

# THE GLOBAL REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVE LAUNCHES NEW TOOLS AND RESOURCES

NOVEMBER 23, 2022

Founded in 2016, the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI) is a multi-stakeholder coalition that aims to assist communities and countries in finding sustainable solutions for refugee resettlement and welcome. Partners of the GRSI include the Government of Canada, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), The Giustra Foundation, The Refugee Hub of the University of Ottawa, the Open Society Foundations, and The Shapiro Foundation.

Six years after its launch, the GRSI is pleased to announce the launch of an updated Guidebook, new Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit, updated pamphlet, and new website!

The **GRSI Guidebook**, released in 2017, is a comprehensive tool created to help government officials, civil society organizations, and communities around the world design and implement community sponsorship programs for refugees. The original Guidebook outlined Canada's experience with community sponsorship, which they pioneered in 1979. Specifically, the Guidebook highlighted the Canadian Private Sponsorship and Blended Visa-Office Referred Programs.

In the last five years, community sponsorship has grown far beyond Canada; there are now community sponsorship pilots or programs in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. To reflect the international expansion of community sponsorship, in 2022, the Guidebook was updated to provide a more global lens, placing a greater focus on lessons learned from new models of sponsorship in GRSI-supported countries. New sections have also been added, including on meaningful refugee participation in community sponsorship program design and evaluation, how women's distinct needs are met, and addressing settlement needs in alignment with settlement service providers. All information on **Canada's Private Sponsorship Program** and **Blended Visa-Office Referred Program** have been updated. We hope the Guidebook inspires other countries to develop their very own community sponsorship programs. You can access our updated Guidebook in **English** and in **French**.

New to GRSI products is the **GRSI Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Toolkit**, which was created to support governments and civil society organizations build monitoring and evaluation mechanisms into community sponsorship programs. The Toolkit can be used for a wide range of national or regional contexts, and for programs of varied sizes and development stages.

Program evaluation plays a crucial role in the development of robust and sustainable sponsorship programs. Effective program monitoring and evaluations builds government and community confidence in sponsorship programs; contributes to program integrity, supporting the accountability of both states and sponsors; and aids the ultimate objective of refugee protection. We hope that the M&E Toolkit as a resource that will help create effective, strong, and sustainable sponsorship programs worldwide. Explore our new Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit in English [here](#) or French [here](#).

The **GRSI Pamphlet** has been updated to include an introduction to the GRSI partnership, facts about community sponsorship, information on GRSI's tools and products, and a map of sponsorship around the world. Additionally, the new pamphlet is now in a mobile-friendly format. The pamphlet was created to provide information about GRSI for a wide range of audiences, and support government officials, civil society organizations, and community leaders around the world to create, expand, or become involved in a community sponsorship program. You can access our pamphlet in [English](#) and [French](#).

Our **newly redesigned website** allows governments, civil society organizations, and communities to embark on a personalized community sponsorship journey filled with tools and information aimed towards supporting the development of community sponsorship programs around the world.

The new platform, which replaces the inaugural site launched in 2017, provides an improved step-by-step approach for both states and civil society for the creation of innovative and successful community sponsorship programs to welcome refugees. This platform provides background information on exploring sponsorship, how to design a program, how to grow an existing community sponsorship program, and how to train sponsors. Our redesigned website equips diverse stakeholders and allies with the necessary resources for designing and strengthening programs and partnerships for sponsorship, resettlement, and integration of refugees.

Our new tools are all available on our new website, which you can browse in English [here](#) and French [here](#). We have developed and updated these products and our website to provide the tools that states, non-governmental organizations, and the public need to explore, develop, expand, and contribute to community sponsorship around the world.



## About the GRSI

*The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative was founded in 2016 to increase and improve global refugee resettlement by engaging private citizens, communities, and businesses in resettlement efforts; strengthen local host communities that come together to welcome newcomers; and improve the narrative about refugees and other newcomers.*

*Partners are the Government of Canada, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Open Society Foundations, the Shapiro Foundation, the Giustra Foundation, as well as the University of Ottawa Refugee Hub, supported by the generous contributions of philanthropic entities including the Robert Bosch Stiftung.*