



Annexe to Regional Circular 07-2023

Call for Participants: WeAct Forum, Kraków 2023

Redefining youth-led humanitarian action

Join us at the **WeAct Forum in Kraków, Poland, from 9 to 13 June 2023**, as we engage with Member Organisations and humanitarian partners including UNICEF, to strengthen Scouting's preparedness and humanitarian action across our Movement.

The WeAct Forum is organised by the Europe and Eurasia Scout Regions to be an interactive learning space for Member Organisations (MOs) from all Regions to exchange experiences, operational tools, procedures, and best practices as the event marks the conclusion of World Scouting's partnership with UNICEF in the project, *UAct: Scouts in Humanitarian Response for Ukraine*.

Learn more about the project and the actions these Member Organisations took in response to Ukraine through the UAct [Mid-Year Report](#).

Background: *UAct: Scouts in Humanitarian Response for Ukraine*

Since the first days of the war in Ukraine, young people in Scouting mobilised immediately to ensure that Ukrainian families have access to basic necessities such as food, water, shelter, clothes and protection after fleeing the war, especially those arriving in Poland, Romania, Hungary, Moldova, Lithuania, Czechia, Latvia and Slovakia. To continue providing critical care and support to Ukrainian children and families, UNICEF and the Scout Movement launched a regional partnership in April 2022, enabling both organisations to scale up their responses to ensure that support reaches those in need in the mentioned countries as well as in Ukraine.

In response to the unfolding crisis, the partnership's project, *UAct: Scouts in Humanitarian Response for Ukraine*, used a phased approach to implementation, expanding its support to those affected. Ever since, Scout volunteers have been working closely with refugee children and adolescents offering different services, including educational and skills-building activities that are part of Scouting's educational approach. Member Organisations in the nine countries have also integrated refugee children into local Scout groups and regular Scout camps.

Scope and Objectives

The WeAct Forum creates a space for networking, partnership building, youth empowerment, and peer-to-peer learning, as it brings together MOs alongside other humanitarian organisations to **redefine youth-led humanitarian action**.

The scope of WeAct Forum is to increase the humanitarian preparedness of MOs across the world, positioning youth within Scouting as relevant and responsive actors in today's challenges of our societies.

At the end of the WeAct Forum participants from WOSM Member Organisations, will be able to:

- **Identify relevant** opportunities and address potential limitations in Humanitarian Action and adjust those in their own context.
- Define volunteer management and Safe from Harm procedures specific to and necessary for **preparedness and response** required for humanitarian action.
- Understand mechanisms and **gain methods for the integration of refugee communities in Scouting** and non-formal education settings.
- Disseminate **UAct 360°** - a digital learning library, to **showcase practical lessons learnt and best practices in humanitarian action between WOSM and UNICEF**.

- Understand the scope and approach of humanitarian agencies to support the partnership building between Member Organisations and international NGOs.
- Reinforce the importance of meaningful **engagement of young people** in humanitarian action.
- Ensure sustainable action to maintain and further enhance approaches to increase social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and inclusion of underrepresented groups within Scouting.
- Facilitate **national level partnership exchange** between Member Organisations and external organisations.

Programme

The WeAct Forum's programme will focus on three areas: **partnership building, volunteer management, and educational approaches**, with one day dedicated to each respective area.

Each area will include specific themes to be addressed throughout the Forum.

1. **Partnership building:** participants will discover and familiarise themselves with the different approaches of MOs and the Region, in building partnerships with various stakeholders and how to manage and comply with stakeholder implications, requirements and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. This will be an opportunity for MOs to connect with each other and build new partnerships for humanitarian purposes.
2. **Volunteer management:** from specifics of volunteer management in crisis situations to Safe from Harm in humanitarian contexts and wellbeing of volunteers, this key area will focus on exploring helpful mechanisms that support volunteers in their humanitarian work, thus yielding successful projects and outcomes.
3. **Educational approaches:** participants will discover and reflect on educational tools that may be used to strengthen the humanitarian preparedness and response of Scouts. Either by looking at the Youth Programme, or at introducing new components in the training for Adults in Scouting, this area will provide insight into the role of non-formal education in humanitarian setting.

The programme will be a combination of plenary and parallel sessions. The plenary sessions will give the space to WOSM representatives and external experts to share their input on the three focus areas above.

Each guest speaker and facilitator will bring specific expertise. The expertise will range from human rights perspectives to child and youth-centred approaches in crisis situations. It will explore Scouting and Humanitarian Action as one of the WOSM Services to build on Scouting's humanitarian preparedness.

The recognition of cross-sectoral collaborations that support relief efforts will be emphasised jointly, by global and regional Committee members, supported by WOSM volunteers and staff.

Moreover, during the plenary sessions, participants will attend panel discussions, highlighting the skills and qualities of young humanitarian Scouts, as well as the voices of various humanitarian organisations' taking action around the world.

The parallel sessions will be led by facilitator(s) in smaller groups (approx. 25 participants), with the educational purpose of creating learning opportunities where participants will gain skills, knowledge and attitudes related to the topics addressed plenary. Through these sessions, participants are empowered to craft their individual learning journey by selecting the sessions that interest them the most considering the needs of the MO they represent and the role they fulfil within the Organisation.

In this space, UAct MOs will share their best practices, creating the framework of peer-to-peer learning and exchange. MOs beyond UAct are welcome and encouraged to share their humanitarian action best practices by delivering a parallel session.

Who should apply?

The WeAct Forum welcomes 150 participants from Member Organisations across all Scout Regions. Interested participants must meet some of the following criteria:

- Scout members from any MO of WOSM.
- Scout volunteers who are active at the local and/or national level in their MO, or part of a national structure related to Humanitarian Action.
- Scouts with previous experience in humanitarian response, through Scouting or with other Organisations.
- Scouts genuinely interested in the topic of Humanitarian Action.
- Scouts with the capacity to transfer the knowledge gained from the WeAct Forum to their MOs.

Member Organisations are not limited to a certain number of spots. However, we strongly encourage youth who meet the above criteria to participate in the Forum, which would also ensure diversity among the participants in terms of knowledge, roles, and expertise.

Should you have any urgent inquiries, kindly contact weact@scout.org and the relevant colleagues will support you.

