



ANNUAL TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS ON RESETTLEMENT

Final Report

Reemerging and Building Globally
20-22 June 2022
Geneva

Cover photo: United States. 2022. The Gboeah-Flomo family gathers to celebrate Black History Month at their home in the eastern U.S. state of Delaware. Left to right: Elijah Gboeah, Martha Gboeah, Lourena Gboeah-Flomo, Moriah Flomo, and Jonah Flomo. The family fled Liberia during the first civil war and was resettled to the United States in 1992. ©UNHCR/Ashley Le/February 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- OPENING REMARKS 4**

- DAY ONE..... 6**
 - Plenary Sessions 6*
 - Breakout Sessions..... 8*

- DAY TWO 10**
 - Plenary Sessions 10*
 - Breakout Sessions..... 13*

- DAY THREE..... 17**
 - Plenary Sessions 17*



Switzerland. Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement. Opening Remarks. 2022.

OPENING REMARKS

In 2021, the United States assumed the Chair of the ATRC 2022 with the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration serving as the State Chair and Refugee Council USA as the NGO Co-Chair. Representatives of the Refugee Advisory Group also contributed to the planning of the ATRC 2022, making this particular ATRC a milestone with regard to refugee participation.

The theme for the ATRC 2022 was *Reemerging and Building Globally*. The conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 20 June to 22 June, with more than 260 participants working in the context of resettlement and third country solutions, including representatives from governments, non-governmental

organizations, international organizations, academia, the private sector, and refugees.

The ATRC opened with a set of welcoming remarks, beginning with U.S. Secretary of State **Antony Blinken**, who addressed participants in a recorded message from Washington DC. Secretary Blinken reaffirmed the United States' deep commitment to accepting refugees and highlighted the Biden administration's annual refugee admissions cap of 125,000 admissions. He also called on all governments to scale up resettlement activities and make their programs more efficient and effective.

Lawrence Bartlett, Director of the Office of Refugee Admissions in the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration at the U.S. Department of State further welcomed all participants to this year's



convening and highlighted the important and essential work of all stakeholders in addressing global resettlement needs.

John Slocum, Executive Director of Refugee Council USA, summarized the NGO Statement to the ATCR, which included calls for equity across refugee populations and the principle of additionality which declares that refugees admitted via emergency humanitarian programs or via complementary pathways should be in addition to resettlement commitments. He also noted the continued need to provide protection for refugees at heightened risk of persecution, including LGBTQTI individuals at risk.

UNHCR Director of International Protection **Elizabeth Tan** also provided opening remarks and spoke of the unprecedented number of refugees in need of third country solutions, particularly stipulating that recent initiatives in response to the situations in Ukraine and Afghanistan

should be leveraged to expand third country solutions for other refugee populations.

Rez Gardi, Representative of the ATCR Refugee Advisory Group, provided the final set of opening remarks, urging that the role of refugee advisors becomes formalized in the ATCR coordination process through the establishment of a permanent Refugee Co-Chair. She shared her gratitude to states which took immediate measures to respond to emergency crisis situations and called on such states to uphold access to fair and full asylum procedures while supporting the tenets of inclusion, integration, and participation in society for displaced persons. She also called for an end to the deportation of asylum seekers.



Uganda. Community members in Chemukula village in Kween District, one of the villages in the 2500 hectares of resettlement land given to the communities that were displaced from the Mountain Elgon forest reserve and National Park. © UNHCR/Esther Ruth Mbabazi/2021

DAY ONE

Plenary Sessions

∞ *Resettlement Responses to Emergency Situations*

The first day of the ATCR opened with a plenary session titled Resettlement Responses to Emergency Situations, which addressed lessons learned from recent emergencies, focusing in particular on both Ukraine and Afghanistan. Panelists recognized that the Afghan crisis, combined with the recent massive displacement caused by the conflict in Ukraine, marked a turning point for resettlement programs around the world. States have had to shift from their traditional resettlement model to rapid relocation.

Robin Drowse, Head of Community Sponsorship and Complementary Pathways from the United Kingdom, spoke about how the UK rapidly shifted from focusing on long term solutions to responding to mass influxes and providing relocation opportunities within a short amount of time.

Erika Lofgren, UNHCR Regional Office Stockholm, highlighted that protection space in Europe has expanded as a result of the recent emergencies, as underscored by an increased number of initiatives by various actors, ranging from special programs developed by States to reception and integration schemes emanating from civil society. The panelists placed particular emphasis on the need to ensure that already-available approaches are used in emergency responses without undermining pre-existing programs.

Melissa Fama, Director of Resettlement Policy and Programmes, Canada, highlighted that while speed was a common element in these situations, it was important to design responses that fit each context.

Kathryn Anderson, Deputy Chief, Office of Policy and Strategy, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), pointed out that particular case-by-case responses should also be accompanied by greater flexibility to quickly react to life-threatening situations and to offer various pathways to those in need of protection.

∞ *Upstream roles for NGOs in Complementary Pathways and Resettlement*

The second plenary session, Upstream roles for NGOs in Complementary Pathways and Resettlement, discussed important distinctions among the various existing, emerging, and potential roles of NGOs in the fields of resettlement and complementary pathways.

Melonee Douglas, Vice President, Humanitarian Partnership, Policy & Practice at HIAS, opened the panel by recognizing the historical and critical role of NGOs in addressing and developing resettlement and complementary pathways emphasizing the current opportunity to explore new possibilities for engagement and action in this area. NGOs are key actors that provide a strong link between communities, grassroots organizations, and governmental partners.

Jacqui Pilch, Director for Refugees at the White House National Security Council, emphasized that the role of NGOs throughout the resettlement process is essential to identification and referrals, specifically for individuals with high needs who might otherwise be out of reach.

Anna Gekht, Senior Complementary Pathways Officer, UNHCR, also noted that, as regards complementary pathways, NGOs perform crucial functions, including disseminating information and facilitating applications, thus promoting equal access to protection particularly in the case of labour mobility and education pathways.

Finally, **Ibrahim Abou Senna**, Director of the Refugee Legal Aid Program at Saint Andrews Refugee Services, discussed the variety of supports provided by NGOs in pre-departure contexts, from financial and housing assistance to primary and secondary health support. He also noted the importance of enabling new partnerships and expanding current ones among stakeholders as a key component of third country solutions.

∞ *UNHCR Protection and Solutions Strategy*

The final plenary session of Day 1 included **Gillian Triggs**, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, UNHCR, and a general dialogue on protection and solutions with the ATCR participants moderated by John Slocum of RCUSA. The Assistant High Commissioner began her remarks by referencing the recent adoption of a cessation clause for Ivorian refugees as an illustration of a successful comprehensive approach to solutions that included voluntary repatriation. Thus far, 96% of Ivorian refugees have already returned home. Although this solution remains an ultimate goal for most refugees around the world, voluntary repatriation becomes less viable as a solution the longer they remain in a host country. The process of refugee integration in host communities is therefore essential but remains a challenge in most contexts.

The Assistant High Commissioner also drew attention to the forty-two emergencies declared by UNHCR in the last year alone, not only including Ukraine and Afghanistan

but also Burkina Faso, the Sahel region, the DRC, northern Nigeria, Mozambique, and Bangladesh. Assistant High Commissioner Triggs concluded by reaffirming that political will is needed to ensure that resettlement remains a durable solution available to those who need it, and to support the opening of complementary pathways to more refugees, which have the potential to provide real solutions opportunities.

Breakout Sessions

∞ *Community Sponsorship*

Panelists in the Community Sponsorship session emphasized that community sponsorship programs not only provide additional financial and psychosocial support to resettled refugees but also serve other policy objectives, such as increasing public support for refugees. It was also pointed out that the development of community-based sponsorship programs is still in its infancy and needs to be strengthened through active collaboration and partnerships between governments, civil society, and NGOs.

Hannah Gregory, Global Director of Pathway Development at Refugee Hub, reported that community sponsorship programs are active or under development in seventeen countries and that the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI) will launch a new guide, toolkit, and website later this summer.

∞ *Refugee Integration Studies*

The **Refugee Integration Studies** panel presented three studies of refugee integration: two from the United States and one from Australia, each one highlighting certain aspects of integration. The studies identified access to employment as the primary vehicle for integration; however, they pointed out

that lack of local language skills is the primary barrier to integration.

Panelists stressed the importance of preparing the host community to develop services that help address the cultural gap by creating understanding and space for sharing experiences. In this regard, it was emphasized that resettlement often provides access to crucial information about refugees prior to their arrival in the destination country, which is important to capitalize on to begin the integration process as early as possible.

∞ *Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Statistics*

The Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Statistics session looked at the divergence between governments and international organizations in data collection, sorting, and formatting. **Jean-Christophe Dumont**, Head of International Migration Division, OECD, presented an overview of "Safe Pathways for Refugees II," an OECD and UNHCR study on third country solutions which recorded nearly 1.5 million first visas or entry/residence permits issued over the decade in OECD member States.

Andrew Kiley, Department of Home Affairs Assistant Secretary, Australia, described the size and structure of Australia's refugee and humanitarian program, which encompasses different visa categories and includes asylum seekers with permanent protection in Australia.

Alessandra Pallotelli, Resettlement Officer for Italy, summarized Italian pathways for admission, covering resettlement, humanitarian corridors, and evacuations, while also highlighting Italy's pilot program on education pathways. The panelists emphasized the need to improve the relevance, quality, and completeness of data, particularly with respect to complementary pathways. The importance

of avoiding duplication in data collection and agreeing on a common definition of resettlement was noted, particularly if the scope extends to referrals by organizations other than UNHCR.

∞ *Family Reunification*

The breakout session on Family Reunification began by reaffirming that, although family reunification is a fundamental human right, difficulties and obstacles to accessing it persist and require changes in the approaches and tools used.

Dr. Shada Bokir, Lecturer at the University of Vienna and a former refugee from Yemen, shared her personal experience in reuniting with a family member, highlighting the need to support applicants in the country of residence throughout the process and the importance of considering cultural differences in the host country.

Wendy Young, President of Kids in Need of Defense, called on states to adapt their practices in this area, while **Rowana Dujinker**, Policy Advisor for Immigration and Naturalization from the Netherlands highlighted innovative processes recently adopted by the Dutch administration, including a reliance on remote processing and fast tracking for some cases. In the Netherlands, security checks are only conducted for selected nationalities in order to expedite the process for family reunification cases.

∞ *Education Pathways*

During the panel on Education Pathways, **Nhial Deng**, member of the Global Task Force on Education Pathways and a member of the ATRC Refugee Advisory Group, shared his personal as a South Sudanese refugee living in the Kakuma camp in Kenya and having been admitted into a university program at Huron University in Canada. He emphasized the

need to develop tools to overcome existing financial, informational, and administrative barriers in accessing education pathways.

The session also presented two education-based programs developed in Japan and in Mexico. The panelists spoke of these programs as an opportunity to change the narrative on displacement, plus bring diversity and enrich host institutions with new talent. Panelists also noted that there are many stakeholders which need to be involved in the process, and that coordination among key players is vital to making educational pathways a robust component of third country solutions.

∞ *Labor Mobility*

The third breakout session, on **Labor Mobility**, highlighted existing programs, including the Economic Mobility Pilot Program (EMPP) in Canada, and the Displaced Talent Mobility program in the United Kingdom.

Dima Abdul Ghani, a nurse who went through the latter program shared her experience and spoke to the importance of integration into a new environment. Speakers also highlighted the win-win solution for candidates and employers that labour mobility programs provide, as they foster empowerment and independence while offering employers the opportunity to find needed talent and improve the diversity of their workforce. Panelists finally stressed the ability of labor mobility programs to transform the perception of refugees and in turn, generate community support for other programs and aspects of third country solutions.



Argentina. Decades after they were resettled to Argentina, a group of Laotian refugees meet up to recreate a photo taken shortly after their arrival in Buenos Aires. © UNHCR/Nicolo Filippo Rosso/2021

DAY TWO

Plenary Sessions

∞ *The Projected Global Resettlement Needs*

The Projected Global Resettlement Needs for 2023 were released, stating that more than two million refugees are in need of resettlement.

UNHCR Geneva's **Inge De Langhe**, Senior Resettlement Officer, and **Johanna Babb**, Resettlement Officer, noted that this figure represents a 36% increase in resettlement needs over the previous year, and it stands as the largest increase in a decade. This increase encompasses all regions, including a 260% increase in Asia and the Pacific and a 40% increase in the Americas. The five largest nationalities and ethnic groups accounting for 77% of all needs are Syrian, Afghan, Congolese, South Sudanese, and Rohingya.

Both De Langhe and Babb went on to

discuss the root causes of this increase, citing the outbreak of new conflicts and the deteriorating situation in many countries of asylum over the past year. The priority situations for 2023 were also announced, including Syria (760,000 refugees in need of resettlement), the Central Mediterranean situation (400,000 refugees in need of resettlement), Afghanistan (250,000 refugees in need of resettlement), the Rohingya situation (100,000 refugees in need of resettlement), and Venezuelans (58,000 refugees in need of resettlement).

∞ *Regional Updates*

Ben Harvey, Senior Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Officer, UNHCR West and Central Africa Bureau, described a region facing multiple challenges but also noted the resilience and generosity of individuals and communities in West and Central Africa. Harvey highlighted that the region faces political instability in addition to a fragile security situation due to inter-communal violence and increased attacks

on civilians by non-state armed groups. This environment, combined with deteriorating weather conditions, has exacerbated food insecurity and led to unprecedented levels of population displacement, including 7.6 million internally displaced persons and 1.5 million refugees—most of whom have been in protracted refugee situations for ten to twenty years.

Helen Morris, Senior Durable Solutions Officer, UNHCR Southern Africa Regional Bureau, provided an update on the situation in the Southern African region. Morris pointed out that the Democratic Republic of the Congo still has the greatest resettlement needs, but that various protection issues also affect refugees in other countries, such as Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Zambia. In total, there are 8 million displaced people in this region, including 760,000 refugees, of which 60,000 are in need of resettlement.

Annabel Mwangi, Senior Protection Coordinator, UNHCR East, Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (EHAGL) Regional Bureau, discussed how resettlement needs are expected to reach 440,000 due to protracted and evolving emergency situations in EHAGL. Mwangi noted that despite the fact that the resettlement quota for the region has tripled in recent years, the 2022 allocated regional quota will only cover 7% of the expected resettlement needs, which amounts to about 30,000 refugees.

Juan Pablo Terminiello, Senior Legal Officer, UNHCR Regional Bureau for the Americas, noted that the Americas are facing an increase in displacement issues. More than 7 million displaced persons reside in Colombia—mainly from Venezuela, and 1.2 million displaced persons are living in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Overall, more than 77,000 people are in need of resettlement.

Terminiello highlighted regional initiatives to strengthen the overall protection response, and in particular the success of the regional Transfer of Protection Arrangement.

Leyla Nugmanova, Assistant Representative, UNHCR Pakistan, spoke about the needs in Pakistan and noted Pakistan's non-admission policy for new arrivals. Nugmanova stressed that resettlement is one of the only options for refugees in Pakistan.

Johannes Van Der Klaauw, Representative, UNHCR Bangladesh, highlighted the particular situation of the Rohingya refugees, noting that they are among the most vulnerable and discriminated against populations in the world. Bangladesh currently hosts 1 million Rohingya on a temporary basis with no legal framework. Resettlement is starting again in Bangladesh this year - carefully and incrementally for the most vulnerable protection cases - and complementary pathways should also be part of the broader solution context. Van Der Klaauw called for the establishment of clear mechanisms for systematic exit procedures as a protection tool for resettlement as a means to protect the most vulnerable cases among the Rohingya population. Van Der Klaauw finally reminded the assembly of the need to closely coordinate communication on resettlement out of Bangladesh given the above-described situation.

Farah Al-Obaidy, Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Officer UNHCR Iraq, noted that the Syrian situation is not over, and that Iraq hosts 250,000 refugees, mainly Syrians in need of resettlement. Al-Obaidy also said that the Iraqi operation has the capacity to increase processing and that the new emergency situations should not prevent the processing of these cases.

Marzia Ali, Senior Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Officer, UNHCR Lebanon, stressed that the latest economic, political, and health developments in Lebanon have had a significant impact on the lives of refugees, emphasizing that nine out of every ten Syrian refugees hosted in the country live in poverty. In this context, Ali emphasized that resettlement is an essential component of the protection and solutions strategy in Lebanon.

∞ ***Balancing Resettlement Commitments with Emergency Responses***

The next panel focused upon the need to respond to emergency resettlement situations without forsaking previously made resettlement commitments.

Anita Vella, Head of the Unit for Legal Pathways and Integration, European Commission, first gave an overview of the European Commission's responses to the Afghan and Ukrainian crises. In both cases, a rapid, coordinated and organized plan was launched to absorb the effect of these emergencies, including measures to accommodate 36,000 places for humanitarian admissions and 10,000 resettlement slots for the Afghan crisis alone. Vella also highlighted the solidarity platform, which was created by bringing together member States on a weekly basis to coordinate responses during such crisis situations.

Marit Jenny Rosenvinge, Ministry Advisor from the Norwegian Government's Migration Department, detailed the Norwegian government's response to these crises, including the 1,000 unoccupied resettlement places in 2021 reserved for Afghan refugees in addition to the commitments made in 2022. Rosenvinge also emphasized that the response to these crises did not only come from the central government but also from municipalities,

local authorities, and, to a large extent, civil society, especially in the context of the Ukrainian response during which NGOs provided accommodation and integration support.

Paul Power, CEO of Refugee Council of Australia, noted that Australian civil society has worked to advocate with governments for additional resettlement commitments. Finally, focusing on the Syrian case and commitments, Elizabeth Barber, Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Officer, UNHCR MENA Regional Bureau, emphasized that emergency responses should not be implemented at the expense of other refugee groups. Barber concluded by highlighting the impact of changing resettlement commitments on the ground, including reduced effectiveness of the response, the need to adjust approaches, increased vulnerability of those already in the process, and the ripple effect on families and individuals that can ultimately lead to distrust of resettlement actors or induce refugees to undertake unsafe travel.

∞ **The Role of Meaningful Refugee Participation in Policy and Governance**

The last plenary session of the second day focused on the role of meaningful refugee participation in policy and governance.

Dauda Sesay, Refugee Representative on the U.S. Government Delegation, stressed that refugee participation helps create more sustainable policies for refugees as they become part of the decision-making process.

Machtelt De Vriese, Senior Community Based Protection Officer, UNHCR Geneva, explained that the first milestones within UNHCR for refugee participation were set in 2004, with the promotion of an age, gender, and diversity approach among all UNHCR teams. The policy was further

amended and supplemented by other policies in subsequent years, leading to the establishment in 2020 of a dedicated ATCR Refugee Advisory Group, as well as the creation of an advisory board of refugees, IDPs and stateless led organizations who work with UNHCR as a whole.

Leah Winsor, Director of Refugee Affairs, Canada, pointed out that Canada has included refugees in government delegations since 2019, which has allowed the direct experience of refugees to advance policy.

Chris Eades, Secretary General, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network, noted that one way to ensure optimal refugee participation in this area would be to increase the employment of refugees or people with refugee experience in organizations involved in such policymaking process.

This session also highlighted the challenges that refugee participation still faces, such as the lack of a comprehensive approach to engaging all stakeholders or the lack of transparency in the recruitment process of refugee representatives. The session's closing remarks reminded participants that the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) will include as a key criterion for its next cycle the engagement of the affected community in the policymaking process.

Breakout Sessions

Two series of four breakout sessions were offered during the afternoon of the second day. Each breakout session examined a particular area of interest related to protection, resettlement, and complementary pathways.

∞ *Situation in the Central Mediterranean*

The Central Mediterranean breakout session began with a reminder of the current state of the region, with more than 210,000 arrivals by sea to Europe in 2021, and 40,000 arrivals and more than 700 people have been reported dead or missing since January 2022.

This context was elaborated by **Elizabeth Kerre**, Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Officer, UNHCR Sudan, who gave a comprehensive overview of the challenges of mixed movement in Sudan. Kerre highlighted that instability in neighboring countries makes Sudan the number one refugee hosting country in Africa (1.28 million) and also a significant transit hub for migrants and refugees. Kerre also emphasized opportunities such as the family reunification project launched in 2019 in four countries and the Tell the Real Story outreach project.

Further, **Alessandra Pallotelli**, Senior Resettlement Officer, Italian Ministry of the Interior, presented the initiatives launched by the Government of Italy to manage the situation, such as the humanitarian corridors dedicated to the evacuation of the most vulnerable refugees from Libya and the educational pathway pilot program which has reached its fourth year of implementation.

The session concluded by emphasizing the need for implementing critical programs and initiatives to raise awareness, improve identification methodologies, expand resettlement to diverse groups, and create safe alternatives through complementary

pathways to avoid human trafficking and rights violations in the Central Mediterranean.

∞ *Climate Change and Displacement*

Introductory remarks by moderator **Madeline Garlick**, Chief of Section, Protection Policy and Legal Advice at UNCHR, recalled the various key UNHCR documents on climate-induced disasters and refugee protection, as well as the UNHCR Strategic Framework for Climate Action.

Sanjula Weerasinghe, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), set the stage by highlighting the need to conceptualize and situate possible intersections between the impact of climate disasters and refugee protection, namely the impact of climate on the definition of a refugee, the negative effects on the country of asylum concerning protection needs, and the negative impact of climate disasters on refugees in countries of admission.

Sunil Varghese, Policy Director, International Refugee Assistance Project, highlighted the positive developments and concrete steps taken by the Biden Administration toward establishing an ongoing inter-agency policy process to coordinate U.S. government efforts and mitigate risks.

Jerome Elie, Head, Force Migration International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), emphasized the need for more discussion of the intersection between resettlement and climate change and for a greater focus on policy and practice when designing solutions related to climate disaster displacement. Elie also emphasized that the challenges related to climate change are now considered a major issue, but the adaptation of protection policies and development tools are not yet fast enough.

∞ *Protracted Case Loads*

Elsbeth Magdalene Black, UNHCR Resettlement Officer in Chad, pointed out that a combination of factors, such as the impacts of climate change, food emergencies, inter-communal tensions, and lack of basic services have steadily contributed to an increase in protracted situations over the years.

Annabel Mwangi, UNHCR EHAGL Regional Bureau, highlighted the situation of Somali and Sudanese refugees and the significant backlog in resettling these populations, despite severe individual protection needs. Mwangi also pointed out that local solutions have improved the inclusion of refugees in national systems.

Emily Bojovic, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, provided an overview of the longest protracted refugee populations: Afghans who reside primarily in Pakistan and Iran. Bojovic highlighted the correlation between the longer length of time spent in a country of asylum and an increased unwillingness to return. In addition, focus on protracted situations risks being overtaken by other priorities which can lead to reduced funding and focus for ongoing engagement with these populations. Lastly, it was discussed how protracted refugee populations are particularly affected by delays in resettlement departures.

∞ *Capacity Building Through CRISP and Other Initiatives*

The final breakout session of this initial round explored capacity building through the CRISP mechanism and other regional and national initiatives.

Davina Gateley Said, Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Officer at UNHCR Geneva, began by emphasizing that CRISP activities were developed jointly by

UNHCR and IOM and are directly aligned with the Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways. CRISP includes promoting partnerships and coordination to avoid duplication of efforts among actors in resettlement and complementary pathways.

Rana Jaber, Resettlement and Movement Management Division, IOM, detailed some of the initiatives undertaken under the CRISP mechanism, including IOM assisting with a total of 212 movements since the launch of the mechanism (13% resettlement, 81% humanitarian admission and 6% family reunification).

Through thematic coordination, operational support, train-the-trainer modules, and operational tools, **Andre Marcel Bass**, Head of Sector, EUAA, emphasized that the EUAA is building the capacity of states and NGOs, thereby improving the sustainability of resettlement and humanitarian admission programs.

Robin Dunn Marcos, Senior Director, IRC, concluded by explaining that through managing multiple projects aimed at building the capacity of practitioners, IRC has developed accessible learning opportunities using different platforms that are necessarily informed by experts with lived experience of displacement and by valuable peer support.

∞ *High Needs Cases*

This session reaffirmed that the integration and reception of high-needs individuals requires strong community support and intensive care provided by government and non-government partners, including targeted treatment and health services. The session also addressed the issue of identifying high-needs cases throughout the resettlement process. Particular emphasis was placed on the need to avoid

a one-size fits all identification mechanism and to undertake a comprehensive assessment of individuals upon arrival, as some refugees may not share information until they feel safe.

∞ *Protection and Empowerment of LGBTI Refugees*

This session discussed the protection challenges faced by LGBTQI refugees on the ground as well as challenges encountered in a third country.

The first panelist, **Bijan Kardouni**, a refugee representative from the NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS), Australia, spoke about his experience as an LGBTI youth in Iran. Kardouni emphasized the importance of LGBTI-led organizations in supporting and providing community for LGBTI individuals, especially those arriving in a new country.

The critical role of community was reiterated by **Devon Matthews**, Director of Programs, Rainbow Railroad. Devon emphasized the need to support LGBTI people from the very beginning of travel, as there are barriers at every step of the way for these individuals. Matthews also reminded the audience of the need to bring attention to the ongoing challenges this population faces in lesser-known areas of displacement.

Anja Limon, Senior Programme Manager, The Organization for Refuge, Asylum and Migration (ORAM), highlighted the challenges faced by LGBTIQ refugees in asylum and transit countries, particularly when sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI) claims are not recognized. However, even in countries like Kenya where asylum can be granted on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity claims, significant delays in refugee status determination mean that LGBTI individuals must wait years for their claims to be assessed.

Juan Pablo Terminiello, Senior Legal Officer, UNHCR Regional Bureau for the Americas, described the increase in displacement in the Americas region (Venezuela, northern Central America, and Nicaragua) where LGBTI people face the same challenges. Terminiello stressed the need to ensure openness and support for this community, including implementing asylum systems that allow for recognition of asylum claims based on sexual orientation, working with LGBTI organizations to ensure that individuals receive support, and assessing where access to services is limited or restrictive for this community.

- ∞ *Briefing by the Priority Situation Core Group (PSCG) and the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS)*

Lawrence Bartlett, Co-Chair of the PSCG and Director of the Office of Refugee Admissions in the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration at the U.S.

Department of State, emphasized that the PSCG is a useful space for governments to exchange and learn from each other's practices while working together to find concrete operational solutions to existing challenges. Bartlett noted that over the past year the work of the PSCG has focused not only on how to address crisis situations, travel implications, the Afghan emergency, and the situation in Libya as well as other protracted situations but also on exclusion issues and biometric identity management.

Leah Winsor, Chair of the MIRPS and Director of Refugee Affairs, Canada, explained that the platform was conceived as a technical support mechanism mainly aimed at building capacity and providing technical assistance to countries involved in different areas, such as sustainable solutions, humanitarian assistance and development opportunities. Winsor pointed out that the focus was also on empowering women and girls in displacement and LGTBI communities.



Lebanon. Thirty-seven-year-old Syrian refugee Mouhamad plays with his three-year-old daughter on the rooftop of their house. They fled to Lebanon in 2014, and are awaiting resettlement to Norway. © UNHCR/Diego Ibarra Sanchez/2020

DAY THREE

Plenary Sessions

∞ *Three-Year Strategy Next Phase: Launching the Third Country Solutions Roadmap 2030*

The final day of ATCR opened with a session dedicated to the presentation of the successor document to the Three-Year Strategy.

David Manicom, Special Advisor to UNHCR, began by reporting on the Strategy's achievements, and announced the next phase, *Third Country Solutions: Roadmap 2030*. Manicom then opened a discussion with three panelists on the new objectives and key development areas of the Road Map.

Melissa Fama, Resettlement Policy and Programmes, Canada, began by emphasizing the need to work together in building bottom-up approaches and platforms to share and support best

practices. Fama also emphasized that states must focus on both increasing resettlement to meet the Roadmap's goal of one million resettled persons per year and on ensuring support for the continued development of complementary pathways.

Martin Anderson, Director of International Programs, RefugePoint, called for a comprehensive and inclusive process that balances needs-based and non-needs-based pathways to avoid competition between them.

Rebecca Granato, Associate Vice President, Bard College and Co-Chair of the Global Taskforce on Education Pathways, emphasized that in order to reach the goal of 200,000 refugees accessing scholarships envisioned by the Roadmap, it is necessary for states to more formally commit to complementary pathways. Granato also recognized the multiple initiatives from different actors that have emerged in the last two years, allowing establishment of the first pilots in education pathways.

Eyad Jabari, a former Syrian refugee resettled to Argentina, concluded the

discussion by sharing his personal story, highlighting the challenges faced and emphasizing the importance of combining complementary pathways with integration and community sponsorship solutions.

∞ *ATCR Reform Process*

The next session focused on the ATCR reform process, which was launched under the Swiss chair during the ATCR 2021. The session presented the work of the Reform Committee, which was created to advance this process. Panelists detailed the two-year mandate given to the committee to explore innovative partnerships, the balance between complementary pathways and resettlement, the format and structure of the ATCR, as well as necessary steps to ensure meaningful refugee participation. Among the ideas identified, panelists discussed the importance of exploring a hybrid format, a troika structure to ensure seamless governance and progress, an overarching multi-year theme, and methods to strengthen links and connections between existing groups and forums working in the field of resettlement and complementary pathways. Panelists noted that this work will be further developed under the Irish chair and that the outcomes will be presented at the ATCR 2023.

∞ *Reemerging and Building Globally: Bringing Forward What We Have Learned*

This final plenary session focused upon this year's ATCR theme, Global Resurgence and Construction: Advancing What We've Learned. Panelists discussed the latest developments and changes in policies, processes, and tools that have been adapted during successive crises seen in recent years.

Cherin El-Hajj, Associate Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Officer,

UNHCR Regional Bureau for MENA, emphasized the importance of implementing flexible approaches to ensure seamless processing of cases in crises. El-Hajj specifically mentioned the use of remote processing, the challenge of integrity, and safeguards that must remain the primary concern.

Dr. Alexander Klosovsky, Senior Migration Health Advisor, Global Health Security, IOM, addressed the impact of COVID-19 on IOM's activities and approaches. Dr. Klosovsky emphasized the continued need for close cooperation in data sharing and in using innovative approaches in order to continue providing assistance and processing cases even in times of crisis.

Henriette Killi Westhrin, Secretary General, Norwegian People's Aid, emphasized that volunteering has become more important during the pandemic including remotely for those who had little digital experience to begin with. Henriette also stressed the importance of coordination between organizations, civil society, and state authorities especially in times of crisis.

Mustafa Alio, Co- Managing Director, R-SEAT, concluded the session by calling the assembly's attention to the risks of offshoring and outsourcing of refugee processing. Alio also urged states to invest more in diversifying third country solutions to provide an alternative to resettlement.

∞ *Closing remarks by the High Commissioner with Q&A*

The last session of the ATCR 2022 was an opportunity for participants to engage in a discussion with the High Commissioner for Refugees, **Filippo Grandi**. During his remarks, the High Commissioner welcomed

the United States’ renewed leading role in refugee resettlement and expressed gratitude to other major resettlement countries for their continued work. The High Commissioner provided an overview of the current context for global resettlement, including the challenges that arose following the recent emergencies as a result of events in Afghanistan and Ukraine. He reminded the audience that challenges for resettlement remain substantial, and he made the following four-point appeal for:

- More resettlement places and slots in existing and new resettlement countries,
- Faster case processing and decision-making,
- Speedy departures of accepted cases,
- Stronger reception and integration capacity.

The High Commissioner further urged resettlement countries to preserve resettlement spaces, noting that some countries used resettlement quotas for the admission of evacuated Afghans. Such arrangements need to be in addition to resettlement commitments.

The High Commissioner also noted the importance of complementary pathways and family reunification and the importance of strong coordination given their multi-stakeholder nature.

Finally, the High Commissioner reminded the audience that neither resettlement nor Complementary Pathways replace states’ obligation to provide access to asylum for spontaneous arrivals, and that engagement in neither can be used as a tradeoff to justify externalization policies.

∞ *ATCR Handover*

The U.S. Co-Chairs **Lawrence Bartlett**, Director, Office of Refugee Admissions, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, U.S. Department of State, and **John Slocum**, Executive Director, Refugee Council USA, thanked the organizers for a successful event following two years of remote facilitation as well as the ATCR community for their participation. The Co-Chairs welcomed the Irish government and NASC Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre as the incoming co-chairs, thereby opening a new ATCR cycle.

Dauda Sesay, Refugee Representative for the U.S. Government delegation, reminded the ATCR community of the challenges ahead, highlighting that 100 million people are currently displaced around the world and that this number will not decrease without the existence of proactive solutions.

The incoming Irish co-chairs **John Harding**, Head of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme, Ireland, and **Fiona Hurley**, Interim CEO, NASC Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre, thanked the U.S. Co-Chairs for their valuable support in the handover process and confirmed their willingness to take the last days’ rich discussions forward. Harding acknowledged the call from the refugee participants for a stronger refugee voice in this forum and stressed that he intends to take a collaborative approach in the next 12 months. This sentiment was echoed by Hurley, who welcomed the ATCR community members’ input on how they see the ATCR moving forward. NASC sees a particular value in bringing in the perspective of a small NGO in a smaller resettlement country in this process.

ATCR/WGR

Annual Tripartite Consultations and
Working Group on Resettlement