

Notes for presentation by:

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### **Input Community Sponsorship Workshop**

- Germany active in CSP since 2019 with program “NesT – New Start as a team”
- The pilot has aim of 500 add. admissions in piloting phase – still running
- Will become a regular program with 200 admission slots/year in 2023
  
- NesT developed in close cooperation state / civil society
- On the public side, it is managed by
  - Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community
  - Federal Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration
  - Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
- Supported by a Civil Society Contact Office run by
  - Caritas
  - German Red Cross
  - Evangelic Church of Westphalia
- NesT refugees are supported financially and through integration support by mentors in GER.
- Participation requirements have been reduced to make program more attractive
- Used to be 2 years of rent financing – now one year as well as one year mentoring/ integration support
- Also now four mentors can form a sponsoring team, before at least five were required.
  
- NesT refugees are accepted through our Resettlement Program. They can decide whether they want to participate in NesT or in regular resettlement.
- **So, in GER case, the role of the government in CSP – manage the regular resettlement program and provide enabling conditions for CSP**
- Germany is offering up to 6.000 places for Resettlement and Humanitarian admissions in 2022, a slight increase from last year when we targeted 5.500 (incl. NesT). The coalition agreement in foresees a strengthening of resettlement in general.
- We resettle from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Kenya and Libya (through UNHCR evacuation mechanism from Niger)
- Legal basis: Section 23 (4) of the Residence Act
- This means that resettlement refugees are treated approximately to refugees under the Geneva Convention, they receive three-year-residence permit, which can be extended; they can also apply for a settlement permit after 3 years. They have access to social aid and can work.
- The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees supports the selection of the refugees for NesT; they are also vetted by our security institutions. The Federal Office is also responsible for matching mentors and refugees in NesT based e.g. on housing capacity

- We see CSP as a valuable addition to our humanitarian admission programs and possibility for civil society to get directly involved.
- As I said, I believe the role of government lies in providing enabling conditions for refugees to be admitted to a third country and for civil society to get involved.
- Government need to guarantee program organization, visa proceeding, security checks, initial support.
- But, when refugees arrive in host society, there are many possibilities and necessities for civil society to get involved and support reception and integration.
- Current situations shows us that the role of civil society is paramount and destined to grow.
- Also when government is willing to strengthen humanitarian admission, such as in GER case, other necessities (accepting Ukrainian refugees, rising asylum numbers) might signify that the initial goal is not reachable – at least not without the involvement (practically and financially) of the civil society.
- The key factor is housing. There are other countries, which have stopped humanitarian admission altogether because housing is not available. Although such drastic measures are not discussed in GER, we also see that housing becomes extremely scarce and that different programs compete over scarce housing.
- Civil society cannot solve the housing problem, yet we see that sponsors are often more flexible and able to secure housing even under difficult circumstances as they can rely on network of private contacts
- Also, housing refugees as early as possible in private accommodation is paramount for integration. In general, the one-on-one support sponsorship programs provide for the refugees helps their integration greatly and is another central argument why these programs should be continued and extended.
- Government task is to better enable these programs and reduce barriers for participation.