

# REACH NEWSLETTER

February 29, 2024

Dear REACH Community,

As we delve into the heart of our research, we are excited to share some updates and project contributions from our team members. Currently, all REACH research members are in the process of writing their papers, furthering our goal of understanding the educational challenges faced by refugee children with disabilities (RCDs) throughout their migration journeys.

## **Project Contributions**

We are thrilled to showcase the impactful contributions of two key members of our team, Dr. Inna Stepaniuk and Olabanji Onipede. Their dedication and expertise have significantly enriched our research endeavors, advancing our understanding of the educational challenges faced by refugee children with disabilities (RCDs). Through their work, they have brought valuable insights and perspectives to the forefront, contributing to our collective goal of creating a more inclusive and equitable educational environment for RCDs. Join us in celebrating their achievements and the profound impact they have made on our project.

Stepaniuk, I. & Onipede, O. (2023) presented a paper on "Advancing equity in education for refugee students with dis/abilities in British Columbia" at the Diverse Approaches to Research in Education (DARE series), Faculty of Education, SFU. [Read more](#)

Stepaniuk, I. (December 4, 2023) published an op-ed titled "We need fairer policies to save people's lives" in the Faculty of Education News Series, SFU. [Read more](#)

## **A Note from Nia**

In light of recent figures from UNHCR 2024, it's crucial to reflect on the magnitude of the global refugee crisis. Over half of all refugees under UNHCR's mandate come from just three countries: Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan, and Ukraine. The Islamic Republic of Iran and Türkiye each host 3.4 million refugees, the largest populations worldwide. Germany follows closely with 2.5 million, highlighting the immense responsibility shouldered by these nations.

It's also sobering to note that 43.3 million forcibly displaced people are children, emphasizing the urgent need for education and support for young refugees. Additionally, 75% of refugees are hosted in low- and middle-income countries, showcasing the disproportionate burden on these nations.

As we continue our research, let's keep these figures in mind, understanding the immense impact of our work on the lives of refugee children and their families.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our cause.

Best regards,

**REACH**