Refugee Higher Education in Situations of Conflict & Fragility

World Higher Education Conference 2022

Panels | Higher Ed Talks | Workshops | Photo & Video Installation
Overview

With war and conflict currently causing a number of large scale displacement situations, and with numerous long standing, protracted situations of displacement, consolidating the international community’s response to the needs of displaced students, scholars, teaching staff and administrators in higher education could not be more urgent.

While steady progress has been made to strengthen the humanitarian response to early childhood, primary and secondary education in displacement situations, higher education is almost universally an after-thought. This is changing. As displacement has become increasingly characterized by protraction, and thus seen as part of a triple nexus – humanitarian, development and sustainable peace – it is clear that higher education has a role to play in every emergency response.

UNHCR and partners are pleased to present this stream of sessions exploring the crucial roles higher education actors and stakeholders play in emergencies and situations of mass displacement.

Programme of Events

18 May 2022

14h30-15h15 Humanitarian-development nexus: Policy and advocacy for inclusion of refugees in national higher education systems
15h15-16h00 Inclusion of refugees in national higher education systems: A comparative approach

19 May 2022

09h30-10h15 Overcoming the ‘super disadvantage’: Mitigating barriers to access higher education
10h15-11h00 From learning to earning: Connected higher education and digital employment
11h15-12h00 Bridging the gap: Preparing refugees for successful transition into tertiary education
12h00-12h45 Solutions round-up: Complementary education pathways and integration of refugees in higher education

Throughout

HED Talks
Photography Exhibition – Refugee Students in Higher Education
Video Installation – Becoming Who We Are
Higher Education In Situations of Conflict and Fragility – Bridging the Humanitarian-Development Nexus

Leadership and senior policymakers in higher education in fragility and conflict discuss the position of higher education in the humanitarian/development nexus as a powerful yet mostly untapped engine for ‘humanizing higher education,’ driving national development objectives aligned to SDGs, localizing HE responses to emergencies, etc. Deliver concise evidence-backed messages about how refugee higher education is positioned in global policy dialogue, what gaps remain, how to make connections to national development objectives and development funding, global inequality, and emphasis on the implications of data gaps.

PANELISTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roberta Malee Bassett</td>
<td>The World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duncan Ross</td>
<td>Times Higher Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zura Abdulla</td>
<td>Logistics Assistant, World Food Programme; DAFI Alumna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manal Stulgaitis</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gavin Brockett [Moderator]</td>
<td>Wilfrid Laurier University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inclusion of Refugees in National Higher Education Systems: A Comparative Approach

The panel will provide a brief overview of efforts led by various stakeholders and taking place in different country settings (Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey, UK, and USA) to offer inclusive access to higher education and a platform for sharing future projections for national, international responses and collaboration models.

PANELISTS

Rebecca Murray | University of Sheffield and Universities of Sanctuary Steering Group Representative
Siobhan Coskeran | Student Action for Refugees, Access to University Coordinator
Dan Webb | Refugee Education UK, Higher Education Coordinator
Armagan Erdogan | Higher Education Studies, Beykoz University
Adrian Little (video) | University of Melbourne, Pro-VC, International Welcoming Universities of Australia
Raymon Burton | Executive Director, One Refugee
Gul Inanc [Moderator] | Co-Director - CAPRS, University of Auckland; Founder - Opening Universities for Refugees
Overcoming the ‘Super Disadvantage’: Mitigating Access Barriers to Higher Education for Refugees

This session invites participants to learn – through specific case studies and examples – how barriers to higher education disproportionately impact refugee learners: the super disadvantage. The objective of the session is to differentiate and define what barriers can be tackled best through policy change, which are ripe for institutional action or procedural reform, which require efforts in concert of several actors, and which must be addressed with systemic approaches. The panel bring the importance of recognition of academic credentials, as well as prior learning, into focus and offers reflection on practical tools and methodologies for recognition issues the impact refugee access to higher education.

PANELISTS

- Michaela Martin International Institute for Education Planning (UNESCO)
- Raul Valdes Cotera UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning
- Dag Hovdhaugen Department of Foreign Education, NOKUT
- Yves Umuhoza Climate change advocate; DAFI alumni
- Dr. Abdulkareem Alfaaisal Advisor to the Prime Minister, Government of Iraq
- Manal Stulgaitis United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) [Moderator]
From Learning to Earning: How Capacity Building in Connected Learning and Digital Skilling Can Facilitate Employment for Youth in Conflict-Affected Regions

How can we ensure higher education remains relevant, particularly to the most marginalized, using the most recent trends and innovations from the digital revolution? This session will focus on how capacity building from top down approach with MOE can facilitate mobility and transition from learning to earning in the “gig” economy for youth in fragile and conflict-affected regions. Particular focus will be on implementing a connected learning strategy in Jordan and an e-work skilling and employment programme in Gaza.

PANELISTS

Cindy Bonfini-Hotlosz | Centreity Learning
---|---
Dr. Carrie Bauer | Arizone State University
Zeina Jeidan | United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Jordan
Dr. Nouh Al-Hindawi | Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Jordan
Jennifer Dwyer | Education Above All
Dr. Samah Gamar | Education Above All
Suhaib Alkhawaldah | Silatech
Bridging the Gap: Successes, Barriers and Benefits of Post-Secondary Transition Programs for Refugee Learners

This panel will showcase the value brought by programs bridging the gap between secondary school and higher education for refugee learners who have experienced disruptions in their educational experiences. Framed as a conversation between key actors in the realm of refugee education, the panel will highlight best practices for developing and implementing bridging and transition programs, with particular emphasis on the importance of contextualization and bringing in a variety of stakeholders. Through the discussion, panelists will also speak to the advocacy needed to ensure that bridging programs produce prepared students and mobility beyond the confines of a particular program. Framing questions include: why are bridging and transition programs important for refugee students in the context of accessing higher education; how can stakeholders develop bridge programs that address the needs of receiving HEIs; what components must be included to ensure student success; who needs to be involved in articulating the program; what approaches make sense in context?

PANELISTS

Andonis Marden | University of Oxford, Refugee Studies Center
Carine Borkhoche | Kiron Open Higher Education for Refugees
Katie Barringer | Refugee Education UK
Dr. Rebecca Granato | Bard College; Open Society University Network
Nicholas Sabato | Arizona State University, Education for Humanity
Peter Balleis | Jesuit Worldwide Learning
Raymon Burton | One Refugee
Solutions Round-Up: Complementary Pathways and Integration of Refugees in Higher Education

This penultimate session asks the burning question: ‘What is needed to advance international coordination on higher education in response to crisis situations?’. The Global Compact on Refugees sets out four core objectives - each of which points to the need for greater coherence across the response of the higher education community to emergency humanitarian situations, protracted displacement and the transition to the development and peace phases. Reflecting that robust technical and policy responses exist, can be built on, replicated, and scaled, the session aims to answer the question: what is needed to ensure this happens? Areas for exploration include: defining what complementary education pathways are and why they are important; considerations for designing and developing complementary education pathways; roles and responsibilities of partners/stakeholders; and promising practices.

PANELISTS

Michelle Manks | World University Service of Canada
Wesley Milner | Western Carolina University
Ádrian Melendez | Proyecto Habesha
Maria Zabala [Moderator] | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Spain
Student Action for Refugees – Student Mobilization for Increasing Access to Higher Education for Refugees

This workshop brings together refugee student advocates to discuss innovative ways to mobilize students to increase access to and success in higher education with non-refugee student leaders, youth, and university-sponsored projects, and to identify best practices and priorities for student action. Student experiences inform the promotion and creation of policies with State and non-state actors to improve access to higher education. This workshop aims to: present student roles, needs, and strengths; survey some positive steps so far (good practices); conceptualize how to move forward/next steps.

In addressing them, the session asks the following questions: what is the role of students in increasing access to higher education for forcibly displaced youth; how can forcibly displaced young people support each other once in higher education; what can international organizations, states, and universities do to foster student mobilization?

PANELISTS

Aisha Khurram | Bard College, Berlin
Ella Ininhazwe | Kepler; Tertiary Refugee Student Network
Jean Marie Ishimwe | Naweza
Ayuk Peterkings | Help the Minor Privilege Assoc.; DAFI scholar
Yara Alnajar | Student Union in Exile
Greco Kassem | Tertiary refugee student delegate
Sabrina Alejandra Contreras Garcia | Proyecto Habesha
Daniel Mutanda | Student Action for Refugees (STAR) Network
Maria Fortuny | Catalan Open University (UOC)
Linked Event – Leveraging Higher Education Networks to Respond to Displacement: Case Studies from the Open Society University Network

Over the past two years, the world has witnessed a number of crises resulting in forced displacement and, as a result, interrupted education for youth across educational levels. Networks of higher education institutions are well-positioned to support these youth in returning to formal learning, providing stability and hope in the face of profound trauma. This panel of experts from the Open Society University Network (OSUN), a network of over 40 institutions, will highlight the collaborative response to support youth displaced by the crises in Myanmar, Afghanistan and Ukraine. The panel will grapple with three key questions: How can higher education institutions forge productive partnerships to address the post-secondary needs of youth affected by crises? What are the barriers and challenges of bringing youth affected by crises (back) into a higher education experience? And, who are the key stakeholders which higher education networks must liaise with to open access to these youth affected by displacement?

PANELISTS

Jonathan Becker | Vice Chancellor of the Open Society University Network
Oleksandr Shtokvych | Open Society University Network Secretariat
Kyaw Moe Tun | President of Parami Institute, Myanmar
Ian Bickford | President of the American University of Afghanistan
Rebecca Granato | Director of the OSUN Hubs for Connected Learning Initiatives

[Moderator]
**Linked Event – MENA Contact Group for Complementary Pathways**

Created in 2020, the MENA contact group for complementary pathways (MCGCP) serves as a forum for host country counterparts, representatives of resettlement states, UNHCR, NGOs, and other relevant actors to promote and advocate for increased complementary pathways. As part of the MCGCP workplan for 2022 and in line with the objectives for third country education pathways the session aims to promote understanding and advocate for expanded third country education opportunities for refugees.

**CONTRIBUTORS**

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Regional Bureau for Middle East and North Africa
- UNHCR Jordan
- UNHCR Lebanon
- Hertford College, Oxford University
- Progetto Mediterraneo
- World University Service of Canada (WUSC)
- LUISS University
- Refugee student at LUISS university in Italy
HED Talks – The Refugee Higher Education Journey

SPEAKER

Jean Marie Ishimwe
Digital opportunities and the impact of refugee-led organisations on access to higher education

Ayuk Peterkings Ayuk
Education for livelihood and employment pathways

Yara Alnajjar
Succeeding in higher education

Maria Fortuny
Local students action for change

Daniel Mutanda
Student action and building national networks

Zura Mustafa Abdallah
Transition to higher education through support from student’s networks

Sadiki Bamperineza
Student action by the 5%, the role of Tertiary Refugee Student Network (TRSN)

Aisha Khurram
How to make education accessible to students in times of crisis

Greco Kassem
The role of art and creativity in student engagement

Ella Ininahazwe
Why college guidance counseling for refugees by refugees