A NEW DAWN FOR VOLUNTEERING IN DEVELOPMENT

16th – 19th October
SESSION 9:
VOLUNTEERING BY AND FOR MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Partnerships: The Australian Volunteers Program and Refugee Social Services

Wendell Westley – Australian Volunteers
Yasmin Rajah – Refugee Social Services
• HOW COULD REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS BECOME ACTIVE AGENTS AND LEADERS IN THE DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES RATHER THAN BENEFICIARIES OF THE SERVICES AND SUPPORT PROVIDED BY VOLUNTEER ORGANISATIONS?

• HOW CAN WE MAKE THE MIGRANT AND REFUGEES LET ORGANISATIONS AS EQUAL PARTNERS IN THE VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMS?
Australian Volunteers Program

Our approach to partnerships

Locally led development
Working together
Package of support
  International volunteers
  National volunteers
  Small grants program
  Peer to peer learning and knowledge sharing
Refugee Social Services

- Locally registered Not for Profit organisation working with refugee, asylum seeker and migrant communities
- Provides integrated package of psycho-social services and capacity building aimed at promoting integration and independence
- Staffed by a diverse team made up of locals and refugees/migrants
- Team made up of professional paid staff and volunteers from the both local and international communities as well as from the client community
- Services are culturally appropriate, provided in refugee and local languages and there's an emphasis on working in partnership with the community to bring about sustainable changes
International Volunteer

Need identified by RSS for assignment

Research Sales Force for case management and M&E

Capacity building of RSS staff

Working with national volunteers to capture and implement use

RSS Teams in training session with Australian Volunteer Graham. Credit: Refugee Social Services
National Volunteers

Testing new models and approaches to volunteering

Funded through an Innovation Grant to support young graduates

RSS hosting 4 national volunteers

Social worker, finance administrator, 2 SF administrators

National Volunteers and Peer at RSS office. Credit: Refugee Social Services
Peers educators and volunteers

- Partnership with refugee community and building of relationships of trust
- Support – language and community visits, culturally appropriate services
- Restore dignity, confidence and genuine commitment
- Equal participatory partnership

Young peers gathering at workshop. Credit: Refugee Social Services