

March 2000

BRIDGING SOLITUDES: PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGES IN CANADIAN REFUGEE SERVICE DELIVERY Introduction

CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES

Claudia María Vargas

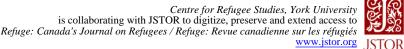
Although it would be wonderful to get to the point where we would not have to consider service provision to refugees, the reality is that there is a continuous and escalating need to do so as conflicts around the world continue to displace thousands of people.¹ While the number of people encountering dislocation swell, countries seem to be responding by restrictive asylum policies and by limiting services, a phenomenon occurring in the first country of entry and in

asylum granting countries. (For a thorough discussion on the legal restrictions adopted by Canada, the United States, and the European Union, see Cooper, forthcoming; and the article by the same author in this issue). In spite of these and other obstacles, nonprofit organizations strive to deliver a variety of services to refugees. This challenge has intensified with the shift from a welfare state framework to a market oriented state. Thus, nonprofit organizations have had to step in to fill a void left by a slashing of government services (Welsch 1999; Salamon 1994).

In such a setting, key questions emerge. How do non-governmental organizations (NGOs) deliver much needed services in a time of shrinking budgets and restricted policies? What strategies do NGOs use to meet these obstacles within an ethic of service? In other words, what challenges do service providers encounter in delivering serv-

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For further information and registration, please contact:

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