

During the *Youth in Humanitarian Action* conference, taking place in Berlin from March 31 to April 2, 2016, around 90 young participants discussed the five action areas of the UN World Humanitarian Summit: Dignity, Safety, Resilience, Partnerships and Finance.

The young international participants put together the following examples, ideas and proposals for actions through which young people can directly support Humanitarian Action. Many of these ideas build on the experiences the participants have gained as humanitarian volunteers and will be further developed and coordinated more strategically in the coming months:

### **I. From humanitarian principles to principled action**

- Support minimum standards in Humanitarian Aid and ensure the continuity and sustainability of their implementation, for example by printing the Human Rights Declaration and core humanitarian standards on the tents of refugee camps in respective languages or displaying them in other accessible ways
- Establish a Youth Cluster within the cluster system to address humanitarian issues directly relating to the youth demographic and act as multiplier for NGOs and UN organizations. The Cluster would consist of a Youth Advisory Board with representatives of the target demographic and youth-specialized humanitarian practitioners and would focus on issues such as sexual violence, youth radicalization and trafficking.
- Support transparency mechanisms for funding to establish a culture of publicity, for example by using evaluation apps and interactive exchange platforms
- In youth-led projects and volunteering, actively structure the approach to display a focus on dignity and agency as well as gender equality to allow affected populations to become agents of their own well-being and change the traditional narrative of humanitarian aid for more sustainable projects
- Support refugee reception procedures that focus on child protection, especially in age determination processes, and support for children and youth without official documentation

### **II. From the global to the local**

- Set up youth organizations and NGOs with the aim of engaging government and other organizations in working towards preparedness and prevention for more resilient communities, e.g. with a focus on minimum standards for child protection
- Humanitarian Youth Exchanges: building knowledge and capacity amongst young people about humanitarian action; with special projects such as engaging youth and young diaspora to take active roles as humanitarians and substantiate existing humanitarian initiatives.
- Combine resilience building of local communities, e.g. through learning apps, with peacebuilding or livelihood measures to enhance best practices, open up more funding opportunities and facilitate civil society engagement
- Youth Innovation Lab: Connect local young populations and university students with humanitarian organizations and host innovation labs to discuss concrete solutions to humanitarian challenges; create a global network of innovation labs that facilitate exchange of best practices and support within the network

- Integrate youth in local disaster management institutions, such as the fire brigade, at the local level or individual groups according to locally specific needs
  - Create networks of local initiatives
  - Connect informal education programs like these with formal education programs
- Develop a Peace Education Program to develop peace building skills amongst children and youth for formal education institutions (school and university)
  - Support and work towards the introducing mandatory peace service program
  - Organize events and projects that foster holistic, trans- and interdisciplinary thinking with the aim of conscious inclusion of young people in their communities and societies

### III. Support humanitarian volunteering with recently arrived refugees to be more effective

- Raise awareness of youth volunteering projects locally, e.g. in refugee reception centres, to advocate for humanitarian situations 'on our doorsteps'
- Conceptualize volunteer manager positions within humanitarian organizations and other entities dealing with refugees, as points of contact for young volunteers and make information on these points of contact easily available online to allow for structured organizing
- Empower youth volunteers to actively link refugees and affected populations with humanitarian organizations, e.g. as orientation guides and facilitators, to organize encounters with for example the local police force and law enforcement, to give trainings on WASH, SRHR, as well as diversity, language and cultural education
- Support organizations providing services in local refugee reception centres to actively contribute to the training of young volunteers in their work with refugees
- Help refugees access work opportunities by connecting young professionals with refugees to prepare for interviews, organize networking events and tailor CVs to suit requirements of local employers
- Raise awareness of mental health within the refugee community, link refugees with existing support structures and support self-help groups amongst refugees
- Engage law students in providing free legal counsel on asylum and refugee status determination procedures, coordinated existing initiatives more effectively on a national level

These suggestions are not exhaustive and are a continuous work in progress and young humanitarians will continue the discussion on how they can have an impact in humanitarian action. The proposals will be presented and discussed during the World Humanitarian Summit. They will be circulated amongst humanitarian organizations, governments, NGOs and fellow youth to further advance the discussions on the role of young people in humanitarian action. The proposals are an ideal starting point for young people and youth organizations to form commitments in the context of the World Humanitarian Summit.

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