

Six Facts about Community Sponsorship



Community sponsorship, which originated in Canada in 1979 as a response to refugees fleeing Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, has now inspired programs around the world, including Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, Spain, the UK and the US.



Around the world, thousands of individual sponsors and hundreds of civil society organizations, including advocacy organizations, refugee agencies, faith-based organizations and community associations, are engaged in organizing and implementing community sponsorship programs.



Community sponsorship is supporting refugees and other persons in need of international protection arriving in safe third countries through resettlement and complementary pathways, such as humanitarian corridors, labor mobility schemes, and education pathways.



To date, sponsors in communities around the world have welcomed several hundred thousand refugees as new neighbors. This means that thousands of individual sponsors have participated in and are continuing to participate in community sponsorship schemes globally.



Studies and evaluations of community sponsorship programs around the world show that community sponsorship tends to have a positive impact on refugee integration and participating in these programs is beneficial to both host communities and newcomers.



Community sponsorship has been recognized as a critical tool for growing and improving refugee protection in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the Global Compact on Refugees, and the Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways.