

Identification of Refugees and Referrals for Resettlement

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About Refugee Consortium of Kenya(RCK)

RCK is a NNGO that works to promote and protect the rights and dignity of refugees, IDPs and other forced migrants in Kenya and within the Horn, and Great Lakes Region.

Core Programmes

Legal and Social Justice (LSJ) – legal counselling; representation in courts of law; legal representation in RSD process; psychosocial counselling & community based protection monitoring

Advocacy and Policy Development– Policy influence; capacity enhancement of state and non-state actors; protection monitoring along transit routes

Communication, Research and Monitoring – conduct research on topical issues and documentation of emerging protection concerns

Criteria for Selection

❑ RCK became involved in referrals for resettlement to UNHCR in 2011.

❑ Criteria

- ❑ Legal and physical protection needs
- ❑ Survivors of violence/Sexual and Gender Based Violence
- ❑ Survivors of torture
- ❑ Family reunification,
- ❑ Women and girls at risk
- ❑ Children and adolescents at risk

Cases Profiled and Referred by RCK

- ❑ 2011 – 84 referrals (Ethiopia- 75%, Somali- 14%, Eritrea- 6%, and Sudanese & Congo- 5%)
- ❑ 2012 -71 Referrals (Ethiopia- 49%, Somali- 30%, Congo- 15%, and Sudan, Eritrea & Burundi- 6%)
- ❑ 2013 - 159 referrals (Ethiopia- 53%, Somali- 19%, Congo- 22%, and Eritrea, Sudan, Burundi & Rwanda- 6%)
- ❑ 2014 -170 referrals (Ethiopia- 64%, Somali- 29%, and Sudan, South Sudan, Rwanda, Eritrea & Burundi- 7%)

Challenges Faced

- ❑ Cases of clients falsifying information to fit a particular profile which they have heard has resulted in the resettlement of a refugee.
- ❑ The prolonged rigors of resettlement lead to very frustrated clients who believe that since RCK is the organization that carried out their security interview, RCK has the final word as to whether a client is resettled or not.
- ❑ How to manage client expectations as most clients have the impression that once they have been interviewed for security concerns that they are automatically eligible for resettlement.

Best Practices

- ❑ Taking due diligence in obtaining information about the country of origin so as to verify client information.
- ❑ Ensuring that the procedure of resettlement is explained to the clients from the onset so as to assist in managing the expectations of the clients.
- ❑ Standardized criteria for flagging of cases that are in dire need of durable solutions.
- ❑ Ensure constant communication between partners for purposes of tracking the various stages at which a particular case is at.

Recommendations and Suggestions

- ❑ UNHCR to open up dialogue with member states of the UN to advocate for more countries to take up resettlement of refugees.
- ❑ Fast tracking the resettlement process so as to reduce the time taken to process the resettlement.
- ❑ Identifying partners should be vigilante so to identify cases of fraud.
- ❑ Sensitize clients on the repercussions of providing false information.
- ❑ Incorporate more partner agencies in identification and referrals
- ❑ UNHCR to continue offering continuous trainings on resettlement to staff of partner agencies for purposes of keeping up with the emerging and changing trends in resettlements

Thank You