



Hamida – Somali refugee resettled in The Netherlands / Karijn Kakebeeke / *The Refugee Jackpot*

### More resettlement places now that Joint EU Resettlement Programme is adopted!

The Joint EU Resettlement Programme, finally adopted on 29 March, introduces some important incentives to persuade countries to start resettlement or to increase the number of places they offer now. As stated by UNHCR, over 172,000 people are in need of resettlement in 2012, with only 80,000 places available globally. Altogether, the 27 EU countries offer only 5,000 places, whilst the US, Canada and Australia resettle around 60,000 refugees.

The new 2013 EU Resettlement Programme targets an increase in places through three measures. First, common EU resettlement priorities will be established, providing a strategic but still flexible regional focus for EU resettlement. For 2013, resettlement of refugees from Congo, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Burma and Eritrea will be prioritised, and EU countries will receive financial assistance per resettled refugee of these nationalities. A second innovative element of the EU resettlement programme is that countries that are new to resettlement may receive extra funding to start and invest in a resettlement programme, contributing to the overall sustainability of resettlement programmes. Third, the programme allows for funding for certain groups of vulnerable refugees, regardless of the region they come from, including children and women at risk; unaccompanied minors; persons with serious medical needs; and refugees in need of resettlement for legal or physical reasons.

It has taken a long time to adopt the Programme, which was first voted on in the European Parliament almost 2 years ago. We are happy to see that the Council has now finished the co-decision procedure and hope that Member States will act quickly. Until 1 May 2012, they can inform the European Commission of the number of people they envisage resettling in 2013 using the new financial incentives. We therefore all need to work together to use the programme as an important step in the development of a coherent and sustainable European Resettlement Programme, guided by the establishment of benchmarks for the integration of refugees, benefiting from an expert unit dedicated to resettlement, and with deeper involvement of civil society. I wish you all good luck in your efforts to make this a reality!!

*Rui Tavares, Member of the European Parliament, Rapporteur on the EU Resettlement Programme on the EU Resettlement Programme*

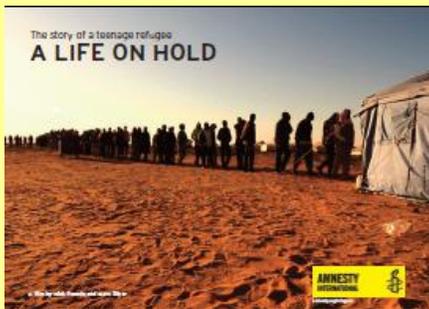
**Linking-In EU Resettlement** is a joint project implemented by IOM, UNHCR and ICMC with a special focus on strengthening the capacity of actors involved in the reception and integration of resettled refugees at local level as the success of resettlement is to a large extent dependent on the work of these local actors. The project began in September 2011 and runs until November 2012. So far 18 EU countries at governmental and civil society level are involved in the project and it remains open to new participants.

### EU Resettlement Skills Share Day

We are pleased to announce the **EU Resettlement Skills Share Day**, a 1.5-day interactive event for 120-150 participants taking place in Brussels on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2012. The event will gather a wide variety of policy makers and practitioners engaged or interested in refugee resettlement which will contribute towards building a future EU Resettlement Practitioners' Network. At present over 150 persons have registered, including EU officials, international organisations, governments, NGOs, local and regional authorities, media and others from over 27 countries inside and outside the EU.

The Skills Share Day will include panels, workshops, master classes, a marketplace and a film screening event. The programme, which will also feature Commissioner Malmström, the Danish Presidency, MEP's and EASO and will cover all aspects of the resettlement process, including resettlement needs, asylum and resettlement priority areas, selection and pre-departure activities, and reception and integration. Burmese, Congolese, Iraqi and Somali refugees will contribute to the discussion, making the resettled refugee and refugee journey a core focus of the programme. We are looking forward to receiving so many motivated participants in Brussels, who will share practices and be inspired to introduce new examples and ideas when travelling back to their home country, thus contributing to an EU Wide Resettlement Programme with larger numbers and good quality integration programmes. We hope to confirm the final programme and select participants for the event by early April.

For more information see: [www.resettlement.eu](http://www.resettlement.eu)



### Amnesty International Film: Somali boy in Shousha

On 22 March, Amnesty International (AI) launched a short film, [A Life on Hold](#), which aims to highlight the issues facing refugees in need of resettlement.

Omar is 17 years old and is stranded in a refugee camp. He has spent years searching for safety – first from war in his native Somalia, then from conflict in Libya. A life on hold captures the hopes and fears of one young refugee amongst thousands of others, waiting for a chance to start his life again.

AI is raising awareness on resettlement and is campaigning for governments, especially in Europe, to increase and diversify resettlement quotas.

For more information, please visit <http://www.amnesty.org/en/refugees-and-migrants>

To order copies of the DVD, please contact [rmrteam@amnesty.org](mailto:rmrteam@amnesty.org)

## FOCUS ON A REFUGEE SITUATION: SOMALI REFUGEES IN KENYA 20 YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF DADAAB CAMPS



Kenya / Refugees from Somalia / Makeshift shelters and new tents at the new arrivals section of IFO camp, Dadaab. UNHCR / E. Hockstein / December 2008

Somali refugees have fled to Kenya in significant waves since the start of the civil war in Somalia that, in 1991, culminated in the fall of Mogadishu and overthrow of the central government. More than 970,000 Somalis live as refugees in neighbouring countries, primarily in Kenya (520,000), Yemen (208,000) and Ethiopia (190,000). A third of them fled Somalia in the course of 2011, and another 1.3 million people are internally displaced within Somalia.

This year is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the world's biggest refugee camp, the Dadaab-complex in north-eastern Kenya. UNHCR set up the first camps there between October 1991 and June 1992, with the intention for the 3 Dadaab camps to host up to 90,000 people. Since that time many more refugees have arrived, and the camps' resources and infrastructure have been stretched far beyond their capacity.

Today the Dadaab camps host around 450,000 refugees, including some 10,000 third-generation refugees born in Dadaab to refugee parents who were also born there. As a result, the quality and quantity of service delivery have been heavily compromised. Furthermore, the camps are characterised by harsh living conditions, very limited livelihood opportunities and insecurity, and are situated in remote, arid regions with little surface water. The influx and resultant refugee population increase have also led to environmental degradation, deterioration in security and hostility from the Kenyan host community.

For all these reasons, the situation at Dadaab is extremely challenging. The kidnapping of 3 aid workers last autumn and, more recently, the killing of two refugee leaders and several Kenyan policemen, as well as threats against humanitarian staff, have forced UNHCR and its partners to react. Until recently, there were security restrictions on movement around the camp. However, life-saving assistance such as the provision of food, water and health care has never stopped and has always been UNHCR's priority. Since the end of 2011, humanitarian actors have looked at various ways to resume activities, using different methodologies and most importantly, shifting more responsibilities to the refugee communities.

While many states and also the EU are already involved in cooperating with the Kenyan government to offer basic humanitarian support, resettlement remains essential to offer refugees in Dadaab protection and the prospect of a durable solution. UNHCR has requested resettlement countries to increase resettlement places for 2012 and beyond, to meet the large resettlement needs of the Somali refugee population. In light of the sharply increasing arrival rates from Somalia, only a significant increase of resettlement allocations will enable UNHCR to use resettlement strategically in the Kenyan context. UNHCR has estimated the total resettlement needs for Somalis in Kenya over the coming years as 144,000 persons. For 2012 alone, 19,000 Somali refugees in Kenya are in need of resettlement.

## RESETTLEMENT WORKING GROUP IN AUSTRALIA

Governments meet twice each year to discuss the state of play in resettlement in Working Groups in Geneva. In February this year, a Working Group was organised in Melbourne, Australia, allowing participants to learn how reception and integration programmes are delivered in Australia. Representatives from governments, international organisations and NGOs from across the world participated in a rich and inspiring programme of field visits - to NGOs, refugee community groups, schools and a radio station - exchanged good practice, and shared the lessons learned during plenary session discussions.

We asked some of the representatives from EU countries to share their impressions:

*"The good practice which I really liked is the use of Community Guides, where former refugees introduce newcomers in the Australian society, really impressive and something to bring back to the Netherlands"* said Andre Baas from the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) in the Netherlands. Click [here](#) for more information on use of community guides in Australia, and [visit our website](#) for more impressions and thoughts from the EU delegates to the Working Group.

One of the plenary speakers at the Working Group was Ahmed Dini, a resettled refugee and now a Somali refugee youth leader in Melbourne. See opposite for an interview with Ahmed.

## AN EXAMPLE OF A GOOD PRACTICE

### ***A Norwegian language course that works! Customised programs produce results***

*By Lisa Hartmark*



The European continent has many different languages - most not very easy to learn for foreigners! The district of Alna in Norway started a Norwegian language course for foreigners in 2010 using a new learning method and results have come quickly.

Music, humour, art, posters, competitions, games, poems, stories and even rap are used to develop and expand vocabulary and to learn grammar. The method was piloted with a group including 14 Somali women, whose length of stay in Norway was an average of 9 years and who still had little to no knowledge of the Norwegian language. After 5 weeks, all of the women spoke Norwegian with pronunciation that makes it easy to understand them, and they were able to have conversations about various topics, tell stories, call a doctor and make appointments.

So what happened during the course? The course is short and intense, from 9 am - 2 pm, 5 days per week for 2 months, and uses the participants' imagination to create motivation and an eagerness to learn. The 14 women have created new identities and a fantasy family, occupation, education and life. *"The teachers also play the game and it is so much fun, we laugh every day"*, says Lisa Hartmark, driving force behind the courses. *"The participating women enjoy the rhythms and the songs and barriers are broken because of the play-like nature of the learning method"*.

To read more, [visit our website](#).

**More good practices in the reception and integration of refugees from Somalia - and other good resettlement practices - are being shared by practitioners on our LinkedIn group [EU Resettlement Practitioners Network](#)**



### **Empower refugee communities!**

I was 10 years old when I arrived in Australia. The resettlement process was quite tough, for me and my siblings. We found it difficult to communicate with our peers at school, and we quickly understood that learning the language was our number one priority.

The main challenge I faced as a child in Australia was the transition from a survival lifestyle to a lifestyle of opportunities and freedom. It was easier for my siblings and me to pick up the language quickly and also to adapt quite rapidly to some aspects of the Australian culture, but for our parents it was extremely difficult. They found the entire resettlement process impossible, from learning the language to obtaining a job. Many of the young people I grew up with were without a father and a mentor, so many were easily disengaging from society altogether. Furthermore, there were the common stereotypes and negativity from the wider community in Australia.

So the situation of my community inspired me to act. We believe that the best settlement method for young refugees is to combine education, employment and sport together as a single settlement service. We created the Australian Somali Football Association and launched the Sustainable Employment and Economic Development (SEED) project. Since we created these projects, many of the community youth have re-engaged in society and members of the community have been placed in employment.

My advice to anyone working with refugees is: **empower the communities that you are providing services to!** Practitioners should start employing refugees to deliver services to other refugees, and in some cases allow refugee communities to drive projects designed to enhance the wellbeing of the community. My final message is that refugees can be easily integrated into society with the right method of service delivery.

[Read more from Ahmed here](#)

## Linking In Calendar 2012

**April / May**

National Multi-Stakeholder Meeting Spain (tbc.)

**14 – 15 May**

EU Resettlement Skills Share Day in Brussels, Belgium

**11 – 15 June**

'Look & Learn' visit in Denmark

**September**

Resettlement Training Workshop Germany  
National multi-stakeholder meeting, Germany

**September / October**

National Multi-Stakeholder Meeting, Austria

## 'Look & Learn' Training and Visits in Denmark

In the framework of the Danish EU Presidency, ICMC Europe will organise a 'Look & Learn' training and visit to Denmark, to take place during 11-15 of June 2012. The visit will gather around 30 participants from new and emerging resettlement countries, with selected experts from traditional resettlement countries.

The Danish resettlement programme is one of Europe's oldest programs and it has a wealth of expertise to share. In addition to a Copenhagen-based element of the programme, presenting the Danish quota model, participants will also visit 2 or more Danish municipalities, who will showcase and discuss their reception and integration programmes. The invited experts will look at local authority/NGO partnerships on the ground, and discuss practices with specific refugee groups, including Burmese, Bhutanese and Congolese refugees.

The field visits will focus particularly on Danish experiences in coordinating the selection process and reception arrangements, local partnerships and planning, language learning, employment and engaging volunteers.

The 'Look and Learn' visit will combine field visits with traditional classroom-based learning, and will be also an excellent opportunity for networking and developing contacts with experts in the resettlement field. For more information and the forthcoming application form, please visit our website at [www.resettlement.eu](http://www.resettlement.eu).

## Linking-In in Germany

In 2010, Germany resettled 2,501 Iraqi refugees within a single year, demonstrating the capacity of the country to resettle and integrate high numbers of refugees in need of protection. In December 2011, Germany launched a 3-year resettlement programme for 300 refugees per year. In order to build on this momentum, strengthen German reception and integration capacity and

present German stakeholders with refugee situations and needs around the world, the 'Linking-In' project will organise and support several events for German practitioners during the coming months.

There will be a series of National Stakeholder Meetings in different German states and cities. The first of these, organised by German Red Cross, Evangelische Kirche Deutschland (EKD) and UNHCR took place on 19 March in Berlin. In September 2012, ICMC Europe will organise a capacity-building workshop in which representatives of German cities, municipalities and civil society will have an opportunity to learn about different refugee situations, obtain an overview of resettlement programmes around Europe and discuss how resettlement challenges were faced and overcome by other resettlement countries. German participants will be also well represented at the 'Look & Learn' Training in Denmark and at the EU Resettlement Skills Share Day in Brussels. We also hope to be able to translate some of our materials into German.

Please visit our website at [www.resettlement.eu](http://www.resettlement.eu) for more news and information on the forthcoming events.

## **LINKING-IN WITH LINKEDIN**

### **Join our EU Resettlement Practitioners Network by taking 3 minutes with 5 simple steps**

A fundamental aspect of the 'Linking-In' project is connecting those who work in refugee resettlement. Our LinkedIn online network is one way in which we can pool ideas, learn from each other's experiences and source new solutions to facilitate successful integration.

This issue of our newsletter focused on the situation of Somali refugees. If you have other successful practices that you would like to share, or if you have any suggestions for topics or items to be featured in our newsletter in the future, please let us know via LinkedIn.

**148 members from across Europe have now joined our EU Resettlement Practitioners Network on LinkedIn. If you are not yet a LinkedIn member, please take 3 minutes to follow the 5 easy steps to joining the network available [on our website](#). So please join up, post a discussion and involve your colleagues across Europe. Get LinkedIn!!**

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**A joint IOM, UNHCR and ICMC Project- LINKING IN EU RESETTLEMENT - Linking the resettlement phases and connecting local resettlement practitioners**

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