

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations High Commissioners for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) are pleased to invite you to the Brussels VI Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the region Side Event

Investing in People: Promoting innovative and digital solutions to foster improved self-reliance, youth empowerment, economic inclusion and well-being

Background and session objective

Co-leads of the 3RP (UNDP and UNHCR) along with WFP and UNFPA are inviting you to the side event “Investing in People: promoting innovative and digital solutions to foster improved self-reliance, youth empowerment, economic inclusion and well-being”. This side event is to explore how to capitalize on innovative opportunities including digital solutions to foster greater self-reliance and economic inclusion among refugees and host communities as a key driver of improving overall well-being, with a particular focus on young people.

Significant efforts have been made over the last decade on funding, policy, and programming in terms of self-reliance in the Syria refugee context, in line with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach. Yet, the loss of livelihood opportunities due to COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated poverty and food insecurity rates. This has forced refugees to remain reliant on assistance, which continue to provide a lifeline to many households. At the same time, these trends have significantly impacted vulnerable host communities.

The situation is particularly critical for young people. Over 50 percent of the population in Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan, 46 percent in Turkey, and around 48 percent in Lebanon are children and youth, under 24 years old. While the

combination of an expanding, youthful, and increasingly urbanized population has the potential to reap a dividend in terms of economic growth potential and increased productivity, it has also brought numerous stresses, which are gendered in nature, particularly related to access to basic and essential services and rights and competition over livelihoods and resources.

3RP partners are working across the region in various sectors to foster self-reliance and economic inclusion of refugees and host communities, in conjunction with programmes that seek to ensure refugees’ access to critical services which are fundamental to securing agency and building overall dignity and well-being. Notwithstanding these efforts, there is an opportunity to renew current approaches to capacity development and economic empowerment in the main 3RP refugee-hosting countries and ensure that the progress made over recent years is not lost. Investing in Young people in these countries will make them the agents of change in their respective communities, and this side-talk will be an opportunity to shine a light on that. This event will complement the discussions planned during the Syria Brussels VI Conference Day of Dialogue on the 9 May, particularly the panel on youth.

Please find enclosed the comprehensive agenda and the outline for the side-event consisting of two sessions: **Panel 1) Building Self-Reliance and Economic Inclusion in the Digital Age and Panel 2) Empowering and Engaging Young People.**

The event will be held via Zoom.

We look forward to your active participation in this event and kindly ask you to register ahead of the event by clicking on the link below:



Event Registration

(click here)

Date:

Wednesday, 27 April 2022

Time: 10:00 – 12:30 (CET)

Kind regards,
UNDP, UNHCR, WFP and UNFPA