

The ATCR/WGR Newsletter #4

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**ATCR
WGR**
ANNUAL TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS
and WORKING GROUP ON RESETTLEMENT

The ATCR/WGR Newsletter
is published by the Chair of the Working
Group and the Annual Tripartite Consulta-
tions on Resettlement in cooperation with
the NGO Focal Point and the UNHCR.



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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 NGOs. The views in this publication does not necessarily represent the Swedish Government, the UNHCR or other contributors.

Title Picture © European Union, 2010

Every Week is Resettlement Week

By [The Swedish Chair](#)

Who would have known that the tenth week of 2010 would turn into 'Resettlement Week'? With no less than four official meetings on resettlement, and doubtless more going on in the margins, the Romanian town of Timisoara put its mark on the international agenda. Not sure what came first; the Working Group on Resettlement or the 'Practical Cooperation on Resettlement in the EU' project launch meeting, the ECRE Core Group on Resettlement or the Experts Meeting on Resettlement of Refugees with Medical Needs – at least 'resettlement' was the word of the week. And indeed it should be. Because every week is resettlement week. And every day needs to be resettlement day.

In 2009, UNHCR submitted 1000 refugees with emergency priority for immediate protection or treatment in safer countries. 616 of them departed to resettlement states. Some transit through countries such as Romania, Slovakia or the Philippines on their way to their final destinations, thus buying time for resettlement states to process their cases. In other circumstances, the needs for quick departures put the system of resettlement to the test. Can we step up to evacuate persons over the world within a day or two? Do we have the capacity for it? We should be able to, with the help of transit centers and dossier selection methods – but more than once we have failed. National legislation, security screening demands, lack of housing and more have led to an average processing time of 20 weeks from submission to departure for emergency cases.

The challenge we learned in Timisoara is not only to evacuate persons quickly, but also to maintain quality and allow for sufficient preparations. What happens to resettlement as a durable solution if it manages to evacuate someone within a few days, but doesn't provide the time to gather important information for instance on a person's medical needs? How can life in the resettlement country meet the demands and needs of a person unknown to its doctors, to its schools or welfare systems?

It is the paradox of resettlement; it must function both as an immediate protection tool and a sustainable, long term solution.

Having put the last resettlement week behind, we now look ahead to the next. We are occupying our minds with the ATCR, where it all ties together; the strengthened capacity, increased commitment and strategic impacts of resettlement. We will do our best to mix inspiration with information and dialogue in this very large forum. Participants will find that we have cut some items from the agenda, and introduced some new. We hope that this will facilitate creativity as well as concrete outcomes from plenary sessions and break out groups. We hope that you will agree!

■ Week of Resettlement activities in Timisoara, Romania, March 2010



Left: A Palestinian family at the ETC receiving the WGR delegates for a visit.

Right: The WGR in session: Terry Rusch, US Dept. of State (Flanked by Oskar Ekblad, Sweden and Vincent Cochetel, UNHCR) presenting thoughts from the incoming chair.

Working Group on Resettlement met on 10-11 March 2010

Reaching out to those most in need

Is the resettlement community responding to emergency situations in a timely manner? How can refugees' needs for immediate evacuation be met? These and similar questions were put on the table when the Working Group on Resettlement met in Timisoara, Romania on 10-11 March 2010.

By The Swedish Chair

The Romanian Prime Minister Mr Emil Boc honored the Working Group of Resettlement with his presence when it gathered in the city of Timisoara in western Romania in the beginning of March. The topic for the meeting was how to increase the capability and commitment for refugees in urgent need of resettlement. The location was carefully chosen – the first Evacuation Transit Centre was

established in Timisoara in November 2009.

During one and a half day, delegates from 17 states, 13 NGOs, UNHCR, IOM and the EU discussed how more can be done for refugees in emergency situations. Experiences from the three evacuation transit facilities located in Romania, Slovakia and the Philippines were shared, as well as the use of alternative selection methods such as dossier submissions. The fact that cases that

Delegates visit the ETC and listen to Camelia Nitu of the UNHCR BO Romania.



have been submitted on dossier basis have had a generally low acceptance rate was one of the issues to be examined. Other discussion points concerned the long processing times for cases in need of expedited resettlement.

The Romanian government showed great hospitality in offering the delegates excursions to both the opera and a local winery. One very important and appreciated visit was to the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC). The chair of the Working Group also had the opportunity to meet with UNHCR's implementing partner, Generatie Tanara, to learn about the practicalities connected with running the centre.

Another important issue was the productivity of the Working Group itself. The chair had proposed an internal review of the format of the global consultations, and delegates provided their opinions and reflections on how the forum could be developed. Both the number and size of the meetings were debated, as well as the need to share experience between traditional and new resettlement states, to ensure

that ATCR continues to be a welcoming and inclusive process. The chair will continue to work on the review, together with the incoming U.S. chair, in the coming months and present some food for thought and discussion at the ATCR this summer.



The WGR in session: Participants listen to a presentation from IOM.



The inauguration of the WGR (from left): Emil Boc, Prime Minister of Romania, Oskar Ekblad, Head Of Department, Swedish Migration Board, Sweden, Vasile Blaga, Minister Of Administration and Interior, Ministry of Administration and Interior, Romania, Judith Kumin, Director Of the UNHCR Bureau For Europe, UNHCR, Carin Bratt, Director, Deputy Head Of Division, Ministry of Justice, Sweden, Bogdan Aureescu, Secretary Of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania, George Joseph, NGO Focal Point, Caritas, Sweden and Vincent Cochetel, Deputy Director, DIP & Head, Resettlement Service, UNHCR.

■ Week of Resettlement activities in Timisoara, Romania, March 2010

Experts' meeting on resettlement of refugees with medical needs



Congolese refugee woman in the health centre with her young child in Nakivale Refugee Settlement, Mbarara District, South West Uganda @ UNHCR, H. Coussidis, 2006

More follow up and shared definitions, those were the recommendations from doctors and policy experts at the thematic meeting on resettlement of refugees with medical needs, in Romania on 11-12 March.

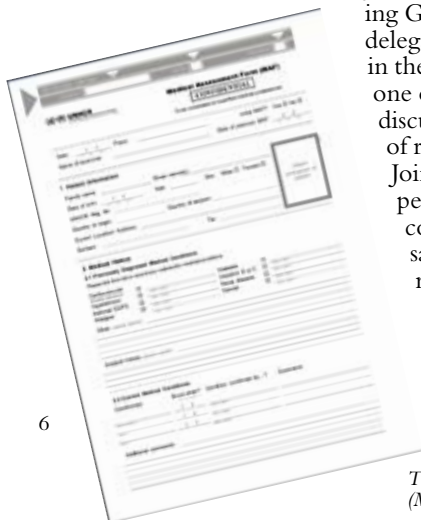
By **The Swedish Chair**

Just after the finish of the Working Group on Resettlement, some delegations stayed to participate in the thematic side meeting on one of the aspects that had been discussed, namely the resettlement of refugees with medical needs. Joined by doctors and policy experts, representatives from eleven countries, IOM and UNHCR sat down to evaluate how refugees' medical needs can be addressed.

- It was a good opportunity

to narrow the discussions from the Working Group down to a specific, operational issue, says Oskar Ekblad, chair of the WGR. If sometimes the theme of increasing our capacity for resettlement can be perceived as large and visionary, experts meetings such as this focus the discussions on practical, operational issues that clearly illustrate the important collaboration between UNHCR and states, and the impact that can in fact be done by all of us together.

Both states and UNHCR were given the opportunity to provide feedback and collect information on certain areas of resettlement practice and routines, such as the gathering of information on refugees' medical background and the rules of confidentiality in sharing such data between practitioners in resettlement states. Among the initiatives presented at the meeting was the drafting of a new Medical Assess-



The revised Medical Assessment Form (MAF)

ment Form (MAF), which is now available on the secure WGR website.

- The meeting showed that there needs to be better information sharing based on standardised definitions among all parties involved, says Paul Spiegel at the UNHCR.

UNHCR are now following up on a number of items; among them instructions and training on the MAF, data from Governments on medical resettlement cases and those resettled primarily not

for medical reasons but that include a medical component. UNHCR and the chair are also developing a follow up evaluation form to gather more information on how states are handling medical needs within their resettlement programs.



Top: Dr. Heiko Hering, Public Health Officer, Sean Henderson, Senior Resettlement Officer, Dr. Paul Spiegel, Head of Public Health and HIV Section, (all UNHCR), Oskar Ekblad, WGR/ATCR Chair, Yukiko Iriyama, Resettlement Officer, UNHCR. Below: Participants at the experts meeting on medical resettlement. © Swedish Chair

Heart surgery in Monaco - How medical evacuation save refugees lives

A medical evacuation success story recorded by UNHCRs Syria operation 2009:

Iraqi refugee youngster flown to Monaco from Syria for heart surgery

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, June 30 (UNHCR) – An infant Iraqi refugee has been flown to Europe for life-saving surgery under an accord signed here less than two weeks ago between UNHCR and the Mediterranean principality of Monaco.

Basim Omar Basim, aged two-and-a-half, flew out of Damascus on Friday and is being looked after by a host family in southern France. Basim, the first child to benefit under the landmark agreement signed on World Refugee Day (June 20), is expected to undergo heart surgery in Monaco early next week.

"This child's departure for Monaco gives a concrete expression of the benefits of the agreement and we hope more medical evacuations will follow in the near future," Philippe

Leclerc, UNHCR's acting representative in Syria, said shortly before the young boy left for Europe.

Basim was chosen for surgery when two Monegasque doctors, François Bourlon, a cardio-thoracic paediatrician, and orthopaedic surgeon Tristan Lascar, were flown to Damascus by UNHCR and the Monaco government in early March to examine Iraqi refugee children in need of medical treatment not available in Syria.

Dr. Bourlon recommended that the seriously ill young Iraqi be sent to Monaco for urgent surgery, believing that it would improve his chances of survival. Basim was flown free of charge to Monaco by the Aviation Sans Frontières charity. "This complicated and very expensive open-heart surgery is not possible in Syria," explained Adam Musa Khalifa, UNHCR's senior public health officer in Damascus.



Basim in France with the host family he will be staying with. Michele Faramia/ Rencontres Africaines

Basim's family were not able to travel to Syria and they have found it difficult being without their son, but they realize that this is a crucial and rare opportunity that could ensure that he lives a healthy, dignified and long life.

Funds for the programme were raised last year by various charity groups to mark Prince Albert of Monaco's 50th birthday. UNHCR has been handling administrative and logistical aspects of the programme as well as working with

the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to identify children in need of care.

The Principality of Monaco, situated on the French Riviera, is the world's second smallest independent nation. It has a surface area of 196 hectares (485 acres) and is home to around 32,000 people, making it one of the most densely populated countries on earth.

Francois Hurstel in Damascus, Syria contributed to this article

■ Week of Resettlement activities in Timisoara,
Romania, March 2010

Launch of project on practical cooperation in EU-resettlement



By Johannes van Gemund, UNHCR

From 8 to 10 March the first meeting of the “project on practical cooperation in EU-resettlement” took place in Timisoara. This joint IOM/ ICMC/ UNHCR project aims at promoting further engagement in resettlement of refugees by EU Member States, NGOs and other stakeholders, by drawing on the benefits of a more coordinated practical approach by all actors involved in resettlement.

During the first project meeting the Project Coordinators, Jo De Backer from IOM, Hazel Williams from ICMC and Johannes van Gemund from UNHCR, set out the project objectives and budget to the representatives of participating governments, municipalities and NGOs. Participants explored possible cooperation in the different phases of resettlement, from joint selection missions to exchange of best practices in the reception and integration of resettled refugees. Workshops also examined information-sharing and cooperation between resettlement actors dealing with the selection of refugees for resettlement and those working in reception and integration. Participants were invited to the Emergency Transit Centre in Timisoara to familiarize themselves with the evacuation mechanism and to explore the possibilities for cooperation at the ETC, for example by jointly using a video-conferencing tool for cultural orientation sessions.

The first meeting has produced a number of good ideas for practical cooperation. The next step is for the resettlement governments and other resettlement stakeholders to turn the ideas into joint activities, to be implemented during the project period until May 2011. The action plan with all joint activities will be developed during the next project meeting which will be held in Lisbon on 17 and 18 June.

Invitation



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Kenya: Children play as the sun goes down outside of IFO camp in Dadaab. Continuing violence in Somalia has led to more and more Somalis seeking refuge across the border in Kenya, but UNHCR is struggling to cope with the thousands of new arrivals at the camps who need shelter, food, and medical attention.

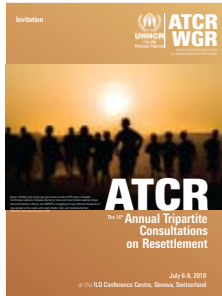
UNHCR, E. Hockstein, December 2008

ATCR

The 16th **Annual Tripartite
Consultations
on Resettlement**

July 6-8, 2010

at the **ILO Conference Centre, Geneva, Switzerland**



The 16th ATCR

The Swedish Chair, UNHCR and the NGO Focal Point have recently sent out the invitations to the 16th Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR) to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, July 6-8, 2010.

The ATCR provides the opportunity for states, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations together with UNHCR to take part in current developments in resettlement. Through a combination of information sessions in plenary and smaller break out groups, as well as the introduction of a ‘Resettlement Expo’, participants are invited to reflect upon the outcomes of resettlement and to explore possibilities for the future. With a starting point at UNHCR’s Projected Global Resettlement Needs for 2011, participants will be given the opportunity to engage in more detailed discussions on how protection strategies and resettlement can make a larger impact in different areas of the world.

At this year’s ATCR the Chair will tie together the theme of the chairmanship, namely the ‘Increased commitment and capability for resettlement’. It is encouraging to see that there is strong commitment from many colleagues around the world. However, with lacking capacity, the lives of many refugees are put at stake. Our commitment alone does not solve their needs for protection.

Draft suggested Agenda : Day 1

Tuesday July 6	A: Opening of the ATCR:											
	8.00-9.00 Registrations and arrivals											
	9.00-10.45 Opening [plenary] Mr. António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (tbc) Mr. Dan Eliasson, Director General of the Swedish Migration Board Speaker from Caritas Internationalis (tba)											
	10.45-11.15 Coffee break											
	B: The Global Resettlement Needs : 10 out of 100 resettled											
	11.15-12.00 Presentation of the Projected Global Resettlement Needs for 2011 [plenary]											
	12.00-13.00 Bureau outlook on global and regional resettlement needs [plenary] Interactive discussion with UNHCR’s regional bureaus on current trends in global resettlement, regional priorities and solution strategies.											
	13.00-14.00 Lunch											
	14.00-14.30 Never speak about us without us – Refugee voices [plenary]											
	14.30-15.00 Update on the priority situations for strategic use of resettlement and likely outcomes in 2010 [plenary] A discussion and follow up on the strategic use of resettlement in seven priority situations.											
	15.00-18.00 Regional resettlement needs and strategic use of resettlement [Break-out sessions]											
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Break-out Africa</td> <td>Break-out Asia</td> <td>Break-out MENA-region</td> <td>Break-out Europe</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coffee break</td> <td>Coffee break</td> <td>Coffee break</td> <td>Coffee break</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Break-out Africa cont’d</td> <td>Break-out Asia cont’d</td> <td>Break-out MENA cont’d</td> <td>Break-out Latin America</td> </tr> </table>	Break-out Africa	Break-out Asia	Break-out MENA-region	Break-out Europe	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Break-out Africa cont’d	Break-out Asia cont’d	Break-out MENA cont’d
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Break-out Africa cont’d	Break-out Asia cont’d	Break-out MENA cont’d	Break-out Latin America									
18.30 Garden Party Reception hosted by the Swedish Chair at the Geneva École Hôtelière. By separate invitation.												

One measure to increase our capacity to resettle is to look closer at the productivity and effectiveness of the ATCR and WGR. During the Working Group on Resettlement in March, a review of the consultation process was initiated by the Chair, and a web survey was conducted on participants' experiences. For the upcoming ATCR the survey has been developed, building on some of the suggestions that were put forward at the WGR. As ATCR participants will be able to further discuss a possible revision of the format for meetings and consultations, we ask that you take a few minutes to respond to some of the suggestions. The general survey findings will be displayed at the ATCR as background for discussions. Please click here to enter the survey: [<http://survey.anp.se/42435D47794645504A71/>]

We hope that coming together at this ATCR can help us increase the quality of identification, selection, reception and integration of resettled refugees. We also hope that new and emerging resettlement states will be inspired and supported by those who have greater experience in resettlement. We hope that with increased knowledge, inspiration, cooperation and strategic thinking, NGOs, IGOs, states and UNHCR together can find ways to increase the global community's ability not only to stand by, but to help move persons out of harm's way, into the security offered in resettlement countries.

Draft suggested Agenda : Day 2

Wednesday July 7

9.00-9.45 Report back from Break out groups on regional resettlement needs and the strategic use of resettlement [plenary]
Briefing of the discussions in the regional break out groups.

C: Increasing the capacity of global resettlement:

9.45-10.30 Increased capacity and growth of resettlement [plenary]
Summarizing presentation of the Chair theme and a call for increased global commitment and capability for resettlement within existing programs and with the addition of programs in new states. Introduction to workshop sessions on increased capacity.

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.30 Global commitment and capacity for resettlement [Participants workshop sessions]

Workshop on U.S., Canadian and Australian Resettlement

Workshop on European Union Resettlement

Workshop on Latin American Resettlement

12.30-14.00 Lunch

D: Managing global growth of Resettlement - Review of the WGR/ATCR:

14.00-14.30 Introduction to the WGR/ATCR review [plenary]
Presentation of the proposed review of the ATCR and WGR format. Display of web survey findings. Introduction to workshop sessions on WGR/ATCR-review.

14.30-16.00 Increasing the capacity of the ATCR and WGR [Participants workshop sessions]

Workshop on the use of Information Technology in the ATCR

Workshop on potential of Tripartite cooperation

Workshop on the ATCR format and participation

16.00-16.30 Coffee break

16.30-18.00 Integrating protection in settlement practices – global perspectives on the interrelations between protection and integration [plenary]
Presentation and discussion on the interrelations between the concepts of protection and integration and the roles of practitioners and politicians in the receiving community to realize the potential of resettlement as a durable solution.

Planning an ATCR

In Mid April the Swedish Chair and NGO Focal Point invited the UNHCR Resettlement Service to Ystad in southern Sweden to start the preparations for the ATCR and to come up with a provisional agenda.

During two intense days, the team brainstormed and discussed both the topics and logistics of the meeting. Some of the main challenges were how to combine new and traditional agenda items and give room for both plenary presentations and interactive discussions in smaller settings.

- These sorts of brainstorming exercises are fun and very tiresome, says Denise Thomsson from the Chair. They tend to start out with silence and people staring at the empty whiteboard and finish late in the evening when the room is filled with scribbled notes,

drafts and re-drafts. I personally find it very inspiring once the group gets going and realizes that this can in fact become something real and exciting.

One important part of the discussion concerned how to provide enough time and space for both presentations and discussions of the important Global Resettlement Needs document. The ambition was to provide both information sharing in plenary and opportunities for participants to interact with the regional bureaus.

- We have been trying to put together a program that combines information, interactivity and inspiration, says Denise. In order to do so, we have devoted more time to some of the traditional agenda items, while cutting others short.

Draft suggested Agenda : Day 3

Thursday July 8

E: Introducing Protection Sensitive Migration:

9.00-10.00 Protection sensitive migration as a complementary solution? [plenary]

Interactive panel discussion and presentation by UNHCR, an independent consultant, IOM and other expert delegates on resettlement in the context of protection sensitive migration

10.00-10.30 Coffee break

F: Updates and report back:

10.30-12.00 Updates and current developments [Break-out sessions]

Break-out session on increased capacity for emergency and medical resettlement

Break-out session on the revision of the UNHCR Resettlement Handbook

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-13.30 Report back from the ATCR review discussions [plenary]

Sum up and presentation of next steps in the ATCR review by the current and incoming Chair. Feedback and questions

G: Closing session:

13.30-14.15 Summary of ATCR and activities during the Swedish Chair [plenary]

A summary by the Swedish Chair, NGO Focal Point and UNHCR of WGR 2009-2010 and the ATCR 2010

14.15-15.15 Closing remarks [plenary]

Ms. Erika Feller, United Nations Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees (tbc)

Ms. Minna Ljunggren, Secretary of State at the Swedish Ministry of Justice

Speaker from incoming Chair, USA (tba)



Oskar Ekblad, Lena Åkerstedt, Denise Thomsson and Anna Sjöberg from the Swedish Migration Board, George Joseph and Marie Eidem from Caritas met together with Sean Hendersson, Yukiko Iriyama and Karin Davin from UNHCR

One of the items that have been cut from the provisional agenda is the traditional Tour de Table, where states announce updates in their resettlement programs.

- In our experience this item tends to take up a lot of time, while not really engaging people. This year we would instead like to put a 'Resettlement Expo' on display outside of the plenary

room, where information such as the TdT can be accessed in what we hope is a more interesting setting.

The ATCR agenda is tentative and the Chair encourages participants to provide feedback on both contents and methodology.

NGOs play a vital role in resettlement at the operative, advocacy and policy level globally. Over the last year we have had a wide range of consultations including telephone conferences with NGOs from around the world to ensure that their concerns are voiced throughout the ATCR process. We have also conducted a number of working meetings with NGOs and UNHCR, thereby contributing to the development of the UNHCR-NGO joint framework agreement and toolkit for practical cooperation on resettlement. The first draft version was tabled at the Working Group meeting in Timisoara, and the reworked version will hopefully be tabled at the ATCR in the summer.

Moreover, we have had regular tripartite planning meetings throughout the ATCR process culminating in our joint planning meeting in southern Sweden in April. Despite the looming ash cloud, this gathering was characterised by highly constructive and productive teamwork resulting in a draft agenda for the ATCR. We were able to bring forward all the issues that had been brought to us by NGOs to the Chair and UNHCR.

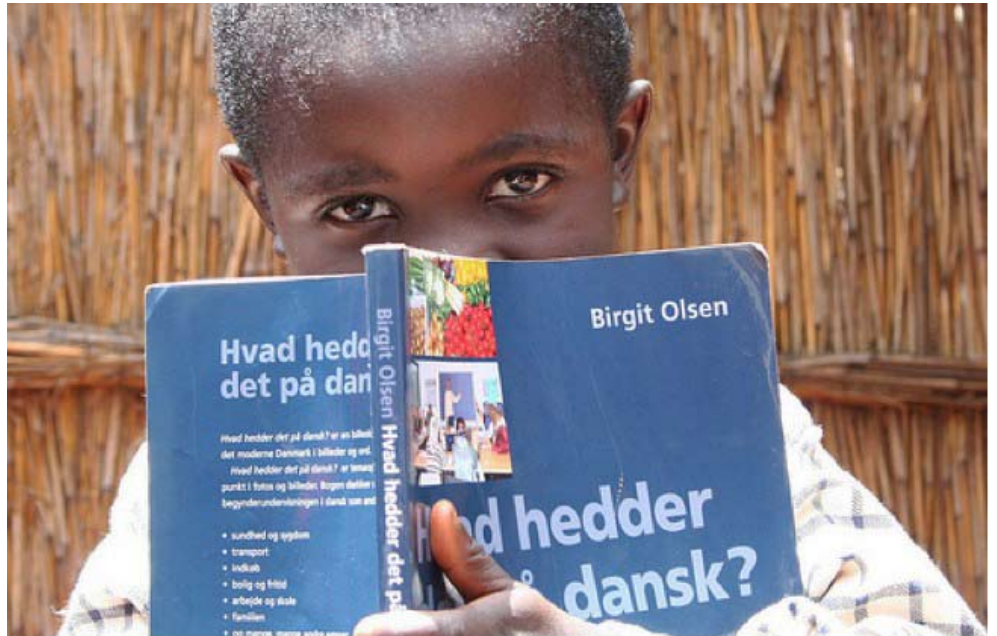
Working with the Swedish Migration Board and UNHCR resettlement service as well as with our NGO partners around the world for their active contributions to the ongoing process of finding lasting solutions to the plight of some of the most vulnerable refugees in the world is truly a part of our mission.

Marie and George at Caritas Sweden



Top left: An Oromo family, who came to the UK in 2006 as refugees from Ethiopia under the Gateway Protection Programme, visit the seaside in Brighton where they have been resettled. The GPP is the UK refugee resettlement programme implemented by the UNHCR and the UK Government Home Office. In autumn 2006 eighty refugees from Ethiopia, many of whom had been living in Kakuma camp in northern Kenya, were resettled in Brighton on the south coast of England.

Right: The flag of the 27 Member state EU in front of the Commission Headquarters in Brussels. Below Right: This four-year-old refugee boy and his family are leaving Dzaleka refugee camp, Malawi, for a new life in Denmark. The book in his hands "Hvad hedder det på dansk?" (loosely translated as "How do you say it in Danish?") is a part of the material distributed by Danish Aliens Service while carrying out Cultural Orientation Programmes aimed at refugees being resettled to Denmark. Pictures © UNHCR, H. Davies 2007, J. Redden, March 2007 and European Union 2010.



Can Europe do More?

Increasing capacity for resettlement in the EU:

Providing only eight percent of the resettlement places offered globally each year, EU-countries are falling behind other industrial states in bringing protection to refugees who are unable to reach the region to apply for asylum. The European Council adopted a statement in 2008 calling on member states to offer 10 000 refugees from Iraq a safe haven in Europe and subsequently the European Commission initiated the work on a Joint European Resettlement Program. In this edition of the ATCR Newsletter we take a closer look at EU resettlement activities and hear the voices from involved parties.

A joint European Resettlement Programme

The EU is well underway to agree on the merits of a joint European Resettlement Programme (JERP). What will such a programme entail, and how will it add value to the already existing resettlement efforts undertaken by individual European Member States?

By Annette Bombeke, Policy and Advocacy Officer, ECRE

Last September the Commission presented its plans for a JERP, which consisted of a Communication on the functioning of a JERP and an amendment to the European Refugee Fund (ERF). The European Parliament has the right of co-decision on the ERF amendment and is drafting a so-called own-initiative report on the functioning of the JERP. With the JERP, the EU aims to encourage more Member States to get involved in resettlement and to increase cooperation between Member States in order to ensure European coherence and the sustainability of resettlement.

The JERP is envisaged to function by the annual adoption of common European resettlement priorities on the basis of the forecast made by UNHCR. Individual Member States can then pledge the number of refugees they will resettle out of these joint EU resettlement priorities and will receive an additional amount of 4,000 euro per resettled refugee. If European Member States jointly resettle

refugees from a particular category, this will also increase the possibility to use resettlement in a strategic way – meaning that protection can be increased not only for the resettled refugees themselves, but also for those who remain in the country of first asylum. The EP has proposed, as an incentive for MS to start resettlement programmes, to give these MS more substantial financial assistance during the first years. Emergency resettlement is also promoted by allowing for a flexible mechanism of priority setting. Recalling the need for a real joint programme and not only monetary assistance and in order to improve the coordination and cooperation between Member States, the EP has proposed to create a permanent ‘Resettlement Unit’ in the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). This unit will be a welcome tool to increase coordination and cooperation on resettlement.

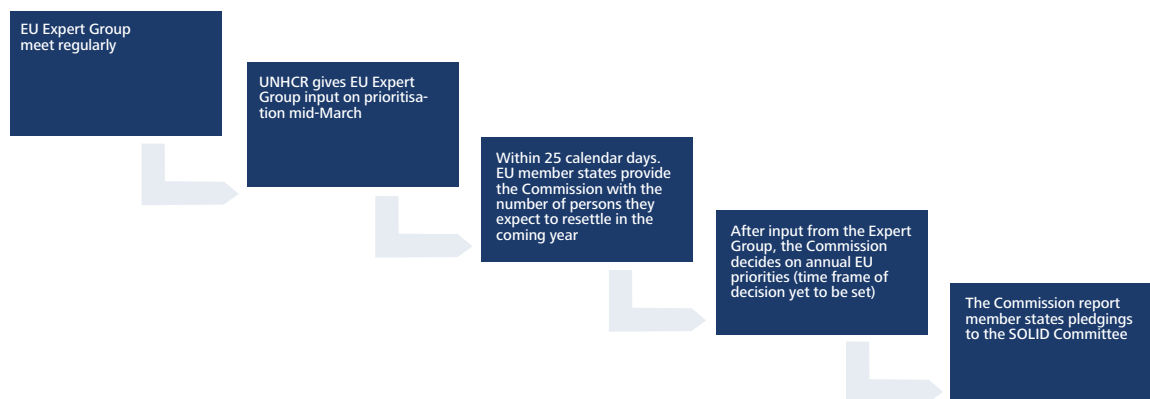
For a well-functioning JERP, it will be key that UNHCRs work in the area of resettlement will not be complicated

and the forecast of UNHCR will be leading in the process of adopting joint EU resettlement priorities. NGOs, active in the field as well as in resettlement states are instrumental in contributing quality, sustainability and support for resettlement programmes and should thus be involved where possible.

It is important to keep in mind that resettlement of refugees who do not fall under a joint EU resettlement priority will still be possible – be it without the additional funding of 4,000 euros per refugee.

Of course the JERP, which will be on a voluntary basis, is only a first step to come to a fully-fledged and mandatory European resettlement programme, which should in the future also include a European resettlement quota. We need to keep the current momentum on resettlement and set further steps, as quickly as possible and as slowly as is needed to maintain and set up quality and sustainable resettlement programmes in the EU.

The proposed cycle of prioritisation setting for the joint EU Resettlement:





Can Europe do more? EU-resettlement in focus



Left: Panel at EP Resettlement Awareness Day: (from left) Akoi Bazzie, Vincent Cochetel, Rui Tavares, Bernd Hemingway and Martin Watson. Right: MEP Rui Tavares LIBE Committee Rapporteur

European Parliamentarians hold Resettlement Awareness Day

To highlight the importance of increased resettlement in the EU, on 11 May the European Parliament arranged an awareness raising event in its seat in Brussels.

By **The Swedish Chair**

The idea of a Resettlement Awareness Day was introduced by Mr. Rui Tavares, member of the European Parliament, as a way to increase knowledge of resettlement and the needs to do more in Europe. “Resettlement of refugees in the European Union (EU) is very much within the capacities of the 27 member states; only ten countries do it”, it was stated in the background note to the invitation. The key message was that it is both crucial and fully realistic to increase the European share of resettlement in the coming years. “Our main goal is to attract more countries, to resettle more people”, stated Mr. Tavares when welcoming the participants to the event. Around 50 members of the parliament, together with national NGOs, government representatives and international guests had gathered to learn more or show their support for increased resettlement in Europe.

Vincent Cochetel, head of the UNHCR Resettlement Service in Geneva, informed the audience that 200 000 refugees are estimated to need resettlement in 2010 but that with only 26 states with resettlement programs, merely 80 000 will have the opportunity to find protection in a safe country. Only 6800 persons can be resettled to Europe.



European Union

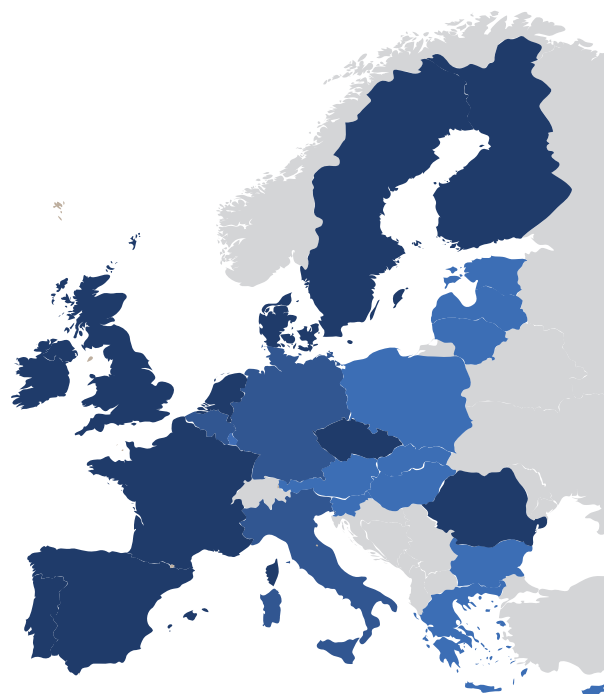
The EU has 27 member states. Ten member states have annual resettlement programs accepting UNHCR submissions. A further four (with the addition of France) had ad-hoc programs for UNHCR submissions of refugees from Iraq. In addition, Romania and Slovakia regularly accept transiting cases under special evacuation arrangements with the UNHCR.

Member states with established resettlement programs:		Member states with ad hoc quota for Iraqi refugees:	
Czech Republic	30	Belgium	50
Denmark	500	France	1 200
Finland	750	Germany	2 500
France	350*	Italy	180
Ireland	200	Luxembourg	30
The Netherlands	500		
Portugal	30	Other European annual resettlement (non-EU):	
Romania	40	Norway	1 200
Spain	TBA**	Iceland	30
Sweden	1 900		
UK	750		

Statistics from UNHCR's "Approximate Resettlement Capacity of States in 2009" and IRC/ICMCs "100 refugees from Iraq". * France accepts 100 cases, amounting to app. 350 persons, ** Spain has not yet announced the number of resettlement places

Speakers such as Bernd Hemingway from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Martin Watson from the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) agreed that there is certainly room for improvements among EU member states. Akoi Bazzie from the British refugee council and himself a former resettled refugee shared his experience of helping newly arrived refugees in the UK today and encouraged EU member states to "join together to make Europe a centre of hospitality and protection."

Joined by representatives from Greece, the Spanish EU Presidency and the Swedish ATCR Chair, the speakers all agreed on the need to build public opinion and support integration services in resettlement countries. While integration was considered key to the durability of the process, the speakers stressed the need to emphasize that local service providers are part in providing protection, rather than speaking of integration and protection as isolated phenomenon. The Spanish EU Presidency declared its satisfaction with the newly started resettlement program and declared its hope to



"Increasing the capacity for resettlement in Europe is not a simple process, but one that needs work and commitment"

Rui Tavares, Member of the European Parliament

be continuing for many years. To do so "we want to learn from previous experience in resettlement", he stated.

The need for a coordinated approach within the EU as well as between the Union and the UNHCR was discussed, as well as the possibilities to use the European Refugee fund to a higher degree to support new development in emerging resettlement countries. Increasing the capacity for resettlement in Europe is not a simple process, but one that needs work and commitment, Mr Tavares admitted. However, "We are not talking about an unsolvable problem. (...) It is something that can be managed" he concluded.



EU-resettlement prioritised

The role of resettlement within the Swedish EU presidency

Resettlement featured prominently on the Swedish agenda for last fall's EU Presidency. This February we asked Tobias Billström, Swedish Minister for Migration, five questions on resettlement in Europe.

By **The Swedish Chair**

In what way did the Swedish EU presidency target migration? Are you satisfied with the amount of space that was devoted to the migration issue during the fall?

- Migration was an important issue during the Swedish presidency, not least within the framework of the development of the new five year program for legal and internal affairs, the so called 'Stockholm program'. I believe that we devoted the appropriate large amount of space to these questions in order for the EU to be able to take on the challenges that exist.

Which role did resettlement play among the migration issues? What were the main objectives carried by Sweden on resettlement?

- In the very beginning of our presidency, the EU Commission put forward the proposal for a joint resettlement program in the EU. From that point on, it was considered a priority to get this program in place and to negotiate it as far as possible. We are now hopefully close to a political agreement in the EU on this matter, which is very encouraging.

What would you say has been the greatest success in terms of resettlement in recent time? Are you specifically pleased to have been able to impact on any particular development?

- To me, it is encouraging to know that the actions that Sweden and other EU member states have taken to resettle Iraqi refugees have enabled the closure of the Al

Tanf camp in the border area between Iraq and Syria. The closure of this horrifying site shows the potential of joint efforts from the EU to support and assist people in need.

What resettlement related challenges and developments do you foresee in the coming months, when the EU presidency is handed over to Spain?

- During our presidency, we managed to lead the negotiations as far as possible, but we are still waiting to hear from the European Parliament. As soon as the Parliament has provided its input it will be up to the Spanish presidency through continuous efforts to hopefully be able to reach an agreement between the different institutions as soon as possible. The greatest challenge will probably be to get the joint EU resettlement program in place in time to be able to facilitate the first resettlement activities already during 2011.

Last, what happens on the resettlement arena in 2020, globally and in the EU?

- The single most important challenge in the time to come will be to engage and support more countries to start resettlement programs on annual terms. To get the common EU resettlement program in place is important, but it is based on each country's free will and motivation. More countries, both within the EU and outside, need to increase their capacity to support refugees in need of resettlement.

Minister Billström at European Council meeting during the Swedish 2009 EU presidency. © The European Union



“One of the most important means to operationalise EU solidarity with third countries is the creation of an EU resettlement programme. Such a program could contribute to the global refugee protection mechanism by maximising the number of resettlement places within the EU for refugees in need of protection. Beyond the aim of offering protection and durable solutions to individual refugees, strategically used, pooled resettlement quotas could encourage countries of origin to accept the return of their citizens and host countries to accept local integration.”

Statement by Ms. Minna Ljunggren, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Sweden on behalf of the European Union in the Executive Committee of the Programme of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on 28 September 2009.



Can Europe do more?
EU-resttlement in focus

A test of European commitment: The 10 000 refugees from Iraq

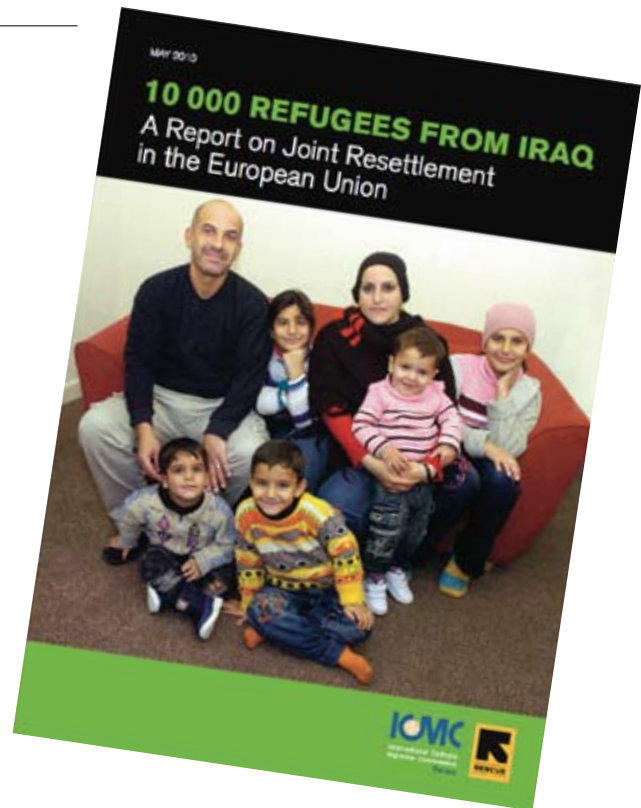
In a fresh report published in May 2010, the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) present an evaluation of the European initiative to resettle 10 000 refugees from displacement in the Iraqi region. Building on data collection and experiences from EU member states, the report describes a failed project that has still managed to create a better future for just over 8 400 refugees.

In November 2008, the European Commission called for increased support by European countries to persons displaced by the conflict in Iraq. In its Council Conclusions,

and by the decision of a number of countries to establish ad hoc resettlement programs, European member states were encouraged to help resettle 10 000 refugees from the Iraq conflict. ICMC and IRC find that

just over 8 400 Iraqi and Palestinian refugees arrived in the EU between 2007-2009.

The report, which builds on data from EU member states, describes



From Iraq to Romania to the UK - Response from the UK to the plight of the Palestinian refugees ex-Iraq



The UK was one of five countries that used the opportunity of the Evacuation Transit Facility in Romania for resettlement in 2009. Last December, 81 Palestinian refugees arrived in Greater Manchester after transiting via the Timisoara centre.

In July and December 2009, two groups of Palestinians were resettled to Greater Manchester following the UK government's response

Palestinian refugee children at Al-Tanf 2009. © J. Wreford (UNHCR)

to the international concern around conditions for refugees in camps on the Syrian/Iraqi border. The first group of 31 were UNHCR categorised Women at Risk from the Al-Waleed camp, the second group of 50 from Al-Tanf, which has since been closed following international efforts.

Many of the refugees had been born in Iraq where their grandparents had fled in 1948 and had grown up in Baghdad and Basra. The descent into civil war between rival militia groups and direct threats including mortar attacks on

homes and businesses forced them to flee in 2007 and they have lived in the camps ever since.

Both groups were taken to the ETF in Romania prior to being resettled to the UK: the first group spent around 3 months there whilst the second group was there for less than a month. Although the importance of having the ETF available as a means for the emergency evacuation of refugees and provision of protection space is undisputed, the experiences of the refugees using the centre has not been entirely positive for them. Many found



the project and its results. Due to a lack of regular and uniform data collection or a database it was found to be difficult to track EU resettlement activities. This was further complicated by the fact that a lot of actors are involved in the resettlement process, and that organizations on different levels in different member states each have their own system of record-keeping. “I want to stress the importance of finding ways to collect and compare data between the member states in order to follow up and analyse European resettlement”, said Petra Hueck from the ICMC at the Resettlement Awareness Day.

Despite the limitations, the report shows that “the pledge to resettle up to 10 000 refugees from Iraq has not



Petra Hueck (ICMC) and Nathalie Stiennon (IRC) at the launch of the report. © The Swedish Chair

yet been met and that it is not clear how and when this will happen.” Lack of housing and language barriers were presented as some of the challenges behind why only half of the member states participated in the project. “Although the pledge has not been met, we must not forget that there is a person behind each number”, reminded Nathalie Stiennon, IRC.

► **web resource:**
Read the full report and its recommendations on: <http://www.refweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/ADGO-85CKA8?OpenDocument>

the restrictions on their freedom of movement difficult to live with—particularly the first groups who were there for some time. Others were separated from children at night due to a lack of mixed gender accommodation, a situation which some of the group found unacceptable, and they reported going on hunger strike for several days until this was resolved.

On arrival in Bolton in Greater Manchester, the initial euphoria of resettlement quickly disappeared for some of the group when they discovered that they would not be housed in the same buildings and would be living apart from each other in their own houses at locations around the town. Their

display of distress was similar to that shown at the ETF and, although nobody threatened a hunger strike, some of the more vulnerable members of the group took some time to adjust. The support shown to them by the local community has helped this process and in December, the local Council of Mosques held a large event to welcome them to their new community after the second group had arrived in the UK. Women are attending classes at their local mosque and English lessons at the local colleges.

In common with many other groups of resettled refugees, the Palestinians have faced similar problems accessing and com-

prehending complicated welfare benefits systems and the general bureaucracy of life in the UK. English language levels are generally low and many attend the regular language classes in the town. Many have expressed frustration at their perceived slow progress in learning English and finding employment. However, one young man found work at a food processing plant through the sheer persistence of turning up day after day until he was taken on.

The group have multiple health conditions and mental health problems continue to be the most challenging. Self-confidence can be easily knocked and many see hostility and prejudice around them,

which is understandable given their experience and history. However, the groups have had a warm welcome from the Muslim community around them in Bolton and the diversity and high levels of cultural infrastructure available locally for them will help their long term integration into the community.

Rick Jones, Gateway Protection Programme Manager, Refugee Action



USA (GOV)/UNHCR

Expert Working Group on Resettlement Fraud to meet in the US in September 2010

The United States is pleased to announce that the 4th meeting of the Expert Working Group on Resettlement Fraud will be held in Washington, D.C. on September 21st, 22nd and 23rd. The primary theme of this year's meeting is, "Biometrics: Tools to Enhance the Integrity and Security of Refugee Resettlement Systems." The agenda for the meeting is now under development, and participating countries are encouraged to identify sessions that they may wish to present to the group as well as send suggested topics for inclusion in the agenda. A formal invitation will be forthcoming at the end of May with additional details. In the meantime, please contact Marcela Moglia, officer of the USCIS Refugee Affairs Division at Marcela.Moglia@dhs.gov with questions or suggestions.



UNHCR

Strategic resettlement in the Pacific – how is it done and why?

UNHCR has identified the Pacific as one of the seven priority regions in which resettlement can be used strategically to strengthen the regional protection systems. Compared to the large resettlement needs in other contexts, the objective in the Pacific is to find durable solutions for a small number of refugees within a broader mixed migration context.

Due to scarce resources and limited legal structures within which grants of asylum may be made, local integration is not a feasible option for refugees in the Pacific region. Many refugees, and particularly those from markedly different ethnicities and cultures, may face fragile protection environments in some countries.

The Pacific region demonstrates that resettlement is a valuable component of a broader strategy to build regional capacity to adopt good refugee protection and migration management practice. The acceptance of a small number of refugees for resettlement is significantly assisting these states as well as, by demonstrating solutions and burden-sharing in action, strengthening regional protection frameworks. It is a tangible instance in which UNHCR resettlement operations, in close partnership with national authorities, are directly contributing to the widening of asylum space at a national level, and more broadly within the region.

Complementing resettlement processes, UNHCR is strengthening relations with national and regional partners by providing advice and technical support to governments and regional bodies, seeking to develop legal frameworks and build national capacity to respond to protection principles.

Some Pacific Island countries, although not States Parties to the Refugee Convention, are demonstrating an openness to the introduction of interim asylum measures, and safeguards to boost protection for refugees and asylum seekers are being developed in close partnership with UNHCR. Some have recently finalized draft domestic legislation to enact obligations under international refugee law. UNHCR continues to work with other countries in the region, and with regional fora, such as the Asia-Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migration, Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference, and Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, to develop cooperative regional responses to boost protection capacity.



Australia

At the extra-ordinary setting of the Working Group on Resettlement last December, Australia among others offered its support to an increased strategic resettlement out of the Pacific region. This far, three Sri Lankan refugees, two Burmese and one Afghan in different Pacific states are being processed for resettlement to Australia. Additional cases have been referred for consideration. No decisions have yet been made in relation to these cases.

Data provided by the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship

By Mike Clayton, UNHCR Canberra



Mapendo International

Mapendo International works to fill the needs of people affected by war and conflict who have fallen through the net of humanitarian assistance. Learn more at www.mapendo.org

Africa (NGO)

U.S. and Kenya-based NGO Mapendo International has renewed its agreement with UNHCR for cooperation on various resettlement projects throughout Africa. Mapendo currently has seven staff members on loan to UNHCR in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan and South Africa to enhance resettlement capacity in those places. Through this partnership and Mapendo's urban refugee program in Nairobi, Kenya, Mapendo staff referred 3,162 refugees for resettlement in 2009, which is 11% of the total number of 28,597 refugees referred from Africa last year. In 2010, Mapendo continues to strive to increase access to resettlement for all African refugees lacking other forms of protection or durable solutions.

Europe (Gov)

Temporary Desk on Iraq (TDI) Workshop on Resettlement

TDI is taking a snapshot of States' policies and practices on data, asylum and resettlement with regard to the Iraqi caseload with a view to improving practical cooperation between States. TDI cooperates with interested States, the European Commission, IOM, UNHCR and States in the region. It is an 18 month project partly funded by the European Refugee Fund from May 09 to October 10.

A resettlement workshop focusing on resettlement criteria, resettlement missions and information exchange with brainstorming, role plays and practical exercises was held on 30-31 March 2010 at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo. The workshop was chaired by Sarah Swash, Head of Refugee Integration & Resettlement Team, Border Agency, United Kingdom. Resettlement experts and policy makers from 10 EU countries, UNHCR and IOM attended the meeting.

These are some findings and effective practices that participants observed: States use and implement criteria for resettlement in a different way. States are willing to cooperate not only on logistics but also on criteria and selection during joint missions. States need to consult all players early in the process and be aware of other States' resettlement plans.

Participants identified areas for practical cooperation, including (1) use a matrix to compare profiles, logistics, costs, contacts relating to the resettlement of Iraqis, (2) share mission timetables to improve coordination, (3) exchange typical and complex Resettlement Registration Forms, (4) develop a checklist to support observers going on missions. These are examples of follow up actions that could be applied to other caseloads



Temporary Desk Iraq (TDI)

The Temporary Desk on Iraq will be a light structure established for 18 months and based at the Asylum and Immigration Department in Brussels, Belgium. The Desk's remit will be to determine how asylum and immigration services can improve their practical cooperation on protection, resettlement and return with regard to the Iraqi caseload and develop generic tools and mechanisms for dealing with other caseloads..

For more information, please contact:

TDI_admin@ibz.eu

Sweden (Gov)



Sweden

Sweden has a yearly Refugee Quota of 1 900 persons. A strong focus on the Horn of Africa has been set for 2010, including 300 Somali refugees in Dadaab, Kenya

The first mission to Kenya - Experiences of the Swedish delegation for resettlement of Somali refugees in Dadaab, Kenya 2010.

Shortly after arrival in Nairobi the Swedish delegation, comprising of eight members, were briefed by the UN-CHR branch office, not only about the presented cases as a whole but also about the different challenges ahead in the Dadaab refugee camp. After interviewing a few urgent cases in Nairobi, the Swedish delegation left the pleasant climate and surroundings of Nairobi and set forth to Dadaab. We were kindly greeted by IOM and driven to the international compound in Dadaab. After joint briefings by IOM and the UNHCR we set out what we came there to do, namely interviewing and hopefully resettle as many refugees as possible in Sweden.

The comfortable setting of the international compound could not really prepare us for what we were about to witness in the refugee camps. After having conducted interviews in comfortable air conditioned offices for a few days, the Swedish delegation got the opportunity to visit all three camps. First off was the bustling market in the Hagadera camp where we went, sharing a bus with the very same refugees we had interviewed the same day. Despite the dire living conditions in the camp surrounding it we were met with enthusiasm and curiosity by the Somali refugees attending and working in the market. People were eager to tell us their story and talk about the difficulties they had to endure in everyday life. We also had brief stops in Ifo and Dagahaley camps.

What made the strongest impression however was the visit to a women's shelter which could be described as a "camp within the camp". The shelter was home to approximately 60 women and children who were considered to be especially vulnerable. The women were mostly the victims of domestic violence or were ostracized from their communi-

Sweden undertook its first resettlement mission to Kenya in March 2010 as part of the new focus on the horn of Africa. Homan Sayehi, who spends his normal working week as an expert advisor at the desk of the Dublin Unit in Stockholm was one of the mission members. He shares some of his reflections and pictures with us.





ties and threatened by its members for having had children out of wedlock. The delegation spent couple of hours in the camp and the visit was mutually appreciated by both delegation members and the inhabitants of the women's shelter. The members of the delegation had the opportunity to actually sit down and talk to the women who were eager to talk about their traumatic experiences. We even had time for a quick football match with the children in the unbearable desert heat.

It is off course impossible to try to describe all the impressions gathered in more than three weeks, in an environment so totally different from Europe. However, the overall feeling was mixed to say the least. Even though we were able to re-settled merely 300 people, which is to say 50 percent of the amount of new arrivals each day, it was reassuring to know that we at least changed the lives of 300 individuals for the better and also contributed to alleviate the situation in the camp in making up space for new arrivals.

Europe (Gov)

The GDISC-led project proposal Resettlement Plus has been accepted to submit a full application to the European Commission's Thematic Programme. The project idea is to combine elements of resettlement with development and local integration in order to contribute to building a more stable and secure environment for refugees in the target countries, focusing in particular on the Dadaab region of Kenya, and help develop sustainable solutions for their future.

The deadline for the full application is 21 June. The UK as the applicant will be in charge of drafting the application, with assistance from project partner countries Sweden, the Netherlands, Italy and Denmark.



General Directors' Immigration Services Conference - GDISC

The GDISC-network has 33 member Immigration Services from the 27 EU Member States, the EU Candidate Countries Croatia and Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. GDISC instigates international projects, focusing on practical cooperation in the field of asylum and migration. More at www.gdisc.org



The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME)

CCME is an ecumenical organisation and aims at promoting an inclusive policy at European and national level for migrants, refugees and ethnic minority groups. More at www.ccme.be

Europe (NGO)

Roundtable on refugee resettlement in Hungary

A debate on refugee resettlement to Hungary on 1 March 2010 in Budapest brought together representatives of the Hungarian government, the UN refugee agency UNHCR, civil society organizations and other EU member states.

The Hungarian national roundtable on resettlement was held on 1 March 2010 as the last event in a series of debates on refugee resettlement to Europe. The event was co-organised by the Hungarian Helsinki Committee and the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) in the framework of the ASPIRE project.

The Hungarian event took place in a setting largely influenced by the recent discussions on an EU resettlement programme, in particular the respective proposals currently debated in the European Parliament. Mr Gottfried Köfner, UNHCR Regional Representative for Central Europe, in his keynote speech highlighted the history of refugee resettlement in Europe and how resettlement is a tool to expand protection space for refugees in Europe. Köfner recalled that the 200,000 Hungarian refugees, having fled the country after the crushing of the 1956 Hungarian revolution, also found new lives due to an effective resettlement programme.

Speaking about the prospects of Hungary becoming a resettlement country, the representative of the Hungarian Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement, Ms Petra Jeney expressed doubt that Hungary would commit to an ongoing resettlement programme on the short term, due partly to the lack of politically driven initiative and an integration strategy as well as the current bleak economic climate. However, she did not exclude participation on a project-based approach for smaller groups of refugees. Hungary's participation in the intra-EU relocation project from Malta was referred to as an example of involvement in EU-led initiatives.

The roundtable debate also looked at the interplay of national policies and EU cooperation in selection, reception and integration of resettled refugees. Representatives of the embassies of Sweden and Belgium shared insights on their countries' national resettlement programmes and underlined the importance which resettlement had and has in their recent and upcoming EU presidencies.

Considerable attention was devoted during the event to taking stock of the particular situation of newer EU member states engaging in resettlement: senior civil servants from the Czech and the Romanian governments reported about the resettlement programmes, which their countries had started in the last two years. While the Czech Republic's participa-

tion in resettlement is “a drop in the ocean”, explained Mr Petr Novák from the Ministry of Interior, it carries a symbolic value and shows the country’s solidarity with refugees and victims of human rights abuses.

Mr Silviu Turza from the Romanian Immigration Office gave an overview of the Romanian legal framework for resettlement, explaining the processes for selection, reception and integration of the group of Burmese refugees to be resettled from Malaysia to Romania in early 2010.

The participants expressed their appreciation for the event, which presented an opportunity to discuss resettlement and practical experiences with colleagues from both within Hungary and abroad.

*Marta Pardavi (Hungarian Helsinki Committee)
for the CCME Resettlement Newsletter (Volume III, Issue V)*

The next issue:

The next issue of the ATCR/WGR Newsletter will be distributed in June 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 6th of June.



ATCR WGR

ANNUAL TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS
and WORKING GROUP ON RESETTLEMENT

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