

Background Reading on the Project

The Project

The [Refugee Women and Girls – Key to the Global Compact on Refugees](#) project has been continuously funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade since 2018. It has contributed to facilitating and monitoring the implementation of gender

leadership, and address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The project explores ways in which the high-level principles articulated in the GCR are impacted by **local socio/political circumstances**, and addresses the challenges noted by many key stakeholders, that **‘one size does not fit all’** when designing solutions.

The Project Team

The multi-stakeholder project is led by researchers Linda Bartolomei and Eileen Pittaway from UNSW's Forced Migration Research Network (FMRN). With a team of refugee women from the five UN regions, they undertook the Gender Audit of UNHCR's Thematic meetings which informed the development of the GCR. Working in partnership with refugee women, academics, service providers and UNHCR, the project has developed and trialled a suite of implementation tools and monitoring and evaluation strategies in three refugee hosting countries in the Asia Pacific, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Thailand, and at UNHCR in Geneva. It uses the concept of intersectionality and the UNHCR Age, Gender and Diversity policy as a framework for analysing barriers to and strategies to increase gender equality.

Project partners in each country

In **Malaysia**, Tenaganita, the Malaysian Social Research Institute (MSRI), Asylum Access Malaysia (AAM), the Gender Studies Programme, Universiti Malaya (UM), UNHCR, Women led organisations from the Yemini, South Sudanese, Somali, Rohingya, Burmese, Pakistani and Afghan communities.

In **Thailand**, the Karen and Karenni and Muslim Women's Organisations, the Border Consortium (TBC) and Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University.

In **Bangladesh** the main partners were Relief International (RI), the Centre for Peace and Justice, BRAC University, Women led organisations in the Cox's Bazar camps and UNHCR.

Two key **Regional organisations**, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) and Asia Pacific Network of Refugees (APNOR) also contributed to the project.

Project Findings

These resources, are outcomes of the project based on evaluation and analysis by all partners. They are informed by the concept of the intersectionality of multiple forms of discrimination as a framework for analysing gender equality. It examines how socially and culturally constructed categories, such as race, class, socio-economic status, gender, sexuality, religion, and ability, intersect to contribute to systematic social inequality. Importantly, it addresses the fact that in every site in which Pittaway and Bartolomei have worked in this project and in 22 other countries over the 25 years, women have identified

