



THE CRISIS IN SYRIA



THE CONTEXT

There are currently over 2.5 million refugees registered in the region, including approximately 974,000 in Lebanon, 584,000 in Jordan, 641,000 in Turkey, 226,000 in Iraq and 135,000 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 has already called upon States to provide solutions for 30,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees through resettlement or other forms of admission by the end of 2014. To date, 20 countries have offered more than 19,900 places towards this goal. UNHCR remains confident that the 30,000 goal will be met by the end of the year through a significant number of submissions to the United States of America. However, in light of the growing needs of the Syrian refugee population, the goal of 30,000 in 2014 represents only the first benchmark in securing solutions for this group. 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. As a result, UNHCR on the 21st of February 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.

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 programs within the region. Moreover IOM is supporting the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) in implementing the Humanitarian Admissions Program (HAP) through which some 10,000 Syrian refugees, of which approx. 3,500 with specific assistance from IOM, will be transferred to Germany and admitted under humanitarian grounds.



Syria: Between 4 - 17 March 2014, IOM provided resettlement assistance to 132 refugees (63 women, 69 men, including 26 children) travelling to the United States of America (61), Canada (58), Australia (9) and Netherlands (4). The refugees were of Iraqi, Palestinian, Somali and Syrian origins. The refugees travelled by road from Damascus to Beirut, and then flew out of Rafic Hariri International Airport. Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM has provided resettlement assistance to 17,055 refugees who have been resettled in 17 countries: Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Swaziland, Sweden,

Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America.



Lebanon: Since 11 September 2013, IOM has assisted 1,755 Syrian refugees to be resettled under the HAP programme. On 13 March, 243 Syrian refugees (116 females, 127 males including 58 children and 14 infants) departed from Beirut for Germany. This was the ninth group of refugees to leave Lebanon as part of the German Government Humanitarian Admissions Programme. The next flight is scheduled for 31 March. Between 4 - 17 March 2014, IOM provided assistance to 132 Iraqi, Palestinian and Somali refugees, who were accepted for resettlement via transit through Lebanon. They included 63 female and 69 male passengers (25 of whom were children), and travelled onward to final destinations in Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, Romania and the United States. Since February 2013, IOM has assisted 6,309 non-Syrian refugees and 1,149 stranded migrants to transit through Lebanon. IOM Beirut is coordinating with delegations from France and Norway about providing logistical support for interviews, medical screenings, cultural orientation and departure assistance for the resettlement of Syrian refugees to their countries.



Jordan: Between 4 - 17 March 2014, 5,227 Syrian refugees (2,767 women; 2,460 men including 2,879 children) were transported from the

Rabaa' al Sarhan Screening Centre to Za'atri camp. As IOM teams continue to medically screen all arrivals to Za'atri camp, they reported that 83 individuals were identified with medical conditions requiring immediate referral for treatment. Since transport operations began in July 2012, IOM has transported 401,439 Syrian refugees from border areas to camps. All refugees receive refreshments, hygiene kits, and shoes upon arrival at the IOM reception centre in Za'atri camp.

IOM offices in Damascus, Beirut 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, 20 countries have pledged to receive refugees on humanitarian admission or resettlement for 2013/2014, and the total pledges for resettlement and humanitarian admission now stands at over 19,900 places, plus an open-ended number to the United States of America. An unprecedented majority of these pledges comes from European States.

The following countries have pledged to receive refugees on humanitarian admission or resettlement for 2013/2014:

Country	2013/2014 Confirmed/Official Pledges (Persons)
Australia	500 resettlement
Austria	500 humanitarian admission
Belgium	75 resettlement
Canada	200 resettlement 1,100 private sponsorship
Denmark	140 resettlement
Finland	500 resettlement
France	500 humanitarian admission/resettlement
Germany	10,000 humanitarian admission 2,500 individual sponsorship
Hungary	10 resettlement
Ireland	90 resettlement
Liechtenstein	4 resettlement
Luxembourg	60 resettlement
Moldova	50 resettlement
Netherlands	250 resettlement
New Zealand	100 resettlement
Norway	1,000 resettlement
Spain	130 resettlement
Sweden	1,200 resettlement
Switzerland	150 resettlement
USA	open-ended number on resettlement
TOTAL Confirmed/Official Pledges	19,059 + an additional number to the USA
Unconfirmed Pledges	870
Combined TOTAL	19,929 + an additional number to the USA

Source: UNHCR, March 2014

In addition, the UK has created the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme for Syrian refugees, while 15 federal states in Germany have launched their own reception programmes for Syrian nationals with relatives in Germany. Approximately 2,500 visas under the German scheme have been issued to date.

On 5 of February, the **Core Group on Resettlement of Syrian Refugees** convened in Malmö under the chairmanship of the Swedish Migration Board to discuss the current number of places pledged, continued dialogue with the host countries, as well as strategic outcomes based on a presentation of the UNHCR paper, "[Unlocking Opportunities for Complementary Solutions](#)". The Belgian government and the European Commission provided presentations on the use and availability of EU-funding for resettlement and humanitarian admission of Syrian refugees.

UNHCR is also coordinating with the host countries neighboring Syria as well as throughout the wider region to engage in regular information exchange and feedback on the implementation of the resettlement and humanitarian admission programs for Syrian refugees.

On the 6th of March The [Resettlement Saves Lives](#) campaign endorsed the newly launched [European Council on Refugees and Exiles \(ECRE\)](#) campaign entitled [Europe Act Now](#).

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* (jidebacker@iom.int).