Synergies between institutional actors and civil society

Portuguese Red Cross experience
PORTUGUES RED CROSS: Timeline

Portuguese Red Cross joined the Working Group on the European Agenda For Migration on November 2015.

- December 2015: PRC hosted the first group of 5 refugees
- September 2016: 60 refugees; 15 local PRC branches
PORTUGUES RED CROSS: Characterization

63% refugees from Eritrea (18% Syria; 8% Iraq)
73% refugees are male
85% refugees are under 35 years old
78% refugees travel alone (14% are women)
76% refugees relocated from Italy (24% Greece)
Less than 10% are already working
2 refugees are going to study at university

06/10/2016
PORTUGUES RED CROSS: Methodology

Reception
Reception centre near the airport
RFL – Safe and Well Phone Calls
Group information session
Psychosocial support
Health assessment

06/10/2016
PORTUGUES RED CROSS: Methodology

Relocation

15 local branches

Training for PRC teams

Work with community (Sensitisation)

Matching refugee’s profile with local PRC branches (Areas of Portugal and local opportunities)

Psychosocial support to PRC teams
Integration

Work with local communities

Individual integration plan

Involve refugees in PRC’s local activities, as volunteers for community engagement

Portuguese language classes
PORTUGUES RED CROSS: Best Practices

RFL – Safe and Well Phone Call
Psychosocial Support for PRC’s teams – Protocol with Psychosocial Professional Association
Initial Health assessment
Use of PRC volunteering activities to facilitate local integration processes

06/10/2016
PORTUGUES RED CROSS: Challenges

RFL to all refugees
Housing capacity
Job Market availability
Local public services understanding the procedures, ensuring refugees access to them
Managing expectations: refugees, teams and community
PORTUGUES RED CROSS: What we have been learning

Expectations start to build up when the decision of leaving country of origin is made;

Pre-conceived ideas of destination countries and conditions do not change once refugees arrive to a safe country, even with basic needs met;

Work with host community is as important as to work refugees integration
Joana Rodrigues
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