** European Resettlement News Digest, 17 April 2014 **

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New on the website:

*First Syrians Arrive in the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (VPRS)* - The first group of Syrian refugees to be accepted under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (VPRS) arrived in the United Kingdom on Tuesday 25 March. Read more...

*US Mission to the EU - Briefing on Congolese resettlement*: On Monday, 7 April 2014, the U.S. Mission to the European Union organised informal briefings and roundtable discussions with NGOs and State representatives on international plans to increase the resettlement of Congolese refugees from the Great Lakes region with experts from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM). Participants over the two meetings included the EC, ECRE, Fedasil, ICMC, IOM and UNHCR, with State representation from Belgium, Denmark, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the UK. Read more...

**Sweden/Syria Crisis: Sweden calls for solidarity with Syria’s refugees**

*Highlight: #HELPSYRIASREFUGEES*

Sweden calls for solidarity with Syria’s refugees - EU could resettle 100,000 people if all States resettle proportionally as many refugees as Sweden - Tobias Billström, Swedish Minister for Migration and Asylum policy has called for solidarity with the refugees in the neighbourhood of Syria by the EU taking shared responsibility by resettling refugees. “If all EU Member States were to resettle as many refugees per capita as Sweden does annually, the EU could offer 100,000 openings to those people who are the most vulnerable ones and are the ones most in need”, affirms the Minister. The EU, Switzerland and Norway have currently pledged 14,600 resettlement or humanitarian admission places, just 0.6% of the 2.5 million refugees currently hosted in the neighbouring countries of Lebanon, Jordan, Libya, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt.

Watch the statement here

**US/Bhutanese Resettlement: 75,000th Bhutanese refugee off to US for resettlement**

8 April 2014 - Himalayan Times

With a batch leaving Nepal for the US on Tuesday, the number of Bhutanese refugees being resettled in the US under the third country resettlement programme has reached 75,000.
The resettlement programme started in 2007, and altogether 88,770 Bhutanese refugees, who lived in different camps in the eastern Nepal, have been resettled in eight different countries including the US, Canada and Australia, Europe.

The batch that flew to the US today includes 44-year-old Tilak Chand Ghimire and four of his immediate relatives -- his wife, 12-year-old daughter and 75-year-old parents, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the US Embassy in Kathmandu.

**EU/Resettlement: Asylum seekers by the numbers only tell part of the story**

14 April 2014 - Human Rights Watch

Politicians in many well-to-do countries speak in exaggerated terms about being threatened by potential hordes of refugees as they make populist appeals that feed on fears and prejudices. The truth is that the less-developed countries, many of them with significant problems of their own, bear a much heavier burden.

... Looked at either from the perspective of absolute numbers or based on absorptive capacity as a factor of GDP and population, the industrialized countries do not bear nearly the burden of a Kenya, Jordan, Thailand or scores of other countries. If the world’s 29 million internally displaced people are also factored into the mix, the relative burden on third-world countries is dramatically higher.

The rich countries could and should do more to share the refugee burden. For example, most European Union countries don’t begin to carry their fair share of refugee resettlement admissions that provide an orderly, safe and legal alternative to irregular journeys by boat and across borders.

For 2012, the last year for which statistics are available, EU countries resettling fewer than 1,000 refugees included the United Kingdom and Finland; fewer than 500 included Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark; France and Ireland took fewer than 100; Belgium, Greece, Hungary, Iceland and Italy took fewer than 10 each, and 14 EU countries had no regular resettlement programs at all. Some, notably Germany, have recently made more significant resettlement offers for Syrian refugees.

**Lebanon-Jordan/Syria Crisis: Lebanon, Jordan to coordinate on refugee crisis**

14 April 2014 - Daily Star

Lebanese and Jordanian officials will discuss ways to coordinate on the Syrian refugee crisis when Social Affairs Minister Radhid Derbas visits Amman this week. Derbas will travel to Jordan Monday on a three-day trip when he will hold talks with Jordanian officials and representatives of Arab and international organizations, the National News Agency reported.

Derbas is scheduled to hold a meeting with Jordan’s Interior Minister, Hussein al-Majali, and to visit the Zaatari refugee camp on the border with Syria, which hosts around 100,000 refugees.
Turkey/Syria Crisis: Number of Syrian refugees in Turkey passes 900,000

17 April 2014 - Daily News

The number of Syrian refugees that have taken shelter in Turkey has passed 900,000, according to the Prime Ministry’s Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate (AFAD).

Fuat Oktay, the president of the agency, said yesterday that everything is fine with regard to the refugee camps, but the agency is focusing on meeting the needs of refugees living outside of the camps and minimizing their problems. In order to do so, they are coordinating with civil society organizations. The number of refugees living inside the camps is 224,000.

Luxembourg/Syrian Refugees: 28 Syrian refugees have been resettled in Luxembourg

16 April 2014 - IOM

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Country Office (CO) for Belgium and Luxembourg is supporting a resettlement project to Luxembourg this year.

In 2013, following the international call from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Government of Luxembourg confirmed that it will welcome in 2014 Syrian refugees residing in Jordan.

A selection mission, in collaboration with the Dutch Government and supported by the IOM local office in Amman, took place in February 2014 and 28 refugees were selected. It is expected that Luxembourg will welcome more refugees by the end of the year.

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