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STRATEGIES FOR REFUGEES

NEWSLETTER

Improvements in Refugees Condition in the UK

By KBM Consultants

The UK government and citizens have been working to improve and support refugee's conditions in the UK. The home office has set up an organization that allows faith groups, businesses and charities to aid refugees that were affected by the Syrian crisis, these communities are helping refugees to rebuild their lives in the UK and get established. The organization is known as Reset. It was launched in 2016 and they have already helped 138 refugees to resettle and find housing. Faith groups, businesses and charities are coming together to sponsor these refugees and give them a good start in the UK. The refugees that have been resettled are as a result of the community coming together supporting these people. The communities established the refugees that are in immediate need and set out in sponsoring them to find housing, jobs and other necessary things they needed to live in the UK.

However, the organization is not only working to find housing and accommodation for refugees, they are also arranging English language tuition, supporting them in finding employment and helping them integrate into the society in the UK. This means that communities are helping the refugees to not only settle down but to also feel as though they are part of the society. They now have access to social and medical services which enable them to be deeply integrated within the society. They are welcomed and are not made to feel alienated.

The UK government has set out a commitment of resettling up to 23,000 of the most vulnerable refugees and community sponsorships are one method that they are using to support and aid refugees. As of March 2018, over 11,600 refugees were resettled and this number is steadily going up. The government is working towards helping those that are in a vulnerable state by placing them in schemes such as the vulnerable person and children's resettlement schemes and they have set out a 2.71 billion pounds to provide immediate assistance to those refugees that need it.

Alaa, 22, who arrived through the resettlement program last year, now has a job as a machine worker at a factory in Hereford and says he has 'high aspirations' for the future.

According to the Guardian and Observer charity appeal, many refugees came to the UK to claim asylum and have been turned down by the home office. While they wait to appeal, the system leaves them penniless and, this is difficult on them as they have no right to work in the UK or claim benefits. Therefore the Guardian set out a charity appeal to use their reader's generosity



to help them donate and raise money for these refugees that were in need of assistance. They were able to raise an incredible 1.6 million pounds which they then distributed between 3 organizations that are tackling the destitution of refugees; these organizations are Naccomm, Centrepoin and Depaul UK. These organizations then proceeded to distribute the money to people that were in need while they waited for their appeal.

Mahmoud Awad, 17, has ambitions to study automotive engineering at university.



We are glad they are going to receive 20,000 refugees and we hope that they achieve that number. But they should bring more." Emad Nor Eldeen, 54 Emad along with his wife and 2 children were resettled in Herefordshire after fleeing from Syria. The family are happy and are glad that they are in a better situation .

now than they were when they were in Syria. They had their breaking point when Emad was shot in the leg and they are now living in a peaceful place where they no longer have to face the same dangers as they did before.



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*A happy Emad Nor Eldeen
and his wife, Rana Al Taweel*

The Home Office has awarded a new asylum accommodation and support services contracts on January 8th, 2019. The new contract has many improvements and has a special focus on assisting individuals through the asylum system. This contract ensures that vulnerable asylum seekers have access to the support they need and have clear requirements on the standard and condition of the accommodation. Accommodation providers will have to have regular checks and inspections of their properties and also have a maintenance plan which will be reported to the Home Office. If any issues are discovered they are to be resolved within the timescale provided.

The UK government and community are focusing on ensuring that all refugees and asylum seekers are getting the immediate attention that they are requiring. Charity organizations are raising money to help asylum seekers financially while they wait for a new appeal. The community is also getting together with faith groups and small businesses working together to sponsor and ensure that refugees are resettling and finding new homes, they are also assisting in ensuring that these refugees don't feel alienated and are welcomed to the community.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-awards-1-million-to-help-communities-support-refugees>

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/dec/18/guardian-charity-appeal-faith-humanity-destitution>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/sep/07/from-darkness-to-the-light-syrian-families-find-peace-in-rural-england>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-asylum-accommodation-contracts-awarded>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/syria-refugees-crisis-uk-immigration-work-studying-research-latest-updates-a8299256.html>

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How did the Greek people react regarding the Refugee Crisis

By Aenao - Greece

For the past few years, Greece is in the center of an enormous international humanitarian crisis such as the migration and the refugee issue. Millions of men, women and children have passed illegally onto the Greek borders in every possible way and under the most tragic situations, as they were on their way for a better and safer life at the developed and civilized Europe.



As it was expected, the Greek people got in contact with the issue - and all the problems that came out of it - and at the same time they got face to face with their humanitarian conscience. So how do the Greek people react?

Although the economic situation was really bad and had affected their lives in the worst way, the Greeks didn't lose their solidarity

reflex and from the first moment the majority of the people stood at the side of the refugees trying to help them in every possible way, supporting them with food, clothing and even in some cases opening their own houses to hospital entire families.

At the same time, the great majority of Greek people didn't give the chance to the voices of fear, racism and hate to get stronger and prevail; those voices who thought that they had an easy target and extremely smooth conditions working on top of the ruins of a bank robbed state. The Greeks honored their history by giving a 'de facto' lesson of culture.



And how do the Greek people feel now about the existing situation?

The Greeks feel alone after seeing the borders of partner countries getting closed one after another and serious questions about the unity of Europe emerge. The idea that the partner countries of EU have decided to transform Greece into a big dumpster of the human souls is increasingly taking shape into Greek people minds.

The Greeks have done their duty towards history, human race and their conscience and they are expecting now from the rest of the civilized Europe to take their responsibility and not give up to the strategy of closed borders.



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The Comic Strip "Now I see you"

By EURO-NET - Italy

The production of the Comic for the Project "Strate.Gees" is made by staff with great experience in European Projects. The staff boasts many collaborations with the whole team of EURO-NET, Center Europe Direct Basilicata.

Gianluca Lagrotta communicates with images: videos animation in After Effects and Flash, illustrations and comics are the favorite languages he uses, with his Company 64PIXELmedia, he tells stories, pays homage to characters, rehabilitates memories, returns facts. Gianluca Lagrotta studied at the COMICS School in Naples; he founded his own Comic School in his city, Potenza, and now works between Lanzarote, Spain and Italy.



Antonia Bruno, his wife and work partner, is a teacher who edits the texts narrated in the illustrated stories and gives voice to them in video productions.

The comic strip "Now I see you" has an "unreal and imaginative" style, the use of a dream-like game was a need to tell a story of immigration in a less painful way. The happy ending was a necessity to underline how much the European best-practice can change the destiny of human beings in flight and in search of help, salvation and integration.

All the work, from research to writing to the realization of the first drafts and definitive illustrations of the comic, was coordinated and directed by Antonino Imbesi, team manager of EURO-NET in this Project.

The project "Welcome Home"

By MV International - Italy

The Welcome Home project, shaped by CIR, in collaboration with Refugees Welcome Italia, aims to develop alternative and innovative models to support refugee integration processes by actively involving citizens and the private sector through "family welcome" experiences.

The main goal is to promote exchange and sharing without prejudice between people coming from different countries and cultures and building an inclusive community together. The initiative is financed by Otto per mille Irpef.

Young together:

Young together is an action of the Welcome Home project which aims to promote co-housing between young Europeans (max 35) and young refugees.

The action tends to create the basis for mutual aid between refugees and young students or workers, not limited only to propose the sharing of housing, but also promoting a network to support the path to full autonomy.

During the whole cohabitation, support is offered by CIR operators and Refugees Welcome Italia facilitators. Monthly reimbursement is provided for those who are hosting refugees.

A new cohabitation in Florence

One of the many stories, shared about his own experience is Sanna's.

He is a young man from the Gambia, who was forced to leave the reception center where he had spent the last two years. Michela, Andrea and their two children as soon as they became aware of Sanna's story, they wanted to help him, so they decided to open the door of their apartment for him.

Finding a family willing to host Sanna will allow him to continue his journey towards full autonomy. Talking about his new family, he said:

"I was saved for the second time. The first is when I arrived safely in Lampedusa. The second is now: thanks to the help of many people, I managed to find a new family, to have a new daily life. The best part of the day is when I come back to the house and I am overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of Daniel and Joshua who ask me to play with them. For me, it's like going back in time, when my brothers and I played together".



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The situation of Spanish refugees is not critical

By Postel 3 - Spain

The European Agency for the Border and Coast Guard (Frontex) does not see the situation of refugees arriving on Spanish coasts as critical, although more than 20,000 have been rescued since January 2018.



In Spain, official and non-governmental entities dedicated to the protection of refugees face great challenges: on the one hand, to support the authorities of that country so that they continue to provide full assistance to the migrants who arrive at its waters, and on the other hand part, to make clear, both to local public opinion and to the parties that stir up xenophobia for political purposes, that millions of people are not crossing the Mediterranean or jumping over the fences of Ceuta and Melilla on their way north.

The Refugee Resettlement Program has recently been approved, which provides for the arrival of 1,200 people to Spain by 2019. In this sense, the Council of Ministers has given

the green light this Friday, December 21 to an agreement that approves the Refugee Resettlement Program in Spain for 2019, which includes the arrival of 1,200 people. The approved program contemplates the resettlement in Spain of more than a thousand people throughout 2018 responding to the call of the European Union. In 2015, the member states of the European Union committed to relocate and resettle 160,000 asylum seekers.

In 2016 there were 4,200 requests, in 2017 there were 10,600 and in the past year, more than 12,700 have been made in Spain. Colombian asylum seekers are in second place (5,078), followed by Syrians (1,574), according to the Office of Asylum and Refuge (OAR), attached to the Spanish Ministry of the Interior.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is making announcements to prevent Spaniards from being startled by the vertiginous increase in requests from a channel of Venezuelan citizens, whose country is going through one of the

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darkest periods in its history. For three years, most of the people who demand protection from the Spanish state are of Venezuelan nationality.

In Vigo, last years the number of Venezuelans without roots here has also increased and they have come to the city asking for asylum, international protection, as refugees. Infact it is more important among the number of applicants in the different associations that operate in the city.

Syrians in Turkey to be trained as intermediate staff

By kirsehir Valiligi – Turkey



Syrians living in Turkey will be offered training before beginning to work in line with a new regulation which allows many of the 2.5 million Syrian refugees in the country to apply for work permits, The Turkish government officials have said.

Accordingly, Syrians will be trained for a period of time ranging from two months to four months, Murtaza Yetiş, a chief advisor for Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, said.

In Turkey, there are big problems, especially with regards to intermediate staff. Although there is a monthly employment deficit of 180,000 jobs, there are professions for which nobody applies when these vacancies are announced. An arrangement will be made along with İŞKUR [the state's employment agency] and Syrians who get their work permits will be settled particularly in provinces where there is difficulty in finding intermediate staff. Syrians who don't attend training will not be able to start working," Yetiş said earlier this week while noting the financing for the training programs would be jointly supplied by Turkey and international organizations.

Syrian citizens who have medical or academic professions will be exempted from training and will be able to offer services to other Syrians

"There is an educated part of the Syrians who fled to Turkey such as teachers, doctors and nurses. They will first of all offer services to Syrians. With the Syrian population's influx into Turkey, a deficit has emerged in professional groups such as doctors and nurses in the health sector. These deficits will be designated by the Health Ministry and they will be eliminated," Yetiş said, adding that Syrian teachers and academics would also be able to offer services to Syrians.



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“Syrian teachers will implement the curriculum being taught in Syria. Turkish will be taught separately as a language course,” he said. “Syrian children need to be taught by Syrian teachers. We will provide this along with UNICEF,” he added.

According to a report released by the Human Rights Watch in November 2015, more than 400,000 Syrian refugee children living in Turkey were not attending school. Of the Syrian refugees living in Turkey, 708,000 were school-aged children. In 2014-2015, just over 212,000 were enrolled in formal education at the primary and secondary levels, based on Education Ministry data. While the enrollment rate inside refugee camps was nearly 90 percent, most refugees live outside camps, where only 25 percent of school-aged children were enrolled in school. Overall, more than two-thirds of Syrian children have been receiving no formal education in Turkey.

On Jan. 15, a cabinet decision to grant work permits to refugees who have fled to Turkey to escape conflicts in their homeland went into force.

It did not specify nationality, but the measure chiefly applies to the around 2.5 million Syrians who have fled the almost five-year conflict in their home country for the safety of Turkey, as well as some 300,000 Iraqis.

Refugees in Turkey are not allowed to work or be employed in the country without a valid work permit, according to a government decree.

Turkey hosts 4.7 million foreigners: Migration

Turkey is home to some 4.7 million foreigners from 192 countries, according to an official of migration office.

“It is not just Syrians living in Turkey. Today, we have 4.7 million foreigners among us. They contribute Turkey's culture and create added-value,” said Gökçe Ok, deputy head of migration office of Interior Ministry, speaking at a meeting in central Konya province on March 12.



"Among these people, there are managers of multinational corporations; doctors, engineers, scientists and athletes. Throughout the history, Anatolia has been an attraction center, more like a mosaic," he said.

Also, Aydın Keskin Kadioğlu, a senior official from the communications department of migration office, said Turkey would always welcome the oppressed victims regardless of their language, religion, color or ethnicity.

Recalling Turkey's open-border policy since 2011, Kadioğlu said, "Today in Turkey, there are more than 3.6 million documented Syrians, who are under temporary protection status."

Syria has only just begun to emerge from a devastating conflict that began in 2011 when the Bashar al-Assad regime cracked down on demonstrators with unexpected ferocity.

Hundreds of thousands of civilians have been killed or displaced in the conflict, mainly by regime airstrikes targeting opposition-held areas.

*<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-hosts-4-7-million-foreigners-migration-141861?fbclid=IwAR0VeiHi76wxC8HIYeU4MPWgD4aCOcDT8meRM2PokVIwl9NFNCXrHDm3n8I>

Syrian refugees harvest greenhouse vegetables in Turkey's Osmaniye





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Syrian refugees living in the southern Turkish province of Osmaniye have been growing vegetables in a newly set up greenhouse next to their refugee camp, which hosts 15,000 people, as part of a project launched by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The FAO pilot project will train 150 refugees. But the first batches of trainees have already been selected for training in greenhouse vegetable production.

On-The-Job training of refugees in greenhouse vegetable production has been held since late September. Trainees are gaining new talents they need for skilled jobs in the agriculture sector, and the vegetable yield is being distributed free of charge throughout the refugee camp to improve nutrition and food security.

Within the 8,000-square-meter greenhouse, six trainers are supervised by Çukurova University professors Yıldız Daşgan and Nafi Baytorun, who are delivering on-the-job training for refugees in growing eggplants, tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers.

Although seedlings were planted in late September, to date around 2.2 tons of cucumber, 180 kg of eggplant and 540 kg of pepper have been harvested and distributed. The tomatoes are turning red and are ready for the first harvest.

“FAO has never done this kind of project in Turkey before, and with such concrete results,” said Birim Mor, an FAO expert. “The majority of the trainees are women who say that this project gives them a valuable opportunity to learn new things, socialize, and boost their self-confidence.”

The greenhouse is used for this project is more environmentally friendly than most, Mor added.

“For the greenhouse heating, compressed natural gas is being used,” Mor said, “which is a much greener technology and causes less carbon footprint compared to conventional greenhouses in which coal is used as fuel.”

Sena Hamad, 36, and Rabia Ajuz, 40, are two of the trainees in the greenhouse.

“I have received vegetables from this project that we have consumed in my family and shared with our neighbors in the camp,” Hamad said. “I'm very happy with this training; it's encouraging because I've learned about very different and new techniques related to greenhouse management, such as the pruning of greenhouse vegetables.

I used to engage with agricultural production back home, the greenhouse is so new for me. One day in the future, I hope I can manage my very own greenhouse in Syria,” Hamad told FAO, according to a published article on their website.

“I am planning to use the distributed vegetables as our products in daily life when cooking and to prepare pickles,” Ajuz on the other hand said. “I really like the trainers here; we get on so well and they are so helpful. Not only greenhouse production, but we talk about so many other issues as well.”

Upon completion of their training, refugees will be awarded certifications from the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) that show their new expertise in greenhouse vegetable production, boosting their employment opportunities.

*http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/syrian-refugees-harvest-greenhouse-vegetables-in-turkeys-osmaniye-139429?fbclid=IwAR0SFM4Z_Ya2qnIqclVaXJ8Ts37Z4R8S8oeYYHQdwGq_rvdawXu_cRQbgpA

Bulelani Mfaco, left, and Lucky Khambule, right, are among the refugee-activists trying to reform the system

Source: Ruairi Casey/Al Jazeera





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Colombian customs post at Rumichaca, border of Ecuador with Colombia. The UN refugee chief has condemned the toxic language focused on refugees and migrants

Source: UNICEF/UN0247721/Arcos





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