

NGO – UNHCR Pre-Excom Consultations

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UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

Re-visiting the doctrinal hierarchy of durable solutions for refugees

- Facilitation/Promotion of Voluntary Repatriation : the «first & best» solution for all?
- Facilitation/Promotion of Local Integration : has not been, is not and will not be available in many operations
- Using Resettlement: often the only solution in protracted situations, whether/how to use it?
- The risk of imposing solutions on refugees

Re-visiting and expanding the objectives of resettlement



- To quickly save/rescue individuals/families facing acute protection needs
- To address major protection problems such as preventing the military recruitment of refugees, sexual gender-based violence, secondary movements, prolonged detention...
- As an element of burden/responsibility-sharing

Objectives (II)

- To create protection dividends for refugees who will not be resettled from countries of « first asylum».
- To build stronger asylum systems in particular integration/reception scheme in emerging resettlement countries.
- To activate this durable solution in absence, in parallel with another durable solution or «to unlock» another durable solution.

Key Numbers

54, 182

2006 referrals

29, 560

2006 departures

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- Estimated Needs in **2007**: 77,100
 - Estimated Needs in **2008**: 154,701
 - UNHCR estimated capacity: 59,208
 - RST countries' capacity: 82,730

Bridging the gap between the capacity of resettlement countries and UNHCR processing capacity



- Simplified/streamlined referrals
- Integrate durable solutions planning into registration activities
- Further develop the use of group methodology
- Involve partners in identification activities
- Mainstream and increase resources for resettlement activities

Why do we need additional resettlement countries?

- The needs, as identified by UNHCR and its partners, will keep increasing.
- Our referrals will soon exceed the current capacity of existing resettlement States
- To ensure a larger burden-sharing and use in a more effective manner of the potential of reception, integration and solidarity in many countries

Developing with NGO a common advocacy platform for resettlement



- Why? Need for partnership, the role of the civil society, volunteers, private sponsorship programmes...
- How? Use the ATC forum and the Canadian NGO focal point and other initiatives.

Contents of the Platform...Food for Thought...



- Reaffirm the protection/durable solutions nature of resettlement, as opposed to a migration programme
- Advocate for a non-discriminatory approach resettlement and work towards a gradual withdrawal of all “supplementary criteria”
- Promote resettlement as a necessary component of any asylum system and a humanitarian act
- Advocate for predictability in resettlement programmes as a “shared responsibility”

...Continued...

- Generating public support as another shared responsibility
- Promote the integration of resettlement in public social programmes
- Advocate for sustainable public funding for the development of resettlement activities and develop partnership with private economic actors
- Promote partnership between central and local authorities and interaction with civil society stakeholders

Addressing together recurrent negative attitudes towards RST

- Pull-factor
- Create security problems
- Contribute to secondary movements
- Lead to fraud/exploitation
- Cannot be used in parallel to other durable solutions, nor for residual caseloads
- Costly
- Split families
- Lead to unreasonable expectations from refugees
- Will upset country of origin
- Contribute to “brain drain”
- The risk of “strategic abuse”

Beyond joint - advocacy

- Engaging in long-term partnerships to identify refugees in need of resettlement and document their case
- Getting implementing partners to use protection referral forms in their work
- Avoid parallel referral systems

Progress made

- More partnership at field level
- North-South, South-North, South-South and West-East “twinning arrangements”
- Access to ICMC deployment scheme
- Access to resettlement training
- Access to regional resettlement strategic planning meetings, WG on resettlement

**Thank you for your efforts to
promote the use of resettlement**

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