



International Day of the GIRL Child 2023

October, 11th,

www.africangirlshope.org

Improving Access to Quality Education to Orphan and Refugees

The African Girls Hope Foundation marks this year's International Day of the Girl Child to highlight and advocate for access to quality education for vulnerable children across Africa. The foundation has provided tuition fees, mentorship and counseling services, sanitary products, school learning materials such as; stationery, uniforms, back-bags and shoes to hundreds of vulnerable children comprising both refugee and non-refugee populations in East Africa.



On this International Day of the Girl Child celebrated worldwide on October 11th each year, AGHF aims to lay emphasis on access to quality education by the vulnerable refugee children.

According to data provided by Save Children, over four million refugee children are out of school and missing out on their right to an education due to displacement, poverty and exclusion. UNHCR estimates that 600,000 is the growth of out-of-school refugee children since 2011. There is a need for 12000 classrooms and 20,000 teachers every year to cater for the increased demand for refugee education. Only 61% of children refugees attend school in



comparison to 92% of the non-refugee population. Only 23% of refugee adolescents attend secondary school compared to 84% globally. Only 1 % of refugees access university education.

Refugee education in Africa, like in many parts of the world, faces significant challenges and complexities. The continent has experienced numerous conflicts and

displacement crises, leading to the displacement of millions of people, including children and adolescents. Here are some key aspects of refugee education in Africa:

Access to Education

One of the primary challenges is ensuring that refugee children have access to quality education. Many refugee children in Africa face barriers such as language differences, lack of documentation, and inadequate infrastructure in refugee camps or host communities.

Overcrowded Schools

Refugee-hosting countries in Africa often struggle to accommodate the large number of refugee children in their educational systems. This can lead to overcrowded classrooms and limited resources.

Language Barriers:

Language differences can be a significant obstacle to education, as refugee children often speak a different language than the one used in the host country's education system. Efforts are made to provide language support and bridge this gap.

Trauma and Mental Health:

Many refugee children have experienced trauma and may require psychosocial support to address emotional and psychological impact of conflict and displacement. Trauma can affect a child's ability to learn and adapt to a new educational environment.

Quality of Education:

Ensuring refugee children receive a quality education is crucial. Quality education involves access to classrooms, trained teachers, appropriate curricula, and educational materials.

Gender Disparities:

Girls in refugee situations often face additional challenges, including the risk of early marriage and gender-based violence. Promoting gender equality in education is a vital aspect of refugee education efforts.



Education in Protracted Crises:

Some refugee situations in DRC, South Sudan, and Somalia are protracted, lasting for many years or even decades hence sustainable and long-term educational solutions for refugee children is required.

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Access to Education

The African Girls Hope Foundation continues with advocacy campaigns and awareness-raising efforts crucial to drawing attention to the unique challenges faced by refugee children in Africa and to garner support for their education.



We advocate for partnerships and support of International organizations, NGOs, and humanitarian agencies to collaborate with host countries to support refugee education initiatives such as funding, teacher training, and infrastructure development.

We call for an expedited process of integrating refugee children into the host country's education system whenever possible. This approach helps foster social cohesion and provides a more stable and sustainable education for refugees.

Despite these challenges, there are positive initiatives and successes in Africa refugee education, with organizations and governments working together to ensure that refugee children learn and build a better future. However, continued support, funding, and international cooperation are essential to addressing the ongoing educational needs of refugee children on the continent.

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"Let's make a better world by investing in girls' education." – Dr. Grace F. Nkundabantu

Article By:

Dr. Grace Faraja Nkundabantu and Walter Maina

For More Information, visit,

www.africangirlshope.org
or Contact us at
info@africangirlshope.org

P.O.BOX 1535, Cumming, GA 30028