

EU RESETTLEMENT FACT SHEET

RESETTLEMENT IN THE EU

Resettlement is one of the durable solutions UNHCR is mandated to implement in cooperation with States. It provides a crucial means to protect refugees who cannot locally integrate in their host country or voluntarily repatriate to their country of origin. It involves the selection and transfer of refugees from a State in which they have sought protection, to a third State that has agreed to admit them – as refugees – with permanent residence status. Resettlement in the EU differs from **relocation**, which refers to the intra-EU resettlement of recognised beneficiaries of international protection, carried out for the purpose of burden-sharing amongst EU Member States.

The status provided to resettled refugees ensures protection against *refoulement* and provides access to rights similar to those enjoyed by nationals. Resettlement also carries with it the opportunity to eventually become a naturalized citizen of the resettlement country. Full refugee status or subsidiary protection is granted to resettled refugees in most EU resettlement countries, though the status and rights afforded varies. All EU countries provide a pathway to citizenship for permanent residents. For more detailed information, please refer to the country chapters available in the UNHCR Resettlement Handbook at: www.unhcr.org/resettlementhandbook.

In 2013, there were 5,449 UNHCR-assisted resettlement departures to 12 EU countries, accounting for over 7 per cent of all departures (71,411) for that year. Fourteen EU countries have a regular resettlement programme, including: Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Most EU resettlement countries assess UNHCR-referred cases through face-to-face interviews with refugees during selection missions undertaken in the host country, and some by making a decision on a refugee's acceptance on a dossier basis.

Resettlement forms a core part of the external dimension of EU asylum policy and demonstrates solidarity with third countries. Member States work closely together on resettlement, setting common priorities, developing funding instruments, and collaborating practically through structures such as the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and the European Resettlement Network.

UNHCR-ASSISTED DEPARTURES TO THE EU, 2013

1. AUSTRIA	4
2. BELGIUM	100
3. CZECH REPUBLIC	1
4. DENMARK	475
5. FINLAND	665
6. FRANCE	100
7. GERMANY (including HAP)	1,092
8. IRELAND	62
9. THE NETHERLANDS	362
10. PORTUGAL	6
11. SWEDEN	1,832
12. UNITED KINGDOM	750
TOTAL	5,449

EU RESETTLEMENT QUOTAS (FOR UNHCR REFERRALS), 2014

1. BELGIUM	100
2. CZECH REPUBLIC	50
3. DENMARK	500
4. FINLAND	1,050
5. *FRANCE	100 (cases)
6. GERMANY	300
7. HUNGARY	20
8. IRELAND	90
9. THE NETHERLANDS	500
10. PORTUGAL	45
11. ROMANIA	20
12. SPAIN	130
13. SWEDEN	1,900
14. UNITED KINGDOM	750
TOTAL (minimum)	5,555

TOP 3 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR UNHCR-ASSISTED DEPARTURES TO THE EU, 2013

1. SYRIA	1,164
2. SOMALIA	725
3. DRC	661

TOP 3 EU RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES FOR UNHCR-ASSISTED DEPARTURES, 2013

1. GERMANY	1,092
2. SWEDEN	1,832
3. UNITED KINGDOM	750

UNHCR-ASSISTED DEPARTURES TO OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, 2013

1. NORWAY	941
2. SWITZERLAND	78

HUMANITARIAN ADMISSION PROGRAMMES (HAP)

Germany launched the first *Humanitarian Admission Programme* in 2013 in response to the Syrian refugee crisis. While similar to resettlement, it is an expedited process providing protection in a third country for those refugees in greatest need. Residence under humanitarian admission may be either permanent or temporary, depending upon a State's legislation. Germany has since pledged to receive 20,000 persons under this programme. Austria subsequently launched a HAP, pledging to receive 1,500 persons, while France has pledged to receive 500 persons through both resettlement and HAP, with arrivals for these two programmes beginning from 2014.

ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND (AMIF)

- In April 2014, the European Union adopted the AMIF, representing a total value of €3.1 billion for the next seven years (2014-2020).
- €360 million is available to Member States for resettlement, relocation and other joint specific measures.
- A lump sum of €6,000 is available to States per resettled person, and €10,000 for each person resettled according to the common Union resettlement priorities as well as for other vulnerable categories.
- The common Union resettlement priorities include: Regional Protection Programmes (RPP) in Eastern Europe (Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine); the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Kenya, Yemen); North Africa (Egypt, Libya, Tunisia); Refugees in the region of Eastern Africa/ Great Lakes; Iraqi refugees in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan; Iraqi refugees in Turkey; and Syrian refugees in the region.

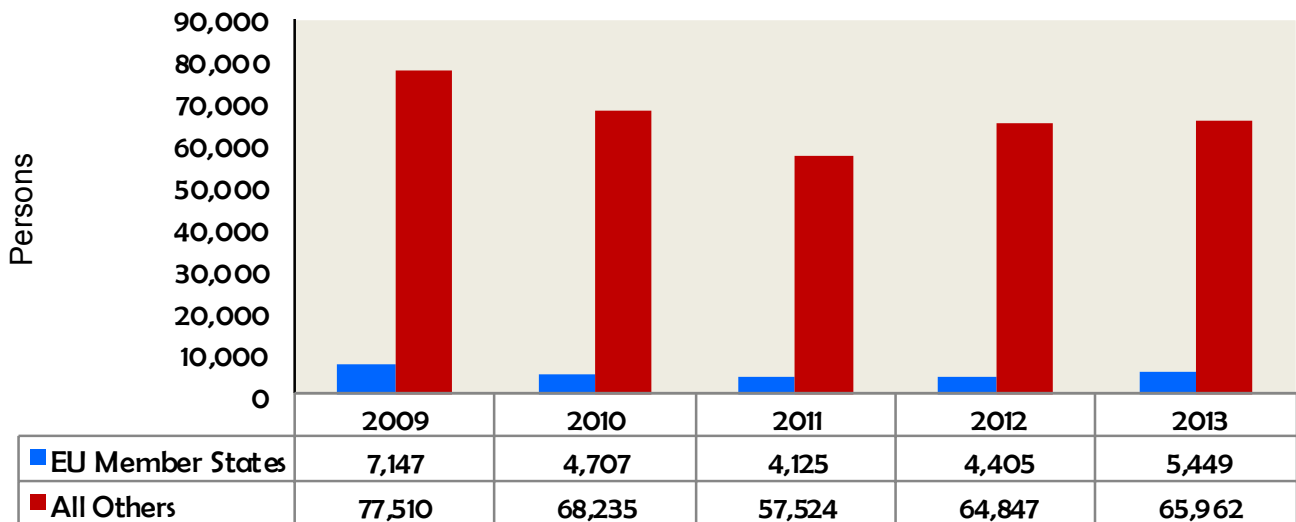
EMERGENCY TRANSIT CENTRES (ETCs)

ETCs were established through tripartite agreements concluded between the Governments of Romania (2008) and Slovakia (2010) with IOM and UNHCR. The ETCs offer the possibility for refugees to be evacuated to safety while their cases are processed for onward resettlement, particularly when resettlement countries face difficulty accessing refugees due to security or other considerations.

The ETC in Romania (Timișoara) can accommodate 200 refugees, and the ETC in Slovakia (Humenné) 150 refugees. In 2013, both ETCs facilitated the evacuation of 296 and 185 refugees, respectively, for onward resettlement, and were utilised by the Netherlands, Finland and the United Kingdom.

A careful selection process is carried out by UNHCR to ensure that those benefiting from evacuation to an ETC meet the preconditions for resettlement in accordance with UNHCR policy.

UNHCR-ASSISTED DEPARTURES TO EU MEMBER STATES AND ALL OTHER RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES, 2009-2013



IN FOCUS: UNHCR MULTI-YEAR PLAN TO RESETTLE DRC REFUGEES

Almost half a million refugees have fled the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), making it the sixth largest refugee population in the world. In response, UNHCR introduced its multi-year plan to address the protracted situation of refugees from the DRC, with a target of 50,000 submissions over a five-year period from 2012. This strategy includes significantly increased resettlement of Congolese (DRC) refugees living in the Great Lakes and Southern Africa region. The following EU countries resettled Congolese (DRC) refugees in 2013: Belgium (65); Denmark (33); Finland (50); France (7); Ireland (24); the Netherlands (83); Sweden (200); and the United Kingdom (199).

IN FOCUS: RESETTLEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ADMISSION OF REFUGEES FROM SYRIA

As part of its protection strategy for refugees from Syria who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries, UNHCR aims to submit up to 130,000 refugees from Syria for resettlement, humanitarian admission, family reunification and other forms of admission from 2013-2016. To date, 13 EU Member States have offered resettlement and humanitarian admission places, totalling over 29,000 persons. Separately, the United Kingdom established the Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme, while Ireland launched the Syria Humanitarian Admission Programme (SHAP). The EU, including its institutions and individual Member States, has contributed over €2.6 billion in financial assistance to humanitarian and non-humanitarian actors in the region.

TOP 5 RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES, 2013 (DEPARTURES)

1. UNITED STATES	47,870
2. AUSTRALIA	11,117
3. CANADA	5,140
4. GERMANY	1,092
5. SWEDEN	1,832

TOP 3 UNHCR RESETTLEMENT OPERATIONS, 2013 (DEPARTURES)

1. NEPAL	10,828
2. THAILAND	8,806
3. MALAYSIA	8,537

TOP 3 REFUGEE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN, 2013 (DEPARTURES)

1. MYANMAR	16,701
2. IRAQ	13,979
3. BHUTAN	10,665