



SUPPORTING AND
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REFUGEES

NEW
ROOTS



New Roots Bespoke Evaluation Tool for Refugee Integration.

Call for Expression of interest in Design and Testing

1. Background and Scope

Following a successful application to the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), Refugee Council is leading a major new Employment & Integration project in London, Leeds and Hull called 'New Roots', in partnership with RETAS (Refugee Employment and Training Advice Service), HCAS (Humber Community Advice Services), Path Yorkshire and the Goodwin Trust.

Funded from 1st October 2018 for a period of two years, the New Roots project aims to provide a more integrated, joined up package of support for refugees in London, Leeds and Hull, adapting it to specific regional needs and making the best use of regional expertise in developing a wider national offer.

The project focuses its support on refugees who have been recognised as having protection needs and have been granted permission to stay in the UK but are now struggling to rebuild their lives in a new and unfamiliar country. This beneficiary group includes newly recognised refugees who face significant practical problems in the period after they are granted refugee status including difficulties in securing accommodation, accessing welfare benefits, gaining employment, receiving identity documents and issues around mental health.

Besides, in collaboration with partners and other stakeholders in refugee integration including RCOs, the New Roots project aims to develop a bespoke, beneficiary-led evaluation tool to be used in the field of refugee integration.

2. Aim for the evaluation tool:

The Refugee Council currently works towards a set of outcomes across all frontline services, which include:

- Improved ability to make informed choices
- Increased social inclusion
- Improved physical health and mental well being
- Improved economic and financial well being
- Improved accommodation and safety

The role of Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs) in refugee integration has been documented in a research recently published by Refugee Council and they deliver a broad range of activities that contribute to one or more outcomes described above.

With reference to these integration outcomes and also to the Home Office's Indicators of Integration framework (in the meantime to indicators as defined by the Home office publication *Indicators of Integration Report (Home Office, 2004)*); the Refugee council would like to work with partners and RCOs to refine a set of indicators for successful refugee integration, and develop a bespoke, beneficiary-led refugee integration evaluation tool. This tool should ideally place the beneficiary at the centre of their own integration journey, providing them with a visual interactive user interface which will enable them to track their own progress with the support of their adviser.

The Refugee has appointed "Triangle" as a specialist contractor to lead on the development of the tool and we are looking for 5 RCOs in London and 5 RCOs in Leeds to contribute to the co-design and testing of the evaluation tool. The successful candidates will be RCOs with extensive experience of working with newly recognised refugees



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through current or past work with clients including refugees from one or more countries topping the list of countries producing big numbers of asylum seekers during the last five years.

It is anticipated that in addition to involving service users in tracking their own progress in refugee integration, the evaluation tool will be a valuable tool for the refugee sector as it will enable organisations working with refugees to evaluate the effectiveness of their services, to collect the right data, and to provide evidence for the needs their communities face. It will also provide an easy way of reporting to funders and improved the capacity of organisations to demonstrate the impact of their work; with the potential to improving the chances of accessing resources including financial support.

3. Eligibility Criteria for RCOs

To be eligible for this project RCO candidates will need to demonstrate the following:

- Being a constituted refugee-led organisation based in London or Leeds and with a bank account in the name of the organisation and providing services to refugees (not exclusively).
- Track record of delivering at least one of the integration services to new refugees particularly adult refugees and/or their families covering the following:
 - Welfare benefits
 - Immigration documentation
 - Housing
 - Health, mental health and wellbeing
 - Training, skills development and career advice
 - Employment and requalification
 - Family reunion
 - Access to financial services
 - Women only support
 - Any other services targeted at new refugees and facilitating their integration.
- Willingness to collect anonymised data as agreed with co-design group of organisations, and making it available and accessible for the purpose of designing and testing the evaluation tool.
- Capacity to commit one dedicated person to take the responsibility of taking part in quarterly meetings and hosting ad hoc visits over the duration of the tool development and testing period ending in October 2020.

4. Rewards for suitable candidates

The suitable Refugee Community Organisations will receive £1,200 each to cover the costs incurred by the organisation as a result of their participation in 8 quarterly meetings for the duration of the project.

5. Application Process

Organisations who can meet the eligibility criteria and who want to take part in this project are required to express their interest by completing an online expression of interest form available on the Refugee council website or by completing a hard copy of the form and sending it to:

Mr Ezechias Ngendahayo
Refugee Council
Gredley house
1-11 Broadway, Stratford
London E15 4DQ