

Linking selection to reception and integration of resettled refugees in Europe

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Something about ICMC and Resettlement

Past:

- Processed 700,000 refugees since its creation in 1951

Present:

- ICMC(OPE) Turkey processes refugees to USA and provides CO (2,600 Iraqi refugees in 2008-2009)
- ICMC / UNHCR Deployment Scheme (active French participation)
- Identification of vulnerable cases: Jordan
- Advocacy through Brussels, Geneva and Washington offices



ICMC Europe: 'Welcome to Europe'

- I. European Resettlement is growing : need for continuous monitoring new info.
- II. Better understanding of resettlement process- roles UNHCR-Govt-IOM-NGOs
- III. Need to reflect on European Resettlement Programmes, identify (best) practices

IOM, UNHCR, ICMC

ERF Project:

Practical Cooperation for an EU Resettlement Scheme (1)

- I. Experienced resettlement countries : Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom (Denmark).
- II. Countries that recently started resettlement: Belgium, France, Portugal, Romania
- III. Countries considering to engage in resettlement; Hungary, Poland, Slovakia
- IV. In each country: Govt- UNHCR-IOM-NGO
- V. For France: 2 NGO partners: Forum réfugiés/
France Terre d'Asile

IOM UNHCR ICMC Programme: Practical Cooperation for an EU Resettlement Scheme (2)

- I. Emergency Transit Facility (ETC) in Romania as a pilot for EU cooperation
- II. Joint selection missions / cooperation in medical screening, transport
- III. Improving coordination mechanisms among national stakeholders
- IV. Improving responses to reception and integration needs - particularly at local levels



**UPDATE
ON
EU RESETTLEMENT
2008-2009**

European Quotas

COUNTRY	CZ	DK	FI	FR	IR	NL	PT	SE	UK	Total Europe
Quota 2008	35	500	750	100+ *600	200	500	30	1900	500	5 115
Quota 2009	35	500	750	100 + *600	NA	500	30	1900	750	5 165

*Flexible Quotas: DK 1 500 (3 yrs), NL 2 000 (4yrs)

*FR special Iraqi programme 1 200 total for 2008 & 2009)

Iraqi Resettlement in Europe ad-hoc programmes

Resettlement Country	BE	FR	DE	IT	LU	Total
Quota 2008	-	600	2 500	-	-	3 948
Quota 2009	50	600	Quota cont.	170	28	

Considerations for countries when establishing a resettlement programme

- I. Quotas and selection criteria
- II. Dossier and selection missions
- III. Special vulnerable groups: model to ensure flexibility
- IV. Consideration of reception and integration needs throughout :
- V. Involvement NGOs, local authorities and refugees
- VI. Mobilization of host communities/public opinion

Selection: dossiers or selection mission

- Most cases are selected on selection missions
3-4 missions a year
- Dossiers by DK (1/5th: 100), Sweden (800), , Finland (1/5th 100), Ireland (40), Netherlands (1/5th: 100).
 - Emergency /Medical cases
 - Sweden – best practice in dossiers

Linking reception to selection

- 1- UNHCR provides information on the resettlement case in the Resettlement Referral Form (RRF)
- 2 - Agencies participate in selection missions to allow for more detailed mapping of special needs
- 3- Pre-departure Cultural Orientation to manage expectations of refugees or receiving communities
- 4- Assessment of the conditions of reception and integration (Finland, UK)
- 5- Availability of housing often a precondition for placement

Misunderstandings

- Selection should focus on protection needs
- Impossible/Undesirable to assess integration 'potential'
- Human resilience, individual resourcefulness and coping strategies, support structures offered

Reception and Integration: models in Europe

1. Centralised Reception: IR, NL and PT
2. Direct Placement or resettled refugees in Municipality
 - A. mainstream services for resettled refugees (DK, Finland, Sweden)
 - B. specialised services for resettled refugees (UK)

Centralised Reception - Netherlands

- Up to 3 months introduction programme (language, culture) – responding to medical needs
- Only for resettled refugees – no mixing with asylum seekers
- Groups 20 – 30 persons of same ethnic background to build mutual support structures
- NGO support provided through Vluchtelingen Werk
- COA then looks for permanent accommodation in municipalities

Mainstream approach: immediate reception in municipalities (DK, Finland, Sweden)

- Municipalities involved in reception, integration or resettled refugees: obligatory or voluntary
- Geographical distribution: mostly outside large cities
- Available housing important factor
- Integration programs : 1 to 3 years
- Personalised integration programs recommended : different actors/tailor made
- Funding allocations /NGO involvement vary

Specialised Resettlement services at the Municipal Level : UK experience

- 12 months financial support and integration support through Gateway Programme – contracts with service providers (NGOs ao)
- Special consideration vulnerable cases
- Support services provider: home visits, drop in centers, group sessions, housing support, access to benefits system
- Monitoring results: feed back to national level GPP Steering Group (RIAP – UNHCR – other Govt department services)

Recommendations for integration

Need for 'bottom up' approach to promote quality resettlement:

- Expansion of quota depends on whether local levels can provide adequate reception/integration.
- Develop local initiatives to receive resettled refugees (churches, cities, other partnerships)
- Consider 'sponsorship programmes'
- Establish multi-stakeholder coordination and exchange
- Use ERF to fund local programmes
- Involve media to explain resettlement/ build support
- Involve refugee groups in service development/ provision/community building.