

Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR) Report 1- 2 July 2019, Geneva

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As the Chair of the Settlement Council of Australia (SCoA), it was a great pleasure to attend the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR) jointly hosted by the UNHCR, the Refugee Council and the UK Government and held in Geneva, Switzerland. The ATCR was attended by delegates from across 30 countries, including government representatives, civil society leaders, international organisations and refugee representatives. I attended as one of the representatives of the settlement sector in Australia. It was truly an honour to represent SCoA and our member organisations on this global stage. I have compiled this report outlining the key takeaways and remarks from the consultations. This report is a snapshot of the ATCR programme, the new strategies outlined for the next three years as well as additional data to contextualise the conversation on resettlement and complementary pathways.

Currently, there are 70.8 million persons forcibly displaced worldwide. According to [data](#)¹, in the past decade, seven percent of the global refugee population are estimated to be in need of resettlement, however only one percent of them have access to resettlement. Furthermore, under the UNHCR, rich countries took in only [sixteen percent](#)² of the world's refugees in 2018. A vast majority of them are hosted in developing countries and nearly four out of every five refugees lived in countries neighbouring their countries of origin.

The central theme of the consultations this year was “25 Years of the ATCR: Celebrating the positive impact of resettlement and providing inspiration for the future”. Since the inception of the ATCR, roughly one million refugees have been successfully resettled through the UNHCR. As a national peak body, SCoA and its member organisations should seek to derive pride and comfort from this fact. Our continued efforts to make Australia an inclusive and welcoming destination for refugees is part of a wider, global effort.

ATCR Programme 2019, Geneva

The consultations were introduced by Kate Carr, the UK Chair and Maurice Wren, CEO, British Refugee Council. This was followed by opening remarks by Filippo Grandi, the High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR and Caroline Nokes, Minister of State for Immigration, UK Government. This was the first year that along with an NGO statement, a Refugee statement was also delivered. Delivering a Refugee statement was vital to the way the programme and the conversation is being setup, especially as this year celebrates 25 years of the ATCR. This is a much needed effort to provide refugees avenues to share their lived

¹ The Global Refugee Population, The History of Resettlement: Celebrating 25 Years of the ATCR, UNHCR, <https://www.unhcr.org/5d1633657>

² Global trends: Forced Displacement in 2018, UNHCR, <https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2018/>

experiences, participate in the dialogue and inform policies and procedures pertaining to resettlement and complementary pathways.

The consultations explored the [Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways](#)³, as envisaged in the Global Compact of Refugees (GCR) and developed by the ATCR community, and the Global Resettlement Landscape: Needs and Priorities.

UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs for 2020⁴

Contextualizing ‘Resettlement’ and Third Country Solutions

A vast majority of refugees (85 percent) are currently hosted in low- and middle- income countries facing economic and development challenges. [Nearly four out of every five refugees lived in countries neighbouring their countries of origin.](#)

Resettlement involves the transfer of refugees from the State in which they sought protection (host country) to a third State, like Australia, which has agreed to resettle them – as refugees- with permanent residence status (resettlement country). The host country (second country) is different from the country of origin (first country).

In 2020, the UNHCR identified up to **1.44 million refugees in need of durable solutions**-resettlement and other complementary pathways. UNHCR will continue to focus on three key priorities for 2020:

1. The fifteen CRRF (Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework) roll-out countries
2. The Central Mediterranean Situation
3. The resettlement out of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey in the context of the ongoing Syrian conflict.

In 2020, Syrian and South Sudanese refugees will have the highest and second highest resettlement needs respectively. **The Africa and Americas are seeing a six and 22 per cent increase from the previous year.** The main drivers of displacement in the Americas region is due to the ongoing instability in Colombia, Venezuela, El Salvador, Guatemala and the Honduras. It is also key to note that there will be **a projected four percent decrease in resettlement needs for the Asia and the Pacific region.** As a key resettlement country, settlement providers in Australia must contextualise this information as required and relevant to their policies and programs. Additional data can be found in UNHCR’s [Resettlement Data Finder](#)⁵.

³ The Three-Year Strategy (2019- 2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways, UNHCR, June 2019 <https://www.unhcr.org/en-au/protection/resettlement/5d15db254/three-year-strategy-resettlement-complementary-pathways.html>

⁴ UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs 2020 <https://www.unhcr.org/5d1384047.pdf>

⁵ Resettlement Data Finder, UNHCR <https://rsq.unhcr.org/>

PROJECTED GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT NEEDS FOR 2020		
A. Region of Asylum	B. Total projected resettlement needs*	
	cases	persons
Africa	175,738	667,432
Asia & the Pacific	24,260	98,281
Europe	113,182	420,000
MENA	72,267	249,705
The Americas	1,962	4,990
Total	387,409	1,440,408

* including multi-year planning

Figure 1: [UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs 2020](#)

Operational and Resettlement Priorities

1. Children and Adolescents at Risk- **Eight percent** of the total UNHCR resettlement submission were children. Generally, children represent **about half of the total refugee population**. This data has not changed in the past few years. It is imperative that our policies and programs as settlement service providers reflect these numbers. According to a recent [report](#)⁶, the highest proportions of refugee children are from Sub-Saharan African region, followed by the Asia and the Pacific region and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. This was also an opportunity to make delegates aware of the updated [Guidelines on Assessing and Determining the Best Interests of the Child](#)⁷, specific to refugee children.
2. LGBTI Refugees- The data available for LGBTI refugees is scarce. However, it was important to note that LGBTI refugees face specific challenges and more likely to be subjected to violence and prosecution. Refugees may arrive in countries of asylum where they are likely to be prosecuted, therefore resettlement quotas for this category must be increased. This session provided delegates with different strategies to assist LGBTI refugees throughout the displacement continuum.
3. Humanitarian Evacuations- Various **Emergency Transit Facilities** have been established by the UNHCR in recent years. These facilities act a protection tool and provide urgent assistance to refugees in need of resettlement. These facilities are temporary while the cases are being investigated and processed for onward resettlement. Two models exist- Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) and Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM). At the end of 2017, the Government of Niger agreed to establish an ETM mainly for refugees and asylum seekers, stranded in Libya and seeking solutions. Since then, 1, 403 individuals have departed from Niger for onward

⁶ Global trends: Forced Displacement in 2018, UNHCR, <https://www.unhcr.org/en-au/statistics/unhcrstats/5d08d7ee7/unhcr-global-trends-2018.html>

⁷ Guidelines on Assessing and Determining The Best Interests of the Child: Provisional Release 2018, UNHCR, <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5c18d7254.pdf>

resettlement. In 2018, 215 refugees departed from the ETFs in the Philippines and Romania. During the session, there emerged discussions about the respective advantages, challenges in the operation of ETFs and the alternative options and approaches to case processing.

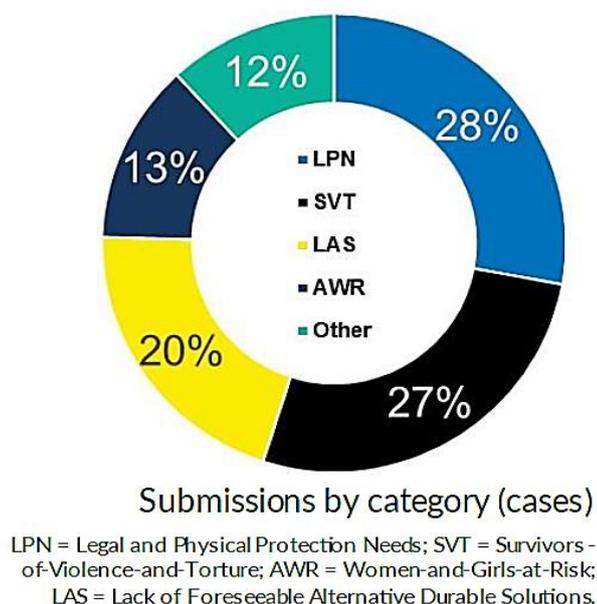


Figure 2: [Resettlement at a glance](#)⁸

4. High Needs Cases- High Needs Cases can be identified on the basis of Legal or Physical Protection needs or urgent medical needs. The consultations explored how UNHCR, States and partners can collaborate to identify and process high needs cases. The session addressed concerns regarding the lack of pre-departure health assessments for movement of refugees and the accessibility of health information shared with resettlement States and other agencies.

The Three- Year Strategy (2019- 2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

As of 2018, there are 29 States that accept UNHCR Resettlement submissions. **By the end of 2028, the goal is to benefit 3 million refugees through resettlement (1 million) in 50 resettlement countries and complementary pathways (2 million).**

Goals and Priorities

1. Grow Resettlement: New Resettlement Countries and More Places
2. Advance Complementary Pathways: Improve Access and Develop Opportunities
3. Build the Foundation: Promote Welcoming and Inclusive Societies

⁸ Resettlement at a glance: January- December 2018, UNHCR, <https://www.unhcr.org/5c594ddf4>

Complementary Pathways require multi-sectoral partnerships that link various actors across the private sector, civil society, education institutions and government.

- Pathways are intended for persons in need of international protection- humanitarian admission, private or community sponsorship programmes or humanitarian visas.
- Other pathways for entry or migration avenues- **family reunification, education and labour opportunities**.

Making the Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways a Reality

1. Capacity Building as a Critical Tool for Expansion of Resettlement- The vision of the Three- Year Strategy is to increase the number of actors engaged in the resettlement and complementary pathways. 29 States accept UNHCR resettlement submission currently; the goal is to increase that number to **50 States by the year 2028**. The UNHCR- IOM **Sustainable Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Initiative (SRCPI)** aims to build capacity for new and existing resettlement programmes. This will include legal and policy frameworks as well as the setting up of systems to undertake resettlement.
2. Complementary Pathways of Admission to Third Countries- [Complementary pathways](#)⁹ can expand third country solutions, impact more refugees build durable solutions and reduce the burdens on host countries. Between [2010- 2017](#)¹⁰, **Australia has granted 23,555 non- humanitarian visas for family, education or labour purposes**. Family reunification, education and labour opportunities are three pathways for entry and migration in to a third country. These pathways also act to increase self-reliance and opportunities for refugees. Initiatives such as [Talent Beyond Boundaries](#)¹¹ connect skilled refugees to potential employers through a talent catalogue. Another important example of complementary pathways is private or community sponsorship programs. Through **Australia's Community Support Program (CSP)**¹², businesses, individuals and community organisations can support persons to fund their visas, access financial support, help with skill development or choose to employ a CSP visa holder. Additionally, initiatives like The [Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative](#)¹³ help promote and build capacity for sponsorship programs.

⁹ Safe Pathways for Refugees: OECD-UNHCR Study on third country solutions for refugees: family reunification, study programmes and labour mobility, <https://www.oecd.org/migration/UNHCR-OECD-safe-pathways-for-refugees.pdf>

¹⁰ Safe Pathways for Refugees: OECD-UNHCR Study on third country solutions for refugees: family reunification, study programmes and labour mobility, p. 16, <https://www.oecd.org/migration/UNHCR-OECD-safe-pathways-for-refugees.pdf>

¹¹ Talent Beyond Boundaries, <https://talentbeyondboundaries.org/>

¹² Community Support Program, Refugee and Humanitarian Program, Immigration and Citizenship, Department of Home Affairs, Australian Government, accessed July 17, 2019, <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/refugee-and-humanitarian-program/community-support-program/overview>

¹³ The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative, <http://refugeesponsorship.org/>

3. **Strengthening Meaningful Refugee Participation in Resettlement and Complementary Pathways-** The workshop highlighted approaches and models that have been used to increase refugee participation on various levels. Co-designing complementary pathways with refugees could provide context on access barriers.
4. **Promoting Welcoming and Inclusive Societies-** Within our capacities and advocacy, we must seek to bolster public support for refugees and continue our efforts to create an inclusive environment and supporting the Australian Government with its resettlement programs. Projects like [Refugees Are Good for Canada](#)¹⁴ seek to build support and foster a positive attitude towards refugees in receiving societies. Australia promotes structured resettlement in regional areas, thus providing resettlement opportunities for refugees as well as alleviating labour shortages in regional Australia. Regional Australia Institute, Scanlon Foundation and Welcoming cities have collaborated to create a [migration toolkit](#)¹⁵ promoting settlement in regional Australia.

Language Learning

The programme commenced to explore the possibilities and potential of language learning in the country of first asylum, prior to resettlement.

Global Compact on Refugees and UNHCR's protection and Solutions Strategy

This plenary addressed by Volker Türk, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, UNHCR. The importance of this session was heightened as this is to be Volker Türk's final year as Assistant High Commissioner. Volker Türk has been appointed Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, UN. The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) was affirmed by the UN General Assembly in December, 2018. This is also a prelude to the [Global Refugee Forum](#)¹⁶ (GRF) to be held in December, 2019. The GRF will focus on arrangements for burden and responsibility-sharing for host countries, education, jobs and livelihoods, energy and infrastructure, solutions, and protection capacity.

As always, it has been an honour to represent Settlement Council of Australia (SCoA), our member organisations and the important work we do on a daily basis in Australia at the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement 2019 in Geneva.

¹⁴ Refugees are Good for Canada, Canada, UNHCRM June 20, 2019, <https://www.unhcr.ca/news/refugees-good-canada/>

¹⁵ Steps to Settlement Success: A toolkit for Rural and Regional Communities, http://www.regionalaustralia.org.au/home/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/MigrationToolkit_v6.pdf

¹⁶ Global Refugee Forum, UNHCR <https://www.unhcr.org/global-refugee-forum.html>