



Intermediate Report - Portugal

November 2022

Partner: JRS



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WP7

INTERMEDIATE REPORT

Country: Portugal

Partner: JRS

Date of the intermediate report: November 30, 2022

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Asylum seekers, refugees, and other people under international protection: brief description of the national and local situation

The reception system for asylum seekers in Portugal is operated on two different paths, the spontaneous asylum seekers and the asylum seekers through schemes, relocation, resettlement, and humanitarian corridors. With the Ukrainians a new legal scheme was created, Temporary Protection.

The spontaneous asylum seekers are sent to CPR and all the other procedures are to be managed by ACM, (High Commission for Migrants). Before the arrival of the refugees ACM asks for the organizations available to host these refugees for a period of 18 months counting since the arrival in Portugal. It can be a NGO or a Municipality, or a Social enterprise. When a refugee is welcomed, the organizations must sign a protocol where they become responsible for accommodation, the monthly stipend of 150 eur/pax, access to healthcare, access to education, access to labor market, and access to language learning. For each refugee through relocation scheme ACM gives the organization 6000 eur lump sum and for a resettled person 10000 eur.

With the Ukrainian population the scheme is different, where every Ukrainian can ask for support from the Social Security System and housing is supported by the Government through municipalities.

Access to work - In Portugal asylum seekers can legally work after 60 days from the formalization of the asylum application, less if the second document is issued before that period.

Access to Housing – In the last years the house market has become even more aggressive, very few houses are for rent and those who are available are extremely expensive for Portuguese salaries, landlords ask for many guaranties. The government made more easy the procedure to apply for the support for Ucrainians, but the bureucracie is so big that becomes very difficult to reach it.

Access to language course – Public language courses were very scarce in every city of the country, with some 26 minimum students per class, now with the arrival of Ukrainians, more classes have opened but some denied the entrance to non-Ukrainians leading to an increase feeling of second class refugee.

Local updated situation – SEF, the border police, is responsible for the asylum procedure, but due to lack of management and leadership last years, the Government decided that this organization is going to be dismantled, so during this period, the bureaucratic procedures seem to be more disorganized, more than usual.

1.2 Local initiatives and other information worth mentioning towards asylum seekers and refugees' group

Over the past years, Portuguese civil society has developed the range of answers to support refugees and asylum seekers, specially Unaccompanied Minors.

1.3 Please describe the actions, activities and pilot scheme locally planned under RaCIP Project.

Target Group: Refugees

JRS have implemented a hosting scheme under PAR network where JRS assumed the technical secretariat. The main functions of the technical Secretariat is to mediate relations between PAR host institutions and Public Administration bodies responsible for reception, namely the Foreigners and Borders Service (SEF) and the Migration High Commission (ACM), to carry out analysis and diagnosis of the offers made by host institutions, to conduct diagnostic interviews with beneficiary families and to define criteria by which beneficiary families get distributed among host institutions. In addition, it also creates and disseminates supporting materials for host institutions, provides monitoring and technical support, offers training to the Hosting Institutions legal support throughout the accompaniment in addition to developing monitoring and evaluation means.

PAR offers support to refugees during the initial phase of the integration process, which lasts for 18 months, mostly in terms of financial support, housing and to support the refugees to navigate the system, which means to support refugees registering and accessing public health care services in the national health care system. To support minors accessing the respective school level of formal public education and monitoring students' integration in schools' communities.

To support inclusion in the job market with actions such as: elaborating CVs in Portuguese, registering at the unemployment centre and connecting refugees with the institutions which certificate foreigner diplomas and professional qualifications.

To assist refugees registering with the social welfare system and requesting social support.

To encourage families' autonomy through the whole process.

It was within training sessions with the supporting families and organizations that JRS went through a training module for local mentors to support asylum seekers and refugees in a specific need that was identified. It could be to support the university entrance and adaptation, the working market, and the possibility to be a focal point for the employer. In both cases, the language spoken should gradually be the Portuguese.

The main goal was to build a one-on-one relationship, different from the group of volunteers or the Hosting Institutions has with the refugee or the refugee family. Despite this, it was important that the mentors understood that they were a part of a bigger team, a wider network of supporters, and what each role everybody were doing.

Target Group: organisations/stakeholders/institutions/groups

JRS contacted organizations identified in the cities where there are families of refugees and invited for a meeting to talk about problems and solutions. The meetings were held with other stakeholders identified in the network, and led to a closer relationship, that made possible some particular solutions for the families.

JRS integrated the activities foreseen by the Racip Project in its already-existing organizations and community-based reception programs. From the call to action that was undergone through the social media, training sessions were aimed at having more and more prepared organizations to be the help that the refugee need.

We carried out the training for supporting families and mentors, which was obtained by raising awareness about refugees' social and cultural background, the expectations the

experience of forced displacement and the pathways to be granted protection; sharing the experience of welcoming; sharing tools and insights to build a relationship towards the interdependence of the refugees; how to deal with to high expectations.

The training is based on 4 modules: 1. Who is PAR and JRS 2. Refugees, who are they, where they came from and how. 3. Legal overview of the asylum procedures and the recent history, the asylum procedures and different form of protections. 4. Building a relation: psycho-social and cultural aspects. The role of the case workers, the supporting family/mentors, how to deal with cultural differences and expectations, active listening and making the right questions, the boundaries of the relationship.

We matched 10 mentors/mentees, 10 supporting families/immigrants in the framework of the Racip project.

The methodology of work implemented in the framework of the RAcip project is based on the following steps

2. METHODOLOGY

Please describe in detail the data collection process for the intermediate report: who participated in the evaluation, by what methods, and other information you consider important in this process. Include discussion points and comments.

Participants in the evaluation and Evaluation method

Our target is to have 20 refugee participants, 10 student volunteers, and 20 stakeholders. We did not fill all target groups, stakeholder participation is something that is built little by little. While some of the hosting organizations with whom we work with, are aware of the project and participated in the interviews and training, many others are no longer engaged. Nevertheless, we do believe that we are on the right path.

The participants are refugees, mentors (university students), organizations professionals.

Refugees: We opted for an informal method to gather the information: meetings and conversations, carried out by case workers who are familiar with the refugees, during which they were asked to share their thoughts on their Life goals. Refugees are being interviewed individually, with the support of a mediator/interpreter. Other information was already

collected by the case workers through on-line meetings and monitoring specific dimensions and activities related to the experiences of mentoring or family support, the overall integration process.

Students: They are asked to participate and fill in the questionnaires on-line. Some participated in the support group of volunteers also on-line.

Stakeholders:

Hosting Institution information is gathered through meetings, on-line meeting, or phone call. Other organizations, municipalities and other private organizations, the employment and language centers , we are doing presence meetings, and posing the questions relevant to that organization experience on helping refugees.

3. MATRICES

Please copy and paste the relevant matrices for the activities that took place in your context. Don't forget to include some significant quotes.

JRS Portugal

Target – group: REFUGEES

Dimensions	Indicators (means of measuring participation, results and impacts)	Parameters (measures; N=number)
Participation of migrants	Number of migrant people contacted	N 30
	Number of migrant people which participated in activities	N 25
	Number of migrant people which participated in the final evaluation	N 20
Socio-demographic profile	Age	21- 55 (34 medium age years old)
	Gender	12 men, 8 woman, Total: 20
	National background	N. 4 Iraqis, N. 11 Afghans, N. 5 Syrian.
	Migrant status	N. 8 Asylum seekers; N. 12 refugees;

	Number of years of schooling	20% 4 years or less, 60% 5-12, 20% 13 or more
	Professional situation	60% employed (100% fixed-term contract).
	Type of profession	100% non-professional— or manual occupations
Communication skills (to be measured at the beginning and at the end of the participation in the project)	Ability to hold simple conversation with a local language speaker	40% low, 33% medium, 27% high;
	Ability to hold work, education, health, and services conversations	73.3% low, ability to work, education, health and services conversations 13.3% medium, ability to work, education, health and services conversations 13.3% high ability to work, education, health and services conversations
	Reported confidence in using technology to access digital services	30% low high reported confidence in using technology to access digital services, 40% medium high reported confidence in using technology to access digital services, 30% high reported confidence in using technology to access digital services
Well-being and connection to community (to be measured at the beginning and at the end of the participation in the project)	How the migrant describes his/her life	10% who considered his/her life bad, 50% who considered his/her life regular, 40% who considered his/her life regular good
	Well-being	20% low feelings well-being, 47% medium feelings well-being, 33% high feelings well-being
	Attitudes relating to local community Feelings of “belonging” to community	40% low feelings of “belonging” to community, 50%medium feelings of “belonging” to community, 10% high feelings of “belonging” to community
	Feeling of safety when walking alone outside during the day / night	0% low feelings of safety, 10% medium feelings of safety, 90% high feelings of safety
	Reporting experience of racial, cultural, religious harassment or incidents or hate crime Feelings to able to practice religion freely	80% low reporting of racial, cultural or religious harassment or incidents or hate crime, 20% medium reporting of racial, cultural or religious harassment or incidents or hate crime, 0% high reporting of racial, cultural or religious harassment or incidents or hate crime 0% low high feelings to be able to practice religion,

		20% medium high feelings to be able to practice religion, 80% high feelings to be able to practice religion
	Feelings of support by social workers	30% low support by social workers, 30% medium support by social workers, 40% high support by social workers
	Feelings of support by mentors	0% low support by mentors, 20% medium support by mentors, 80% high support by mentors
	Other information	--
Identity, social skills, and expectations (to be measured at the beginning and at the ending of the participation in the project)	Self-representation: Have confidence in him/herself	10% low self-confidence, 20% medium self-confidence, 70% high self-confidence
	Feels control over his/her life	10% low perceived control over life, 50% medium perceived control over life, 40% high perceived control over life
	Feels him/herself as important	0% low of self-importance, 10% medium of self- importance, 90% high of self-importance
	Feels optimistic about the future	20% low of optimism about the future, 13 30% medium of optimism about the future, 50% high of optimism about the future
	Feels autonomy to solve own problems	15% low of perceived autonomy, 60% medium of perceived autonomy, 25% high of perceived autonomy
	Awareness of procedures for complaining about goods and services	30% low of awareness of procedures for complaining about goods and services, 40% medium of awareness of procedures for complaining about goods and services, 20% high of awareness of procedures for complaining about goods and services
		30% low awareness of key institutions, rights, supports and pathways to participation, 50% medium awareness of key institutions, rights, supports and pathways to participation,

	<p>Awareness of key institutions, rights, supports and pathways to participation</p>	<p>20% high awareness of key institutions, rights, supports and pathways to participation</p>
	<p>Social skills:</p> <p>Confidence to interact with neighbours of all backgrounds</p> <p>Confidence interacting with co-workers</p> <p>Reports having friends from the same background</p> <p>Reports having friends from different background</p> <p>Cooperates in groups</p> <p>Participating in a community organization</p>	<p>0% low of confidence to interact with neighbours , 20%medium of confidence to interact with neighbours , 80% high of confidence to interact with neighbours</p> <p>10% low confidence interacting with co workers, 0% medium confidence interacting with co workers, 90% high confidence interacting with co workers</p> <p>20% low report having friends same background, 15% medium report having friends same background, 65% high report having friends same background</p> <p>50% low report having friends different background, 40% medium report having friends different background, 10% high report having friends different background</p> <p>0% low capacity to cooperation in groups, 7% medium capacity to cooperation in groups, 93% high capacity to cooperation in groups</p> <p>10% low value placed on helping others, 15% medium value placed on helping others, 75% high value placed on helping others</p> <p>0% low motivation to participate into community activities, 10% medium motivation to participate into community activities,</p>

	Motivation to participate into community activities	90% high motivation to participate into community activities
	Expectations: Educational aspiration and plans Professional aspirations and plans	13% low educational aspirations, 0% medium educational aspirations, 87% high educational aspirations 20% low professional aspirations, 7% medium professional aspirations, 73% high professional aspirations

Target Group: STUDENTS

Dimensions	Indicators (means of measuring participation, results and impacts)	Parameters (measures; N=number)
Participation	Number of students contacted	10
	Number of students which participated in the project	10
	Description of the students which participated in the project	
	Number of students that participated in the final evaluation	5
	Main reasons to quit participation (when existing cases)	Lack of time, other engagements, not enough activity
Socio-demographic profile	Age	20 - 29; 25 medium age
	Gender	3 Male, 7 Female, Total 10
	Education	secondary; undergraduate, 100% masters;

	Professional situation	20% employed; 80% unemployed
	Profession	0% qualified; 100% not qualified
Contact	Modality of initial contact	mail, 10% personal, phone, 90% website
Collaboration	Previous collaboration experience	60% yes and 40% no
Type of involvement	Type of involvement	Previous experience with direct aid in shelter; tutoring experience
Motivations	Motivations to participate on RaCIP project	Humanitarianism, complements existing engagement, give back to community, personal experiences with hospitality.
Training for families	Participation in RaCIP training	10 and 100% of students did participate in RaCIP training 0% of students did not participate Have all the students which initiated training concluded it? Yes
	Description of the training	Number of training hours 30 Main contents: methods and team work, cultural introduction, context of migration and asylum, legal background, language, networking, Methodologies - expert classes, testimonials, discussions, q&a Facilitator profile - 4 years experience in the field 0% low, 10% medium, 90% high satisfaction with the performance of the facilitator
	Satisfaction with the organizational aspects of the training	10% low, 10% medium, 80% high satisfaction with organizational aspects of the training
	Satisfaction with the content of the training	0% low, 0% medium, 100% high satisfaction with the content of the training
	Satisfaction with training	0% low, 0% medium, 100% high satisfaction training Positive aspects: Quality of the classes and content, and complexity of the discussion Challenging aspects: to built a level two of cultural knowledge

QUOTES

TARGET – GROUP: organisations/stakeholders/institutions/groups

Dimensions	Indicators (means of measuring participation, results and impacts)	Parameters (measures; N=number)
Participation	Number of organizations contacted	N 13
	Number of organizations that participated locally in the RaCIP project	N 9
	Number of organizations that participated in the final evaluation	N 9
	Main reasons for quitting the participation (when existing cases)	Qualitative
	Previous experience with refugee integration	N. 9 and 100% yes;
Institutional profile	Type of organization	N. 8 Social Cooperatives N.1 Municipality
	Dimension of organization	N. 8 Less than 50 workers/members. N.1 More than 51 workers
	Primary activities organisation provided before RaCIP project	N.7 Housing N. 1 Reducing prejudice/informing about refugees N. 9 Social and cultural activities N. 2 Supporting people into employment N. 8 Supporting basic needs and access to services
Motivations and involvement	Motivations to participate on RaCIP project	Networking

	Description of involvement	Qualitative description of experience in RaCIP
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Quote:

Dimensions	Indicators (means of measuring participation, results and impacts)	Parameters (measures; N=number)
	New services/activities provided within the RaCIP project	Advice and information Art activities Befriending Campaigning Children's activities Collecting funds, donations and practical items Community preparation / welcoming activities Language Classes Health and well-being activities Individual advocacy Mentoring Reducing prejudice / informing people about refugees Social and cultural activities Sports activities Supporting people into employment Community engagement / Training Volunteer advice/opportunities for refugees Faith Based activities Research and Policy Other: explain
Satisfaction	Satisfaction with participation in the RaCIP project	0% low satisfaction 0% medium satisfaction, 100% high satisfaction Find alternative housing solutions for those who are homeless.
Relevance and usefulness	Relevance of the RaCIP project Usefulness of the RaCIP project	0% low relevance, 0% medium relevance, 100% high relevance 0% low usefulness, 0% medium usefulness, 100% high usefulness
Impacts	Increased knowledge about refugees Increased knowledge about Private Sponsorship Increased knowledge about refugee integration Changes in policies, values, administration related to participation in RaCIP Project	50% low increased knowledge about refugees, 50% medium increased knowledge about refugees, 0% high increased knowledge about refugees, 0% low increased knowledge about Private Sponsorship, 40% medium increased knowledge about Private Sponsorship, 60% high increased knowledge about Private Sponsorship, Other: 100% high increase knowledge about the services offered by other stakeholder regarding refugee integrations.

Other relevant information	Other relevant information concerning the participation of the organizations in the project	
Quotes	Significant quotes - Please copy relevant quotes to express interviewees direct speech concerning above indicators and participation in RaCIP	Use the following format: "quote" [profile of person/organisation, country]
Methods	Please describe how information on participant organizations was collected	The information has been collected within a interview.

4. CONCLUDING REMARKS

4.1 Please provide your own reflection regarding how the gender dimension was present/absent in the actions and activities, and in the evaluation process, at this intermediate stage.

PAR network started to be only for families, and so the gender balance of the refugees in the families that came from Greece on a relocation scheme are organic, the families have traveled together. Nevertheless, the participation of man is bigger, the man who is more willing to participate, and it seems normal to some cultures, as is the man who assumes the public life, like taking the kids to school, going to public services, even shopping. On the other side, is noticeable that, if we gather a group of only women, they tend to participate more, and in bigger numbers. We are doing that in Portuguese classes on-line with good results.

For some months PAR started to receive from the humanitarian boats, and they are mainly young man, maybe because the trip is to dangerous.

In the role of the mentor, we try to take the gender dimension into account, the boy tend to be more opened with a boy, and that can be very important to unleash the potentialities.

In the supporting families' women are more participative, the difference is very big.

In in the social organizations women are a majority of the technicians, it seems by vocation.

4.2 Please provide other insights and highlights about overall forced migrants and organisations needs and integration conditions. Include discussion points and comments.

Its been difficult to deal with the frustration of some social workers that welcomed refugees and now are not willing to repeat. Every organization that work with vulnerable people seems preoccupied with was is about to come as economic crisis, and reduce the amount of effort towards migrants.

Meetings with a group of mentors and a group of volunteers was mentioned during some interviews as something to be done.

The fact that Portugal is not a country of destination makes a big part of refugees to take the trip to other countries, despite the warnings about Dublin Regulation. The call from friends and family in other countries often speaks louder and there is not much we can do while the cost of living in Portugal is increasing.