

Next Steps in Supporting Integration Initiatives

Interim Project Report to the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement Geneva, 15 June 2004

This report is offered as a status update on the activities of the project undertaken as part of the activities of the UNHCR Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement and implemented by the Canadian Council for Refugees since September 2003. The project is due to finish in August 2004.

The Survey of Needs and Opportunities

The workplan called for the development and implementation of a survey of needs and opportunities, designed to be as open-ended as possible and directed to resettlement countries, including NGOs, with the goal of building an inventory of information on:

- needs that could benefit from linkages;
- new initiatives that may be of interest to others;
- resources available to offer in support of other resettlement countries, including areas of specialization, opportunities for exchanges, listserves that people could join, conferences that people might usefully attend;
- suggestions of possible sources of funding for exchanges, for example foundations that might fund a person from an emerging country to go to a conference or do a placement in another country.

Returns to Part 1 and 2 of the Survey, distributed in November 2003 and February 2004 and examining 20 different aspects of integration, have been received as of the end of May, from:

Australia, Benin, Brazil (*Part 2 only*), Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and from the Refugee Council of Australia, the Refugee Council USA (*Part 1 only*), Canadian Council for Refugees, Longford Women's Link (Ireland) and Red Cross Finland.

Results demonstrate the global wealth of the refugee resettlement programme and provide information on specific countries' programmes, new initiatives, good practice models, recent research, links to other websites as well as identifying those areas in which countries are interested in building the capacity of their own programmes.

The final date for submission of the Survey during this project is 15 July 2004. Electronic copies of the Survey may be obtained from the Canadian Council for Refugees at ccr@web.ca or from the project coordinator at emcweeny@tbaytel.net Countries and NGOs who have not yet made submissions are encouraged to do so.

The Inventory

The Inventory, under construction as a result of the survey, is a mechanism through which resettlement partners may share information, offer resources and seek assistance on refugee resettlement and integration subjects with the goal of enhancing their national resettlement efforts and thereby increasing refugee resettlement capacity globally. The CCR posted a working draft version of the Inventory in March 2004 and a new version incorporating submissions to 7 June 2004 is now available on the website of the Canadian Council for Refugees at <http://www.web.net/~ccr/inventory.PDF>

The outline of the draft Inventory, organized by subject area is as follows:

INTRODUCTION

NATIONAL CONTEXTS FOR THE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMMES

PRE-DEPARTURE

- 1. Integration elements in identifying and selecting refugees for resettlement**
- 2. Selecting and developing placement communities**
- 3. Pre-departure country / cultural orientation**

ARRIVAL AND THE FIRST FEW WEEKS

- 4. Arrival and Reception**
- 5. Early settlement and Social Support**
- 6. Income Support and Establishment Resources**
- 7. Orientation Programmes and Processes**
- 8. Resources development of Orientation Programmes**
- 9. Promoting access to language assistance**
- 10. Target language training and acquisition**
- 11. A healthy start: access to health care**

CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE RECEIVING COMMUNITY

- 12. Building social support for newly arrived refugees in the receiving community**
- 13. Promoting welcoming and hospitable communities**

MOVE ON / TRANSITIONING TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

- 14. Building bridges to economic self-sufficiency**
- 15. Access to secure and affordable housing**
- 16. Planning for optimal mental health**

RESETTLEMENT OF PARTICULAR GROUPS OF REFUGEES

- 17. Taking account of gender**
- 18. Refugee children and young people**
- 19. Refugee elders**

OTHER

SUMMARY OF NEEDS AND INTEREST IN CAPACITY BUILDING

RESETTLEMENT COUNTRY PROGRAMMES (Under construction)

- i. Australia**
- ii. Benin**
- iii. Brazil**
- iv. Canada**
- v. Chile**
- vi. Denmark**

- vii. Finland
- viii. Ireland
- ix. Netherlands
- x. Norway
- xi. Sweden
- xii. United Kingdom
- xiii. United States (NGO contribution)

The summary of needs provides a quick reference by country and by subject area. Matching needs with opportunities may be achieved through a facilitator or by a user review of the Inventory under each subject heading to explore possible offers, good practices and contact information for follow-up.

It is hoped that the Inventory will continue to be maintained and updated as a useful, dynamic resource for resettlement countries and those considering the development of resettlement programmes. See draft recommendations.

See Attachment: Sample of Inventory content

The Newsletter

A short newsletter providing an overview and updates on the work of the project was distributed in early March to resettlement partners via the ATC NGO list and the Working Group on Resettlement. A similar initiative could form the basis for a regular communication between partners in integration as part of the ongoing activities of the ATC via a website, a listserv or an email listing.

Next Steps

The project will complete the Inventory.

Following discussion at this ATC on the draft recommendations and future opportunities, a full report will be provided to resettlement partners in early September 2004.

ATC partners are encouraged to use the Inventory as a tool to facilitate exchanges and information sharing opportunities on specific aspects of their resettlement programme capacity building.

Draft Recommendations

Draft Recommendations for future activities in supporting the integration of resettled refugees are presented separately for discussion purposes.

Attachments:

1. Excerpts from the Inventory on Opportunities and Needs in Supporting the Integration of Resettled Refugees:
 - Title Page and Table of Contents
 - Introduction
 - Pre-Departure Country / Cultural Orientation
 - Building Bridges to Economic Self-Sufficiency
 - Inventory of Needs and Interests in Capacity Building
2. Draft Recommendations for Discussion Purposes