

# Complementary Pathways for Admission to Third Countries

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## Glossary of Key Terms

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The current glossary constitutes a collection of key terms defining various third-country solutions available for persons in need of international protection, offering definitions and distinctions of key conglomerative umbrella terms and particular categories of complementary pathways programming, as well as explaining the differences between similar terms that carry different meanings in the space of complementary pathways. The glossary starts with an overview of definitions and distinctions amongst the key terms and continues with a typology of complementary pathways and third-country solutions.

# KEY TERMS

## Community Sponsorship

Reception and integration support that involves the pairing of resettled refugees or persons admitted under complementary pathways such as education pathways with individuals, groups of individuals or organizations (i.e. sponsors such as local clubs, businesses, university communities, faith groups, etc.) who commit to providing clearly defined financial and/or in-kind contributions, emotional support and volunteer services to help refugees or other persons in need of international protection upon arrival in the destination States.

## Complementarity/Additionality

For the purposes of distinguishing admissions through complementary pathways, the meaning of the term resettlement is restricted to UNHCR-referred submissions against State set quotas to which all complementary pathways arrivals remain complimentary/additional; as well as submissions from authorized non- governmental organizations (NGOs) to government resettlement programmes. Opportunities provided by States and other partners to persons in need of international protection to obtain durable solutions through programmes additional to and based on different identification methodology and criteria than resettlement are considered complementary pathways.

## Complementary Education Pathways

Programmes, including scholarships, that facilitate the movement of persons in need of international protection to a safe third country where their protection needs are met for the purpose of higher education.

## Complementary Labour/Employment Pathways or Labour Mobility Pathways

Programmes or administrative waivers included in programmes that facilitate the movement of persons in need of international protection to a safe third country where their protection needs are met for the purpose of employment.

## Complementary Pathways

Migration pathways with refugee-specific flexibilities built in, that allow refugees and others in need of international protection to access work, study and other opportunities outside their country of asylum, while their international protection needs are respected. Complementary pathways can also take the shape of programmes created specifically for refugees and others in need of international protection to access opportunities internationally outside of UNHCR-assisted resettlement.

## Durable Solutions

[The means by which the situation of persons of concern to UNHCR can be satisfactorily and permanently resolved through ensuring national protection for their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.](#) Traditionally durable solutions include voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement. Complementary pathways programmes progressively lead towards such a solution in a third country but may not necessarily include the immediate solution option in its programming from the onset.

## Humanitarian Pathways

Programmes which offer a pathway for admission to individuals in need of international protection through their identification and transfer from the first country of asylum to a third country where they can enjoy effective protection. Eligibility criteria for such programmes are decided by States, sometimes jointly with other actors in the receiving country, and are discretionary.

## Humanitarian visa

A tool for legal entry into another country, where legislative framework allows State's discretionary use of this visa. Humanitarian visas may be used as a tool to facilitate admissions through various complementary pathways programmes, such as humanitarian corridors, employment or education opportunities or family reunification, but is not a pathway in itself. Humanitarian visa holders typically apply for asylum upon arrival to their destination country.

## Legal Admission Pathways

Pathways for regular migration of temporary or permanent nature intended to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration of individuals between different countries for the purposes of, inter alia, work, study, treatment or others. They are embedded in the migration frameworks of the States and rely on relevant entry visas.

## Persons in need of international protection

Used to encompass in addition to refugees, beneficiaries of complementary forms of protection, temporary protection and stay arrangements, as well as people otherwise in need of international protection. They are similarly situated to refugees and often have equally serious international protection needs, which warrant extending them the same protections, rights and access to solutions as refugees. Any difference in treatment must be objectively and reasonably justifiable so as not to be discriminatory. UNHCR in its [2017 Guidance on the topic](#) outlines that “the need for international protection arises when a person is outside their own country and unable to return home because they would be at risk there, and their country is unable or unwilling to protect them”. This definition follows closely the definition under Article 1(A) of the 1951 Convention as well as the expanded definitions considered under regional refugee instruments.

## Refugee

“Someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.” - 1951 Refugee Convention. A person becomes a refugee by virtue and at the time of meeting the current definition as opposed to the time of official recognition by an authorized entity, such as a State or UNHCR.

## Refugees Family Reunification/Reunion

The legal, rights-based and State-provided avenues that allow refugees to access their right to family life regulated by national, regional and international law. Family reunification procedures include individuals with close and extended family relations based on the concept of dependency which ensures that family members—who may not be close family members but are nevertheless dependants—are able to enjoy the right to family life and family unity.

## Resettlement

[Involves the selection and transfer of refugees from a State in which they have sought protection to a third State which has agreed to admit them—as refugees— with permanent residence status.](#) The status provided ensures protection against refoulement and provides a resettled refugee and his/her family or dependants with access to rights similar to those enjoyed by nationals. Resettlement also carries with it the opportunity to eventually become a naturalized citizen of the resettlement country.

## Sponsorship Pathways

Programmes in which private individuals, entities or organizations (nomination sponsors) directly engage in admission efforts by identifying, selecting, and supporting the entry and stay of nominated individuals in need of international protection. Sponsorship can often include the provision of financial, emotional, social and/or settlement support in a third country (an integration tool which UNHCR refers to as “community sponsorship”).

## Third-Country Solutions

Safe and regulated avenues that provide recognized refugees and other persons in need of international protection with lawful stay in a country other than the country of origin or first host country.

# Typology of third-country admission pathways

Complementary pathways fall broadly under the following four categories:

## Rights-based pathways

Pathways programmes, eligibility to which is determined to ensure the beneficiaries effective access to their key human rights, such as the right to family and family unity.

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## Qualifications-based pathways

Pathways programmes, eligibility to which is determined in line with the applicants' work and/or educational qualifications and experience.

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**Complementary Labour/Employment Pathways** | Programmes or administrative waivers included in programmes that facilitate the movement of persons in need of international protection to a safe third country where their protection needs are met for the purpose of employment.

## Sponsorship-based pathways

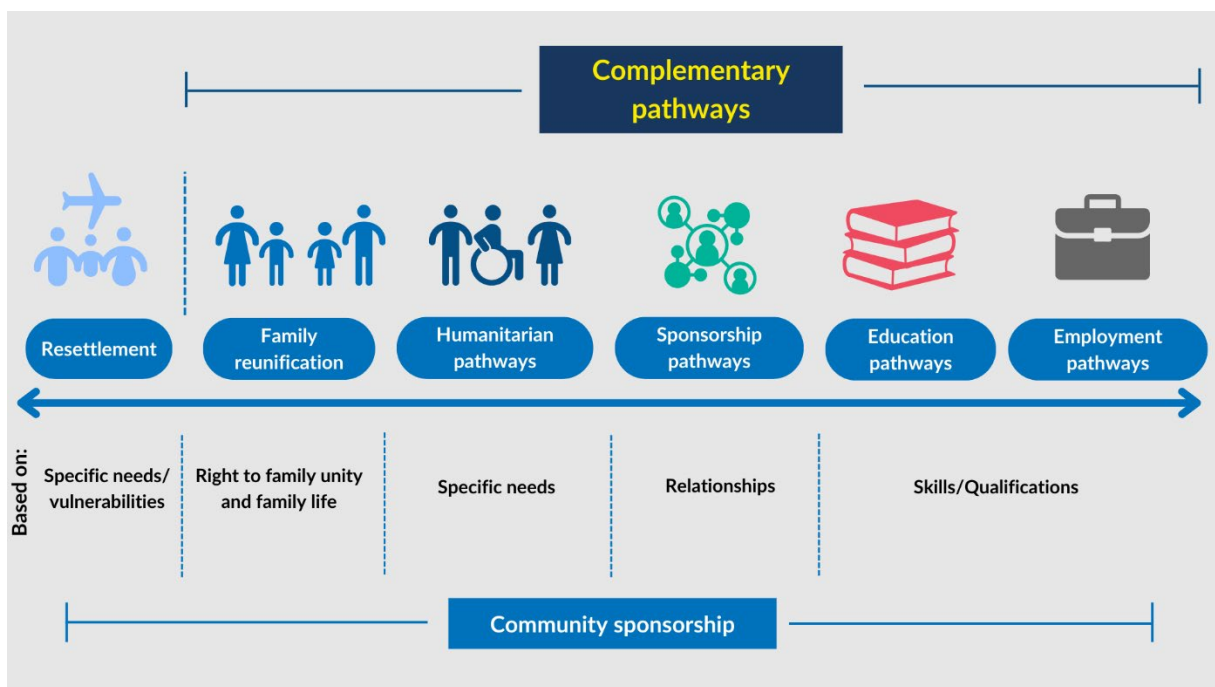
Pathways programmes involving the purposive identification of beneficiaries in need of international protection, by private individuals, entities, or organizations, based on previous knowledge of those beneficiaries by the sponsoring entity.

**Sponsorship Pathways** | Programmes in which private individuals, entities or organizations (nomination sponsors) directly engage in admission efforts by identifying, selecting, and supporting the entry and stay of nominated individuals in need of international protection. Sponsorship can often include the provision of financial, emotional, social and/or settlement support in a third country (an integration tool which UNHCR refers to as “community sponsorship”).

## Needs-based pathways

Pathways programmes, eligibility to which is based on humanitarian/protection needs in the country of asylum, in addition to other potential requirements such as family links.

**Humanitarian Pathways** | Programmes which offer a pathway for admission to individuals in need of international protection through their identification and transfer from the first country of asylum to a third country where they can enjoy effective protection. Eligibility criteria for such programmes are decided by States, sometimes jointly with other actors in the receiving country, and are discretionary. Beneficiaries of these programmes may therefore be selected against broader eligibility criteria than those applicable to resettlement which may include general humanitarian needs or existing links to the receiving country. Admission under these programmes is often granted on a temporary basis and can be extended through an application for asylum upon arrival. They are often used as a response to large-scale displacement. Some programmes may rely on humanitarian visas issued prior to departure, which allows the beneficiaries to apply for asylum upon arrival.



**Figure 1:** Full spectrum of third-country solutions