



INTER-AGENCY GUIDELINES

Programming with and for Young People in Humanitarian Settings

OVERVIEW

During the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), UN Member States, Civil Society Organizations, private sector and media gathered on the topic of Transforming Humanitarian Action with and for Young People¹, and called to **align strategies, approaches and programmatic responses** to reach all young people and empower young women and men, and adolescent girls and boys to be agents of positive transformation.

A '**Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action**' was established and is now endorsed by more than 50 organisations to ensure that the priorities, needs and rights of young women and men, and adolescent girls and boys affected by disaster, conflict, forced displacement and other humanitarian crises, are addressed, and that they are informed, consulted, and meaningfully engaged throughout all stages of humanitarian action.

The Compact builds on previous initiatives led by and for young people including the 2015 Doha Youth Declaration², Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, and the 2016 Global Refugee Youth Consultations. The Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action call for a **long-term commitment to 5 core actions**³ related to:

- Service Delivery
- Participation
- Capacity and Local Action
- Resources
- Data and Knowledge.

The *Guidelines* will contribute to the commitment made under Compact Core Action 1⁴ "*Promote and increase age- and gender-responsive and inclusive programmes that contribute to the protection, health and development of young women, young men, girls and boys within humanitarian settings*".

Why do we need these Guidelines?

The Guidelines are addressing a gap in current humanitarian tools that tend to overlook young people, a specific but broad demographic⁵. Young people have interlinked needs across multiple sectors and their needs are also differentiated by gender, and other factors of exclusion such as disability status. While young people are often at the forefront of

¹ As per UN definition, Young People design the 10-24 age category, adolescents include 10-19 year olds; and youth include 15-24 year olds

² <http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2015/08/amman-youth-declaration-adopted-global-forum-youth-peace-security/>

³ http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/event-pdf/CompactforYoungPeopleinHumanitarianAction-FINAL_EDITED_VERSION.pdf

⁴ Compact Core Action 1 Task Team is co-chaired by UNICEF and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and includes Mercy Corps, Plan International, the Refugee Education Trust (RET), UNFPA, UNHCR, the Office of the UN SG Youth Envoy on Youth, and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC).

⁵ The 2017 Population Reference Bureau World Population Data sheet puts the global population at 7.5 billion, of whom 1.8 billion are adolescents and youth aged 10-24

humanitarian response, including as first responders, demonstrating significant capacity to contribute to humanitarian efforts, they are rarely listened to, and even more rarely treated as positive agents of change within communities. Young people are also too often and wrongfully perceived as either a potential threat (boys and young men) or vulnerable victims (girls and young women).

The **Guidelines are intended for ALL humanitarian practitioners** promoting:

- a *common set of principles*, including rights-based approach and participation;
- *adolescent and youth **inclusive** programming*, taking advantage of young people potential, their high-level of energy and creativity to prevent the persistence of inter-generational problems;
- *adolescent and youth **targeted** programing*, which shall go beyond solely preventing negative consequences and recognise the positive contribution young people can offer in the short term and laying the foundation for adolescents and youth to continue contributing positively in longer term.

Consultation and Timeline

The Guidelines are intended to be as **useful and practical** as possible and therefore their development has been designed to be **as consultative as possible** – both with humanitarian practitioners and with young people themselves. The Guidelines will also be aligned with the *New Way of Working*, looking at addressing the humanitarian-development divide, reinforcing accountability to affected population and partnership with local humanitarian actors, including youth-led organizations.

The development of the Guidelines started in September 2017 with the intent to be launched in September 2018.

December 2017	Key Informants interviews
January 2018	Review of detailed outline
Feb.- March 2018	Field Consultation
April – May 2018	Comments on draft Guidelines
June- August 2018	Design and finalization
September 2018	Launch and dissemination kick-off

How to Support?

- ✓ Suggest Key Informants, including from local partners
- ✓ Inform your colleagues/members and share your organization/ cluster good practice
- ✓ Sign-up to organize or participate to field consultations
- ✓ Provide feedback on draft guidelines
- ✓ Spread the words and help us disseminate the new Guidelines
- ✓ Be in touch! Contact Sophia (Sophia.kousiakis@nrc.no) and Emmanuelle (ecompingt@unicef.org)

“How we meet the needs and aspirations of young people will define our common future.”