

Third Culture Kids-Phase 2: What's the Same, What's New for Today's TCKs

GHMC

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1939 - 2004

Dave Pollock's TCK Definition

'A person who has spent a significant part of his or her developmental years outside the parents' culture(s)...



Expanded description of Third Culture *Ki* (NOT third culture per se)

....Although elements from each culture may be assimilated into the TCK's life experience, the sense of belonging is often in relationship to others of similar background. '



—David C. Pollock, developer of the TCK Profile

Gifts of this experience

Meeting people from many countries, cultures, languages

Developing cross-cultural skills, including potentially multi-lingualism

Seeing the world first hand

Potentially being a bridge between people/groups

Biggest challenges for TCKs

Questions of identity

- Who am I?
- Where do I belong?

Loss

- Attachment issues
- Unresolved grief

Cross-Cultural Kids

- A Cross-Cultural Kid (CCK) is a person who is living in—or meaningfully interacting with— two or more cultural environments for a significant period of time during *developmental/childhood* years.
- An Adult Cross-Cultural Kid (ACCK) is someone who grew up as a CCK.

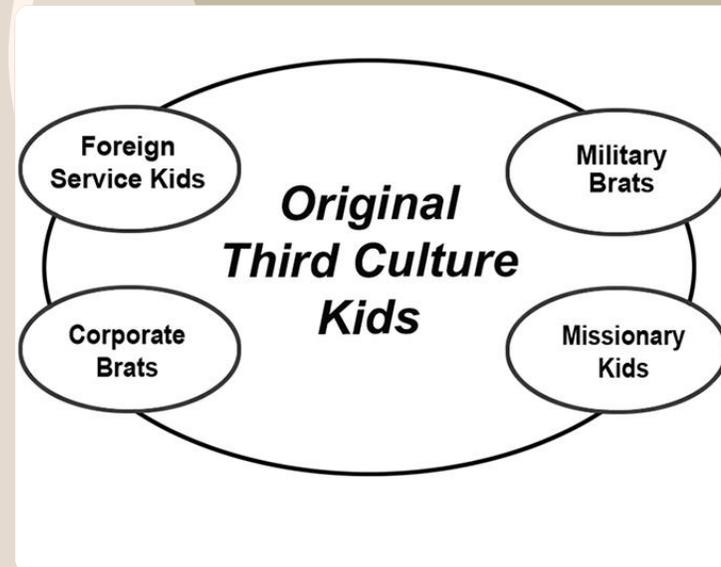
- Ruth E. Van Reken, co-author, *Third Culture Kids: Growing Up Among Worlds*, 2002



Traditional Third Culture Kids

- “A traditional third culture kid (TCK) is a person who has spent a significant part of his or her first eighteen years of life accompanying parents into a country outside either/both parents' passport country(ies) due to the parent’s choice of work or advanced training.”

- Ruth E. Van Reken, Michael V Pollock, 2017

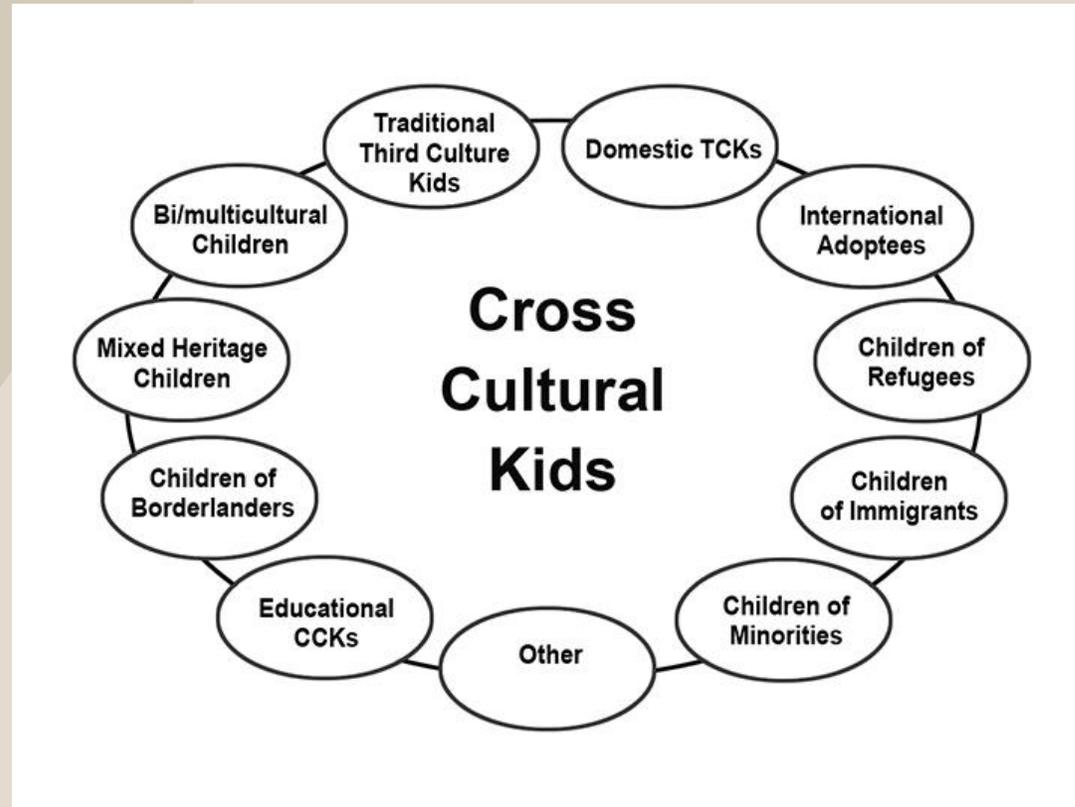


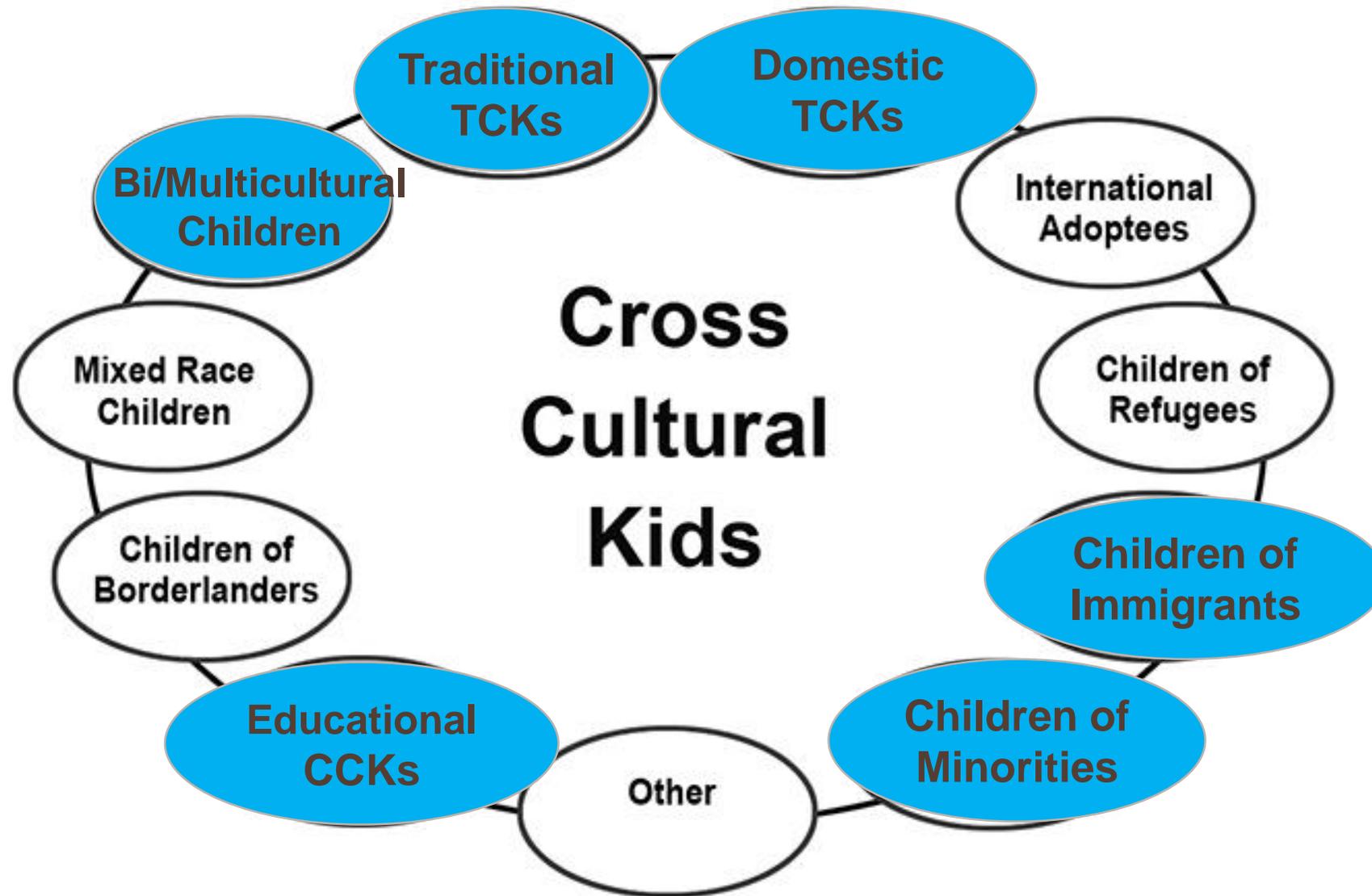
Domestic TCK

A person who accompanies parents into different cultural worlds and communities within national borders in the first 18 years of life.



Growing realities and complexities



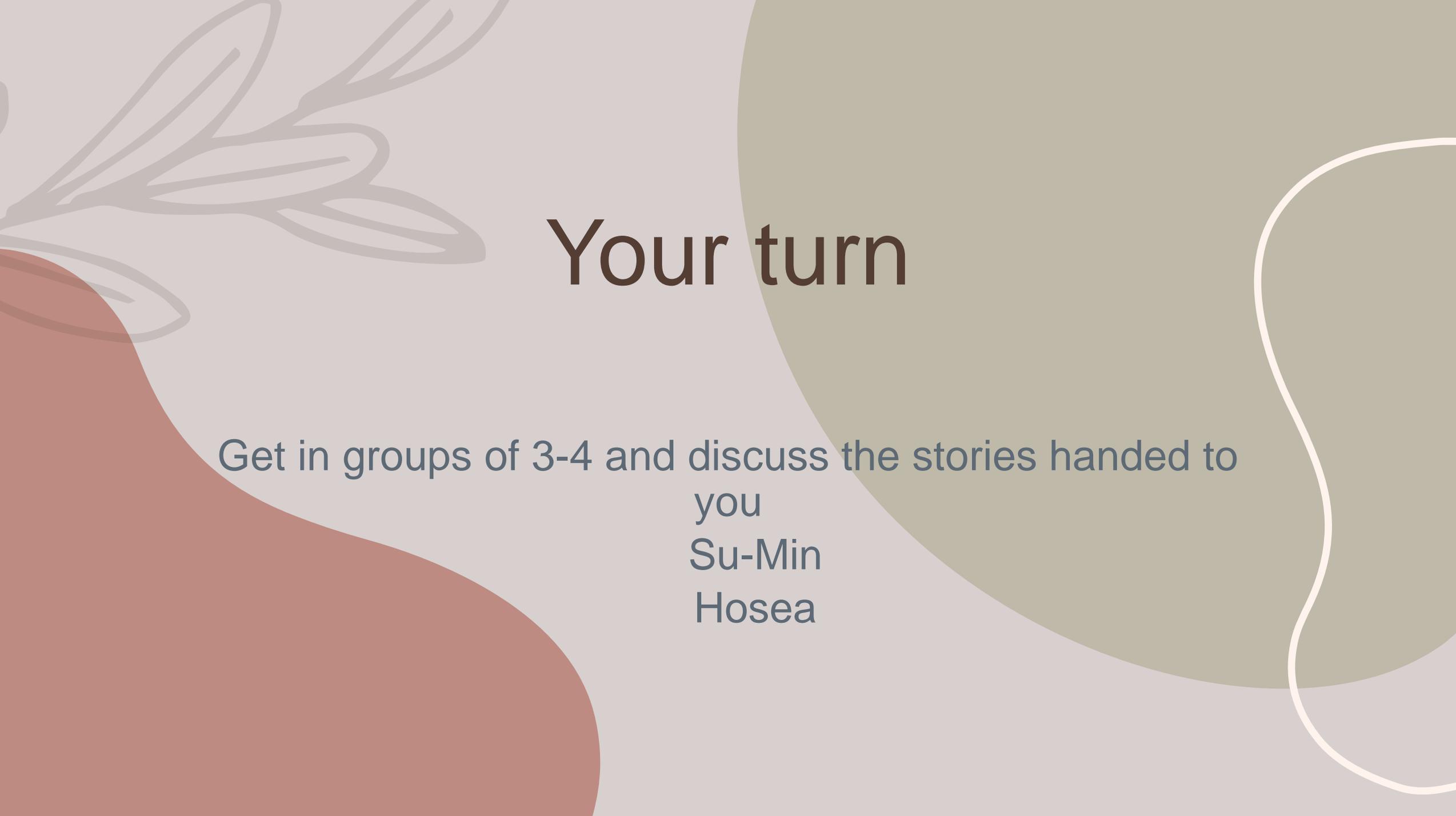


What about emerging population of missionary kids (MKs) New Sending Countries (NSC)?

What are their extra challenges from traditional MKs (like me?)

How is the global Body of Christ responding?

What else can we do as a community of faith to support this population?



Your turn

Get in groups of 3-4 and discuss the stories handed to you

Su-Min

Hosea

Responses

What are the extra challenges Hosea and Su-Min and their families face compared to a more traditional Western based missionary family?

What might be helpful to them to ameliorate some of these challenges?

What kind of support does this family need on the field and back home? What are steps others in the global missions community might do to support them in a better, more wholistic way?



Enlarging our Tents:

Unrecognized
Wellness Needs in Missions

Prepared for Mental Health and Missions in
2022 by 'KT' and Ruth Van Reken

Defining OSC & NSC

Old Sending Countries (OSC):
Countries that have sent out missionaries for over a hundred years:

- × Australia
- × Canada
- × Denmark
- × Germany
- × UK
- × USA

New Sending Countries (NSC):
Countries that only started sending out missionaries in significant numbers relatively recently:

- × Brazil
- × Costa Rica
- × Ghana
- × India
- × South Korea
- × Nigeria
- × Philippines
- × Singapore
- × China

Additional Challenges for NSC TCKs

Sense of Identity & Belonging

- More complexities between school and family cultures
 - Cultural distance with parents
 - Potential internalized racism or arrogance
- Hidden immigrants in host culture

Sense of Identity & Belonging

- Separated from parents in their growing years
- Being stereotyped or despised
- Some TCKs lack system identities

Language & Education

- Lack of resources in their own language
- Lack of education options because of language and finance constraints
 - Academic language not enough to return home for tertiary education
 - Financial and immigration limitations make it difficult to find placement in other countries

Unresolved Grief & Loss

- Many do not acknowledge the losses
- For some cultures, emotion is considered unimportant and creates trouble
- Lack of permission to grieve

What can we
do?

What we can do

**Build
Awareness**

**Partner;
Develop
Resources**

Build Awareness

- Invite those from NSCs to share their experiences
- Read and get exposure to updates on NSCs

Partner; Develop Resources

- Share, translate, and contextualize materials
- Partner with NSC orgs to offer programs or services in other languages (e.g. online training, online schools)
- Provide networking opportunities for NSC orgs and workers



Question + Response