

# GRSI PLEDGE FOR THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM

## GLOBAL SPONSORSHIP FUND

### Rationale

- There is a growing number of persons displaced worldwide, often living in situations where their prospects for a dignified and productive life are limited by their circumstances.
- This is happening at the same time as many countries are facing a severe shortage of skills at all levels, one that is likely to become aggravated in the coming years.
- Offering a larger number of opportunities for third country protection and solutions creates a quadruple win: it reduces pressure on countries of first asylum, it reduces global humanitarian costs, it enables a dignified and empowered life for the refugee and his or her family and contributes to addressing shortages in the workforce.
- Community Sponsorship is a unique tool in growing offers for resettlement and complementary pathways as it directly increases the capacity of reception and integration systems.
- Financial considerations are an important component in determining the decision of a group of potential sponsors to host a refugee.
- In many countries where Community Sponsorship programs are implemented there are explicit program requirements for hosts to fundraise a certain sum to be eligible for hosting. Even in contexts where no explicit requirement is set, hosts need to consider costs when deciding whether to form a community sponsorship group.
- In addition, financial constraints may be an important factor limiting the diversification of the sponsor groups who tend to consistently belong to the same social and economic milieu, as well as the diversification in countries adopting sponsorship programs.
- Partners of the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative, in particular the Shapiro and Giustra Foundations, have been at the forefront of financial innovation to support the growth in the number of sponsorship groups in several countries.
- As part of the Global Refugee Forum the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative is proposing to set up a new **Global Sponsorship Fund**.

## Visions and principles

- The fund will pool public and private donations and/or financial pledges from a wide variety of sources, in order to provide financial support to increase the number of sponsor groups.
- This financial support offered by the fund will take different forms, depending on the design of the individual sponsorship program. In particular it will envision, small-sum incentive payments to individual groups who welcome a refugee and/or larger incentives for groups taking up the responsibility for a number of sponsorships.
- The global fund is inspired by the successful experience of the Shapiro and Giustra Foundation that provided such small incentive payments to cover the costs of sponsorship in Canada as part of the BVOR program during the response to the Syrian crisis.

## Operational modalities

- **Sources:** The fund will be structured to maximize the possible sources of revenue including in particular: Public funds for migration and development cooperation; Private donations from philanthropy and corporations; small donations by communities and individuals.
- **Localization:** The fund will pool donations globally but will be implemented locally by trusted partners at national and local level that will administer the incentive payments, respecting the diversity of individual sponsorship programs. The fund will also foster meaningful links to local authorities engaged in sponsorship.
- **Time of accrual:** The incentive payments would be accrued by the identified beneficiary upon the arrival of the refugee and his/her family in the country of destination.
- **Type of support:** The incentive payments would be one off lump sums that do not require repayment. However, from the outset the fund will be built to accommodate the possibility of part of the sums being provided through loans rather than grants/lump sums in order to allow potential greater leverage in the future.
- **Geography:** The fund will not have geographical restrictions; all countries will be potentially eligible. Institutional donors above a certain threshold will be allowed to earmark/prioritize specific regions including owing to possible legal restrictions or policy preferences.
- **Emergency:** The fund will provide an innovative instrument for displacement crisis. As part of its activities it will provide targeted and immediate support in contexts where a large number of hosts are mobilized to welcome refugees in their homes.
- **Franchising:** The global fund will cooperate closely with with existing national funds or new initiatives being established. It will encourage the establishment of similar national funds in other countries, offer a global convening space for such national funds, and provide additional support in situations of emergency.

## Pledge for the Global Refugee Forum

The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative welcomes different pledges towards the establishment of the fund:

### **Pledge 1: Join the team building the fund**

This pledge aims to support the the finalization of governance and infrastructure of the global fund. It is open to private and public sector partners who either want to support financially the establishment of the global fund or have expertise in establishing and managing global funds.

### **Pledge 2: Becoming an inaugural donor of the fund**

This pledge allows public and private donors to pledge their financial support for the fund once its establishment is completed.

### **Pledge 3: Joining the fund as a partner**

This pledge allows CSOs and other local actors: opportunity to pledge to be fund partner in view of it's future implementation and rollout