

EU RESETTLEMENT FACT SHEET

RESETTLEMENT AND 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 at: www.unhcr.org/resettlementhandbook.

In 2012, there were 4,405 UNHCR-assisted resettlement departures to 14 EU countries, accounting for just over 6 per cent of resettlement departures (69,252) globally for that year. Thirteen EU countries have a regular resettlement programme: Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. The majority of the EU resettlement countries assess UNHCR-referred cases by either interviewing the refugees during selection missions undertaken in the host country or 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, 2012

1. BELGIUM	1
2. CZECH REPUBLIC	25
3. DENMARK	324
4. FINLAND	763
5. FRANCE	84
6. GERMANY	323
7. HUNGARY	1
8. IRELAND	40
9. ITALY	9
10. THE NETHERLANDS	262
11. PORTUGAL	21
12. SPAIN	80
13. SWEDEN	1,483
14. UNITED KINGDOM	989
TOTAL	4,405

EU RESETTLEMENT QUOTAS (FOR UNHCR REFERRALS), 2013

1. BELGIUM	100
2. CZECH REPUBLIC	40
3. DENMARK	500
4. FINLAND	750
5. *FRANCE	100 (cases)
6. GERMANY	300
7. IRELAND	80
8. THE NETHERLANDS	500
9. PORTUGAL	30
10. *ROMANIA	40 (2012/13)
11. SPAIN	30
12. SWEDEN	1,900
13. UNITED KINGDOM	750
TOTAL (minimum)	5,120

TOP 3 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR UNHCR-ASSISTED DEPARTURES TO THE EU, 2012

AFGHANISTAN	878
SOMALIA	568
ETHIOPIA	479

TOP 5 EU RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES FOR UNHCR-ASSISTED DEPARTURES, 2012

1. SWEDEN	1,483
2. UNITED KINGDOM	989
3. FINLAND	763
4. DENMARK	324
5. GERMANY	323

THE JOINT EU RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME

- In March 2012, the Joint EU Resettlement Programme was established, which aims to increase resettlement places and enhance practical cooperation in resettlement amongst EU Member States.
- For 2013, amongst others, the resettlement of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Myanmar, and Eritrea is prioritized.
- Generally, for 2013, Member States receive a lump sum of €4,000 per resettled refugee; €5,000 per resettled refugee if having only availed of European Refugee Funds (ERF) once previously; and €6,000 per resettled refugee if having never previously availed of ERF funding.
- The programme also offers funding for resettling certain groups of vulnerable refugees regardless of the region from which they come, such as children and women at risk, unaccompanied or separated children, and persons with serious medical needs.
- Under the ERF pledging exercise conducted in 2012, 13 EU countries have pledged to resettle approximately 3,962 refugees in 2013.

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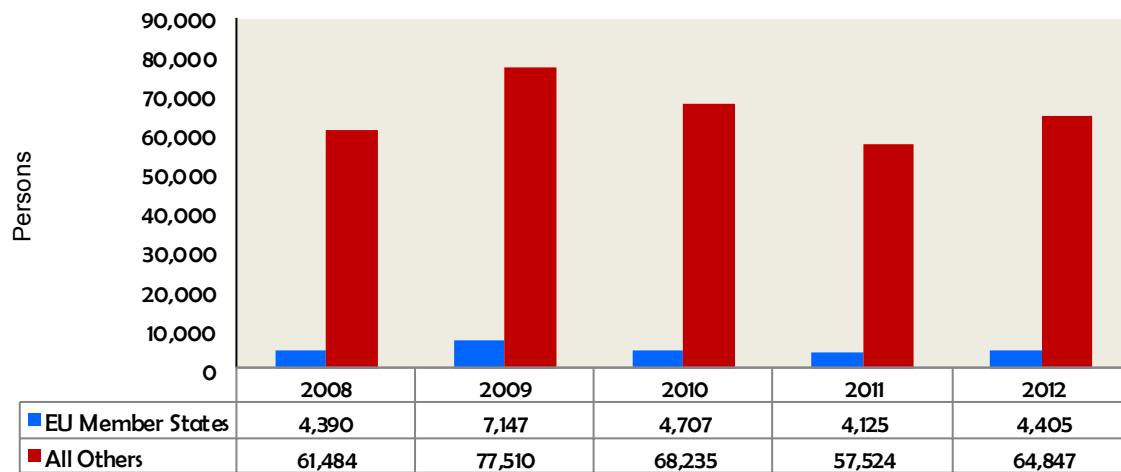
EMERGENCY TRANSIT CENTRES (ETCs)

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 (Timisoara) can accommodate 200 refugees, and the ETC in Slovakia (Humenné) 150 refugees. In 2012, both ETCs facilitated the evacuation of 150 and 168 refugees respectively for onward resettlement, and were utilised by the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Germany, 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 pre-conditions for resettlement in accordance with UNHCR policy.

UNHCR-ASSISTED DEPARTURES TO EU MEMBER STATES AND ALL OTHER RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES, 2008-2012



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

In 2012, UNHCR introduced its multi-year plan to address the protracted situation of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with a target of 50,000 submissions over a five-year period. This strategy includes significantly increased resettlement of Congolese (DRC) refugees living in the Great Lakes and Southern Africa region. The following EU countries have so far made commitments to resettle Congolese (DRC) refugees in 2013: Belgium (40 in Burundi); Denmark (120 in Uganda); Finland (150 in Southern Africa); the Netherlands (40 in Rwanda and 40 in Uganda), and Sweden (150 in Uganda).

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 2,000 refugees from Syria for resettlement in 2013. Five EU countries have so far offered resettlement places, including Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands (50 in 2013; 200 in 2014), Spain, and Sweden (400). While the enhanced use of resettlement is in its early phases of implementation, UNHCR is also pursuing humanitarian admission for Syrian refugees in 2013, an expedited process, for which Germany has offered 5,000 places, Austria has offered 500, and Luxembourg has offered 60. The EU has directed close to €1.25 billion in financial assistance to humanitarian and non-humanitarian actors to date.

TOP 5 RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES, 2012 (DEPARTURES)

1. UNITED STATES	53,053
2. AUSTRALIA	5,079
3. CANADA	4,755
4. SWEDEN	1,483
5. NORWAY	1,137

TOP 3 UNHCR RESETTLEMENT OPERATIONS, 2012

NEPAL	16,754
MALAYSIA	10,489
THAILAND	7,274

TOP 3 REFUGEE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN, 2012 (DEPARTURES)

MYANMAR	17,359
BHUTAN	16,674
IRAQ	13,556