

# Call for Proposals

## “Supporting Youth-Led Protection”

### UNHCR Youth Initiative Fund – 2019

#### Introduction

With the Global Compact on Refugees, States and partners will develop and adopt a new “whole-of-society approach” to working with refugees through the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. The whole-of-society approach, which closely aligns with that of the Youth Initiative Fund (YIF), further embeds UNHCR’s unique community based and participatory models of working with refugee, asylum-seeker, returnee, IDP and the stateless populations. The young people from these populations are diverse, creative and dynamic. Over the last six years, the Youth Initiative Fund has highlighted time and again – 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, not only themselves, but their entire communities.

#### What is the Youth Initiative Fund?

In 2019, the YIF enters its seventh year. The YIF was initiated by the Division of International Protection in Geneva to support community based protection projects imagined, designed and led by young people. 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 wellbeing.

The YIF is unique in that it targets and builds upon the existing capacities and capabilities of young people, rather than focussing on vulnerabilities. The YIF creates an enabling environment that provides young people with the space and support necessary to become active protection actors within their communities and helps them build life skills that strengthen resilience. 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 must be mainstreamed into all proposals**, with specific attention paid to the gender dimensions of all projects. 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 be community based, and should incorporate 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.

**Bangladesh:** Two youth groups were set up to support young women and men to increase participation in their communities, address sexual and gender based violence and provide support networks to girls confined to the home. They held consultations with over 100 adolescent girls, their parents and community leaders to verify the protection risks they experienced – mainly public harassment. The young women in the groups made home visits, bringing a mobile library, arts and life skills training to isolated adolescent girls. Young men in the groups raised awareness of the impact of SGBV among the community, accompanying their female peers during home visits. They also worked together to build a sports ground for females-only to offer safe recreational activities.

**Iran:** Nine football teams of young women and men organised training and tournaments for vulnerable Afghan children. With training in mentoring skills, they supported them to avoid negative coping mechanisms. Working with a qualified counsellor, Health Volunteers and the Ministry of Education, they held door-to-door and group sessions with the children and their families on basic health awareness, the importance of school and the impact of child labour. These young footballers were key in identifying and referring vulnerable children to government agencies and UNHCR in need of documentation and support in accessing education, successfully improving access to education.

### Innovation and Partnerships:

- ✓ Initiatives should aim to address identified needs and use the preferred delivery method of the young people, while providing opportunities for young people to further develop their capacities and skills.
- ✓ 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 an integrated approach, learning opportunities and sustainability.

## What have we learned so far?

Please consider the following when developing your proposals:

- Funding allocations should be allocated directly to project activities where possible, rather than capital expenditure unless directly linked to achieving the project objectives.
- Consult the programme team in your location to ensure there is clear understanding of procurement procedures and processes, and how this may affect the timeline of 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 YIF project practices and common enabling factors are summarized in the report YIF summary report "[On their Own Terms](#)". Consider the [Core Actions for Refugee Youth](#) developed through the Global Refugee Youth Consultations (GRYC).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR, "We Believe in Youth" - Global Refugee Youth Consultations Final Report, 2016, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/57ff50c94.html>.

## 10 Quick steps to receive funding

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 YIF review panel in Geneva.
7. Successful projects announced... **let's begin** 😊😊😊
8. Monitor the progress of the project using participatory tools provided.
9. Submit all reporting requirements.

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

### Submission

There are 2 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 provided](#).<sup>2</sup> The participating office should then complete [the online submission form](#),<sup>3</sup> and attach the forms completed by young people, as well as a photo of the process<sup>4</sup> 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 24 Oct 2018](#) for more information.

A panel in Geneva will review the proposals and select those to be supported. Projects should be implemented before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.<sup>5</sup> **The maximum funding allocation per project is US\$ 10,000**; there is no minimum. Projects that have been previously funded may apply, but must demonstrate how continued funding will add value to their current project. Proposals can be submitted in English or French.

**The deadline for receipt of proposals is 3 December 2018.**

### 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 (youth-initiative-fund.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 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

<sup>2</sup> Also available at UNHCR Intranet *Child Protection & Youth Page*, <https://intranet.unhcr.org/en/protection-programme/child-protection.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Proposal Submission link: <https://enketo.unhcr.org/:654AJS5r>.

<sup>4</sup> For internal use only, will not be distributed or circulated without permission.

<sup>5</sup> Projects that do not demonstrate timely implementation will have their funding withdrawn and reallocated.