



Leaders in International Higher Education

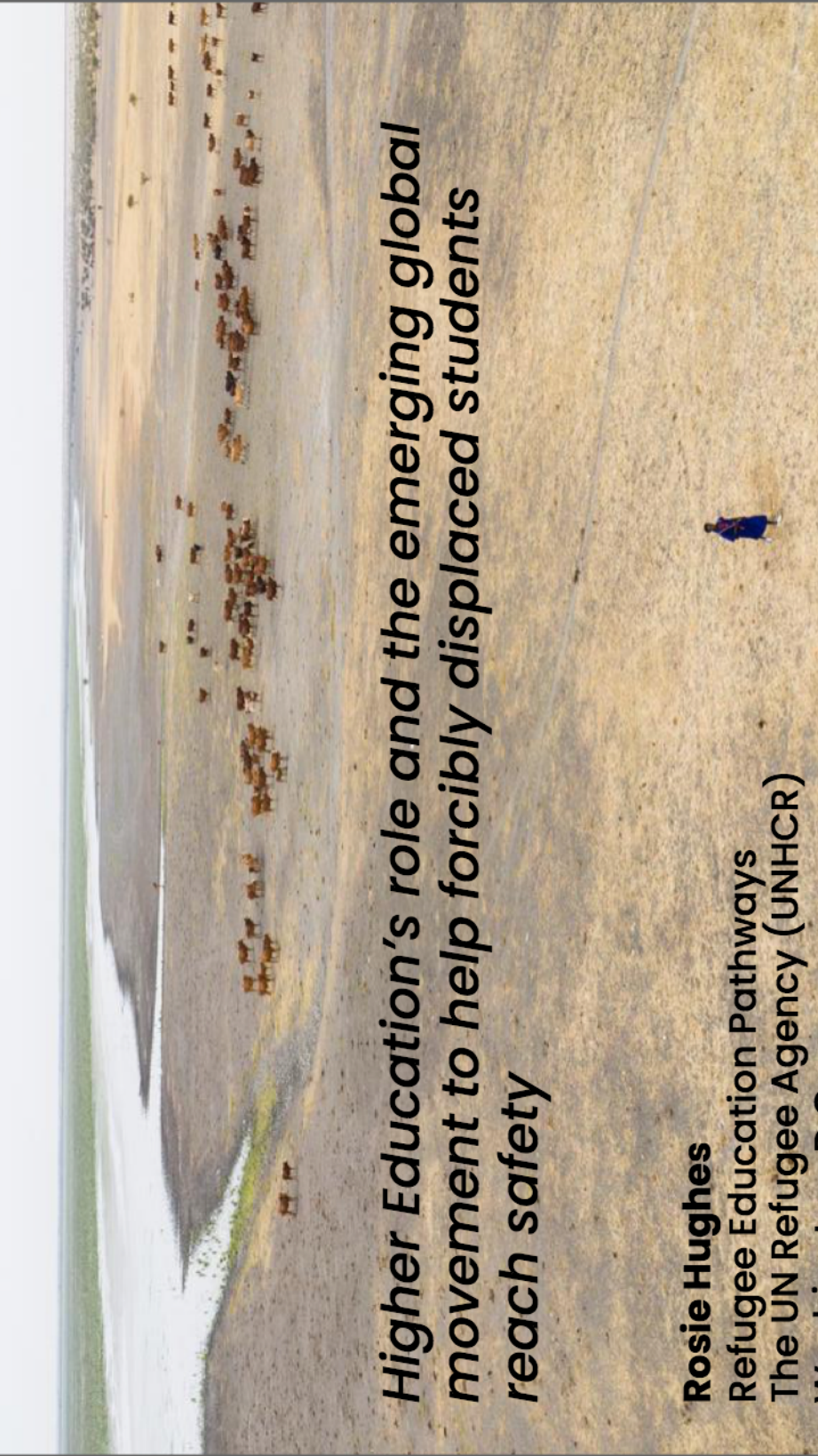
2022 ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

Why the Internationalization of
Higher Education Still Matters

Making a Difference: Complementary Education Pathways for Refugee Students

- **Rosie Hughes**, The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
- **Jill Welch**, Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration
- **Wesley Milner**, Western Carolina University

New Pathways to Safety for Displaced Students



Higher Education's role and the emerging global movement to help forcibly displaced students reach safety

Rosie Hughes
Refugee Education Pathways
The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
Washington, D.C.
hughesr@unhcr.org

Record Forced Displacement

2010:

41 million

forcibly displaced people



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

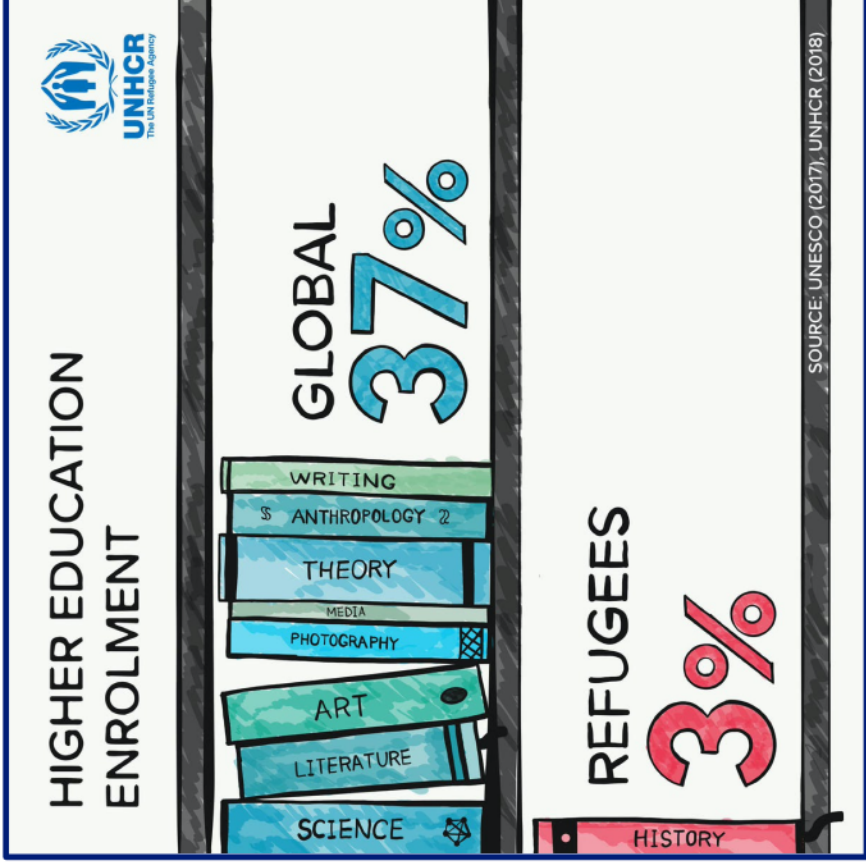
2020:

82 million

forcibly displaced people



Global Inequities – Higher Ed Access



UNHCR's Response

Strategic priority: To identify and support durable solutions that enable refugees to rebuild their lives.



Strategic priority: To ensure that 15% of young refugee women and men can access higher education by 2030.



A Global Movement



University Corridors for Refugees



United States - Challenge



The main type of student visa in the U.S. and current avenue for refugees to enter the U.S. as students.

Key Barriers

- 1) Need to show non-immigrant intent
- 2) Limited paths to permanent residency

United States – Coalition



United States – Opportunity



University Sponsorship of Refugee Students

Initiative on Increasing U.S. Education
Pathways for Refugee Students



Advantages

- 1) Durable solution – permanent residency and work authorization
- 2) Higher education leadership – access and equity
- 3) Moral imperative and talent driver

THE RESPONSE CAMPAIGN:

College and University Sponsorship of
Refugee Students



Learn more at

www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/response-campaign

WHY WE NEED A NEW COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PATHWAY FOR REFUGEES





Existing Pathways

P1-P3 CATEGORIES

Refugees are admitted to the U.S. through existing refugee definitions, vulnerability-based resettlement criteria and vetting.

The main type of student visa in the U.S. and current avenue for refugees to enter the U.S. as students.

F-1 VISA

F-1 VISA BARRIERS:

- Need to show financial support for length of program
- Not a durable solution for protection - student must show intention to return to their home country
- Limited access to permanent residences and work authorization

Resettled refugees who arrive via these categories may seek to access higher education after they have arrived in the U.S.

- P-1 (Priority 1): Individuals referred by the UNHCR, a U.S. embassy, or certain NGOs
- P-2 (Priority 2): Groups of special humanitarian parole
- P-3 (Priority 3): Family reunification cases

P1-P3 BARRIERS:

- Less than 1% of refugees worldwide are resettled
- No immediate pathway to education - focused on economic self-sufficiency via employment within 90 days of arrival



PROPOSED NEW COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PATHWAY

Refugee students would enter the U.S. through a **UNIVERSITY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM.**



Selection criteria would be based on academic qualifications and potential. To be eligible, students would need to meet the refugee definition.

NEW! P4 CATEGORY

FEWER BARRIERS TO REFUGEE STUDENTS:

- Durable solution - students come in as refugees with a clear pathway to lawful permanent residence and citizenship
- Educational access - students can enroll as full time students and access higher education



Policy Recommendations

- Approach program design with **additionality**
- HEIs to **nominate directly, or identify, students**
- Consider an **alternative indicator of success** for university-sponsored refugees.
- Offer a **mechanism for sponsors to cover travel costs and offer postponement of travel loan repayments**
- **Allow applicants whose refugee status is pending to access the USRAP.**
- **Accommodate strict academic admissions timelines**
- Enact **key improvements to the F-1 visa**

Add Priority-4 (P4) as a new refugee admissions category

HOW REFUGEE STUDENTS CAN ACCESS THE NEW COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PATHWAY



STEP 1:

OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT AND APPLICATION

- Community partners reach out to
- potential refugee students in camps and cities around the world
 - Student completes and submits application
 - Student is accepted to program and matched with a college or university sponsor

STEP 2:

PROCESSING AND PRE-DEPARTURE

- Student approved for refugee resettlement by U.S. government
- Student completes security, immigration and medical clearance
- Student participates in pre-departure preparation and orientation

STEP 3:

ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION

- Student is welcomed to the U.S. with a cohort of other refugee students and attends national orientation
- Student arrives on campus, is welcomed by campus community and attends campus orientation

STEP 4:

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

- Student brings rich perspectives and skills to the campus community
- Student is supported by the Campus Committee, peer mentors and an academic advisor
- Student is on path to lawful permanent residency and citizenship



Roles & Responsibilities

**Higher Education Institution
(HEI)**

Implementing Organization

- Student Recruitment & Application Process
- Pre-departure Program
- Immigration Processing
- National Student Cohort
- Training & Support for HEIs
- Fundraising Support

Sponsors

- Inform Student Selection
- Welcome & enroll students
- Provide Holistic Support Students
- Commit financial and in-kind contributions to cover tuition, room and board, and on-campus support



Per Student Costs

National Funding

- Pre-departure costs
- Flights
- Summer & holiday lodging
- Internships

HEI In-Kind

- Tuition
- Room
- Board
- On-campus supports

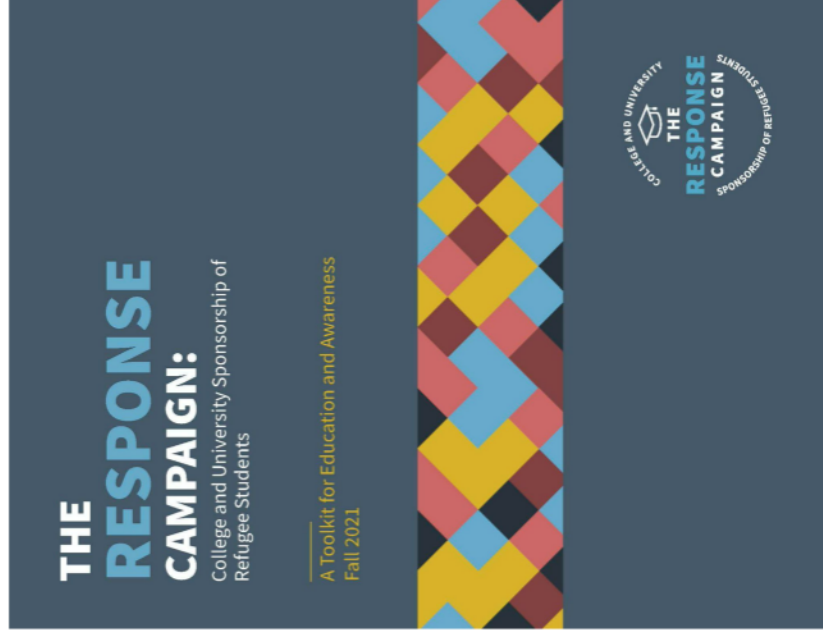
In-Kind/ Local Funding

- Books & supplies
- Computer & phone
- Initial room furnishings
- Personal Expenses

Resources:

www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/response-campaign/

TOOLKIT



FULL REPORT



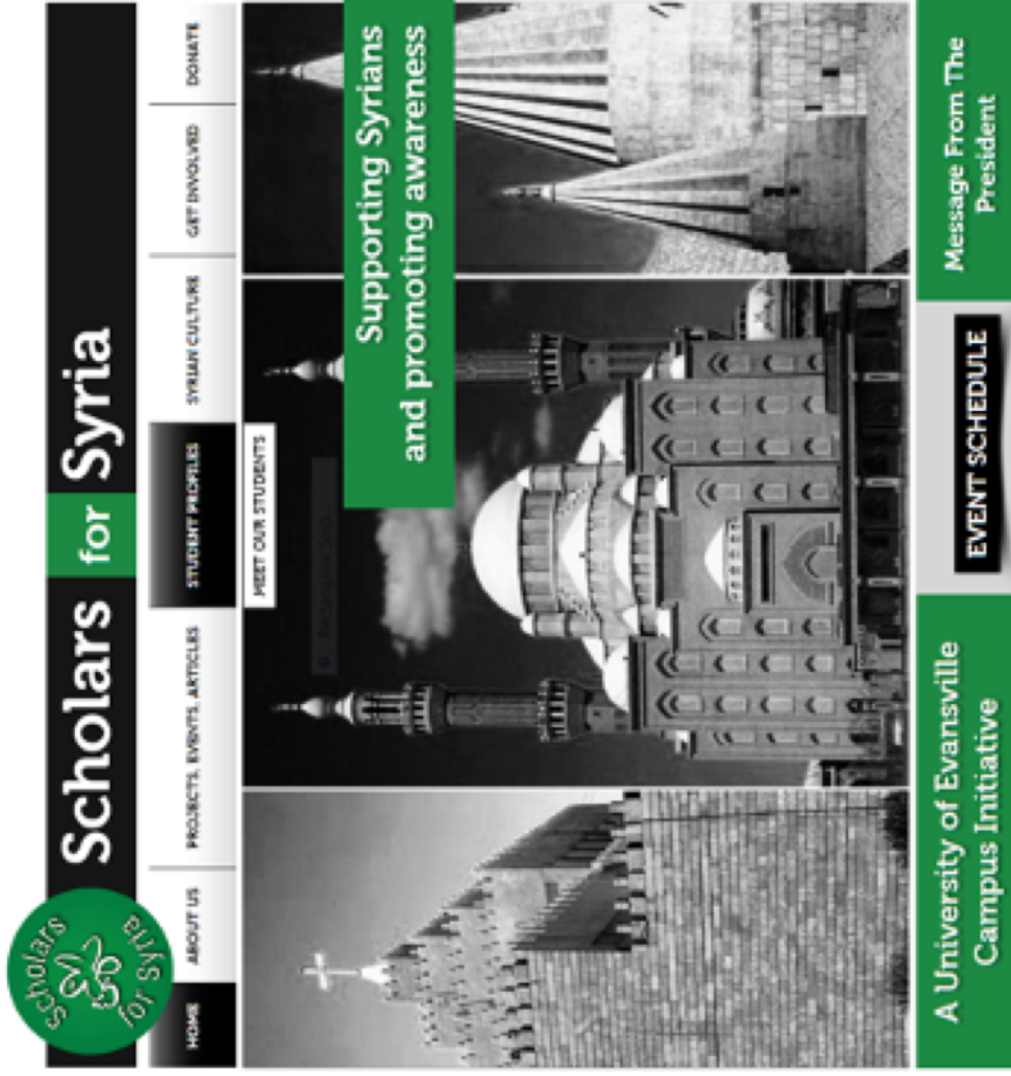
Campus Stakeholders

- Board of Trustees, Administration, Students, Departments, Faculty, Staff
- Local, State and Federal Government
- Sponsors, Department of State, Embassy/Consulate
- Continuous Constituent Communication
- Educating and Advocating for Students
- Students as best spokespersons





CAMPUS SUPPORT SERVICES



- Utilize Existing Resources
- Campus groups
- Volunteer, Fundraise, Educate
- Early Alert System
- Counseling Center
- Writing Center
- Intensive English Support
- Supplemental Instruction
- First-Year Experience

Considerations

- What assets already exist on your campus? What would you need to build up?
- What would it take to implement university sponsorship on your campus and participate in the P-4 program?
- Whom do you need to speak with to potentially adjust your institutional policies and procedures?
- How does the Response Campaign fit in with existing and potentially competing concerns on campus for domestic and international students?