

# RESETTLEMENT AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF EU POLICIES ON ASYLUM AND MIGRATION

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# Outline of the presentation

- I. State of Knowledge on resettlement
- II. Role of resettlement in international protection regime
- II. Conditions for a successful resettlement programme
- III. Costs of resettlement

# Role of resettlement?

What is the role of resettlement within the global and national international protection regimes?

- **UNHCR**  
"The third option"
- **International community**  
"Strategic use of resettlement"
- **Member States**  
Huge variety in the conceptualisations and practices of resettlement

# Potential role of resettlement?

## Motivations and strategic considerations that come into play

- Global protection space
- Safe and legal channels to international protection
- Reduce irregular movement and use of criminal networks
- Management of refugee flows
- Solidarity
- Prevent new conflicts (e.g. ethnic tensions)
- Strengthen national asylum and migration system

# Linking up objectives with programme design

1. Make the strategic considerations among different stakeholders explicit.
2. Agree on the main policy objectives to be pursued via the resettlement programme.
3. Reflect on how the design will feed into the objectives of the resettlement programme:
  - » To resettle or not?
  - » To what degree? (scale)
  - » Which groups of refugees to resettle?
  - » How? (process)
  - » Which indicators to measure success?

# Conditions for a successful programme?

What is the state of knowledge on this?

- **2016 EMN Study on Resettlement**

What practices have been set up and what is considered useful?

- **UNHCR, IOM, Resettlement Network, AIDA and others:**

- Five stages of resettlement
- Policies, programmes and activities under each stage
- Roles of different actors
- Input (e.g. human and financial resources)
- Output (e.g. # of persons resettled)

# Relevance, effectiveness & efficiency?

Evidence is limited due to:

- Lack of monitoring and evaluation tradition of resettlement programmes

Primary purpose = to report and account for public expenditure

Notable exception: Canada

- Academic focus primarily lies with integration of resettled refugees
  - Snapshot
  - Definitions, benchmarks and indicators for integration differ
  - Difficult to compare outcomes, in time and across space
  - Difficult to link outcomes with resettlement process and objectives

# What knowledge needs to be generated? (1)

## 1. Selection phase

- Selection criteria
  - Which (implicit and explicit) criteria?
  - Coherence with policy objectives (including upscaling)?
  - Do those selected and transferred match the aims of the programme?
- Selection missions
- Processing:
  - Which model? E.g. Prima Facie recognition, group processing
  - In what context? (e.g. protracted refugee situation)
  - Who to involve? (e.g. resettlement processing centre)
  - With what effect? (e.g. speed)



# What knowledge needs to be generated? (2)

## 2. Pre-departure phase

- Content?
  - Medical examination
  - Obtaining travel documents
  - Cultural orientation
  - Skills assessment and job orientation
  - Saying goodbye
- Timeline
  - When to organise each step?
  - Pre- or post-resettlement?
- Communication
  - Providing information on each step
- Which actors to involve and in what role?
  - Economies of scale

# What knowledge needs to be generated? (3)

## 3. Transfer phase

- What support is to be given ?
- Economies of scale
  - Current role taken up by IOM
  - Joint flights
- Preparation of authorities in host society
  - Communication of relevant information (e.g. medical conditions)

# What knowledge needs to be generated? (4)

## 4. First reception phase

- Information regarding the type of support that resettled refugees receive is significantly higher than other areas
- Similar questions arise as to the reception of asylum seekers and refugees, with some notable exceptions e.g.:
  - Does the better preparation of service providers (time, capacity building) improve initial reception?
  - What are the implications in terms of costs?

# What knowledge needs to be generated? (5)

## 5. Integration phase

- Information on what is provided is detailed and mostly up-to-date
- However, the question as to what happens to persons after resettlement remains largely unanswered.
  - Lack of M&E
  - Lack of longitudinal data collection and analysis to allow for a more thorough assessment of integration outcomes
  - Definition, benchmarks and indicators regarding integration outcomes differ and often remain implicit
- Merits greater attention
  - Secondary movement
  - Social cohesion
  - Is the resettlement programme sustainable?

# Costs of resettlement (1)

This remains a glaring gap in the present knowledge on resettlement.

Countries new to resettlement need info on:

- Public expenditure
- Initial setup costs
- Budget breakdown per resettlement phase
- Degree to which existing infrastructure used for refugees can be used for resettled refugees

==> To make an informed decision and ensure the sustainability of the resettlement programme

# Costs of resettlement (2)

## Existing resettlement countries need info on:

- Cost-efficiency
- Cost-effectiveness
- Return on investment

→ To argue for a continuation, or even expansion, of the present programme vis-à-vis the Parliament, the wider public, and other key stakeholders.

→ To reflect on the role of resettlement alongside other channels to protection

# Conclusion

1. Critical analysis of “what has been done under the banner of resettlement” is largely absent and not possible with current data



Remarkable in a context where “more resettlement” is a policy objective

2. Knowledge as to how the design affects the attainment of policy and programme objectives is particularly lacking

3. Sharing of knowledge and expertise between countries is therefore key. But what is it that we share?

4. Broader reflection on the role of resettlement in global, regional and national protection regimes is needed