

UNHCR-NGO Toolkit for Practical Cooperation on Resettlement
Operational activities – Identification of refugees in need of resettlement
Field Examples

Verification leading to resettlement

In April 2010, UNHCR embarked on a profiling exercise in preparation for resettlement processing in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. Mapendo International was requested to contribute staff to assist with the profiling exercise. A team of three Mapendo staff - two resettlement experts and one staff member with both resettlement and BID experience - was dispatched to the Kakuma resettlement unit for a two-week period.

Ahead of the profiling, UNHCR engaged in meetings with members of the refugee community in order to sensitize them about the aims and scope of the project. The informational sessions included leaders, elders and other community groups, women and men. The project was announced and the key concerns were addressed with the refugee community in order to ensure an efficient process.

The Mapendo and UNHCR team members interviewed and assessed the profile and eligibility of 956 refugees over the course of two weeks. In the course of the profiling, fifteen cases were identified as in need of a best interest determination (BID) for a child on the case. During the final days of the project, Mapendo's BID specialist conducted initial five BIDs, including home visits, in order to facilitate onward processing of those cases requiring BID. Addressing the BID needs at an earlier stage of the process was particularly useful as it allowed those cases to proceed without delay due to the requirement of a BID. These activities represent a crucial role that NGOs can play not only in resettlement, but in those activities that surround, support or lead to resettlement.