

**Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement  
Geneva, 28-30 June 2007**

**Agenda Item 3e**

**Information Note: Heightened Risk Identification Tool**

The Heightened Risk Identification Tool (HRIT) has been developed to enhance UNHCR's effectiveness in identifying refugees at risk by linking community-based / participatory assessments and individual assessment methodologies. It has been designed for use by UNHCR staff involved in community services and/or protection activities (including resettlement) and their implementing partners to assist with the identification of individuals at risk and who require immediate intervention. UNHCR staff and NGO partners who are involved in these types of activities can use the tool and apply it in different situations. The tool should be used comprehensively and not alone for resettlement identification.


The Heightened Risk Identification Tool serves to: *(i) implement ExCom Conclusion 105 on Women and Girls At-Risk and UNHCR's Global Strategic Objectives for 2007-09; ii) strengthen needs-based planning, identification methodologies and case management systems; and iii) promote age, gender, and diversity mainstreaming.*<sup>1</sup>

The HRIT is a hybrid of a similar tool developed by the University of New South Wales (NSW) to identify women-at-risk. In early 2007, UNHCR joined forces with the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture and the University of NSW to further develop the methodology in order to broaden its scope to identify a diverse range of individuals at risk. This process of refinement also benefited from a series of regional workshops in 2005-2006 conducted by UNHCR's Resettlement Service in Asia, Africa and Latin America aimed at strengthening ways to identify refugees in need of resettlement.

In March 2007, UNHCR piloted the tool in Bangladesh. This pilot project involved a series of community-based consultations and individual interviews with the Rohingya refugees. The project was undertaken with the support of the UNHCR Office in Bangladesh and involved a multi-functional team of NGO and UNHCR staff. The NGO team comprised staff from Amnesty International (Australia), AUSTCARE, University of NSW and the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture.

Benefiting from the work undertaken in Bangladesh, the HRIT has been designed to be flexible, simple, yet comprehensive. It can be used in different ways and operational contexts, for instance: (i) prior to and as follow-up to Refugee Status Determination; (ii) in conjunction with a participatory assessment exercise; (iii) as a stand-alone methodology involving community-based consultations and individual assessments; (iv) as a tool to sample survey the refugee population to project the level of risk within the community; (v) as an interview format or checklist for case workers ; and, (vi) as a checklist tool for roving officers to use in refugee camps or in urban settings.

**Proposed Next Steps**

-  UNHCR welcomes feedback from ATCR participants concerning the HRIT and its usefulness in furthering ways to enhance tripartite collaboration.

---

<sup>1</sup> The concept of 'diversity mainstreaming' implies that the significant participation of refugee girls, boys, women and men of all ages and backgrounds is integral to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all UNHCR policies and operations so that these impact equitably on people of concern.

- ✚ UNHCR invites ATCR participants to explore how the tool can be used by UNHCR's partners in the field and within a protection framework to ensure coordinated service delivery and case management. In this connection, UNHCR welcomes suggestions concerning the next pilot project to further field test the tool involving partners of UNHCR in the field.
- ✚ UNHCR will explore how the HRIT might be further refined and integrated into a case management system and allow for technological applications and linkages to the *proGres* registration system.
- ✚ UNHCR plans to finalise the HRIT for mainstream application by end-2007, and will promote its roll-out at the 2007-2008 resettlement strategic planning meetings.

Resettlement Service  
Division of International Protection Services