International House NY
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Creating Diverse Communities for Receiving Syrian Refugees in Argentina
Argentina

Description of the project
Through the refugee resettlement model known as "community sponsorship" that has been implemented in Argentina since 2014, we will work to build and develop communities that are more inclusive, plural, receptive to immigration, and open to religious, ethnic, cultural and gender diversity, through different actions that will be implemented in host communities that received or will receive families or LGBTQ refugees. The sponsors are, usually, argentines, who profess a religion within Christianity or Judaism, Latinos, and who have the mission of helping in the whole process of integration in a new country and community to Syrians, who generally profess some religion within Islam or Christianity, and of Arab. In this framework, we will carry out trainings in the different host communities, as well as artistic and sports activities, with the aim of generating spaces for coexistence to promote unity, integration, and common humanity.

Proposed activities
The following activities will be implemented in the different communities that will receive and/or have received Syrian individuals or families through community sponsorship: Neuquén, Chubut, Santa Cruz, Mendoza, Tucumán, Córdoba, Rio Negro, Santa Fe, Buenos Aires province and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. The call for participation will be focused on the local population in general, and a special one will be made to all those small communities of local immigrants, to include people of different ethnic, cultural, religious, national identities, sexual and gender orientations in order to promote and strengthen peace and cooperation, regardless of differences.

A) Trainings: we will incorporate the following topics: interculturality, sociocultural profile of the Syrian population that migrates to Argentina, factors that facilitate stigmatization and/or discrimination due to cultural shock between refugees and sponsoring groups and the community host and how to avoid these.

B) Artistic activities: art, theater and music exhibitions: art by different Syrian artists will be exhibited that portray the reality and suffering they went through due to the war, raising awareness in society about the current refugee crisis, and thus generating multicultural artistic collectives.

C) Sports activities: according to the geographical characteristics of each city that receives refugees, we will carry out trekking activities and/or marathons (Run4Refugees), spreading and promoting the theme for inclusion in their communities, and we will create a soccer team (the most practiced sport in Argentina) made up of people of different nationalities, religions and races.

Goals
The project will sow seeds of empathy, solidarity, and friendship between people of different nationalities, cultures, races and religions, sexual and gender orientations, generating visible, positive and sustainable changes, and transforming each community.

Short-term goals
- Break down all the barriers that are generated between host communities and refugees, due to prejudice; prevent all types of discriminatory, racist and/or xenophobic behavior towards the migrant and refugee population; encourage, promote and build conditions that promote equal rights, freedom and opportunities in each host community.
Long-term goals
- Increase the number of people who join community sponsorship; increase host communities; increase in Argentina the number of communities open to interculturality and receptive to immigration, which will promote inclusion in all its forms.

Implementation
The project will be implemented according to the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>This two-day workshop will provide tools with the aim of raising awareness and reducing conflict based on bias, stereotypes, myths, and prejudices in host communities</td>
<td>2 workshops per month starting on April to August 2021</td>
<td>500 people will obtain information on intercultural communication, and development of strategies to overcome conflicts with the Syrian population and reduce discrimination.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>It will be performed in San Martín de los Andes and will be developed by an experimental theater group</td>
<td>June 20th - World Refugee Day</td>
<td>300 people will be sensitized about the refugee situation internationally and in Argentina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plays</td>
<td>It will be a traveling exhibition that will be present in the 10 different cities mentioned above</td>
<td>2 workshops per month starting on April to August 2021</td>
<td>1000 people will be sensitized about the refugee situation internationally and in Argentina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trekking</td>
<td>Sport activity that will happen in Mendoza to integrate the host communities with local migrants and refugees</td>
<td>June 2020 - World refugee month</td>
<td>150 people will participate and will receive information about the importance of community sponsorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>With local amateur and professional teams we will develop 3 friendly matches in Rosario, Cordoba and Buenos Aires City that will integrate community members and refugees</td>
<td>June, July and August 2021</td>
<td>300 people between participants and public will be sensitized on community sponsorship, peace and human rights of refugees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maratón</td>
<td>The activity will take place in San Martín de los Andes and will have the participation of refugees and people from the community.</td>
<td>May 2021</td>
<td>150 people will participate in the activity and will be sensitized on the importance of migration and respect for the human rights of refugees</td>
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</table>

Indicators
Levels of interest, acceptance, participation, and/or rejection of citizenship in each of the communities, and in each of the proposed activities; levels of participation of migrants and/or refugees in each of the communities, and in each of the proposed activities; levels of integration of refugees into their host community, taking into account indicators such as: language learning, labor inclusion of men and women, social inclusion of LGBTIQ people, school integration of children, etc.