

# MULTI-ANNUAL PROGRAMME: ERF III 2008-13

- Initial version
- Revised version ([Version 5, 14/11/2008](#)) following dialogue with Commission
- Version revised in the light of evaluations and/or following implementation difficulties
- Version revised following the revision of the strategic guidelines

**MEMBER STATE:** United Kingdom

**FUND:** European Refugee Fund Phase III 2008-2013

**RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY:** UK Border Agency  
Central Operations and Performance Directorate Refugee  
Integration Funding Section

**PERIOD COVERED:** 2008-2013

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This Multi-Annual Programme (MAP) presents to the European Commission the United Kingdom (UK) proposals for use of the allocations provided to it through the third phase of the European Refugee Fund from 2008-2013 (ERF III).

This MAP 2008-13 is prepared in accordance with Article 18 (1) on Preparation and approval of national multi-annual programmes, of the Basic Act 573/2007/EC of the European Parliament and Council establishing the European Refugee Fund for 2008-13 (Basic Act 573/2007/EC), and the template provided in the accompanying European Commission Decision of 19 December 2007 (2008/22/EC) which lays down the rules for the implementation of Decision 573/2007/EC.

It therefore presents a description of the current situation in the UK for the eligible action areas covered by the ERF III (including reception, asylum procedures, integration, the development, monitoring and evaluation of asylum policies, resettlement, and the transfer of eligible persons between Member States), an analysis of the requirements in the UK, and a strategy to achieve these requirements.

The MAP presents the proposals within the context of the specified Strategic Guidelines outlined in the Commission Decision 2007/815/EC of 29 November 2007 implementing Decision Number 573/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the adoption of the strategic guidelines 2008-2013, and demonstrates how these proposals are compatible with other regional, national and Community instruments.

Finally, it describes the approach chosen for the implementation of the partnership principle laid down in Article 11 of the Basic Act 573/2007/EC, the provisions which will be made to ensure that the MAP is made public, and presents the draft financing plan.

***UK European Refugee Fund Responsible Authority  
Refugee Integration Funding Section  
Asylum Policy Directorate  
Home Office Border and Immigration Agency***

***14 November 2008***

## 1. SITUATION IN THE MEMBER STATE (UK)

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) is one of the main delivery arms of the Home Office, and has operated in 'shadow' form as a Home Office Executive Agency since 1 April 2008, succeeding the UK Border and Immigration Agency, which replaced the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) on 1 April 2007.<sup>1</sup>

The overall Home Office statement of purpose is to work together to protect the public. UKBA plays a vital role in this Departmental primary aim of protecting the public by maintaining secure borders and ensuring that those who do not comply with our immigration rules are removed. As an executive agency of the Home Office, UKBA supports all the Home Office's strategic objectives, which are:

1. Help people feel secure in their homes and local communities;
2. Cut crime, especially violent, drug and alcohol related crime;
3. Lead visible, responsive and accountable policing;
4. Support the efficient and effective delivery of justice;
5. Protect the public from terrorism;
6. Secure our border and control migration for the benefit of our country; and
7. Safeguard people's identity and the privileges of citizenship.

The Agency works within a policy framework set by Ministers, which covers the following areas:

- **Immigration:** The Agency considers applications from people who want to come to the UK to work, do business, visit relatives, take a holiday or settle permanently. It manages routes into the UK labour market for people who want to work here, deciding applications for work permits and entry under other work related schemes.
- **Nationality:** the Agency approves applications from people who want to become British citizens.
- **Border control and entry clearance:** the Agency annually facilitates the arrival of nearly 90 million passengers in the UK, around 12 million of whom are subject to immigration control. The Agency shares responsibility with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for UKvisas which decides applications from people who need to get permission to enter the UK before they travel.
- **Law enforcement:** as well as advising Ministers on our immigration laws, the Agency enforces them. It is the Agency's job to detect and deter illegal workers and illegal entrants, and Immigration Officers have legal powers to detain them and remove them from the country. The Agency also works closely

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<sup>1</sup> The UK Border Agency (UKBA) was created from re-organisational changes to the previous UK Border and Immigration Agency (UK BIA) merging with parts of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and UK Visa Services from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). This merger took place on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 and will resulted in the creation of the new Agency.

with the authorities in other countries to prevent organised people trafficking.

- **Asylum:** the Agency is responsible for determining all claims for asylum and asylum support made in the UK in line with our humanitarian obligations. It grants leave to remain to those whose fears of persecution are founded, provides accommodation and subsistence support to destitute asylum seekers while considering their claims, and removes people from the UK if their claims fail.
- **Appeals:** the Agency shares responsibility with the Department for Constitutional Affairs for the fast and efficient processing of appeals against immigration and asylum decisions.

The UKBA has three strategic objectives:

- we will protect our border and our national interests;
- we will tackle border tax fraud, smuggling and immigration crime;
- we will implement fast and fair decisions.

The Agency reports jointly to the Home Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. We lead on Home Office Strategic Objective 6, to secure our border and control migration for the benefit of our country. UKBA also supports departmental strategic objectives of Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). Our enforcement activities actively contribute to the delivery of departmental strategic objectives belonging to HMRC and the FCO.

Specifically, UKBA contributes to the FCO Strategic Objective 4, which is to support managed migration for Britain. UKBA leads on HMRC Strategic Objective 3 and contributes to Strategic Objectives 1 and 2:

- HMRC Strategic Objective 1 – improve the extent to which individuals and businesses pay the amount of tax due and receive the credits and payments to which they are entitled.
- HMRC Strategic Objective 2 – improve customers' experience of HMRC and improve the United Kingdom business environment.
- HMRC Strategic Objective 3 – reducing the risk of illicit import and export of material which might harm the UK's physical and social well-being.

Details of the Agency's targets and objectives are contained within UKBA's Business Plans.

The third UKBA strategic objective, to implement fast and fair decisions, is further sub-divided and will be achieved by:

- Welcoming the people and trade which benefits our country;
- Implementing fast and fair decisions that are right for Britain;
- Helping refugees and newcomers who have earned the right to stay and make Britain their home; and

- Developing and managing international alliances to support delivery of our business.

This most closely relates to the policy field covered by the European Refugee Fund 2008-2013 (ERF III).

In the past six years the UK Government has introduced four major pieces of legislation<sup>2</sup>:

- The Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002;
- The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004;
- The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006; and
- The UK Borders Act 2007.

Amongst a range of measures, these Acts have improved systems for processing asylum claims, reformed the appeals process, and established a scheme for resettling refugees from overseas to the UK.

The UK has a long history of offering sanctuary to refugees, and is a signatory to the United Nations Convention (“1951 Convention”) relating to the Status of Refugees. The UK is also a signatory to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, commonly referred to as the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).<sup>3</sup> UKBA ensures that the UK continues to offer this protection, whilst equally ensuring that those who are not entitled to benefit from the provisions of the 1951 Convention or the ECHR are dealt with swiftly and, if they have no other basis of stay here (and do not depart voluntarily), are removed.

Each claim for asylum is considered on its individual merits by specially trained caseworkers to determine whether the applicant has demonstrated a well-founded fear of persecution in his or her country of nationality or habitual residence for one of the reasons set out in the 1951 Convention. These are reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. Refugees and people with Humanitarian Protection (HP) are granted five years Leave to Remain in the UK. This leave may be reviewed just before the 5 year period ends. These policies on limited leave and review will ensure that permanent settlement is granted only to those refugees who, after five years, still need protection in the UK.

This chapter therefore presents a description of the baseline situation in the UK on the policy field covered by the ERF III’s objectives. Through statistical data, it presents the national situation and the measures taken by the UK, as well as the national resources allocated, for each of the main policy areas covered by the Fund. As specified in Basic Act 573/2007/EC Articles 2 and 3 (1), these are reception and asylum procedures, refugee integration, development and monitoring of asylum

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<sup>2</sup> Annex A lists the domestic UK legislation from 1948 onwards.

<sup>3</sup> This precludes the UK from removing certain people to another country, where for example, removing them would expose them to a real risk of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

policies, resettlement, and the transfer of refugees and asylum seekers between Member States.

## 1.1 The national situation and the migratory flows affecting it

The information presented in this section presents a descriptive overview of the situation in the UK in terms of the numbers and characteristics of asylum applications, asylum decision outcomes and appeals, asylum support, removals, refugee resettlement, and transfer of persons between EU member states.<sup>4</sup>

The figures are drawn from national statistics covering the period up to the end of 2006, except for those provided on asylum applications, initial decisions and outcomes, and removals, for which 2007 figures are given.

### 1.1.1 Asylum Applications

Excluding dependants, the number of asylum applications received in 2007 was 23,420, less than in 2006 (23,610), and continuing the fall from the peak of 84,130 in 2002 (Figure 1).

In 2006, the top ten applicant nationalities were Eritrean 2,585 (11 per cent of total applications), Afghan 2,400 (10 per cent), Iranian 2,375 (10 per cent), Chinese 1,945 (8 per cent), Somali 1,845 (8 per cent), Zimbabwean 1,650 (7 per cent), Pakistani 965 (4 per cent), Iraqi 945 (4 per cent), Nigerian 790 (3 per cent) and Indian 680 (3 per cent). In 2006, 44 per cent of all applications were from African nationals, 31 per cent were from Asian nationals, 18 per cent were from Middle Eastern and North African nationals, 5 per cent were from European nationals and 2 per cent were from the Americas.

Including dependants, asylum applications to countries within the EU25<sup>5</sup> fell by 16 per cent in 2006 from 251,300 to 210,000 (Figure 2). France received more asylum applications than any other European Union country in 2006 (19 per cent of the total EU25) followed by UK the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest (13 per cent of the total EU25). However, when the relative size of domestic populations is taken into account, the UK ranks 12<sup>th</sup> amongst European Union countries in terms of asylum seekers per head of population.

In terms of the demographic characteristics of asylum applicants, the majority of principal applicants in 2006 were under 35 years old (82 per cent), 15 per cent aged between 35 and 49, and just 3 per cent aged 50 or older (Figure 3). 70 per cent of principal applicants in 2006 were male. Over three-quarters of both male and female applicants in 2006 were less than 35 years old, similar to 2005 and 2004.

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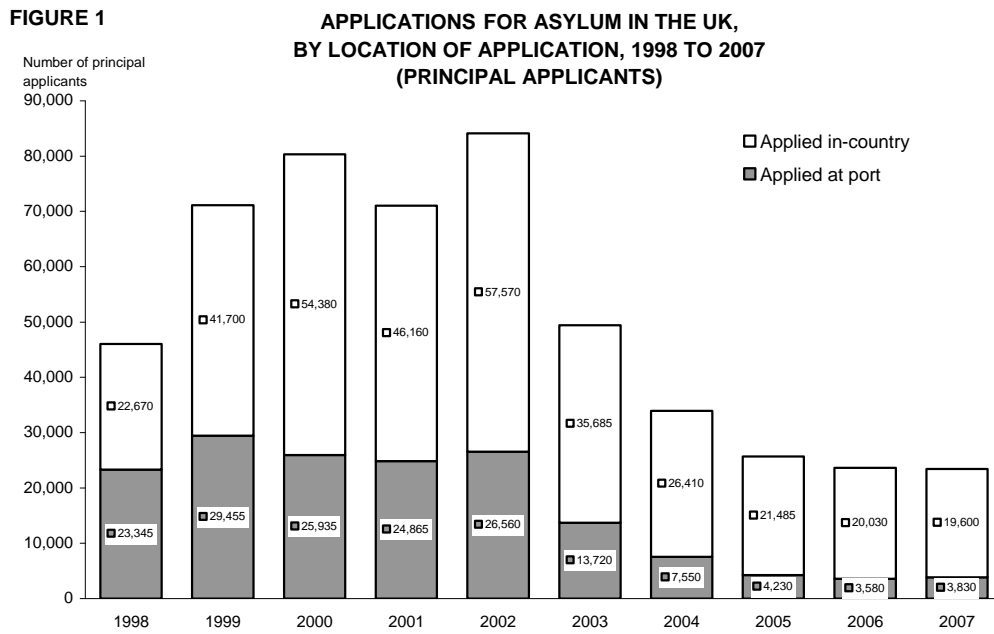
<sup>4</sup> Whilst removals are not part of the policy field covered by the European Refugee Fund III, summary data are provided here for a comprehensive overview of the national situation in the UK.

<sup>5</sup> EU25 is comprised of Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

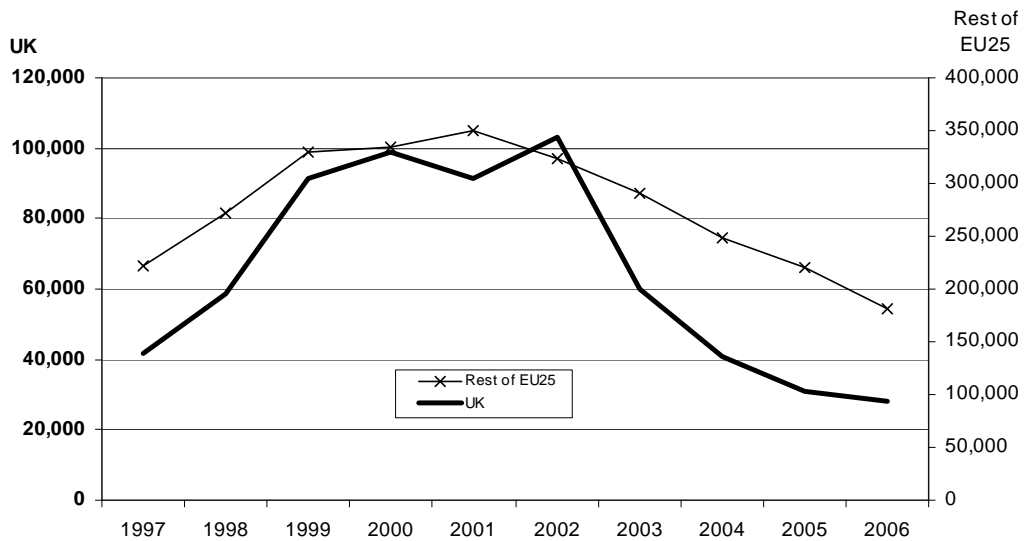
In 2006, 3,245 unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASCs) aged 17 or under applied for asylum in the UK, 10 per cent more than in 2005 (2,965). Of these, 390 were made at port and 2,860 in-country. Figure 4 illustrates the percentage breakdown between their ages. The main countries of origin were Afghanistan 965 (30 per cent), Iran 320 (10 per cent), Eritrea 320 (10 per cent), Somalia 270 (8 per cent), China 265 (8 per cent), Dem. Rep. of Congo 95 (3 per cent), Bangladesh 85 (3 per cent), Iraq 80 (2 per cent), Pakistan 70 (2 per cent) and Nigeria 65 (2 per cent).



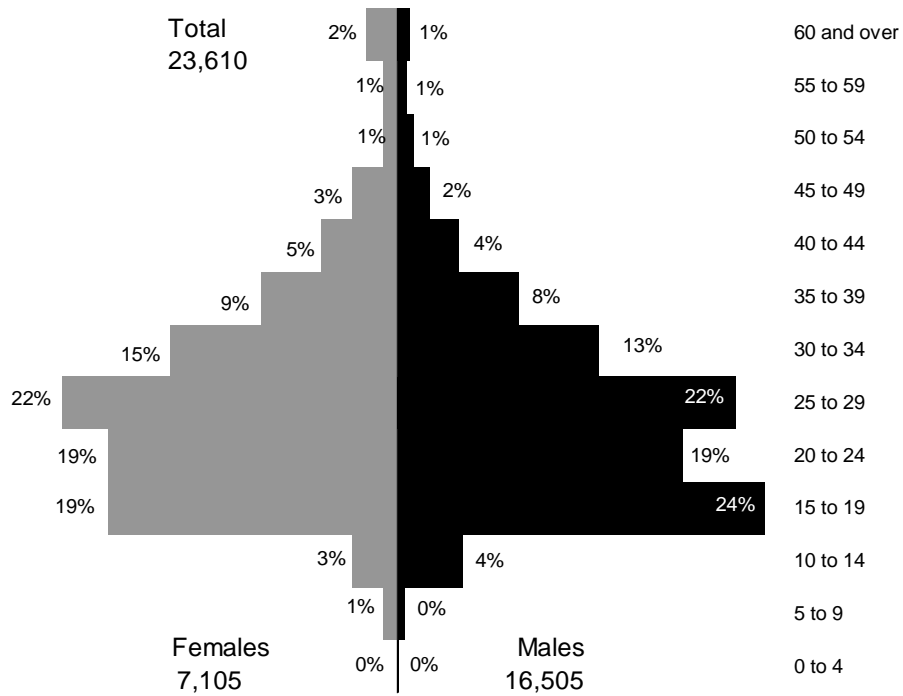
**Figure 1: Applications for asylum in the UK, by location of Application, 1998-2007**



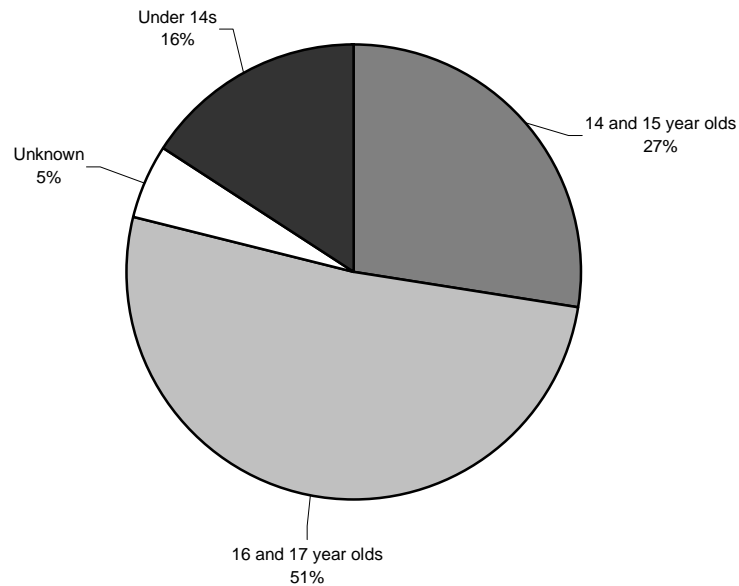
**Figure 2: Applications for Asylum in the UK and the rest of the EU25 (including Dependants)**



**Figure 3: Demographic Characteristics of Asylum Applicants – Applications for Asylum in the UK by Age and Sex, 2006 (Principle Applicants)**



**Figure 4: Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children**



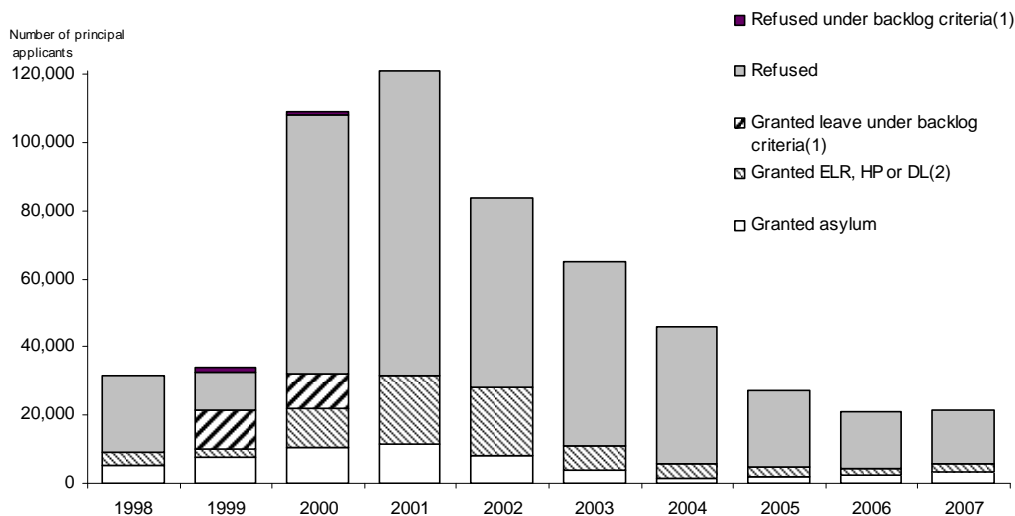
## 1.1.2 Outcomes of Asylum Applications and Appeals

Figure 5 shows that of the initial decisions made in 2006, 2,170 (10 per cent) recognised the applicant as a refugee and granted asylum, 55 (0.3 per cent) granted HP, 2,245 (11 per cent) granted DL and 16,460 (79 per cent) were refused. 1,925 (86 per cent) of the 2,245 grants of DL were to UASCs. Figure 5 also provides data for 2007, and shows the proportion granted asylum in 2007 increased slightly from 2006.

The top ten nationalities granted asylum in 2007 were Eritrean (1,090), Somali (795), Zimbabwean (250), Iranian (210), Iraqi (145), North Korean (130), Myanmar (Burmese) (95), Afghan (85), D.R. Congolese (85), and Kuwaiti (80). The main nationalities to be granted HP or DL in 2006 were Afghan (33 per cent), Iranian (12 per cent) and Somali (7 per cent).

The ten nationalities accounting for the most refusals were Iranian 1,850 refusals (84 per cent of initial decisions), Chinese 1,600 (93 per cent), Zimbabwean 1,510 (90 per cent), Eritrean 1,315 (61 per cent), Afghan 1,310 (62 per cent), Somali 905 (52 per cent), Pakistani 690 (86 per cent), Iraqi 650 (88 per cent), Indian 565 (98 per cent) and Nigerian 560 (91 per cent).

**Figure 5: Initial decisions and outcomes of asylum applications, 1998-2007**

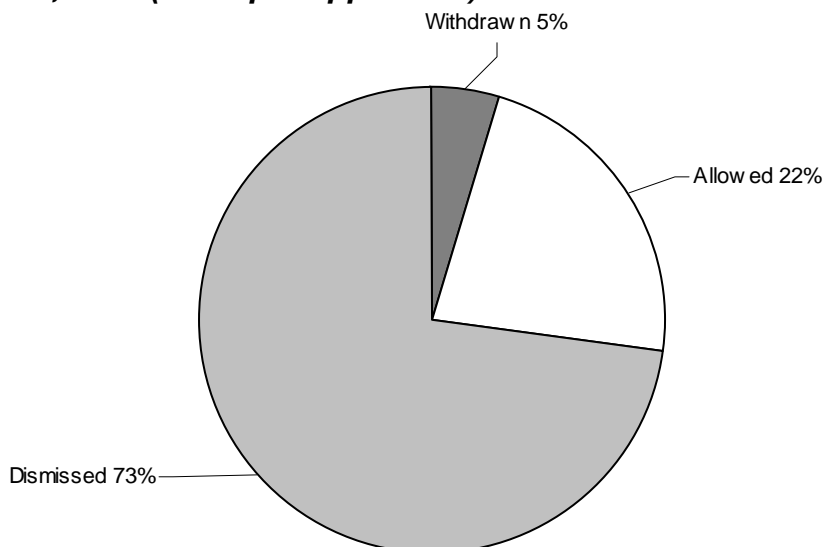


(1) Cases decided under pragmatic measures aimed at reducing the pre-96 asylum backlog.

(2) Humanitarian Protection and Discretionary Leave replaced Exceptional Leave to Remain from 1 April 2003.

In terms of asylum appeals, in 2006, a total of 14,865 asylum appeals were received by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT), 40 per cent less than in 2005. 16,095 asylum appeals were determined by Immigration Judges in 2006, 53 per cent less than in 2005. This was due to a fall in the number of initial decision refusals and a large reduction in outstanding appeals awaiting an outcome in 2005. Of these 16,095 appeals, 3,610 (22 per cent) were allowed, 11,705 (73 per cent) were dismissed and the remainder were withdrawn or abandoned (Figure 6). This compares with 17 per cent allowed and 79 per cent dismissed in 2005.

**Figure 6: Asylum Appeal Outcomes at the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal, 2006 (Principal Appellants)**



7,795 review applications were submitted in 2006, 56 per cent less than in 2005. The majority of the review applications were not allowed. 2,845 applications for permission to apply for Judicial Review in asylum related cases were lodged in 2006, compared with 2,265 in 2005. Of the 1,755 decisions made on applications for permission to apply, only 15 per cent were granted permission. Of the 40 Judicial Review hearings determined, 63 per cent were allowed and 37 per cent dismissed in 2006.

### 1.1.3 Asylum Support

In terms of applications for asylum support, in 2006 at 18,510, these were 27 per cent lower than 2005 (25,230): this was in line with lower asylum applications. 14,385 applications were terminated in 2006.

In 2006, 18,510 applications (of which 15,150 were first applications<sup>6</sup>) for asylum support were received from asylum seekers in the UK. Of the 18,510 received:

- 12,600 were applications for accommodation support (either both accommodation and subsistence or accommodation only);
- 4,645 were for subsistence only support; and
- 1,260 were either applications that were deemed invalid or the type of support had not been identified at the application stage.

The proportion of applications that were deemed invalid, or the type of support had not been identified at the application stage, remained at 7 per cent in 2006.

In 2006, 4,000 family groups and 14,510 single adults applied for support. 71 per cent of family groups applied for accommodation support compared with 67 per cent of single adults. The top three nationalities applying for support were Iranian (2,350 applications), Eritrean (2,240) and Somali (1,690).

<sup>6</sup> A first application is defined as an applicant applying for support for the first time, they may however submit further applications in the same period.

At the end of 2006, 49,295 asylum seekers (including dependants) were in receipt of support.<sup>7</sup> This was 3 per cent less than as at the end of 2005 (51,040).

36,420 asylum seekers (including dependants) were being supported in dispersed accommodation, 11,355 were receiving subsistence only support and 1,525 were supported in initial accommodation.<sup>8</sup>

Asylum seekers supported in dispersed accommodation are dispersed throughout the UK. At the end of December 2006, the top three dispersal regions in England were Yorkshire and the Humber (7,750 asylum seekers, including dependants), the North West (6,515) and the West Midlands (5,395). The top three dispersal towns in England were Leeds (2,040), Birmingham (1,835) and Manchester (1,355). Asylum seekers are also dispersed to Scotland (Glasgow 5,010) and Wales (2,525) and are accommodated in Northern Ireland if they apply for asylum in Northern Ireland.

#### **1.1.4 Removals of Failed Asylum Seekers**

Including dependants, 18,280 asylum seekers were removed in 2006, 17 per cent more than in 2005 (15,685). However, in 2007, this figure fell to 13,595 (Figure 7).

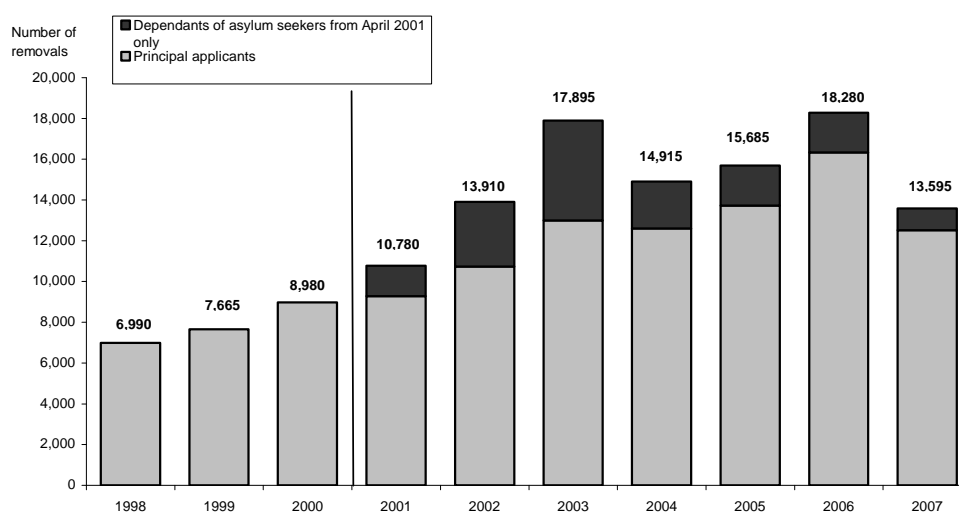
In 2006, 16,330 principal asylum applicants were removed from the UK in 2006, (including assisted returns and known voluntary departures following enforcement action). 4,630 principal applicants left under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration, an increase of 59 per cent on 2005 (2,905). The nationalities with the largest numbers of principal applicants removed or departing voluntarily in 2006 were Iraqi (1,780), Turkish (1,665), Serbian and Montenegrin (1,420), Afghan (1,185) and Pakistani (875).

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<sup>7</sup> Excludes unaccompanied asylum seeking children supported by local authorities, estimated at around 5,700 in September 2006. Excludes cases that pre-date the establishment of the asylum support system in April 2000, administered by local authorities under the Interim Provisions, estimated at up to 50 cases in December 2006.

<sup>8</sup> Including those in induction centres.

**Figure 7: Removals of Failed Asylum Seekers from the UK, 1998-2007**



### 1.1.5 Refugee Resettlement

Details of resettlement arrivals since the beginning of the UK programme for the UK financial years 2003/4 to 2006/7 are provided in Table 1. This shows that the UK reached its target of 500 resettled persons by the financial year 2006/7. Since that point, a total of 1,133 refugees have been resettled following the commencement of the programme.

**Table 1: Number and Nationality of Resettlement Arrivals to the UK during 2003/04 – 2006/07**

UK Financial Year	Number of Resettlement Arrivals	Nationalities
2003/4	14	Liberian
2004/5	136	Liberian, Congolese
2005/6	248	Burmese, Sudanese, Congolese
2006/7	507	Ethiopian, Mauritanian, Burmese, Congolese
<b>Total</b>	<b>905</b>	

### 1.1.6 Transfer of asylum seekers between EU Member States

Figures for 2007 on transfers of asylum seekers to EU member states are provided in the Tables 2 and 3 below, which show the top five

countries to which transfers were made from the UK, as well as the top five nationalities these transfers covered.<sup>9</sup>

**Table 3: Top 5 EU destination countries for Dublin II transfers from the UK**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Number of transfers</b>
Italy	374
Greece	187
Germany	156
France	139
Belgium	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>910</b>

**Table 3: Top 5 nationalities transferred from the UK to EU Member States under Dublin II provisions**

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Number of transfers</b>
Eritrea	264
Afghanistan	158
Iran	112
Iraq	91
Somalia	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>686</b>

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<sup>9</sup> These figures are based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, is subject to change and should be treated as provisional.

## **1.2 The measures undertaken by the Member State so far**

This section describes the reception and asylum procedures in the UK, including the treatment of vulnerable groups, the provisions for the integration of those granted full or subsidiary refugee protection, the evaluation and monitoring of asylum policies through research and the provision of country of origin information, as well as how asylum seekers are transferred from the UK to other Member States where they have a previous asylum claim.

### **1.2.2 Reception conditions and asylum procedures**

The UK's New Asylum Model (NAM), fast track processing through the Detained Fast Track and Non-Suspensive Appeals, and asylum support provisions for those in the determination process or with a negative decision, are presented in this section. The final part outlines the particular provisions the UK makes for dealing with vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

#### **1.2.2. i) Asylum Processing: Increasing Efficiency – the New Asylum Model (NAM)**

The UK has developed a New Asylum Model (NAM) for processing asylum applications. NAM is part of the Government's Five Year Strategy on Asylum and Immigration (published on 7 February 2005) which sets out its plans for the asylum and immigration system over the next five years. NAM introduced faster, more tightly-managed processes for all new asylum claimants. It expands the use of detention under our fast track schemes but also introduced closer contact management for claimants who are not detained. Closer management of non-detained cases is achieved through the use of managed accommodation, regular reporting requirements, serving the outcome of appeals in person and linking an applicant's access to support to their compliance with the process. All new cases were processed through the New Asylum Model in 2007 and onwards.

A single case owner deals with each case throughout the process from initial decision, through appeal to the final outcome. This is known as 'end-to-end case management'. The case owner is responsible for managing all key aspects of the process: interview, decision, any appeal, support issues, contact management, documentation, and integration or voluntary return / removal. The case owner has regular face-to-face contact with the applicant. In non-detained routes, this is through reporting events and outreach visits.

Training for case owners has been increased, through a dedicated 11 week foundation training programme which will ultimately lead to accreditation at the UK Law Society's Level 2.

Case owners deal with non-detained cases in Asylum Teams under a regional structure. A total of 25 Asylum Teams have been established across the UK, based in London, Liverpool, Leeds, Solihull, Glasgow



and Cardiff. These teams have been dealing with all new asylum intake from 5 March 2007.

The Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) programme has been integrated into the asylum system to ensure that asylum seekers are continuously made aware of the option at appropriate stages in an applicants claim. This can include at interview, decision, appeal, accommodation / support provision, reporting / contact management, and detention.

As part of their training under NAM, case owners are expected to raise awareness of the voluntary return programme and advise potential applicants on where they can obtain further advice / information. The provision of this information utilises a range of communication channels which can include written, verbal and audio-visual media in order to promulgate this message effectively. In addition UKBA works closely with IOM's regional offices to utilise opportunities for information sharing where appropriate. For example, through dedicated AVR counters manned by IOM staff at reporting centres.

Initial awareness raising AVR literature and other activities are designed to be generic enough to apply to a wide range of applicants. The next stage of information provision involves more detailed counselling and advice sessions with IOM (or one of their partners) to ensure an enquiry is eligible and, if so, is tailored to the individual's circumstances, needs and concerns.

### **1.2.2. ii) Fast Track Processes: Detained Fast Track and Non-Suspensive Appeals (NSA)**

A key part of the UK's asylum policy is the fast tracking of asylum claims that can be quickly determined. There are two primary 'fast tracks': the Detained Fast Track, and the Non-Suspensive Appeals (NSA) process.

Firstly, the Detained Fast Track is geared to applicants being detained pending a quick decision on their asylum claims. It operates at both the Harmondsworth and Yarls Wood (females only) Immigration Removal Centres.

Secondly, individuals whose claims are certified can only appeal against the refusal of their asylum claim once they have left the UK. This is known as a 'Non-Suspensive Appeal' (NSA). The Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (Section 94 (4)) made provision for a list of countries from which asylum or human rights claims are to be certified as clearly unfounded unless the applicant is able to satisfy the Secretary of State that their asylum claim is not.<sup>10</sup> When assessing the asylum claim of a resident of one of these countries, the Secretary of

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<sup>10</sup> 24 countries are currently on the list: Albania, Bolivia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Brazil, Ecuador, India, Jamaica, Macedonia, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Peru, Serbia (including Kosovo), South Africa and Ukraine are listed in full. Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria and Sierra Leone are listed in respect of men only.

State must consider whether the claim is clearly unfounded and, if he finds that it is, he must certify it. There is no assumption that all claims from people entitled to reside in the listed countries will be refused and certified. Each claim is considered on its individual merits. The Non-Suspensive Appeals process operates at the Oakington Reception Centre.

The average timescale from making a claim to removal is one month, including any appeal. Fast-tracking asylum claims has resulted in significant savings in processing times and asylum-seeker support costs.

### **1.2.2. iii) Asylum Support**

Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (“the 1999 Act”) ended asylum seekers’ eligibility for social security benefits and introduced a new system of support which came into force in April 2000. The provision of support is an integral part of the UKBA asylum strategy.

Delivery of support to asylum seekers is managed on a regional basis, mirroring the regionalisation of UKBA operations.

Asylum seekers who are destitute may be eligible for asylum support under Section 95 of the 1999 Act while their claim is being considered. ‘Section 95 support’ is provided subject to various terms and conditions.<sup>11</sup> There are three packages of support available:

- Subsistence and accommodation;
- Subsistence only; and
- Accommodation only.

Accommodation is provided on a “no-choice” basis in one of the designated areas in which there is a ready supply of accommodation. These are normally away from London and the South East. The accommodation is provided through both the public and private sectors in accordance with contracts that were the subject of a competitive procurement process during 2005.

The current levels of support for asylum seekers are set at 70% of Income Support levels for adults and 100% for dependants aged under eighteen years. They are updated each year when Income Support levels are raised. The level of support reflects the temporary nature of support to an asylum seeker and the fact that supported asylum seekers do not pay Council tax nor utility bills.

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<sup>11</sup> These may be suspended or discontinued in circumstances set out in Regulation 20 of the Asylum Support Regulations 2000.

Asylum seekers in receipt of accommodation and subsistence support receive fully furnished accommodation including cooking utensils.

Prior to the introduction of the asylum seeker support scheme the London Boroughs and other parts of the South East carried a disproportionate share of the responsibility for supporting asylum seekers. Support for asylum seekers is now co-ordinated on a national basis and asylum seekers are dispersed around the country. Asylum seekers are dispersed to areas where there is a ready supply of suitable and available accommodation and where it should be possible to develop the support of voluntary and community groups.

Voluntary sector organisations are funded by UKBA to provide initial accommodation and associated support services for asylum seekers while their asylum claim is being assessed. The voluntary organisations include the Refugee Council, Refugee Action, Migrant Helpline, the Scottish Refugee Council and the Welsh Refugee Council. These agencies are grant funded to provide such reception services as well as a network of regionally based One Stop Services to provide support and independent advice to asylum seekers and refugees in the dispersal regions.

Initial accommodation and on-site independent advice services, which support the end-to end asylum process, are provided in close proximity to the NAM Asylum case owner. These services are currently provided by a mixture of private, local authority and voluntary sector providers. From April 2008 it is envisaged that the accommodation will be provided exclusively by the target providers with the independent advice service also co-located and provided by the voluntary sector. Asylum seekers eligible for this 'Section 98 support' will normally spend a period of between 21 to 28 days in initial accommodation before transferring to Section 95 support.

Asylum seekers whose applications have been refused and whose appeal rights are exhausted are required to leave the UK. However, destitute failed asylum seekers who are unable to leave immediately due to circumstances beyond their control may be eligible for support under Section 4 of the 1999 Act providing they would otherwise be destitute and one or more of the conditions set out in the Immigration and Asylum (Provision of Accommodation to Failed Asylum-Seekers) Regulations 2005 is met.

Namely, these provisions are:

- The person is taking all reasonable steps to leave the UK or place themselves in a position in which he is able to leave the UK;

- The person is unable to leave the UK by reason of a physical impediment to travel or some other medical reason;
- The person is unable to leave the UK because in the opinion of the Secretary of State there is currently no viable route of return available;
- The person has made an application for judicial review of a decision in relation to their asylum claim or in England and Wales or Northern Ireland, has applied for such a judicial review and been granted permission or leave to proceed;
- The provision of accommodation is necessary for the purpose of avoiding a breach of a person's Convention rights, within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998

'Section 4 support' is intended as a temporary and limited form of support and is kept under review. In March 2005 a right of appeal against refusal and discontinuation of Section 4 support was introduced. Support is provided in the form of self-catering accommodation with vouchers to the value of £35 per week (approximately €51) to purchase food and essential toiletries. In some cases, full-board accommodation may be provided depending on availability. The legislation does not allow for cash to be provided.

#### **1.2.2. iv) Treatment of vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied asylum seeking children, gender issues, victims of torture, mental health issues and applicants with disabilities**

UKBA has a variety of specialist procedures and guidance documentation on processes for dealing with vulnerable groups within the asylum determination system. These include all stages of the process, from screening and initial reception, interviewing, and detention, to reporting and decision making. The procedures are outlined here, in addition to relevant procedural guidance and statutory requirements.

##### ***Screening/initial reception:***

At the beginning of the process during screening (where fingerprints and photographs are taken), if an applicant has a clear and urgent care need due to their mental health or other reason such as disability, they are referred directly to a local authority who will provide them with suitable care. Screening officers are not medically trained but will be alert for signs of illness.

If following screening the applicant is provided with UKBA initial accommodation, health screening is offered and will include an assessment of current health issues and immediate concerns will be addressed. Those with a history of physical or psychological maltreatment, or mental health problems will be seen by a health team for appropriate treatment / counselling.

Where there is independent evidence of mental illness, torture or trafficking the applicant will not normally be routed to the Detained Fast Track process.

***Detention:***

In other cases, UKBA policy is to fast track any claim where it is believed a quick decision can be made, whilst exercising flexibility over timescales according to the individual circumstances of the subject and the case. There are published guidelines for the exercise of flexibility.

Where it becomes apparent that a quick decision is not possible, individuals will be removed from the fast-track process whether at the 1<sup>st</sup> instance determination or in the course of the appeal process.

Those who are detained are entitled to legal assistance and representation in exactly the same way as those who are not detained.

Individuals in the fast-track process have the same rights of appeal to the independent appellate authorities, and equal access to legal representation.

***Reporting:***

In non-detained cases, the case owner decides what type of reporting and frequency would best suit the applicant in order to maintain close contact management and facilitate relationship building. Case owners will exercise discretion when setting reporting frequencies and for cases where there are compassionate circumstances, a low reporting frequency will usually be set.

Case owners maintain regular contact with the applicant and, if appropriate, consider options such as pastoral visits to ensure that contact is maintained.

***Interviews vulnerable groups including torture victims, women, and others:***

UKBA recognises that special considerations may need to be taken into account when undertaking interviews with applicants from vulnerable groups. For example, victims of torture may experience particular difficulties in recounting their basis of claim for asylum in the UK. The difficulty may be because of the sensitive nature of those experiences that are to be recounted and any previous experience that the applicant may have had with officials in power.

If there is medical evidence of mental illness which indicates an applicant is unable to be interviewed, then it may be possible to obtain sufficient information about the basis of the claim through written enquiries.

Equally, requests by a legal representative or the applicant for a gender specific interviewing officer will be accommodated as far as possible, especially if there is evidence on the case file that this has been

requested in advance of the interview. The interviewing officer should ensure that he/she is aware of gender related issues because this may affect how the applicant responds during interview.

***Decision-making:***

In instances where there is evidence of, for example, mental illness, greater reliance will be placed upon objective evidence, such as conditions in the country of origin, than upon statements by the applicant on which it would be difficult to rely.

***Guidance and statutory requirements on the treatment of vulnerable groups:***

The Government has a commitment to making the UK as safe a place as possible for children and to ensure that they receive opportunities and support that are relevant. The recent Government Green Paper on immigration reform, "The Path to Citizenship", published on 20 February 2008, stated that the UK will "Honour our asylum obligations but make - and enforce - decisions much faster, and with a more sensitive treatment for children."

UKBA considers that a Code of Practice focused on the occasions it has contact with children in the UK is the best way to do this, given its role and the short-lived but numerous occasions that it has contact with children. A code of practice has become a statutory requirement on UKBA following the passage of the UK Borders Act 2007. This Code of Practice, Keeping Children Safe from Harm, is now the subject of a public consultation process, which closes at the end of April 2008.

The Code of Practice will make it much more difficult for those seeking to bring children into the UK for exploitation and trafficking. It will also make it much more difficult for these situations to develop after entry and go undetected.

In October 2007, UKBA introduced a Keeping Children Safe Learning and Development programme for all staff members. As part of this programme, more advanced training will be given to staff members that come into direct or indirect contact with children on a frequent basis. This training will focus on keeping children safe from harm and cover issues relating to communicating effectively, the remit of and referral to children's services, legal frameworks and trafficking. This more advanced training will be given to all UKBA staff who interview unaccompanied children and make decisions on their applications, in addition to the process guidance on processing asylum applications from children which is available.

Additional vulnerable groups include women, older, disabled, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) asylum seekers, and torture survivors.

UKBA decision-makers are trained to be fully aware of the sensitivities of dealing with these groups of vulnerable applicants. There is, for example, guidance on the consideration of gender-based claims, as well as detailed guidance on the interviewing of torture survivors and other vulnerable groups, published on the UKBA website:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/asylumprocessguidance/specialcases/>

Interviews and decisions are extensively sampled by our own internal Quality Audit team and by the UNHCR.

In addition, UKBA is exploring ways to better identify vulnerable applicants earlier in the asylum process, including how UNHCR's Heightened Risk Identification Tool might be incorporated into the screening process.

### **1.2.3 Integration of refugees with full or subsidiary status**

The developments in the UK on refugee integration, including the establishment of the Refugee Integration and Employment Service (RIES) and changes to consultation with key stakeholders, are outlined here.

#### **1.2.3 i) The Refugee Integration and Employment Service (RIES)**

Since 2005, the UK has been piloting an integration service for newly granted refugees. The *Sunrise* service offers each refugee a personal caseworker to assist in achieving integration goals.

On 23 October 2006, the Home Office published a consultation document to seek views on its proposals for an overhaul of the way in which Government-funded refugee integration services were delivered. The proposals centred on the establishment of a core set of services to be made available to refugees across England. The devolved administrations decided on the case for analogous changes for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The proposals moved considerably beyond those set out in the then national integration strategy "*Integration Matters*".

As a result of ongoing evaluation of the *Sunrise* pilot, incorporation of learning from the *Time Together* mentoring project (originally co-financed through the ERF I 2000-2004) and responses to the public consultation in 2006, the UK has developed an integration service which combines the best of the earlier programmes, enhanced by a sharper focus on employment.

The RIES will offer a 12 month service formed of three complementary elements:

- an advice and support service offering assistance to new refugees in addressing initial critical needs such as housing, education and access to benefits;
- an employment advice service helping refugees enter sustained employment at the earliest opportunity; and
- a mentoring service offering the opportunity for refugees to be matched with a mentor from the receiving community.

The RIES will be available to those over the age of 18 granted refugee status and humanitarian protection, and whose claims have been handled by the UK's asylum teams through the regional NAM. The RIES will provide a standard level of service to new refugees, wherever they are living, at the time their status is granted.

Within a few days of receiving status, the RIES will offer new refugees the advice and support of a personal case manager who, through the use of a personal integration plan, will work with the refugee to help meet urgent needs. In addition, each refugee will be offered dedicated support aimed at overcoming barriers to employment and to improving the number of refugees securing sustained employment. Our expectation is that at least 30% of refugees accepting the RIES will find work within 12 months of receiving status. The mentoring service will facilitate the opportunity to enter into a one to one relationship through which the mentor will share knowledge and experience, and offer friendship to the refugee.

The RIES is being procured through competitive tender. Organisations selected to deliver the service will be paid on a unit cost basis. We anticipate twelve regional contracts being awarded in May 2008 with roll out of services across the UK complete by October 2008.

### **1.2.3 ii) Stakeholder Engagement on Refugee Integration**

Along with the changes in its refugee integration strategy, the Government also reformed the arrangements for its regular consultation on matters affecting refugees as an integral part of its wider approach to stakeholder management in UKBA. The National Refugee Integration Forum was terminated, with arrangements made to continue the project work undertaken under its auspices. A new National Asylum Stakeholder Forum was established, streamlining engagement with stakeholders working in asylum and asylum-related areas, including refugee integration. Two levels of membership exist: some organisations attend meetings; others receive e-mailed minutes and agendas, and are consulted on opinions electronically where appropriate.

### ***1.2.4 Development of asylum policies through evaluation and country of origin information***

The UK develops and monitors and evaluates its asylum policies through the research and statistics programme conducted by the Immigration Research Service, and the provision of country of origin information by the Country of Origin Information Service (COI). Further detail on these two services is provided here.

#### **1.2.4 i) UK Home Office Border and Immigration Agency Immigration Research and Statistics (IRS)**

The Immigration Research and Statistics (IRS) publishes statistics and results of its research programme. All social researchers are members of 'Government Social Research' (GSR) and the IRS Head of Research is



Head of Profession for social research in the Home Office. The professional standards expected of GSR members are set out on the GSR website:

[http://www.gsr.gov.uk/professional\\_guidance/index.asp#prof](http://www.gsr.gov.uk/professional_guidance/index.asp#prof)

All IRS statisticians are part of the Government Statistical Service, which provides the professional equivalent of GSR for these specialists.

IRS collects and publishes statistics on immigration control, enforcement, citizenship and asylum as part of the National Statistics work programme, to inform Parliament, policy makers and the public about the work and performance of the Home Office, allowing the impact of Government policies and actions to be assessed.

Research is carried out on a wide range of immigration and asylum-related topics. In the past, the priorities for IRS have been asylum and asylum support, although projects also cover a wider range of immigration-related topics including non-asylum migration flows and the integration of refugees who settle in the UK.

The current asylum research programme covers a range of topics such as understanding migration, including asylum seeking, the asylum process and supporting asylum seekers. The goals of research on asylum are to:

- support delivery of asylum and immigration policies and programmes, such as the Gateway Programme and SUNRISE pilot project;
- develop knowledge about asylum and immigration; and
- develop methods for research with asylum seekers and other migrants.

Additionally, the immigration research priorities include research on:

- managed migration;
- citizenship;
- the illegally resident population;
- illegal migrants, enforcement and returns;
- citizenship, social cohesion and migrants; and
- the European Migration Network.

The diversity of the programme is illustrated by IRS publications. These can be accessed via:

[http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration\\_research\\_pubs.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration_research_pubs.html)

The UK is a key player in the European Migration Network (EMN), which undertakes to improve the availability of and access to information concerning migration and asylum at Member State level, in order to support policy and decision making in the EU.

Firstly, EMN responds to existing and new information needs in the form of specifically designed studies. Secondly, EMN monitors the multidimensional phenomenon of migration and asylum and identifies information gaps by collecting and documenting data and other resources related to research and networking activities. Thirdly, the EMN has the task of establishing a multi-level network to aid its activities. At

the European level, EMN members meet regularly, and network and collaborate with other European level institutions and organisations.

The network draws together and evaluates existing data and information from research and evaluative studies. The UK research programme feeds into the syntheses conducted by the EMN on the broad range of asylum and migration issues.

#### **1.2.4 ii) UK Home Office Country of Origin Information (COI)**

The Country of Origin Information Service (COI) Service is located within the Asylum Policy Directorate (APD) of UKBA. It is a team of specialist country officers whose job is to research, collate and summarise information on countries giving rise to asylum claims in the UK. Country officers monitor the situation in their countries daily and have access to the most up-to-date sources.

The function of COI Service is to provide accurate, up to date, objective and sourced information on asylum seekers' countries of origin for use by UKBA officials at all stages of the asylum determination process. The role of COI Service is solely to provide objective information. It does not provide advice on matters of policy, decision making, credibility, risk assessment, or safety of returns.

All COI Service products focus on human rights issues and matters frequently raised in asylum and human rights claims. They are compiled from reliable material produced by a wide range of external information sources such as the US State Department, UNHCR, human rights organisations, and news media. A key strength of COI Service products is that they are all in the public domain and are based on published or unclassified source material. Hyperlinks are provided within the COI products to most of the original source documents referred to. COI Service products do not contain any UKBA opinion or policy. They can be accessed at:

[http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration\\_research\\_pubs.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration_research_pubs.html)

The main products COI Service products are:

**1) COI Reports:** These are detailed summaries compiled from material produced by a wide range of external information sources. Each report focuses on the main asylum and human rights issues in the country, but also provides background information on geography, economy and history. COI Reports are produced on the 20 countries generating the most asylum applications in the UK and updated frequently, as required.

**2) COI Key Documents:** For countries that generate fewer asylum applications, ranking 21-50 on the asylum intake list, we provide a product called 'COI Key Documents'. This product brings together all the main source documents that would be provided with a COI Report, but with a brief country profile and index rather than an actual report. COI Key Documents are updated annually.

**3) COI Bulletins:** Bulletins are occasionally issued when it is necessary to provide information at short notice in response to emerging events or in relation to a country for which a COI Report is not produced.

**4) COI Fact Finding Mission Reports:** These are reports produced by COI Service following fact finding missions to countries of origin to obtain information not available from existing sources.

**5) COI Request Service:** COI Service also operates an information request service, responding to specific enquiries for information that is not available in existing COI products.

All material is produced to recognised quality standards and subject to public review by the independent Advisory Panel on Country Information (<http://www.apci.org.uk>), and can be accessed via:

[http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country\\_reports.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html)

The UK is at the forefront of COI production in the EU. It produces COI on the widest range of countries out of all our EU partners, which is open, transparent, and published. This, together with fact that the products are all in English, makes UK COI products widely used by other countries. The UK is also a key participant at several EU fora, including the EU Common COI Guidelines project and Eurasil, for which specific details are:

- **Draft EU Common COI Guidelines**

In 2006 the UK collaborated on an EU ARGO funded Project with Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Switzerland to establish EU guidelines for the use and validation of factual COI. The EC envisages a high level of harmonisation of the COI used by MS and the establishment of common standards will underpin this. The draft EU Common COI Guidelines were circulated to all EU MS, and an evaluation of how effective they have been in practice was conducted at the end of 2007.

- **EURASIL**

EURASIL (the EU network for asylum practitioners) is the expert forum of providers of COI on countries that generate asylum seekers to the European Union. Eurasil provides advice and recommendations to the European Commission, which in turn advises and informs the Council of Europe.

### ***1.2.5 Resettlement***

The UK Gateway Protection Programme offers a legal route for refugees to be resettled to the UK. The vast majority of refugees remain in their area of origin, often in very difficult circumstances.

The UK's refugee resettlement programme is part of a balanced immigration strategy - tackling abuse of the asylum system by people not

in need of protection, while opening managed migration routes and better integration of those with the right to settle here.

Refugees must be referred to the programme by UNHCR, after which they are assessed by Home Office staff to determine whether they are refugees and have no possibility of returning safely to their home country. UKBA also assesses whether their human rights are at risk in the country where they sought refuge and whether they have any long-term security in the country where they are currently living.

The UK also requires all applicants to pass a health check and security screening and may exclude an applicant whose resettlement would not be conducive to the public good.

The current target is 500 persons per UK financial year. However, for 2008-9, the UK wishes to develop the programme further, by increasing its target to 750 resettlement cases.

### **1.2.6 Transfer of asylum seekers and refugees between Member States through the Dublin system**

Provisions in Schedule 3 to the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004 ("the 2004 Act") and paragraph 345 of the Immigration Rules provide the legal basis for the removal of asylum seekers from the UK to a safe third country. Provisions in Part 2 of Schedule 3 to the 2004 Act recognise the particular status of those European countries which are part of the arrangements for determining responsibility for asylum seekers set out in the Dublin Regulation (EC) No. 343/2003 and the supporting Eurodac database of fingerprint images established by the Eurodac Regulation (EC) No. 2725/2000 ("the Dublin system").

The vast majority of the UK's activity in transferring asylum seekers to safe third countries takes place under Part 2 of Schedule 3 to the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004, supported by the Dublin system. The UK strongly supports the approach to determining responsibility for asylum applicants enshrined in the Dublin system, which it views as a vital aspect of a Common European Asylum System. That the European Commission's Evaluation Report of the Dublin system (June 2007) supported continued reliance on its mechanism for allocating responsibility for asylum seekers in the EU, Norway and Iceland is welcomed by the UK.

In 2007, the majority of transfers through this system were made to Italy, Greece, Germany and France.<sup>12</sup>


The UK is establishing an Italian Asylum Liaison Officer, through ERF II (2005-2007) 2007 Annual Programme. This project aims to improve reception conditions and the efficiency and quality of asylum procedures,

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<sup>12</sup> The figures from which this ranking is drawn are based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, is subject to change, and should be treated as provisional.

as defined in Article 5(f) of Basic Act 2004/904/EC establishing the ERF II (2005-2007). To this end a new post has been created, which is based in Italy. The post will assist in ensuring a more robust implementation of the 'Dublin II Regulation' between Italy and the UK. The UK will benefit from the enhanced, direct co-operation with the Italian authorities on interpretation of the Dublin agreement.

The voluntary transfer of refugees or asylum seekers between European Member States is not widespread practice in the UK.



## 1.3 The total national resources allocated

### 1.3.1 Introduction

This section presents an overview of the national resources allocated to the policy field covered by the Fund, through a combination of data on staff and financial resource allocations.

### 1.3.2 Asylum reception and asylum procedures

UKBA employs approximately 18,500 staff, which work on the full range of immigration and asylum matters, including asylum reception and determination procedures and processes, resettlement, and research and evaluation services.

### 1.3.3 Integration

Three funding sources which assist the integration of refugees with full or subsidiary forms of refugee protection status include:

- national funding streams;
- core or strategic grants to selected voluntary sector organisations; and
- ERF II co-financing for externally tendered grants delivered by organisations in the voluntary sector, local or other national authorities.

The UK has operated three national funding streams, namely the Challenge Fund (CF), the Purposeful Activities for Asylum Seekers Fund (PAF), and the Refugee Community Development Fund (RCDF). Table 4 presents the value of each of these for the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, these funding streams have been terminated, with operational delivery completed by the financial year 2007-8.

**Table 4: Values of UK National Funding Streams for Refugee Integration**

National Funding Stream	Financial Year	Total Value (£m)	Total Value (€m)
Challenge Fund	2006-07	1.5	2.02
Challenge Fund	2007/08	0.44	0.59
Purposeful Activities for Asylum Seekers	2006-07	0.75	1.01
Purposeful Activities for Asylum Seekers	2007/08	0.11	0.15
Refugee Community Development	2006-07	0.66	0.89
Refugee Community Development	2007/08	-	-
<b>Totals</b>		<b>3.46</b>	<b>4.66</b>

Resources from core and strategic grants to variety of voluntary sector organisations, in 2006/07 approximately £6.355m / €9.409m was provided. In line with a phased termination of these strategic grants by

the end of financial year 2007/08, except for the core Refugee Councils of the UK, Scotland and Wales, this figure had decreased slightly to £6.066m / €8.981m.

Resources from the ERF II on integration projects amount to €4.089m / £2.762m. Annually, this equates to €1.451m / £980k in 2005, €1,599m / £1.08m in 2006, and €1,039m / £702k in 2007.

#### **1.3.4 Development of asylum policies through evaluation and country of origin information**

IRS employs approximately 40 staff, including specialist researchers and statisticians. There are approximately 25 COI Service staff.

IRS' research budget for UK financial year 2007-8 amounted to £800,000, for research and evaluations across its work programme on asylum and immigration.

#### **1.3.5 Resettlement**

The Gateway Protection Programme total costs are approximately £9.4 m / €13.91m. This gives an average unit cost in the range of £12,000-£19,000 / €17,767-€28,131, when applied to the targets of 500 – 750 resettled refugees per financial year.

#### **1.3.6 Transfer of Refugees between Member States through the Dublin system**

The total costs of the Italian Asylum Liaison Officer through the ERF II 2007 Annual Programme are €103,642/ £70,000.

The voluntary transfer of refugees or asylum seekers between European Member States is not widespread practice in the UK.

## 2. ANALYSIS OF REQUIREMENTS IN THE MEMBER STATE

### 2.1 The requirements in the Member State in relation to the baseline situation

#### 2.1.1 Introduction

As presented in Chapter 1, the UKBA's strategic objectives are:

- we will protect our border and our national interests;
- we will tackle border tax fraud, smuggling and immigration crime;
- we will implement fast and fair decisions.

Details of the Agency's targets and objectives are contained within UKBA's Business Plans.

The third UKBA strategic objective, to implement fast and fair decisions, is further sub-divided and will be achieved by:

- Welcoming the people and trade which benefits our country;
- Implementing fast and fair decisions that are right for Britain;
- Helping refugees and newcomers who have earned the right to stay and make Britain their home; and
- Developing and managing international alliances to support delivery of our business.

This most closely relates to the policy field covered by the European Refugee Fund 2008-2013 (ERF III).

The UK baseline situation described in Chapter 1, Section 1.2 and Section 1.3 demonstrates the establishment of a mature and robust asylum determination and support system, with special provisions for vulnerable groups, a dedicated research and statistical service evaluating and developing UK asylum policies, a highly specialised country of origin information service, plus effective systems and processes for the transfer of asylum seekers between Member States.

Concerning the use of financial support from the ERF III, the two key requirements in the UK are therefore actions specifically relating to:

- Integration; and
- Resettlement.

These are provided for by Article 3 of the Basic Act No 573/2007/EC (1) (b) *Integration of persons referred to in Article 6 whose stay in a particular Member State is of a lasting and durable nature*, and Article 3 (1) (d) *Resettlement of persons referred to in Article 6 (e)*.



The three eligible action areas of asylum reception and determination procedures, policy development, and transfers between Member States are lower priorities when assessing the UK requirement in relation to the baseline situation.

Therefore, these actions, provided for by Basic Act No 573/2007/EC Article 3 (1) (a) *Reception Conditions and Asylum Procedures*, (c) *Enhancement of ... capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate their asylum policies ...*, and (e) *Transfer of persons falling within the categories referred to in Article 6 (a) and (b) ... and ... (c)*, are not key requirements for the use of ERF III funds.

The main requirements on integration and resettlement are now presented in more detail. This is followed by a description of the requirements in relation to asylum reception and determination procedures, policy development, and transfers between Member States.

### **2.1.2 Requirements relating to Integration**

As outlined in Chapter 1, UKBA's strategic objectives clearly state that assisting refugees to make Britain their home is a priority. In relation to Article 3 (1) (b) *Integration of persons referred to in Article 6 whose stay in a particular Member State is of a lasting and durable nature* of the Basic Act 573/2007/EC, the UK requirement is for support which adds value to and complements the current national provisions.

Sections 1.2.3 and 1.3.3 outline the current situation in regard to integration provision in the UK through the new RIES. This will provide a core of support to all new refugees, over a 12 month period for a service formed of three complementary elements (advice and support on initial critical needs such as housing, education and benefits, employment service, and mentoring).

However, the UK requirement is for assistance with a broader reach to complement that which will be provided by the RIES national programme. Firstly, this is for delivery of support covering a wider range of subject areas key to the process of integration, such as refugee community organisation development. Secondly, integration provision which covers additional target groups, including existing refugees or those granted status prior to the operational implementation of the RIES, is also required.

The UK traditionally relies on strong support in integration provision from the voluntary sector, which has been supported through the national funding streams ceasing at the end of the UK financial year 2007-08 (namely, RCDF, CF and PAF) as outlined in Section 1.3.3. In addition, since its inception in 2000, the UK has traditionally supported external providers in delivering innovative and additional integration project work across the UK through the ERF co-financing (Section 1.3.3 outlines current provision under ERF II in the UK).

Research and operational experience continue to demonstrate that gaining access to employment remains a significant challenge to many refugees and those granted subsidiary status in the UK. There is a

requirement for additional measures and the opportunity to pilot innovative methods to tackling this aspect of refugee integration.

The overall requirement therefore is for continued support for eligible actions relating to integration according to Article 3 (1) (c) from the ERF, over and above that which can be provided by national resources, and for encouragement of innovative ideas, particularly those in relation to tackling the issue of employment of refugees of those with subsidiary forms of refugee protection status.

### **2.1.3 Requirements relating to Resettlement**

The resettlement of refugees who require humanitarian protection is a key UKBA priority. This commitment began with the 2002 White Paper 'Secure Borders, Safe Haven', was continued during the 2005 Five Year Strategy on Immigration and Asylum, and remains a key UKBA Priority Project as detailed in the current UKBA business plan. This states that, working with UNHCR, we will resettle 750 refugees in the UK by March 2009, through the Gateway resettlement programme.

In relation to Article 3 (1) (d) *Resettlement of persons referred to in Article 6 (e) of the Basic Act 573/2007/EC*, Sections 1.2.4 and 1.3.4 provide detail on the current provision of resettlement activities.

There is a commitment to expand the current target of 500 persons through the Gateway resettlement programme in the current UK financial year 2007-8, to increase it to 750 in 2008-9. In addition, in 2008, the programme will be providing support for the resettlement of Iraqi refugees, to support global burden sharing efforts tackling this particular refugee crisis.

Providing humanitarian protection and support through resettlement programmes is a high unit cost activity, as Section 1.3.4 indicates, and the development of the programme, plus its expansion, is a key requirement in the UK.

The UK is also keen to share the expertise and experience it has gained as a resettlement state with emerging EU resettlement countries, and pilot models which could be replicated throughout Europe. This is evidenced by its submission of the joint UK-Irish Cross-Border Resettlement Project, for which it has also bid for Community Funding through the ERF II (2005-7) 2007 Community Action tender call.

The requirement in the UK is consequently for support to this area in order to maintain, expand and develop resettlement, and act as a model and market leader for emerging resettlement states across Europe.

### **2.1.4 Requirements relating to asylum reception and determination procedures, including transfers through the 'Dublin system'**

As outlined in Chapter 1 and above in Section 2.1.1, UKBA's strategic objectives to protect our borders and implement fast and fair decisions are clear. In relation to Article 3 (1) (a) *Reception Conditions and Asylum*

*Procedures* of the Basic Act 573/2007/EC, the UK requirement for the use of the fund towards this action area is limited.

This is because, as described in Sections 1.2.2 and 1.3.2, the UK has a mature and robust asylum reception and determination system. As these earlier sections outline, the UK system is comprised of the New Asylum Model (NAM), fast tracking processes, asylum support provisions for those within the determination processes and special provisions for dealing with vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied asylum seeking children, women and victims of torture. Equally, UKBA's allocated resources include approximately 18,500 previous UK BIA staff who undertake this, amongst other, functions.

However, the UK requirement in relation to this action area is for development of co-operation with other member states on understanding of interpretations of the legislative basis of the European Dublin regulations, particularly:

- Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003 of 18 February 2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national (the Dublin Regulation);
- Council Regulation (EC) No 2725/2000 of 11 December 2000 concerning the establishment of 'Eurodac';
- Council Regulation (EC) No 407/2002 of 28 February 2002 laying down certain rules to implement Regulation (EC) no 2725/2000 concerning the establishment of Eurodac;

As presented in Chapter 4, the Directives relating to Dublin II and Eurodac Regulations (343/2003/EC, 2725/2000/EC, and 407/2002/EC) were transposed into UK law through the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004, and paragraph 345 of the Immigration Rules, which provides the legal basis for the removal of asylum seekers from the UK to a safe third country. Provisions in Part 2 of Schedule 3 to the 2004 Act recognise the particular status of those European countries which are part of the arrangements for determining responsibility for asylum seekers set out in the Dublin Regulation (EC) No. 343/2003 and the supporting Eurodac database of fingerprint images established by the Eurodac Regulation (EC) No. 2725/2000 ("the Dublin system").

As described in Sections 1.2.6 and 1.3.6, the UK has established measures to promote the transfer of applicants for international protection (asylum seekers) between the UK and other member states responsible for the assessment of their claims. This has included the establishment of an Italian Asylum Liaison Officer.

The vast majority of the UK's activity in transferring asylum seekers to safe third countries takes place under Part 2 of Schedule 3 to the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004, supported by the Dublin system. The UK strongly supports

the approach to determining responsibility for asylum applicants enshrined in the Dublin system, which it views as a vital aspect of a Common European Asylum System. That the European Commission's Evaluation Report of the Dublin system (June 2007) supported continued reliance on its mechanism for allocating responsibility for asylum seekers in the EU, Norway and Iceland is welcomed by the UK.

The main requirement is to further strengthen relation building with other EU member states, to facilitate UK asylum reception and determination procedures through the transfer of eligible persons from the UK to the member state responsible for the examination of their asylum application and from the other member states to the UK as the responsible member state for their asylum application. Specifically, the requirement is to develop the Asylum Liaison Officer system, through increasing returns and the efficiency of practical measures with other member states for transfers under the Dublin system.

### **2.1.5 Requirements relating to policy development**

Chapter 1 and Section 2.1.1 above demonstrate UKBA's strategic objectives to protect our borders and implement fast and fair decisions. In relation to Article 3 (1) (c) *Enhancement of ... capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate their asylum policies* of the Basic Act 573/2007/EC, the UK requirement for the use of the fund towards this action area is limited. Sections 1.2.4 and 1.3.4 present the measures, programmes and resources that the UK has in relation to the development, monitoring and evaluation of asylum policies.

However, there is a requirement within the context of actions to enhance the UK's capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate asylum policies for the development of methodologies and techniques associated with the production of country of origin information. This is part of a broader programme of country of origin information production, and continual quality assurance and improvement.

### **2.1.6 Requirements relating to transfers between Member States**

Both Chapter 1 and Section 2.1.1 above illustrate UKBA's strategic objectives to protect our borders and implement fast and fair decisions. In relation to Article 3 (1) (e) *Transfer of persons falling within the categories referred to in Article 6 (a) and (b) ... and ... (c)* of the Basic Act 573/2007/EC, the UK has no requirement for the use of the fund towards this action area. The voluntary transfer of refugees or asylum seekers between the UK and European Member States is not widespread practice in the UK.

## **2.2 The operational objectives of the Member State designed to meet its requirements**

### **2.2.1 Introduction**

The key requirements for the UK in relation to the baseline situation as outlined in Section 2.1 are concerned specifically with integration and resettlement, that is, eligible actions relating to Article 3 of the Basic Act 573/2007/EC on:

*(1) (b) Integration of persons referred to in Article 6 whose stay in a particular Member State is of a lasting and durable nature; and*

*(1) (d) Resettlement of persons referred to in Article 6 (e).*

A summary of the operational objectives to deliver these requirements is provided here.

This is followed by a description of the operational objectives in relation to asylum reception and determination procedures, policy development, and transfers between Member States, specifically the eligible actions relating to Article 3 of the Basic Act 573/2007/EC on:

*(1) (a) Reception Conditions and Asylum Procedures;*

*(1) (c) Enhancement of ... capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate their asylum policies ... ; and*

*(1) (e) Transfer of persons falling within the categories referred to in Article 6 (a) and (b) ... and ... (c).*

### **2.2.2 Operational objectives relating to Integration**

To achieve the requirement to add value to and complement current national provisions for the integration of the eligible target groups, the UK considers there are three operational objectives.

The first concerns the total number of integration projects operating in the UK, and their delivery to final beneficiaries from eligible target groups specified in Article 6 of Basic Act 573/2007/EC. Through the provision of financial support from ERF III, a greater yield of projects and final beneficiaries, sustained over multiple years, will be achieved.

Secondly, there is a need to invest in the development of refugee community organisations (RCO), which assist in the integration of the communities they support and their interaction with the receiving society. It was not possible to include RCO development within the core provision of the RIES model. However, the UK is aware of the need to support measures designed to enhance RCO capacity, particularly those which promote sustainability.

The third operational objective relates to employment, particularly concerning the need to increase the number of refugees with full or subsidiary status securing employment. The specific objective is to continue to investigate new and innovative methods for increasing the employment rate of the eligible target groups which fall within the parameters of UK policy for provision of integration assistance (that is, those falling under Article 6 (a), (b) and (e) of Basic Act 573/2007/EC), whilst equally supporting the operational delivery of the RIES in respect of employment.

### **2.2.3 Operational objectives relating to Resettlement**

The primary operational objective relating to Resettlement actions is to increase the target for the number of arrivals. This will be set at 750 persons for UK financial year 2008-9, a 50% increase on the current target of 500, which is welcomed by UNHCR.

In addition to this increased target, development of new models of post-arrival support, particularly in relation to securing housing provision, is a key operational objective which the UK is pursuing. By investing in the development of new models, the UK can explore cost savings and efficiencies, which can potentially enable the UK to consider possible increases to the numbers resettled at some point in the future.

### **2.2.4 Operational objectives relating to asylum reception and determination procedures, including transfers through the 'Dublin system'**

To add value to the existing UK asylum reception and determination procedures, the main operational objective is to increase the liaison and networking with counterparts in other member states ministries of immigration, through operational measures such as twinning arrangements, seminars and bilateral measures. This will facilitate the resolution of long standing practical issues including interpretations of the "Dublin system" regulations in other member states, as compared to that in the UK.

There are three key operational objectives relating to transfers between member states.

The first objective is to make returns more efficient, facilitating progress towards UKBA reaching its asylum conclusion targets, which is a strategic goal. Secondly, a further objective is to decrease the time in detention for those awaiting return to other EU member states under the relevant provisions. A third objective is to increase the provisions for returns of unaccompanied asylum seeking children. This is to be achieved through the continuation and development of existing measures such as:

- ensuring transfers are targeted to ports most appropriate to the national arrangements in the destination EU country;
- timing the transfer journeys to avoid departure travel at undesirable/unsuitable hours; and

- adequate reception arrangements and individualised care plans (developed by the UK social workers) to ensure continuity of care after transfer.

### **2.2.5 Operational objectives relating to policy development**

The key operational objective in relation to this action area is in respect of techniques to produce country of origin information. This is in a range of areas, potentially including, but not exclusively, fact finding missions and research methodologies. The UK will continue to participate in existing initiatives to share and develop country of origin information with other EU member states.

### **2.2.6 Operational objectives relating to transfers between Member States**

The voluntary transfer of refugees or asylum seekers between European Member States is not widespread practice in the UK. Therefore there are no operational objectives on this element.

### 3. STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES

This chapter describes the strategy for how the Fund will be apportioned in the UK in order to contribute to meeting the national requirements outlined in Chapter 2.

It also presents the UK's selection of priorities from the Strategic Guidelines presented in Commission Decision 2007/815/EC, and the rationale behind their selection. Additionally, it provides a breakdown of how each of the eligible actions from Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3 (1) will be addressed. Therefore, it provides a complete strategy for the entire programming phase of ERF III 2008-2013.

Commission Decision 2007/815/EC outlines the Strategic Guidelines published by the European Commission on ERF III, which presents three priorities. These are:

**Priority 1:** Implementation of the principles and measures set out in the Community *acquis* in the field of asylum, including those related to integration objectives.

**Priority 2:** Development of reference tools and evaluation methodologies to assess and improve the quality of procedures for the examination of claims for international protection and to underpin administrative structures in an effort to respond to the challenges brought forward by enhanced practical cooperation with other Member States.

**Priority 3:** Actions helping to enhance responsibility sharing between Member States and third countries.

Decision 2007/815/EC states that Priority 1 and Priority 2 are mandatory. Priority 3 is optional. Mandatory priorities must be addressed at some point during the lifetime of the Fund (2008-13), although Member States are free to specify the amounts which they wish to dedicate to the mandatory priorities and the length of the resulting projects.

Basic Act 573/2007/EC presents five eligible actions, which are:

- a) Reception conditions and asylum procedures;
- b) Integration;
- c) Development, monitoring and evaluation of asylum policies;
- d) Resettlement of refugees; and
- e) Transfer of asylum seekers and/or refugees between Member States.

Broadly, Priority 1 is addressed by actions a) *Reception conditions and asylum procedures* and b) *Integration*. Priority 2 is addressed by action c) *Development, monitoring and evaluation of asylum policies*. Priority 3 is addressed by actions d) *Resettlement of refugees* and e) *Transfers between Member States*.

The strategy presented here will be implemented by the UK in two multi-annual, three-year cycles. The strategy ensures all mandatory priorities



are addressed during the six year lifetime of the Fund and that, in addition, the optional priority is also addressed. Furthermore, there will be delivery on most eligible actions during both of the two three-year cycles.

In accordance with Article 11 of the Basic Act 573/2007/EC, the UK has implemented the principle of partnership (Chapter 5). Therefore, the proposals contained in this multi-annual strategy on the UK's selection of priorities and actions, and the resulting apportionment ERF III, have been scrutinised and approved by the UK's European Solidarity Mechanism Apportionment Board.

Overall, the situation in relation to the baseline situation in the UK for the policy area covered by ERF III means that the greatest value-added which can be achieved by ERF III funding is by concentrating it on co-financing integration and resettlement activities. Therefore, the UK has selected two priorities towards which to target the majority of ERF III funding. These are Priority 1: *Implementing the principles and measures set out in the Community acquis in the field of asylum, including those related to integration objectives*, and Priority 3: *Actions helping to enhance responsibility sharing between Member States and Third Countries* (optional).

However, in line with its obligations to address both Priority 1 and Priority 2, the UK will also attribute some limited ERF III funding to Priority 2: *Development of reference tools and evaluation methodologies to improve the quality of asylum claim examinations*.

Table 5 presents a percentage breakdown of the UK Multi-Annual Strategy which ensures the Fund addresses the national requirements, according to eligible actions. Table 6 presents the percentage breakdown according to strategic priorities, by combining the apportionment for each eligible action for each.

In accordance with the regulations specified in Decision 2007/22/EC, the funds can either be managed by the Responsible Authority (RA) acting in Executing Body role (via internal implementation of projects) or Awarding Body role (where grants are provided to external organisations). Details will be provided in the Annual Programmes and Final Annual Programme Reports for the years concerned, in particular, justification for Executing Body project implementation.

### **Multi-Annual Cycle 1 - Summary 2008-2010**

#### ***Priority 3: 76-77% annually***

During the first of the two three-year, multi-annual cycles, UKBA will dedicate the majority of funds (76-77% annually) to Priority 3.

Specifically, this will provide 76-77% of ERF III co-financing for each annual programme year on resettlement activities, according to Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3 (1) (d).

The UKBA RA will assign the funds allocated towards Priority 3 and associated eligible actions for use via the Executing Body role. Detailed justification will be provided in the Annual Programmes and Final Annual Reports for each programme year.

***Priority 1: 15-17% annually***

The majority of the remainder of the fund will be utilised for Priority 1, which will be allocated 14 -17% annually. This will be broken down into two elements. Firstly, eligible integration activities according to Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3, (1) (b) will receive 14-17% annually. Secondly, a smaller proportion (up to 1%) will be attributed to reception and asylum procedures and actions falling within the scope of Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3 (1) (a) in selected programme years.

The funds allocated to Priority 1 will be primarily, but not exclusively, assigned for external tender, with UKBA RA mostly acting in the role of grant Awarding Body.

***Priority 2: up to 1% annually***

Finally, in line with the national requirement in the UK, a small proportion (up to 1%) of the Fund will be attributed to Priority 2, and eligible actions on the development of asylum policies and procedures as specified in Basic Act 573/2007/EC (1) (c). These funds will either be awarded by the RA in the grant Awarding Body role to external providers, or as an Executing Body, depending on which the annual situation warrants. Details will be provided in the Annual Programmes and the Final Annual Reports for the years concerned.

**Multi-Annual Cycle 2 - Summary 2011 – 2013**

Spending for the second Multi-Annual Programme cycle will closely mirror that of the first Multi-Annual Programme cycle. There will be a slight increase in the amounts allocated towards Priority 1, namely on resettlement activities, but this will be drawn from the decreased amounts available for technical assistance, rather than from the proportions specified for the remaining priorities and actions.

**Table 5: Multi-Annual Programme – Indicative Financial Plan by Eligible Actions Percentage**

<b>Multi-annual Programme – Indicative Financial Plan</b>						
<b>Member State: United Kingdom</b>						
<b>Fund: European Refugee Fund</b>						
<b>Eligible action - as a %</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Reception</b>	0	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Integration</b>	17	14	14	17	15	15
<b>Asylum policies and procedures</b>	0	1	1	1	0	0
<b>Resettlement</b>	76	77	77	77	80	80
<b>Transfer between Member States</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Technical Assistance</b>	7	7	7	4	4	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 6: Multi-Annual Programme – Indicative Financial Plan by Strategic Priority Percentage**

<b>Multi-annual Programme – Indicative Financial Plan</b>						
<b>Member State: United Kingdom</b>						
<b>Fund: European Refugee Fund</b>						
<b>Strategic Priority - as a %</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Priority 1: Implementation of the Community acquis, including integration</b>	17	15	15	18	16	16
<b>Priority 2: Development of reference tools and methodologies for improving asylum procedures</b>	0	1	1	1	0	0
<b>Priority 3: Responsibility sharing between Member States and Third Countries</b>	76	77	77	77	80	80
<b>Technical Assistance</b>	7	7	7	4	4	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

We are committed to examining how best ERF III funding can add value to UKBA activities relating to the policy areas it covers including asylum procedures and resettlement, and we will be making proposals to the Apportionment Board (Chapter 5) in coming years accordingly in respect of Annual Programmes, in line with the Multi-Annual Strategy presented here.

However, if necessary, the UK will submit a revised Multi-Annual Programme for the rest of the programming period, in line with Article 19 (1) on Revision of Multi-Annual Programmes of Basic Act 573/2007/EC, either to take into account greater or different Community priorities, in the light of evaluations, and/or following implementation difficulties. Any revised proposals will also be scrutinised and approved by the UK Apportionment Board, prior to re-submission to the European Commission for assessment.

**3.1 Priority 1: “Implementation of the principles and measures set out in the Community acquis in the field of asylum, including those related to integration objectives.”**

**3.1 a) The objective(s) of the strategy and examples of key actions**

**3.1.a) (i) Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3 (1) (b): *Integration Objectives and Strategy***

UKBA will dedicate 14-17% of ERF III to integration activities for refugees, which the RA will externally tender.

Selected projects will complement the new RIES which will be rolled out in 2008, and which UKBA is funding from internal resources.

Funding will be targeted at multi-annual projects focused on:

- employment, specifically those which:
  - assist in the integration of target groups into the labour market;
  - assist with vocational training and acquisition of recognised qualifications and diplomas; and / or those which
  - focus on sector specific employment including health or education professionals;

And:

- Refugee Community Organisation (RCO) infrastructure development that enhances the capacity of those organisations through skills development, knowledge acquisition, or improved service delivery – this may include projects which:
  - Enhance financial management capacity to promote sustainability;
  - Promote durable and sustainable participation in civil and cultural life;
  - Promote self-empowerment; and / or
  - Focus on refugee integration work.

In addition, we will also seek to fund projects promoting the involvement of refugees with local host communities, local authorities, and voluntary groups.

The actions to be carried out through these projects are provided for by Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3, paragraph 3: “As regards the integration into Member States’ societies of persons referred to in paragraph 1 (b) and members of their family, eligible actions shall include the following:

- (a) Advice and assistance in areas such as [...] integration into the labour market;
- (c) Actions to promote durable and sustainable participation in civil and cultural life;
- (d) Measures focusing on education, vocational training, or recognition of qualifications and diplomas;

- (e) *Actions designed to promote self-empowerment and to enable such persons to provide for themselves;*
- (f) *Actions that promote meaningful contact and constructive dialogue between such persons and the receiving society, including actions which promote the involvement of key partners as the general public, local authorities, refugee associations, voluntary groups, social partners and broader civil society;*
- (h) *Actions that promote both equality of access and equality of outcomes in relation to such persons' dealings with public institutions."*

In line with national policy objectives, the UK is not prioritising selection of projects under Article 3 (3) (b) nor (g).

Examples of Key Actions (Projects) Anticipated:

The UK anticipates that a range of projects will be funded which will provide assistance with employment or refugee community organisation development. Project examples could include:

- Projects which provide general employment advisory services and opportunities to refugees, those with Humanitarian Protection and Discretionary Leave, or resettled refugees through general advice and guidance, work placements, vocational training/qualifications, soft skills development training programmes, workshops on job preparation training (such as CV writing) and interpersonal/interview skills.
- Sector specific employment projects, which provide specialist career coaching/advice, work placements, vocational training/qualifications, skills development training programmes, workshops on job preparation training (such as CV writing) and interpersonal/interview skills, for specific groups, such as refugee doctors, health and social worker, teachers, housing professionals, academics and journalists.
- Projects which promote intercommunity relations and challenge prejudice towards refugees, through a common purpose / joint activities such as community radio stations, which would provide mentoring, volunteering opportunities and co-facilitation of sessions aimed at breaking down barriers.
- Projects which assist vulnerable refugee children and young people prior to entry into the labour market, to reduce the barriers to their securing future employment and address these with targeted, specialised assistance.
- Projects which provide refugee entrepreneurs with financial awards and training to pilot social enterprises in the community and expand these.
- Projects which target womens' employment, including targeted advice and guidance, work placements, skills development and CV writing.

### **3.1 a) (ii) Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3 (1) (a): *Reception***

## ***Conditions and Asylum Procedures Objectives and Strategy (including 'Dublin system' transfers)***

In some years, approximately 1% of the fund will be dedicated to activities associated with asylum reception conditions and determination procedures.

We will seek to fund projects which enhance the asylum reception and determination procedures in the UK through the transfer of eligible persons to other member states responsible for the determination of their asylum claim.

The actions to be carried out through these projects are provided for by Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3, paragraph 2 (i), in particular, which states:

*“As regards reception conditions and asylum procedures, eligible actions shall include the following:*

*(i) transfer of persons falling within the category referred to in Article 6 (c) from the Member State where they are located to the Member State responsible for the examination of their asylum application.”*

In line with national policy objectives, the UK is not prioritising selection of projects under Article 3 (2) (a) - (h).

Examples of Key Actions (Projects) Anticipated:

The UK anticipates that one or two projects will be funded which promote asylum reception and determination processes in the UK, through actions which facilitate the transfer of asylum seekers back to the EU member state responsible for assessing their claim for international protection. An example project could be:

- The establishment of UK Asylum Liaison Officers in other EU member states, particularly those from which a large volume of asylum claims are subsequently also made in the UK (such as Italy and Greece), to share understanding of the 'Dublin System' regulations, practical barriers to these transfers, and mutual exchange of broader practices in relation to national asylum processes and procedures. Specific practical barriers to these transfers to address include the provision of information pre-departure, arrangements associated with the timing and destination of the transfer departure journeys, and provision of information to assist immediately post-arrival, particularly for vulnerable beneficiaries such as unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people.

### **3.1 b) Description of target(s) concerned and the indicator(s) used**

In accordance with Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 6, the eligible target groups benefiting from these projects will be Article 6 (c):

- Any third-country national or stateless person who has applied for one of the forms of protection described in points (a) and (b).

### **3.1 b) (i) Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3 (1) (b): *Integration Indicators***

Tailored indicators to assess actions funded under this priority will be developed through the commissioning of the independent evaluation, which will draw on quantifiable outputs assessed during monitoring.

Indicators which could be used to assess the types of integration action projects envisaged will constitute of a range of output and impact/outcome indicators. These could include, but not be limited to the following:

#### - Output indicators:

- number of work placements started;
- number of work placements successfully completed;
- number of employers engaged with;
- number of job applications made;
- number of refugees securing employment;
- duration of employment obtained;
- level of employment obtained;
- number of one:one support sessions held;
- number of information sessions held (and attendance);
- number of awards granted;
- number of mentoring relationships initiated;
- number of work placements started (and number successfully completed);
- number of exam entries (and passes); or
- number of joint community initiatives undertaken.

#### - Outcome and Impact indicators:

- increased networks of employers;
- enhanced knowledge amongst employers of the specific practical elements associated with refugee employees;
- decreased prejudice amongst employers in employing refugee staff;
- increased confidence in making further job applications;
- increased social networks; or
- decreased prejudice amongst communities to refugees.

### **3.1 b) (ii) Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3 (1) (a): *Reception Conditions and Asylum Procedures Indicators***

Tailored indicators to assess actions funded under this priority will be developed through the commissioning of the independent evaluation, which will draw on quantifiable outputs assessed during monitoring.

Indicators which could be used to assess the types of asylum reception conditions and procedure action projects envisaged will constitute of a



range of output and impact/outcome indicators. These could include, but not be limited to the following:

- Output indicators:

- reduction of time spent in detention for eligible transfer beneficiaries; or
- reduction in the number of challenges the UK makes to other EU member states and vice versa;

- Outcome and Impact indicators:

- increased mutual understanding of EU member states interpretations of the Dublin system regulations;
- increased understanding of the broader circumstances of EU member states' immigration contexts;
- smoother transfers between EU members; or
- enhanced continuity of care of vulnerable groups (such as medical cases or unaccompanied asylum seeking children) immediately upon arrival.

### **3.1 c) Key actions implementing specific priorities for Priority 1**

Where any of the following actions cover vulnerable groups within their target groups, these will meet the first of the two specific priorities within Priority 1 of Commission Decision 2007/815/EC, "*Actions aimed at taking into account the special needs of vulnerable groups, notably unaccompanied minors*", which may increase the ERF III contribution to 75% for those projects concerned which fall under the following eligible actions covered by Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3, paragraph 3:


*"As regards the integration into Member States' societies of persons referred to in paragraph 1 (b) and members of their family, eligible actions shall include the following:*

- (a) Advice and assistance in areas such as [...] integration into the labour market;*
- (c) Actions to promote durable and sustainable participation in civil and cultural life;*
- (d) Measures focusing on education, vocational training, or recognition of qualifications and diplomas;*
- (e) Actions designed to promote self-empowerment and to enable such persons to provide for themselves;*
- (f) Actions that promote meaningful contact and constructive dialogue between such persons and the receiving society, including actions which promote the involvement of key partners as the general public, local authorities, refugee associations, voluntary groups, social partners and broader civil society;*
- (h) Actions that promote both equality of access and equality of outcomes in relation to such persons' dealings with public institutions."*

Where any selected projects awarded grants for ERF III co-financing meet the Specific Priority presented here, the RA will provide up to 75%

co-financing. Full details will be presented to the Commission in Annual Programme Final Reports.

The second Specific Priority within Priority 1 of Commission Decision 2007/815/EC is "*Actions improving the identification of persons in need of international protection and/or the processing of their applications at borders, notably the development of specific training programmes.*" Where any selected projects awarded grants for ERF III co-financing meet this second Specific Priority, the RA will provide up to 75% co-financing. Full details will be presented to the Commission in Annual Programme Final Reports.



**3.2 Priority 2: “Development of reference tools and evaluation methodologies to assess and improve the quality of procedures for the examination of claims for international protection and to underpin administrative structures in an effort to respond to the challenges brought forward by enhanced practical cooperation with other Member States.”**

**3.2 a) The objective(s) of the strategy and examples of key actions**

**3.2 a) (i) Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3 (1) (c): *Enhancement of ... capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate their asylum policies ...Objectives and Strategy***

Priority 2 is not a key requirement for the UK multi-annual strategy. In line with the national requirement, up to 1% of ERF III funds will be assigned by the RA to actions relevant to Priority 2, in 2009 and 2010 of the first three year, multi-annual cycle. Similar amounts will be apportioned to it during the second cycle. The Apportionment Board will consider specific annual allocation proposals in the run-up to those Annual Programmes.

As specified, in some years, approximately 1% of the fund will be dedicated to activities associated with the development of the UK's asylum policies.

We will seek to fund projects which enhance the development, monitoring and evaluation of the UK's asylum policies, particularly with regard to country of origin information and actions enhancing the capacity to assess asylum applications.

The actions to be carried out through these projects are provided for by Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3, paragraphs 4 (a) and (c), in particular, which states:

*“As regards actions relating to the enhancement of Member States’ capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate their asylum policies, the following, in particular, shall be eligible for support from the Fund:*

*(a) actions promoting the collection, compilation, use and dissemination of country of origin information, including translation; ...*

*(c) actions enhancing the capacity to assess asylum applications, including appeals. ...”*

In line with national policy objectives, the UK is not prioritising selection of projects under Article 3 (4) (b) or (d).

Examples of Key Actions (Projects) Anticipated:

The UK anticipates that one or two projects will be funded which promote the development of the UK's asylum policies and procedures,

through actions which undertake research, monitoring or evaluations. Example projects could be:

- Production of country of origin information through fact finding missions to source countries, including the development of research methodologies utilised for such missions;
- Projects which seek to enhance the production of country of origin information through the development of methodologies for its collection, compilation, use and dissemination, or any combination of these; or
- Projects which seek to facilitate the use of asylum guidance by ensuring the information provided is easy to access and up to date, therefore encouraging its use and maintaining consistent application of policy by caseworkers;

### **3.2 b) Description of target(s) concerned and the indicator(s) used**

Through enhancement of capacity to develop and monitor asylum policies, both UK asylum caseworkers and the following eligible target group will benefit from these projects:

- Any third-country national or stateless person who has applied for one of the forms of protection described in points (a) and (b).

#### **3.2 b) (i) Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3 (1) (c): *Enhancement of ... capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate their asylum policies ...* Indicators**

Tailored indicators to assess actions funded under this priority will be developed through the commissioning of the independent evaluation, which will draw on quantifiable outputs assessed during monitoring.

Indicators which could be used to assess the types of policy development through monitoring, research or evaluation action projects envisaged will constitute of a range of output and impact/outcome indicators. These could include, but not be limited to the following:

- Output indicators:

- Increased amount of information or types of data available;
- New formats of information; or
- The frequency with which the information provided is accessed by key users.


- Outcome and Impact indicators:

- Increased accuracy, balance and comprehensiveness of information produced;
- Enhanced expertise in the production of country of origin information and methodologies used to generate it; or
- Feedback from the independent Advisory Panel on Country Information, UKBA users and the AIT.

### **3.2 c) Key actions implementing specific priorities for Priority 2**

The Specific Priorities within Priority 2 of Commission Decision 2007/815/EC are “*Measures designed to carry out an independent review on how the national asylum system works and how to make it more efficient*” and “*Development of tools aimed to enhance consistency in national decision making on the application of the acquis, such as case-law databases accessible to all relevant stakeholders.*”

No actions will address these Specific Priorities at present. However, Annual Programme proposals will provide details of any projects which address them, for which projects will be entitled to 75% ERF III co-financing. Full details will also be presented to the Commission in Annual Programme Final Reports.



### **3.3 Priority 3: “Actions helping to enhance responsibility sharing between Member States and third countries (optional).”**

#### **3.3 a) The objective(s) of the strategy and examples of key actions**

##### **3.3.a) (i) Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3 (1) (d): *Resettlement Objectives and Strategy***

This is a key UK requirement. The RA will allocate 76-80% of ERF III resources to Priority 3, across the lifetime of the Fund, particularly targeted to actions on resettlement in accordance with Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3 (1) (d).

The emphasis on increasing resettlement activity is a priority shared by both the UK and Europe Union.

The UK’s commitment to resettlement of refugees who require humanitarian protection is a key UKBA priority. It began with the 2002 White Paper ‘Secure Borders, Safe Haven’, was continued during the 2005 Five Year Strategy on Immigration and Asylum, and remains a key UKBA priority as detailed in the UKBA business plan.

The European emphasis on promoting resettlement activity is evidenced by, amongst other measures, the structure of the ERF III, which contains a specific ‘ring-fenced’ proportion of the fund purely for resettlement activities (Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 13 (3) and (4)).

Throughout both of the UK’s ERF III two multi-annual programme cycles from 2008-2013, the national requirement therefore is for the majority of funds to be targeted towards resettlement actions.

The eligibility of actions to be carried out as part of the project are provided for by Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3, paragraph 5: “*As regards actions relating to resettlement, the following shall be eligible for support from the Fund:*

- (a) Actions relating to the establishment and development of a resettlement programme;*
- (b) Actions relating to the assessment of potential resettlement cases by the competent Member States’ host authorities, such as conducting missions to the host country, interviews, medical and security screening;*
- (c) Pre-departure health assessment and medical treatment;*
- (d) Pre-departure material provisions;*
- (e) Pre-departure information measures;*
- (f) Travel arrangements, including provision of medical escort services;*
- (g) Information and assistance immediately upon arrival, including interpretation services.”*

In addition, Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3, paragraph 7, provides that: “*The actions referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 shall also be eligible for support from the Fund where they are targeted at the persons referred to*

*in Article 6(e).*” ERF funding for the following actions will, therefore, also be provided in relation to resettlement:

- Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3 (2): *As regards reception conditions:*

- (a) *Accommodation infrastructure or services;*
- (c) *Provision of material aid and medical or psychological care;*
- (d) *Social assistance, information or help with administrative and/or judicial formalities;*
- (e) *Legal aid and language assistance;*
- (f) *Education, language training and other initiatives which are consistent with the status of the person concerned;*
- (g) *The provision of support services such as translation and training to help improve reception conditions; and*
- (h) *Information for local communities as well as training for the staff of local authorities, who will be interacting with those being received in the host country.*

- Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3 (3): *As regards the integration into Member States’ societies:*

- (a) *Advice and assistance in such areas as housing, means of subsistence, integration into the labour market, medical, psychological and social care;*
- (b) *Actions enabling such persons to adapt to the society of the Member State in socio-cultural terms, and to share the values enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU;*
- (c) *Actions to promote durable and sustainable participation in civil and cultural life;*
- (d) *Measures focusing on education, vocational training, or recognition of qualifications and diplomas;*
- (e) *Actions designed to promote self-empowerment and to enable such persons to provide for themselves;*
- (f) *Measures to support the acquisition of skills by such persons including language training; and*
- (g) *Actions that promote equality of access and equality of outcomes in relation to such persons’ dealings with public institutions.*

Examples of Key Actions (Projects) Anticipated:

The UK anticipates that a large scale project will be funded to promote the resettlement of refugees under UNHCR protection to the UK. An example project could be:

- A resettlement programme which increases resettlement activity in the UK, in terms of the numbers of refugees resettled, through the selection, transfer and post-arrival provision of refugees under the Mandate of UNHCR, providing a durable solution to their humanitarian protection needs.

**3.3 a) (ii) Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3 (1) (e): *Transfer of persons***

***falling within the categories referred to in Article 6 (a) and (b)  
... and ... (c) Objectives and Strategy***

The voluntary transfer of refugees or asylum seekers between European Member States is not widespread practice in the UK. The UK does not anticipate any projects will be funded to promote voluntary transfers of asylum seekers or refugees between Member States. Therefore there are no proposed activities under this action.

**3.3 b) Description of target(s) concerned and the indicator(s) used**

The eligible target groups benefiting from this project will be any third country national or stateless person who is being or has been resettled in a Member State (Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 6(e)).

**3.3 b) (i) Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3 (1) (d): *Resettlement Indicators***

Tailored indicators to assess actions funded under this priority will be developed through the commissioning of the independent evaluation, which will draw on quantifiable outputs assessed during monitoring.

Indicators which could be used to assess the types of resettlement action projects envisaged will constitute of a range of output and impact/outcome indicators. These could include, but not be limited to the following:

- Output indicators:

- numbers of refugees resettled and provide with a long term solution to their protection need;
- number of overseas missions undertaken;
- number of resettlement cases assessed;
- number of medical assessments undertaken;
- number of pre-departure / cultural orientation sessions held;
- number of on-arrival cultural orientation sessions held; and
- number of partner organisations participating in resettlement programmes for post-arrival measures (such as housing, mentoring, orientation); or
- provision of assistance (such as through twinning arrangements, information sharing or shadowing opportunities) to prospective new resettlement states in the EU.

- Outcome and Impact Indicators:

- increased awareness of requirement for partner organisations to participate in post-arrival resettlement measures (such as providing housing provision, orientation and information after arrival);
- increased cost-efficiency of resettlement activities;
- expansion of resettlement activities within the UK; or
- expansion of resettlement activities across the EU.

**3.3 b) (ii) Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 3 (1) (e): *Transfer of***



***persons falling within the categories referred to in Article 6 (a) and (b) ... and ... (c) Indicators***

The voluntary transfer of refugees or asylum seekers between European Member States is not widespread practice in the UK. The UK does not anticipate any projects will be funded to promote voluntary transfers of asylum seekers or refugees between Member States. Therefore there are no proposed activities under this action, nor indicators proposed.

**3.3 c) Key actions implementing specific priorities for Priority 3**

The Specific Priorities within Priority 3 of Commission Decision 2007/815/EC are “*Actions relating to the resettlement of persons from a country or region designated for the implementation of a Regional Protection Programme*” and “*Actions aimed at transferring asylum seekers or beneficiaries of international protection from Member States facing particular pressures on their asylum systems.*”

Annual Programme proposals will provide details of any projects which address these two Specific Priorities, for which projects will be entitled to 75% ERF III co-financing. Full details will also be presented to the Commission in Annual Programme Final Reports.

No actions will address these Specific Priorities at present, however, in future years, UKBA will consider proposing to the Apportionment Board that specific Annual Programme allocation proposals should be made to address Specific Priority 1 within Priority 3 on the resettlement of persons from a country or region designated for the implementation of a Regional Protection Programme.

## **4. COMPATIBILITY WITH OTHER INSTRUMENTS**

This chapter provides an indication of how the UK Multi-Annual strategy is compatible with other regional, national and Community instruments, for each of the three Priorities for the Fund, as specified in the Strategic Guidelines presented in Commission Decision 2007/815/EC.

For each Priority, it begins by outlining the compatibility of the strategy with other financial instruments, most notably the European Integration Fund (2007-2013) (EIF) and European Return Fund (2008-2013) (RF), as well as the European Social Fund 2007-2013 (ESF) and the European Regional Development Fund 2007-2013 (ERDF). The chapter then presents how the UK Multi-annual strategy is compatible with other Community Instruments specifically related to the policy areas covered by ERF III.

**4.1 Priority 1: *“Implementation of the principles and measures set out in the Community acquis in the field of asylum, including those related to integration objectives.”***

**4.1.1 Compatibility with other National and Community Financial Instruments**

**4.1.1. a) Financial Community Instruments Administered by UKBA - European Integration Fund (EIF) and Return Fund (RF):**

The legislative basis for EIF is provided through Basic Act 2007/435/EC; for RF it is provided through Basic Act 575/2007/EC. As with ERF III, EIF and RF are administered by UKBA.

Therefore, there is clear strategic co-ordination with the overall multi-annual and annual programme strategies of these funds. This is ensured through strategic co-operation scrutinised by the UK Apportionment Board, where each Fund’s Multi-Annual and Annual Programme Proposals are analysed.

Additionally, as each fund has specific eligible target groups and distinct eligible action areas, set out in the relevant Basic Acts, segregation of co-financed projects is clear. This is ensured during the programming phase as well as the project selection phase, and equally maintained during monitoring controls and audit scrutiny throughout the lifetime of the financial envelopes of all three funds.

**4.1.1 b) Financial Community Instruments Administered by Other UK Government Departments (OGDs) – ESF and ERDF:**

Two Community Instruments of substantial value to the UK are the ESF and the ERDF. These complement the actions co-financed by the ERF III, particularly in relation to their priorities to promote employment and build sustainable communities, respectively.

Interdepartmental co-operation and consultation in the UK between the government departments responsible for administering other financial Community instrument, such as these, ensures that collaboration and understanding of the priority areas, eligible actions, eligible target groups, strategic programming of proposals, and management and control systems is shared within the UK. However, no formal mechanisms exist which link the EU Solidarity Mechanism funds (ERF III, EIF and RF) to other cross-departmental structures to achieve this. This is partly due to the vast differences in value of the Solidarity Mechanism funds, compared to, for example the ESF and the ERDF.

During the preparation phase of this strategic multi-annual programme, and in addition all annual programmes of ERF III, the programming of the ESF and ERDF was taken into account. This ensures that ERF III strategic programming complements the national programmes co-financed by the ESF and ERDF, in particular, where relevant and possible in respect of eligible actions and target groups.

This is maintained during the project selection phase, where applications from projects already in receipt of funding from other European financial instruments, such as ESF or ERDF, are clearly prohibited. This avoids any ineligible double funding of co-financed projects, and is reinforced during monitoring controls and audit scrutiny throughout the lifetime of the ERF III financial envelope.

### **ESF:**

ESF is one of the Structural Funds that promote economic and social cohesion in the EU. ESF's purpose is to add value to Member States' policies to improve employment opportunities and skills, in line with the Lisbon agenda for growth and jobs. The legislative base is Article 146 of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

The European Commission approved the 2007-2013 ESF programme for England on 9 August 2007. England will receive about £2 billion of ESF funding which matched to the equivalent amount of domestic funding.

The England ESF programme has two main priorities. They are designed to target the ESF money at specific activities and make sure that it reaches people who most need support.

Priority 1 is '*Extending employment opportunities*'. It supports projects to tackle barriers that unemployed and disadvantaged people face in finding work. The main target groups include:

- people with disabilities and health conditions;
- lone parents;
- people aged over 50;
- people from ethnic minorities;
- people with low skills; and
- young people who are not in education, employment or training.

Priority 2 is '*Developing a skilled and adaptable workforce*'. It supports projects to train people who do not have the basic skills and Level 2 and 3 qualifications needed in the workplace. It particularly focuses on people least likely to receive training. It also supports training for managers and employees in small firms.

Most of the funding is administered at regional level through DWP and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). A relatively small amount of funding is administered by Local Authorities and Regional Development Agencies. Within the scope of the national priorities, they use ESF funding to address regional employment and skills issues identified by Regional Skills Partnerships drawing on Regional Economic Strategies.

The first tendering rounds under the 2007-2013 programme were launched in autumn 2007, and as a result 750 new projects are starting in spring and summer 2008.

DWP has responsibility for ESF in England in only. The devolved administrations are responsible for ESF in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Therefore, whilst some individual beneficiaries of eligible target groups of ERF III may be clients of projects funded by ESF, there is no overlap of the strategic programming. Equally, all Community co-financed projects of both funds are rigorously monitored and audited to ensure that only eligible target groups are served within the auspices of their respective funds. Therefore, the UK ensures stringent financial management of each of these financial Community instruments.

### ***ERDF:***

The main purpose of the ERDF is to reduce economic disparities between Member States and between regions within Member States in the EU, through the creation of jobs and increased economic growth. It does so through the provision of support for a range of regional programmes, incorporating measures to boost economic performance, for example by small and medium enterprises and in tourism, research and development and community economic development.

During the 2000-2006 round of programmes, England received £1.25 billion of ERDF for Objective 1 areas (i.e. those most in need: Cornwall, Merseyside, South Yorkshire) and £2.1 billion for Objective 2 (those areas in need of economic restructuring). Every English region had an Objective 2 programme.

For 2007-2013, England will receive around €458 million (approximately £309 million) of ERDF for the Cornwall Convergence (most in need) Operational Programme (OP) and €2.9 billion (£1.96 billion) of ERDF will go to nine Regional Competitiveness and Employment OPs, one in each English region.

A further €177 million (£120m) ERDF has been allocated to two maritime cross border co-operation (CBC) programmes with France, Flanders and the Netherlands. England will also participate in three transnational co-operation (TNC) programmes worth a total of €194 million (£131m) ERDF to the UK as a whole.

In terms of priorities, the Community Strategic Guidelines produced by the European Commission in August 2006 set out that the 2007-2013 round of ERDF OPs should target resources on providing jobs and economic growth, as set out in the renewed Lisbon strategy (originally produced in 2005).

The main priorities of the Convergence and Regional Competitiveness ERDF OPs are promoting innovation and knowledge transfer, stimulating enterprise and business development, ensuring sustainable development, production and consumption and building sustainable communities.

All Convergence and Regional Competitiveness OPs in England were formally adopted (i.e. approved) by the Commission in December 2007.

For the 2007-13 round of ERDF programmes, as defined in the OPs, ERDF will provide over £2 billion (€2.96 billion) of funding which will largely be used to co-finance projects aiming to increase growth in English regions, through employment and productivity.

Following adoption of all OPs by the European Commission in December, regional Programme Monitoring Committees have taken on formal status and are now meeting to determine the arrangements for managing the OPs, including the selection of ERDF projects.

The ERDF programmes accord with the Sub National Review in empowering RDAs to deliver a single regional strategy for each region; for supporting sub-regions and city regions to promote economic growth and enabling RDAs to co-ordinate business support within regions. The programmes also align Regional Economic Strategies, and are aligned with the UK Local Government White Paper in building sustainable communities; improving their growth and productivity; promoting social enterprises; strong cities and strategic regions with devolved responsibility; and increasing the attractiveness of areas with social, economic and environmental deprivation.

Therefore, as with ESF, whilst some individual beneficiaries of eligible target groups of ERF III may be clients of projects funded by ERDF, there is no overlap of the strategic programming. Equally, all Community co-financed projects of both funds are rigorously monitored and audited to ensure that only eligible target groups are served within the auspices of their respective funds. Therefore, the UK ensures stringent financial management of each of these financial Community instruments.

#### **4.1.2 Compatibility with other Community instruments, including the *acquis***

The Community Instruments in the field of asylum, including those related to integration objectives are:

- Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003 of 18 February 2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national (the Dublin Regulation);
- Council Regulation (EC) No 2725/2000 of 11 December 2000 concerning the establishment of 'Eurodac';
- Council Regulation (EC) No 407/2002 of 28 February 2002 laying down certain rules to implement Regulation (EC) no 2725/2000 concerning the establishment of Eurodac;
- Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx;

- Council Directive 2003/9/EC of 27 January 2003 laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers (the Reception Conditions Directive);
- Council Directive 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification, as far as provisions related to refugees are concerned;
- Council Directive 2004/83/EC of 29 April 2004 on Minimum Standards for the Qualification and Status of Third Country Nationals or Stateless Persons as Refugees or as Persons who otherwise need International Protection and the Content of the Protection Granted (the Qualification Directive); and
- Council Directive 2005/85/EC of 1 December 2005 on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status (the Procedures Directive).

The UK has not opted into Council Directive 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification, as far as provisions related to refugees are concerned. However, as part of the development of the Common European Asylum Policy (CEAS), all other Directives have been transposed into UK law.

The Directives relating to Dublin II and Eurodac Regulations (343/2003/EC, 2725/2000/EC, and 407/2002/EC) were transposed into UK law through the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004, and paragraph 345 of the Immigration Rules, which provides the legal basis for the removal of asylum seekers from the UK to a safe third country. Provisions in Part 2 of Schedule 3 to the 2004 Act recognise the particular status of those European countries which are part of the arrangements for determining responsibility for asylum seekers set out in the Dublin Regulation (EC) No. 343/2003 and the supporting Eurodac database of fingerprint images established by the Eurodac Regulation (EC) No. 2725/2000 ("the Dublin system").

The Asylum Reception Conditions Directive sets minimum standards for the reception for asylum seekers, and minimum levels for the provision of asylum support, health care and education for asylum seekers and their families. This Directive was implemented in UK law through a combination of the Asylum Seekers (Reception Conditions) Regulations 2005, the inclusion of a new part 11B in the Immigration Rules, Amendments made to the Asylum Support Regulations 2000 (SI 2000/704) by the Asylum Support (Amendment) Regulations 2005, as well as reliance on existing domestic provisions.

The Temporary Protection (TP) Directive establishes minimum standards in the event of mass influx and sets EU-wide arrangements for handling one-off influxes. Such a situation has not been triggered; however conflicts such as that witnessed in Bosnia are when the Commission may decide to invoke this Directive. This Directive was implemented in UK law in June 2005 through paragraphs 355 and 356 of the Immigration Rules.

The Qualification Directive ensures that all Member States use the same criteria for determining who qualifies for refugee status and subsidiary protection. The UK transposed Directive 2004/83/EC of 29 April 2004 on Minimum Standards for the Qualification and Status of Third Country Nationals or Stateless Persons as Refugees or as Persons who otherwise need International Protection and the Content of the Protection Granted into UK law. The Directive has now been implemented through The Refugee or Person in Need of International Protection (Qualification) Regulations 2006 and changes to The Immigration Rules. The Regulations implemented the Directive's provisions on actors of persecution, serious harm, acts of persecution, reasons for persecution and exclusion. The new Regulations and changes to the Immigration Rules came into effect on 9 October 2006.

Additionally, other government departments (OGDs) such as the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), as well as devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, have amended Regulations which allowed those in need of international protection access to social welfare provisions in light of the changes we made to our statutes. OGD Regulations came into effect on 9 October 2006.

The Asylum Procedures Directive (2005/85/EC) sets out minimum standards on procedures for granting and withdrawing refugee status, providing a number of guarantees to applicants. The UK transposed the procedures directive through the Asylum (Procedures) Regulations 2007 on 1 December 2007 and changes to the Immigration Rules.

The provisions in the Qualification Directive, specifically Article 33, *Access to integration facilities*, are most relevant to the implementation of the UK ERF III multi-annual strategy in respect of Priority 1, which states:

1. *In order to facilitate the integration of refugees into society, Member States shall make provision for integration programmes which they consider to be appropriate or create pre-conditions which guarantee access to such programmes.*
2. *Where it is considered appropriate by Member States, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection status shall be granted access to integration programmes.*

#### **4.1.3 Compatibility with other Regional Instruments**

Immigration and asylum is a matter reserved to the UK Government, and therefore laws and policies extend throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. There are no regional instruments which relate to this priority. However, a key aim of RIES is to ensure consistent provision of integration services across the UK.

Therefore, the strategy presented in this Multi-Annual Programme for allocation of ERF III is compatible with Community and national instruments.



**4.2 Priority 2: “Development of reference tools and evaluation methodologies to assess and improve the quality of procedures for the examination of claims for international protection and to underpin administrative structures in an effort to respond to the challenges brought forward by enhanced practical cooperation with other Member States.”**

**4.2.1 Compatibility with other National and Community Financial Instruments**

**4.2.1. a) Financial Community Instruments Administered by UKBA - European Integration Fund (EIF) and Return Fund (RF):**

The legislative basis for EIF is provided through Basic Act 2007/435/EC; for RF it is provided through Basic Act 575/2007/EC. As with ERF III, EIF and RF are administered by UKBA.

Therefore, there is clear strategic co-ordination with the overall multi-annual and annual programme strategies of these funds. This is ensured through strategic co-operation scrutinised by the UK Apportionment Board, where each Fund’s Multi-Annual and Annual Programme Proposals are analysed.

Additionally, as each fund has specific eligible target groups and distinct eligible action areas, set out in the relevant Basic Acts, segregation of co-financed projects is clear. This is ensured during the programming phase as well as the project selection phase, and equally maintained during monitoring controls and audit scrutiny throughout the lifetime of the financial envelopes of all three funds.

**4.2.1 b) Financial Community Instruments Administered by Other UK Government Departments (OGDs)**

No other Financial Community Instruments are related to Priority 2 actions.

**4.2.2 Compatibility with other Community instruments**

As outlined in Section 4.1, the Qualification Directive ensures that all Member States use the same criteria for determining who qualifies for refugee status and subsidiary protection. The UK transposed Directive 2004/83/EC of 29 April 2004 on Minimum Standards for the Qualification and Status of Third Country Nationals or Stateless Persons as Refugees or as Persons who otherwise need International Protection and the Content of the Protection Granted into UK law. The Directive has now been implemented through The Refugee or Person in Need of International Protection (Qualification) Regulations 2006 and changes to The Immigration Rules. The Regulations implemented the Directive’s provisions on actors of persecution, serious harm, acts of persecution, reasons for persecution and exclusion. The new Regulations and changes to the Immigration Rules came into effect on 9 October 2006.

### **4.2.3 Compatibility with other Regional Instruments**

Immigration and asylum is a matter reserved to the UK Government, and therefore laws and policies extend throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. There are no regional instruments which relate to this priority.

Therefore, the strategy presented in this Multi-Annual Programme for allocation of ERF III is compatible with the relevant Community and national instruments.



### **4.3 Priority 3: “Actions helping to enhance responsibility sharing between Member States and third countries (optional).”**

#### **4.3.1 Compatibility with other National and Community Financial Instruments**

##### **4.3.1. a) Financial Community Instruments Administered by UKBA - European Integration Fund (EIF) and Return Fund (RF):**

Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 6 (e) and Article 13 (paragraphs 3 and 4) provide the foundations for apportioning European funding to resettlement activity. These include provisions for fixed amounts for specified categories of resettled persons. The strategy presented in Chapter 3 and 5, and the aims and objectives of this MAP, are therefore particularly compatible with this Community instrument. However, there are no similar provisions for resettlement financing in the EIF or RF.

The voluntary transfer of refugees or asylum seekers between European Member States is not widespread practice in the UK. There are no financial instruments other than ERF III for consideration of compatibility in the UK.

##### **4.3.1 b) Financial Community Instruments Administered by Other UK Government Departments (OGDs)**

No other Financial Community Instruments are related to Priority 3 actions.


#### **4.3.2 Compatibility with other Community instruments**

As outlined in Section 4.1.2, the Directives relating to Dublin II and Eurodac Regulations (343/2003/EC, 2725/2000/EC, and 407/2002/EC) were transposed into UK law through the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004, and paragraph 345 of the Immigration Rules, which provides the legal basis for the removal of asylum seekers from the UK to a safe third country. Provisions in Part 2 of Schedule 3 to the 2004 Act recognise the particular status of those European countries which are part of the arrangements for determining responsibility for asylum seekers set out in the Dublin Regulation (EC) No. 343/2003 and the supporting Eurodac database of fingerprint images established by the Eurodac Regulation (EC) No. 2725/2000 ("the Dublin system").

#### **4.3.3 Compatibility with other Regional Instruments**

Immigration and asylum is a matter reserved to the UK Government, and therefore laws and policies extend throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. There are no regional instruments which relate to this priority.

Therefore, the strategy presented in this Multi-Annual Programme for allocation of ERF III is compatible with the relevant Community and national instruments.



## **5. STRATEGY REGARDING RESETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR SPECIFIC CATEGORIES (ARTICLE 13 (3) PERSONS)**

Basic Act 573/2007/EC of the European Parliament and Council establishing the European Refugee Fund for 2008-13 (Basic Act 573/2007/EC) Article 13 (3) states:

*“Member States shall receive a fixed amount of €4,000 for each resettled person falling into one of the following categories:*

- (a) persons from a country or region designated for the implementation of a Regional Protection Programme;*
- (b) unaccompanied minors;*
- (c) children and women at risk, particularly from psychological, physical or sexual violence or exploitation; and*
- (d) persons with serious medical needs that can only be addressed through resettlement.”*

The UK resettles persons from three of the four specific categories: a country or region designated for the implementation of a Regional Protection Programme, Children and Women at Risk, and Serious Medical Cases. In accordance with SOLID/2008/16 guidelines, this chapter presents the measures and provisions in the UK with which the needs of persons resettled under each of these four specific categories are addressed, where applicable.

The UK will specify, in accordance with Basic Act 573/2007/EC Article 13 (6) and SOLID/2008/16, by 1 May of the year preceding the Annual Programme in question, and in each of the relevant Annual Programme proposals, the fixed amounts and pledges for numbers of fixed amount category resettles. The Financing Plan in Chapter 7 of this MAP provides further indications of approximate future pledging, where possible.

### **5.1 Persons from a country or region designated for the implementation of a Regional Protection Programme**

The UK may resettle persons from a country or region designated for the implementation of a Regional Protection Programme. However, persons resettled from these countries or regions do not receive specific additional assistance within the parameters of the UK resettlement programme, compared to those resettled from countries or regions not included in Regional Protection Programmes.

However, where there are additional considerations which require additional assistance, such as that provided to serious medical cases, the necessary provisions will be made (see, for example, sections 5.3 and 5.4 below). This applies to all UK resettlement cases, irrespective of whether the resettlement candidate comes from a Regional Protection Programme area or not.

## **5.2 Unaccompanied minors**

The UK does not currently accept unaccompanied minors for resettlement through its programmes.

## **5.3 Children and women at risk, particularly from psychological, physical or sexual violence or exploitation**

Children and women at risk are resettled to the UK. Arrangements are made at all stages of the resettlement process. These include the selection, pre-departure and post-arrival support elements of the resettlement process. Specific provisions and considerations include:

- Liaison with UNHCR pre-submission to ensure submission of at least 10% of women at risk referrals in line with Ex-Com Conclusions;
- Same gender interviews for women at risk;
- Specific training provided for interviewing officers assessing children and women at risk;
- Pre-departure health screening to include indication of level of trauma and psychological report, where required, and be sent directly to the receiving health authority;
- Counselling to be provided by service provider during health screening where assessed as appropriate;
- Prioritisation of case decisions and swift allocation of cases to local authority areas in the UK;
- Pre-departure sharing of pertinent information about case with front line casework support function in local authority, to ensure case is allocated an appropriately trained post-arrival support caseworker; and
- Regular monitoring of post-arrival support provided to children and women at risk by local authority provider.

## **5.4 Persons with serious medical needs that can only be addressed through resettlement**

Persons with serious medical needs are resettled to the UK. This includes refugees:

- whose condition is life threatening without proper treatment which is currently unavailable to them; or
- where their health condition presents a significant obstacle to leading a normal life and achieving self-sufficiency; or
- where their current situation prevents them from becoming well-adjusted and from functioning at a satisfactory level.

In line with UNHCR's definition of medical needs, priority is given to the needs of persons whose medical condition is directly related to their persecution, flight of exile and to women alone or with children/dependants.

Arrangements are made at all stages of the resettlement process. These include the selection, pre-departure and post-arrival support elements of the resettlement process. Specific provisions and considerations include:

- Liaison with UNHCR pre-submission on number and type of medical cases to be referred;
- Modification of UKBA interview to take into account the medical condition of the individual;
- Thorough medical screening, including secondary screening by IOM, where required, to assess if there would be favourable prognosis were they to be resettled and provided with the treatment required;
- Prioritising casework decision on cases with medical needs;
- Providing a medical escort on flights and travel where required; Ensuring allocation to the local authority which has committed to providing the treatment required, not only for the duration of the 12 month post-arrival support funding but longer-term;
- Liaison with Primary Care Trust and Education authority (where required) to ensure facilities are in place ahead of arrival; and
- Liaison with housing authority to ensure housing adaptations are in place, where required, ahead of arrival.

## 6. FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

### 6.1 The publication of the programme

The UK will adhere to Chapter 5, Articles 31 to 35 of Commission Decision 2008/22/EC for the publication of a summarised version of the Multi-Annual Programme for ERF III 2008-2013.

The UK will utilise a number of differing types of media, including but not exclusive to the Internet, Government Publications, *ad hoc* publication and Press Releases. All information to be published will initially be placed on the UKBA website, with hardcopies subsequently made available.

The UK will publish summaries of its Multi-Annual and Annual Programmes clearly highlighting both the Commission strategic priorities and the UK's proposals on how to fully meet these criteria. The full versions will be available to any party requesting a copy under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The UK will publish the name, amount funded and a description of each project funded annually. In addition the UK will publish details on how each project contributes to the overall aims and objective of the ERF III, in accordance with Commission Decision 2008/22/EC Article 33 (2) (b).

The UK will hold at least one public presentation of the achievements and progress of the ERF III annually. This is to fully satisfy the requirements of Article 33 (2) (a) of Commission Decision 2008/22/EC.

Finally, as defined in Article 34 of Commission Decision 2008/22/EC, the UK RA will ensure all projects receiving over €100,000 (approximately £67,540) will display a permanent plaque detailing the name of the project and timing of EC funding. In addition all projects will prominently display the EC logo on published reports, journals and any other publication regarding the project co-financed by the Commission as set out in Article 35 of Commission Decision 2008/22/EC. Compliance with this will monitored by the UK RA.



## 6.2 The approach chosen to implement the principle of partnership

The UK has developed a high level EU Solidarity Mechanism Funding Apportionment Board. The purpose of the Apportionment Board is to fulfil Article 11 ‘Partnership’, of the Basic Act 573/2007/EC. This states:

*“1. Each Member State shall organise, in accordance with current national rules and practices, a partnership with the authorities and bodies which are involved in the implementation of the multi-annual programme or which, according to the Member State concerned, are able to make a useful contribution to its development.*

*Such authorities and bodies may include the competent regional, local, urban and other public authorities, international organisations, in particular UNHCR, and bodies representing civil society, such as non-governmental organisations or social partners.*

*2. Such partnership shall be conducted in full compliance with the respective institutional, legal and financial jurisdiction of each partner category.”*

Additional references are made to Article 11 *Partnership* in Basic Act 573/2007/EC. Firstly, in Article 18 on the ‘*Preparation and approval of national multi-annual and annual programmes*’. Specifically, Article 18 (1) (f) states “*Each Member State shall propose, on the basis of the strategic guidelines referred to in Article 17, a draft multi-annual programme which consists of the following elements: ... a description of the approach chosen for the implementation of the partnership principle laid down in Article 11.*”

Secondly, in Article 27 on the ‘*Tasks of the Responsible Authority*’, specifically Article 27 (1) (a) which states that “[*the*] *Responsible Authority shall be responsible for managing and implementing the multi-annual programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management. It shall in particular: (a) consult partners in accordance with Article 11...*”

The RA has established the independent Apportionment Board to advise on the UK’s proposed allocations of all European funding provided as part of the general Solidarity Mechanism programme. The Board is presented with proposals for each of the three EU Solidarity Mechanism Funds in which the UK participates, including the ERF III. The proposals include multi-annual strategies, and annual strategies for the programme year in question.

At the start of the multi-annual programming phase, the legislative process which regulates each fund is outlined to the Board. This summarises the basic EU acts, which are supplemented by two accompanying European Commission Decisions laying down the rules

for the implementation of the basic acts, and the Strategic Guidelines which provide the priority framework for each fund.

The Board then considers the UK's proposed expenditure as set out in the plans provided in preparation for the Multi-Annual and Annual Programme proposals.

In line with national requirements, plus the Commission's priority and the eligible action requirements, the UK ERF RA presents its multi-annual and annual strategy proposals to the Board. In determining the validity of the proposals through this process, the Board considers whether the plans take into account the *priorities* and *actions* outlined in the Basic Acts and Commission documents, as well as national requirements.

In addition, as provided by Article 7(3) of the Commission Decision 2008/22/EC laying down rules for the implementation of Council Decision 573/2007, the UK ERF RA can act an Executing Body if "*the characteristics of the project leave no other choice for implementation, such as de jure monopoly situations or security reasons. In these cases, the rules concerning the final beneficiary shall apply mutatis mutandis to the responsible authority.*"

Therefore, the RA requires 'internal' project proposals to submit applications for consideration by the independent Apportionment Board. The RA requires the same financial and project information to be provided from internal bidders as for external project proposals awarded through the RA acting in grant Awarding Body role. In addition, internal bidders must justify how they satisfy the condition that they are *de jure* monopoly providers or why the project can only be delivered by UKBA.

The Apportionment Board then considers all internal applications against the domestic priorities agreed during the high level apportionment process, in addition to whether the criteria for Article 7(3) of Decision 2008/22/EC are met. The Board also advise on whether the use of the fund as proposed in the application submitted constitutes value for money, and provide feedback on any aspects of the application for which they recommend adjustment prior to approval.

### **UK Apportionment Board Objectives**

Therefore, the objectives of the UK Apportionment Board are:

- To be a transparent and semi-independent mechanism to apportion the funds.
- Overview of the Multi-Annual Programme specification for each fund.
- Annually select and approve internal projects to be administered by the RA in the Executing Body role, financed under the three funds.

## Task Summary

The key tasks of the Apportionment Board are summarised as:

- The Board will review the proposed Multi-Annual Programmes proposed apportionment plans for each fund against the criteria set by the Commission and decide whether or not to approve them. This informs the allocations proposed in this MAP.
- The Board will review the internal projects UKBA proposes under the Solidarity funding mechanism and decide whether or not to approve them.
- The Board will be informed of the results of the external tendering projects, assessed by a separate working level panel composed of independent officials. The Board is not requested to assist with approving external projects, selected by the RA in grant Awarding Body role.

### Membership:

**Chair:** UKBA Strategic Director of Human Resources

**Board members:** UNHCR

Department of Communities and Local Government

UK Permanent Representation in Brussels, FCO

## 7. INDICATIVE FINANCING PLAN

The draft financial plans for the Community Contribution and the Overall Financing Plans are presented in this chapter, in both Euros and Pound Sterling.

### 7.1 Community Contribution

7.1.1 Table 7 (a) Financial Table (Community Contribution) - €

<b>Multi-Annual Programme – Draft Financial Plan</b>							
<b>Table 7: Community Contribution</b>							
Member State: UK							
Fund: European Refugee Fund, Phase III							
<i>(in 000' euros – current prices)</i>	2008 <sup>13</sup>	2009 <sup>14</sup>	2010 <sup>15</sup>	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
<i>Total</i>	6,450	7,367	9,184	10,747	10,747	13,402	<b>57,897</b>
Priority 1: Implementation of asylum and integration acquis	1,559	1,348	1,348	1,904	1,690	2,114	<b>9,963</b>
Priority 2: Reference tools and evaluation methodologies to improve the quality of procedures	0	92	92	107	0	0	<b>291</b>
Priority 3: Actions helping to enhance responsibility sharing between Member States and third countries	4,409	5,381	7,072	8,276	8,597	10,722	<b>44,457</b>
	<b>5,969</b>	<b>6,821</b>	<b>8,512</b>	<b>10,287</b>	<b>10,287</b>	<b>12,836</b>	<b>54,711</b>
Technical Assistance	481	546	672	460	460	566	<b>3,185</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,449</b>	<b>7,367</b>	<b>9,184</b>	<b>10,747</b>	<b>10,747</b>	<b>13,402</b>	<b>57,896</b>

<sup>13</sup> 2008 funds quoted from Distribution of Resources, reference SOLID/2007/18/REV. The figures do not include the UK Future Resettlement amount of €2,720,000 as discussed with the Commission. This amount is not to be ring-fenced and as such has been removed from Priority 3 allocation. While the UK continue to intend to use this allocation to fund the UKBA Gateway Resettlement Programme this amount does not need to be recorded or financially declared with the Commission under ERF rules. For demonstration purposes only the UK have included the Future Resettlement Pledged amount to reflect the % amounts included in Tables 5 and 6, although this has no bearing on the financial amounts in tables 7.1.1 to 7.2.2.

<sup>14</sup> 2009 funds quoted from Distribution of Resources, reference SOLID/2008/15. The figures do not include the UK Future Resettlement amount of €2,000,000 as discussed with the Commission. This amount is not to be ring-fenced and as such has been removed from Priority 3 allocation. While the UK continue to intend to use this allocation to fund the UKBA Gateway Resettlement Programme this amount does not need to be recorded or financially declared with the Commission under ERF rules. For demonstration purposes only the UK have included the Future Resettlement Pledged amount to reflect the % amounts included in Tables 5 and 6, although this has no bearing on the financial amounts in tables 7.1.1 to 7.2.2.

<sup>15</sup> 2010-2013, referenced from SOLID/2007/23.

### 7.1.1 Table 7 (b) Financial Table (Community Contribution) - £

<b>Multi-Annual Programme – Draft Financial Plan</b>							
<b>Table 7: Community Contribution</b>							
Member State: UK							
Fund: European Refugee Fund Phase III							
<i>(in 000' £ – current prices)<sup>16</sup></i>	2008	2009	2010 <sup>17</sup>	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
<i>Total</i>	4,356	4,853	6,203	7,258	7,258	9,052	<b>42,167</b>
Priority 1: Implementation of asylum and integration acquis	1,052	910	910	1,286	1,142	1,428	<b>6,728</b>
Priority 2: Reference tools and evaluation methodologies to improve the quality of procedures	0	62	62	72	0	0	<b>196</b>
Priority 3: Actions helping to enhance responsibility sharing between Member States and third countries	2,979	3,521	4,776	5,590	5,806	7,241	<b>32,875</b>
	<b>4,031</b>	<b>4,493</b>	<b>5,748</b>	<b>6,948</b>	<b>6,948</b>	<b>8,669</b>	<b>39,799</b>
Technical Assistance	325	360	455	310	310	383	<b>2,368</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,356</b>	<b>4,853</b>	<b>6,203</b>	<b>7,258</b>	<b>7,258</b>	<b>9,052</b>	<b>42,167</b>

### 7.1.2 Comments on the figures/trends

Estimated fixed amount of Article 13(3) of the Decision in 000' euros.

2008	2009
2,720 <sup>18</sup>	2,000 <sup>19</sup>

<sup>16</sup> The conversion rate for Euro is 0.6754.

<sup>17</sup> 2010-2013, referenced from SOLID/2007/23.

<sup>18</sup> Estimated £ amount £1,823,000

<sup>19</sup> Estimated £ amount £1,350,800

## 7.2 Overall financing plan

### 7.2.1 Table 8 (a) Financial Table (Overall Financing Plan) - €

<b>Multi-Annual Programme – Draft Financial Plan</b>							
<b>Table 8: Overall Financing Plan</b>							
Member State: UK							
Fund: European Refugee Fund, Phase III							
<i>(in 000' euros – current prices)</i>	<b>2008<sup>20</sup></b>	<b>2009<sup>21</sup></b>	<b>2010<sup>22</sup></b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Community Contribution	6,450	7,367	9,184	10,747	10,747	13,402	<b>57,897</b>
Public Co-financing	4,409	6,019	7,836	8,843	9,057	11,288	<b>47,452</b>
Private Co-financing	1,559	1,348	1,348	1,904	1,690	2,114	<b>9,963</b>
Total	<b>12,418</b>	<b>14,734</b>	<b>18,368</b>	<b>21,494</b>	<b>21,494</b>	<b>26,804</b>	<b>115,312</b>

<sup>20</sup> 2008 funds quoted from Distribution of Resources, reference SOLID/2007/18/REV. The figures do not include the UK Future Resettlement amount of €2,720,000 as discussed with the Commission. This amount is not to be ring-fenced and as such has been removed from Priority 3 allocation. While the UK continue to intend to use this allocation to fund the UKBA Gateway Resettlement Programme this amount does not need to be recorded or financially declared with the Commission under ERF rules. For demonstration purposes only the UK have included the Future Resettlement Pledged amount to reflect the % amounts included in Tables 5 and 6, although this has no bearing on the financial amounts in tables 7.1.1 to 7.2.2.

<sup>21</sup> 2009 funds quoted from Distribution of Resources, reference SOLID/2008/15. The figures do not include the UK Future Resettlement amount of €2,000,000 as discussed with the Commission. This amount is not to be ring-fenced and as such has been removed from Priority 3 allocation. While the UK continue to intend to use this allocation to fund the UKBA Gateway Resettlement Programme this amount does not need to be recorded or financially declared with the Commission under ERF rules. For demonstration purposes only the UK have included the Future Resettlement Pledged amount to reflect the % amounts included in Tables 5 and 6, although this has no bearing on the financial amounts in tables 7.1.1 to 7.2.2.

<sup>22</sup> 2010-2013, referenced from SOLID/2007/23.

## 7.2.1 Table 8 (b) Financial Table (Overall Financing Plan) - £

<b>Multi-Annual Programme – Draft Financial Plan</b>							
<b>Table 8: Overall Financing Plan</b>							
Member State: UK							
Fund: European Refugee Fund, Phase III							
<i>(in £ 000' – current prices)<sup>23</sup></i>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010<sup>24</sup></b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Community Contribution	4,356	4,853	6,203	7,258	7,258	9,052	<b>38,980</b>
Public Co-financing	3,303	3,943	5,293	5,972	6,117	7,624	<b>32,252</b>
Private Co-financing	1,053	910	910	1,286	1,141	1,428	<b>6,728</b>
Total	<b>8,712</b>	<b>9,706</b>	<b>12,406</b>	<b>14,516</b>	<b>14,516</b>	<b>18,104</b>	<b>77,960</b>

### 7.2.2 Comments on the figures/trends

Estimated fixed amount of Article 13(3) of the Decision in 000' euros.

2008

2009

2,720<sup>25</sup>

2,000<sup>26</sup>

<sup>23</sup> The conversion rate for Euro is 0.6754

<sup>24</sup> 2010-2013, referenced from SOLID/2007/23.

<sup>25</sup> Estimated £ amount £1,823,000

<sup>26</sup> Estimated £ amount £1,350,800

**AUTHORISATION**

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[Signature of the Responsible Person]



## **Annex A      Summary of United Kingdom Acts relating to Asylum and Immigration**

British Nationality Act, 1948

Immigration Act, 1971

British Nationality Act, 1981

Immigration Act, 1988

Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act, 1993

Asylum and Immigration Act, 1996

Human Rights Act, 1998

Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999

Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act, 2002

Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act, 2004

Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act, 2006

UK Borders Act, 2007