

Refugee Consortium of Kenya

Identification and Referral of Refugees for Resettlement

The Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) is a National NGO that works to promote and protect the rights and dignity of refugees, and other forced migrants in Kenya. It does this through enabling programmes of legal and social justice, advocacy and policy development and communication, research and monitoring

RCK started identifying and making referrals to UNHCR for resettlement in 2011. When a refugee first approaches RCK, they are scheduled for a security interview. The purpose for the interview is to establish whether the refugee has challenges that fit within the criteria for UNHCR resettlement criteria (i.e. legal/ physical protection, survivors of violence or torture, women/girls at risk, medical needs, family re-unification, and children/adolescents at risk). During the interview, information is obtained on the country of origin, the reasons for flight, and protection or other issues that are being faced in the country of asylum and to establish why the refugee would not be willing to avail themselves to the protection of the country of asylum.

Once the interview has been finalized, the same is assessed to establish the credibility of the allegations put forth, whether the refugee has made efforts to secure their own protection; such as relocation from the area where the insecurity is being faced and reporting any protection challenges to the police. If resettlement as a durable solution is recommended, then a UNHCR Resettlement Referral Form is filled and sent to UNHCR in Nairobi. The form captures the biodata of the refugee, a brief summary of the refugee's claim (i.e. the reason why the applicant fled from their country), whether the case is an emergency or urgent case, or whether it should be processed at a normal rate (and why). The form also requires an explanation as to how the case was identified by RCK, the interventions that have already been undertaken and the reasons for the referral. Finally, the referral indicates other specific actions that have been recommended other than resettlement.