

**United Nations  
High Commissioner for Refugees**

***Strengthening NGO-UNHCR  
Partnerships In Refugee  
Resettlement to the EU***

***Lisbon, 21-23 November 2007***

# Re-Visiting the Objectives of Resettlement

- To quickly save/rescue individuals/families with specific protection needs
- To address major protection problems such as preventing the military recruitment of refugees, sexual gender-based violence, secondary movements.

- **To unlock another durable solution.**
- **As an element of burden/responsibility-sharing**
- **To create protection dividends for refugees who are not going to be resettled in host countries**
- **To improve the asylum system in resettlement countries, in particular integration**

# Challenges

Current capacity of RST countries:	<b>82,710</b>
■ USA :	50,000
■ CANADA:	12,000
■ AUSTRALIA:	14,000
■ (9) EUROPEAN COUNTRIES:	5,580
■ NEW ZEALAND:	750
■ (5) LATIN AMERICA COUNTRIES:	430

# Key figures

- **Resettlement Needs in 2007:  
77.100**
- **Resettlement Needs in 2008:  
154.701**
- **RST countries' capacity:  
82.630**

# Expanding resettlement in Europe

- **Expanding the number of countries beyond the current 9**
- **Expanding the number of resettled refugees, currently less than 5 % of the worldwide capacity**

# **EU Countries with a resettlement quota / specific programme**

**Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland,  
the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal  
Sweden and UK**

# **EU countries facilitating transit for onward resettlement**

**Austria (Iranian religious minorities  
processed for the USRP)**

**Romania (Evacuation Transit  
Facility)**



# **“Source countries” in Europe where UNHCR resettlement referrals are still made**

**Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia,  
Malta, Moldova, Russian  
Federation, Turkey, Ukraine + a few  
cases in the Balkans**

# European countries taking some refugee cases without resettlement quota

- **(UNHCR referrals) Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland**
- **(Other referrals) Albania, Latvia, Hungary**

# Progress in 2007

- **Development of twinning arrangements**
- **Evaluation of RPPs**
- **Green Paper**
- **3rd Generation of ERF budget lines**
- **Enhanced interest by NGOs regarding resettlement in Europe**

# The place of resettlement in the European Union

- Historically, the first solution
- Complement to an asylum system, not a substitute
- Increasingly it should be presented as part of a national asylum policy

# Challenges I

- **The integration of resettled refugees (including: the excessive use of the “potential for integration” criteria of refugees and the insufficient integration potential of some communities)**
- **The negative impact of the massive intra-EU migration on access to jobs and housing for refugees**



# Challenges II

- **Generating public support**
- **De-linking spontaneous arrivals from level of resettlement quotas**
- **The pros & cons of an harmonized EU-wide resettlement scheme**



# Challenges III

- **Is the promotion of resettlement in some EU countries without public support (for domestic political purposes) desirable?**
- **The way forward on UNHCR October 2007 proposal for a common advocacy platform**

# Challenges IV

- **Promoting the resettlement of “the untouchables” in Europe**
- **Can we use resettlement more strategically to promote a broader approach to family reunion?**
- **The added value of the support from the EU Commission**





# Challenges V

- **Should UNHCR uses with caution the labour migration needs of Europe to promote resettlement?**
- **Building flexibility in the access to the ERF**



# Challenges VI

- Decreasing reliance on US funding for resettlement activities in Europe
- Taking cases not only meeting the 1951 refugee definition, but also those qualifying under EU regulations for subsidiary protection
- EU support to the UNHCR-ICMC deployment scheme



***Thank you your attention and your support in developing resettlement in the E.U.***

***Vincent Cochetel  
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***More info at [www.refworld.org](http://www.refworld.org)***

