



Education pathways for refugees: innovative partnerships in the language sector

Felicity Bogal - Languages Canada
Michelle Manks - Student Refugee Program, WUSC
Simone Hengen - University of Regina

Context

- In late 2015 & 2016, Canada resettled more than 25,000 Syrian refugees
- 85% of Government sponsored refugees, and 38% of privately sponsored refugees reported they did not have knowledge of either of Canada's official languages
- Language proficiency is among the most important contributors to successful integration, access to employment & postsecondary education
- 2016 saw the participation of non-traditional partners in refugee settlement and resettlement, and the creation and expansion of initiatives

Languages Canada's Syrian Refugee Integration Initiative

Felicity Borgal - Languages Canada



Introduction

- Launched November 2015
- Contributions from 73 member programs
- Over 15,000 weeks of study offered

Successes

- Nova Scotia
- Victoria
- Toronto
- IRCC Pilot Project in Calgary
- In total, over 135 refugees have been placed in our member programs

Hurdles

- Mismatch in geography
- Low literacy rates
- Childcare facilities
- “Finding” refugees



WUSC  EUMC

WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE OF CANADA (WUSC)



We are a Canadian non-profit organization dedicated to providing **education**, **employment** and **empowerment** opportunities for youth around the world.



EDUCATION



EMPLOYMENT



EMPOWERMENT

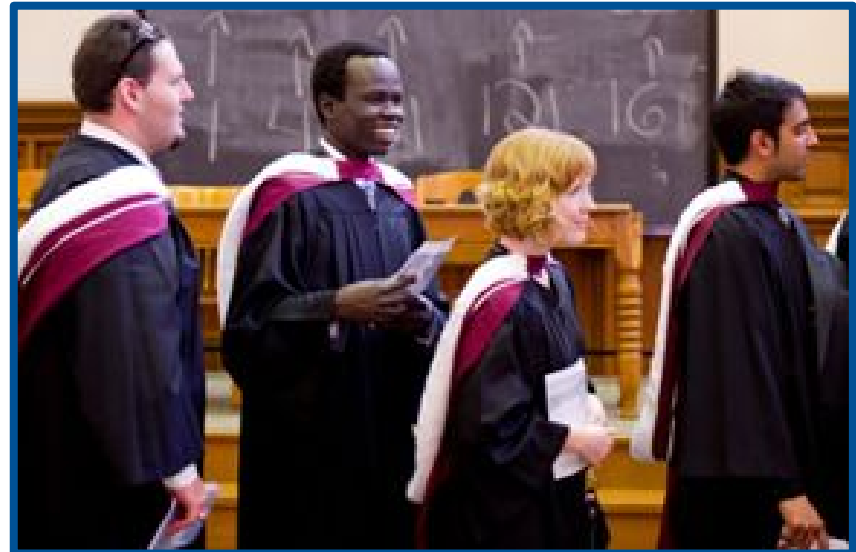
WUSC IN THE CANADIAN CONTEXT IS...

A network of student/faculty/staff groups at
over 80 Canadian Post Secondary
Institutions who:

- **Educate and
Raise
Awareness
&**
- **Sponsor and
support the
integration
of Student
Refugees**



+ **The Student Refugee Program** is a youth to youth refugee resettlement and integration program that enables around 150 young refugee students to enter Canada as Permanent Residents and pursue higher education at Canadian institutions



What Does It TAKE TO SPONSOR A STUDENT?

- Funds: C\$20,000 – 30,000 (cash/in-kind)
- Partnerships on campus (Admissions, Registrar, International Office, Language programs etc.)
- A sponsoring group made up of 5 or more dedicated persons (Students, Staff, Faculty)



ROLE OF SPONSORING GROUP



- Liaise with partners on campus
- Provide the student with financial, academic, and moral support for a minimum of 12 months;
- Raise awareness about refugee issues & create welcoming Communities
- Support the preparation for autonomy after the sponsorship period;

HOW IS THE PROGRAM FUNDED?



- Levies
 - Student (undergrad/grad)
 - Staff/Faculty
- Waivers from Administration
 - Tuition & Books
 - Accommodations
 - Meals
- Donations/Fundraising

After 1st year:

- Bursaries, scholarships and Student Loans (after year 1)
- Employment on campus/in community



HOW ARE SPONSORED STUDENTS SELECTED?

- 18 - 25 Years Old
- UNHCR Status
- Single without dependents
- Copies of Secondary School and/or University/College Transcripts
- Advanced level of English or French
- Live in country of asylum in which WUSC currently works: Kenya, Malawi, Jordan, Lebanon

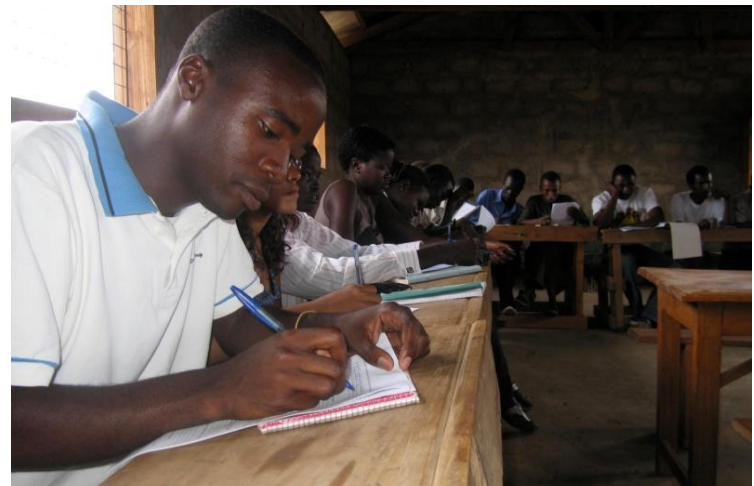


STUDENT RECRUITMENT & SELECTION

- Opportunity shared via partner organizations and social media
- Pre-Interview Language Assessment (based on the TOEFL/IELTS)
- Minimizing Fraud: Academic Documents Verified with Ministry of Education
- Interview panel: Education NGO in host country, WUSC staff, UNHCR/Canadian Mission Staff

PRE-DEPARTURE PREPARATIONS

- Advanced Language Classes (IELTS/TOEFL Prep)
- IELTS/TOEFL Test
- Computer classes
- Academic research project and Canadian Academic Regulations
- Canadian Pre-Departure Courses
- Immigration Process



ADMITTING & REGISTERING SRP STUDENTS

- Student Profiles circulated, which include copies of Documents and Language Test Results
- Flexibility is sometimes granted on language requirements and required documents (especially for women)
- Admission to ESL/FSL
 - Challenges: funding limitations on Levies collected, restrictions on tuition waivers, and housing for ESL/FSL students



- Stronger Partnerships with language programs, such as at the University of Regina





UNIVERSITY OF
REGINA

English as a
Second Language
Program

<http://www.uregina.ca/esl/>



WUSC  EUMC

World University Service of Canada Student Refugee Program

Simone Hengen – Faculty Advisor, ESL Instructor

The U of R WUSC SRP Program partnership since 1980

- “My father always told me ‘I want you to be an engineer’ ...I want to study engineering for me – and my father.”
Syrian SRP student from January 2016
- 66 post-secondary students from Somalia, Burma, Syria, South Sudan, Rwanda, Eritrea, Uganda, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Vietnam
 - Faculties represented include Arts, Nursing, Engineering, Business Admin, Science, Accounting, Social Work, International Studies, Graduate Studies
 - Graduates are employed as an accountant, social worker, newcomer-public school liaison, manager, author, government administrator for CRA and so on
- 15 of the past 27 students have been language learners

“We try to be their family here.”

Ashley Moran, SRP Secretary



WUSC Regina presents...

Shine-A-Light All Night!

Tuesday
October 21, 2014

@ the University of Regina
Atrium, RIC Building

Help us shine-a-light on
refugee
GIRLS'
EDUCATION

- 7 pm - Meet & Greet
- 9 pm - Activities and Movie
- Midnight - Lunch
- 2 am - Walk around campus
- 3 am - Activities
- 5 am - Breakfast



WUSC EUMC
Education Changes the World



Visit www.wusc Regina.ca or
Facebook @WUSC Regina
for more information

Campus Participants in the WUSC Student Refugee Program

WUSC Local Committee

- Admissions
- Residence
- Student Union
- Faculties
- Awards
- Co-op/Employment Program

•ESL Program partnerships extend the opportunity for resettlement and post-secondary studies to language learner refugees who qualify for academic programs.

•Language learners who qualify for the SRP Program require more funding and sometimes more support.



“WUSC has been a second chance for me to live a meaningful, safe and dignified life.”

Patience Umereweneza, SRP student in 2009

You're Invited to the...



WUSC Regina Gala 2016

Join us in celebrating youth empowerment through education!

Enjoy a delicious supper, program, and silent auction.

Featuring Speakers:
Cadmus Delorme & Patience Umereweneza

Date: February 20th

Location:
Carrefour des Plaines
Bistro Room
100-3850 Hillsdale St

Time: Doors open at 5:30pm, Supper at 6pm



FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND AREAS OF GREATER COLLABORATION?

- What are other ways that institutions/members are supporting refugees?
- What are areas for future collaboration?

