

THE CRISIS IN SYRIA



THE CONTEXT

There are currently over 3.7 million refugees registered in the region, including approximately over 1,167,000 million in Lebanon, 621,000 in Jordan, 1,622,000 in Turkey, 235,000 in Iraq and 136,000 in Egypt. As part of the emergency response, UNHCR is urging States to consider a number of solutions that can be mobilised to secure urgent and effective protection. Such solutions could include resettlement, humanitarian admission or individual sponsorship. States could also offer other kinds of solutions, including programmes that enable Syrian relatives to join family members, scholarships for Syrian students in order to prevent a “lost generation” of young people, and medical evacuation for refugees with serious health conditions that require life-saving treatment.

UNHCR initially proposed that countries admit up to 30,000 Syrian refugees on resettlement, humanitarian admission, or other programmes by the end of 2014, with a focus on protecting the most vulnerable. However as UNHCR anticipates that in the coming years, there will be increasing numbers of vulnerable Syrian refugees who will be in need of resettlement, relocation, or other forms of humanitarian admission, UNHCR has called upon States to make multi-annual commitments towards a goal of providing resettlement and other forms of admission for an additional 100,000 Syrian refugees in 2015 and 2016. States are encouraged to offer places for Syrian refugees *in addition to their current resettlement quotas* to ensure that resettlement opportunities also continue to be available for refugees from the rest of the world.

To date, numerous countries have pledged to receive refugees on resettlement, humanitarian admission and other programmes, with **79,209** places now made available plus an additional number to the United States of America. Thus far, some 10,201 UNHCR submissions have been received by the United States of America. An unprecedented majority of these pledges comes from European States (19).

For a Q&A on UNHCR’s call, click [here](#).

IOM’s role and capacities in resettlement and humanitarian admission

Since the onset of the crisis, IOM has been involved in the coordination mechanisms for humanitarian response and has continued to operate ongoing resettlement programmes within the region. Moreover IOM is supporting the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) in implementing the Humanitarian Admissions Programme (HAP) through which 20,000 Syrian refugees will be transferred to Germany and admitted under humanitarian grounds. From the first 10,000 HAP cases, 4,100 have received specific assistance from IOM with transport and pre-departure arrangements including cultural orientation.



Syria: In January 2015, IOM provided **76** refugees with resettlement assistance to resettle in third countries. The refugees travelled by road from Damascus to Beirut, and then flew out of Rafic Hariri International Airport.



Lebanon: Resettlement assistance: In January 2015, IOM supported the resettlement of 619 refugees (almost all of them Syrians) to countries including Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

German Humanitarian Admission Programme (HAP): In January 2015, two charter flights departed from Beirut for Germany transporting 263 Syrian refugees, as part of the third phase of the German Humanitarian Admissions Programme (HAP). Before travelling, IOM assisted the refugees with transport, logistics, medical screenings and cultural orientation sessions on topics ranging

from working in Germany to the local transport system.

Since 11 September 2013, IOM has assisted a total of **4,542** Syrian refugees to be resettled under the programme, which offers temporary resettlement on the basis of humanitarian need.



Transit to Stranded Migrants and Refugees Accepted for Resettlement from Syria: In January 2015, IOM provided 76 refugees Iraqi, Syrian and Palestinian origins with transit assistance from Syria through Lebanon to final destinations in Australia, Switzerland and Canada.

Since the start of the crisis IOM has provided this transit assistance to a total of 8,443 refugees and 1,690 stranded migrants from inside Syria.



Jordan: From 25th of December - 25th of January, **1,031** Syrian refugees were provided transportation assistance from the Raba'a Al Sarhan Screening Center to Azraq (936) and Za'atri (95) camps. IOM Amman's Medical Health Department continues to provide pre-departure health services for new arrivals at the Rabaa' Al Sarhan screening centre. During the reporting period, 936 refugees were declared fit to travel and 95 cases were referred to the responsible organization in Rabaa' Al Sarhan screening centre for further medical assistance prior to travel.

In the reporting period, **1,492** refugees were assisted to resettle to Australia (35), Sweden (41) and the US (1,416).

IOM has transported **455,703** Syrian refugees from border areas to camps since transport operations began in July 2012.



Turkey: Between 27th of December and 27th of January, **115** Syrian refugees departed Turkey of which 41 males and 74 females.

In 2014, a total number of **2,093** Syrian refugees departed from Turkey (1,002 males and 1091 females).

IOM offices in Damascus, Beirut, Istanbul and Amman have all continued their resettlement operations throughout the crisis. These include the provision of:

- Pre-departure arrangements such as arranging all travel documentation and exit visa
- Health Assessments & fit-to-fly
- Pre-departure information and cultural orientation training and pre embarkation briefings
- Transportation assistance including airport assistance

WHICH COUNTRIES ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE RESETTLEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ADMISSION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES SO FAR?

To date, numerous countries have pledged to receive refugees on resettlement, humanitarian admission and other programmes, with **79,209** places now made available plus an additional number to the United States of America. This figure includes the 57,878 pledges received since 2013; the 11,130 visas granted under other forms of protection and the 10,201 UNHCR submissions to the United States of America. An unprecedented majority of these pledges comes from European States (19).

The following countries have pledged to receive refugees on resettlement, humanitarian admission or other programmes:

Country	Confirmed/Official Pledges (Persons) since 2013
Argentina	Humanitarian Visa programme
Australia	5,600 resettlement and Special Humanitarian Programme
Austria	1.500 humanitarian admission
Belarus	20 resettlement
Belgium	300 resettlement*
Brazil	Open ended humanitarian visa programme *
Canada	200 resettlement

	1,100 private sponsorship 10,000 resettlement/private sponsorship
Denmark	140 resettlement
Finland	850 resettlement
France	1.000 humanitarian admission/resettlement*
Germany	20,000 humanitarian admission 10,000 individual sponsorship*
Hungary	30 resettlement
Ireland	310 resettlement*
Liechtenstein	25 resettlement
Luxembourg	60 resettlement
Netherlands	500 resettlement
New Zealand	100 resettlement
Norway	2,500 resettlement
Poland	100 resettlement
Portugal	23 resettlement 70 emergency scholarships for higher education
Spain	130 resettlement
Sweden	2,700 resettlement
Switzerland	500 resettlement*
UK	Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme
USA	open-ended number on resettlement
Uruguay	120 resettlement
TOTAL	57.878 + an additional number to the USA

Source: UNHCR, January 2015

*Australia: 1,114 granted to end June 2014 and at least 4,500 over the next three years until 30 June 2017

*Belgium's pledge includes 75 in 2014 and 225 in 2015.

*Brazil has launched a humanitarian visa programme for individuals affected by the conflict in Syria. Under this programme, Brazil has so far issued 5,700 humanitarian visas. Individuals admitted to Brazil under this programme have the right to apply for refugee status.

*Since January 2013, France has provided 1,200 asylum visas for Syrians, which enabled them to travel to France for the purpose of applying for asylum.

*While 15 federal states in Germany have launched their own reception programmes for Syrian nationals with relatives in Germany. Approximately 7,500 visas under the German scheme have been issued to date.

*Ireland's pledge includes 90 in 2014, 100 in 2015, and 120 in 2016. Ireland launched the Syrian Humanitarian Admission Programme and has accepted 111 persons

* Under a pilot project started in 2013, Switzerland is resettling 500 over three years, of which 350 will be submitted by UNHCR by the end of 2014. In addition, Switzerland initiated a temporary extended family reunification programme from September to November 2013. Under this programme, 8,200

applications were received, and 4,000 visas have been issued to date.

* In addition, the UK has created the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme for Syrian refugees and has received 90 so far.

* UNHCR has so far submitted 10,201 Syrian refugees to the United States of America for resettlement consideration (as of 31 December 2014).

A number of scholarship programmes have been created for Syrian students whose education has been interrupted by the conflict.

EUROPEAN MIGRATION FORUM:

The European Migration Forum – the dialogue platform on migration, asylum and migrant integration – met for the first time on the 26th and 27th of January 2015. The main theme of the meeting was: 'Safe routes, safe futures. How to manage the mixed flows of migrants across the Mediterranean?'. Commissioner Avramopoulos said a serious effort must be made to establish a **truly European programme for the resettlement of refugees**. Member States have so far offered over a total of 36.000 places to Syrian refugees, making it the largest pledge in the history of EU resettlement efforts.

"We will soon elaborate on the proposal for a pilot project on resettlement in which all Member States and Associated States could take part. We count on your support in encouraging all Member States to take their part of the responsibility for resettlement. Member States need to understand that refugees are not a burden; on the contrary – if the integration process is successful and if their access to employment is encouraged and facilitated – they can be an important resource for the host country", Commissioner Avramopoulos stated. The whole speech can be read [here](#).

For more updates on the crisis in Syria click [here](#) or visit www.resettlement.eu

For more information on IOM's services you can contact Jo De Backer, *EU Policy and Liaison Officer for Emergency and Post Crisis, Migration & Environment and Resettlement* (jdebacker@iom.int).