

Task Force on Education Opportunities as a Complementary Pathway for Admission to Third Countries

Draft Concept Note

Background

The [3-year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways](#) includes the growth and expansion of complementary pathways for admission to third countries as one of its primary goals. [Complementary Pathways for Admission](#) represent a unique confluence of partners and initiatives designed to increase access to protection and solutions by making third country solutions, including education pathways, labour opportunities and family reunification accessible to more refugees. While not a replacement for resettlement, complementary pathways provide an additional avenue for refugees to access international protection and a pathway to long-term sustainable solutions via education, skills and employment or family links. By harnessing refugees' existing capacities and skills and expanding opportunities to acquire new skills, knowledge and qualifications, complementary pathways position refugees to be better able to contribute to their own sustainable futures.

The first of the Enabling Actions of the Three-Year Strategy under Goal 2 (Advance Complementary Pathways), seeks to establish multi-stakeholder pathway-specific Task Forces and a Working Group under the auspices of ATCR. Education as a Complementary Pathway for Refugees Task Force will be one of the three developed. It will drive the expansion of complementary pathways by identifying potential countries, regions, key partners and initiatives, promoting State-to-State engagement, mobilizing political support, building capacity, resourcing national and local actors, and new programmes pilot programmes.

Objectives of the Task Force:

- Develop protection-sensitive policy and standards to inform development and expansion of complementary education pathways;
- Develop and disseminate and good practices repository;
- Develop written guidance and training materials for expansion of protection-sensitive third country education pathways;
- Serve as a clearinghouse for data collection and monitoring;
- Establish global community of practice on education as a complementary pathway.

Structure:

The Task Force will be comprised of a number of key actors and champion states engaged and influential in the area of third country education opportunities for refugees. The Task Force will be structured under the leadership of a presiding state or states, and the thematic leadership of World University Service of Canada (WUSC). The tenure and rotation of State and institutional leads shall be determined during the first convening of the members, together with the workplan and schedule and frequency of meetings.

Membership:

In addition to the state lead(s) and a higher education subject-expert co-lead, the Task Force will be comprised of representation from UNHCR, academic, state, civil society, philanthropy and private sector partners engaged in building and implementing complementary education pathways. A list of current and proposed members as well as initial leadership roles can be found in Annex 1.

Following the first convening and adoption of the Terms of Reference (TOR), the Task Force members will jointly solicit additional members to the Task Force and define specific roles needed to further the objectives of the Task Force. They will also determine the scope of work, priorities and devise a work and fundraising plan together.

Activities:

The Task Force shall develop a common workplan to include events, documents and other deliverables aligned to achieving the objectives of the Task Force and complementary pathways targets overall. The first meeting of the Task Force shall take place in the first quarter of 2020. UNHCR will support the initial stages of planning and setup of the Task Force and will remain a regular member, however, the Task Force is envisioned as a member-driven entity. The members will determine the arrangements for future administrative support of the Task Force, with possibility to form a secretariat in the future.

Dissemination plan:

Task Force deliverable, including documents, resolutions, strategies, training packages, etc. will be distributed widely among a network of engaged and relevant actors. The Task Force shall also plan for Means of communication, frequency of meetings and mailings and the modalities for storing of information will need to be further decided by the Task Force.

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