

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation's Refugees Initiative is our newest initiative. As of 2019, more than 80 million people around the world were displaced from their homes, 26.3 million of them as refugees. In recognition of this unprecedented global displacement, the Hilton Foundation aims to partner with and help improve the lives and livelihoods of refugee children and families, as well as the communities hosting them. The Foundation will initially do this by exploring support for partners in Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, and Uganda. The Foundation will also actively participate in building a global field and enhancing use of evidence-based practices with its partners serving Refugees.

## Ideal state

In communities affected by forced displacement, young children receive care that enables their healthy development, and youth have access to economic opportunity that allows them to build sustainable livelihoods. Refugees have access to legal rights and services in host communities. Social cohesion is strong between host and refugee communities. As a result, refugees are self-reliant and have outcomes equitable to their host neighbors.

## History and background

The Foundation has a legacy of providing emergency relief in the United States and around the world, including to refugees. Our Disaster Relief and Recovery funding began in 1989 and has included providing safe water for refugees in Kenya, education for Syrian refugees, and resettlement support for refugees in the U.S. The Refugees Initiative was created in 2020 with the goal of ensuring the youngest refugees receive care that enables healthy development, and refugee youth have career opportunities that foster self-sufficiency. This is now separate from the Disaster Relief and Recovery work, serving refugees as well as host communities. This work builds off, and is aligned with, the Foundation's approach to early childhood development (ECD) and workforce development.

In 2021, the Foundation will further refine the strategy. We will select geographies in East Africa and Latin America and make exploratory investments in early childhood development and livelihoods. By the end of following year, the Initiative will identify specific communities to target, outline effective interventions and models, and define a measurement, evaluation, and learning framework.

## First-year Interim Initiative Goal

4 country assessments result in recommendations to invest in 2-3 geographies

Establish strong relationships with stakeholders in each geography enabling exploratory investments in ECD and livelihoods for older youth

Build partnerships and strategic relationships to advance refugees' issues

Establish a monitoring, evaluation, and learning framework which includes a plan to collect strategy metrics

## Strategy architecture (preliminary)



## POSSIBLE GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

- Refugees initiative is still deciding its geographic scope. Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia and Uganda are early possibilities.



## EQUITY FOCUS

- Invest in equitable approaches that achieve outcomes for displaced people and particular subgroups in each context who are most marginalized
- Invest in local and refugee-led organizations to serve their communities with a target of 25 percent of grant funds to these organizations

## OTHER KEY METRICS

- Leverage \$42 million for aligned early childhood development and sustainable livelihoods work in the Foundation's focal countries, a 1:1 match of Foundation investment
- Identify advocacy goals in the Foundation's focal geographies through exploratory investments (e.g., refugee eligibility for social protection programs, increased work authorization in cities)

### PROGRAM COSTS



#### Strategy25

(2021-2025):

Est. \$90,000,000

### CHALLENGES



- COVID-19's global impact on the economy and migration between countries reduces refugees' access to labor and freedom of movement, which may pose challenges for the Initiative's goals
- Existing anti-migrant sentiment could make it difficult for refugee-focused organizations to operate in the open, with full transparency, and may have further implications on local advocacy and resource-building efforts
- The field's reliance on large international NGOs may make it difficult to identify local leaders the Foundation can elevate

### OPPORTUNITIES



- Exploring a few geographies allows us to learn and diversify the Foundation's portfolio across geographies
- The Foundation can lead on elevating the voices of refugees and collaborative models that develop local leadership and solutions
- The Foundation can be a leader in advocating for the inclusion of refugees and vulnerable host communities in social services