

DESCRIPTION

The project was launched in February of 2012 with the formation of an Advisory Team and outreach activities in schools and in the broader community to identify potential candidates for this initiative.

In order to participate in the initiative, candidates needed to

- be young adult Manitobans who immigrated to Canada in 2006, at the earliest
- be of refugee or war-affected backgrounds
- have spent at least two years in a school program in Manitoba
- be willing to talk about and share their experiences prior to arriving in Canada and during their first few years in Canada, and their prospects and hopes for the future

With the assistance of several educators, potential participants were provided with information on the project and referred to the project lead and researcher. Eventually, 11 candidates, who were willing to participate and met all or most of the criteria, were identified. These candidates were selected and interviewed from March 2012 to July 2012. Prior to being interviewed, participants were provided with detailed information, an informed consent form, an exemplar of the stories or narratives the department wished to create based on their interviews, and the interview questions.

Interviews were held in locations that were appropriate and that interviewees suggested or approved. The interviews lasted from 1.5 to 2.5 hours. The participants were asked about their journey and life experiences before coming to

Canada and after arriving in Canada, and their prospects and hopes for the future. The participants were asked to share details about their experiences that were relevant to and influenced their educational needs. This included family characteristics, cultural identity, linguistic backgrounds, social contexts, educational experiences, physical, social, and emotional well-being, important life events, and the impact of war or conflict on them and their families. The [interview questions](#) are provided in the appendices section of this document.

Participants chose an alias for themselves (in order to protect their privacy), interviews were recorded, and transcripts of the interviews were prepared. The learners' stories or narratives are directly based on the interviews with these young Manitobans. They are partially edited and reorganized versions of the interview transcripts that ensure authenticity as well as maintenance of the learners' voices. In addition to each learner's story, contextual and historical information and images were added to each narrative. This information allows readers to better understand the situation in the region, and provides a context for the learner's story or amplifies aspects of each story. The information added included

- a description of the country of birth or the country with which the learner identifies



© F. Noy/UNHCR. November 1, 2012. Keeping Busy in Rwanda's Kiziba Camp. These young women are part of a music and dance troupe set up in Kiziba as part of an awareness campaign against sexual and gender-based violence. The young—male and female—are encouraged to take part in recreation activities that will keep them away from crime and other anti-social behaviour. <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/unhcr/8361200220/in/photostream/>>. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

- information on the diversity of the country's people
- the history and nature of the conflict or war in the country
- details about countries where the learner may have lived as a refugee or sought asylum before coming to Canada
- exemplary or notable Canadians from similar backgrounds in Manitoba or other parts of Canada

Once the narrative for each participant was written, the participants were provided with a copy of the draft narrative for review, revision, and approval.