



The Future of Resettlement: Vulnerability revisited

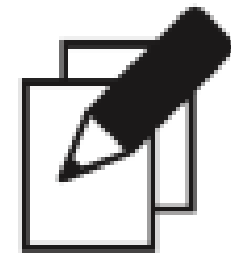
Nerina Weiss

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- 123 million people displaced in 2024
- 37 million of these are refugees
- Less than 1% of refugees are resettled.



HOW DO REFUGEES GET RESETTLED?



During standard registration interviews UNHCR flags vulnerable cases for possible resettlement. **Refugees cannot apply for resettlement.**



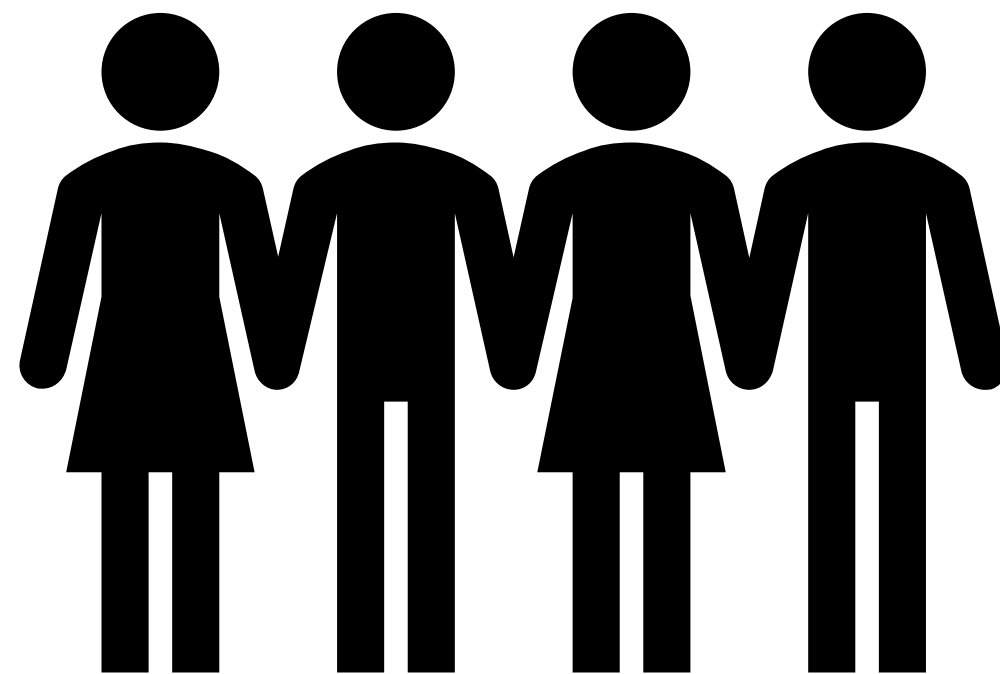
UNHCR refers only the most vulnerable cases to host countries for possible resettlement. **Refugees cannot pick their country of resettlement.**



Only recognized refugees whose **life, liberty, safety, health, or other fundamental rights are at risk** in the host country are considered for resettlement.



Persons found to have committed serious crimes or who might pose a threat to others **would not be referred** for resettlement in another country.



Resettlement is for the most vulnerable refugees.

All refugees who are referred must fit at least one vulnerability category, some of which include:



Medical needs



Women & girls at risk



Children at risk



Survivors of violence/torture



Understanding the selection process

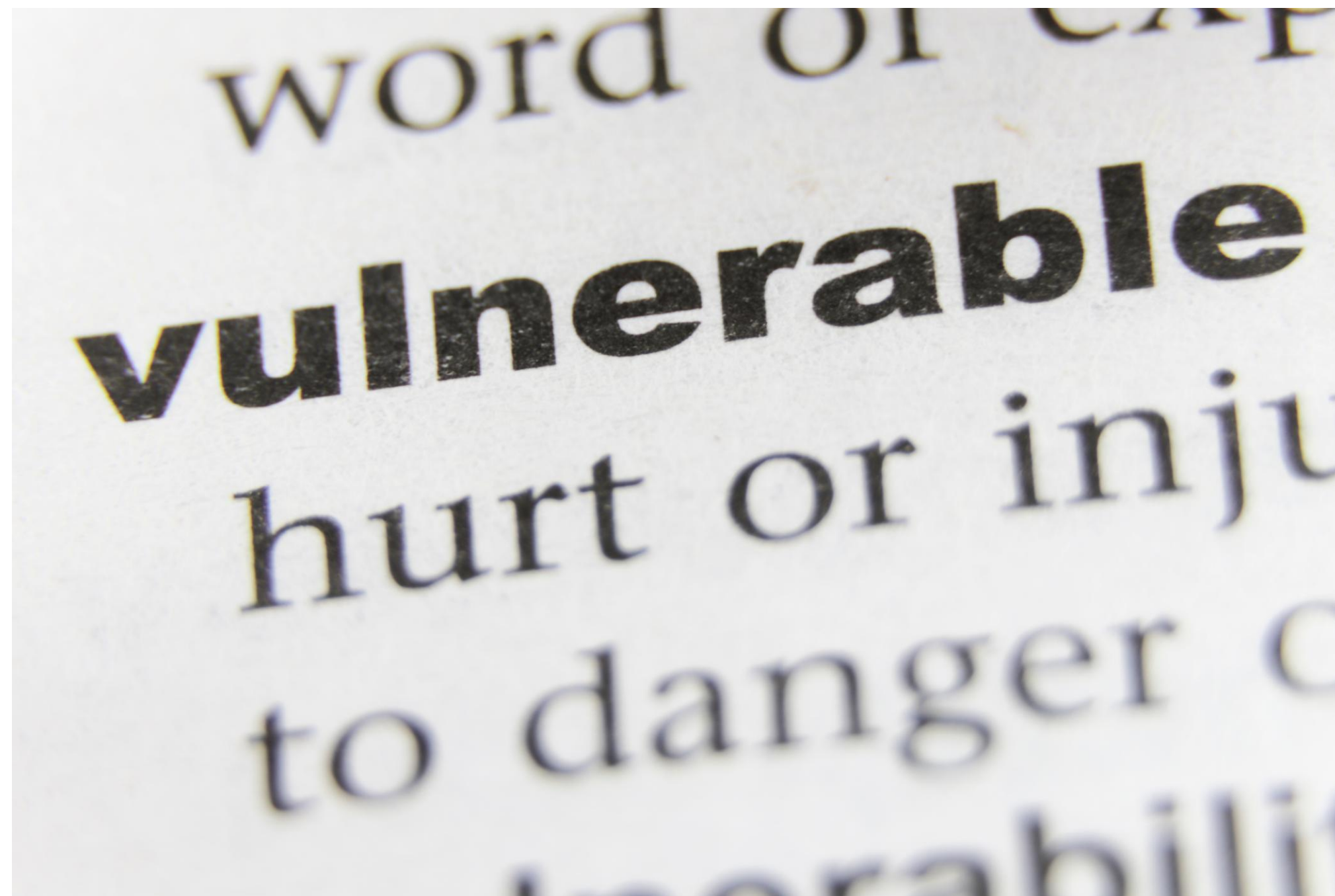


- many organizations/agencies involved in resettlement
- different categories/criteria for prioritization at different stages of the selection
- How to create common understandings and consistent practices for selection?

International research project



Research Questions



- what does it mean in practice to select the most vulnerable and leave no one behind?
- Who are these most vulnerable?
- How is vulnerability defined in the different contexts and phases of the resettlement process?

Data material

- Qualitative interviews with national immigration/integration authorities and UNHCR
- Policy documents
- Participant observation & access to case documents
- Political debates on vulnerability and resettlement

Wanted Refugees: The Forming of an Instrument Constituency for Refugee Resettlement in the European Union

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ARTICLE IN PRESS

The European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) is a new institution in the European Asylum System in the past few years. This article explores the role of the EUAA in capacity-building by looking at the development of an analytical framework of instrument constituency around resettlement. In relation to deploying the theoretical framework of instrument constituency, we argue that the development of the EUAA is a result of the development through which the European Union can facilitate the use of these instruments by Member States to create a more orderly form of migration and of asylum. Beyond being a direct solution to the problem of irregular migration, this article here reveals how new bureaucratic practices show how resettlement is continuously evolving in the European Union in the governing of migration.

Given the European Union's limited manpower and resources, we argue that the development of the EUAA is a result of the development through which the European Union can facilitate the use of these instruments by Member States to create a more orderly form of migration and of asylum. Beyond being a direct solution to the problem of irregular migration, this article here reveals how new bureaucratic practices show how resettlement is continuously evolving in the European Union in the governing of migration.

KEYWORDS: EUAA, migration bureaucracy, resettlement

1. INTRODUCTION

The role of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) Member States' response to forced migration from scholars over the past few years.² Here, we explore through which the EUAA's policy instruments are developed.

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² C. Querton, "Country Guidance, Country of Origin Information and the EUAA", *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 42, (2023), pp. 1–18.

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Article

Navigating Vulnerability and Integration: Refugee Resettlement from Rwanda to Third Countries under the Medical Needs Category

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ABSTRACT

Resettlement is a limited resource available to only a fraction of refugees. Selection criteria for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and receiving States, may impose demands on refugees to exhibit both vulnerability and integration potential to be chosen for resettlement. Drawing on empirical data from interviews with refugees from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Save the Children International in Rwanda, this article explores how medical needs criteria impact the inclusion or exclusion of refugees for resettlement. It finds that the selection criteria favour refugees with treatable and favourable prognoses, thereby excluding those with chronic or fatal illnesses or poor life expectancy. The article argues that such criteria potentially undermine the objectives of the resettlement programme by marginalising some of the most vulnerable refugees. It discusses the implications of these findings for global burden-sharing strategies, strengthening the medical infrastructure in asylum countries. The article concludes by discussing whether resettlement, in its current form, can truly serve as one of the three durable solutions for refugees with medical needs, given that it remains an option for only a select few.

KEYWORDS: Refugee Resettlement, Medical Needs, Vulnerability, Integration, Rwanda

1. INTRODUCTION

Nathan was a young refugee in Uganda. He often spoke about the difficulties of life in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement and expressed a sense of being lost. With no other options, he decided to move to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and his only hope was to find a better life there.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE



Protecting skilled Afghan women: Brain save and the politics of vulnerability

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Abstract

Considering the Afghan evacuation of 2021 and its aftermath, this article suggests the term 'brain save' to characterise emerging protection discourses and practices concerning the resettlement of skilled women refugees. Resettlement has traditionally focused on women as vulnerable because of their gender. Drawing on examples of the evacuation and prospective resettlement of Afghan women professionals, the article develops the analytic concept of brain save to label these discourses and practices. Unlike 'brain drain', brain save challenges established politics of vulnerability and has progressive potential for resettlement as a durable solution. However, it also implies problematic prioritisation of particular resettlement candidates.

1 | BRAIN SAVE: A SHIFT IN THE POLITICS OF VULNERABILITY?

Considering the 2021 Afghan evacuation and its aftermath, this article suggests the notion of 'brain save' to characterise emerging protection discourse and practices concerning skilled women refugees. The sudden Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, after 20 years of Western military occupation, triggered evacuations on an unprecedented scale, in the number of countries involved in moving and receiving evacuees and the number of Afghans resettled. More than 120,000 people were evacuated 15–31 August (Ferris, 2021).¹ Whatever one's view of this transnational response, there was an unparalleled focus on the risk to women—and on the need for female professionals, students, athletes or activists to be resettled. A joint statement of 18 August, signed by the EU, the USA and 18 other countries,² declared:

We are deeply worried about Afghan women and girls, their rights to education, work and freedom of movement. We call on those in positions of power and authority

across Afghanistan to guarantee their protection. Afghan women and girls, as all Afghan people, deserve to live in safety, security and dignity. Any form of discrimination and abuse should be prevented. We in the international community stand ready to assist them with humanitarian aid and support, to ensure that their voices can be heard. We will monitor closely how any future government ensures rights and freedoms that have become an integral part of the life of women and girls in Afghanistan during the last twenty years. August 18, 2021 (US Embassy in Norway, 2021).

This particular focus reflected the legacy of the treatment of women by previous Taliban regimes (1996–2001) but perhaps also had to do with the failure of the occupation and the desire to salvage something positive: the education and promotion of women in (urban) Afghanistan was one of the few tangible markers of success. Since then, the situation of women's rights has markedly deteriorated. As noted by the director of the International



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Vulnerability revisited

- «The most vulnerable», who are they?
- How does resettlement work in various contexts?
- The prioritization of women and girls
- Can one be too vulnerable for resettlement?
- When does resettlement cease to facilitate burden sharing?

