

Promoting Two-Way Process of Integration of Refugees and Host Community in Japan: Production of a Welcome Kit Using Community-Based Participatory Approach

PROJECT VENUE

Japan

GROUP MEMBERS

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ABSTRACT

Amid the prolonged world refugee crisis, the Government of Japan has announced its expansion of the third country resettlement program starting in 2020. However, the issues surrounding the integration of refugees in Japan continue to be a concern. The centralized mechanism of the resettlement program, lack of active support and coordination by municipalities, and absence of a two-way integration process are some factors hindering successful integration. Thus, it is significant to identify problems regarding integration and to create welcoming communities.

The project members created a welcome kit model for future resettled refugees together with Karen resettled refugee families in Japan. This project employed a community-based participatory approach which consisted of the following three activities: (1) survey of municipalities; (2) stakeholder visits; and (3) community dialogue sessions. Through these activities, the target user of the welcome kit was determined to be community-based local settlement supporters who play a crucial role in enhancing integration of resettled refugees in their host cities. The welcome kit is designed to be customized to capture the peculiarities of each host city. The welcome kit also calls for collaboration among various stakeholders and awareness-raising initiatives within the given community, which in the long-term realizes a vision of promoting a two-way process of integration.

