Human Rights Engagement in Practice

Session 4 – Engaging with Affected Populations
What this learning session is about

How to:

• Share key messages about human rights with affected populations

• Use different ways to ensure affected populations actively participate and exercise their human rights

• Include the affected population in processes of engagement with the human rights mechanisms
Human rights are universal

Video message from Aya Abdullah, Member of UNHCR Global Youth Advisory Council
Group exercise

3 groups. Each group was assigned a human right or a principle from the ones indicated below:

• Group 1: The right to a nationality
• Group 2: The right to education
• Group 3: The right to fair trial

Each group should answer the following questions:

• What key messages would you share with the affected population about the human right or principle you were assigned?

• What considerations would you have about facilitating a dialogue with different categories of groups of the affected population about this right/principle?

• How would you go about encouraging/supporting different groups of the affected population to claim their rights, especially considering that many displaced groups may have had negative experiences with duty-bearers in the past? How would you approach such discussions in order to try to rebuild trust between communities and specific duty-bearers (e.g. police, unemployment agencies, municipalities etc.)?

Use the excerpts from the respective human rights treaties.
Group exercise: joining breakout rooms

- We will do this group exercise in break-out rooms:
  - You will receive a message that prompts you to join the breakout room
  - No cameras in breakout rooms
- The facilitator has “presenter” rights and can unmute the group members
- The facilitator will also keep time and notifies participants
- Appoint a note taker in your group and a representative to report back to the main session.
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Debriefing: group exercise

Each group should answer the following questions:

- What key messages would you share with the affected population about the human right or principle you were assigned?
- What considerations would you have about facilitating a dialogue with different categories of groups of the affected population about this right/principle?
- How would you go about encouraging/supporting different groups of the affected population to claim their rights, especially considering that many displaced groups may have had negative experiences with duty-bearers in the past? How would you approach such discussions in order to try to rebuild trust between communities and specific duty-bearers (e.g. police, unemployment agencies, municipalities etc.)?

Use the excerpts from the respective human rights treaties.
What is human rights education?

Human Rights Education promotes values, beliefs and attitudes that encourage all individuals to understand and uphold their own rights and those of others. It contributes to ensuring that the rights of all persons are valued, respected and protected.

Human Rights Education includes

(a) Education about human rights, which includes providing knowledge and understanding of human rights norms and principles, the values that underpin them and the mechanisms for their protection;
(b) Education through human rights, which includes learning and teaching in a way that respects the rights of both educators and learners;
(c) Education for human rights, which includes empowering persons to enjoy and exercise their rights and to respect and uphold the rights of others.

(United Nations Declaration on HRET 2011)
Why human rights education in humanitarian context is important?

1. Humanitarian actors to adopt a human rights-based approach to their work, protect human rights and encourage duty-bearers to meet their obligations

2. Rights-holders, especially populations in situations of vulnerability, to claim and realize their rights and engage in relevant decision-making processes
• The right to Human Rights Education
• UN Decade for Human Rights Education (1994-2004)
• United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (2011)
• World Programme on Human Rights Education (2005 – ongoing): now focus on **youth**

**Objectives of the Plan of Action:**

• Youth are key partners

• ‘to expand human rights education for, with and by youth in formal and nonformal education and, indirectly, informal learning, prioritizing young people in situations of exclusion or vulnerability; (...). This include asylum seekers, refugees and **internally displaced persons**, and returnees.’
Some online educational tools

Human Rights, the rights of refugees (Amnesty International).

Seeking safety, educational course for children (Amnesty International)


Human Rights Education Associate resource centre https://hrea.org/

Compass https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/compass1 by Council of Europe
Key messages

- Cluster members must ensure that affected populations know their human rights.
- The ultimate goal of human rights engagement is to ensure affected populations enjoy fully their human rights.
- There are different methodologies to engage affected populations on their human rights.
- The affected population is the main beneficiary of the engagement with the human rights mechanisms.
Thank you for your attention!

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