



BRIGHT Impact Report 2025

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BRIGHT Association



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A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

BRIGHT Association Annual Report 2025

Executive Summary

In 2025, BRIGHT Association continued creating opportunities for forcibly displaced people in Cameroon while bringing refugee women's priorities into regional and global conversations.

In Yaoundé, our tennis program engaged 25 children, combining sports training with a commitment to gender equality. Through our partnership with Lens on Life, we celebrated the previous cohort's photography projects and welcomed 20 new learners into photography and digital literacy training, giving young people space to develop skills and tell their own stories.

Our participation in advocacy workshops in Nairobi, a women-led convening in Kampala, the Amahoro Coalition Fellowship in Naivasha, and the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review in Geneva strengthened our learning and connections. These experiences reinforced a conviction at the heart of our work: people affected by displacement must have a voice in the decisions that shape their lives.

Resources remain limited, but our commitment is steady. We enter 2026 focused on sustaining youth opportunities, applying what we have learned, and building partnerships rooted in dignity, inclusion and community priorities.

Activities and Events in 2025

Month	Activity & event
January–December	Youth Tennis Training and Gender Equality Initiative
January–December	Lens on Life Photography and Digital Literacy Programme
April–May	Advocacy Training for African Women Refugee Leaders
July	Women RLO Leaders' Convening - Her Power Celebrating Refugee Women Led Solutions
July	Advocacy Agenda Setting Workshop with Regional Refugee Networks in Africa
October	ARWNET Leadership and Advocacy Workshop
October	Amahoro Coalition Fellowship Programme - Cohort 3 Onboarding Intensive
December	Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025

Activity title: Youth Tennis Training and Gender Equality Initiative

Activity type: Sports Training / Youth Development

Reporting period: January-December 2025 | **Location:** Yaoundé, Cameroon

Implementing partnership: BRIGHT Association and the Tennis Club of Yaoundé

Participants: 25 children

Report prepared by: Liliane Uwase

Introduction



From January to December, BRIGHT Association partnered with the Tennis Club of Yaoundé to provide tennis training for 25 children. The initiative aimed to develop new sporting skills and use sport as a platform to advocate for gender equality in their communities. It connected learning through play with BRIGHT's commitment to education, empowerment and inclusion.



Background

The programme recognised that children need opportunities to develop beyond the classroom. Sport can offer a setting in which young people practise perseverance, cooperation and respect while discovering their abilities. Tennis was chosen as the focus of this partnership, providing a practical way to introduce new skills and promote the principle that sporting opportunities should be open to children regardless of gender.

Key Highlights and Insights



Tennis training reached 25 children during the year, combining sporting skill development with gender equality goals. In August 2025, BRIGHT received a further equipment donation from Tennis Sans Frontières, including new tennis balls, rackets and T-shirts, to support the children's practice. This practical support strengthened the resources available for training and encouraged their ambitions to grow as players and future leaders in the sport.

Research supports the wider value of physical activity for young people. The World Health Organization identifies benefits for physical fitness, bone health, motor and

cognitive development, and mental health. UN Women highlights sport's potential to build confidence and leadership and challenge stereotypes about girls' abilities.

These potential benefits support BRIGHT's approach to youth development. Training and the equipment donation are the programme's reported results; changes in skills, confidence or gender attitudes should be assessed through feedback and progress records.

Contributions and Engagement

The Tennis Club of Yaoundé partnership made tennis training available to the children, while Tennis Sans Frontières, the France-based association led by Thibaut Monturli, contributed equipment in August. Its mission of helping disadvantaged children discover tennis aligns with this initiative. BRIGHT acknowledges this support as an investment in young people's opportunity to practise, develop their talent and pursue their sporting ambitions. The cooperation linked training opportunities with material support.



The gender equality objective extended the programme's purpose beyond sporting performance: affirming every child's ability and right to participate. Continued engagement with children, families and partners can help connect fair play on the court with respect and equal opportunity in the community.

Learnings and Recommendations



Sport's contribution to equality depends on how activities are organised. BRIGHT and its partner should promote equal access to coaching and equipment, respectful conduct and opportunities for girls and boys to demonstrate their abilities. Age-appropriate discussions about fairness and stereotypes can connect lessons on the court with behaviour in the community.

For future delivery, record attendance and participation by gender, assess tennis skills and gather feedback from children, parents and coaches. Maintain an inventory of donated equipment and ensure fair access and proper care. Continue working with partners to sustain training and explore suitable opportunities for children to demonstrate progress. This can nurture future champions and leaders without making competitive success the only measure of achievement.

Conclusion

The partnership provided 25 children with an opportunity to learn tennis and linked youth sport with BRIGHT Association's goal of advancing gender equality. BRIGHT remains committed to developing this approach through inclusive participation, community engagement and clearer monitoring, so that sporting opportunities can support children's confidence, skills and respect for one another.

Activity title: Lens on Life Photography and Digital Literacy - Canon Young People Programme

Activity type: Creative Skills Training / Photography Exhibition

Reporting period: March-April 2025 | **Location:** Yaoundé, Cameroon

Programme founder: Lens on Life | **Local partner:** BRIGHT Association

Lens on Life programme partner: Canon

Exhibition: 27 March 2025 | Au Comptoir des Arts, Dragage, Yaoundé

New cohort: 20 learners aged 14-24 | Six-month training beginning April 2025

Report prepared by: Liliane Uwase

Introduction



March and April 2025 marked an important transition in BRIGHT Association's photography programme: celebrating the work of the 2024 cohort and welcoming 20 new learners aged 14-24. Founded by Lens on Life and delivered locally in partnership with BRIGHT Association, with Canon as Lens on Life's partner, the programme combined photography, computer literacy and visual storytelling to help young people express their perspectives and engage with issues affecting their communities.

Background

BRIGHT's partnership with Lens on Life in Yaoundé dates to 2021. Lens on Life supports photography and digital literacy education for young people affected by displacement and other barriers to opportunity. Canon's Young People Programme connects creative learning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), encouraging critical thinking and youth-led storytelling.

This approach aligns with BRIGHT's commitment to education and empowerment: young people gain tools to represent their own communities, explore possibilities in the creative sector and contribute to conversations about positive change.

Key Highlights and Insights



On 27 March 2025, students of the 2024 cohort presented their final SDG-related photography projects at Au Comptoir des Arts in Dragage, Yaoundé. Families, friends, the founder of BRIGHT Association and the founders of Lens on Life attended to recognise six months of learning and appreciate the students' work. The cultural venue offered a public setting where young creators could share their perspectives and connect with their community.



In April, BRIGHT and Lens on Life initiated the new cohort of 20 learners. Their training began in April with a six-month programme in photography and computer literacy. Senior teacher Daniel Beloumou led the teaching team, supported by Lahbang Preston and Yeleme Sokeng Staella Erika.

The programme's value extends beyond learning to use a camera. Connecting images with the SDGs gives learners a framework for examining social and environmental concerns and communicating ideas through visual stories. The exhibition made the previous cohort's learning visible; the new intake extended access to creative education.

Contributions and Engagement



BRIGHT worked with Lens on Life, the programme's founder, to sustain the local learning opportunity and launch the new cohort. Canon supported the programme through its partnership with Lens on Life. The teaching team provided local instruction and mentorship, while the exhibition created a meeting point between students and their support networks.

Lens on Life identifies Preston and Erica as former students who now teach in Yaoundé. Their involvement illustrates a valuable pathway from learner to mentor, allowing experience to be passed on to the next cohort. Families' and friends' presence at the exhibition affirmed the importance of community encouragement alongside technical training.

Learnings and Recommendations

The experience highlights the importance of combining practical instruction, individual storytelling and public presentation. BRIGHT should continue supporting learner portfolios, opportunities for feedback and exhibitions that recognise each student's perspective.

For the new cohort, track attendance, photography and digital skills, and completed projects. Integrate respectful representation, consent and responsible image use into teaching. Maintain alumni mentorship and explore further education or creative work opportunities with partners. A final review should document completion and learner feedback before reporting longer-term outcomes.

Conclusion

The March exhibition celebrated the 2024 cohort's achievement, while the April training opened a new chapter for 20 young learners. BRIGHT Association remains committed to working with Lens on Life, supported through its partnership with Canon, to develop skills, amplify youth voices and create pathways for young people to become thoughtful storytellers and active contributors to their communities.

Event Information

Event title: Advocacy Training for African Women Refugee Leaders

Event type: Workshop / Training

Dates and location: 28 April-2 May 2025 | Nairobi, Kenya

Organiser / Host: African Refugee Women-Led Network (ARWNET), supported by Oxfam International

Report prepared by: Liliane Uwase

Introduction



Bright Association participated in the five-day advocacy workshop to strengthen refugee women's leadership and support the development of ARWNET's collective advocacy direction. The event combined practical training, experience sharing and network planning to help members turn community concerns into focused, achievable action.

Background

As an ARWNET member, Bright Association attended in the context of persistent barriers facing refugee women: exclusion from decision-making, documentation difficulties, discrimination and limited resources. Bright sought skills and connections that could strengthen its education, civic engagement and community work, while linking local priorities with wider advocacy for refugee women's rights.

Key Highlights and Insights

Sessions covered leadership and self-advocacy, legal and policy frameworks, advocacy in conflict settings, digital communication, dignified storytelling and systems change. Practical exercises addressed stakeholder and power mapping, alliance building, action planning, and monitoring and evaluation.

Members selected five collective priorities: recognition of refugee women as leaders; access to menstrual and maternal health products and services; protection and psychosocial support; harmonisation of refugee documentation; and stronger legal protections for refugee women. Inclusion of women and girls with disabilities was emphasised.

Closing sessions recorded the election of 12 executive members with three-year terms, alongside a constitution and draft strategic plan. For Bright, these discussions connected inclusive leadership with accountable governance and showed how education and community engagement can support collective advocacy.

Contributions and Engagement



Bright's participation as a network member centred on training, peer exchange and the collective learning process. The workshop enabled engagement with fellow refugee women leaders and organisations contributing expertise, including Amnesty International, UNHCR, RefugePoint, Oxfam International and Independent Diplomat. These exchanges offered a foundation for future collaboration; no new formal partnership specific to Bright is recorded.

The practical group-work format supported shared reflection and priority setting. Participants highlighted declining funding, demanding donor requirements and gaps between legal protections and implementation as challenges requiring sustained follow-up.

Learnings and Recommendations

The most valuable learning was to build advocacy around community-defined priorities, clear messages, relevant decision-makers and measurable change. Bright should share the training with its team, consult

women and girls on a focused advocacy issue, and develop an action plan aligned with ARWNET's priorities. Future participation should include early preparation, accessible communication and structured feedback to communities.

The workshop requested completion of the free Make Change Happen course within three months, by 2 August 2025. Bright should confirm its completion status and use the course to reinforce practical advocacy skills.

Conclusion



The workshop strengthened the foundation for Bright Association's contribution to refugee women's leadership and rights. Bright remains committed to applying the learning through inclusive community engagement, dignified communication and coordinated advocacy, with progress assessed through the changes experienced by the people it serves.

Event title: Women RLO Leaders' Convening - Her Power: Celebrating Refugee Women-Led Solutions
Event type: Convening / Workshop
Dates and location: 13-16 July 2025 participation | Kampala, Uganda
Organiser / Host: World University Service of Canada (WUSC), Authentic African Works and Mastercard Foundation
Reporting partner organisation: BRIGHT Association - ARWNET member
Report prepared by: Liliane Uwase

Introduction



Bright Association participated in the Women RLO Leaders' Convening to strengthen leadership, exchange experience with refugee women-led organisations across Africa and explore support for sustainable community-led solutions. The event aimed to build networks, identify organisational gaps and promote more equitable participation in humanitarian and development systems.

Background

Women-led refugee organisations deliver essential community services while facing barriers to funding, markets and decision-making. Represented by Liliane Uwase, Bright attended to learn approaches relevant to its education and civic engagement work and to connect with leaders facing similar challenges. Liliane records participation from 13-16 July; the wider agenda spans 13-17 July, with core sessions on 14-16 July at Golden Tulip Canaan Kampala.

Key Highlights and Insights

The programme focused on confident public speaking and storytelling, market opportunities, donor relationships and funding diversification. These themes highlighted how clear communication of community needs and results can support trust, visibility and organisational sustainability.

Research and stakeholder dialogue addressed unequal support for refugee women-led organisations. The

agenda included women-led success stories, partner perspectives, commitments, a call to action and an exhibition of initiatives. These approaches connected discussion of systemic barriers with practical solutions and opportunities for peer learning.

Community visits formed part of the programme on 16 July, including a visit to Refugee Mental Health Network. Learning about community mental health support illustrated the importance of emotional well-being alongside education and economic inclusion. For Bright, the convening reinforced the value of placing refugee women's experience at the centre of programme design and organisational planning.

Contributions and Engagement



Liliane's participation brought Bright Association into a cross-country learning space with refugee women leaders and supporting organisations. Her reflection identifies a strengthened commitment to collaboration and sustainable, community-driven change. Bright's engagement focused on learning and relationship-building; a specific presentation, formal partnership or funding agreement is not documented.

The combination of practical learning, stakeholder dialogue and community examples offered useful ways to connect organisational challenges with possible responses. Unequal access to resources and decision-making remained central concerns for the organisations represented.

Learnings and Recommendations



Bright should integrate the learning by improving its organisational story, documenting community outcomes and maintaining consistent communication with potential partners. It should explore appropriate income-generating activities and diverse funding sources while protecting its mission.



Future participation should begin with clear learning goals and partnership questions, followed by a team debrief and a small number of realistic actions. Peer relationships should support continued exchange of tools and experience. Community feedback should guide which ideas Bright adopts, and progress should be reviewed quarterly.

Conclusion



The convening reinforced the importance of refugee women's leadership, peer solidarity and sustainable support for locally driven solutions. Bright Association remains committed to applying these insights to strengthen its community work, develop responsible partnerships and advance the inclusion and agency of displaced people.

Event title: Advocacy Agenda Setting Workshop with Regional Refugee Networks in Africa
Event type: Co-Design Workshop
Dates and location: 22-24 July 2025 | Nairobi, Kenya
Organiser / Host: Oxfam International, with ARN and ARWNET
Report prepared by: Liliane Uwase

Introduction



Bright Association participated in the co-design workshop to contribute to a shared refugee-led advocacy agenda. The event brought together the African Refugee Network (ARN) and ARWNET to map advocacy efforts, identify participation barriers and shared priorities, and strengthen coordination across national, regional and global platforms.

Background

As an ARWNET member, Bright attended to connect community concerns with wider advocacy for refugee women's leadership, rights and protection. The workshop built on the networks' existing work and strategic planning. Bright expected to gain practical methods for stakeholder engagement, inclusive participation and sustainable collaboration relevant to its education and civic engagement priorities.

Key Highlights and Insights

Sessions covered advocacy journeys, stakeholder mapping, connections between local and global advocacy, power analysis, meaningful participation, risk management, funding and partnerships. Network groups linked priority issues to relevant institutions, including the African Union, regional bodies and UNHCR.

ARWNET's priorities included documentation, women's leadership in decision-making, gender-based violence and maternal health, mental health and protection, and legal protections. Discussions explored joint submissions, consultations, strategic alliances and digital engagement as ways to bring community concerns into policy spaces.

Meaningful participation was defined as influencing agenda setting, design and decisions, with inclusion of young people, women with disabilities and those facing language or digital barriers. Participants also distinguished advocacy activities from measurable change. For Bright, these lessons support accessible community consultation, evidence-based messages and accountability to the people represented.

Contributions and Engagement



Liliane Uwase contributed to the ARWNET presentation alongside Relindis during the session on advocacy journeys and refugee participation. This was a documented contribution to the network's collective reflection. Bright's participation also provided opportunities to learn from ARN, ARWNET and Oxfam's approaches to regional and global engagement.

Group work supported concrete discussion of priorities, stakeholders and risks. Restrictive mobility, limited funding, tokenism and shrinking civic space were identified as barriers to effective participation. The workshop offered a basis for continued coordination; no new formal partnership specific to Bright is recorded.

Learnings and Recommendations

Bright should select a community-informed advocacy priority, map decision-makers and allies, and prepare a clear policy message with an achievable action plan. Progress measures should capture changes in access, rights or policy alongside activities undertaken.

Risk planning should include safeguarding, accountability, spokesperson roles and team well-being. Funding should draw on diverse sources and appropriate collaboration. Future participation should involve early travel preparation, accessible materials and community feedback before and after the event. Bright should coordinate follow-up with ARWNET and review progress quarterly.

Conclusion



The workshop clarified how collective advocacy can connect refugee communities with policy decisions. Bright Association remains committed to applying the learning through inclusive planning, coordinated network engagement and responsible advocacy, with attention to practical improvements in the lives of displaced people.

Event title: ARWNET Leadership and Advocacy Workshop

Event type: Workshop / Training

Dates and location: 21-23 October 2025 | DoubleTree by Hilton, Nairobi, Kenya

Organiser / Host: African Refugee Women-Led Network (ARWNET), with Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Oxfam International and Amnesty International

Report prepared by: Liliane Uwase

Introduction



Bright Association participated in the African Refugee Women-Led Network's leadership and advocacy workshop to strengthen collective leadership and translate shared priorities into focused advocacy. The three-day programme linked leadership practice, care and well-being with strategy, resource mobilisation and clear team responsibilities.

Background

As an ARWNET member, Bright attended to build on earlier network training and planning and strengthen its contribution to refugee women's rights and inclusion. The workshop brought together refugee women leaders and partners, including Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Oxfam International and Amnesty International. Bright sought approaches that could support its education, civic engagement and community work through stronger leadership, communication and coordinated action.



Key Highlights and Insights



Day one explored trust, adaptive leadership, active listening and collective identity through storytelling, weaving and a guided obstacle exercise. These practical methods showed that leadership requires sharing resources, recognising others' strengths and creating space for people to lead.

Day two connected leadership with advocacy tactics. A panel discussed mentorship, accountability, safety and access to decision-making spaces. Empathy mapping, power analysis and the spectrum-of-allies exercise helped participants consider how different institutions respond to refugee women's concerns. An AMREF presentation contributed practical advocacy experience.

Day three addressed fundraising, proposal development, skills mapping and coordination. The network focused its next-year advocacy on three continental priorities: policy inclusion, maternal health and economic empowerment. Groups developed advocacy statements identifying the intended change, target audience and potential allies. These were planning outputs; imagined future headlines were aspirations rather than achieved results.

For Bright, the programme connected inclusive education and community engagement with leadership that listens, evidence-based advocacy and practical support for refugee women's dignity and self-reliance.

Contributions and Engagement

Bright's participation supported learning and exchange within ARWNET's collective process. The interactive format created opportunities to reflect on leadership, discuss advocacy approaches and learn from members and partners. The network mapped internal skills and assigned representatives and group leaders to sustain work across its three priorities.

The report does not detail a separate Bright presentation or new formal partnership. Shared concerns included competition for limited resources, harmful narratives, safety risks and the need for clearer systems and accountability. Trust and collaboration emerged as essential to effective engagement.

Learnings and Recommendations

Bright should apply the learning through team reflection, clear responsibilities and a focused advocacy plan informed by community priorities. Messages should state the change sought, who can influence it and which allies can help. Community feedback, documented results and attention to well-being should accompany advocacy.

Future participation should include prepared evidence and specific partnership questions. Bright should strengthen proposal writing and resource mobilisation, coordinate follow-up with ARWNET and report progress against realistic objectives rather than conference visibility alone.

Conclusion



The workshop reinforced that strong advocacy depends on trust, inclusive leadership and organised collective action. Bright Association remains committed to applying these lessons in its community work and network engagement to support refugee women's leadership, protection and access to opportunity.

Event title: Amahoro Coalition Fellowship Programme - Cohort 3 Onboarding Intensive

Event type: Leadership and Entrepreneurship Training / Fellowship Onboarding

Dates and location: October 2025 (six-day intensive) | Naivasha, Kenya

Organiser / Host: Amahoro Coalition

Reporting partner organisation: BRIGHT Association

Report prepared by:

Introduction



BRIGHT Association was represented by its Founder and CEO, Liliane Uwase, following her selection for the third cohort of the Amahoro Coalition Fellowship Programme. The October onboarding intensive launched a year of leadership development, coaching and mentorship aimed at strengthening initiatives led by people with lived experience of displacement. It brought together 41 fellows from 11 countries in Naivasha, Kenya.

Background



Liliane's selection marked an opportunity to strengthen BRIGHT's leadership and connect its work in Cameroon with a wider African community of changemakers. Her experience of displacement and commitment to dignity, education and community empowerment shaped her reasons for participating. BRIGHT sought learning that could help translate a clear mission into stronger programmes, sustainable operations and opportunities for displaced people.

Key Highlights and Insights



The intensive explored African identity, leadership ethics, purpose, values and vision. Shared stories and team-building activities encouraged trust, belonging and reflection on the responsibilities of leadership. Entrepreneurship sessions introduced fresh approaches to elevator pitches and human-centred design, emphasising solutions developed with communities.

The six-day gathering established a foundation for the fellowship's longer learning journey. For BRIGHT, the practical value lies in communicating its mission clearly, testing ideas against community needs and strengthening the connection between leadership, programme quality and sustainability.

Liliane's written leadership reflection identifies transformational leadership as her preferred approach: inspiring others while creating space for their voices. Her mission manifesto emphasises empathy, justice, equity, resilience and innovation. Together, these reflections reinforce BRIGHT's commitment to people's dignity and agency.



Contributions and Engagement



As a selected fellow, Liliane brought BRIGHT's community-led perspective and her experience as a founder into the cohort's learning environment. Her completed leadership reflection and mission manifesto articulated her values, strengths and development needs, including strategic communication, diplomacy and global leadership.

The fellowship created opportunities for peer exchange across different countries and sectors and for continued mentoring relationships. These connections provide a foundation for future collaboration.

No specific new funding award or formal partnership for BRIGHT is documented at this stage. Liliane's reflections identify limited resources, underrepresentation and unequal access to opportunities as challenges to address.

Learnings and Recommendations



BRIGHT should translate the learning into a focused development plan: share insights with the team, sharpen its organisational story and pitch, and use community consultation to refine programme ideas. Leadership practice should combine clear direction with listening, delegation and opportunities for others to grow.

Continued fellowship engagement should support stronger planning, communication and organisational systems. BRIGHT should maintain purposeful peer relationships, use mentoring to address priority skill gaps, and document how learning changes its work. Future participation should include clear objectives and a structured team debrief, with progress reviewed against realistic community outcomes.

Conclusion



Liliane Uwase's selection for Amahoro's third cohort represents a valuable step in BRIGHT Association's leadership development. The onboarding connected personal purpose with practical approaches to innovation and sustainable community work. BRIGHT remains committed to applying these lessons to strengthen its programmes and expand opportunities for displaced people.

Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025

Geneva, Switzerland | 15–17 December 2025

Prepared by: Liliane Uwase | Organization: African Refugee Women-Led Network (ARWNET)

Sponsored by: Oxfam International | Date: February 10, 2026

Introduction

Opening the Review, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, **Filippo Grandi**, described the current context as a “**perfect storm**,” marked by overlapping crises, shrinking humanitarian financing, and mounting pressure on the institution of asylum, while reaffirming that sustained solidarity and responsibility-sharing remain essential. My name is Liliane Uwase, founder and CEO of BRIGHT, and Head of Communication at ARWNET. Through this report, I will provide an overview of my participation in the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) Progress Review 2025, held in Geneva from 15–17 December 2025, made possible through the generous sponsorship of **Oxfam International**. The GRF Progress Review is a mid-term global stocktaking exercise between GRF 2023 and GRF 2027, assessing progress under the Global Compact on Refugees on refugee inclusion, gender equality, localization, and meaningful participation. This report shares key insights, lessons learned, and strategic reflections to inform and strengthen ARWNET’s work and partnerships.

Background

ARWNET participated as an official delegate network representing refugee women-led organizations across Africa. My participation aimed to represent refugee women’s priorities, engage in global discussions on participation, women’s rights and localization, strengthen relationships with humanitarian and donor partners, and identify opportunities to enhance ARWNET’s strategic positioning toward GRF 2027. Oxfam’s sponsorship was critical, as refugee-led organizations often lack financial resources to attend high-level global forums demonstrating Oxfam’s genuine commitment to amplifying refugee voices.

Key Highlights and Insights



I participated in the following official sessions and plenary discussions:

Advancing Gender Equality and Ending Violence Against Refugee Women and Girls:

– Sustainable protection outcomes depend on investing directly in women-led, community-based initiatives to prevent GBV and promote education and livelihoods.

Meaningful Refugee Participation: Scaling Impact:

– Refugee participation must move beyond consultation and tokenism. Direct, flexible, and predictable funding was identified as a critical enabler.

Making Localization Work:

– While commitments to localization are increasing, implementation gaps persist. Refugee-led organizations remain frontline responders yet receive limited direct funding.

UNHCR Panel: Refugee Participation, Women's Rights, and Education:

– Women's leadership and education access are core pillars of durable solutions; refugee inclusion in policy design is essential.

Recurring themes across sessions: accountability for commitments, trust-based partnerships, and institutionalizing refugee participation at all levels.

Contributions and Engagement

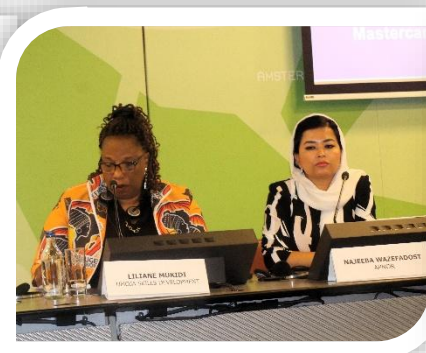


My engagement as a delegate was active and purposeful:

- Engaged in plenary sessions and side events aligned with ARWNET's priorities
- Participated in knowledge exchange with refugee leaders, UN agencies, NGOs, and donors
- Represented ARWNET in networking spaces and bilateral conversations
- Documented key moments through photography as part of ongoing advocacy work
- Established and strengthened relationships for future collaboration, including with Oxfam colleagues

A key challenge was the limited availability of structured networking spaces and the absence of a dedicated platform to collectively showcase ARWNET's impact.

Learnings and Recommendations



Key Learnings:

- Refugee women-led organizations are increasingly recognized but remain significantly underfunded
- Localization and meaningful participation require long-term commitment, not one-off consultations
- Direct and flexible funding is essential for sustainable impact
- Early preparation and coordinated engagement improve visibility at global forums
- Documentation and accountability mechanisms are needed to track the implementation of commitments

Recommendations for Future Participation:

- Begin early and strategic preparation for GRF 2027
- Strengthen coordination among delegates with clear thematic focus areas
- Organize ARWNET-branded side events and visibility platforms
- Provide pre-forum capacity building on advocacy, fundraising, and strategic communication
- Develop sustained partnerships with sponsors like Oxfam for continued participation

Integration into ARWNET's Work:

- Design leadership programs building advocacy and policy engagement skills among refugee women
- Shape advocacy messaging around meaningful participation, direct funding, and accountability
- Strengthen documentation tracking the gap between global commitments and local realities
- Guide partnership development with donors and humanitarian actors toward GRF 2027

Conclusion



In closing the Progress Review and his four decades of humanitarian service, High Commissioner Filippo Grandi offered a message that resonates far beyond Geneva: *"I started my humanitarian path as a volunteer in 1984. And in less than two weeks, I will return to being one of them. My message to the volunteers, but in fact to all of you, whatever you do, whoever you are: don't underestimate the power that you have to change things for the better and to make life more hopeful for millions together."*

The GRF Progress Review 2025 reaffirmed that refugee women are not passive beneficiaries but key actors shaping solutions. When trusted, resourced, and included, refugee women-led organizations deliver meaningful and sustainable impact. I remain committed to applying these insights to strengthen ARWNET's work and advance refugee women's leadership toward GRF 2027.

Acknowledgment:

This participation would not have been possible without the generous sponsorship of **Oxfam International**. Your investment in refugee leadership demonstrates a genuine commitment to localization and meaningful participation beyond rhetoric, enabling a refugee woman leader to be present, visible, and actively engaged in shaping discussions that directly affect our communities.

Thanks you

To all our partners, supporters,
volunteers and advocates who make
our impact possible.

