

## Concept Note: Refugee Connected Education Challenge

The Refugee Connected Education Challenge (RCEC) aims to achieve universal access to high quality connected education for refugees on par with nationals by 2030 by building partnerships, identifying gaps, and advocating for inclusion of refugee-hosting schools in national digital learning efforts.

*Refugee-hosting schools and communities are simply not equipped with the digital resources, skills, and knowledge needed to foster learners who can succeed in an increasingly digital world. UNHCR calls on all actors to join the RCEC to achieve digital inclusion of all refugee learners.*



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### Refugee Connected Education Challenge (RCEC): Background

Education systems around the world are undergoing dramatic changes in the content, methods, and locations of learning, accelerated by the challenges and innovations that emerged from COVID-19 responses. [UNHCR's Education Strategy](#) calls for refugee inclusion in equitable quality education in national systems, yet most refugee learners, and their host communities, are being left out – digitally divided from their peers and from the global community. The Refugee Connected Education Challenge also builds upon global commitments to digital connectivity in education, including the [United Nations Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](#), and works collaboratively with existing initiatives including the [Transforming Education Summit's \(TES\) Action Track 4](#), the [UNESCO Rewired Declaration on Connectivity for Education](#).

### Objective: Bridging the Digital Divide in Refugee Education

Through the Refugee Connected Education Challenge (RCEC), UNHCR and partners will **advocate for access to high-quality connected learning for all refugees by 2030**, working with governments and partners to make tangible commitments towards bridging the widening digital gap faced by displaced learners.

### Who will be involved?

Recognizing the need for joint and coordinated action to ensure access to quality connected learning for all refugees, UNHCR is establishing a **Challenge Action Group**, comprised of stakeholders across sectors: the

private sector, multilateral institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society actors, networks, and agencies, to identify needs and barriers for refugee inclusion in connected education. The Challenge Action Group will interact with the wider community of stakeholders working in connected education for refugees through UNHCR's Education Alliance, and through publications produced under the Challenge as well as at global forums.

## What will the Challenge Action Group do?

The purpose of the Challenge Action Group will work towards high quality connected education for all refugees through building partnerships, identifying gaps, and advocating for inclusion of refugees. Members will meet initially in the buildup to the Global Refugee Forum 2023 (GRF) to focus on guiding the process for building commitments at the GRF<sup>1</sup>. The Challenge Action Group will convene as a multi-stakeholder group of actors working in connected education to draw on the analysis of gaps identified and propose solutions to address these gaps. Beyond the GRF, members will continue to:

- **Identify and work to address strategic gaps** which refugees face globally in accessing connected education, and needs expressed by national governments for support. Under the RCEC, a study will assess whether investments made in connected education globally are reaching refugee populations. The RCEC Action Group will be key conveners in building out opportunities to fill the gaps identified in this study.
- **Guide partners and stakeholders** in making commitments towards ensuring that refugees have universal access to high-quality connected education.
- **Share learning and amplify voices** from examples of best practice of inclusion of refugees in connected education initiatives in global conversations.
- **Advocate for and commit targeted resources** which support refugee inclusion in national initiatives for connected education.

The Challenge Action Group will operate for an initial period from June 2023 until the [High-Level Officials Meeting](#) in December 2025. During this period the Challenge Action Group will take a decision on the best mechanism to progress the goals of the Refugee Connected Education Challenge in ensuring universal access to high-quality connected learning for refugees after 2025.

## What will be the main areas of focus?

The Challenge Action Group will support catalyzing investment and commitments from stakeholders working in connected education which align with the three Cs framework from the [TES call to action for assuring and improving quality digital public learning](#) for all:

1. **Content:** High quality, curriculum-relevant digital teaching and learning content must be made available to all student learners, teachers, and caregivers through digital learning platforms.
2. **Capacity:** Capacity to use digital technology to improve learning must be strengthened to ensure teachers, learners and other education stakeholders have the skills and knowledge needed to leverage digital tools for learning using evidence-based approaches.
3. **Connectivity:** Digital connectivity helps ensure that all schools and individuals can benefit from the educational advantages that come with good quality internet connections.

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<sup>1</sup> The Challenge Action Group will interact with the Education Alliance Task Team on Connected Education for the GRF. The Challenge Action Group works towards quality connected education by 2030 and will provide the guidance to the Alliance Task Team on pledge formulation.