

# Examples of successful/unsuccessful strategic resettlement

Perspectives from Sweden

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## An imperative to use resettlement strategically

The underpinnings of the Swedish Resettlement program are:

- To support and invest in a UN-system capable of addressing refugee situations
- To support host countries, affected by their unfortunate proximity to war and unrest
- To save individual lives and restore individual persons dignity

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## An imperative to use resettlement strategically

1. Swedish Government instructs the Swedish Migration Agency to factor in how resettlement may be used strategically when allocating the yearly resettlement program

2. The Swedish Migration Agency requests an allocation proposal by UNHCR where the organisation may suggest caseloads based on a strategic thinking.

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## An imperative to use resettlement strategically

In the multilateral framework Sweden has supported the development of a pragmatic approaches to strategic use of resettlement through:

- The Priority situations (inception during SE chair of the ATCR/WGR 2009-2010)
- The participation and leadership of the Syria and Iran Core Groups as well as participation in the Congolese and the Colombia Core Groups.



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## Reflections on the Core Group methodology

### **Functions:**

- A platform to amalgamate and rally support, keep momentum
- An increased operational co-work between MS and UNHCR.
- A vehicle for dialogue with hosts states

### **Strategic (?) benefits:**

- More resettlement places
- Efficient procedures, better capacity
- Better understanding, more support for solutions?

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## UNHCR-Sweden operational context: a de-emphasis of strategic resettlement?

In the light of:

- The growth of the global refugee population
- The onset of multiple large scale and rapidly developing crises, and
- The un-match in the growth of resettlement places

... there is a development of UNHCR usage of Sweden's resettlement places towards **individual protection interventions and a corresponding de-emphasis on resettlement as a traditional, durable solutions-tool.**

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## UNHCR-Sweden operational context: a de-emphasis of strategic resettlement?

As a response, Sweden has:

- Increased the number of unallocated emergency places for UNHCRs use in individual protection interventions (now 25% of all cases – 450 persons yearly)
- Participated in schemes for unallocated pools of resettlement places (North-Africa, Middle east, etc.)



## Conclusions

- Strategic use of resettlement, in its traditional meaning, is conceptual, hard for a Resettlement state to operationalise and contingent of a whole of Government approach.
- Strategic resettlement in a wider meaning – aiming to support but not conditional to – the creation of other durable solutions is very much underlying the current multilateral framework.
- Saving individual lives should be of strategic importance to any government and as such the increased focus on individual protection interventions should not be secondary to the traditional, durable solution-angled activities.