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Building an evidence base to support refugee resettlement

May 24, 2017



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- The paper *Taking Stock of Refugee Resettlement: Policy Objectives, Practical Tradeoffs, and the Evidence Base* was commissioned as part of the European Union Action on Facilitating Resettlement and Refugee Admission through New Knowledge (EU-FRANK) project. The project is financed by the European Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and led by Sweden.



Kathleen Newland

Senior Fellow, MPI



Kathleen Newland is a Senior Fellow and Co-Founder of the Migration Policy Institute. Her focus is on the relationship between migration and development, the governance of international migration, and refugee protection. She is also the Founding Director of the International diaspora Engagement Alliance (IdEA) during its incubation phase at MPI from 2011-13; IdEA was established as a partnership among MPI, the State Department, and U.S. Agency for International Development. She is a Member of the MPI Board of Trustees.

Previously, at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, she was a Senior Associate and then Co-Director of the International Migration Policy Program (1994-01). She sits on the Board of Overseers of the International Rescue Committee and the boards of directors of USA for UNHCR, the Stimson Center, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), and the Foundation for The Hague Process on Migrants and Refugees. She also is a Chair Emerita of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

Prior to joining the Carnegie Endowment, Ms. Newland worked as an independent consultant for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Bank, and the office of the UN Secretary-General. She also served on the faculty of the London School of Economics. During that time, she also co-founded and directed Humanitas, an educational trust dedicated to increasing awareness of international humanitarian issues. Ms. Newland also worked at the United Nations University in Tokyo as Special Assistant to the Rector. Ms. Newland is author or editor of eight books and numerous policy papers, articles, and book chapters. She is a graduate of Harvard University and the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University, and did additional graduate work at the London School of Economics.



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Susan Fratzke

Policy Analyst and Program Coordinator, MPI



Susan Fratzke is a Policy Analyst and Program Coordinator with MPI's International Program, where she primarily works with the Transatlantic Council on Migration. Her research areas include forced migration and European Union asylum policy, as well as vocational training and labor market integration.

Before joining MPI, Ms. Fratzke worked for the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. Prior to that, she worked with an adult literacy program serving immigrant and refugee students in Minnesota.

Ms. Fratzke holds an MA in German and European studies, with a concentration in European migration policy, from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, where she also received a certificate in refugees and humanitarian emergencies from the Institute for the Study of International Migration. She was awarded the Center for German and European Studies 2012 Jill A. Hopper Award of Excellence for her master's thesis on civic participation strategies of Kurdish refugees in Germany. Ms. Fratzke also holds a BA in political science (with honors) from Iowa State University.



EU-FRANK

- The EU-FRANK project aims to **develop new approaches and provide operational support to increase EU Member States' capacity to resettle.**
- Led by Sweden, in partnership with Belgium, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), European Asylum Support Office (EASO), and Migration Policy Institute.
- Project support will be offered to new and emerging resettlement states primarily within the EU, as well as more experienced resettlement actors wanting to expand or review their programmes.



EU-FRANK

Types of support provided:

1. Producing new research
2. Developing operational tools and materials
3. Training Member State practitioners
4. Pilot new joint approaches to resettlement operations
5. Facilitate the multilateral exchange of experiences



Goals of the report

1. Determine what knowledge governments need to design and operate effective resettlement programmes.
2. Examine existing evidence on resettlement practice.
3. Evaluate how well existing evidence serves these needs and identify knowledge gaps.



Key design questions

I. What are the goals of the resettlement programme?

Challenges:

- Rarely explicitly articulated
- Goals may differ among resettlement actors
- Without clear goals, difficult to make coherent choices regarding the details of programme design



Key design questions

2. How to create a strategic impact?

Challenges:

- Conflicting programme goals create tradeoffs
- Scale of programme limits potential for impact



Key design questions

3. How to ensure the programme is implemented efficiently?

Challenges:

- A lengthy process or delays can undermine programme effectiveness.
- Yet closely monitoring and managing a resettlement stream can be resource-intensive, particularly for small-scale programs.



Key design questions

4. How to facilitate refugees' success after resettlement?

Challenges:

- Determining where/when in the process it is most efficient to invest.
- Deciding what legal status to grant and what services/benefits to offer.
- Identifying appropriate locations for refugees to settle.



Hanne Beirens

Associate Director of MPI Europe



Hanne Beirens is Associate Director of the Migration Policy Institute Europe. She specializes in European Union policies related to asylum and migration, human trafficking, and youth.

Prior to joining MPI, Dr. Beirens worked as a Lead Managing Consultant for ICF Consulting, where she focused on impact assessments, feasibility studies, and evaluations for the European Commission, with a particular focus on EU asylum and migration policy, as well as developing products within the European Migration Network (EMN), including pan-European studies and the EMN annual report.

Topics covered include reception facilities for asylum seekers, unaccompanied children, and non-EU harmonized protection statuses.

Earlier, Dr. Beirens worked as a Research Fellow at the Institute for Applied Social Studies of the University of Birmingham, evaluating services, organizations, and community-based initiatives pursuing the integration of asylum seekers, refugees, and third-country nationals. She also has worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and as an independent consultant for the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the Quaker United Nations Office (QUONO).

She holds a master's degree in race and ethnic relations (with distinction) and a PhD degree in sociology and ethnic relations on the participation of minors in armed conflict, both from the University of Warwick (UK).



Monitoring and Evaluation

Achievements to date regarding the monitoring and evaluation of resettlement programmes and activities have been limited.

- Lack of general monitoring and evaluation
- Data currently available are limited
- Methodology or research strategies used to date are underdeveloped



Current data collection and analysis

Aims of current data collection and analysis:

- Inform the public on what is resettlement and how it is organised
- Accountability requirements for public expenditures
- Document and disseminate practices across resettlement programmes (e.g. ERN database; AIDA database; UNHCR resettlement country chapters)



Data gaps to be addressed

I. Define the **goals** of the resettlement programme.

How to set goals:

- Survey stakeholders
- Operationalise goals
- Develop an intervention logic and related research strategy to investigate the degree to which goals have been achieved



Data gaps to be addressed

2. Establish a **monitoring and evaluation** strategy that is able to examine whether a resettlement programme has been:

- Relevant to its goals?
- Effective in meeting these?
- Efficient in the pursuit of those goals?

The set up of new resettlement programmes is the perfect moment for making this step.



Data gaps to be addressed

3. Urgent need for insights into human and financial resources invested – **efficiency**:

- Few attempts to document costs (EMN, OECD), but with little success
- Few attempts to calculate costs (e.g. AMIF lump sum is not a proxy indicator)
- Risk of abuse of figures available, comparing costs among resettlement programmes or other parts of the international protection regime

Again set up of several, new programmes = perfect moment for collecting disaggregated data



Data gaps to be addressed

4. Understand the **integration** of resettled refugees.

A major focus for evaluations and academic research in relation to resettlement, but key questions remain:

- How reliable are the research results, if a snapshot picture and based primarily on subjective assessment tools?
- What definition of successful integration underpins the analysis? E.g. benchmark of economic self-sufficiency if aim is to resettle the most vulnerable?
- How can we know whether the successes or setbacks in integration can be attributed to programme design?



Data gaps to be addressed

5. Overall, need to better understand the **links of the resettlement chain**, how they interact and affect one another, and ultimately affect the outcomes and impact of a resettlement programme.

➤ Why? To inform and improve the design and adaptation of resettlement programmes and increase the sustainability of political commitments made.



For more information

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EU-FRANK

For more information on the EU-FRANK project please contact the Swedish Migration Agency via email:

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Oskar Ekblad

Deputy Director, Head of Resettlement and Special Operations, Swedish Migration Agency (SMA)



Oskar Ekblad is the head of Sweden's Refugee Resettlement program and oversees the planning and implementation of the country's 3,400 person yearly quota. He also manages the Agency's special operations including the joint operations between the SMA and Swedish National Security Service aimed at deepened operational capacity of processing security and exclusion cases in all migratory streams. He currently also oversees the Swedish implementation of the EU Council decisions for intra-EU relocation.

On behalf of the Swedish Government, he served as chair of the UNHCR Core Group on Resettlement and Other Forms of Admissions of Refugees from Syria; a multilateral engagement by some 25 governments to seek to find protections in third countries for 130,000 Syrian refugees (chair subsequently taken over in Feb 2015 by Canada). During 2009-2010 he also chaired the Geneva based UN Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR/WGR) between governments, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and NGOs.

Mr. Ekblad has previously managed the Swedish Migration Agency's section on Asylum Law and oversaw the execution of refugee law in Sweden's refugee status determination procedure as well training of status determination officers. He has also served in the capacity of regional director of the SMA's RSD-processing for Southern Sweden. He studied Law and Lund University, specializing in Humanitarian and Human Rights Law at the Lund University Raoul Wallenberg Institute.



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Peter O'Sullivan

Resettlement Officer, Bureau for Europe, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



Peter O'Sullivan is the Resettlement Officer for UNHCR's Bureau for Europe, advocating for more and better resettlement to Europe, the development of complementary pathways such as community-based private sponsorship programmes, student scholarship, and labour migration schemes, amongst others; and for improved integration measures in new and established resettlement countries.

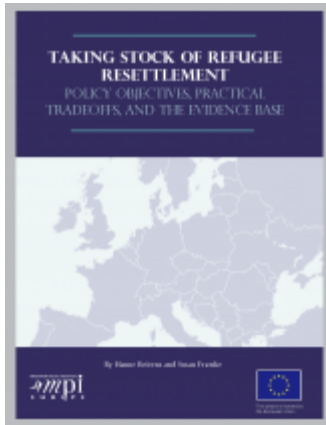
Professionally, he has worked in various contexts on development, human rights and conflict-related issues, including in Ireland, India, Lesotho, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Gaza Strip, Canada, and now Brussels.

Mr. O'Sullivan obtained a B.A. in Geography from the University College Cork, an M.A. in Peace and Development Studies from University of Limerick, and an LL.M. in International Human Rights Law from the National University of Ireland in Galway.



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- The report discussed today:



Taking Stock of Refugee Resettlement: Policy Objectives, Practical Tradeoffs, and the Evidence Base by Hanne Beirens and Susan Fratzke is available at: <http://bit.ly/2ra8GtG>

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- For additional information and to receive updates visit www.migrationpolicy.org/signup