

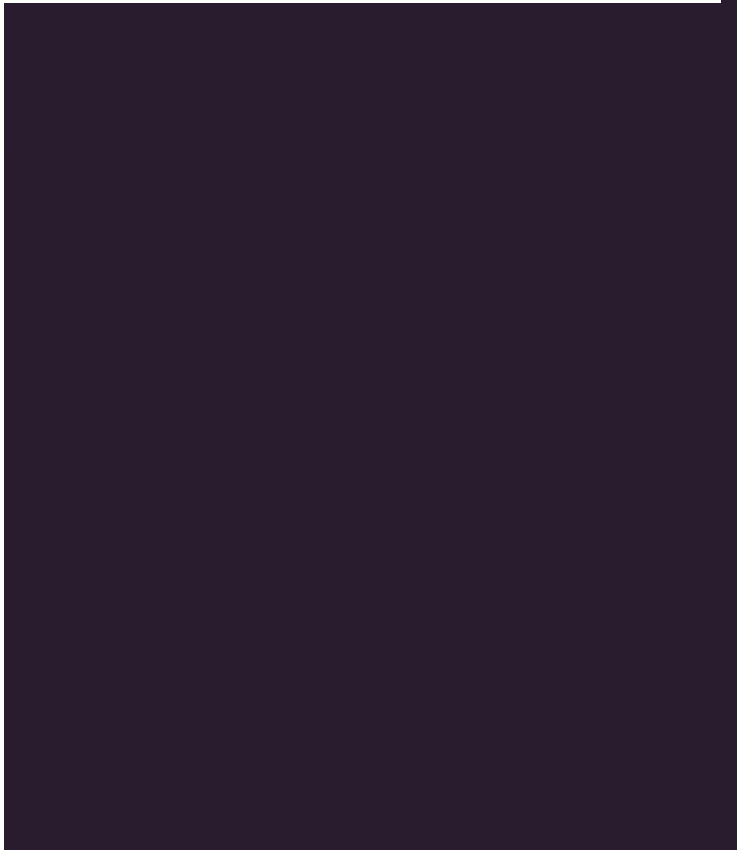


The ATRC / WGR

NEWSLETTER

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Letter from the Chair

Welcome to the final newsletter under the U.S. Chair. We have spent a productive and rewarding year working with UNHCR, other member governments, and NGO partners, but it is not quite over. At the beginning of the year we set lofty goals, including to expand the number of resettlement places for refugees, promote additional strategic use of resettlement, and improve the quality of integration outcomes in resettlement countries. We hope the collaboration we helped foster among the tripartite assembly of resettlement partners has advanced some of these goals, but we are cognizant that much more remains to be done.

As resettlement countries, we have not yet done enough to expand the number of resettlement slots for vulnerable refugees. Some countries stepped up by agreeing to resettle refugees for the first time, but understandably their resettlement commitments remain small. We are asking that experienced countries step forward between now and the ATCR to offer twinning and other capacity-building support so these countries may expand their programs in both the number of resettlement places offered as well as strengthening the quality of their programs. Experienced resettlement countries, with the notable exception of Canada and Norway, have not yet announced new resettlement places. To this end we again call for a serious look at what ATCR member governments can do to increase resettlement places. UNHCR's call for new places to respond to the Libya crisis is still pending a response by many governments and remains a very real problem in need of a humanitarian solution. At the ATCR we will again have opportunities to work on the strategic use of resettlement and the quality of integration for resettled refugees. I am sure these will be topics we will continue to discuss in the coming months and years as we strive to leverage resettlement spaces as a way to expand protection space for refugees who cannot be resettled and as we look to improve resettlement outcomes within our own countries of resettlement.

In this vein, we hope this issue will provide additional information and stimulation upon which you can expand and enhance your programs. This issue includes a brief on the situation in Libya, an exposé on an alarming facet of the Eritrean refugee situation, and an analysis of Somali and Bhutanese integration. We introduce Johannes van der Klaauw, the new Senior Resettlement Coordinator in the Division of International Protection at UNHCR Headquarters. We also highlight the accomplishments of a former refugee and take a look at the process of professional recertification in the U.S.

The ATCR meeting is scheduled for July 4-6 in Geneva. We will tackle important resettlement issues, with a particular focus on priority refugee situations, improved integration outcomes, and the expansion of the resettlement community's capacity. If you haven't sent in your Tour de Table request for information, please do so. Please note that registrations were due on June 15. We will be sending an updated agenda soon. We look forward to working together to further the strong collaboration among resettlement partners and to a productive ATCR.

We'll see you in Geneva very soon.



Larry Bartlett, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

U.S. Department of State



Johannes van der Klaauw, new Senior Resettlement Coordinator in the Division of International Protection
Photo by UNHCR

Johannes van der Klaauw

After a couple of assignments in the deep and not-so-deep field, lately in Morocco and Iran, I have taken up a new challenge to coordinate the operational aspects of our global resettlement program. My new functions bring me in regular contact both with UNHCR colleagues in the field and with governmental counterparts and NGO partners in resettlement countries. If there is one thing which I have promised myself in my new assignment it is to give due attention to the needs and aspirations of our colleagues and partners involved in each of the stages of the resettlement process outside Headquarters, working in search of a - sometimes immediate - solution for vulnerable refugees. For me, working in resettlement is a matter of forging partnerships in order to maintain, and if possible, increase places for resettlement, ensure that identification and referral of cases responds to needs, and make the integration process at the receiving end a success. Resettlement is an area where we can contribute, jointly and very concretely, to much needed fundamental changes in the lives of those refugees most in need. Whereas my operational experience with resettlement has been limited to urban contexts (Morocco) and protracted policy and strategic dimensions of resettlement as

situations (Iran) I have also been involved in the policy and strategic dimensions of resettlement as protection tool, a durable solution and a burden-sharing mechanism. During my tenure in UNHCR Brussels I was privy to the first discussions around the establishment of a common European resettlement scheme.

Whether we are capable of maintaining the curve towards increasing numbers of referrals and departures of the last years remains to be seen. UNHCR is in the process of analyzing current statistics and trends which, for the first time in five years, show a decrease in referrals from operations mainly in Africa and the Middle East, although they are still higher than in 2008. Various reassuring explanations can be given to these developments - it seems among the main obstacles to further growth are the "overheated" pipelines some resettlement countries are confronted with as a result of a continuous stream of referrals. Other resettlement countries face increasing difficulties identifying appropriate accommodation and services for refugees prior to accepting their arrival. Furthermore, the security dimension of resettling refugees, notably from the Horn of Africa, poses increasing challenges for resettlement countries.

Having said this, the Service will redouble its efforts to maintain if not increase the available places in resettlement countries given the total multi-year global needs of more than 800,000 individual resettlement places (172,000 for 2011 only). This, we hope, can be achieved by inter alia supporting the developing capacities of emerging resettlement countries in Central and Southern Europe and in Latin America. These countries face a number of challenges in integrating resettled refugees, and they can benefit from more interaction with traditional resettlement countries in regards to the sharing of good practices and in the implement various models and mechanisms. There seems to be a lot of information available in this domain - yet it is insufficiently documented and analyzed with a view to developing best practices.

We have no choice than to continue to focus our joint efforts on using resettlement to unlock protracted refugee situations and use resettlement strategically in identified priority situations.

“We can contribute jointly and very concretely, to much needed fundamental changes in the lives of those refugees most in need.”

An example is the ongoing work undertaken by the Contact Group on Iran – an operation which has my particular attention not least since I used to serve there – another one the upcoming activity in Eastern Sudan. UNHCR’s approach to finding solutions for refugee caseloads in urban settings also puts us for new challenges as I have personally witnessed having served in the MENA region. As we all know, one of the challenges in making strategic use of resettlement is whether it can truly support enlarging protection space and creating protection dividends to improve the legal security and socio-economic well-being of the remaining refugee caseload. The jury is still out on this one, with so many influential external factors playing a role here. Ultimately, we are faced with the task to implement resettlement as part of comprehensive regional strategies to find solutions for refugee populations.

Like Wei-Meng, participation in last year’s Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement has been a great opportunity for me to get acquainted with current political and operational challenges in resettlement. Exposure to the discussions at the ATCR has brought me in contact with the main actors working in so many different corners of the world. I was inspired and motivated by the various contributions and was pleased to see that in-house, the Resettlement Service plays an increasingly important role in deepening the cooperation with various divisions and departments, in particular the Regional Bureaux.

It is my sincere desire that the Resettlement Service will preserve and further build upon the expertise and capacity as well as the momentum acquired during the tenure of the previous manage-

ment. The best tribute I can pay to my predecessor Jennifer is to take further her and the team’s outstanding contribution to the Service. I shall do my utmost to ensure continuous commitment and quality output of the Service, as well as fluid cooperation with UNHCR colleagues in the field and with counterparts and partners in resettlement countries. Jointly we can continue making the difference in the lives of so many refugees who need our support and intervention.

The Global Resettlement Solidarity Initiative for refugees ex-Libya: much progress made, but more still to be done



A mother and child rescued at sea when their boat sank in the Mediterranean.

© UNHCR / F. Noy

In February 2011, anti-government protests erupted in Libya and soon turned violent. The conflict has since increased and triggered a massive outflow of people to neighboring countries, especially Tunisia to the west and Egypt to the east. By late March, some 32,000 people had fled from Libya, mostly migrant workers from Egypt and Tunisia, but including many more nationalities.

Even as UNHCR and its partners stepped up the humanitarian response - UNHCR provided support for massive humanitarian evacuations with IOM to help hundreds of thousands of migrants and others to return home, building camps and bringing aid - it soon became clear that, for some of these individuals, there would be no going home and no going back to Libya.

Prior to the outbreak of violence, UNHCR Libya had registered some 8,000 refugees and 3,000 asylum-seekers originating from countries such as Somalia, Eritrea, Iraq, Sudan, as well as Palestinian Refugees; some had spent months in detention in Libya. Several hundred refugees had been in the resettlement pipeline, with cases under consideration by resettlement countries or in preparation; others had been accepted, but had not received exit permission from the Libyan Authorities.

After violent displacement and an often harrowing journey to the border, where many of sub-Saharan origin felt targeted as supposed “mercenaries”, these and many others have found temporary refuge in camps along the Tunisia-Libya and Egypt-Libya borders. As of May 2011, UNHCR had identified some 1,400 of the 11,000 refugees and asylum-seekers previously registered in Libya who had made it to the borders of Tunisia and Egypt, where they form a proportion of the 3,800 individuals who are unwilling to return to countries such as Somalia, Eritrea, Iraq or Sudan.

As the governments of Egypt and Tunisia struggle to cope with this influx, which compounds the already delicate political situations in their respective countries, the protection and assistance extended to such individuals can clearly only be of a temporary nature, and the Tunisian and Egyptian governments have made it clear that these individuals cannot stay forever.

The situation in the camps bordering Libya remains dire, where the facilities are congested, at best rudimentary and over-stretched. Although the hospitality shown by the local communities has been admirable, it is rapidly wearing thin, and, in May, this resulted in violent clashes between the host community and refugees. The perception that no solution is forthcoming, combined with the severe conditions, has even moti-

“Without much needed additional pledges for resettlement, the majority will remain stranded in camps along the border, in harsh conditions and, for the majority, with no solution in sight.”



A Sudanese man wakes up after a cold night on the pavement outside the Salloum border post in the no-man's land between Libya and Egypt.

© UNHCR / F. Noy

vated some individuals to return to Libya in order to board boats bound for Europe. Some 1,200 individuals who boarded such boats never made it to Europe, and over 500 are confirmed dead.

While UNHCR is exploring all possible solutions, resettlement will remain a primary protection response for individuals who are unable to return safely to their countries of origin. More has to be done in terms of resettlement for the hundreds of individuals who have sought protection with UNHCR, and have been determined to be refugees following their flight from Libya.

On 2 March, UNHCR convened a meeting of resettlement States and other interested countries to explore resettlement as a durable solution for those who have no other solution available; this meeting



The three Ethiopian friends who survived more than two weeks adrift in the Mediterranean wander through Shousha Camp.

© UNHCR / H. Caux / May 11, 2011

was followed by further updates on 18 March, and on 20 April 2011, the launch of the Global Resettlement Solidarity Initiative. This Initiative called upon States to provide resettlement places as a protection and life-saving initiative, as a tangible demonstration of international solidarity and responsibility-sharing, and to ease the burden of Tunisia and Egypt, who disproportionately bear the brunt of this influx - particularly Egypt, which in addition has hosted tens of thousands - if not significantly more - refugees for decades.

Resettlement States have responded positively to this initiative, and 11 countries have demonstrated their solidarity by generously pledging over 900 places dedicated to resettlement for non-Libyan refugees in response to this crisis - not including an open number of cases which the United States of America has offered to consider. Almost a third of these places are in addition to annual resettlement programmes or represent an ad-hoc contribution, and UNHCR commends these efforts and urges others to follow suit.

However, these offers, generous though they are, fall far short of needs. As of the end of May, UNHCR has submitted some 800 refugees for resettlement, and 80 of those had departed to the Emergency Transit Centre in Romania for processing by resettlement countries and onward movement to their new destinations.

Although these individuals will now be able to rebuild a life in safety and dignity, resettlement benefits only a small proportion of the population of individuals who have nowhere to go.

Without much-needed additional pledges for resettlement, the majority will remain stranded in camps along the border, in harsh conditions and, for the majority, with no solution in sight.

Eritreans in Eastern Sudan: A Tripartite Opportunity to Use Resettlement Strategically

UNHCR has made the resolution of the protracted refugee situation (PRS) in eastern Sudan the focus of a number of key initiatives in recent years. In 2007, in conjunction with the Sudanese government's Commission for Refugees, it outlined a creative strategy to devise durable solutions for Eritrean refugees in eastern Sudan. Both initiatives focus on the strategic use of resettlement to leverage self-reliance and sustainable livelihood opportunities for those refugees who are not to be resettled, the vast majority of the total.

Keeping attention on eastern Sudan, UNHCR presented an alarming report about Eritrean refugees at the ATCR in 2009. The presentation highlighted several challenges to resolving the situation, among them the fact that the population of Eritrean refugees living in eastern Sudan is far from homogenous.

“It is estimated that of some 26,000 new arrivals registered in the camps in 2010, only 30% remained at the end of the year, while the rest are assumed to have been smuggled or even trafficked north. Of particular concern is that substantial numbers of unaccompanied minors fall into the 70% that disappeared from the camps and remain untraced.”



Young Eritrean girls at the Shagarab Craft Center

Photo by Mapendo International

Approximately 138,000 Eritrean refugees currently live in 12 camps in the Kassala district of eastern Sudan, with hundreds more arriving every month. The refugees fall roughly into two groups: long-stayers who fled decades ago during the war for independence, and more recent arrivals fleeing the ongoing repression in independent Eritrea.

Among the long-stayers, many have achieved substantial self-sufficiency and some among them have expressed a desire to remain in Sudan, but they are denied legal integration and permanent residency. As refugees, their social and economic rights are curtailed, including freedom of movement and religion, and access to employment, education and health care. After spending up to 50 years in exile and raising multiple generations in the camps, these refugees make up one of the most protracted refugee populations in the world.

The second group of more recent arrivals is dominated by youth fleeing forced conscription and seeking a life of safety and dignity. For them, the camps in Sudan are increasingly a transit point on their way to Khartoum, Libya, Egypt, Israel and Europe. It is estimated that of some 26,000 new arrivals registered in the camps in 2010, only 30% remained at the end of the year, while the rest are assumed to have been smuggled or even trafficked north. Of particular concern is that substantial numbers of unaccompanied minors fall into the 70% that “disappeared” from the camps and remain untraced.

Recognizing that there are these two very distinct populations of Eritrean refugees living in eastern Sudan, UNHCR has stressed that ‘solutions should not only be targeted at the protracted refugee population, but simultaneously there must also be a greater focus on meeting the protection and solutions needs of at least the most vulnerable among the new refugee population.’*¹

Having deployed three Resettlement Experts to Sudan to support UNHCR’s efforts, Mapendo International has participated in the challenging work of crafting a system to assess what is the most appropriate durable solution for each refugee or refugee group, and in particular which are identified for resettlement.

Mapendo deployed its first Resettlement Expert to eastern Sudan in February of 2010. Tasked with helping to develop guidelines for the identification of vulnerable cases from among the new arrivals, she noticed the worrying trend of youths disappearing from the camps shortly after registration. Early this year, she transitioned from a resettlement focus to a trafficking and smuggling focus, working with UNHCR to gain a better grasp of the nature and scope of the phenomenon and strategizing with other migration and human rights actors to help address it.



Eritrean mother and daughter celebrating International Women's Day 2010 in Wad Sherife camp

Photo by Mapendo International

Situated as it is near the volatile borders of Eritrea and Ethiopia, and lying along major travel routes linking Sub-Saharan Africa with northern Africa and beyond, the Kassala region is currently a microcosm of some of the most vexing issues in migration: a protracted refugee situation, decades-long waves of mixed migratory flows, trafficking and smuggling, deprivation of socioeconomic rights, integration and self-reliance attempts, and a population of refugees whose protection needs are as diverse as their ethnicity, religion and motivation for flight.

The joint solutions strategy first put forward in 2007 is gaining new momentum in 2011, with efforts to strategically link plans for enhanced resettlement with leveraging broader rights and livelihood opportunities for the majority that are expected to remain indefinitely in Sudan. The High Commissioner's Initiative recognizes that the success of any comprehensive program to resolve a protracted refugee situation requires the full participation of not only UNHCR but governments and NGOs. The same will no doubt be true of the complex situation in eastern Sudan, and this year's ATRC provides a welcome opportunity for the tripartite partners to examine the complementary assets each can bring to resolving this PRS.

By Mapendo International

May 2011

Resettlement of Somali refugees: breaking the myth

Since the 1970s, the continuous conflict in Somalia has led more than a million people to seek refuge in safer parts of the country, while hundreds of thousands have fled to neighboring countries, mostly to Kenya. Most of these refugees are accommodated in camps around Dadaab (north-eastern Kenya). Created in 1991, the three Dadaab camps were initially designed to accommodate 90,000 people. Today the camp population stands at 346,738 persons. A total of 40,526 new arrivals were registered in Dadaab since the

beginning of 2011, and the flow continues unabated.*²

Somalia is currently considered to be one of the most insecure places in the world, facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. UNHCR expects the situation to remain volatile sustaining a continuous exodus of refugees to Kenya. The projected figures for 2011 are alarming: the number of Somalis in Kenya by end of 2011 is estimated to reach 516,000.*³

The living conditions in Dadaab have been and still are dramatic; overcrowding, constant food and water shortages, outbreaks of measles and cholera, and sexual and gender based violence affect old and new residents, even more so vulnerable groups such as women, children and the elderly.*⁴ The camps have also been struck many times by natural disasters such as floods and landslides. Security issues and ethnic tensions within the camps are also a major concern, and Dadaab residents compete with local Kenyans for resources and leading to increasing crime rates. The mass influx of refugees and the lack of durable solutions in the country for all these years make the situation of Somalis in Kenya one of the seven protracted situations in the world.

Resettlement as the only durable solution

Return to Somalia is currently impossible, and local integration in Kenya does not seem a viable option for many refugees either. UNHCR thus considers that resettlement remains the only protection tool for many long-staying refugees and others facing particular security threats.*⁵ The Agency also considers that resettlement of Somali refugees from Kenya should be used in a strategic way, so as to help unlock other durable solutions.*⁶

It is estimated that 85% of the 150,355 Somali refugees need resettlement are in Kenya. Only for the year 2011 this number stands at 17,686 persons.* However, in 2009 only 67.6% of all resettlement cases submitted for Somalis were accepted worldwide, and this percentage falls to 38% when it comes to Somali refugees specifically from Kenya. These figures place Somalia in the tenth place of all country of origin of resettled refugees, and the fourth in the list of countries of origin of people in need of resettlement*⁸ Somalis in Kenya were also the second priority among the seven protracted situations in the world, the first one being Burmese in Thailand.

“Return to Somalia is currently impossible, and logical integration in Kenya does not seem a viable option for many refugees either. UNHCR thus considers that resettlement remains the only protection tool for many long-staying refugees.”

European Member States have been particularly weak in responding to resettlement needs in general, and to the resettlement of Somalis in particular. Only 11 countries have national annual programmes, and they have contributed to only 8.4% of the global total number of resettlement places in 2009. Figures are even more alarming regarding the resettlement of Somalis: EU Member States accepted only 1.9% of all Somali cases submitted between 2007 and 2009. The EU-27 resettled 104 Somalis, which represents only 2.2% of the total of Somalis resettled by the US (4,170), Australia (317) and Norway (249).

The European Commission has been pushing for more resettlement through the Regional Protection Programmes (RPPs) and the proposal for a Joint EU Resettlement Programme.⁹ But for these schemes to work, EU Member States need to be more responsive. An evaluation of the first phase of RPP in the African Great Lakes Region showed that such a Programme was useful for the identification of individuals in need of resettlement, but that the Member States' response was too weak for the Programme to be really effective. Another RPP is now being implemented in the Horn of Africa (Kenya, Djibouti and Yemen), including a resettlement component. Member States response will be crucial in making this programme a success.

Are Somalis a difficult case to resettle?

Considering the importance of resettlement as a durable solution for Somali refugees from Kenya, the very low acceptance and resettlement rates are wor-

rying. For now, only Sweden and the UK have committed to regularly resettle Somalis. Other Member States tend to engage in a debate about the 'integration potential' of this ethnic group, or seem preoccupied with security issues and use these arguments as the reasons for the rejection of submissions made by Somalis.

There are indeed certain security concerns surrounding the Somali case. Somalia's conflict includes various armed groups some of which are Islamist insurgents. In addition, due to the lack of central administration, most Somalis have not been provided with identification documents from the authorities or have not been included in a national registry. It is often very difficult to undertake standard security checks and document verification, even more so when it comes to civilians fleeing violence, who are themselves the victims of terror.

Responding to these concerns, UNHCR undertakes to provide security screening and registration for the refugees. It is important to underline that only civilians can be refugees and a person who continues to pursue armed action, violence and terror once in the country of asylum, cannot be considered a refugee. UNHCR also welcomes responsible reporting on refugee and asylum issues.

There seems to be however generalised prejudices and public misconceptions about the Somalis and their possible relation to Islamic radicalism. The American documentary film “Welcome to Shelbyville”¹⁰ by Kim A. Snyder is a good example; almost everyone interviewed in this documentary seemed to be prejudiced against the Somalis. Yet, the Somali refugee communities have repeatedly and clearly distanced themselves from violence and terrorism. Hence, countries should not use the security argument as a way out of their international obligations for refugee protection. With appropriate and efficient security screenings, more Somalis should find their way to Europe, and they already do to the United States.

Regarding the 'integration potential' this has been largely debated as a criterion for resettlement among stakeholders. In this approach, the assessment of the resettlement case is based not only on protection needs but also on age, education, work experience

“The level of support provided to the refugees post-arrival may be as significant in determining resettlement outcomes as any other quality, circumstance or credential.”

and language skills. These criteria, however, are hard to meet for displaced persons that were born in camps or who have been living there for a long time. Resettling governments argue in favour, claiming that reception and integration services can be better organised and that integration will be easier. Denmark has also adopted this in its legislation. Successful integration, however, is a two way process. Resettled refugees will indeed need to learn the customs and language of the receiving country and develop certain professional skills. At the same time, the quality of reception and integration programmes offered is also a key for their successful integration.

The large scale resettlement of Somali Bantus in the US, as described in the ICMC Guide “Welcome to Europe” provides some good examples. Indeed, the guide observes that ‘the level of support provided to refugees post-arrival may be as significant in determining resettlement outcomes as any other quality, circumstance or credential the refugee may already have had when being considered for resettlement selection.’^{*11}

The American model may not be transposable as such to the EU context, but similar successes have been witnessed in Europe as well. In the UK, for example, Somalis resettled in the Manchester area are well integrated, thanks to the support they receive through NGOs such as Refugee Action. Such success stories show that the question of individual credentials, language and skills should not be used as a criterion defining resettlement. On the contrary, instead of looking for refugees who meet predefined targets, governments should develop high-quality services with due consideration of protection needs and vulnerabilities.

Misconceptions and prejudices against the Somalis are

widespread and often come in the way of more resettlement. However, this path seems to be the only durable solution for thousands of Somalis living in Kenya. Somalis need to be considered a priority for resettling states, both for the benefit of those being resettled, but also for unlocking the potential for other durable solutions for those staying in Kenya. More efforts should come from European countries to assist UNHCR in its difficult task to find a new home for people in need of protection.

ECRE Brussels, 30 May 2011

From the Himalayas to the Lowlands in search of peace and happiness: Bhutanese refugees in the Netherlands

In January 2011, Global Human Rights Defence (GHRD^{*12}) in collaboration with the Dutch Council for Refugees (DCFR^{*13}) published its report “From the Himalayas to the Lowlands – in search of peace and happiness”.^{*14} It is based on qualitative material: GHRD conducted structured interviews with 29 (14 male and 15 female) Bhutanese refugees between 1,5-2 years after arrival in the Netherlands, in July-August 2010. The participants were between 18-71 years of age and came from six of the seven refugee camps in eastern Nepal where they had lived between 15 and 20 years, most since 1992. The result of the research is a unique insight into the resettlement process, as it reports from the refugee’s own point of view on integration and social reception, life, education and work in their new country. It aims to advise and inform authorities and individuals involved with resettlement and the key findings were presented to the Dutch national stakeholders during an expert meeting in January 2011, organized by the Dutch Council for Refugees (DCFR).

This article provides an overview of the major findings and recommendations of the report, with a particular focus on family separation and integration.



Arrival of Bhutanese Refugees to the Netherlands, June 2010

Photo by Global Human Rights Defence

Background: Bhutanese Refugees

Approximately 100,000 Bhutanese were forced to leave their country in the early 1990s, following a campaign of human rights violations and ethnic cleansing perpetrated by the Bhutanese monarchy. These refugees are members of the Lhotshampa (predominantly Hindu and Nepalese speaking) minority in the Buddhist autocracy. In the late 1980s, the government instituted a “one nation, one people” policy, adopting harsh measures that curtailed their civil and human rights, in order to create a homogenous Buddhist state. Following protests by the Lhotshampa, many were imprisoned, raped and tortured before being given the order to leave the country, many at gunpoint, and to sign documents stating they left ‘voluntarily’ and renounced their citizenship. By the end of the 1990s, large numbers of Bhutanese refugees resided around the Kankai River in south-eastern Nepal. In 1992, the Nepalese government requested assistance, resulting in the emergency assistance programme launched by the UNHCR together with World Food Program (WFP) and a number of NGOs. Seven refugee camps hosted the 100,000 Bhutanese refugees: Beldangi 1, 2 and 3 (Beldangi Extension), Khudunabari, Timai and Goldhap in Jhapa and Sanichare in the Morang district in eastern Nepal.

Life in camps – a state of merely surviving

Life in the refugee camps is for most very hard. The time in the camps was described as ‘extremely

difficult’ or as a ‘state of merely surviving’. Social and health issues are common and alcoholism and mental health problems often contribute to additional violence. Women and children are particularly vulnerable: domestic and sexual violence, child abuse, child labour, and trafficking are reported. GHRD met young refugees who were trafficked, abused, beaten, starved and forced into child labour after their care had been entrusted to relatives in the camps. The mechanisms set up in the camps for protection are in many cases not sufficient: women and children are suffering in silence for years before being detected and offered any solution.

As Bhutan continued to deny the refugees citizenship and Nepal objected to local integration, the situation was becoming desperate, children were born and raised and the earlier generation aging and dying inside the camps. In 2007, the UNHCR launched its largest resettlement programme ever in order to finally give the Bhutanese a permanent home. Since then, some 40,000 Bhutanese refugees have found new homes in third countries, almost all of them in the U.S.*¹⁵ During the time of the research (summer 2010), 229 had been resettled in the Netherlands.

Separation of families

Bhutanese have strong family ties and a broader definition of immediate family than the strict concept used in resettlement which defines the ‘nuclear family.’ The separation of families as a result of resettlement is common, widespread, and causes serious levels of distress and frustration amongst the Bhutanese refugees – it was reported by all the interviewed as the major difficulty with resettlement. All of the refugees had been forced to separate from someone they consider a close family member. A large majority of the interviewed wanted to be resettled with certain siblings and/or parents but this did not happen because they were resettling to another country - many of them to the U.S. In fact, all of the interviewed had close relatives living in Nepal either awaiting or already resettled to the U.S. or Australia and many were saddened by separation from their (adult) siblings and parents. Many women are separated from their parents as they are automatically resettled with

their husband and (often) his parents. In practice, this separation would most likely be permanent due to the large distance and economically restricted situation of refugees. In some cases they were still waiting for the resettlement of family members, which will depend on the willingness of the Dutch Government to accept the referral. In at least two cases the refugees stated that UNHCR had said to them to go first and that the other family members would come later, which did not happen. In these cases, the medical problems of one family member were the reason why the UNHCR would refer them to the Netherlands. It is noteworthy that a number of those interviewed were under the impression that the Netherlands would only take those who were ill, their carers and dependants, and that siblings or parents not suffering from illness would not be able to be settled in the Netherlands.

“In my culture, when we are old we want to be close to our family, the one that has the most family around him is the luckiest person and now I don't have it”- (Male 71 years)

Reception and housing

At the time of interviews, refugees were received in a reception center for around a six month period prior to relocation in a municipality. The time spent in the centre was often referred to as a 'continuation of camp life' but with different connotations: some meant this in a positive way as they enjoyed the time with their families and friends, and others were bothered about the sharing of facilities and considered it 'a waste of time'. Nevertheless, a stay in the centre was considered preferable to directly moving to a municipality by a small majority of the interviewed (16/29). In 2011 the Government announced a policy change and refugees will instead be hosted directly in municipalities. After the stay in the reception center the refugees move to a house. In the Netherlands, refugees are dispersed all over the country as each municipality is obliged to house a certain amount of refugees each half year. This was also the case for those interviewed, most of whom expressed

the wish to live nearer to other Bhutanese families. In particular, the elderly who were unable to learn Dutch cited isolation as a stress factor. Bhutanese traditional religious and burial rituals were also affected as they are also supposed to be carried out collectively. Given the cost of travel, visiting each other was not always an option.

“If families are settled nearby I can assist them, I can show them shops, banks, we can give them lots of help for integration into Dutch society.” - (Male 39 years)

Integration programme

In the municipalities the refugees underwent an assessment to see what kind of integration programme they needed. The amount of Dutch lessons and knowledge of Dutch society can differ between municipalities and the duration of lessons can also differ from 6 up to 18 months. All refugees have to pass a civic integration programme within three and a half years. Four of the refugees interviewed were exempted from the civic integration programme due to either age (above 65) or illness. The other interviewees were still following their civic integration programme, preparing for the State Exam (the level of Dutch you need for higher education or higher qualified jobs) or already studying at a college or university. Some refugees were doing internships or voluntary work. One math teacher, for instance, supports children in learning mathematics at a secondary school. Learning Dutch was considered highly important by all participants while at the same time being the major challenge ahead. Without a decent level of knowledge of the Dutch language, finding work is difficult for the refugees. In addition to their willingness to participate better in Dutch society, a strong motivation for those interviewed is also to become a Dutch citizen, of which a relatively high level of Dutch in speaking, reading and writing is required. Exemption of this requirement is very hard or even impossible to get. The requirement is especially challenging for the six interviewees who never went to school and the

eight that only had primary school. One of the reasons why Dutch citizenship is so important for the refugees is that it will enable them to travel to family members, in for instance, the United States and Australia.

“If I cannot follow the course, I cannot get citizenship, I worry every day. If I get citizenship of this country it would be of great pride for me.” - (Male 50 years. Never went to school)

The municipalities are obliged to offer refugees social guidance as part of the civic integration. The social guidance consists of practical information and support and is usually done by local departments of DCFR where volunteer mentors support the refugee. Most respondents were positive about the support they received although some were critical about the differences in level of support in different municipalities.

Refugees on resettlement and the Netherlands

Life in the Netherlands was generally considered better than in the camps, and the refugees expressed gratitude towards their receiving country and the resettlement programme as a whole. Health, security, education, rules and regulations, peace and democracy and human rights were the most popular things about their new country. The most reported difficulties were learning the language, cultural and social differences and most importantly: the separation of family and absence of friends. All participants were also asked to provide their recommendations to the resettlement countries and the involved stakeholders. Those who did focused mainly on the importance of keeping families together, family reunion, the language issue, as well as that of location of the Bhutanese within the Netherlands. Several recommended an intensification of the integration programme and Dutch language classes. A number also recommended that Bhutanese families be grouped together, so that no one family is left alone in any town in order to avoid isolation, and help integration, particularly for

older members of the family. One recommended that citizenship be offered to illiterate refugees. One family recommended bringing a Bhutanese Hindu priest with the resettlement programme, in order to enable the religious to fully exercise their religious practice and rituals.

*“In Nepal, there was always fighting and quarreling, which made me afraid, now I get sound sleep here.”
- (Male 40 years)*

Conclusion

The Bhutanese refugees are a diverse group. Their educational background varies from those who have received higher education to the illiterate. Some were very ill, and others were victims of severe human rights violations, such as torture and trafficking. It is important to take this diversity into account and incorporate it into integration programmes so that they are more tailor-made. One thing unites them all: the importance of family. The separation of families as a result of resettlement is of utmost concern and stronger efforts by the resettlement states and UNHCR should be made to keep families together. Also, in the receiving country it is important for refugees who want to live nearer to family members and other Bhutanese families to locate them closer in order to facilitate socialization and integration, especially for the elderly, to prevent isolation. All the Bhutanese refugees expressed a strong wish to become Dutch citizens but for some of them this will be hard or even impossible to accomplish. Confirm article 34 of the Refugee Convention naturalization for refugees should be facilitated.

All in all, the life of the Bhutanese had definitely improved through resettlement. The Bhutanese were generally very happy and grateful to their new country for this opportunity for a new life.

By Jenny Lundström, Global Human Rights Defence & Ariane den Uyl, Dutch Council for Refugees

Mitchell Pham, Former Refugee from Vietnam, Honoured as Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum

When Refugee Services Board member Mitchell Pham fled Vietnam at 12 years old, he certainly didn't expect to one day be honoured by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader. However, on Wednesday, 9 March 2011, Mitchell was named as a recipient of the prestigious annual award, one that is given out only to the most exceptional people from around the globe.

Mitchell's journey began taking shape in the early 80s, as he and his family were attempting to escape their home country. After two failed attempts which resulted in imprisonment for the women and children and hard labour camps for the men, Mitchell's family had spent most of their money and could only afford to send one person on a third attempt. As Mitchell was the oldest child and therefore the most likely to survive, his family chose to send him.

"It was a big sacrifice, but a necessary one," says Mitchell. "We escaped down the Mekong river late at night. We were shot at by the coast guard when we got out to the coast. It was a horrific experience being stuck in a 12 metre fishing boat with 66 other people down in the hold where the fish were usually kept. We had bullets flying right above us, people screaming, praying, crying. But it was only the beginning." Over the next few days, the refugees ran out of food, water and fuel, and soon they were left drifting hopelessly in the middle of the ocean.

At one point, a cruise liner spotted and approached the boat, but instead of rescuing the stranded refugees, the passengers aboard the cruiser took photos and videos while the captain turned the ship around and left, creating a wake so big that it nearly sank the tiny fishing boat. Luckily, the wake generated by the departure of the cruise ship actually served to push the fishing boat along into a flow of current, and the boat eventually floated towards an oil rig operat-



Mitchell Pham, Former Refugee from Vietnam

Photo by Refugee Services Aotearoa New

ion. Crew from the rig rescued the passengers off the little fishing boat and gave them water, food and medical attention. "One hour later, there was a huge storm that completely crushed our fishing boat into a million little bits," says Mitchell. "After we went through that, we had nothing, but we felt like the luckiest people in the world."

After spending nearly two years in four UNHCR refugee camps in Indonesia, Mitchell was finally resettled in New Zealand in 1985. He has since co-founded the successful AUGEN group of technology companies and become International Development Director of AugenASIA, Director of the Augen Software Group, a member of the Action Asia Advisory Group of the Asia New Zealand Foundation, an Asia 21 Fellow and Associate Fellow of the Asia Society and a valued Board member of Refugee Services Aotearoa. He has also recently expanded his business interest to include taking New Zealand clean and green technology innovations into Vietnam and the surrounding Asian countries, adding further to the business relationship developing between the two regions.

His business and social entrepreneurship and the potential he has to shape the world contributed to Mitchell's receiving the Young Global

Leader honor from the World Economic Forum. To be awarded the title, recipients must be under the age of 40, have a record of extraordinary achievement in leadership roles, and have demonstrated their commitment to society. The Selection Committee, chaired by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, selected Mitchell Pham and 190 others from around the world after careful screening close to 5,000 candidates from a myriad of disciplines and sectors.

Alongside acknowledging previous work, the award also recognises the recipients' potential to shape the future of the world through inspiring leadership. "Within the World Economic Forum community, the Young Global Leaders represent the voice for the future and the hopes of the next generation. I am particularly proud of this year's honourees," said Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum.

"The contributions Mitchell has made to New Zealand and to his home country are immeasurable, and it's wonderful to see such a prestigious organisation recognise this," says Refugee Services' Chief Executive Heather Hayden. "Even before this honour from the World Economic Forum, Mitchell was a wonderful example of how much refugees and migrants can accomplish when given appropriate support and presented with the right opportunities. Now, he's even more able to illustrate what so many of us already know."

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Mitchell with Refugee Services Chief Executive Heather Hayden. Mitchell is also a Board Member for Refugee Services Aotearoa New Zealand.

Photo by Refugee Services Aotearoa New Zealand

Both overwhelmed and honoured to receive the award, Mitchell says, "Being named as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum is incredibly humbling. The network is made up of some extraordinary people from around the globe, and being part of it has opened up my thinking a lot, giving me a broader perspective on the specific and focussed things that I do. It also gives me access to a much wider base of ideas, talents, knowledge, experience and capabilities that come from other members around the world. It has already challenged and changed the way I do what I do, so that I can achieve more with what I have. It's a unique opportunity and one that I am going to gratefully seize with both hands."

Beyond the opportunities that the award has provided him, Mitchell also hopes that his success can be an inspiration both to future generations of young refugees and to members of communities who resettle refugees and provide them with opportunities to make positive changes in the world. "Without the chance I was given in New Zealand to have a new life, I would not have been able to contribute at any level, domestic or international," says Mitchell. "Giving back to New Zealand is really important to me and many of the refugees that I know. I think refugees and migrants are assets and opportunities for the countries who

accept them for resettlement. In order to get value out of any asset you have, a piece of land, a house, building, what have you, you have to invest in it. You have to develop it, and then it will increase in value. So, why not refugees? Why not migrants? I see that as everyone's responsibility, and for the benefit of all."

"Refugees all over the world show incredible determination and resilience every single day," says Heather. "Given the opportunity, there's no limit to what they can achieve, and Mitchell is living proof of that. He is certainly uniquely talented, but the opportunities and on-going support Mitchell was provided through resettlement in New Zealand have helped him utilise that talent and reach his potential."

Mitchell adds, "Overcoming odds and obstacles with hope and determination is something refugees are very good at, simply because we didn't have a choice. We live for the future, and so are very good at building it when we are given the opportunity. Refugees will continue to contribute as long as they continue to have opportunities to do so."

Since awarded with the honour, Mitchell has connected with other honourees in the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leader network from around the world, particularly in their East Asia region – which covers East and South East Asia and Australasia. The new connections in this high-trust network have presented Mitchell with new collaborative opportunities that he is currently pursuing with his fellow Young Global Leaders. "This network is truly amazing. I haven't yet been to the first official summit and met anyone in person, but I am already connected and collaborating with others on tangible opportunities," he says. "I feel even more empowered now to further achieve and make more difference through these new relationships. And yet something tells me that I'm only seeing and touching the tip of the iceberg so far. I can't wait to meet my fellow Young Global Leaders at this year's annual Summit event in September in Dalian, China."

For Mitchell, the opportunities with which he's being presented and the future he's moving toward are, in many ways, products of his refugee background and the skills his journey has taught him. "As refugees, leaving our countries of origin, spending years mak-

ing our ways through other countries around the world, and eventually ending up in our new host countries, we became globalised in the process," he says. "We learn to look at everything from multiple perspectives, and see less borders and boundaries. We bring our global citizenship with us and contribute that to our new home country, while maintaining links with where we came from as part of our identity. That is why when people ask me where I am from, I often say that I'm 'born in Vietnam, and made in New Zealand.'"

Teresa Bass,

Refugee Services Aotearoa New Zealand

Recertifying Refugee Professionals: Refugee Service Partners Launch Pilot Program

RefugeeWorks, a program of Baltimore-based Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, is the national center for refugee employment and self-sufficiency. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has been a champion for uprooted people since 1939, resettling and integrating refugees, protecting migrant children, supporting at-risk migrants and their families, and advocating for compassion and justice for all migrants. With funding from the U.S. Office for Refugee Resettlement, the RefugeeWorks program provides training, consulting, and publications to refugee service providers and employers across the United States with the goal of helping refugees achieve economic self-sufficiency.

In 2010 RefugeeWorks began a partnership with the Welcome Back Center of San Diego to provide recertification services to refugee engineers and medical professionals.

San Diego became a primary refugee resettlement location more than three decades ago. In 1975, 40,000 Vietnamese refugees arrived at U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in San Diego County. San Diego Health and Human Services, along with a host of agencies, nonprofit organizations, and reli-

gious sector groups, responded quickly to provide assistance to the refugees. Over the course of three decades, that foundation of support has broadened and continued, making San Diego the third largest site in California for resettling refugees*¹⁶.

The past two decades have brought San Diego increased numbers of Ethiopian, Eritrean, Somali, and Sudanese refugees. After the fall of communism in the 1980s, refugees from the former Soviet Union arrived, followed in the 1990s by large numbers from South Asia and the near East, including Afghanistan, Iran, and Iraq. In the past two years more than 7,000 Iraqi refugees have come to the city, and another 4,000 are expected in the coming year. San Diego County ranks as the second highest “hard-to-count” immigrant and refugee area in California, and ranks 11th in the nation, but the Refugee Forum estimates that a total of more than 150,000 refugees have settled in the region*¹⁷.

The Migration Policy Institute tracks the numbers and professional occupations of the foreign-born who enter each state in the United States. These statistics indicate that close to 14 percent of San Diego’s current refugee population are health care and engineering professionals who may qualify for recertification programs.

The Welcome Back Center has worked with internationally trained health care workers since 2001 and has successfully aided participants with credentialing, licensure, English skills for medical workers, and employment services.

Accomplishments of Refugee Medical Professionals in San Diego	
Step Taken	Number of Participants
Validated transcripts	336
Passed licensing exams	608
Obtained license in original profession	200
Obtained advancement in health career	403
Obtained employment health sector first time	124
MDs accepted into residency programs	22

The program for health care workers builds on medical training services already provided by the Wel-

come Back Center. The engineering recertification program is completely new. RefugeeWorks and Welcome Back Center research on credentialing and education for internationally trained engineers, and on the steps refugees need to take in order to work in California, has helped shape the curriculum of the pilot program.

Program Particulars

Participants in the RefugeeWorks pilot program will receive the following services:

- private counseling sessions with a Welcome Back Center career counseling specialist trained in California credentialing and licensure for both the medical field and the engineering profession
- access to the Welcome Back Center library and computer room to search for employment, study, and prepare for exams throughout their term of participation and continuing beyond their completion of the program
- specialized vocational English instruction focused on the professional setting
- a written employment plan including immediate steps as well as short- and long-range goals
- access to a wide array of programs offered by collaborative partners, including computer-based training and employment help as well as face-to-face employment services, training opportunities, workshops, job fairs, and employer events

The program’s overarching goal is to ensure that refugee participants regain entry into their field of work and help their communities through the use of their talents. RefugeeWorks and the Welcome Back Center of San Diego are well on the way to making this happen.

By: Jonathan Lucus, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service



Rethinking resettlement: Ensuring fair opportunities for Myanmar refugees in Malaysia

For some 90,200 refugees and asylum-seekers in Malaysia today, their most fervent hope is safety and a chance to rebuild their lives in dignity. Many find that chance in a third country through UNHCR's resettlement programme, which is an essential component of UNHCR's protection and solutions strategy for refugees in Malaysia.

Malaysia has had a long history of hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees, including those from Vietnam and Cambodia, from Bosnia and the Philippines, from the Indonesian Province of Aceh, and more recently in the last decade, from Myanmar.

Today, 92% of the refugees and asylum-seekers in Malaysia are from Myanmar, fleeing persecution and human rights abuses. There are some 7,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from other countries, including Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Iraq.

Malaysia has generously hosted refugees despite the fact that the country is not a signatory to the Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees and the lack of domestic legislative or administrative provisions in place for dealing with the situation of asylum-seekers or refugees in the country.

This lack of a domestic legal framework for refugees means that UNHCR conducts all activities related to the reception, registration, documentation and status determination of asylum-seekers and refugees. These activities significantly enhance the protection space for refugees, as UNHCR documentation accords some degree of protection against arrest, and enables access to some social services.

Nonetheless, asylum-seekers and refugees in Malaysia continue to be at risk of arrest, prosecution, corporal punishment and detention as well as at risk of deportation.

Without a right to work, asylum-seekers and refugees in Malaysia are also subject to exploitation in the local informal labour market.

“For Some 90,200 refugees and asylum-seekers in Malaysia today, their most fervent hope is safety and a chance to rebuild their lives in dignity. Many find that chance in a third country through UNHCR’s resettlement programme.”

The urban setting, compounded by a mixed migration flow of people entering Malaysia and a phenomenon of onward movement of both migrants and refugees, poses additional challenges in identification, processing and protection of persons of concern. UNHCR Malaysia monitors closely local and regional refugee dynamics to adjust its strategy to the evolving needs on the ground.

In doing so, UNHCR Malaysia is one of UNHCR's largest urban registration and mandate Refugee Status Determination operations worldwide as well as the largest urban resettlement operation in the region, with over 45,000 submissions made and 26,000 departures taking place to date.

Resettlement in Malaysia has always been closely linked to the provision of asylum. The start of this can be traced to the Vietnamese boat people crisis, where over 240,000 refugees in Malaysia were resettled to countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia, France, New Zealand, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and Norway. Resettlement has also been perceived as a burden-sharing mechanism by both the Malaysian Government and the international community. Local integration, conversely, has not been seen as a viable option by the Malaysian authorities for the majority of refugees in Malaysia.

Resettlement in Malaysia is used strategically to create and enhance asylum space that would

otherwise not be available. This includes continued advocacy to the Malaysian Government for group-based, temporary local solutions for refugees with cultural and other links to Malaysia. UNHCR's resettlement strategy is integrated within UNHCR regional strategy and is consistent with resettlement practices in other countries in the region.

Resettlement of Myanmar Chin Refugees from Malaysia

Resettlement activities in Malaysia started to gather momentum in 2005, as UNHCR galvanised efforts to find solutions for the Myanmar refugee populations. UNHCR Malaysia has since benefited from a diversity of quota places by traditional as well as emerging resettlement countries.

Notably, the United States has been UNHCR's major resettlement counterpart in terms of processing numbers, with 82% of UNHCR Malaysia's submissions made to the United States. The US Refugee Admissions Program in Malaysia was launched in 2005, with 1,500 quota places offered through the individual processing method.

This changed in December 2006 when UNHCR Malaysia and the US Government embarked on a group resettlement processing for Myanmar refugees of Chin ethnicity, through an open-ended approach. Parallel to the group processing of Chin refugees, a small but growing number of other ethnic groups from Myanmar were processed through individual referrals.

All the minority ethnic groups from Myanmar have been subject to the same or similar patterns of persecution in their country of origin, leading to their displacement. In addition, the Rohingya are also denied citizenship rights, rendering them stateless. These groups also share the same protection concerns and predicament in the country of asylum.

But in spite of sharing similar histories of persecution in Myanmar and protection risks in Malaysia, the Chin refugees were the only group to benefit from the fast-track processing for the United States.

Unfortunately, the original open-ended group processing approach had the unintended consequence of creating a resettlement programme which appeared to be skewed in favour of one ethnic group, the Chin ethnicity. This contributed to a prevailing feeling of frustration among the other ethnic minority groups from Myanmar.

“The original open-ended group processing approach had the unintended consequence of creating a resettlement programme which appeared to be skewed in favour of one ethnic group.”

Expansion and Redefinition of the Group Designation

An adjustment was evidently needed to the original open-ended approach as UNHCR needed to balance resettlement across all ethnic minority groups from Myanmar in a consistent processing period for all, while maintaining efficiency and speed in the face of the large refugee numbers.

By mid-2010, following rounds of discussion with the US Government and internal consultations, a proposal for the expansion and redefinition of the P-2 groups for resettlement was submitted to the United States.

The proposal suggested the inclusion of various ethnic groups from Myanmar in addition to the Chin ethnicity and introduction of a cut-off date, given the large Myanmar refugee population potentially qualifying for resettlement.

This was considered positively by the US State Department, with the closed-group designation now including all ethnic groups from Myanmar and the designated cut-off date being 17 August 2010.

This breakthrough enables UNHCR to process a significant number of Myanmar refugees in a fair and balanced manner, with access to resettlement distributed across different ethnic minority



A Chin Family waits at UNHCR for their Departure to Norway
Photo credit: UNHCR/S.Hoibak

groups from Myanmar on a proportional basis, and with resettlement waiting times essentially equal for all.

This new approach has direct relevance for the largest refugee population in Malaysia - the Myanmar refugees. But the expanded and redefined group processing also gears the resettlement processing to another direction for Myanmar refugees outside the designated group and those from other countries - it replicates fairness and principles of proportionality in individual processing for any ethnicity to the greatest extent possible.

Rohingya – Special Consideration

There remains special consideration for the Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. When the original P-2 group designation for the Chin refugee population was established in 2006, there was good reason to expect that the Malaysian Government would provide the Rohingya refugees with work permits and allow them to a legalized temporary stay. While UNHCR Malaysia continues to engage the Malaysian Government on this issue, this option has not yet materialized.

In the interim therefore, and so as to not leave the Rohingya waiting indefinitely without access to a durable solution, they are processed for resettlement based on heightened vulnerabilities. This is now part of the expanded and redefined P-2 group designation.

Should the Malaysian Government decide to offer a local solution for the Rohingya refugees, UNHCR Malaysia will identify those who wish to

avail themselves of this possibility and those in need of resettlement.

Conclusion

The resettlement programme in Malaysia helps stabilise the refugee population, and provides a tangible expression of international burden sharing that is deeply encouraging to the Malaysian Government. But most significantly, it provides a long-term solution for the plight of thousands of refugees and hope for a new and safer life. Due to this, UNHCR's protection and solutions strategy for refugees in Malaysia will continue to include the essential component of resettlement.

“UNHCR’s protection and solutions strategy for refugees in Malaysia will continue to include the essential component of resettlement.”



UNHCR staff working to register refugees in the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur
Photo credit: UNHCR/T.Adnan

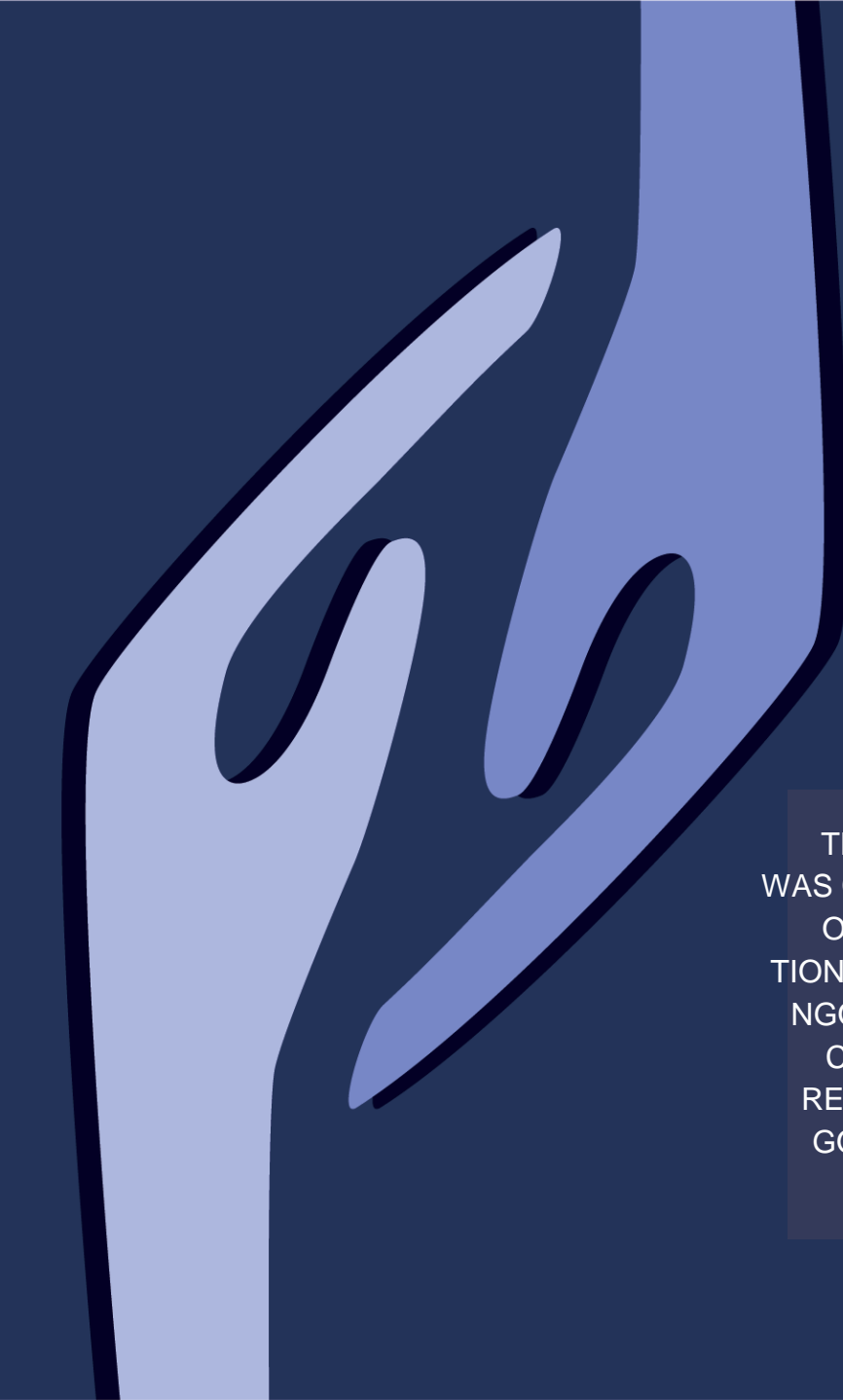
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12. Global Human Rights Defence (GHRD) based in The Hague, the Netherlands, is an international human rights organization with a specific focus on the rights of minorities in South Asia.
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Youths at school in Girba

Photo by Mapendo International

A stylized graphic of a hand in shades of blue, with dark blue outlines, set against a dark blue background. The hand is positioned on the left side of the page, with fingers slightly curled.

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