools is provided. **All reporting is due by 15th December 2019.**

Cyprus: Ten young people - five displaced youth and five host community youth partnered up to participate in a four-month film course culminating in five films on the theme 'Where is home?' The young people learned a range of skills through the process including directing, camera operating, editing and interviewing. The process served as a platform for social interaction and dialogue between the young people and understanding of refugee issues and social inclusion. Youth from local communities learned about refugee issues and demonstrated a keen interest in continuing to learn and extend support to displaced youth. In turn, displaced young people learned about film-making, time-keeping and responsibilities, and also ways of communicating with local youth and improving their own social and inter-personal skills.

Armenia: Displaced youth and host community youth designed a project in partnership with a local NGO to establish a Youth Advisory Group within the organisation. The group acted as a consulting body for the NGO's programme design and implementation. Through regular meetings and training on project design, event management and decision making, young people built up leadership and communication skills. They created a group called 'Unity in Diversity' and held youth camps to continue the dialogue around refugee protection and inclusion. These camps, as well as small scale events engaging local community members, increased awareness of the importance of cultural exchange and inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers within Armenian communities.

The skills acquired during the project increased opportunities within the labour market for the young people and built self-esteem and confidence. The project led to a better understanding of what is available to displaced youth in terms of employment and further education opportunities and services which will be imparted to communities through these ambassadors.

⁷ Projects that do not demonstrate timely implementation will have their funding withdrawn and reallocated.