



Resettlement involves the selection and transfer of refugees from a first country of asylum to a third State that has agreed to admit them - as refugees - with permanent residence status. The resettlement State must grant to resettled refugees and their families the same civil, political, economical, social and cultural rights as citizens. Resettled refugee should also get the opportunity to become a naturalized citizen of the resettlement country.

Resettlement is one of the three durable solutions as defined by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Resettlement is used as a last resort solution, when refugees cannot voluntarily return to their country or integrate in the country of first asylum. Resettlement can also be seen as a responsibility-sharing tool for protection at the international level.

UNHCR recommends resettlement for the most vulnerable of refugees. The agency has flagged up eight priorities:

- Refugees in need of legal or physical protection
- Refugees without foreseeable durable solution
- Survivors of violence and/or torture
- Women and girls at risk
- Refugees with medical needs
- Family reunification
- Older refugees
- Children and adolescents at risk

RESETTLEMENT IN FRANCE

About a hundred of submissions per year

UNHCR and the French Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs signed a framework agreement on resettlement in 2008. According to this agreement, UNHCR can submit up to 100 cases to the French authorities each year. The Ministry of Interior is in charge of the selection of refugees to resettle, among the 100 cases.

Selection and reception

Since France does not go on selection missions, UNHCR is responsible for making up the dossiers. The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs is in charge of delivering the travel documents and visas.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) takes care of all travel arrangements. It includes plane tickets from the country of first asylum to France, but also transfer tickets (usually by train) if refugees land in Paris but are expected in another city.

The Ministry of Interior organises the reception, together with the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) and the local organisations that run resettlement programmes.

In 2013, five organisations offer resettlement programme: Forum réfugiés-Cosi, France terre d'asile, ISARD-COS, Entraide Pierre Valdo 43 and Adoma.



PRINCIPLES OF FORUM RÉFUGIÉS-COSI'S RESETTLEMENT PROJECT

Direct access to housing thanks to essential partnerships

Forum réfugiés-Cosi has been involved in resettlement activities since 2008. The organisation implemented its first dedicated project in 2010, for the reception and integration of Palestinian refugees from Irak and in the Middle East region.

Based on this experience, Forum réfugiés-Cosi has been implementing a new resettlement pilot project since 2011. The project aims at providing independent and permanent housing solutions to resettled refugees, avoiding them going through collective accommodation upon arrival.

Based on information provided by the Ministry of Interior (family size, health issues, language), Forum réfugiés-Cosi works together with the landlords to find appropriate housing. The organisation informs the Ministry every time a lease is signed, so the authorities can deliver appropriate visas and start organising the journey. Refugees are welcomed at the train station or airport by a team from the organisation, and driven directly to their new home. In order for this programme to work, communication and cooperation with French national authorities are crucial.

In case of unexpected or urgent arrivals, Forum réfugiés-Cosi can mobilise reception centres such as the Transit Centre in Villeurbanne, or the temporary housing centre for refugees (*Centre provisoire d'hébergement*).

Forum réfugiés-Cosi has the possibility to rent and furnish apartments prior to refugees' arrivals thanks to a cooperation agreement which allocates 200 apartments per year to Forum réfugiés-Cosi. This agreement is signed for a three-year period between national and local authorities (*Préfecture, Département, Grand Lyon*), social landlords and organisations involved in housing activities. Thanks to this very strong cooperation, resettled refugees have access to the social housing stock at large. As of 31 December 2012, more than 80 municipalities had accommodated refugees. Resettled refugees have been housed in about 15 of them.

Personalised and reinforced support for 12 months

All resettled refugees have to apply for asylum at the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA), since protection is not automatically transferred from UNHCR to France. However, they are delivered a 6-month *récépissé* by the *Préfecture*, which allows them to work and access all social benefits (including health coverage and a monthly allowance: *Revenu de solidarité active* – RSA), despite the lack of official status.

Resettled refugees are “recent immigrant”: contrary to spontaneous asylum seekers, they do not have time to get familiar with the language or the functioning of administrations. Forum réfugiés-Cosi provides them with tailored and reinforced support for 12 months. Social workers assist them with all administrative and socio-professional issues that may arise within that time.

Resettled refugees benefit from housing-related support: discovering of the apartment and the neighbourhood, familiarising with the public transport system, etc. They also get support regarding their socio-professional integration process: language and vocational training possibilities, access to job opportunities, etc.

After 12 months, they can either leave the programme or continue to work on their professional integration with the team in charge of the “regular” integration programme Accelair.

For more information, please visit our website: www.forumrefugies.org.