

EMERGING RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES JOINT SUPPORT MECHANISM (ERCM)

INTRODUCTION

In light of the recent and rapid expansion in the number of emerging resettlement countries willing to develop resettlement programmes, a need has been identified to set up a platform specifically designed to facilitate and channel in a strategic and coordinated manner, the support needed by new and emerging resettlement countries to start these programmes. The **Emerging Resettlement Countries Joint Support Mechanism (ERCM)** will be operated as a joint venture that aims to enhance resettlement activities undertaken by new and emerging resettlement countries including through harnessing the expertise of experienced resettlement countries and other actors. Within the overarching goal of enabling more resettlement opportunities for those refugees in need, as well as fostering responsibility sharing towards finding durable solutions for refugees, the ERCM will have three main objectives:

1. Providing a mechanism for governments, private sponsors and donors to harness their expertise and contribute both financially and technically to supporting refugee resettlement around the world in a strategic and coordinated manner;
2. Assisting new and emerging resettlement countries in assessing the sustainability of their resettlement programme, helping to identify vulnerable areas in need of support and providing, accordingly, targeted financial and/or technical assistance;
3. Channeling and supporting the sharing of technical expertise and good practices among experienced resettlement countries, international organizations, international NGOs and governmental and non-governmental actors in new and emerging resettlement countries.

The Mechanism will achieve its objective through channeling and managing resources and support provided to the Mechanism by interested actors to new and emerging resettlement countries that are in need of assistance. Resources and support provided to the Mechanism will take two forms:

- ☑ **Financial support:** Direct funding will be limited to supporting best practice pre-departure and travel arrangements, including health assessments, cultural orientation and movement operations through IOM to ensure refugees are empowered and well-prepared for third-country resettlement;
- ☑ **Technical support:** Technical support will include capacity building and sharing of expertise by UNHCR, IOM, or other relevant stakeholder such as NGOs, or experienced resettlement countries with new or emerging resettlement countries. Technical support from UNHCR will focus on resettlement programme design, adjudication and selection of refugees as well as on reception and integration of resettled refugees. IOM's technical support will cover end-to-end programme planning from the onset, focusing on best practice in movement operations and pre-departure services, including but not limited to the development of health protocols with concerned authorities in resettlement countries and the designing of pre-departure orientation curriculum based on key messages of the destination country.

WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR A SUPPORT MECHANISM?

As resettlement needs continue to vastly outweigh available places¹, the international community has been advocating for an expansion of the resettlement base, including by encouraging more countries to establish robust and sustainable resettlement programmes. Sustained efforts over the years along with an increased interest in resettlement have led to a significant growth in the number of resettlement countries recently. Currently over 20 countries, mostly in Europe but also in Latin America, find themselves at different stages of developing new resettlement programmes. Informally, these are known as ‘emerging’ resettlement countries.

Establishing a new resettlement programme may be, however, a challenging activity for a country. Experience by UNHCR and IOM has shown that poorly designed, or insufficiently resourced resettlement programmes may result in refugees facing, upon arrival to their destination country, a number of legal, administrative or social challenges that jeopardize the protection and the durable solution that resettlement is meant to provide.

To this end, UNHCR and IOM have developed a number of policies and good practices with regards to the essential elements, in terms of structure and processes, a country should have in place before receiving resettled refugees. Such elements include adequate and thorough selection and preparation of refugees prior to their departure from countries of first asylum; legislation and policy instruments to ensure a secure legal status and access to rights within the resettlement country; conducting relevant stakeholder consultations and collaboration; and having a reception and integration programme that delivers support and access to essential services and ensures an effective enjoyment of all rights².

Acknowledging those challenges, UNHCR, IOM and experienced resettlement countries have embarked in the past, under the umbrella of the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR) and the Working Group on Resettlement (WGR), on a number of initiatives that aim at assisting those countries that have shown political willingness to resettle refugees but lack the necessary technical or financial capacity to do so. Such initiatives have included bilateral twinning arrangements, provision of specific technical support and advice, as well as financial assistance. Areas of focus of such initiatives have included capacitation of government officials on relevant policy, procedures and practices related to resettlement and helping with the establishment of integration programmes that transition from initial reception mechanisms to permanent support arrangements.

Through leveraging the long-standing partnership between UNHCR and IOM in supporting resettlement activities, the Support Mechanism will provide emerging countries with support and assistance that spans the continuum of the resettlement process. The entity providing the support and assistance as well as the nature of support provided will depend on the phase of the resettlement process.

WHAT ACTIVITIES WILL THE MECHANISM SUPPORT?

Areas of focus that will benefit from the resources and expertise provided by the Support Mechanism will be in line with the different phases of any standard resettlement operation and will include the following activities:

- ☑ **Resettlement Policy and Programme design (UNHCR):** This phase involves the provision of technical support by UNHCR in the form of policy advice to ensure that resettlement is entrenched in relevant legislative and policy instruments and that all relevant stakeholders are consulted. To undertake these activities, UNHCR will deploy resources both at Headquarters and in the field and develop the necessary tools (including a resource kit and training modules) to support this process.

¹ See UNHCR’s Projected Global Resettlement Needs for 2017, UNHCR 2017.

<http://www.unhcr.org/protection/resettlement/575836267/unhcr-projected-global-resettlement-needs-2017.html>

² “The Integration of Resettled Refugees: Essentials for Establishing a Resettlement Programme and Fundamentals for Sustainable Resettlement Programmes”, UNHCR 2013.

<http://www.unhcr.org/protection/resettlement/52a6d85b6/integration-resettled-refugees-essentials-establishing-resettlement-programme.html>

- ☑ **Referral of cases (UNHCR):** This phase involves the identification, processing and referral of refugees in need of resettlement to the emerging country. To be able to deliver on those additional referrals, UNHCR will boost its capacity to identify, process and refer refugees for resettlement in the emerging countries.
- ☑ **Adjudication and selection of cases referred to the resettlement country (UNHCR):** This phase involves the provision of technical support by UNHCR in the form of capacity building and training to governments on conducting selection missions, including conducting in-depth interviews and gathering required bio-data, and adjudicating refugee cases for resettlement. To undertake these activities, UNHCR will deploy resources both at Headquarters and in the field and develop the necessary tools to support these activities.
- ☑ **Preparing refugees through comprehensive pre-departure resettlement services (IOM):** This phase includes both financial and technical support related to: facilitating logistical arrangements for selection missions and visa processing; conducting health assessments to ensure that people travel in a safe and dignified manner, are fit to travel, receive appropriate assistance when required, and do not pose a potential health hazard to other travelers or receiving communities; and carrying out pre-departure orientation activities which prepares refugees by providing practical information on the country of destination, and helps them to set realistic goals and develop the skills and attitudes required to succeed in their new environment.

Managing the expectations of both refugees and the governments undertaking to receive them requires close consultation with all stakeholders. While the majority of IOM's work takes place in countries of first asylum, IOM sees the need for strong, informed partnerships between overseas resettlement operations and domestic settlement/integration services and works actively to promote and strengthen such ties. For example, IOM coordinates with governments and other resettlement actors in receiving countries to ensure proper reception handover to relevant authorities and the continuity of health care upon arrival, to help settlement service providers better understand and plan for potential integration challenges, and to improve refugees' prospects for labour market integration.

- ☑ **Movement Operations (IOM):** This phase includes both financial and technical support related to obtaining travel documents, transport to and passenger handling at embarkation points, arrangement of flights and tickets, provision of operational and medical escorts, assistance in transit and upon arrival, etc. IOM's worldwide network of experienced movement operations staff, supported by global agreements with major airlines offering preferential fares and priority service to IOM passengers, along with proprietary movement management applications and operations protocols, all serve to ensure that refugees are transported smoothly to their final destinations.
- ☑ **Reception and integration activities (UNHCR):** This phase includes technical support by UNHCR in the form of capacity building and training to manage reception-related issues such as provision of documentation, initial housing and urgent health care as well as integration-related issues including provision of adequate social support, employment and housing support, language and education training, education services for children, etc. To undertake these activities, UNHCR will deploy resources both at Headquarters and in the field and develop the necessary tools to support these activities.



IOM tuberculosis lab in Nepal. © IOM/Kari Collins 2009



Bhutanese refugees attend a pre-departure orientation class conducted by IOM © IOM/Kari Collins 2009

HOW WILL THE SUPPORT MECHANISM OPERATE?

Resettlement is recognized today as a vital protection tool that plays a crucial role within wider comprehensive solutions and protection strategies. Resettlement is by definition a partnership activity, traditionally between countries willing to admit refugees into their territories and provide resettlement places, as well as the international agencies that facilitate it, namely UNHCR and IOM.

As part of its ongoing activities to promote resettlement and expand the base of resettlement countries, UNHCR will engage with emerging resettlement countries that have the interest and the required political will to start, continue or expand a resettlement programme. Where it is evident that emerging countries require technical or financial support, UNHCR will refer them to the Mechanism and its processes. The Support Mechanism will primarily support resettlement programme proposals that involve UNHCR resettlement referrals with other pathways being explored as appropriate.

Once a country has been referred to the Support Mechanism, UNHCR and IOM will undertake a comprehensive assessment of the emerging country's capacity and preparedness in the different areas of focus set out in the graphic overview (Table I) in order to determine the suitability of the envisaged resettlement programme and the type of support that is being required for its implementation.

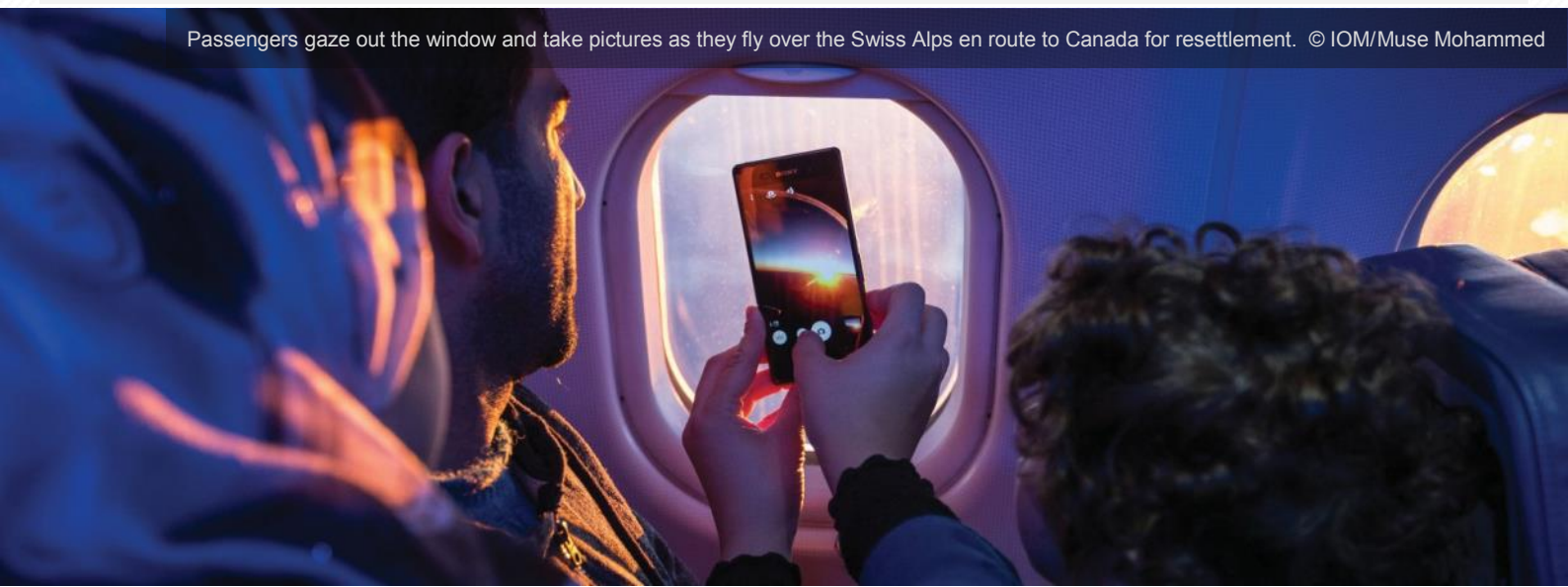
Following the assessment by UNHCR and IOM, the new or emerging resettlement country, in conjunction with UNHCR and IOM, will develop an implementation plan for its new or expanded resettlement programme. Based on the implementation plan, UNHCR and IOM will then use the Support Mechanism to mobilize and deploy the necessary resources needed to cover the identified needs within an agreed delivery framework. UNHCR and IOM will each manage the resources put at their disposal through the Support Mechanism based on a mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities as outlined in Table I.

Progress reports at key milestones for each emerging country programme will be provided by UNHCR and IOM and shared with both emerging resettlement countries and donors. Once a country programme has been concluded, UNHCR and IOM will develop and undertake, in conjunction with the emerging country, an evaluation to assess the use of deployed resources under the Support Mechanism. Furthermore, the effectiveness of the Support Mechanism against its objectives will be measured and evaluated throughout its initial 3-year project cycle. IOM and UNHCR will submit annual reports to donors on how the funds and resources provided to the Support Mechanism have been used in line with each agency's standard reporting practices. A presentation on the Support Mechanism will take place at the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR) held annually in Geneva, Switzerland, where both the donor countries and the emerging resettlement countries are in attendance.

BUDGET

In order to carry out these activities for up to 30,000 beneficiaries over three years IOM and UNHCR will require a total of 114.68 million USD. Please see the attached annexes for each agency's budgetary requirements.

Passengers gaze out the window and take pictures as they fly over the Swiss Alps en route to Canada for resettlement. © IOM/Muse Mohammed



**TABLE 1: OVERVIEW OF THE
EMERGING RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES JOINT SUPPORT MECHANISM**

Emerging Resettlement Countries Joint Support Mechanism



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Technical support

Programme Design

Provision of policy advice to ensure that:

1. resettlement is entrenched in relevant legislative and policy instruments
2. relevant stakeholders are consulted
3. the programme is sustainable and is in line with UNHCR's policies

Referral of cases

The identification, processing and referral of refugees in need of resettlement to the emerging resettlement country.

Case Selection and Adjudication

Building the capacity of emerging countries on relevant UNHCR's policies and procedures related to resettlement and training on conducting selection missions and selection of cases for resettlement.

Reception and Integration

Capacity building and advice on provision of documentation, food, initial housing, urgent health care, adequate social support, employment and housing support, language and education training and education services for children.



IOM • OIM
Financial and
technical support

Management of Mechanism and Programme Design

1. Receive and manage funds going to the Mechanism
2. Ensure that pre-departure services including transportation and travel assistance are designed and implemented to support refugees and counterparts across the resettlement continuum.

Health Assessment and Assistance

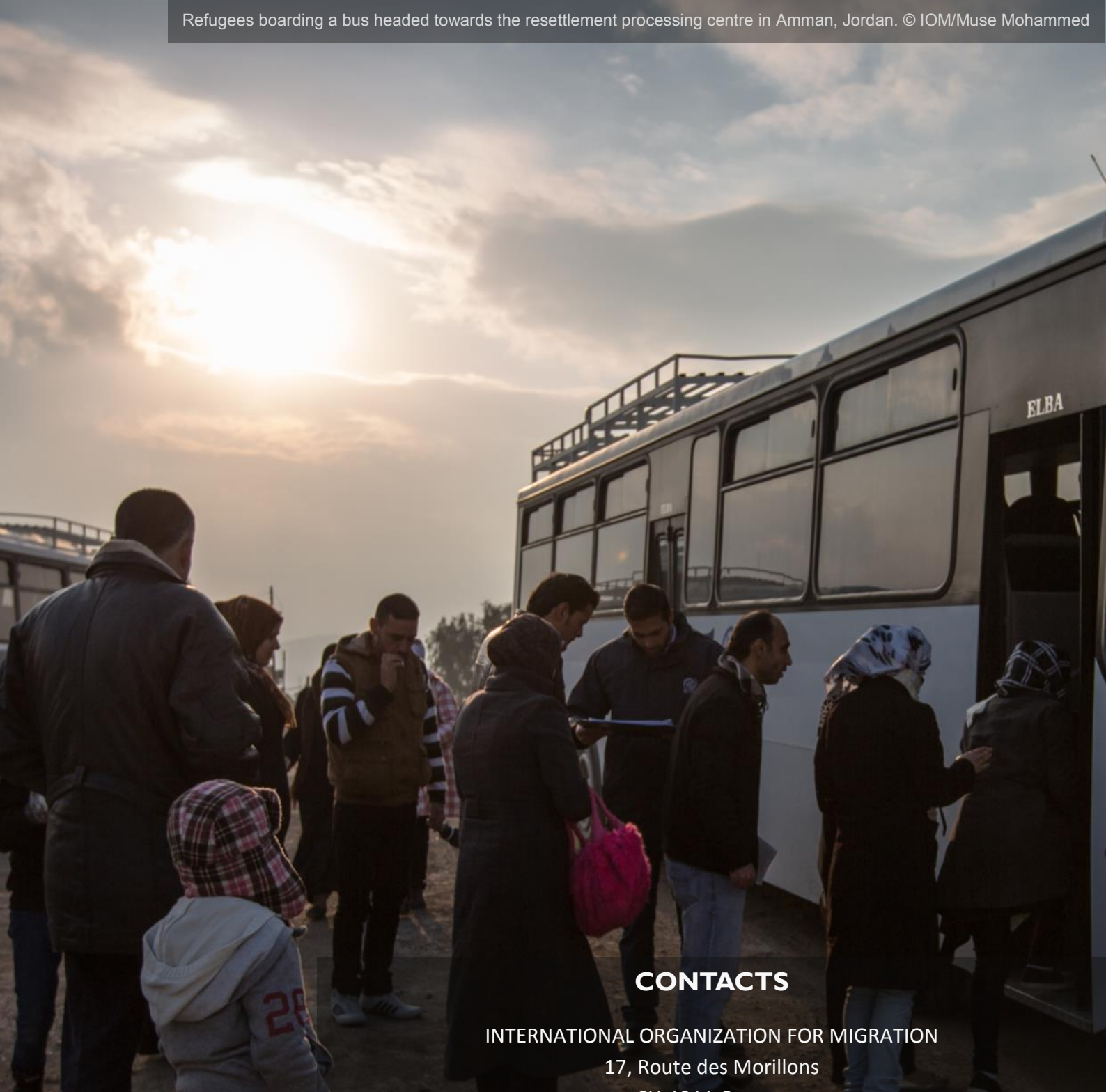
Pre-departure health assessments ensure that beneficiaries can travel in safety and that public health and safety concerns of both host and receiving communities are addressed.

Pre-departure Orientation

Cultural orientation prepares refugees by providing practical information on country of destination, assists them in setting realistic goals and developing the skills and attitudes needed to succeed in their new environment.

Movement Operations

IOM transportation and travel assistance ensures that refugees travel safely and in a dignified manner for resettlement. Services include: obtaining travel documents, transport to and passenger handling at embarkation airports, arrangement of flights and tickets, provision of operational and medical escorts, assistance in transit and upon arrival.



CONTACTS

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_17964

