



Refugees board buses heading towards the processing center in Amman. © IOM (Photo: Muse Mohammed)

## THE CONTEXT

Since the onset of the Syria crisis, IOM has been involved in the coordination mechanisms for humanitarian response and has continued to operate ongoing resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes from within the region. IOM's **resettlement operations** in countries neighbouring Syria as well as in Syria itself have continued to support refugees and States, including through pre-departure health assessments, pre-departure logistics for visa processing and travel documents, pre-departure orientation and information sessions and finally movement management.

There are currently **5,611,702 refugees** registered in the region, including approximately 3,552,303 in Turkey, 976,002 in Lebanon, 670,429 in Jordan, 249,123 in Iraq, 130,300 in Egypt and 33,545 in the rest of North Africa.

Over the years of Syrian war, UNHCR has been urging States to consider a number of solutions that can be mobilized to secure urgent and effective protection. Such solutions could include resettlement, humanitarian admission and/or individual or community 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.

### The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

With the signing of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in September 2016, UN Member States committed to increase their efforts to find new homes for all refugees identified by UNHCR as needing protection and solutions in third countries. UNHCR estimates that almost 1.2 million refugees will need resettlement in 2018, among whom 40% are Syrians.



# IOM OPERATIONS

## SYRIA

 In August 2018, IOM provided departure assistance to **8 persons** (5 female, 3 males, including 1 child) with transit from Syria through Lebanon and onward to their final destinations Australia and New Zealand. In addition, airport assistance was provided to 2 Syrian nationals that departed to Argentina.

IOM Beirut has also provided departure assistance to 26 persons travelling under family reunification to Ireland, Sweden and the UK during the reporting period.

Since the start of the crisis, IOM has provided transit assistance from Syria to a total of **11,415** refugees and **1,974** stranded migrants from Syria.

## LEBANON

 In August 2018, IOM supported the resettlement of **790** Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria to countries including Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Ireland, Norway, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the US.

In August 2018, **329** Syrian refugees benefitted from pre-departure orientation provided by IOM prior to their resettlement to Argentina, Canada, France and the UK.



## JORDAN

 During the reporting period, **237** Syrian refugees were provided with transportation assistance from Raba'a ALSarhan Transit Center to Azraq (236) and to Zatari (1) camps. As of 31 August 2018, IOM transported **504,639** Syrian refugees from Raba'a ALSarhan Transit Center to camps since transport operations began in July 2012.

165 Syrian refugees benefitted from IOM's pre-departure orientation sessions for Australia, Canada and the UK in August 2018.

In the reporting period, 274 Syrian refugees were assisted to resettle to Australia (5), Canada (140), Sweden (107) and the UK (22).

## TURKEY

 **724** Syrian refugees departed Turkey on resettlement and family reunification to Australia (12), Belgium (170), Canada (110), Finland (44), France (70), Germany (142), the Netherlands (151), Sweden (6), the UK (15) and the US (4) in August 2018. 388 of the beneficiaries were male and 336 females.

During the reporting period, **279** Syrians attended pre-departure orientation sessions for Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the UK.

### A highlight of some of IOM's major resettlement operations to the European Economic Area:

- In the first half of 2018, IOM assisted the resettlement and humanitarian admission of 13,061 **vulnerable refugees** to the European Economic Area. A clear majority of those (78%, approx. 10,200 persons) were **Syrian nationals**. Gender distribution amongst Syrians was almost equal with 52% male and 48% female and with a slight majority of children, 53%.
- EU Member States have pledged to resettle **50,039 refugees** until the end of October 2019 under the new **EU resettlement scheme**. Crucially, the MENA region and Syrian refugees remain a clear priority.
- IOM is supporting the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme, under which the **United Kingdom** will be admitting 20,000 Syrian refugees by 2020. In addition, IOM is implementing the targeted Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme, benefitting 1,200 refugees from the MENA region during financial year 2018.
- **Germany** has pledged a total of 10,200 places for resettlement until October 2019 and IOM is currently supporting the German authorities in implementing its fourth Humanitarian Admission Programme (HAP), which will benefit 3,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees.
- **France** is resettling 10,700 persons from Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and other countries over 2016-2019. A majority of beneficiaries are Syrian nationals. IOM also supports the French government in resettling vulnerable refugees from Niger and Chad.
- **Sweden** is further increasing its resettlement efforts in 2018 and will welcome up to 5,000 persons in need of international protection with the support of IOM.



## German Family Admissions Programme (FAP)

 Since June 2016, IOM has opened **six FAP service centres** in Turkey (Istanbul, Gaziantep), Lebanon (Beirut, Chtoura), Iraq (Erbil), and Jordan (Amman) to facilitate efficient visa processing with German Consular Offices and to help prepare eligible family reunification cases for arrival and integration in Germany.

From June 2016 to August 2018, more than **248,000 beneficiaries** were assisted with their family reunification visa process through a broad range of supporting activities. Of those, 134,000 applicants came in person to one of the FAP centres. The programme targets **Syrian and Iraqi nationals** but also assists a small percentage of stateless persons of Palestinian descent. A clear majority of principal applicants were female.



## PLEDGES

### 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 304,724 places now made available. This figure includes the 219,638 pledges received since 2013, the 65,032 UNHCR submissions to the United States of America, the 18,598 visas granted under other forms of protection and 1,456 academic scholarships. The pledging states include 24 European countries.

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

Country*	Confirmed/Official Pledges (resettlement and humanitarian admission) since 2013
Argentina	3,000 persons
Australia	15,864 persons* 328 private sponsorship
Austria	1,900 persons
Belarus	20 persons
Belgium	3,000 persons
Brazil	3,000 persons*
Bulgaria	90 persons
Canada	76,530 persons
Chile	120 persons
Croatia	150 persons
Czech Republic	70 persons
Denmark	390 persons
Finland	2,858 persons
France	11,375 persons*
Germany	24,659 persons resettlement 23,572 private sponsorship (issued)*
Hungary	50 persons*
Iceland	75 persons
Ireland	1,130 persons resettlement 119 private sponsorship
Italy	2,177 persons resettlement 1,093 private sponsorship (admitted)*
Liechtenstein	25 persons
Luxembourg	314 persons
Netherlands	4,900 persons*
New Zealand	850 persons
Norway	9,700 persons
Poland	900 persons
Portugal	170 persons*
Romania	80 persons
Spain	1,709 persons
Sweden	5,800 persons
Switzerland	3,500 persons*
UK	20,000 persons*
USA	65,032 persons*
Uruguay	120 persons
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>284,670</b> (+20,054 who received humanitarian visas or academic scholarships)

Source: UNHCR, 1 May 2018

## \* NOTES

⇒ In September 2015, the **Australian** Government committed to an additional 12,000 places for Syrians and Iraqis displaced by the conflicts in their home countries with least prospect of return. This commitment has been fully delivered. The figures provided in the table reflect grants made to Syrians as part of the annual program and as part of the additional 12,000 places.

⇒ **Brazil** has in addition to date issued **9,298** humanitarian visas to individuals affected by the Syrian situation.

⇒ Since 2013 **France** issued more than 4,600 asylum visas for Syrians. France has also pledged to admit 1,000 Syrians through student visas (scholarship program), and 500 Syrians and Iraqis through a new "Humanitarian Corridors" (private sponsorship) program due to be implemented from Lebanon in 2017/2018.

⇒ 186 Syrian individuals have been admitted to **Germany** to participate in scholarship programmes. They were selected on the basis of academic performance, rather than on humanitarian grounds.

⇒ In addition, **Hungary** pledged 50 academic scholarships.

⇒ **Italy** announced a private sponsorship project (Humanitarian Corridors) which aims to admit 1,500 persons through humanitarian visas from Lebanon, including a significant number of Syrians. So far **1,098** Syrians have been admitted through this project.

⇒ **Japan** has pledged 150 academic scholarship places.

⇒ **Netherlands**: approximate number, includes the maximum number of Syrian resettlement referrals pledged to be resettled in 2018 under the Eu-Turkey Statement of March 2016.

⇒ **Portugal** has also pledged 70 scholarship places.

⇒ **Switzerland** initiated a temporary extended family reunification programme for Syrian refugees from September to November 2013, for which 4,700 visas have been issued to date.

⇒ The **United Kingdom** have a programme for the resettlement of up to 3,000 individuals from the MENA region. The new scheme is additional to the UK's Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and will be specifically tailored to support refugee children at risk and their families. The figure has not been included in the table above because, in accordance with UNHCR's advice, the programme is not exclusively for Syrian nationals.

⇒ UNHCR has submitted 65,032 Syrian refugees for resettlement consideration to the **United States of America** (March 2018).

⇒ The **EU Member States and Associated States** committed to resettle Syrians as part of the July 2015 Conclusions adopted within the EU framework to resettle 22,504 refugees from priority regions for resettlement, and the EU committed to resettle Syrians in the framework of the EU-Turkey Statement of March 2016. In September 2017 the EU announced a further scheme for the resettlement of 50,000 by October 2019. These commitments are reflected through the individual pledges of European resettlement States in the table above, where confirmed.

## NEWS

### Presenting the *LINK IT* project

IOM, together with several partners, is implementing the project *LINK IT - Linking pre-departure and post-arrival support to facilitate the socio-economic integration for resettled refugees in the EU*. The project aims at delivering better integration outcomes for Syrian refugees resettled to several EU Member States, namely Germany, Portugal, Romania and the UK, by strengthening the link between pre-departure and post-arrival integration support. You can find more information on the project [here](#).



For more updates on the *Crisis in Syria*, click [here](#) or visit [www.resettlement.eu](http://www.resettlement.eu)

For more information on *IOM's activities*, contact:

**International Organization for Migration**

Rue Montoyer 40, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

[eea.iom.int](http://eea.iom.int)

Jo De Backer, *Regional Thematic Specialist for Resettlement*, [jdebacker@iom.int](mailto:jdebacker@iom.int)