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# Supporting Integrated Approaches to Child Protection and Education in Refugee and Displacement Situations

*Global Refugee Forum 2023 - Joint Pledge of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (The Alliance) & the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE)*

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## Vision

Children and young people access their rights to protection and quality and inclusive education in refugee and displacement situations.

## Outcome

Holistic, integrated approaches to child protection and education delivery in refugee and displacement situations, centered on children and young people and fully aligned to national education and child protection systems, to ensure they can fulfill their rights to ongoing and sustainable protection services and education.

## Background

The Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) is an open, global network of members working together within a humanitarian and development framework to ensure that all individuals have the right to a quality, safe, relevant, and equitable education. The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (The Alliance) is a global network of operational agencies, academic institutions, policymakers, donors, and practitioners. The Alliance supports the efforts of humanitarian actors to achieve high-quality and effective child protection interventions in both refugee and non-refugee humanitarian contexts. Both networks function through consultative and multilingual processes with members living and working around the world at community, sub-national, national, regional, and global levels. Since 2018, the two networks have worked together to promote integration and collaboration across Education in Emergencies (EiE) and Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPHA).

Children constitute 41% of all forcibly displaced people despite being only 30% of the world's population<sup>1</sup>; the majority of these children will spend their entire childhood in displacement<sup>2</sup>. In 2022, an estimated 268 million children and adolescents (3-18 years) globally were affected by crises and in need of education support. Of the 224 million crisis-affected, school-aged children, 72 million (32 percent) were out of school, unable to benefit from the protective environment that quality education can provide<sup>3</sup>. With increasing conflict, disasters associated with natural hazards, and climate-induced emergencies, never has it been more urgent to center children and young people in humanitarian response, and ensure their rights to education and protection are upheld. The goals of education and child protection overlap and complement each other, supporting the wellbeing and healthy development of all children and young people.

Representing two sectors focused on children and young people, and driven by the energy and experiences of diverse members from around the globe, INEE and the Alliance are in a unique position to support humanitarian actors, across sectors, to contribute to holistic, positive outcomes for children and young people's protection, education, and wellbeing. This entails working with teachers and other education personnel, the social service workforce, the relevant national and local authorities, civil society organizations, and humanitarian decision-makers and funders, to ensure that comprehensive education and child protection needs are considered at all ages and stages, from early childhood to young adulthood. It means that those responsible for children and young people's wellbeing - families, teachers and other education personnel, the social service workforce, and communities - are appropriately involved and supported. Approaches promoted by the Alliance and INEE emphasize working with other humanitarian sectors, including health, WASH, and nutrition, and with cross-cutting issues such as mental health and psychosocial support, with a gender, age, and disability lens.

Reinforcing their partnership, the Alliance and INEE commit to working even more closely with their members and partners, enabling a global community of child protection and education practitioners and advocates. This includes capacity and knowledge sharing, and using evidence-based approaches and joint advocacy to enhance our collective impact. The Alliance and INEE will build on existing partnerships at global, regional, and national levels, and convene members and key partners, to ensure all children and young people affected by refugee and displacement situations are central to the response.

## **Pledge Description**

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies pledge the following:

### **1. Capacity and knowledge sharing amongst Child Protection and Education practitioners**

**Description:** The Alliance and INEE commit to facilitating capacity and knowledge sharing opportunities for child protection and education practitioners working with and supporting refugee and displaced populations at all levels, within local, national, and international organizations. This includes support for the roll-out, uptake, and contextualization of standards and accompanying tools and guidance.

#### **Specific Actions by 2027:**

- Strengthen the capabilities of child protection and education actors working with and supporting refugee and displaced populations, to use and contextualize the [INEE Minimum Standards](#), the [Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action](#), and other relevant tools and approaches specific to refugee and displacement settings produced by members and partners, including UNHCR.
  
- Promote the uptake of the [Guidance Note on Supporting Integrated Child Protection and Education Programming in Humanitarian Action](#), including contextualization across

refugee and displacement contexts.

- Support child protection, education, and humanitarian actors from other sectors, to center children and young people, particularly the most vulnerable, in refugee and displacement situations, in the design, implementation, and monitoring of interventions. This is with a view to keeping them safe, enhancing access to opportunities and resources, and amplifying their voices and meaningful participation. It includes promoting the understanding of basic refugee protection principles and processes.
- Strengthen the shared space between the two networks while working towards improved humanitarian, development, and peace coherence, ensuring our joint collaboration continues to build an accessible, diverse, multilingual community where all stakeholders have opportunities to engage, support each other, and learn

## **2. The promotion of evidence-based approaches to Education and Child Protection integration**

**Description:** The Alliance and the INEE commit to promoting evidence-based approaches to support enhanced integration of child protection and education in refugee and displacement contexts. We will work with our members and partners to better understand the impact of refugee and displacement situations on the protection and education of children and young people, and use this evidence to improve our technical standards and guidance, capacity sharing efforts, and advocacy.

### **Specific Actions by 2027:**

- Collaborate with partners and members to support the curation and sharing of learning and evidence on the impact of child protection and education integration on positive learning, protection, and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people.
- Facilitate the development of a common measurement framework and processes to support integrated education and child protection programming, that allow for cross-context program analysis and learning.
- Routinely use learning, evidence, and data, including from members and partners, to inform our joint priorities and actions.

## **3. Collective action for collective impact: Joint advocacy on child protection and education integration**

**Description:** The Alliance and INEE commit to scaling up our collective advocacy efforts to enhance the prioritization of integrated approaches to education and child protection in refugee and displacement responses. We will elevate the voices of our members, and of children and young people affected by refugee and displacement situations, to ensure all children and young people are central to the response, and have the opportunity to participate meaningfully in decisions that impact their lives. We will advocate with key stakeholders to prioritize and resource education and child protection integration, joining

efforts to strengthen national education and child protection systems and the inclusion of refugee children.

### Specific Actions by 2027:

- Conduct joint advocacy actions, to elevate the voices of children and young people in refugee and displacement situations.
  
- Mobilise diverse groups across our collective community, and in strategic partnership with other groups, while fostering humanitarian, development, and peace coherence, to participate meaningfully in advocacy efforts in support of integrated programming.
  
- Engage policymakers, humanitarian leadership, and key stakeholders to prioritize and resource integrated approaches to education and child protection across refugee and displacement situations that are aligned with national systems.
  
- Support ongoing advocacy efforts that aim to strengthen and support the capacities of national systems as they seek to include refugee children and young people in their child protection and education services.

### Pledge alignment

This pledge supports the implementation of the EiE multi-stakeholder pledge - **Education in Emergencies: Short-term action for long-term benefit**. It also contributes to the realisation of the following multi-stakeholder GRF 2023 pledges (click on the titles for details):

1. [Child Rights](#)
2. [Securing Sustainable Futures - Towards a Shared Responsibility to Uphold the Right to Education and Include Refugee Children in National Education Systems](#)
3. [Expanding Connected Education for Refugees through the Refugee Connected Education Challenge](#)
4. [Achieving 15% Enrolment by 2030 to Expanding Refugee Access to Higher Education and Self-Reliance](#)
5. [Fostering Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing](#)
6. [Gender Equality and Protection from Gender-Based Violence](#)

For more information and contact details, visit [inee.org](https://inee.org) and [alliancecpha.org](https://alliancecpha.org).

### Endnotes

1. UNHCR. (2022). Global Trends Report 2022. <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2022>
2. UNICEF. (2023, June 13). Number of displaced children reaches new high of 43.3 million. [Press release]. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/number-displaced-children-reaches-new-high-433-million>
3. Education Cannot Wait. (2023, June). Crisis-affected children and adolescents in need of education support: New global estimates and thematic deep dives. [Report]. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/resource-library/crisis-affected-children-and-adolescents-in-need-education-support-new-global>