



# Sustainable Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Initiative (CRISP)

## CONCEPT NOTE

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CRISP is a joint UNHCR-IOM led, multi-stakeholder initiative to expand third-country solutions for refugees and foster responsibility-sharing in line with the Global Compact on Refugees and the Three-Year Strategy (2019-2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

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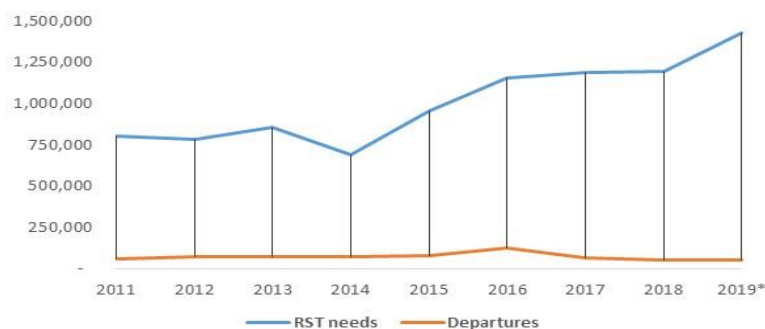
## I. Background and Rationale

The number of refugees who need a solution in third countries has grown to a projected 1.4 million, the highest since 2011. Yet, there is a widening gap between the number of refugees in need of resettlement and the places made available by States. In 2018, less than 5 per cent of the refugees identified as in need of resettlement were resettled. In 2017, resettlement submissions declined by 54 per cent (75,200 submissions) compared to 2016 (163,200 submissions) and although 2018 saw a slight increase (81,300 submissions), figures continued to remain low in 2019. For 2020, the total resettlement needs are estimated to be almost 20 per cent higher than those of 2018.

As resettlement needs continue to vastly outweigh available places,<sup>1</sup> the international community has been advocating for the expansion of the resettlement base, including by encouraging more countries to establish sustainable resettlement programmes and complementary pathways for refugees to access solutions in third countries. As evidenced by the OECD-UNHCR report *Safe Pathways for Refugees*,<sup>2</sup> regular migration pathways are increasingly utilized by persons coming from refugee producing countries. While complementary pathways for admission to third countries have been increasingly recognized as important mechanisms for responsibility-sharing, there is a need to assure their availability and accessibility to refugees on a scale that is commensurate with today's needs.

Through the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,<sup>3</sup> States committed to expand access to third-country solutions, including resettlement and complementary pathways for the admission of refugees. The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR),<sup>4</sup> which was affirmed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018, promotes responsibility sharing with host countries by focusing on solutions, both in terms of expanding opportunities for resettlement as well as other solutions in third countries.

Gap between RST needs and annual departures\*



\*Departures as a result of UNHCR referral. 2019 departures equal to 2018 (55,700)

To achieve this objective, the GCR envisaged the development of a Three-Year Strategy (2019–2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways<sup>5</sup> (hereinafter referred to as the Strategy), which is a main vehicle to increase the number of resettlement opportunities available for refugees, expand the base of resettlement countries and improve the availability and predictability of complementary pathways. The Strategy also seeks to engage refugees, States and partners – including civil society, private sector and academia – to support and open up the availability and predictability of complementary pathways for admission, seeking improved access and development of opportunities for refugees.<sup>6</sup>

The Strategy, which was presented at the 2019 Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR), has expansion of resettlement and complementary pathways as its overarching vision. To achieve this vision, the Strategy has identified three Goals: 1) Grow resettlement, 2) Advance complementary pathways, and 3) Build the foundation: Promote welcoming and inclusive societies. Capacity building of all stakeholders involved in resettlement and complementary pathways is one of the essential tools to achieve these goals.

To support the goals set out in the GCR and in the Three-Year Strategy, UNHCR and IOM have developed the Sustainable Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Initiative (CRISP).

<sup>1</sup> In 2018, resettlement opportunities for refugees represented only 7 per cent of the 1.2 million global resettlement needs. In 2019, 1.4 million refugees residing in 65 refugee hosting countries worldwide need resettlement.

<sup>2</sup> *Safe Pathways for Refugees*, UNHCR-OECD Study on third-country solutions for refugees, available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/5c07a2c84>

<sup>3</sup> UN (2016), New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, United Nations General Assembly, Seventy-first Session (A/RES/71/1), available at: [https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A\\_RES\\_71\\_1.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_71_1.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Global Compact on Refugees, available at: <https://bit.ly/2DUrzXY>

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

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR Complementary Pathways for Admission of Refugees to Third Countries, Key Considerations, April 2019, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5ceb3fc4.html>

## II. What is the Sustainable Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Initiative?

The CRISP is a jointly developed UNHCR-IOM initiative that aims to support a wide range of actions to grow resettlement programmes and advance complementary pathways and thus expand refugees' access to third country solutions. The CRISP draws and builds on lessons from past experiences and initiatives, such as the Emerging Resettlement Countries Joint Support Mechanism (ERCM) implemented between 2016-2019.

### Objectives

Aligned with the overarching goals and strategic priorities of the Strategy, the CRISP will have the following objectives:

1. Support the expansion of the number of States offering resettlement and thereby increase the number of refugees finding a durable solution through resettlement.
2. Mobilize support for resettlement and build the capacity of States and all relevant stakeholders in new countries to undertake resettlement and complementary pathways for admission of refugees.
3. Maximize the protection impact and quality of resettlement and complementary pathways by enhancing the quality of solutions offered to refugees and increasing access to complementary pathways that include protection safeguards.
4. Increase accessibility and predictability of complementary pathways for admission of refugees to third countries.
5. Harness and channel, in a coordinated and strategic manner, the provision of technical expertise and sharing of good practices among "Champion States",<sup>7</sup> international organizations, national or international NGOs, and governmental and civil society actors.
6. Promote welcoming and inclusive societies through encouraging and supporting mechanisms, approaches and structures that can engage local communities and citizens in resettlement and complementary pathways.

The CRISP aims to increase the pool of resettlement places and to enhance the quality of resettlement in new and emerging resettlement countries. This would include harnessing the expertise of experienced resettlement countries and other actors to support newer resettlement countries, with the expansion, quality and sustainability of their programmes. The CRISP will coordinate and facilitate customised support for governments, civil society and other key stakeholders in order to achieve the aforementioned objectives. The role of Champion States will be essential for mobilizing support and leveraging the expertise of key stakeholders to build up and maintain new and existing programmes.

The CRISP's actions will emphasise capacity and systems building, quality and sustainability of programmes and enhanced coordination and partnerships, particularly at the national and sub-national levels of government, the private sector and civil society actors. Emphasis will also be placed on preparedness for reception and integration, in terms of preparing communities to receive refugees and support successful integration outcomes for refugees and the communities they join.

### Areas of intervention and focus

The CRISP aims to extend tailored and targeted technical support to States and civil society globally, including to:

- New and emerging resettlement States;
- Resettlement States that require support with further development or scaling up of ongoing resettlement programmes;
- States that require support to test, establish, operationalize and/or expand complementary pathways for admission.

As mentioned above, the CRISP will act as an overarching tool that harnesses and channels, in a coordinated and strategic manner, the provision of technical expertise and sharing of good practices. The initiative will aim at achieving its objectives through:

- A. *Direct technical support and capacity building for policy, programme design, development and implementation.*
- B. *Fostering partnership and coordination including mobilizing support through Champion States.*
- C. *Supporting communities receiving refugees.*
- D. *Identification and referral of cases.*
- E. *Selection mission support where needed.*
- F. *Pre-departure assistance and movement operations.*
- G. *Capacity building for reception and integration.*

<sup>7</sup> For the purposes of the CRISP, IOM and UNHCR understand 'Champion States' as those with long-standing experience, interest and

will to actively promote the expansion of resettlement and complementary pathways for admission.



## A. Direct technical support and capacity building for policy, programme design, development and implementation

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The support and assistance provided by CRISP will be tailored and formally agreed upon with States and other stakeholders based on the context and already existing capacities.

The CRISP will:

- Map opportunities and capacities of existing and potential States that could engage in resettlement and/or complementary pathways. This mapping would inform and steer the type and degree of support needed.
- Work with donors and Champion States to galvanize support (political and financial) and visibility for the programme among other States. It will be a forum for coordination meetings with relevant stakeholders. A work plan including coordination meetings with donors and Champion States will be developed.
- Assist countries to assess the sustainability of existing programmes and of new resettlement and/or complementary pathways programmes, with the aim of identifying areas which require strengthening and provide targeted technical support and/or capacity-building assistance.<sup>8</sup> The assistance may range from the development of policy or legislative frameworks, to strengthening case selection and streamlining adjudication processes; supporting the development of health assessment protocols, designing and developing pre-departure orientation curricula and strengthening linkages between pre-departure and post arrival phases, to defining clear indicators.
- Support States and all relevant stakeholders to establish solid monitoring and evaluation systems for their resettlement programmes and/or complementary pathways for admission to allow for continuous improvement. A repository of lessons learned and good practices will be maintained to share understanding and

- knowledge on the design and implementation of resettlement programmes and complementary pathways for admission.
- Work with States and stakeholders in the development of a multi-stakeholder plan of action to design and build new programmes, expand programmes and/or address identified gaps.

Harnessing global expertise and good practices, the CRISP will apply tools, methods and resources to support the implementation of agreed plans of action and build capacities through:

- The identification and deployment of experts who could support States, civil society and others in the development and implementation of resettlement and complementary pathways.
- Coordinated training with relevant actors to ensure complementarity and efficiency. Training materials developed during the ERCM will be expanded upon and used in workshops on topics tailored to the national plan of action. Training events will be targeted to the gaps identified and will be responsive to the relevant audience.
- Twinning and peer-to-peer exchange: Channel and facilitate, in a coordinated and strategic manner, the sharing and exchange of technical expertise and good practices among countries with experience in resettlement and/or complementary pathways at the global level, international organizations, national or international NGOs, governmental and civil society actors.

## B. Fostering partnership and coordination including mobilizing support through Champion States

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Expanding resettlement and complementary pathways for admission requires the concerted efforts of a wide range of actors and stakeholders. In recognition of the numerous efforts undertaken since 2016 to expand resettlement and diverse forms of admission of refugees<sup>9</sup> and the importance that partnerships and coordination play in maximizing efficiency and effectiveness of solutions, the CRISP will play an important role in promoting, facilitating and enhancing partnerships and coordination.

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<sup>8</sup> This can be done through tools that have already been developed such as the self-evaluation matrix for resettlement.

<sup>9</sup> The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), EU-FRANK, European Asylum Support Office

(EASO), IRC/EURITA, World University Service of Canada (WUSC), Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB), among others.

### C. Supporting communities receiving refugees

As part of the support provided to States to build effective and sustainable reception and integration frameworks, where applicable, the CRISP will work with relevant national and local authorities and civil society, community-based organisations and community sponsors to foster welcoming and inclusive communities. The CRISP will work closely with partners such as the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI) on community-based sponsorship models to support resettled refugees.

The CRISP will seek to create platforms for regional governments and other stakeholders who are currently or potentially active in resettlement and complementary pathways to further engage with Champion States, civil society actors, and entities such as the GRSI. The CRISP will also seek to strengthen the engagement of refugees in the design and delivery of pre-departure orientation as well as in reception and integration programmes.

### D. Identification and referral of cases

UNHCR will boost its capacity to identify, process and submit refugees for resettlement and other pathways as required. UNHCR will provide countries with information on the general as well as protection specific characteristics of the refugee populations being presented for resettlement. Using available registration data, UNHCR will also support the identification of refugees for complementary pathways.

### E. Selection mission support

After refugees are identified and submitted to States for resettlement consideration or where States embark on complementary pathways for admission, the CRISP will provide (depending on the specific context and needs) financial and technical support to facilitate the process, including the provision of counselling to refugees, scheduling of interviews and logistical arrangements for selection missions.

### F. Pre-departure assistance and movement operations

The CRISP will provide, depending on the specific context and needs, financial and technical support to facilitate visa processing as well as comprehensive pre-departure and movement support. The pre-departure and movement support will include but is not limited to health assessments and medical screenings, designing and conducting pre-departure orientation activities to prepare refugees for their arrival in a third country, language and literacy training, pre-embarkation briefings, 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 at destination.

### G. Capacity building for reception and integration

The CRISP will provide technical support in the form of capacity building and training, where applicable in coordination with existing national partners such as in the design and delivery of targeted integration services. There will be a twofold focus for capacity building, on a higher level in the design and resourcing for integration programming including on engaging with refugees, communities and other integration stakeholders in the planning process. The second area of focus is on practitioners in the areas of integration casework management.

## III. Supporting CRISP

CRISP provides an opportunity for States and other stakeholders to support expansion efforts, through:

- Making a financial contribution to the CRISP.
- Providing technical support to the CRISP.

Countries with long-standing experience in resettlement and/or complementary pathways might also consider becoming a Champion State.

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