

The ATCR/WGR Newsletter

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**ATCR
WGR**

ANNUAL TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS
and WORKING GROUP ON RESETTLEMENT

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Extend protection

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Acting together to expand protection

The role of cooperation in Resettlement

By The Swedish Chair

It would be wrong to say that now is the time to act. A lot of actions are already undertaken and have been by both states and NGO's for some time. Acting is always needed. The 10.5 million refugees of concern to UNHCR need our actions; the states where they reside need it too. All of this cannot be up to us – partners and friends of resettlement. But some of it is.

It is time now to act together, to reach bigger results, larger impacts, more comprehensive effects. On a European level, the word 'joint' has been frequently used, for instance in the formation of a joint European resettlement program, and when European states come together to increase resettlement efforts in the region of Africa's Horn. Previous joint efforts have resulted in an increase of protection space for individuals in refugee camps in the Middle East. On a global level, the word 'together' has been a key word for over a decade, most notably in the impact and growth of the ATCR between states, UNHCR and NGO's. It has resulted in 15 conferences and 30 Working Group meetings. Accordingly, the group embraced by the word has also grown, to close to 200 participants at the last ATCR meeting.

But the effects of resettlement remain too small, with only fragments of the needs being matched by resettlement capacity. In its *Projected Global Resettlement Needs for 2010*, UNHCR underlines its intentions to 'ensure that resettlement is fully considered as part of comprehensive durable solution strategies', and to 'developing further the concept of strategic use of resettlement'.

We believe that the strategic use of resettlement is a key to enhance global commitment and capability, among experienced states as well as new and upcoming resettlement countries. Only by acting together and by sharpening our tools and measures can resettlement become more than the number of residence permits offered to individual refugees. By the strategic use of resettlement, our actions can encourage countries to better treatment of refugees, strengthen access to asylum systems, reduce secondary movements and potential trafficking, and strengthen refugee mobilization and participation in local developments.

This issue of the ATCR/WGR newsletter focuses on the strategic dimensions of resettlement, when reporting back from the Working group meeting in October, as well as looking ahead. We wish you a pleasant reading.

The ATCR/WGR Newsletter

was compiled by the Swedish Migration Board, chair of the ATCR and the WGR with kind contributions from states, UNHCR and NGO's. The views in this publication does not necessarily represent the Swedish Government, the UNHCR or other contributors.

Title Pictures:

The faces of the priority situations: Iraqi refugee girl on the street of Damascus, Iraqi refugee boys playing soccer in Damascus, Newly arrived Somali refugees in Kenya and Myanmar refugees in India.

UNHCR/ J.Wreford /Mais Hamid / E.Hockstein/N.Bose

More photos and Refugee stories at UNHCR's Flickr Photostream

UNHCR Director for International Protection, Volker Türk address the delegates of the Working Group

Pictures by SE Chair



Working Group on Resettlement met in Geneva in October

On the 14th of October, states' delegations gathered in Geneva for the first Working Group meeting under the Swedish Chair. One of the main topics was Strategic Use of Resettlement.

By Denise Thomsson, The Swedish Chair

A total of 77 delegates attended the meeting, representing 22 resettlement states (including new and observing countries), UNHCR, IOM, The European Commission, and the Temporary Desk on Iraq (TDI). The NGO Focal Point Caritas Sweden was also invited to observe at the meeting, in order to provide feedback at NGO consultations before the next Working Group, scheduled to meet in Timisoara, Romania on the 2-3rd of March, 2010.

Together with plenary presentations on, amongst other things, the strategic use of resettlement, the previously initiated "Broadening the Basis Toolkit", and experiences of the

Core Group concept as used in Nepal, participants were encouraged to discuss how states can collaborate to ensure comprehensive and strategic impacts through resettlement in the future.

UNHCR's Director of the Division of International Protection Services, Volker Türk, closed the meeting by saying the WGR and ATCR are unique forums of dialogue between key partners, characterized by a high level of coherence and joint focus and a positive spirit of cooperation. These meetings bring together Governments, IGOs, NGOs and UNHCR in a manner that is inspirational and worthy of replication in other areas of protection dialogue.

The Chair is currently inviting states to an extra-ordinary working group session, to take place in Geneva on the 18th of December, to discuss in more detail how to move forward in the coming months.

Draft minutes from the WGR are now available at the secure WGR website. States are invited to review the minutes and provide comments and feedback to the Swedish Chair during the month of December. A finalised version of the minutes, based on feedback from states and from UNHCR Regional Bureaus, will be made available in January for wider distribution.



Delegates gather for the October session of the Working Group on Resettlement

Conclusions from the WGR:

The Working Group produced the following recommendations/ conclusions:

- WGR member states endorsed proposals to make more strategic use of resettlement in specific situations. These proposals involve strategies to combine resettlement activities and foreign policy interventions, including development assistance, to enhance the benefits of resettlement and to forge more comprehensive approaches to finding solutions for refugees.
- UNHCR highlighted a number of refugee situations in Africa (North and East), Asia, Europe and the Pacific, calling on states to support concerted resettlement efforts. These efforts will include increased opportunities for resettlement as well as coordinated efforts to assist in alleviating a number of protracted refugee situations. Reset-

tlement states will indicate their willingness to engage in these refugee situations and to map out how resettlement can be used more effectively. The Swedish Chair of the WGR will convene special meetings with interested resettlement states and UNHCR to advance concrete measures for enhanced and coordinated resettlement.

- Alongside the discussions on the strategic use of resettlement, WGR member states reaffirmed the importance of continued joint efforts to increase resettlement opportunities for refugees, including encouragement of countries to commence resettlement programmes. Knowledge and experience of various resettlement states in establishing effective resettlement programmes will be further integrated in an accessible and integrated resource base.

Working Group on Resettlement

From an observer's point of view

The ATCR and WGR consultations have grown in the past few years, counting more participants from both traditional and new resettlement states, as well as NGOs. The Swedish NGO Focal Point participated with observer status, together with states such as Japan and Switzerland. We asked them about their general impressions and comments.



Switzerland: Pascal Rey, Policy Advisor, Office Fédéral des Migrations

Mr. Pascal Rey, Policy Advisor at the Office Fédéral des Migrations of Switzerland, took part in the meeting as an observer. Mr. Rey found the WGR interesting and well composed. There was a fruitful mix of participants ranging from operational staff and policymakers, as well as representatives from resettlement projects. The meeting was intense with a lot of information.

“For newcomers it is important to provide us with the right tools. Several general fact sheets were distributed during the meeting, but we need more concrete examples from the everyday work. In addition to the discussion papers from UNHCR, the states should be given the objective to prepare their own statements from the field. Documents could have been sent out in advance to a larger extent, in order to facilitate discussions of the meeting. However, I wish to thank the UNHCR for facilitating the working group meeting with their knowledge and expertise.”

At the end of October, a working group led by the Federal Office for Migration presented a proposal for a resettlement programme to the department of Justice, outlining possible models and policy actions. A decision on the subject by the competent authority is currently outstanding.



Japan: Masako Sato, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan

Ms. Masako Sato, second secretary at the Permanent Mission of Japan in Geneva, found the meeting very useful, even though the process has become more formalized with an increasing number of participants attending.

“It is a good opportunity to hear about the various kinds of problems that may arise, together with good practices. This is an educational forum for new states thinking about introducing resettlement programs in their countries.”

Ms. Sato also underlines the value of consultations outside of the conference room of both Working Group meetings and the ATCR.

“It is important that the WGR also maintains opportunities for informal meetings between participants, where we as new resettlement states can gain information and advice from more experienced partners.”

Japan does not have an annual resettlement program, but is currently working on a pilot resettlement project. The first group of around 30 Myanmar refugees from Thailand will be received in 2010.

Caritas: George Joseph and Marie Eidem

Caritas Sweden took part in the October WGR as observer in our role as NGO Focal Point. We found it both interesting and helpful to participate as an observer in the discussions between states and with UNHCR that were aimed at finding practical solutions to sensitive issues in the field of resettlement.

We had ample opportunity for discussions with representatives of states' delegations. Among other things, we had the possibility to discuss the constructive role NGOs play in strengthening the resolve of states, especially emerging resettlement states, in starting resettlement programs.

The Swedish Chair has stressed that input from NGOs and civil society actors on themes such as integration, as well as input from NGOs on what we can do to increase quality and sustainability, is welcome. Caritas Sweden believes that NGOs could play an even more proactive role in sharing our experiences and taking responsibilities in the field in partnership with states and UNHCR to facilitate the resettlement process. We find it important for NGOs to participate actively in the ATCR in order to make it a truly tripartite process.



The Strategic Use of Resettlement

Discussion Paper launched at the WGR

By **UNHCR Resettlement Service**

UNHCR tabled at the WGR meeting a discussion paper on the strategic use of resettlement. The paper clarifies what is meant by the strategic use of resettlement and highlights some important considerations that underlie the concept. It also exhibits some of the short-term, midterm and longer-term protection benefits that can be associated with the use of resettlement. These benefits - in addition to those accruing to the individuals resettled - can be derived both directly and indirectly from the use of resettlement. Such additional and strategic dividends from resettlement usually require planning and coordinated efforts by various stakeholders, and do not necessarily occur automatically or immediately following the physical resettlement of refugees.

WGR participants welcomed the discussion paper and suggested ways to benchmark the types of protection benefits that might be derived with the use of resettlement. For example, it was suggested that resettlement states might negotiate with a state of asylum various steps to be taken or incremental improvements in the way it provides protection to refugees, to be realized over a period of time in conjunction with multi-year resettlement engagement. While it was recognized that such an approach would not suit all refugee situations, efforts should be made by resettlement states and UNHCR to maximize opportunities where scope exists. In this connection, WGR members are invited to consider good examples of short, midterm and longer-term protection benefits that might be achieved in this way. UNHCR will draft a position paper on the strategic use of resettlement for the WGR in March 2010.



Refugee children from Myanmar happy with their soft toys, distributed on World Refugee Day, at the UNHCR Implementing Partner Centre in New Delhi. The clothes and toys were donated by staff from UNHCR, other UN Agencies, Embassies, the Centre for UN Peace-Keeping, the National Institute for Disaster Management, and other UNHCR interlocutors in New Delhi. photo by: UNHCR / N. Bose

India is often used as a good example of the strategic use of resettlement

India has hosted Afghan refugees for more than 27 years, and since 1989 a significant number of refugees from Myanmar. Although India has allowed these populations to remain, it has been reluctant to provide them with opportunities for local integration. Dialogue with the Indian authorities and other key stakeholders in 2007 resulted in India agreeing to consider naturalisation for those refugees who were deemed to be of Indian origin (Hindu and Sikh), while resettlement countries would provide resettlement solutions for the remaining refugees. This negotiated arrangement also opened opportunities for a more receptive protection environment for newly arriving refugees, notably from

Myanmar and Iraq, who require full protection support. Both India and partner countries have appreciated the importance of collaboration, and the willingness to offer further protection for newly arriving refugees is underlined by the understanding that this type of collaboration and responsibility-sharing is available and can be mutually supportive.

Since 2005, 2,390 refugees have been resettled from India (to countries such as the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden) and 3,950 Hindu and Sikh refugees have applied for naturalization, 555 of whom have been naturalized.

1

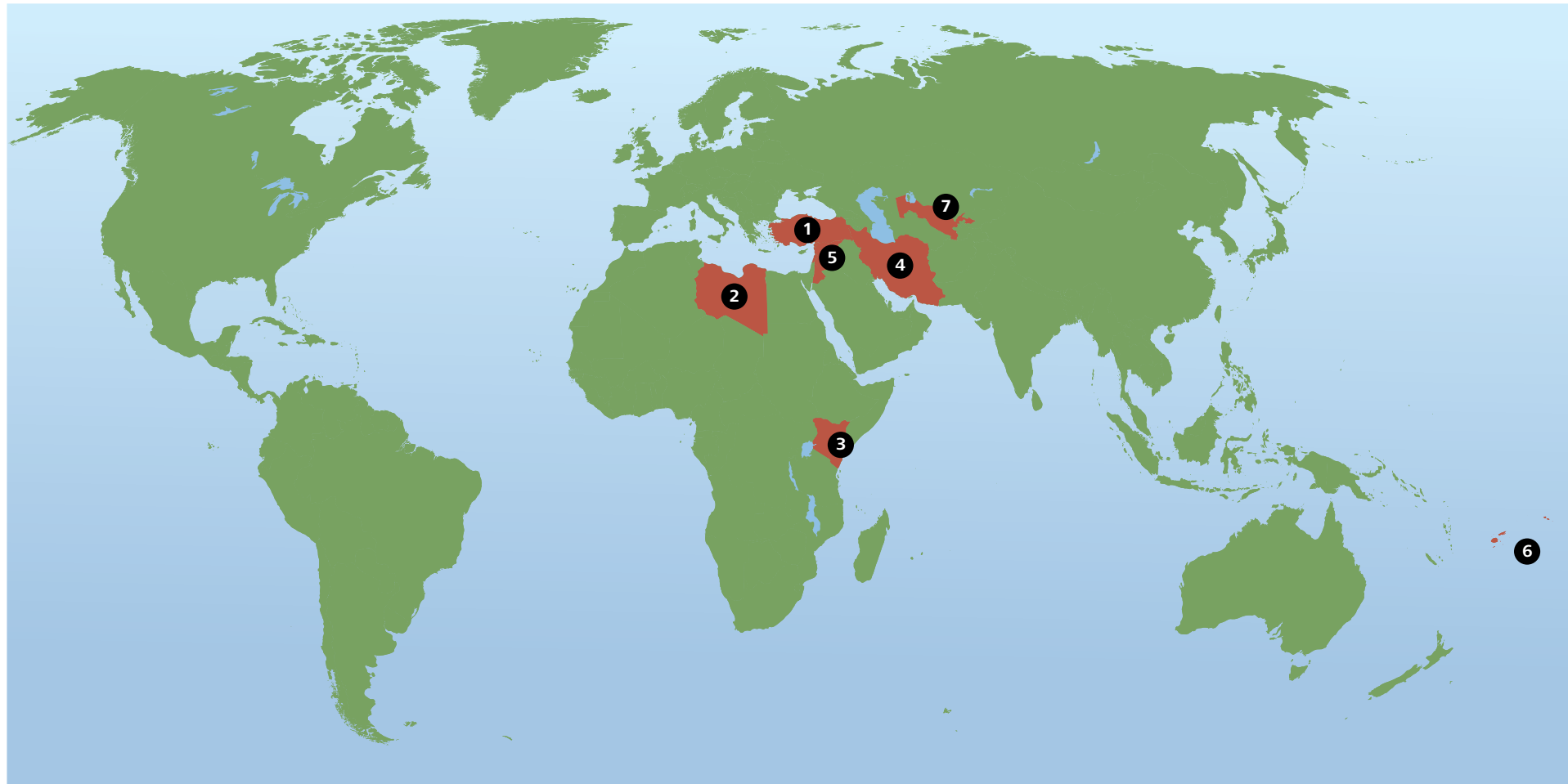
Turkey

The Bureau for Europe put forward the situation in Turkey. The country has signed the 1951 Convention but with geographical restriction so that it only applies to European refugees. There are around 11,000 non-European refugees in Turkey for whom UNHCR has to seek resettlement in the absence of local solutions.

2

Libya

The Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa tabled the situation of refugees in Libya. In Libya, there is no national asylum system, and the country has not signed the 1951 Convention. Protection space is very limited and fragile, and many refugees are subject to detention. Refugees do not always have access to UNHCR and many are still considered temporary even after being registered. Approximately 1000 persons are in need of resettlement, but the number may be higher.



7

Uzbekistan

The Bureau for Asia and the Pacific put forth the situation of refugees in Uzbekistan, where UNHCR some 600 Afghans remain, 163 cases of which are pending departure and 87 more are awaiting decision by resettlement states. There are less than 300 persons in need of resettlement. A concerted effort by resettlement states will help bring this situation to closure.

6

The Pacific States

The Bureau for Asia and the Pacific tabled the situation of the Pacific states, where there is a need to find durable solutions for a small number of refugees within a broader mixed migration context. Local integration for refugees is not a feasible option due to limited resources and, in particular for those from different ethnicities and cultures, fragile protection environments in these countries. Taking a small number of refugees for resettlement will significantly assist these states as well as, by demonstrating solutions and burden sharing in action, strengthen the protection framework in the region.

5

Syria, Jordan and Lebanon

Syria/Jordan/Lebanon has been added to the list of situations where resettlement can be used strategically. The situation is well known to many, with the three countries together hosting a large population of Iraqi, Palestinian and other refugees from Iraq. The need for support is ongoing, and hence the situation is put forward as prioritized, together with the other six areas already mentioned.

4

Iran

The Bureau for Asia and the Pacific tabled the refugee situation in Iran, where more than 80,000 Afghan refugees are in need of resettlement. Iran is the second largest refugee hosting country in the world today with more some 950,000 registered Afghans and a smaller amount of Iraqis. The statement by Iran at the ATCR calling on resettlement countries to accept more refugees for resettlement resonates with UNHCR and resettlement states.



Afghan refugee children in Iran, which has done an immense amount for refugees but now needs more help. © UNHCR / J. Pagonis



Makeshift shelters and new tents at the new arrivals section of IFO camp, Dadaab, Kenya. / UNHCR / E. Hockstein

3

Kenya

The Bureau for Africa put forward a proposal for increased resettlement from the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya, which is among the most critical situations that UNHCR is facing anywhere in the world today and is a very challenging protracted refugee situation. In addition, more than 100,000 new Somali refugees have arrived in the last two years. The three camps were designed to hold a maximum of 30,000 people, but now hold approximately 100,000 each. UNHCR suggests a multi year approach, making use of both individual and group methodology to find solutions for refugees in this protracted situation.

Seven prioritized situations

A call for increased efforts to achieve strategic aims

At the Working Group Meeting, UNHCR's Regional Bureaus tabled six refugee situations prioritized for strategic and collaborate efforts. Shortly after the meeting, another one was added to the six. The global resettlement community now has seven situations to respond to, where strategic use of resettlement can make a difference.



Extra-ordinary Working Group Session: 18th of December

In order to formulate strategies and concrete next steps regarding the seven situations put forward by the UNHCR, the Chair has promised to return to all states with a proposal for actions in line with the discussions at the meeting and to convene a special meeting in order to discuss the proposals and the possibility of their adoption.

It is therefore our pleasure to invite interested states to an extra-ordinary session of the Working Group on Resettlement on the 18th of December 2009 at the UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. This roundtable meeting is intended to give opportunity to further elaborate on the strategic dimension of resettlement and to try to formulate joint actions for seven

designated refugee situations where our cooperation could assist in expanding the protection space.

It is our ambition to secure attendance from all ordinary member states of the Working Group at this extra-ordinary meeting but we realise that the upcoming holidays or other issues might impair the possibility of participation from capitals. As the Chair proposes an action plan to be adopted we would however encourage all states to attend the meeting. We would therefore like to invite states to respond to the Chair with regard to their participation by no later than 9th December 2009.

Providing humanitarian space in the Middle East

The Iraqi refugees resettlement program

By [UNHCR Beirut Resettlement Hub](#)

Since the beginning of the Iraq resettlement operation in 2007, UNHCR has committed to developing the Iraqi resettlement program as a strategic asylum and protection tool as well as a durable solution.

UNHCR's identification and referral capacity has notably improved compared to the beginning of the operation in 2007. As of 18 November 2009, UNHCR has referred around 86,000 Iraqi refugees to 19 different resettlement countries. 75% of these referrals (around 65,000 Iraqi refugees) have been referred to the United States. The remaining 25% have been referred to 18 other resettlement countries (Australia, Canada, Sweden, Germany, Norway, etc.).

The year 2009 also marked the launch of a special program for Iraqi refugees by Germany with the allocation of 2,500 places for Iraqi refugees from Syria and Jordan. Belgium also resettled 50 Iraqi refugees that were referred from Syria and Jordan. Germany and Belgium's decision to resettle Iraqi refugees followed a conclusion adopted by the Council of the European Union on 27 November 2008, which encouraged the resettlement of up to 10,000 Iraqi refugees to EU Member States.

Resettlement departures continued to pick up as resettlement countries improved their processing time lines. So





Iraqi Girl in Damascus
UNHCR / Mais Hamid

far in 2009, around 18,000 Iraqi refugees have departed for resettlement to various destinations, comparing with less than 4,000 departures in 2007. This has played a critical role in the protection of refugees.

The resettlement program for Iraqi refugees has achieved results beyond the solution it offers to direct beneficiaries. It has opened up more regularized access to refugee populations and provided alternatives to long term detention in host countries. However, a challenge that UNHCR offices continue to face is that the efforts made to expand the reach of the resettlement solution are not being matched by sufficient number of new and available places for refugees in general, and more specifically for those with special needs or particular profiles. For resettlement to realize its potential in the Iraqi operation and seriously constitute a durable solution, it has to be supported with an adequate number of places offered on terms that are as flexible as possible.

According to governments in the region, there are an estimated 2 million Iraqi refugees, the majority of whom live in Syria and Jordan. The authorities in Baghdad estimate an additional 2.7 million Iraqis are internally displaced. Thus, there is a plea for more places and for expediting the resettlement process for those particularly at risk.

Canada responds to Iraqi needs

By Debra Presse, Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Canada's commitment to the protection of Iraqi refugees is ongoing and since 2002, over 8,300 Iraqi refugees have been resettled in Canada. Our resettlement program receives referrals from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and private sponsors.

In 2009, Canada will resettle about 1,400 Government-Assisted Refugees (referred by the UNHCR) and 2,500 Privately Sponsored Refugees through our embassy in Damascus, Syria. Most will be Iraqi refugees. Between January and July 2009 alone, Canada welcomed 2,332 Iraqis, and 1,542 of these persons are receiving support through our private sponsorship of the refugee program. In recognition of the plight faced by Iraqis and in recognition of the tangible support provided by our civil society organizations, in 2009 the Government of Canada announced an increase

in the number of Iraqi refugees to be resettled in 2009, 2010 and 2011. This means that Canada will resettle up to 2,500 refugees through the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program each year for the next three years through the visa office in Damascus, in addition to persons resettled through our partnership with the UNHCR.

Applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and approval rates for Iraqi refugees are high – over 90%.

The Iraqis Canada is resettling are a mixed group coming from a variety of religious and social backgrounds. Although reporting from across the country is mixed, without exception, our agencies are seeing higher medical needs among this group of refugees due in part to the traumatic experiences many have witnessed or lived through. Canadian organizations are working to ensure refugees' needs are met.

NGO report on Iraqi resettlement to the US

By The Georgetown Law Iraqi Refugee Resettlement Project

As members of the Georgetown Law fact-finding mission on Iraqi refugee resettlement, we investigated the extent to which Iraqi refugees have been afforded protection and a durable solution in the United States. In the United States, we conducted extensive interviews with refugees, policy makers, members of Congress, and NGOs. In Amman, Jordan, we interviewed Iraqi refugees who were being resettled and those who were considering resettlement, as well as representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, and international and domestic NGOs.

Our report, *Refugee Crisis in America*, seeks to shed light on the oft-forgotten domestic side of the refugee equation. The international community identifies resettlement as one of three "durable solutions" for refugees, and while resettlement remains an important tool of refugee protection, the findings of our report conclude that most refugees resettled to the United States struggle to achieve long-term self-sufficiency and integration post-resettlement. Programming for English language instruction, access to transportation, and mental health services is insufficient. Poor federal planning and coordination throughout amplify the problems facing refugees.

We urge you to continue the discourse regarding the integration of resettled refugees at the 2010 ATCR meeting to ensure that there is better coordination, communication, and comprehensive planning among the international organizations and governmental agencies involved in resettlement. Sufficient funding and programming is essential for refugees to become independent and integrated in countries of resettlement.

States must reaffirm their duty to protect and assist refugees, enabling refugees to rebuild their lives in dignity and peace in resettlement countries under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. Better coordination, communication, and comprehensive planning among the international organizations and governmental agencies involved in resettlement, as well as sufficient funding and programming for refugees who are resettled, are necessary to ensure that refugees are protected and able to achieve independence and integration in countries of resettlement.

► web link: The full report at:
www.law.georgetown.edu/cle/RefugeeCrisisInAmerica.pdf



UNHCR

Expert Meeting on the Resettlement of Refugees with Medical Needs: Geneva, 24-25 February 2010

The chair of the WGR is pleased to inform WGR member states that an Expert Meeting on the Resettlement of Refugees with Medical Needs will be held in Geneva (venue to be confirmed) on 24-25 February 2010. The participants at this meeting, including representatives from resettlement states, IOM and UNHCR, will discuss ways to improve the resettlement of refugees with medical needs. Participants at the meeting will have the following expertise:

- Resettlement states: civil servants (immigration and health) with expertise in resettlement policy development and/or assessing UNHCR's Medical Assessment Forms and the medical needs of refugees for resettlement (including decisions on medical admissibility).

- IOM and UNHCR: resettlement policy officers, medical experts and others involved in the resettlement of refugees with medical needs.

A formal invitation and draft agenda of the meeting will be sent to WGR member states.



© UNHCR/H. Caux

The Door to Resettlement is Open, but we need to remain vigilant

An update on UNHCR's Anti Fraud operations

By UNHCR

With more states than ever becoming engaged and increasing numbers of refugees finding new lives through resettlement it seems clear that resettlement has gained broad and increasing public support. Resettlement matters, as Erika Feller, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner (Protection), reminded participants at the CCME Conference in Stockholm, Sweden in late August. She reiterated that UNHCR remains fully committed to developing the potential of resettlement as a protection mechanism, as a strategic asylum mechanism and as a durable solution which enriches communities and strengthens cultural diversity and respect for human dignity. Her positive message was well received.

The profile of resettlement on the international agenda is likely to only increase in coming years. Positive developments are carried out, such as a results-oriented Working Group on Resettlement, promising talks about a common EU Resettlement Scheme, and the attention being generated by the still relatively new initiatives such as the Emergency Transit Centres which expand resettlement possibilities

for refugee populations that were previously inaccessible. Even the impact of the world financial crisis has had only a very limited effect on the overall resettlement program.

In this regard it is clear that anything that serves to undermine such a valuable durable solution needs to be combated vigorously. Only by maintaining a high level of program integrity, combating fraud, and ensuring that safeguards are built into all processes from registration to repatriation or resettlement processing, will we be able to ensure continuing state, public and institutional support.

The challenge faced by those entrusted with managing any selective benefit system – such as refugee resettlement – is to assess the risks and then strike the right balance between facilitation and control. We continue to mitigate opportunities for fraud, recognize and reduce the situational pressures that increase the risk of fraud, and raise staff awareness of fraud and the need for ongoing vigilance. Biometrics (largely fingerprinting) is one tool that that may hold promise in protecting refugees from exploitation and ensuring fraud is reduced. UNHCR will be looking closely at the future of biometrics in its opera-



UNHCR/A. Branthwaite

tions in the coming months.

UNHCR is not alone in this effort. Now, more than ever, there is a need for even greater collaboration and coordination among all actors in the process to prevent and respond to fraud. New mechanisms such as the Expert Group on Resettlement Fraud which is composed of interested resettlement countries, IOM and the IGC, are hopefully just the first steps towards increasing this cooperation. The secondment from States to UNHCR of officers with expertise in both refugee and anti-fraud measures is a just one promising idea being discussed.

To ensure the effective stewardship that the resettlement program deserves, UNHCR continues to enhance staff awareness of situations conducive to fraud, types of fraud that have been seen before and ways of 'fraud-proofing' resettlement programs. A key element of UNHCR's Resettlement Anti-fraud Plan of Action has been to train staff in resettlement fraud, and the Resettlement Service continues to support field operations

in this. Ongoing regional resettlement anti-fraud training has led to a number of concrete advances in the field: improved counseling and outreach to refugees and local communities, the establishment of fraud focal points and local office Fraud Committees, the development and distribution of posters and other anti-fraud materials, as well as the addition of fraud to the agenda when meetings of UNHCR states, IOM and other partners are held, among others.

It is important to remember that the success of our robust resettlement system is founded on program integrity and the credibility of the process. With more refugees in need of resettlement than places available in 2010 we must ensure the limited number of places available go to those who meet established criteria and not to those committing fraud. As one experienced resettlement officer has observed, "The door to resettlement is open, but we need to stand guard at the entrance".

Update on UNHCR's Anti-Fraud Training – What is going on?

As mentioned above, a key element of UNHCR's Resettlement Anti-fraud Plan of Action has been to train staff in resettlement fraud. UNHCR Resettlement Service continues to support field operations by assisting with anti-fraud workshops and refresher sessions. In recent months a number of such sessions have taken place often involving the participation of IOM, resettlement countries, implementing partners and local NGOs that play a role in resettlement:

January – Mae Hong Son, Thailand: training of staff, community based organizations and the OPE

March – Saana and Aden, Yemen: resettlement anti-fraud training was delivered in Saana and Aden to a total of 56 persons, including UNHCR implementing partner IDF and staff of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and ADRA

April – Nepal: a total of 66 persons, including Nepalese government officials, local NGOs and the USA Refugee Coordinator, participated in training

May – Beijing, China: UNHCR staff from the Beijing and Hong Kong offices were trained by the senior Regional Resettlement Officer in Hong Kong

August – Ankara, Turkey: Staff member in charge of the Resettlement Unit delivered anti-fraud training in Turkish to national staff

August – Kanchanaburi, Thailand: UNHCR staff were trained

September – Nairobi, Kenya: Regional anti-fraud training was conducted jointly by the Resettlement Service and the Senior Regional Resettlement Officer

September – Phnom Penh, Cambodia: UNHCR staff were trained

October – Pretoria, South Africa: Regional anti-fraud training was conducted jointly by the Resettlement Service and the Regional Resettlement Officer as part of the Regional Protection workshop. 35 persons from nine UNHCR operations in southern Africa participated along with Canada, USA and Australia.

October – Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh: UNHCR staff, implementing partners and government authorities were introduced to anti-fraud

Plans to further train and update staff in the coming months are underway. In West Africa, the Regional Resettlement Officer based in Dakar will lead a French language regional anti-fraud workshop which will take place in Cotonou, Benin in November. In southern Africa, an upcoming workshop is planned by the Resettlement Officer based at UNHCR Lusaka, Zambia. In Asia, the Senior Regional Resettlement officer has scheduled a workshop for the UNHCR operation in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In the region covered by UNHCR's Europe Bureau, Turkey is planning a large one day English language workshop for 80 staff members from offices around the country in Ankara in December. In 2009 the Regional Officer will train staff in Jakarta, Indonesia, Colombo, Sri Lanka and New Delhi, India.

Anti-fraud awareness has come a long way in recent times, but there is still a long way to go. Any ideas you may have as to how it can be further improved would be welcome at HQRS00@unhcr.org. Please use the phrase "Resettlement Fraud" in the subject line.

United States Resettlement Program Enters New Fiscal Year



United States of America

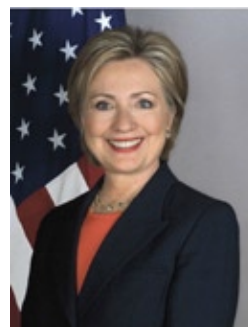
The US Refugee Resettlement programme is the largest in the world, admitting up to 80 000 persons in FY 2010

By **Terry Rusch**, US Department of State

In mid-September, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton presented President Obama's proposal for refugee admissions in fiscal year 2010 to Congress. She noted that the United States has made considerable progress in restoring the program to its pre-9/11 levels and that the 74,652 arrivals in fiscal year 2009 represented the highest level in ten years. Seventy-four percent of the 65,548 UNHCR-referred refugees who were resettled in calendar year 2008 came to the United States.

After the Secretary's consultations with Congress, President Obama authorized the admission of up to 80,000 refugees in fiscal year 2010 which began on October 1. 75,000 are allocated among regions (Near East/South Asia – 35,000; East Asia – 17,000; Africa – 15,500; Latin America/Caribbean – 5,000; Europe/Central Asia – 2,500) based on current or identified caseloads and 5,000 are unallocated and can be used anywhere in the world, if needed. The largest groups anticipated are Iraqis, Burmese, Bhutanese and Somalis.

The current economic situation in the United States has added to the normal challenges newly-arriving refugees and those assisting them in communities across the country must cope with. Under the leadership of the White House, all federal agencies responsible for this program are working with state and local governments as well as with community organizations to ensure that financial and medical assistance and other vital social services remain available to refugees. The U.S. Government is engaged in a review of these long-standing domestic programs with an eye toward improving their efficacy and efficiency.



US Secretary of State consulted Congress on the 2010 Refugee Resettlement Programme.
US Dept. of State Official Photo

USRAP Pilot Resettlement Project in Chad

By **Emily Mestetsky**, US Department of State

“Can my children go to school in America?” was one of the most frequently asked questions by refugees in Chad during pre-departure cultural orientation sessions. Parents' faces lit up and fears began to dissipate with talk of their children going to school and continuing their education.

After several years of persistent efforts to overcome numerous challenges due to fragile security, difficult logistics, and often-hostile weather, 172 refugees have been resettled in the U.S. from Chad, including 101 from the Darfur region of Sudan. This Resettlement Pilot began in late 2008, as UNHCR submitted to the U.S. individual referrals of vulnerable Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad, CAR refugees in southern Chad, and urban refugees in N'djamena. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) established a transit center in Abeche and worked to transport, house and feed applicants coming to the interview site. Between February and June 2009, Church World Service-Overseas Processing Entity (CWS-OPE) staff members were in Chad to interview nearly 300 refugees, preparing case files for U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) review. The adjudication mission by the DHS took place in April and May of 2009 to determine eligibility for admission and qualification for refugee status under U.S. law. Throughout



Young Sudanese girls in Djabal camp
UNHCR / H. Caux



Sudanese refugees from Darfur wait to be interviewed at a camp in eastern Chad.
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the process, the program enjoyed broad support from the government of Chad, particularly the Commission Nationale d'Accueil et de Reinsertion des Refugies (CNAR).

Chad hosts over 330,000 refugees, including some 260,000 Sudanese refugees from Darfur, Sudan, who are living in twelve refugee camps in eastern Chad. In southern Chad, there are some 70,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) who are residing in five refugee camps. In N'Djamena, nearly 400 urban refugees of various nationalities have been registered by UNHCR. In the east, the refugees face a fragile security situation as violence spills over the border from Sudan, and there is ongoing fighting involving rebels from both Sudan and Chad. Many young boys, idle with no school to attend in the crowded refugee camps, risk being recruited as child soldiers. Women face high rates of gender-based violence, particularly when they leave the camps in search of firewood. The overpopulated desert region has been drained of water, firewood, and grazing and farm land, leaving the refugees largely dependent on humanitarian assistance. These conditions create real protection concerns - especially for women-at-risk, those with disabilities, medical conditions, or other protection needs. With the experience of the Pilot, the U.S. is committed to continue supporting UNHCR's resettlement efforts as part of the overall protection mission for refugees in Chad.



Denmark

Denmark has a yearly Refugee Quota of 500 persons.

Denmark (GOV)

Danish CO-mission to Nepal

Between August 24th and August 28th, 2009, Denmark held a “Pre-departure-course” in Damak, Nepal, for Bhutanese refugees bound for resettlement to Denmark.

The Bhutanese refugees have been staying in camps in the eastern part of Nepal since the early 1990s, when they were expelled from Bhutan. The refugees have permission to stay in Nepal but they have to stay in the camps, where the cottages are made of bamboo, there is no electricity or running water, and they have very few privileges. Thus, refugees may not have any income and consequently they are fully dependent on help from international society, including World Food Programme (WFP) and UNHCR. They are also not able to move around freely in Nepal.

Although the refugees are not supposed to have an income, many of the refugees are working outside the camps with odd jobs on building projects and as teachers in Nepal or India. Many women are occupied with spinning wool and making arts and crafts, and many men produce furniture made of bamboo, which they sell on markets. The level of education is generally mid to low but all children are offered education administered by Caritas corresponding to grades 8-10. Adults are offered different kinds of creative or practical education.

The objective with the pre-departure course is to give the refugees a better knowledge of Danish society and to give them an introduction to the Danish language in order to make them better prepared for their move to Denmark. The course contains lessons in the Danish language and in social education, divided in teams for adults, young people and children. The lessons are carried out in teams in the mornings and in the afternoon. Every team has two hours of Danish lessons and two hours of social education. The lessons in social education take place with the help of an English/Nepalese interpreter, while the lessons on the Danish language take place in Danish only. Lessons are supported by multimedia materials containing songs and pictures from Denmark, movies about Denmark and written material in the form of pictures from Denmark and books for learning Danish.

The refugees participated very actively, were interested in the lessons, and they asked many questions. During the week of the course they all learned the most common sentences in Danish. Many questions in particular concerned job opportunities and freedom to practice their religion – especially Hinduism – as well as education opportunities for the children.

Danish Aliens Service



Argentina

Argentina has a yearly Refugee Quota of 50 persons.

Argentina (NGO)

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, HIAS, is a 128 year-old, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the rescue and resettlement of migrants. As the oldest international migration and refugee resettlement agency in the United States, HIAS has helped more than 4.5 million people escape peril and find safety on different shores. In the last decade alone, HIAS has provided national and international leadership in the advocacy of policies and programs affecting refugees, in consultation with the U.S. government and voluntary organizations, and maintains an organizational presence in Europe, the Former Soviet Union, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America.

In 2005 HIAS was selected by the UNHCR, in the context of the Mexico Action Plan, as the agency in charge of the Argentine Resettlement Program. Since then, 179 Colombian refugees have come to Argentina under the Resettlement Program. Today the program functions in three cities – Buenos Aires, Mendoza and Rosario – and is expected to expand to new cities.

Among the Program achievements we would like to mention:

- HIAS accompanied the Argentinean Government in the Eligibility Mission.

- HIAS has developed a strategy called Integration Working Plan (PTI) that aims at the commitment and participation of the resettled individuals and their families in the process of integration to the country. We understand the integration as a very complex and long process that cannot be limited to a program time span. Families have to be active participants in the process in order to expect successful outcomes.

- HIAS provides multiple professional teams in each of the resettled locations, working under a unified theoretical and practical approach that strengthens the Program.

- HIAS has nurtured and developed new networks in the provinces where the Program is present, enhancing the integration process for the resettled population.

Although the program is only a few years old, we have identified a number of challenges that lie ahead, the main ones being:

- To ratify the Agreements with solidarity provinces and cities, together with UNHCR support, to promote openness and awareness for the Program in the country;

- To create new tools of integration for the resettled population in job fields;

- To develop better responses for the housing situation

in a national context where programs of this type are nonexistent for the native population;

The resettlement program in Argentina is still developing; we have small numbers compared to traditional resettlement countries. Our first resettled refugees have been in the country for only 4 years and we are witnessing the small steps of success in their integration.

We welcome this initiative in Argentina and in the South Cone of the Americas, which has opened new opportunities for this population in need.

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, HIAS

► [web link: www.hias.org](http://www.hias.org)



Sweden

Sweden has a yearly Refugee Quota of 1 900 persons.



European Union

A Joint EU Resettlement Programme is expected to be rolled out in 2010

Sweden / EU (GOV)

Swedish Presidency holds seminar on Practical Cooperation

On 29—30 October 2010, the Swedish Migration Board hosted a seminar on practical cooperation in the field of asylum and protection under the umbrella of the Swedish EU Presidency.

The seminar focused on how the practical cooperation between authorities in different countries can contribute to the realisation of a common European asylum system. There were two main issues on the agenda: The establishing of a European Asylum Support Office and the EU's common resettlement programme.

On resettlement the seminar concluded that it is important that the EU's new resettlement programme receives a good start and strong support — this can initially be ensured by means of recurring briefings to the Council of Ministers. It was further agreed that the EU's resettlement programme is expected to lead to an increase in the number of people resettled in the EU's Member States occurring as early as 2010 and that it is important that the EU's resettlement programme is based on the UNHCR's work in the field and does not create a new administrative superstructure.

Swedish Migration Board

The next issue:

The next issue of the ATCR/WGR Newsletter will be distributed in early February 2010.

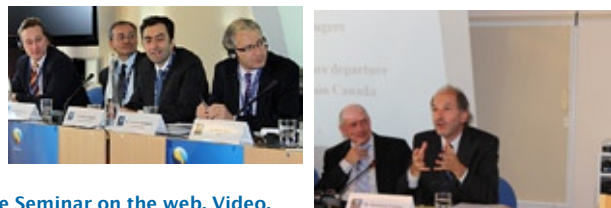
We aim to publish updates and articles on other developments and activities that are being carried through. If you would like to submit such news from your State or organisation, please send suggested text and pictures to the Swedish Chair [sweden.atcr@migrationsverket.se] before 15th of January.

Top: The first day panelists discussing a joint EU Resettlement Programme and the Asylum Support Office. (From left Ms. Judith Kumin, Director, Europe Bureau, UNHCR, Mr. Tobias Billström, Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy, Sweden, Mr. Jean-Louis de Brouwer, European Commission, Mr. Bjarte Våndvik, Secretary General, ECRE).



Below left: The second day workshop on EU Resettlement with Mr. Oskar Ekblad, Chairman of UNHCR Resettlement Working Group, Mr. Vincent Cochetel, Deputy Director, Div. of International Protection Services, UNHCR, Mr. Stefano Signore, Head of ERF Unit, The European Commission and Mr. Jonathan Sedgwick, Deputy Chief Executive, UK Border Agency, UK.

Below right: Mr. Dominique Collinge, Head of Humanitarian Affairs, Perm. Mission of Canada, Geneva, gave a Canadian perspective (flanked to the left by Mr. Michel Tonneau, Chief, Movement Management Division, IOM)



► **web resource: The Seminar on the web. Video, conclusions and more.**



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and WORKING GROUP ON RESETTLEMENT