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GLOBAL ACTION PLAN

FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THREE-YEAR STRATEGY (2019-2021)
ON RESETTLEMENT AND COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS

Updated as of May 2020

1. INTRODUCTION

[The Three-Year Strategy \(2019-2021\) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways](#) (hereafter the Strategy), mandated by the Global Compact on Refugees and launched in July 2019, includes the development of a Global Action Plan to define priorities and sequencing of implementation steps to 2021. The Strategy has the following three goals:

- 1) grow Resettlement;
- 2) advance Complementary Pathways; and
- 3) build the foundation through promoting welcoming and inclusive societies.

The Global Action Plan seeks to catalyse partnerships toward these goals, with flexible leadership roles that leverage expertise, networks and resources. It seeks to be well-coordinated yet nimble, to achieve both early results and sustainable longer-term outcomes for each of the three goals.

The [Sustainable Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Initiative \(CRISP\)](#), undertaken jointly by IOM and UNHCR is the essential tool to support the expansion of third-country solutions. Partnerships engaging the private sector, employers, civil society, the education sector, and sub-national levels of government need to be systematically strengthened, both to increase capacity and to improve integration and community support.

The Global Action Plan is envisaged as a living document, subject to revision in response to relevant developments in order to maximise the potential of the Strategy. All aspects of the Global Action Plan will continue to be the subject of consultation with partners, to take advantage of all opportunities and contributions.

2. CONTEXT

The vision behind the Strategy is of an incremental process with clear 10-year objectives: by the end of 2028, 1 million refugees will have departed on Resettlement to 50 Resettlement countries following UNHCR submissions, and 2 million refugees will have been admitted through Complementary Pathways.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 has been having an unprecedented impact on all countries. As several countries reduced or blocked entry into their territories and restrictions around international air travel were introduced, travel arrangements for resettling refugees were also subject to severe disruptions. Departures are expected to resume as soon as the situation permits; until then, Resettlement and Complementary Pathways programs continue to operate to the extent possible. Where feasible, new methods such as remote interviews via video link, will be used.

The work of the Strategy does not stop during the current crisis. It continues, even if on modified timelines and priorities, to create the multi-stakeholder partnerships and communities of practice to expand Resettlement, open and grow community sponsorship programs, expand access to Complementary Pathways and, especially, to build welcoming communities at a time of closing borders, shuttered travel and profound unease.

The Global Action Plan reflects stakeholders' prioritized actions as presented prior to the COVID-19 situation. Adjustments will be made as the impacts become clearer, likely in the second half of 2020.

3. STRATEGIC APPROACHES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

The Strategy aims to expand the scope and size of Resettlement and Complementary Pathways, including the base of actors engaged in such programmes, while maximizing the protection impact and quality of the programmes. The activities reflect and rely on the cross-cutting approaches recommended by the Strategy, as follows.

Advocacy

Based on the annual overview of global resettlement needs (PGRN) issued by UNHCR, advocacy will call for alignment of Resettlement States' quotas, including unallocated and emergency quotas, with broader protection and solutions strategies.

Advocacy for the expansion of Resettlement and Complementary Pathways and the enhancement of programmes' quality will be carried out by multiple actors, including Champion States, at the national, regional and global level.

Advocacy and fundraising with the Private Sector will contribute to the growth of Resettlement and Complementary Pathways programmes, for example through the funding of additional caseworker capacity.



Multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approaches

Re-thinking the architecture of the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR) will adapt the consultations to the whole-of-society approach and multi-stakeholder partnerships called for in the Global Compact for Refugees and in the Strategy. Feedback from NGOs, civil society and refugees will inform the dialogue around quality Resettlement and Complementary Pathways programmes, on the Strategy and on third country solutions in general.

The Priority Situations Core Group (PSCG) will continue to coordinate, enhance and promote resettlement programs in the context of priority situations and to respond to current challenges.

While the Working Group on Resettlement will remain the primary forum for discussing policy and advocacy issues, the Integrity Working Group will also continue to offer an opportunity to share information and best practices on integrity and anti-fraud matters and contribute to the promotion and enhancement of integrity in Resettlement and Complementary Pathways programmes.

A dedicated Working Group on Complementary Pathways will be established to develop overall standards and monitor implementation against the goals of the Strategy. In addition, and crucially, individual Taskforces will focus on advocacy and catalysing partnerships, setting sector-specific standards, piloting and/or implementing new programmes, monitoring implementation, strengthening integrity and providing capacity building.

Regional thematic roundtables on Complementary Pathways will be organized, such as the Regional Conference on Higher Education Pathways and the Roundtable on Labour Mobility in the Asia-Pacific, to share information and best practices and advocate for the expansion and replication of successful programmes.

Support will be given to solidify and expand existing multi-partner Complementary Pathways projects.



Meaningful refugee participation

As agreed at the Working Group on Resettlement meeting held in Ottawa in February 2020, all stakeholders carry the responsibility to make meaningful refugee participation a permanent part of the ATCR. UNHCR and the NGO Co-chair, CCR, are working directly with refugees on ways to bring refugees' presence and voice closer to the consultations.

A concept note on meaningful refugee participation will be presented at the 2020 ATCR. The document, developed in coordination with refugees, is a roadmap to systematic, principled and consistent engagement of refugees in ATCR and other Resettlement and Complementary Pathways *fora*.

In order to enable refugees to voice their opinions refugee feedback tools will be included in Monitoring and Evaluation systems for several Resettlement programmes. Initiatives such as the Refugee Voices project in the UK increase the opportunities for refugees to self-advocate and make use of refugee feedback to improve programs.



Capacity building

New training materials will be rolled out on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways through the CRISP in the second half of 2020. The training materials will also focus on integration of resettled refugees. An update of the UNHCR *International Handbook to Guide Reception and Integration for Resettled Refugees* will be issued in the first half of 2020.

The CRISP and a range of different actors will work to strengthen the capacity of integration practitioners, for example on the provision of post-arrival cultural orientation and the engagement of receiving communities, including through training, twinning, study visits, peer-to-peer exchanges.

Efforts will include community-based and private sponsorship, including to smaller municipalities and local actors, during the design, development, and implementation stages of new programs, but also post-implementation to improve sustainability and upscaling. The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI) will continue to cultivate its network, deepening and sharing expertise, amplifying advocacy and contribute to the building of welcoming societies.

Research projects and communities of practice will provide evidence-based policy guidance on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways, including on the design of effective Monitoring and Evaluation systems, pre-departure orientation programmes, refugee sponsorship initiatives, etc.

Resettlement and Complementary Pathways deployees with technical expertise on specific sectors will be empowered to provide training to UNHCR, government, and partner staff in hosting operations.



Data and evidence

The CRISP-funded global mapping will be launched in the first half of 2020. The purpose of this exercise will be to identify and assess where there is scope for potential growth of *existing, new and emerging* resettlement programmes and complementary pathways initiatives.

Research will be carried out to consolidate and deepen knowledge around different aspects of integration, for example on social cohesion and refugee integration in rural communities, on the impact of government-led Resettlement programmes across receiving countries in different regions, etc.

The 2019 edition of the UNHCR-OECD Safe Pathways for Refugees report will provide updated data and information on refugees' access to Complementary Pathways covering the period 2010-2019.

Specific work will be done on indicators on integration, which will be developed and tested and continue to be improved.



Innovation

The 2019 Global Virtual Summit conclusions and recommendations on digital identity for refugees and its role in enabling the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees will be implemented.

Case identification for Resettlement and Complementary Pathways will be enhanced through *ProGres* v4 (UNHCR's tool for registration and case management). The safe and secure sharing of data will be strengthened with data sharing agreements with resettlement states and partners in accordance with the highest standards of data protection.

An effective external database of UNHCR-verified information on Complementary Pathways will be developed, for refugees to access reliable information on the available opportunities.

4. REPORTING ON PROGRESS

The list of actions and implementation steps identifies priority actions and their proposed timing. Progress on the implementation of the Strategy will be measured through key milestones, including on a yearly basis at the ATCR at the end of the initial three-year period in 2021, and at the second Global Refugee Forum in 2023. Each activity included in the Plan will be reported against the related expected outcomes.