

POLICY MEMORANDUM: Youth Transparency Education

FROM: Miracles of Development; Good Governance and Capacity Building, Group #13

SUBJECT: UN Refugee Policy

**I. Action-Forcing Event**

Only 2.3% of total refugees voluntarily return to their origin countries due to a lack of confidence in the newly implemented Transitional Government. Repatriation is a complex process and returnees can be subjected to acts of corruption such as profiteering and poor governance. These actions are a violation of basic human rights and it is the obligation of the United Nations to safeguard and protect the rights of refugees.

**II. Background/Analysis**

In the repatriation processes of the Congolese and Tanzanian refugees, finding durable solutions for voluntary returnees is a major source of concern. The Tanzanian example shows that voluntary repatriation can be difficult to achieve despite improved conditions. The U.N. refugee agency has given returnees assistance packages, but at times has not been able to implement a sustainable program. With the ongoing repatriation process of the Congolese refugees, new initiatives are possible. Many issues relating to repatriation involve promotion of livelihood security, yet largely ignore the necessity of poor governance awareness.

**III. Recommendation**

Our group proposes that the U.N. adopt a pre-repatriation Youth Transparency Education policy to be implemented in those refugee camps which are the product of prolonged crisis or conflict. This action will be coupled with a U.N. practice that the U.N. itself, as well as national and international groups active in the repatriation region, must practice an Open Book Policy. This policy will mandate public posting of funding and resources directed to the region. The two aspects of the policy then create a forum for the community to practice and implement what they have learned, and to continue the process after the U.N. and other forces leave the area. The main objective is to encourage the building of sustainable and healthy communities that may be currently dealing with and/or recovering from trauma. This education process in the camps will occur during the negotiation period regarding guidelines for repatriation. Issues of profiteering, transparency, and accountability during the rebuilding phase would be addressed. This information will be targeted to youth, both male and female, ages 14 to 22 to encourage dissemination of information throughout their communities. Consequently local youth and others will be encouraged to incorporate transparency and accountability practices as they rebuild their communities and government. Further, it will provide tools to overcome their fears of engagement in developing civil societies. It will also affirm the U.N.'s position as a leader with higher standards. Some limitations to program efficiency would be community participation, NGO compliance and participant understanding.

**IV. Group's Role**

Our group's role will be to generate the educational model itself and to market it to the U.N. In this vein, given the opportunity, we hope to provide statistical information to support increased efficiency. An alternative funding method is to petition for NGO support. Though a lofty plan, we feel that the multifaceted nature of the policy and the results stemming from it will make it engaging.

## References

Learning for a Future; Refugees Education in Developing Countries

<http://www.unhcr.org/static/publ/epau/learningtoc.htm>

Milestones reached in UNHCR's operations for Burundian refugees

<http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/47f2471b4.html>

Refugees International

<http://www.refugeesinternational.org/content/country/detail/2912>

UNHCR “Refugee Livelihoods; Enhancing Livelihood Security among Mauritanian Refugees”

<http://www.unhcr.org/research/RESEARCH/42bbcb702.pdf>