



UNHCR Projected **Global Resettlement Needs** **2016**

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UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

21st Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement
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Cover Photo: Yu Ta, a foster father of three kids, and Ter Khee Ser, his son who lives with disabilities in Mae La refugee camp in Thailand. Yu Ta lost his wife in the conflict at his hometown. Since then he has been tirelessly taking care of his kids. He carries Ter Khee Ser every day to the supported Rehabilitation Center to receive treatment. "I will never leave my kids behind and I will do everything for them. My wish is to see Ter Khee Ser walk," said Yu Ta.

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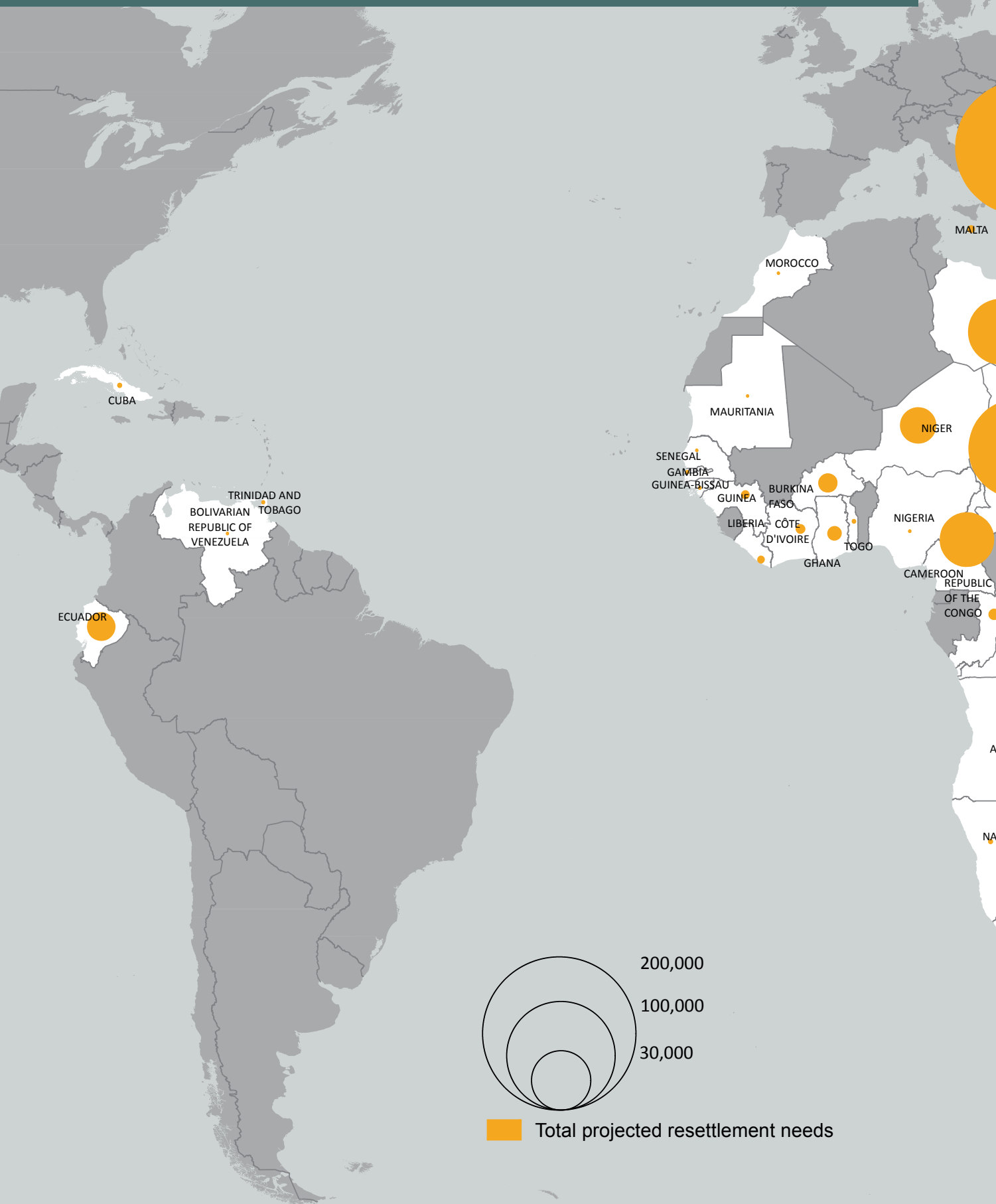
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World: UNHCR projected global resettlement needs by country of asylum

As of June 2015





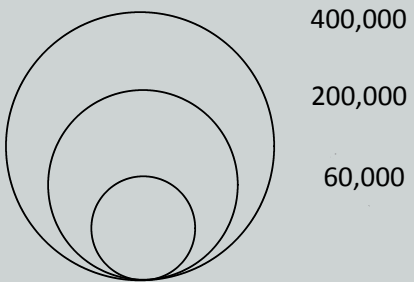
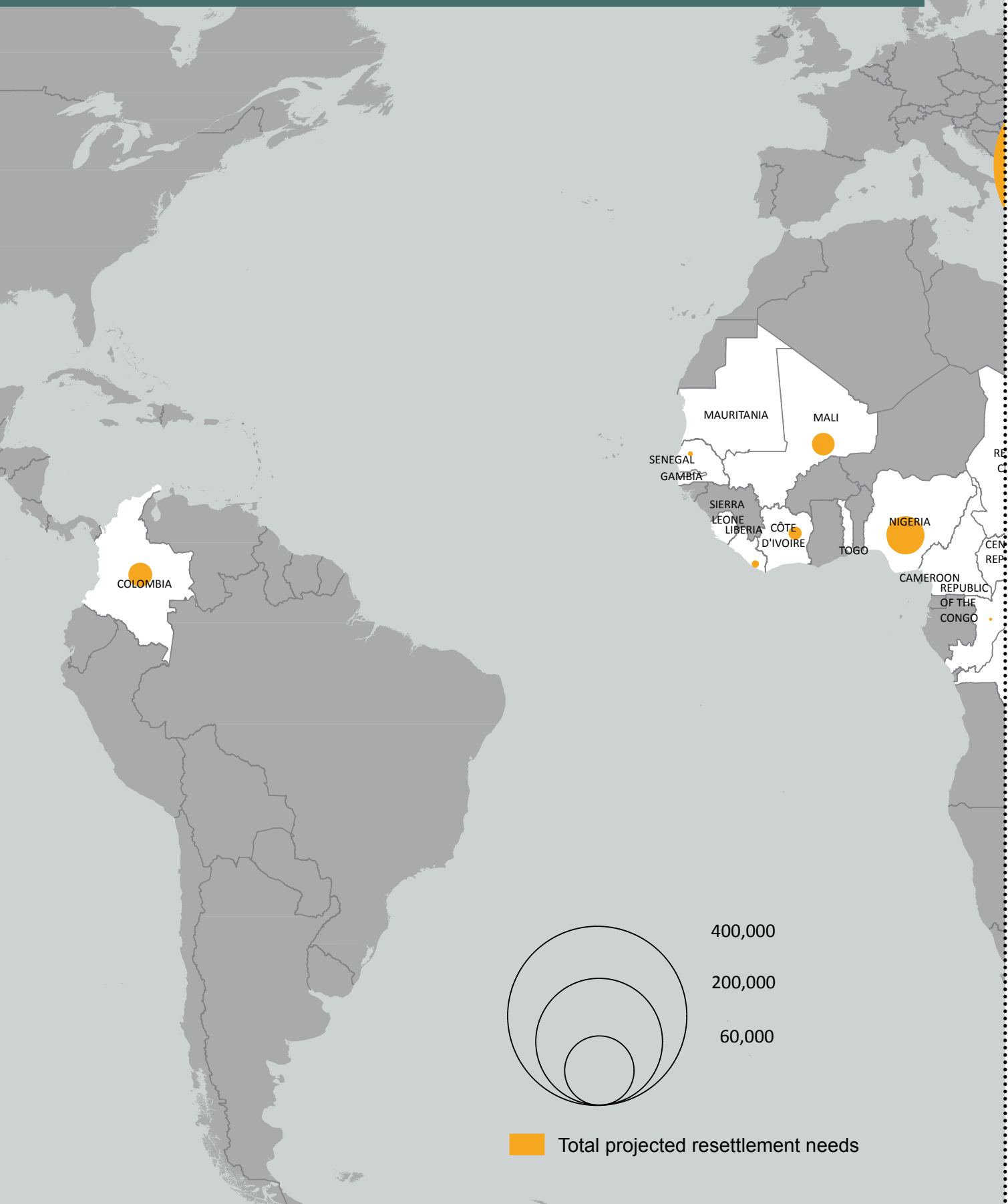
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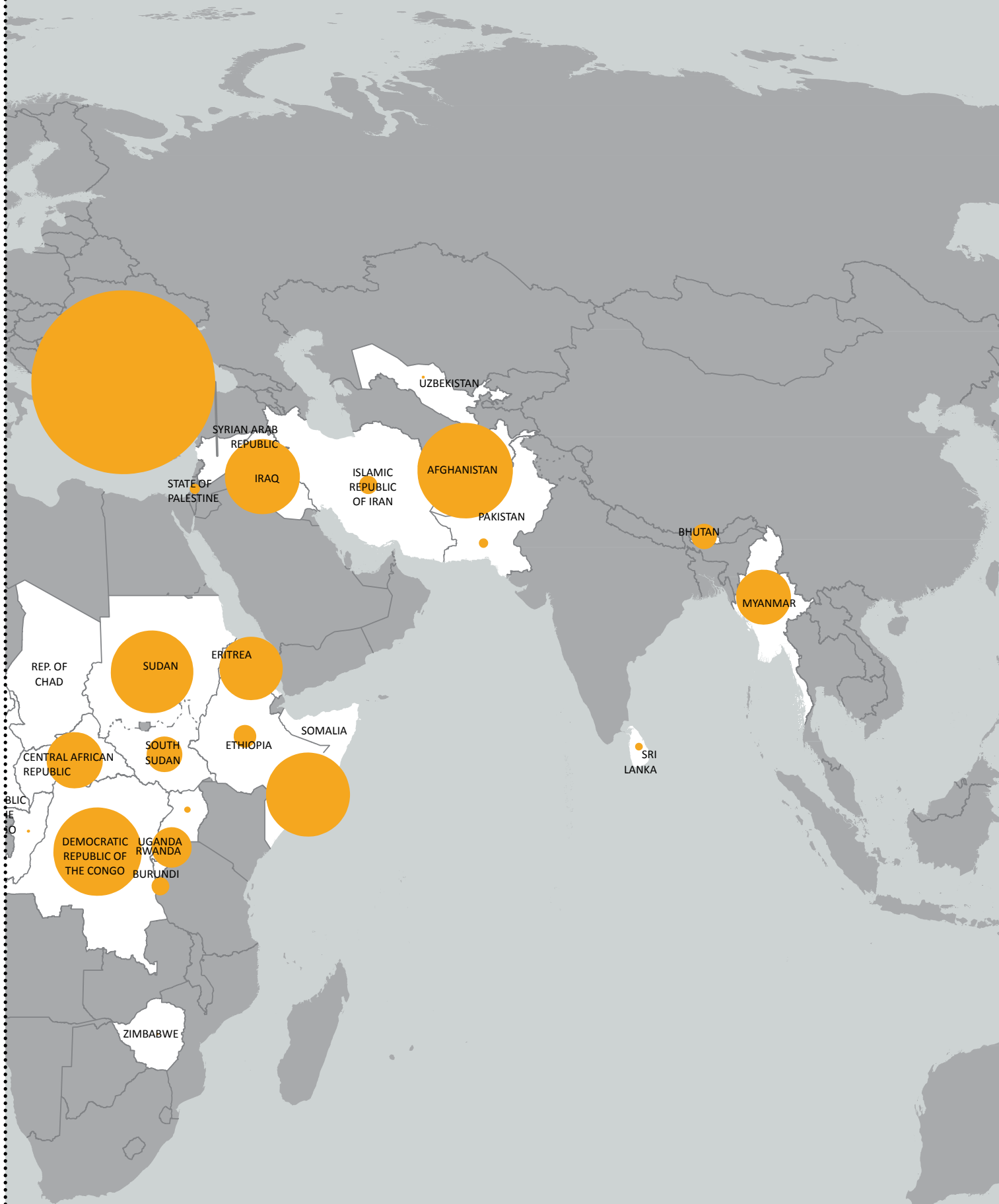
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World: UNHCR projected global resettlement needs by country of origin

As of June 2015



Orange square: Total projected resettlement needs



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Introduction





In 2014 the number of refugees worldwide continued to rise, and asylum applications in industrialized countries increased for the fourth consecutive year. As the Syrian conflict entered into its fifth year, millions of refugees in neighbouring countries continued to live in desperate conditions. During 2014, new and unresolved conflicts in South Sudan, Mali, Nigeria, the Central African Republic and Ukraine were the cause of mass displacement. The high number of deaths in the Mediterranean in 2013 and 2014 drew attention to those risking their lives by embarking on perilous sea journeys in desperate bids to escape persecution, conflict, instability and poverty. Many of those compelled to take to the sea, despite the risks involved, are persons of concern to UNHCR.

The provision of resettlement places to those who have endured decades of insecurity in protracted refugee situations, as well as refugees with acute protection risks, is a tangible expression of responsibility-sharing by resettlement States. Faced with rising refugee numbers and resettlement needs, the achievement of durable solutions remains one of UNHCR's biggest challenges.

Resettlement provided a durable solution to more than 73,000 refugees during 2014. Within the field of resettlement positive developments include: growth in the number of countries with regular resettlement programmes; a marked increase in the number of resettlement submissions, as well as resettlement departures; increasing use of multi-year resettlement commitments; and enhanced capacity to offer solutions to vulnerable refugees through resettlement and alternative forms of admission.

The global number of States committed to resettling refugees grew in 2014 as Italy became a new resettlement country and the Republic of Korea announced a three year resettlement pilot starting from 2015. However, the number of annual quota places for UNHCR submissions was unchanged at approximately 80,000. The availability of places was supplemented in 2014 by a number of other countries that provided resettlement on an *ad hoc* basis; in particular, pledges for Syrian refugees were made in addition to regular resettlement quotas.

In 2014, States enhanced their commitment to provide large-scale resettlement and relocation opportunities to Syrian refugees. UNHCR continues to call for sustained, multi-year commitments, with the aim of demonstrating solidarity and sharing the tremendous responsibility of host countries in light of the enormity of the Syrian situation. States have responded positively to UNHCR's appeals to provide resettlement places and alternative forms of humanitarian admission for Syrian refugees, and have shown generosity in providing much-needed protection and durable solutions for Syrians affected by the ongoing conflict. Yet, in order to reach the milestone of 130,000 places for Syrian refugees by the end of 2016, approximately 27,000 places are still required.



Austria provides a home and a heart operation to young Syrian refugee infant Zaid with his parents and sister in Vienna. They were among the first Syrian refugees admitted to Austria, where Zaid received urgent medical attention.
© UNHCR / R. Schoeffl

A total of twenty eight countries have now confirmed that they will receive Syrian refugees: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Uruguay.

During 2014, over 21,000 Syrians were submitted under resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes (HAP), exceeding the target for the year. As of the end of December 2014, over 8,000 Syrians had departed under resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes¹.

With the continuing outflow of refugees from Syria as well as new and ongoing conflicts worldwide, resettlement needs grew in Africa, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa in 2014. It is estimated that over 1,150,000 refugees globally are now in need of resettlement, which is a 22 per cent increase from the estimated needs last year². The projected number of refugees in need of resettlement has reached one million for the first time since reporting of resettlement needs began over 30 years ago. Despite the growth in the number of resettlement States, and the generous commitment of places for the humanitarian admission of Syrian refugees, resettlement needs continue to vastly outnumber the 80,000 places made available by States. UNHCR will continue to advocate with

resettlement countries and the wider international community in an effort to balance resettlement responses with needs, for vulnerable refugee populations.

This chapter starts with an overview of UNHCR's work in the field of comprehensive solutions, and resettlement activities in 2014–2015 – highlighting progress and challenges, statistics and trends in resettlement submissions and departures. Next, the 2016 projected global resettlement needs are introduced, together with UNHCR's submission targets per regional and country operations. Key aspects of UNHCR's ongoing resettlement activities are then discussed, including UNHCR's efforts to strengthen resettlement management and ensure the integrity of its operations. The chapter ends with an overview of UNHCR's strategic directions for 2015–2016.

Comprehensive Solutions

UNHCR continues its strategic and complementary use of the traditional durable solutions – resettlement, local integration and repatriation. In 2014, adverse conditions in countries of origin created significant obstacles to repatriation. Nevertheless, 126,000 refugees were voluntarily repatriated, the largest groups to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali. In Africa, a pilot project to support the return of Somali refugees from Kenya was launched, under the auspices of a tripartite agreement and building on the work that UNHCR and partners have undertaken with internally displaced persons (IDPs) and with national and local level authorities in areas of return.

¹ Number of departures for Syrians under resettlement and HAP since 2013.

² During 2014, the estimated resettlement needs for 2015 were 960,000.

Progress was also made in the local integration of refugees. In Tanzania, 26,000 Burundians were naturalized, while other operations made significant strides on economic and social aspects of local integration. In December, UNHCR participated in a Ministerial meeting of representatives in Latin America, resulting in the adoption of the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action. The declaration devises a new regional framework for the coming years. It calls for states to strengthen the local integration of refugees by fostering non-discrimination policies and ensuring refugees' enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, and facilitating their naturalization.

In the realization that the traditional pathways to solutions are available to a smaller proportion of displaced persons than ever before, UNHCR and its partners continued exploring new, comprehensive approaches to solutions, moving towards a common understanding of solutions efforts much broader than traditional solutions. 2014 saw the launch of the Solutions Alliance, of which UNHCR serves as co-chair. The Solutions Alliance seeks to advance a partnership oriented approach for addressing protracted displacement situations and preventing new situations from becoming protracted. It recognises the need for a broad range of actors to work together to tackle the issues, including humanitarian organisations, development actors, donors, the private sector and civil society coming together to support affected States and finding solutions for displaced persons. At an institutional level, UNHCR is engaged in testing new approaches in support of the shift, including through its Global Strategy for Livelihoods, Global Strategies for Child Protection and Education, and Alternatives to Camps and Community-Based Protection policies. Human mobility and policies and programs that support it are now clear priorities for UNHCR programming.

UNHCR resettlement submissions and departures 2014–2015³

In 2014, UNHCR submitted 103,890 refugees to States for resettlement consideration. The main beneficiaries were refugees from Syria (21,154), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (18,828), Myanmar (15,170), Iraq (11,778), and Somalia (9,388). Last year the trend shifted, with an increase in the number of Syrians submitted and a decrease in the number of Bhutanese submitted due to the end of group processing out of Nepal.

The number of submissions has increased markedly, from 75,080 in 2012, and 93,226 in 2013, despite the winding down of large-scale resettlement from Nepal and Thailand. 2014 submissions represent an increase of 11 per cent compared with 2013 submissions, and a 38 per cent increase compared with 2012 submissions, reversing a trend of reduced submissions during 2010–2012. Contributing factors include increased submissions from priority situations, including Afghan, Colombian,

Congolese and Syrian refugees; the adoption of simplified processing methodologies, such as group resettlement from Rwanda; the use of humanitarian admission programmes for Syrian refugees and an increased deployment of resettlement and child protection experts.

Turkey became the asylum country from where the largest number of refugees was submitted (15,738) followed by Malaysia (11,361), Lebanon (9,188), Jordan (7,284) and Kenya (6,805). Submissions from Africa continued to increase to 34 per cent of the global total, and were at their highest rate for the last five years. Submissions from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Europe also increased, to jointly make up 38 per cent of the global total. This increase was largely due to the number of Syrians submitted. In contrast, submissions from Asia and the Pacific region decreased from 40 to 26 per cent of the global total.

Women and girls at risk represented 12.6 per cent of submissions, surpassing for a third consecutive year the ten per cent target set to implement the Executive Committee Conclusion No. 105 (2006). Over four-fifths of submissions were made under three submission categories: Legal and/or Physical Protection Needs (33.3 per cent), Lack of Foreseeable Alternative Durable Solutions (26.1 per cent), and Survivors of Violence and/or Torture (22.2 per cent).

The global average acceptance rate of UNHCR submissions by resettlement countries was 92 per cent. The acceptance rate for refugees from Myanmar remained particularly high at 98 per cent. In terms of submission category the acceptance rate was highest for the category of family reunification at 98 per cent.

Resettlement departures increased by two per cent in 2014, enabling some 73,331 refugees to find a new life. However, this departure level still represents a nine per cent shortfall from the number of globally available places (some 80,000).

Increased departures can be attributed to a number of factors. Successful efforts were made by States to expedite security clearances, use alternative processing methodologies such as interviewing refugees in inaccessible areas through video conferencing and offer alternative forms of admissions. Around 3,000 people submitted under the German humanitarian assistance programme departed during 2014. In addition, Australia suspended processing of new resettlement submissions and focused on clearing a backlog of cases pending departures, which resulted in a rise in departure numbers.

During the first quarter of 2015, 18,140 individuals were submitted for resettlement, and 12,391 individuals departed. This is a slight decrease compared with the submissions (22,300) and departures (15,100) for the first quarter of 2014, when Syrian resettlement started to gain momentum. UNHCR continues to closely monitor submission levels to ensure that 2015 resettlement targets will be met and available resettlement places fully utilized.

³ The introduction provides rounded figures for ease of reading. For further details on resettlement figures, please refer to the Annex of this publication.

Projected Global Resettlement Needs and Capacity for 2016

UNHCR estimates the global resettlement needs to be at over 1,150,000 persons, including the resettlement needs of refugees in a protracted situation where resettlement is envisioned over a period of several years. The figure represents an increase of 22 per cent compared with the total projected resettlement needs in the previous year (approximately 960,000 persons in 2015). The projected needs for 2016 also represent a substantial increase of 66 per cent compared with the total projected resettlement needs for 2014 (approximately 691,000 persons). The dramatic rise in needs can be explained by the fact that resettlement needs for Syrians were not included in the 2014 projections.

Due to the Syrian conflict, the regions of Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Europe continue to report a significant increase in their projected resettlement needs. For 2016, it is estimated that almost 369,500 refugees need resettlement from MENA and almost 215,000 individuals need resettlement from Europe (representing a 13 per cent increase in the MENA region and a 44 per cent increase in Europe compared with the needs reported for 2015).

In addition to the increases in MENA and Europe, Africa also reported a growth in needs with over 390,000 refugees in need of resettlement in 2016. This represents an increase of 41 per cent compared with the needs for 2015. This rise is largely due to the resettlement needs of refugees from South Sudan, Mali, Nigeria and the Central African Republic.

As for Asia, the 2016 overall estimated resettlement needs total around 169,500 individuals, a decrease of three per cent from the 174,600 individuals reported to be in need of resettlement in 2015. The overall resettlement needs in this region have decreased for a third consecutive year, reflecting the continuing gradual phase out of large scale resettlement operations in Thailand and Nepal, following the successful completion of multi-year resettlement programmes.

The Americas have reported an overall figure of around 7,500 individuals in need of resettlement, which represents a substantial (52 per cent) decrease from the previous year's figure. This is because operations used a refined methodology based on better estimates following a verification exercise to profile the needs of Colombian refugees in Ecuador.

The table below provides a breakdown of the global resettlement needs and UNHCR's capacity to address them. As in previous years, operations have applied a standard methodology to estimate their capacity to process cases for resettlement in 2016 according to identified resettlement needs. Also as in previous years, the table illustrates the gap between the resettlement needs and UNHCR's capacity to meet them, as well as the gap between UNHCR's yearly target and its core staff capacity.

In this regard, the breakdown by region of asylum is provided in column (A), whereas column (B) shows the total number of persons deemed by UNHCR to be in need of resettlement, including populations where resettlement is envisioned over a period of several years. Multi-year planning for resettlement has become an important feature of UNHCR's strategy to holistically address the resettlement needs and mobilize support from resettlement countries. Drawing from this number (373,942 cases / 1,153,296 persons), column (C) indicates the number of persons UNHCR plans to prioritize and submit in 2016 (38,713 cases / 111,397 persons). This is UNHCR's 2016 submission target. Protection needs as well as indications from resettlement States of specific solutions strategies will be taken into account in prioritizing resettlement interventions. While the number provided in column (C) is equivalent to UNHCR's total capacity inclusive of affiliate workforce,⁴ column (D) indicates the number of persons the Office is equipped to process for resettlement with existing core staff capacity only (21,311 cases / 59,563 persons). The difference

⁴ The affiliate workforce refers to consultants, deployees and additional staff who are not UNHCR staff members.

UNHCR projected global resettlement needs and capacity for 2016 by region of refugees' country of asylum

A. Region of Asylum	B. Total projected resettlement needs*		C. Total UNHCR submissions planned for 2016 (target)**		D. UNHCR core staff capacity in 2016	
	cases	persons	cases	persons	cases	persons
Africa	117,549	391,939	14,355	46,519	5,156	17,570
Asia	54,747	169,559	7,363	15,878	4,271	10,087
Europe	67,717	214,972	7,786	20,920	5,202	14,390
MENA	131,305	369,334	8,739	26,865	6,460	16,925
The Americas	2,624	7,492	470	1,215	222	591
Grand Total	373,942	1,153,296	38,713	111,397	21,311	59,563

* including multi-year planning

** based upon UNHCR total capacity (core staff + affiliate work force) in 2016



Afghan trainee chef has the recipe to make it in Hungary. Afghan refugee Zia Karimi greets the chef at the hotel where he works as a trainee cook. He's managed to impress the kitchen staff. © UNHCR / B. Kallos / October 2014

between columns (C) and (D) is indicative of UNHCR's capacity shortfall to meet its 2016 submission targets. It is estimated that without support from the affiliate workforce, UNHCR will only be able to process resettlement applications for 53 per cent of refugees requiring resettlement submissions in 2016.

Effective implementation of the strategic use of resettlement

Resettlement countries and UNHCR have focused on the strategic use of resettlement in a number of priority refugee situations, which were agreed upon during the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR) and the Working Group on Resettlement (WGR) processes. Core Contact Groups, have been established for individual priority situations promote multiannual commitments to ensure predictability and sustainability for the resettlement effort, and facilitate a collaborative approach between resettlement countries, host States and UNHCR. They can be an effective vehicle to advance the implementation of the strategic use of resettlement in that situation – achieving solutions for refugees who remain in host countries, as well as for those who are resettled. Core Contact Groups collaborate on the strengthening of protection mechanisms, including livelihoods and legal strategies for refugees in the host countries.

Core Contact Groups in the following priority situations continued their work in 2014: Afghans in Iran, Afghans in Pakistan, Bhutanese in Nepal, Colombians in the Americas, Congolese (DRC) in the Great Lakes, and Syrians in the Middle East.

During a Working Group Meeting in February 2015 to discuss the workings of the Core Contact Groups, it was acknowledged that they have achieved a number of protection outcomes, for example; the Ugandan Government is willing to discuss the naturalization of 15,000 refugees of mixed nationalities as a result of advocacy undertaken by the Congolese Core Contact Group; the Iran Core Contact Group successfully encouraged the Iranian authorities to exercise flexibility by issuing exit permits and visas for selection missions; and the Syria Core Contact Group successfully advocated for alternative forms of admission.

The Working Group Meeting also highlighted the need to rethink the scope of current Core Contact Groups, such as those for Afghans in Iran and Pakistan, which will the shift focus to comprehensive solutions. It also recommended that the roles and responsibilities of UNHCR and the Chair are more clearly defined, Terms of Reference and work plans are refined, communication is improved, and NGO participation is formalized.

Reception and integration of resettled refugees

States, NGOs and UNHCR continue to share guidance and good practices related to receiving and integrating resettled refugees through the ATRC and WGR processes. UNHCR encourages the ongoing efforts to establish common benchmarks and criteria to assess and measure integration outcomes. UNHCR's short guide, *The Integration of Resettled Refugees: Essentials for Establishing a Resettlement Programme and Fundamentals for Sustainable Resettlement Programmes*, was translated into a number of other languages, and is serving to guide resettlement States on the preparations required before beginning to resettle refugees.

Nineteen European countries have now established regular resettlement programmes (16 EU Member States plus Iceland, Norway and Switzerland), and integration remains a key component in ensuring that such programmes are sustainable over time. The approach to providing integration support to resettled refugees varies across Europe, with the European Resettlement Network and the International Catholic Migration Commission's (ICMC) SHARE Network continuing to support joint initiatives that allow for information and practical exchanges to take place between relevant State, NGO, municipal/local authority, and civil society actors more broadly. UNHCR also cooperated with the Canadian and US Missions to the EU, the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) and ICMC in organizing a transatlantic exchange in Brussels in March 2015 entitled: *Building Welcoming Communities: Refugee Integration in Canada, Europe and the United States*. The seminar explored the different approaches to language acquisition, employment and housing, how to cultivate welcoming communities, amongst other topics. The outcomes from this seminar identified the benefits and appetite for the creation of more regular transatlantic exchange that can complement the ATRC and WGR processes, with a particular interest in community-based private sponsorship programmes also identified.

Canada is continuing its *Pathway to Homes Supporting Housing Needs for Newcomers* pilot project of which UNHCR is a supporting partner. The project, which began in late 2012, is intended to assist three annual tranches of 50 cases of newcomers vulnerable to homelessness in three locations: Edmonton, Toronto and Fredericton. The project seeks to develop and test new and sustainable approaches to providing increased housing support for recent immigrants and refugees who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, through the use of the client support services model. It also encourages stronger partnerships and collaboration between local housing, service providers and community based agencies. The project is subject to an independent third party evaluation. Based on the positive results to date, Canada has extended the project until the end of March 2016.

In 2015, New Zealand is continuing the implementation of its Refugee Resettlement Strategy, which is designed to support resettled refugees in participating fully in their adoptive communities, including through attainment of social integration and economic self-sufficiency as soon as possible after arrival. The strategy targets five key objectives: self-sufficiency and employment, participation and sense of belonging, health and wellbeing, education and skills acquisition, and safe, appropriate housing. A number of innovative programmes, such as the New Zealand Red Cross 'Pathways to Employment' programme, have been developed and implemented within the framework of the strategy.

In the United States of America, UNHCR welcomed a recent shift in policy which emphasized three aspects or "pillars" of integration success: economic, civil, and linguistic. The US refugee program has, until now, only focused on economic self-sufficiency. An Interdepartmental White House Report on Integration also elaborated on the importance of evaluating integration success both from the viewpoint of the refugees and immigrants, as well as from the perspective of receiving communities. It is hoped that this shift will assist with the integration of refugees with special needs (including women at risk, survivors of violence and torture), and also elderly or young refugees for whom literacy and civic/social engagement is crucial to enable successful integration.

Resettlement Management

Innovative practices to address access

2014 brought further challenges in terms of processing refugees for resettlement otherwise inaccessible due to safety and security concerns. Video conferencing continued to be used by UNHCR and resettlement countries in a number of operations where accessing refugees for resettlement processing purposes was challenging, due to security or other constraints. The situation of refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic deteriorated rapidly in the last two years, severely affecting the capacity to process the cases of vulnerable refugees. In 2014, UNHCR video conferencing facilities were used in many operations including in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria.

The establishment of a "land bridge" for the departure of refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic to resettlement countries via Beirut International Airport, was also instrumental in ensuring an increased number of departures of vulnerable refugees for resettlement.

UNHCR continued to ensure the use of Emergency Transit Facilities (ETFs) as a protection tool for refugees who were in need of resettlement on an urgent basis. The number of refugees relocated to the Emergency Transit Centres (ETCs) in Romania, Slovakia and the Philippines amounted to 256 cases / 767 persons in 2014. Since their establishment, over 2,400 refugees have been brought to safety to an ETF before proceeding to a final country of resettlement. UNHCR will continue in 2016 to seek State collaboration to address

the challenges of long processing times and refusals of preliminarily-approved cases evacuated to the ETFs.

Individual Case Management

In recent years UNHCR and partners have acknowledged the challenge in ensuring efficient and expeditious processing, and have tried to find ways to make the resettlement process simpler and faster. UNHCR hopes to find a way to process cases more efficiently while ensuring that States receive sufficient information to be able to adjudicate cases within their national legal frameworks.

Merging of RSD and Resettlement

An approach combining refugee status determination (RSD) and resettlement interviews has been introduced and used to expedite case processing. UNHCR conducts a combined RSD and resettlement interview and assessment, for cases that are recommended for resettlement processing. The merging of RSD and Registration has been instrumental in responding to the Syrian crisis. It has also been used as a pilot for the processing of Afghans in Pakistan who are holding Proof of Registration Cards.

Simplification of Resettlement procedures

Building on the Simplification of Resettlement Procedures session which took place at the States only meeting at the 2014 ATCR, a Working Group Meeting was held in April 2015. UNHCR highlighted the need to make resettlement processing at a global level less labour intensive and more cost effective. Emphasizing the need to evaluate the added value which each stakeholder brings to the resettlement procedure, UNHCR presented the idea of strategically shifting resettlement resources towards the registration phase. It is anticipated that enhanced registration procedures which gather essential information to inform a resettlement assessment at the earliest possible stage, could in some circumstances replace UNHCR's resettlement interviews. Therefore, UNHCR has called on States to reflect on the information they absolutely need from UNHCR to decide on the resettlement prospects of a case, with the aim of avoiding duplication of work. The modalities of simplified resettlement procedures are still at the very early stages of development and much further discussion with Resettlement States will be required.

Alternative Forms of Admission

The continuous conflict in Syria and the crisis in Iraq have led to an unprecedented level of displacement in the region, and increasingly complex challenges in providing protection to refugees. With no solutions to the conflicts in sight in the near future, resettlement continues to be the only viable durable solution for refugees with urgent protection needs and acute vulnerabilities, which cannot be addressed in host countries in the region. Given the scale of displacement and the prolonged nature of the crisis, it has been of critical importance for UNHCR and States to pursue additional and diverse avenues

to admit refugees. Alternative forms of admission complementary to traditional resettlement such as humanitarian admission, humanitarian visas, private sponsorship, scholarships for students, expanded opportunities for family reunification, medical evacuation and possible labour mobility schemes with protection safeguards have increasingly been used to provide solutions for refugees.

During 2014 UNHCR welcomed Germany's decision to extend their humanitarian admission programme for Syrian refugees by an additional 10,000 places, bringing the total number of places offered under the humanitarian admission programme to Germany up to 20,000. During 2014, 3,314 Syrians were submitted and 4,554 departed under humanitarian admission programmes to Austria, France, Germany and the United Kingdom.

A change in Australian Government policy removing the rights of refugees who have arrived by boat to propose family members under the humanitarian programme, has had a negative impact on refugees' right to family reunification.

Addressing fraud

UNHCR is reviewing its anti-fraud policy with the aim of ensuring that UNHCR's protection functions, including resettlement processing, are implemented with efficiency, integrity and transparency. The revised policy will enhance the organization's capacity to address fraud, acknowledging that anti-fraud efforts do not rest in the domain of resettlement alone, but encompass fraud committed at all stages of refugee processing.

The Resettlement Service has continued to support operation-wide collaboration and training at the field level to build capacity and monitor compliance with anti-fraud guidance. UNHCR has also worked to strengthen its oversight function since early 2014, through the implementation of more frequent reporting requirements from the field, relating to incidences of alleged resettlement fraud. Monthly reporting has allowed the Resettlement Service to systematically review fraud occurrences in operations with a significant resettlement component.

Five technical support missions to Lebanon, Iran, Egypt, Jordan and Thailand looking into registration, Refugee Status Determination and Resettlement were undertaken in 2014 as part of UNHCR's efforts to strengthen its procedures in order to mitigate the risks for fraud. In recognition of the importance of maintaining program integrity, the objective of the missions was to support the offices, to help staff better understand points of exposure and vulnerability to fraud, and to identify measures that could be undertaken to increase staff accountability and mitigate the risks for fraud.

Specific fraud case management tools which are being developed as part of the new version of UNHCR's database *proGres* (version 4), will further strengthen capacity to efficiently record, retrieve and analyse data related to persons of concern, and will specifically enable improved tracking and analysis of fraud trends. UNHCR continues to utilize iris-scanning in the Syria Emergency which serves as a robust



A safe Romanian pit stop on the road to resettlement. Somali refugee Ahmed stands with his mother and sisters in the grounds of the Emergency Transit Centre in Timisoara, Romania. © UNHCR / G. Leu

fraud prevention mechanism. In addition, through the deployment of its Biometrics Project, UNHCR is continuing its global efforts to strengthen fraud prevention.

Global Policy Guidance and Training

Training builds and strengthens resettlement capacity, enhances service excellence among staff and partners and is an essential means to ensure the effective and coherent implementation of UNHCR's resettlement policy. Following the results of the global Learning Needs Survey rolled out in February 2015, the Resettlement Service will finalize in the course of the year the first comprehensive Learning Strategy for staff working on resettlement. The Learning Strategy will provide a framework for the most important training activities in the next two years and will set out a clear accountability framework for the Resettlement Service, Regional Hubs, Regional Offices and Country Offices regarding the design and implementation of training initiatives in the context of resettlement.

The Resettlement Learning Programme (RLP) has been, in recent years, successfully rolled out in several key regions to provide training on resettlement processing. Based on the Learning Survey Results, the RLP will be substantially revised in order to better address the skills and functional knowledge identified by resettlement staff as necessary to carry out their duties. In addition, the Resettlement Service in conjunction with the Global Learning Centre launched and facilitated a number of webinars which targeted not only newly recruited affiliate workforce members, but also local staff in a number of regions, including Asia and the Americas.

Building on the success of a number of workshops which took place throughout 2014 in the MENA region on interviewing techniques, the Resettlement Service has in the first half of 2015 facilitated the roll out of this workshop in a number of operations. These include Kenya, Iran, Pakistan, Ecuador, Turkey and Washington, and have targeted over 300 staff members. The content of the workshops aims to enhance the understanding of UNHCR staff regarding interviewing techniques and credibility assessments. It is based on research and best practices on interviewing populations affected by violence and conflict. Topics include trauma, interviewing and conducting credibility assessments.

Partnership and Coordination

The Working Group on Resettlement (WGR) and the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR) continued to provide the most important multilateral fora for UNHCR, States and NGOs to discuss and advance resettlement issues of common interest.

In 2014 the ATCR/WGR undertook a reform process under the Danish Chair, which led to the conclusion that WGRs should be replaced by more technical or thematic meetings. Participation in WGR meetings is by invitation by the Chair and based on a demonstrated interest and capacity in the specific topic to be addressed. During the first half of 2015, four Working Group Meetings were held to address the following subjects: Review of Core/Contact Groups; Integrity; Simplification of Resettlement Procedures; and Integration.

Strategic response 2015 – 2016

Resettlement is by definition a partnership activity. The Framework Agreement on Standard Operation Procedures for Resettlement Operations in the Field signed by UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 2014 clarified roles and responsibilities in this long-standing partnership. In addition, UNHCR continued to work closely with key NGO partners to enhance the timely and effective deployment of affiliate workforce to field offices. Affiliate workforce under various deployment schemes continued to be responsible for approximately half of the resettlement submissions made in 2014, and their contribution over the years has proven to be essential to meeting UNHCR's processing targets. In 2014, 107 Resettlement and Child Protection (Best Interest Determination) deployees were provided through the UNHCR-ICMC Resettlement Deployment Scheme, and RefugePoint provided 18 deployees mainly in Africa.⁵

The European Commission funded a joint IOM, ICMC and UNHCR project entitled Strengthening the Response to Emergency Resettlement Needs from February 2013 to December 2014. The project supported efforts of the European Resettlement Network to promote cooperation and build emergency resettlement capacity in new, established and emerging resettlement countries in Europe. The information and resources disseminated through the Network contributed to raising awareness of the need for emergency resettlement and supported efforts to increase the number of places pledged on resettlement and alternative forms of humanitarian admission for Syrian refugees. Additionally, the project supported UNHCR's coordination of emergency dossier processing, as well as the resettlement of Syrian refugees from the MENA region and Turkey as part of the emergency response. The funding also covered services for refugees at the Emergency Transit Centre in Slovakia, which included the provision of psychological services, early childhood education, language training, cultural orientation and social activities. IOM, ICMC and UNHCR are currently exploring opportunities for the continuation of the European Resettlement Network from 2015 to focus on resettlement and other forms of admission in Europe.

The Resettlement Service will:

- Expand global capacity and response: Resettlement needs continue to outstrip the number of available places, particularly emergency places.
- Streamline procedures: Resettlement processing challenges require collaboration and resources by UNHCR and States to further simplify resettlement procedures while ensuring the integrity of the process.
- Preserve the humanitarian foundation of resettlement: UNHCR will continue to advocate for States to avoid restrictive selection criteria based on integration potential and to receive refugees recognized under UNHCR's mandate.
- Expand reception and integration capacity: UNHCR will support the ongoing efforts of resettlement partners and networks to reinforce the integration capacity of receiving communities.
- Situate resettlement within comprehensive solutions: UNHCR will work with host and resettlement countries to integrate resettlement more effectively with other durable solutions.
- Promote multi-year commitments: The use of multi-year resettlement commitments has been identified as a best practice that enables predictable planning and resource allocation, particularly for priority refugee situations and protracted situations.
- Boost field capacity: UNHCR will provide field-oriented guidance, practical training and operational tools, as well as strategic deployments of affiliate workforce.
- Foster partnerships: UNHCR will continue to ensure the effective management of global resettlement efforts through partnerships with the wider NGO community, IOM and other institutions.
- Ensure the integrity of the protection response: UNHCR will develop specialized training and guidance on fraud prevention, investigation, and response, and on ensuring integrity at all stages of the protection-case management process.
- Improve global coordination: UNHCR and resettlement partners will maximize the use of the ATRC/WGR process to enhance the effectiveness and capacity of the global resettlement programme including through the review of existing core and contact groups.

⁵ These figures are calculated based on the number of months worked by deployees; a total of 1,500 months were worked by ICMC and RefugePoint deployees during 2014.

Africa



It took two days for Aisha to overcome her shyness and allow me to talk to her. She needed to welcome me into her world before she trusted me. This photo is the last one I took of her. Her smile and her eyes are full of joy and happiness. When I took this photo I did not know her story. I later learned that her parents were killed in front of her. Despite her horrific story, there is no trace of hatred in her eyes. It made me realise that like her, most of the kids in the camp had similar stories, but like her they were smiling and laughing. It gave me hope.

I met her while visiting a refugee camp in Burkina Faso. I was there to photograph the situation of Malian refugees in Sag-nionogo camp and I was struck by the resilience of these refugees whose lives had been disrupted by the conflict, and who had lost everything.

© UNHCR / O. Pain



Trends in 2014

During 2014, submissions from Africa totaled 35,079 refugees. This represents a 24 per cent increase from 28,452 submissions in 2013 and a 223 per cent increase from 15,710 submissions in 2012. The trend of increased submissions will continue with 46,519 submissions planned for 2016.

Refugees submitted for resettlement from Africa in 2014 originated from more than 21 different countries of origin. Departures from Africa also increased significantly for the third year in a row with 19,251 refugees departing in 2014 (compared with 14,858 refugees departing in 2013 and 11,342 in 2012).

The five main countries of origin for refugees submitted for resettlement were the Democratic Republic of the Congo (53 per cent of submissions from Africa in 2014), Somalia (23 per cent), Eritrea (8 per cent), Burundi (5 per cent), and Sudan (3 per cent). Submissions were made to 15 resettlement countries. The USA continued to receive the majority of submissions (76 per cent), followed by Canada (16 per cent), Sweden (2 per cent), the United Kingdom (2 per cent) and Norway (1 per cent).

The increase in submissions out of Africa is primarily due to the 2012 – 2017 programme on the enhanced resettlement of Congolese from the Great Lakes and Southern Africa region; adherence to the agreed targets for all nationalities; increased submissions of Sudanese refugees from Chad; the strategic use of resettlement as part of phase-out strategies; and an increased number of deployees in all strategic key operations throughout the year.

Regional Developments and Challenges

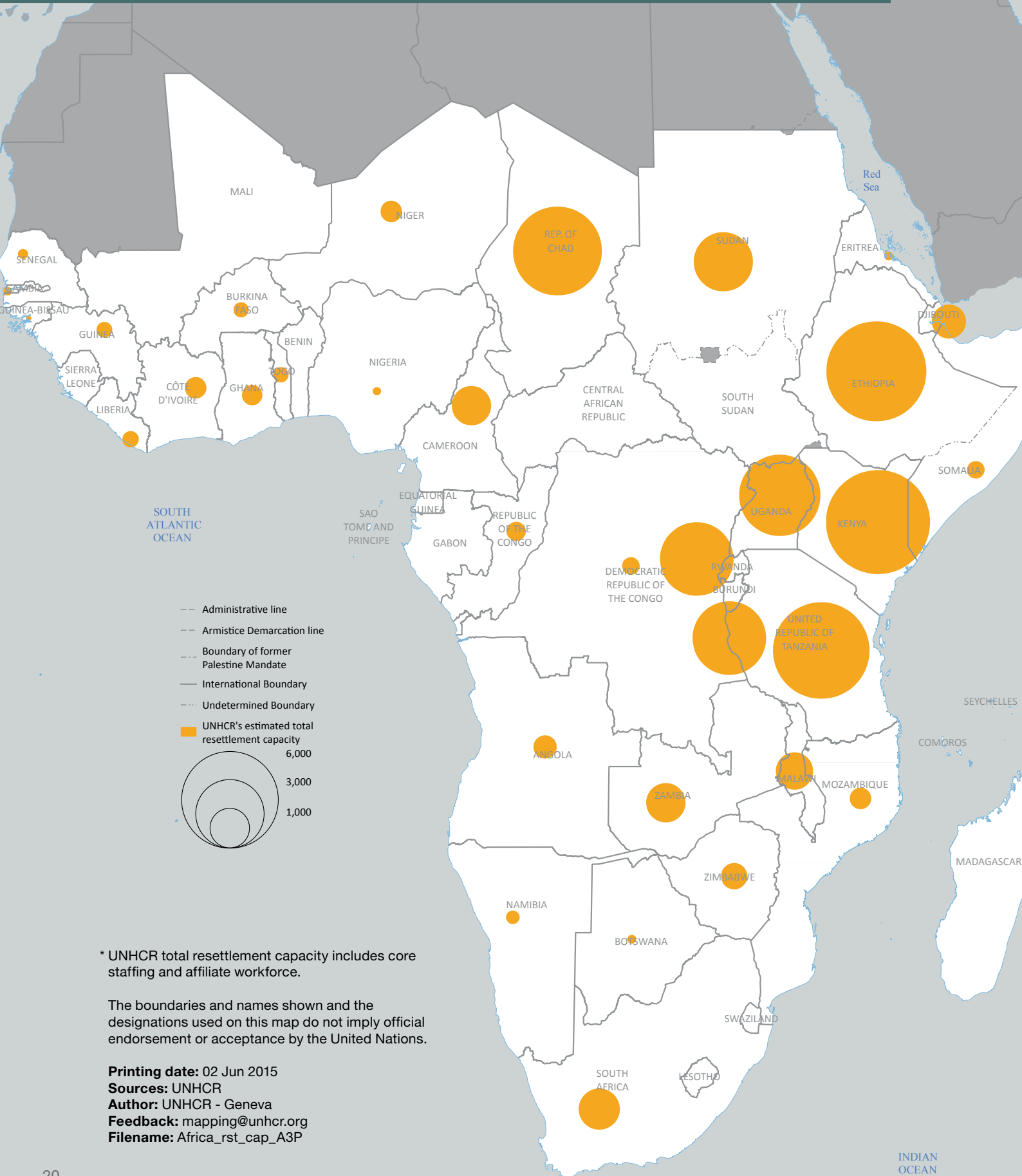
UNHCR in Africa continues to be confronted with referral and out-processing challenges with regard to resettlement, including also processing of the enhanced resettlement of Congolese refugees. Processing of RRFs remains a resource intensive activity. Collection of the required information is tedious and documentation in support of the resettlement of unaccompanied or separated children and medical cases is not always easily available.

In an effort to expedite resettlement processing, in 2012 UNHCR introduced the global use of the Abridged RRF, which is thus far only being used by the USA and some countries in Africa. UNHCR Headquarters is in the process of seeking further simplification of procedures on a global level. In the meantime, African operations have implemented technical innovations in an effort to accelerate processing modalities out of Africa. Moreover, in Africa efforts continue to be directed towards identifying additional group and other expedited processing scenarios. During 2014, UNHCR submitted another group resettlement proposal to the US for the resettlement of some 32,000 Congolese refugees out of Tanzania which was accepted in 2015.¹ Thanks to systematic efforts to improve and update registration

¹ In 2012 a group proposal for 10,000 Congolese refugees out of Rwanda was already approved by the USA.

Africa: UNHCR's total resettlement capacity for 2016 by country of asylum*

As of June 2015



* UNHCR total resettlement capacity includes core staffing and affiliate workforce.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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Author: UNHCR - Geneva
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data country by country, considerations for new group resettlement proposals are under way.

Nevertheless, identification of resettlement cases remains a challenging task in Africa, due to inaccurate/ lack of registration data in some operations and a lack of sufficient capacity to make a consistent number of referrals on a large continent, where refugees are mostly located in remote camp locations or dispersed in urban areas.

Resettlement identification and processing have considerably improved where data re-verification exercises have taken place, such as in Rwanda (in 2012), Burundi (in 2013), Uganda (in 2012 and 2013), and last year in Tanzania and Djibouti (2014). Systematic efforts have also been undertaken to involve protection and other staff as well as partners in strengthening identification mechanisms. The general, regional identification criteria agreed upon in 2012 for the resettlement of Congolese refugees have greatly facilitated the resettlement process.

Access to refugees continued to be a challenge in many operations in Africa. Somali refugees in Dadaab camp were temporarily relocated to Kakuma camp for resettlement processing purposes and Somali refugees in Eritrea were evacuated to Emergency Transit Facilities for resettlement processing purposes. In addition, UNHCR continues to offer the use of video-conference technology and would generally require a much increased quota for processing populations which cannot be accessed for resettlement country processing on a dossier basis.

Africa is characterized by multiple processing sites and there are considerable logistical challenges relating to travel and access. In spite of all the investments already undertaken, the logistics around the resettlement processing of Congolese refugees, who are residing in remote camps or vast settlement locations in the Great Lakes region, remains enormously resources intensive. In Tanzania, the finalization of the new processing site in Makere (close to Nyarugusu Camp), which is generously funded by the United States, will alleviate many of the logistical difficulties.

Selected operations in Africa continue to be supported by resettlement and child protection experts deployed through ICMC and RefugePoint (since mid-2013) to strengthen Best Interests Assessment (BIA) and Best Interests Determination (BID) capacity for a large number of unaccompanied and separated refugee children in Africa. In early 2013, UNHCR also issued an Operational Guidance Note on Best Interests Assessments for Children being resettled with Only One Parent.² Other challenges remain complex family composition issues, protracted

refugee situations, exclusion and inadmissibility issues as well as high levels of vulnerability among the refugee populations with little access to durable solutions other than resettlement.

Expedited processing modalities, the resolution of logistical challenges in reaching refugee populations, maintaining data quality and maintaining staffing capacity, as well as multi-functional engagement by Offices and partners, will remain critical in meeting the resettlement needs and reaching the resettlement targets in 2016.

Political stability and security are crucial factors for successful resettlement processing. 2014 and 2015 have seen large scale emergencies in Africa. Contingency plans have been put in place, which may impact on resources and resettlement processing capabilities. UNHCR continues to be flexible and divert resources to other countries where processing can compensate for eventual shortfalls in order to alleviate the impact on overall targets.

Strengthening the protection environment

UNHCR continues to focus on key resettlement operations, such as Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and the Southern Africa region, for the increased resettlement of Congolese refugees; Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, for the continued resettlement of Somali refugees; Sudan and Ethiopia, in particular for resettlement of Eritrean refugees; and Chad, for the resettlement of Sudanese/Darfuris (i.e. from the Central African Republic, Mali and South Sudan).

Resettlement remains of utmost importance in all refugee operations in Africa, although its direct impact on advancing other durable solutions in countries of asylum remains challenging to measure. On a positive note, the Congolese Refugee Core Group, which was established in 2013, has expanded its title and terms of reference to refugee situations in the Great Lakes region and expectations are high that this Group in close cooperation with the host countries, will work not only towards enhanced third country resettlement, but will also achieve enhanced conditions of asylum and integration in the context of larger comprehensive solutions initiatives, i.e. the Solutions Alliance.

Priority will continue to be given to addressing protracted refugee situations by promoting comprehensive durable solutions strategies which are embedded in overall protection strategies and offer all three durable solutions as appropriate. The implementation of the Comprehensive Strategies and Ceased Circumstances Cessation Clause for Angolan, Liberian, and Rwandan refugees has paved the way for the voluntary repatriation and local integration of these populations. Also, resettlement remains a key protection tool in countries of asylum where refugees' rights are compromised, i.e. the xenophobic incidents in South Africa.

² The *Operational Guidance Note: Best Interests Assessments for Children being Resettled with Only One Parent* has been developed to provide guidance for resettlement and other protection staff in fulfilling the requirement for a Best Interests Assessment (BIA) in the situation of refugee children being considered for resettlement with just one parent without sole custody and where the other parent cannot be reached. This requirement was introduced in the 2011 Field Handbook for the Implementation of UNHCR BID Guidelines, and incorporated in the *UNHCR Resettlement Handbook*.

Africa: 2016 Projected needs and targets

The total projected resettlement needs for Africa in 2016 are 391,939 persons. The total number of persons projected for submission from Africa in 2016 is 46,519.

Sub-regional developments

Central Africa and the Great Lakes

By the end of 2014, over half a million refugees had fled the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)³, making the Congolese refugee population the sixth largest in the world. Various conflicts since the 1960s, sparking numerous refugee movements, have resulted in Congolese refugees now constituting 18 per cent of the total refugee population in Africa.

Among the 488,087 Congolese refugees registered in Africa as of end 2014, some 73 per cent (358,129 persons) are in the Great Lakes Region alone: in Burundi and Rwanda, Congolese refugees represent 99 per cent of the total registered refugee population, in Tanzania 61 per cent and in Uganda 46 per cent.

UNHCR continues to pursue the implementation of a multi-year plan of action to address the situation of refugees from the DRC who are living in sub-Saharan Africa, including an increase in resettlement over a multi-year period, which commenced in 2012. Since the 2013 Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement, Congolese refugees have been identified as one of UNHCR's priority situations for resettlement, which has helped to unblock a large protracted refugee situation. At least 50,000 Congolese refugees will be submitted for resettlement between 2012 and 2017. By the end of 2014, the Great Lakes region had already met 59 per cent of this multi-year submission target.

UNHCR's projected resettlement needs in 2016 for Central Africa and the Great Lakes are 124,806 persons. This is a substantial increase compared to the expressed needs of 75,925 persons for 2015. This increase can be attributed to the escalation of violence in the Central African Republic and Nigeria causing a surge in refugee numbers in the region. Resettlement needs are reported for over 22,000 CAR refugees located in Cameroon and the DRC, for 18,000 Nigerian refugees, including 10,000 Nigerians alone in Cameroon. In addition 18,000 Rwandans in the DRC have been identified for resettlement consideration as a result of a recent verification exercise.

³ At the end of 2014, there are 516,770 DRC refugees worldwide, including in a refugee-like situation.

UNHCR's projected submissions in 2016 out of Central Africa and the Great Lakes are 14,460 persons. This is an overall increase of five per cent compared to 2015 projections due to increased submissions of Congolese refugees from Tanzania in the context of group resettlement.

East and Horn of Africa

In the East and Horn of Africa sub-region, protracted refugee situations continue to severely affect Somali refugees (in particular in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Kenya) and Eritrean refugees (in particular in the east of Sudan and in Ethiopia).

In Sudan, around 8,000 Eritrean refugees have been processed for resettlement since 2011. The remaining 1,000 refugees out of approximately 9,000 persons originally identified for resettlement will be processed before the end of 2016.

In Ethiopia, resettlement submissions and submission plans for Eritrean refugees have sharply increased from 975 in 2014 to 2,000 in 2015 and 3,250 in 2016 and also 2017. The Afar refugees from Ayasaita refugee camp in the North East of the country are for the first time benefitting from resettlement as a durable solution.

The protracted Somali refugee situation in the region (in particular in Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti) continues to be approached as a priority situation for the strategic use of resettlement. The majority of Somali refugees in these countries have not only been living in a refugee situation for a prolonged period, but they have also been faced with disproportionately lengthy waiting periods for resettlement acceptances and departures.

In Kenya, despite the start of a pilot project that provides assistance to spontaneous returnees, and the securitization of some parts of South Central Somalia, UNHCR has so far not observed large sustainable return movements to Somalia. The asylum climate in Kenya has changed drastically in the past couple of years due to the rising incidents of terrorism within Kenya carried out by Al Shabaab, including the Westgate Mall incident, and recent cross-border incursions by Al-Shabaab operatives which resulted in large numbers of civilian casualties in Mandera, and most recently in Garissa. This led to strong calls from the Government for the closure of the Dadaab refugee camp. The perceived connection between refugees and terrorists is repeatedly reiterated in the Kenyan media and official fora. The passing of new security driven laws, including laws aimed at Anti-Terror activities, leads to continued targeting of refugees by law enforcement authorities.

The unpredictable security situation in Dadaab refugee camp has limited access for resettlement countries, which has affected resettlement case processing negatively over the years. To mitigate this problem, refugees continue to be relocated from Dadaab to the US-funded relocation center in Kakuma for processing purposes.

The total projected resettlement needs in 2016 for East and Horn of Africa are 225,724 persons. This is a 30 per cent increase from the needs projected for 2015, mostly linked to emergencies, the expression of resettlement needs for 16,336 South Sudanese and considerable increase of resettlement plans out of Ethiopia (for refugees from Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan).

In Chad, at least 85,000 refugees are in need of resettlement. This is an increase from the resettlement need stated in 2015 owing to the protracted nature of the Sudan/ Darfur refugee population as well as new influxes of refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) and Nigeria. In the context of a multi-year resettlement plan for Chad, UNHCR plans to resettle a total of some 22,600 refugees between 2015 and 2018. The majority will be Sudanese refugees followed by CAR refugees and others. In order to support the solutions strategy, the Regional Support Hub in Nairobi (RSH) provides oversight functions (includes quality control review), coordination of submissions, policy support and training for resettlement activities in 13 countries: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Southern Africa

In the Southern Africa sub-region, the refugee situation has remained stable throughout 2014, with a comparatively slow but steady influx of asylum-seekers from the Great Lakes and East and Horn of Africa region mostly into Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi and South Africa. Opportunities for local integration and voluntary repatriation continue to be pursued albeit with limited desire on the part of most refugees to return, and socio-economic and legal challenges remain when it comes to local integration in most asylum countries.

All countries hosting significant numbers of Angolan refugees have invoked the cessation clause. In 2014, some 14,284 former Angolan refugees repatriated with UNHCR's assistance mainly from the DRC (12,482 persons), Zambia (1,620 persons) and from the Republic of the Congo (182 persons). During 2015, as of May, an additional 2,743 Angolan individuals returned from the DRC. A total of some 64,141 Angolan refugees remain in countries of asylum, in particular in the DRC (43,931 persons) and Zambia (18,185 persons), Namibia (1,600) and the Republic of the Congo (425).

Resettlement has played a key role in comprehensive solutions strategies in the Southern Africa sub-region. In Namibia, with the closure of the Office on 30 June 2015, resettlement and local integration have been utilized in a complimentary manner. Local integration is being promoted for the remaining 1,746 former Angolan refugees, which has been coupled by enhanced resettlement of the residual camp population (mostly from the DRC). In Zambia, 1,000 refugees are planned to be submitted for resettlement in 2015 in conjunction with local integration initiatives,

including the issuance of residence permits to 10,000 former Angolan refugees.

The main challenges in the region remained the obligatory encampment of refugees in most of the countries in the region, xenophobic violence affecting refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas as well as restrictive refugee policies by several governments. For example, 1,100 refugees of mixed nationality, the majority of whom are Somalis, are planned for submission during 2016 based on physical protection needs linked to xenophobic violence from the operation in South Africa.

In 2016, the total projected resettlement needs for Southern Africa region stands at 22,337 persons. The total projected resettlement submissions from the Southern Africa sub-region are 4,270 persons, which marks a 22 per cent decrease from the planned submissions of 5,415 persons in 2015. The reduction is due to the closure of UNHCR Namibia in 2015, where solutions objectives have already been met and the winding down of resettlement activities in Botswana. The UNHCR Botswana office may be closed by the end of 2016 following the successful repatriation of Angolans and resettlement of mainly Somali and Congolese (DRC) refugees in the meantime. Generally in the region, resettlement has been incorporated successfully into comprehensive durable solutions strategies and has significantly reduced camp populations in Namibia and Botswana.

Finally, case identification challenges remain in some countries, i.e. in Angola. Case identification mechanisms in the context of the durable solutions approach to resettlement are based on profiling exercises focusing on protracted caseloads, including the DRC refugees and protection needs assessments in certain urban areas. Consequently, out of the total planned submissions of 4,270 persons, and in line with the African regional enhanced resettlement of refugees from the DRC, the region plans to submit approximately 1,925 Congolese in 2016.

In order to support the solutions strategy, the Regional Resettlement Support Unit (RSU) provides oversight, coordination, and support for resettlement activities in Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. There are no UNHCR Offices in Lesotho, Swaziland, or Madagascar, but the Unit does process resettlement cases on an exceptional basis from these countries.

West Africa

In the West Africa region, UNHCR continues to proactively pursue comprehensive durable solutions strategies to capitalize on remaining options for resolving several protracted refugee situations, where repatriation is not an option demonstrated by very low repatriation figures.

During 2014, resettlement case processing was impacted negatively by the outbreak of the Ebola disease in Liberia and the Republic of Guinea, where resettlement interviews could not be conducted due to movement restrictions.

Local integration in West Africa remains limited in spite of existing regional frameworks, such as the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, Residence, and Establishment of the ECOWAS. Although, it has though proven to be an important mechanism for local integration of Liberian refugees who were exempted from cessation of refugee status.

For the Mali situation, despite the development of a return and reintegration strategy in early 2014, renewed clashes in May 2014 between Malian government forces and insurgents affected the intention of some Malian refugees to return home during 2014. In the region, approximately 7,000 Malian refugees are projected to be in need of resettlement in 2016 (3000 from Burkina Faso and 3950 from Niger).

UNHCR is increasing its efforts to enhance its protection capacity in the sub-region, with particular emphasis on the identification of refugees with specific needs, and with the aim of boosting traditionally low resettlement numbers coming from this sub-region. UNHCR maintains its advocacy for an increased quota for dossier submissions, in order to address the small, mixed refugee populations, which are living in remote areas.

The total projected resettlement needs in 2016 for West Africa are 19,072. This figure marks a substantial increase from the figure of 7,635 refugees who were reported to be in need of resettlement in 2015. The rise in resettlement needs in the region is largely due to the projected resettlement needs of 8,000 Nigerian refugees in Niger and 3,000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso. The total projected resettlement submission plans in 2016 for West Africa are 1,691 refugees (27 per cent from Côte d'Ivoire; 15 per cent from Mali, 13 per cent from Liberia).

The Regional Resettlement Unit for West Africa covers the following countries of West Africa: Benin; Burkina Faso; Côte d'Ivoire; Gambia; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea Bissau; Liberia; Mali; Niger; Nigeria; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Togo. And three countries in Central Africa: Cameroon; the Central African Republic and Chad. The key functions of the Regional Resettlement Unit (RRU) include regional coordination, operational support, capacity building through support missions to field offices, oversight and monitoring. It also provides quality control review of resettlement cases and makes resettlement submissions.

Africa: 2016 Projected global needs

A. Region of Asylum	B. Total projected resettlement needs*		C. Total UNHCR submissions planned for 2016 (target)**		D. UNHCR core staff capacity in 2016	
	cases	persons	cases	persons	cases	persons
Central Africa & the Great Lakes	37,052	124,806	3,246	14,460	1,341	6,022
East & Horn of Africa	69,109	225,724	9,200	26,098	3,348	10,107
Southern Africa	6,821	22,337	1,337	4,270	299	979
West Africa	4,567	19,072	572	1,691	168	462
Grand Total	117,549	391,939	14,355	46,519	5,156	17,570

* including multi-year planning

** based upon UNHCR total capacity (core staff + affiliate workforce) in 2016



A young Eritrean refugee waiting to fill her water tanker in Abouda refugee camp, Sudan © UNHCR / K. A. Urban

Americas



This Colombian refugee in Ecuador is a single mother who runs a small business producing and selling handicrafts. Supporting livelihoods, including vocational training, cash-based interventions and access to financial services, is key to fostering solutions for refugees. © UNHCR / Aguilar / Ecu



Trends in 2014

1,800 refugees were submitted throughout 2014 in the Latin America and Caribbean region, the vast majority of them (1,695) were Colombians from Ecuador. The figure is very similar to the number of refugees submitted in the region last year, representing a small decline (around six per cent). With regard to departures, overall in the region 1,027 refugees departed, a two per cent decline compared with last year's departure figure.

Regional Developments

In 2014 nearly all States in the entire continent met in Brasilia, under the auspices of the Brazilian Government, on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration, in order to analyze and discuss current regional protection challenges and opportunities. Concrete actions and solutions oriented programmes were spelled out in the landmark Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action, which reaffirmed the commitment of Latin America and Caribbean countries to uphold international and regional protection standards enshrined in an existing regional cooperation framework.

The regional consultations highlighted the importance of resettlement as an instrument of refugee protection, of solidarity with countries hosting large numbers of refugees, and of regional and international cooperation. In this regard, countries that participate in the Solidarity Resettlement programme (specifically Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Chile), will conduct a joint evaluation throughout 2015 to share experiences and good practices, and expand and consolidate the programme in line with the region's current reality.

Peace Talks between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) continued in 2014. While progress in Colombia is being made at the negotiating table, resolving 50 years of conflict remains a formidable challenge; a cease-fire arrangement has yet to be agreed and on-going violence continues to lead to death and displacement. A peace agreement is not likely before the end of 2015, and, if signed, would require approval through a public referendum whereby Colombians would vote on whether to support the accord, accepting negotiated terms for transitional justice and reconciliation. In light of this situation, UNHCR will continue to carefully consider its programmes and responsibilities toward persons of concern in the region.

In Ecuador, a Constitutional Court decision issued in September 2014 modified some of the provisions introduced in Executive Decree 1182 which severely limited access to asylum in the country. Specifically, the Constitutional Court decision extended the period within which an asylum application must be filed from 15 to 90 days after the applicant's entry into Ecuador. In addition, the decision reintroduced the extended Cartagena Declaration refugee definition into the country's legislation.

The Americas: UNHCR's total resettlement capacity for 2016 by country of asylum*

As of June 2015



* UNHCR total resettlement capacity includes core staffing and affiliate workforce.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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Americas: 2016 Projected needs and targets

Since mid-2014, citizens of certain Mercosur member States, including Colombia, have been able to apply for a temporary residence permit based solely on their nationality. While this Visa is affordable and accessible to many potential persons of concern, and provides similar access to basic rights and services as those granted refugee status, it does not provide protection against *refoulement*. Therefore, the introduction of protection safeguards are being discussed with the authorities.

The total projected resettlement needs for the Latin America and Caribbean region in 2016, identified by UNHCR offices is 7,492 persons. UNHCR plans to submit 1,215 persons for resettlement from the region during 2016.

Sub-regional overview

Latin America

In Ecuador, resettlement continues to play a pivotal role both as a protection tool and a durable solution in the context of the Comprehensive Solutions Initiative. Throughout 2014 UNHCR Ecuador refined considerably the profiling of the population of concern through larger-scale profiling activities which indicated that 15 per cent of the population may be in need of resettlement. Further assessments of protection and resettlement needs, has yielded an estimation of 7,000 individuals in need of resettlement, which represents a decrease in respect of the figure provided in last year's report.

In Venezuela, local integration continues to be pursued as the preferred solution for refugees. However, UNHCR will continue to proactively seek resettlement for refugees with legal and/or physical protection needs, especially for cases involving refugee women and girls exposed to, or having survived sexual and gender-based violence.

The Caribbean

UNHCR expects to continue utilizing resettlement as both a protection and solutions response for refugees in different countries in the Caribbean. Resettlement in the Caribbean will continue to be used strategically as a tool for effective responsibility sharing to further encourage States in the region to increase refugees' prospects for local integration.

In Cuba, the number of new refugee status determination applications received in the first quarter of 2015 almost matched the number received throughout 2014. The number of persons in need of resettlement as of 31 March 2015 increased three times compared with the number of persons pending submission as of 1 January 2015. Resettlement in Cuba is being used both as a protection tool and a durable solution.

The Americas: 2016 Projected global needs

A. Region of Asylum	B. Total projected resettlement needs*		C. Total UNHCR submissions planned for 2016 (target)**		D. UNHCR core staff capacity in 2016	
	cases	persons	cases	persons	cases	persons
Americas	2,624	7,492	470	1,215	222	591
Grand Total	2,624	7,492	470	1,215	222	591

* including multi-year planning

** based upon UNHCR total capacity (core staff + affiliate workforce) in 2016

Asia



This is one of the few remaining images of Reza. He was only a toddler when his parents fled Myanmar to Bangladesh. As the eldest son, he had to help provide for his family of 12. In December 2013, at the age of 15, he boarded a smuggler's boat with 170 others, hoping to find stability in Malaysia. He was never heard from again.

Reza's youngest sister shares a rare group photo with her lost brother. He left on a smuggler's boat in December 2013 and is believed to have died along with 170 others on the boat. His family is devastated. "Allah took him from us, what can we do. It was a mistake to send him," said his father Rehman.



Trends in 2014

During 2014, Asia and the Pacific region submitted a total of 27,450 individuals for resettlement. This constitutes a 27 per cent decrease compared with 37,559 submissions in 2013, and 38,404 submissions in 2012. The decrease is due to the winding down of group resettlement from Thailand, Malaysia and Nepal.

Refugees submitted for resettlement from Asia in 2014 mainly originated from Myanmar (15,170), Bhutan (5,566), Afghanistan (3,971), Somalia (442) and Pakistan (441), which were the same top five nationalities for resettlement submissions from Asia as in 2013. The main five countries of resettlement were: The USA (received 74 per cent of the total submissions), Australia (9 per cent), Canada (7 per cent), New Zealand (4.5 per cent), and Sweden (1.5 per cent).

Departures from Asia and the Pacific region decreased slightly with 30,827 refugees departing in 2014 (compared to 32,731 persons in 2013). However, Asia and the Pacific region still had the highest regional figure for departures for 2014, constituting 42.2 per cent of all global departures.

Regional developments

UNHCR's strategic priority in the Asia and the Pacific region remains the promotion of lasting comprehensive solutions for refugees. In 2016, UNHCR will continue to focus on protracted refugee situations while pursuing self-reliance activities for refugees pending the identification of durable solutions.

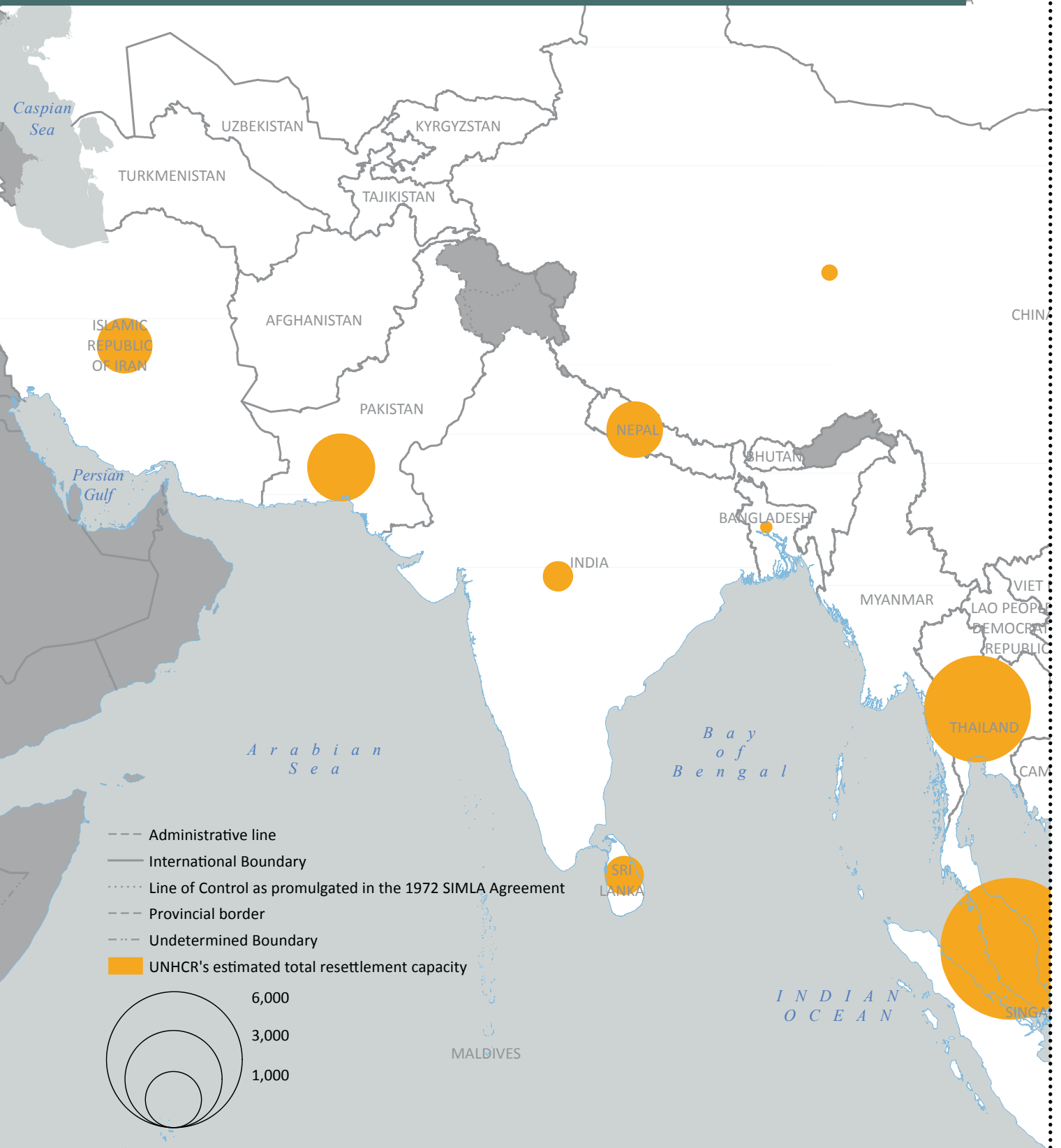
During the past year, South East Asia experienced significant further increases in asylum applications, in particular from religious minorities from Pakistan, but also from arrivals from Myanmar and Afghanistan, and the Middle East. Asylum seeker populations grew in Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India.

The number of refugees being submitted under large group resettlement programmes covering refugees from Bhutan in Nepal and Myanmar refugees in both Thailand and Malaysia is dropping. These operations are transitioning into increased processing of individually identified and processed resettlement cases of diverse groups, including individuals from outside of the region (i.e. Afghans, Somalis, Syrians, Palestinians, Iraqis and so on) with special protection needs or family links. This is a very resource intensive process, which has been challenging considering that resettlement operations are being downsized.

At 2.7 million, Afghan refugees constitute the second largest refugee population in the world and represent one of the most protracted situations. The regional Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), developed by the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan with the support of UNHCR, addresses the protracted situation of Afghan refugees by supporting voluntary repatriation, sustainable reintegration and assistance to host countries. Continued resettlement is also commensurate with the goals of the SSAR.

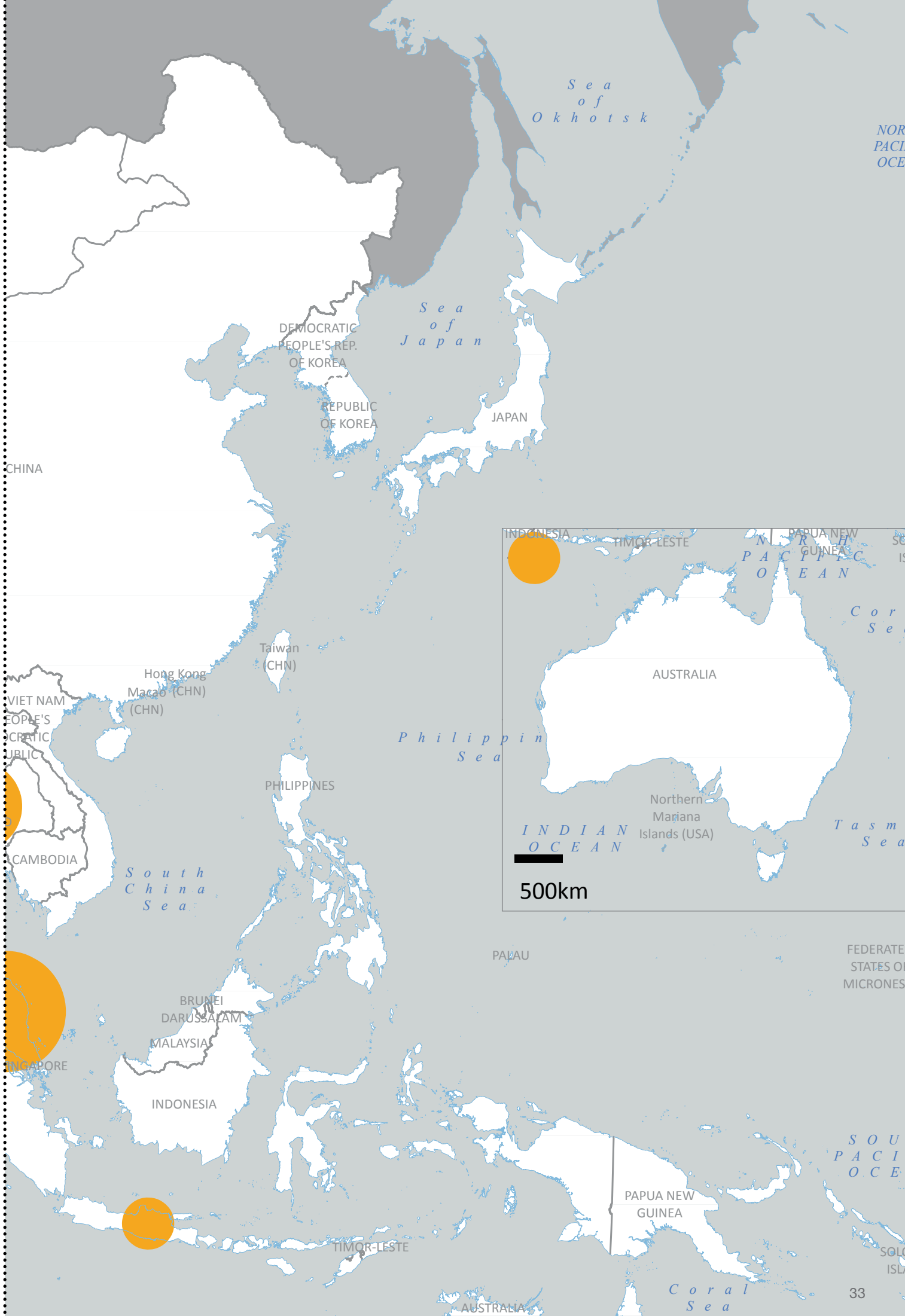
Asia and the Pacific: UNHCR's total resettlement capacity for 2016 by country of asylum*

As of June 2015



* UNHCR total resettlement capacity includes core staffing and affiliate workforce.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



NOR
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PACIFIC
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FEDERATE
STATES OF
MICRONES

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Asia: 2016 Projected needs and targets

The total projected resettlement needs for the Asia region in 2016, identified by UNHCR offices is 169,559 persons. This marks a three per cent decrease from the projected needs for 2015, which were 174,575. The number of persons projected for submission in 2016 is 15,878. This is 29 per cent less than the 22,227 persons planned for submission in 2015, due to the completion of group processing in Thailand and Nepal.

Sub-regional Overviews

South-East Asia, East Asia and the Pacific

The South-East Asia, East Asia and the Pacific sub-region is comprised of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China (including Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR), Indonesia, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, the Pacific Island States, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam.

Half of the countries / territories in this sub-region have not acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention and/or the 1967 Protocol (Brunei-Darussalam, Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, most of the Pacific Island States, Singapore, and Thailand). The absence of national legal frameworks and procedures relating to refugee protection, limited local integration opportunities, and the lack of prospects for voluntary repatriation for the majority of refugee populations demonstrate the continued need for resettlement as an important durable solution in the region.

UNHCR will advocate for the expansion of avenues for safe and legal migration in the region; including for labour migration at all skills levels, which will be supplemented by limited third country resettlement for individuals with specific needs.

In 2014, Malaysia was the second top submission country. 11,361 refugees were submitted and 10,976 departed for resettlement. Consequently, refugees from Myanmar represented the nationality with the third largest resettlement submission rate globally (15,170 persons in 2014). Processing of refugees from Myanmar out of Malaysia will reduce as the office moves away from group resettlement to individual processing. Thailand was the eighth largest submission country globally submitting 4,800 individuals in 2014. Following the closure of group resettlement in early 2014 out of Thailand, UNHCR Thailand will continue to submit individual cases in 2016.

Bangladesh suspended its resettlement activities in 2010. However, the Government of Bangladesh announced a National Strategy for Rohingya in 2014, which included the possibility to recommence resettlement "after certain progress with implementation of the National Strategy". UNHCR Bangladesh will prioritize the processing of cases that were submitted prior to the suspension.

In order to support the promotion of solutions in light of regional and country operational contexts and in accordance with regional solutions strategies, the Regional Office for South-East Asia in Bangkok, Thailand, provides oversight, coordination, and support for resettlement activities in Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam.

In 2016, activities by the Regional Office to promote resettlement within the region will include: monitoring developments and providing operational support to country operations on resettlement; regional coordination and harmonization of resettlement approaches within the region as part of comprehensive solutions; provision of support for capacity-building; review of standard operating procedures relating to resettlement; provision of support to strengthen anti-fraud mechanisms to ensure integrity in resettlement; and resettlement processing for a small number of cases in countries in South-East Asia with no or limited UNHCR presence (i.e. Brunei-Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, should the needs arise Mongolia, Singapore, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam).

South Asia

The South Asia sub-region includes India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. None of these countries have acceded to the 1951 Convention or the 1967 Protocol, nor have they developed national legal frameworks and procedures relating to refugee protection. Local integration remains a limited option for refugees residing in this region, with the exception of India where the Government permits the naturalization of Afghan refugees of Sikh or Hindu origin, who have arrived in the country since 2007.

Sri Lanka have increased their resettlement activities for 2015 in response to the shrinking protection space for asylum seekers and the lack of any prospects of local integration for refugees. In addition, as mentioned above, Sri Lanka is not a State party to the 1951 Convention or the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. Although the predicted new arrivals have decreased from 900 to 300 in 2015, the protection environment in Sri Lanka has become more challenging. In 2014 Sri Lanka submitted 217 individuals.

In 2014, Nepal continued to be the largest submission country in the sub-region submitting 5,726 individuals with 8,582 departures. For 2016, Nepal plans to continue submitting individuals and in close cooperation with other concerned Governments, search for other durable solutions for families remaining in camps.

South-West Asia

The South-West Asia sub-region comprises the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Iran and Pakistan are currently hosting 2.7 million registered Afghan refugees and continue to be priority situations for the strategic use of resettlement. The three-year regional Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (adopted in 2012) reinforces the importance of finding comprehensive solutions, including resettlement as a means of alleviating burdens on host countries in the region and as a tangible expression of responsibility-sharing by the international community. Following a series of complex transitions in 2014, Afghanistan now enters a new chapter in its history. The security transition and ongoing political consolidation, including the establishment of the National Unity Government and steps taken towards the formation of the new Cabinet, signal positive developments as the country embarks on a path of reconstruction and reconciliation, towards the fulfilment of a vision of stability, economic growth, development and self-reliance.

The Islamic Republic of Iran hosts the world's largest urban population (950,000 Afghan refugees and 28,000 Iraqi refugees), with 97 per cent living in urban or semi-urban areas and the remainder living in settlements. UNHCR continues its efforts to promote and expand resettlement out of Iran. The Core Contact Group in Iran, chaired by Sweden, worked with the National Steering Committee for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan refugees, complementing resettlement efforts with those of voluntary repatriation and improved living conditions for refugees in Iran as part of a comprehensive approach to solutions. The number of UNHCR submissions decreased from 2,185 in 2013 to 1,063 in 2014 and resettlement departures decreased from 1,904 in 2013 to 1,255 in 2014. UNHCR continues to advocate with resettlement States to increase resettlement places for refugees from Iran, focusing on the most vulnerable refugees, including those exposed to protection risks (such as Afghan refugee women and girls at risk) and those with serious medical needs. This helps to alleviate pressures on medical and social service providers in the country due to the current global sanctions on Iran, which have negatively impacted the service delivery of various sectors of the Government.



November 9, 2014. A UNHCR partner run programme creating fishing nets down by the beach of Brgy 89 near Tacloban City. Programmes such as this are great for restoring a sense of normality back to Tacloban and many local people participate in such activities. © UNHCR / P. Behan

With approximately 1.5 million registered Afghan refugees, Pakistan continues to host one of the largest refugee populations worldwide. In July 2013, the Government of Pakistan extended the validity of the Proof of Registration (PoR) cards held by Afghan refugees until the end of 2015. The Government also adopted a National Strategy for the Management and Repatriation of Afghan Refugees, which envisages the development of a national refugee law in order to establish, for the first time in Pakistan's history, a solid legal framework for the protection of refugees in Pakistan. Following the designation of the country as a priority situation for the strategic use of resettlement, UNHCR increased its resettlement submissions from 1,514 in 2013 to 2,153 in 2014 and resettlement departures rose from 1,107 in 2013 to 958 in 2014. In December 2012, the Islamabad-based Core Contact Group on Resettlement was formed to mobilize international support for resettlement from Pakistan on a more predictable, multi-year basis and to advocate for alternative solutions for the residual refugees in Pakistan. The Group is currently co-chaired by the Government of Australia and UNHCR. Security challenges and limited resettlement quota continue to adversely affect UNHCR resettlement activities in Pakistan.

Asia: 2016 Projected global needs

A. Region of Asylum	B. Total projected resettlement needs*		C. Total UNHCR submissions planned for 2016 (target)**		D. UNHCR core staff capacity in 2016	
	cases	persons	cases	persons	cases	persons
East Asia & the Pacific	25,234	46,359	5,998	11,538	3,105	6,387
South Asia	3,180	9,300	665	1,840	525	1,495
South-West Asia	26,333	113,900	700	2,500	641	2,205
Grand Total	54,747	169,559	7,363	15,878	4,271	10,087

* including multi-year planning

** based upon UNHCR total capacity (core staff + affiliate workforce) in 2016

Europe





Trends in 2014

During 2014 the Syrian refugee population in Turkey increased threefold from 585,480 to over one and a half million (1,557,899). Additionally the conflict in Ukraine caused 248,000 refugees to seek protection in the Russian Federation.

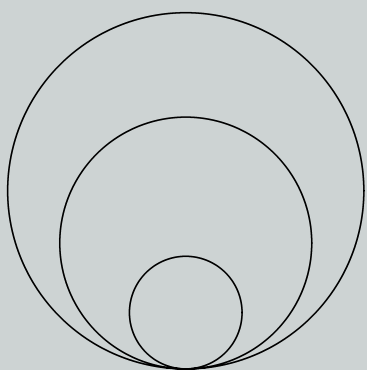
The number of resettlement submissions from Europe increased from 11,096 in 2013 to 16,392 in 2014, mainly due to the rise in the number of submissions made from Turkey. During 2014, the UNHCR office in Turkey submitted the highest number of refugees for resettlement globally (15,738). Departures to resettlement countries from the region also increased from 7,939 persons in 2013, to 9,653 in 2014; mainly from Turkey where departures increased from 7,226 in 2013 to 8,944 in 2014.

Europe: UNHCR's total resettlement capacity for 2016 by country of asylum*

As of June 2015

NORTH
ATLANTIC
OCEAN

- Armistice Demarcation line
- Boundary of former Palestine Mandate
- International Boundary
- UNHCR's estimated total resettlement capacity



200,000

100,000

20,000



* UNHCR total resettlement capacity includes core staffing and affiliate workforce.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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Sources: UNHCR
Author: UNHCR - Geneva
Feedback: mapping@unhcr.org
Filename: Europe_rst_cap_A3L



FINLAND

SWEDEN

RUSSIAN
FEDERATION

ESTONIA

LATVIA

LITHUANIA

BELARUS

POLAND

UKRAINE

CZECH
REPUBLIC

SLOVAKIA

AUSTRIA

HUNGARY

REPUBLIC
OF MOLDOVA

SLOVENIA

CROATIA

ROMANIA

SAN
MARINO

BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA

SERBIA*

*Black
Sea*

MONTENEGRO

BULGARIA



TURKEY

HOLY SEE

THE FORMER
YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC
OF MACEDONIA

ALBANIA

GREECE

MALTA

*Mediterranean
Sea*

CYPRUS



Merkez Camp, Kahramanmaraş, Turkey. © UNHCR / E. Gürel / January 2015

Regional developments

The registration of over one and a half million Syrian refugees in Turkey, as well as increased arrivals from Iraq, continue to pose serious challenges to both the Turkish authorities and UNHCR. The April 2013 Law on Foreigners and International Protection (LFIP) was adopted, which became operational in 2014. The LFIP maintains the geographic limitation and provides “conditional refugee” status for those meeting the refugee definition due to events occurring in countries outside Europe, which specifies that they are allowed to remain in Turkey until they can be resettled elsewhere. Under the LFIP, a central asylum institution, the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) was established as the sole authority in migration and international protection related issues. Turkey will undergo a transition stage in the upcoming years, with the establishment and implementation of a State-owned and rights based asylum framework. A temporary protection regime set up in October 2014, is applicable to all Syrian nationals, refugees and stateless persons from Syria who arrived to Turkey after April 2011.

In Eastern Europe, some of the asylum systems lacked the capacity to ensure effective protection, and access to Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures were not in line with international standards. For example, in some countries such as the Russian Federation and Ukraine, access to asylum continues to be a challenge, particularly for persons of certain nationalities, or with specific profiles. The procedures in place for Refugee Status Determination (RSD) fall short of the necessary safeguards because of the overall quality of decisions, and in some cases discriminatory practices. UNHCR will continue

working with the authorities in Eastern European countries to try to improve access to procedures and the quality of adjudication of claims. In addition to these procedural issues, in some instances racism and xenophobia directed towards persons of concern can constitute a threat to the physical security of refugees and asylum-seekers.

In certain European States, UNHCR continues to use resettlement strategically, to advocate for a more rights-based approach to asylum and for better protection and living standards for all refugees. In addition, resettlement of the most vulnerable refugees (including those at risk of *refoulement*, medical cases, women at risk, etc.), will help to relieve pressure on the overstretched resources of host governments.

In Malta, resettlement and relocation will continue to be used as a strategic protection tool in order to provide effective solutions to the most vulnerable persons in view of the country’s limited absorption capacity.

Europe: 2016 Projected needs and targets

Projected Resettlement needs in Europe increased from 149,699 persons in 2015 to 214,972 in 2016. This marks a 44 per cent rise in needs since last year. The ongoing armed conflict in Syria was the principal reason for the upsurge in resettlement needs.

Sub-regional overviews

Eastern Europe

The estimated resettlement needs in Eastern Europe (the Russian Federation and Ukraine) in 2016 is 470 persons. These refugees mainly originate from Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Syria.

Due to fighting in eastern Ukraine, in particular around Donetsk, Luhansk and neighbouring towns, over 823,000¹ persons had been compelled to leave their homes by the end of 2014. In 2016 UNHCR's office in Ukraine will continue to work on the promotion of access to the national asylum system and on improvement in decision-making, as well as lobbying for local integration of refugees. However, actual resettlement needs of UNHCR's persons of concern will depend greatly on the overall functioning of the Government, as well as on the security situation. The current situation remains volatile, and the impact on refugees in the country is difficult to predict due to the evolving situation.

South-Eastern Europe

The estimated total resettlement needs in South-Eastern Europe (Malta and Turkey) are 214,502 persons, of which 214,000 are currently living in Turkey. UNHCR will have the capacity to submit 20,000 refugees from Turkey in 2015.

Resettlement will also continue to be sought for the most vulnerable among the refugee population in Malta, estimated at 450 persons.

¹ Figure as of 30 December 2014, reported by the Ministry of Social Policy in Ukraine.



A Ukrainian family with their belongings after arriving at Kyiv by train. They had fled the violence in eastern Ukraine. © UNHCR / I. Zimova / June 2014

Europe: 2016 Projected global needs

A. Region of Asylum	B. Total projected resettlement needs*		C. Total UNHCR submissions planned for 2016 (target)**		D. UNHCR core staff capacity in 2016	
	cases	persons	cases	persons	cases	persons
Eastern Europe	205	470	205	470	120	290
South-Eastern Europe	67,512	214,502	7,581	20,450	5,082	14,100
Grand Total	67,717	214,972	7,786	20,920	5,202	14,390

* including multi-year planning

** based upon UNHCR total capacity (core staff + affiliate workforce) in 2016

Middle East and North Africa



Mofleh is reaping what he sowed. After playing host to a refugee family from Lebanon during its 2006 war with Israel, he has now found shelter with the very same family. Bilal, who was just a boy when his family took refuge with Mofleh in Syria, now takes care of him full time. © UNHCR / A. McConnell



Trends in 2014

Syrians, for the first time, became the largest refugee population under UNHCR's mandate, with a total refugee population of 3.9 million hosted mainly in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq.

In 2014, eighteen UNHCR country offices in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) submitted a total of 23,169 urban and camp-based refugees to 25 resettlement countries. The vast majority were Syrian nationals who comprised 67 per cent of total submissions for MENA. The total number of submissions for MENA represents an increase of 62 per cent compared with 14,247 submissions during 2013. Regionally, departures decreased slightly with 12,573 refugees departing from MENA during 2014 (compared with 14,658 refugees departing in 2013).

The volatile security situations in some parts of the region continued to impose constraints on the ability of resettlement countries to access or interview refugees for resettlement, causing the suspension of resettlement missions in some areas. In addition, the sharp deterioration in the security environment in many MENA countries has led to UNHCR facing competing priorities in emergency situations, which has further impacted on resettlement activities.

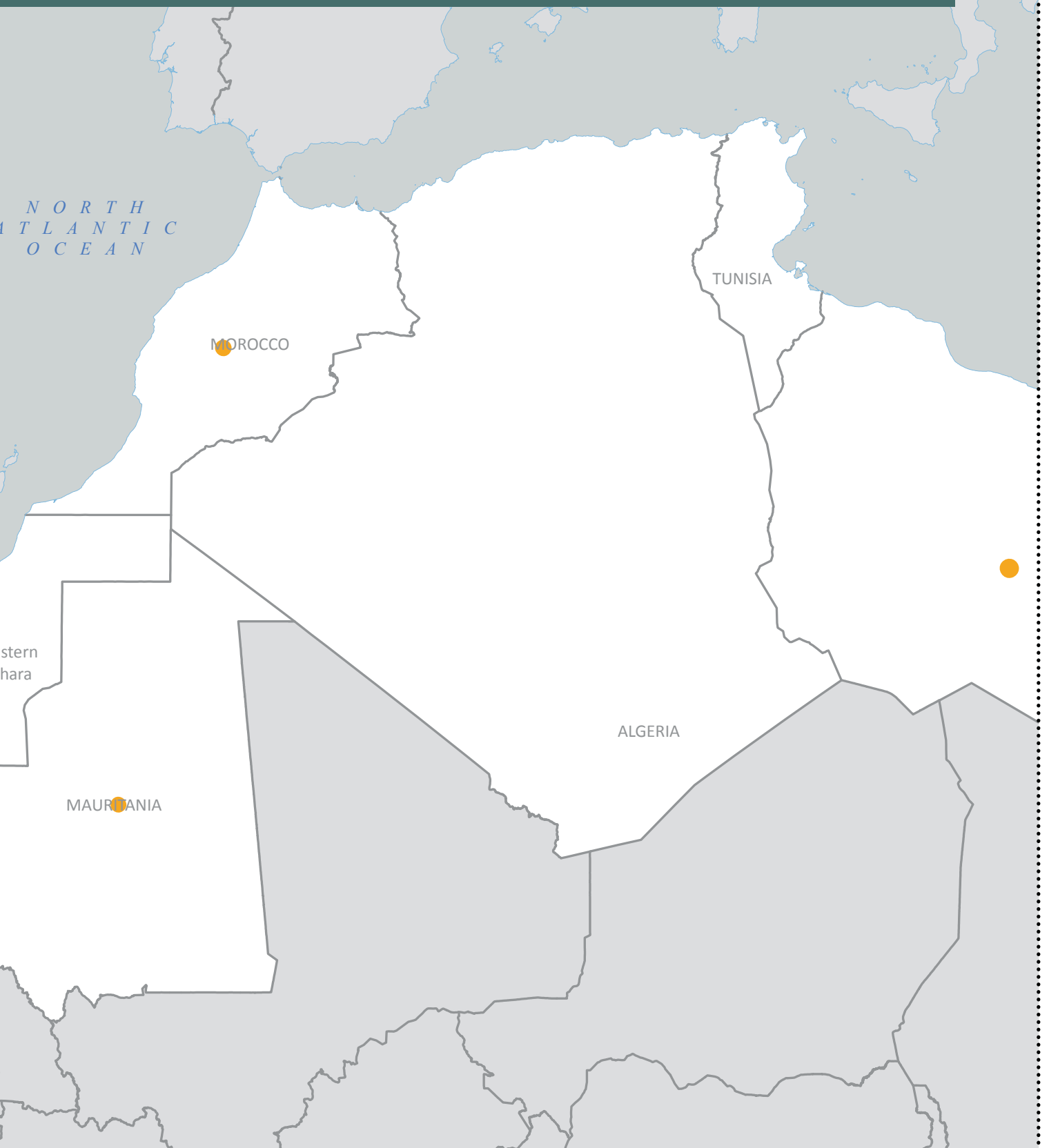
Syrian resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes served as an immediate protection response for refugees who have compelling protection needs and vulnerabilities. Submissions were made mainly from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. During 2014, a total of 3,314 refugees from Syria were submitted for humanitarian admission to Austria (445), France (514), Germany (2,072) and the UK (283). 2,354 individuals departed on humanitarian admission programmes during 2014. There was a significant increase in resettlement referrals in 2014, with 17,797 Syrian refugees submitted globally to 21 resettlement countries. This amounts to fifteen times more referrals than the year of 2013, when 1,168 submissions were made. There was also a significant increase in resettlement departures with 3,305 departures in 2014 compared with 257 during 2013.

Another key solutions activity has focused on approximately 2,500 Iranians in Camp Hurriya (Camp Liberty), northeast of the Baghdad International Airport. 638 individuals from this group departed to other countries by April 2015.

The resettlement submission of emergency, urgent, and medical cases on a dossier basis continued to be applied as a tool of protection in the MENA region, with 473 individuals submitted in 2014.

MENA: UNHCR's total resettlement capacity for 2016 by country of asylum*

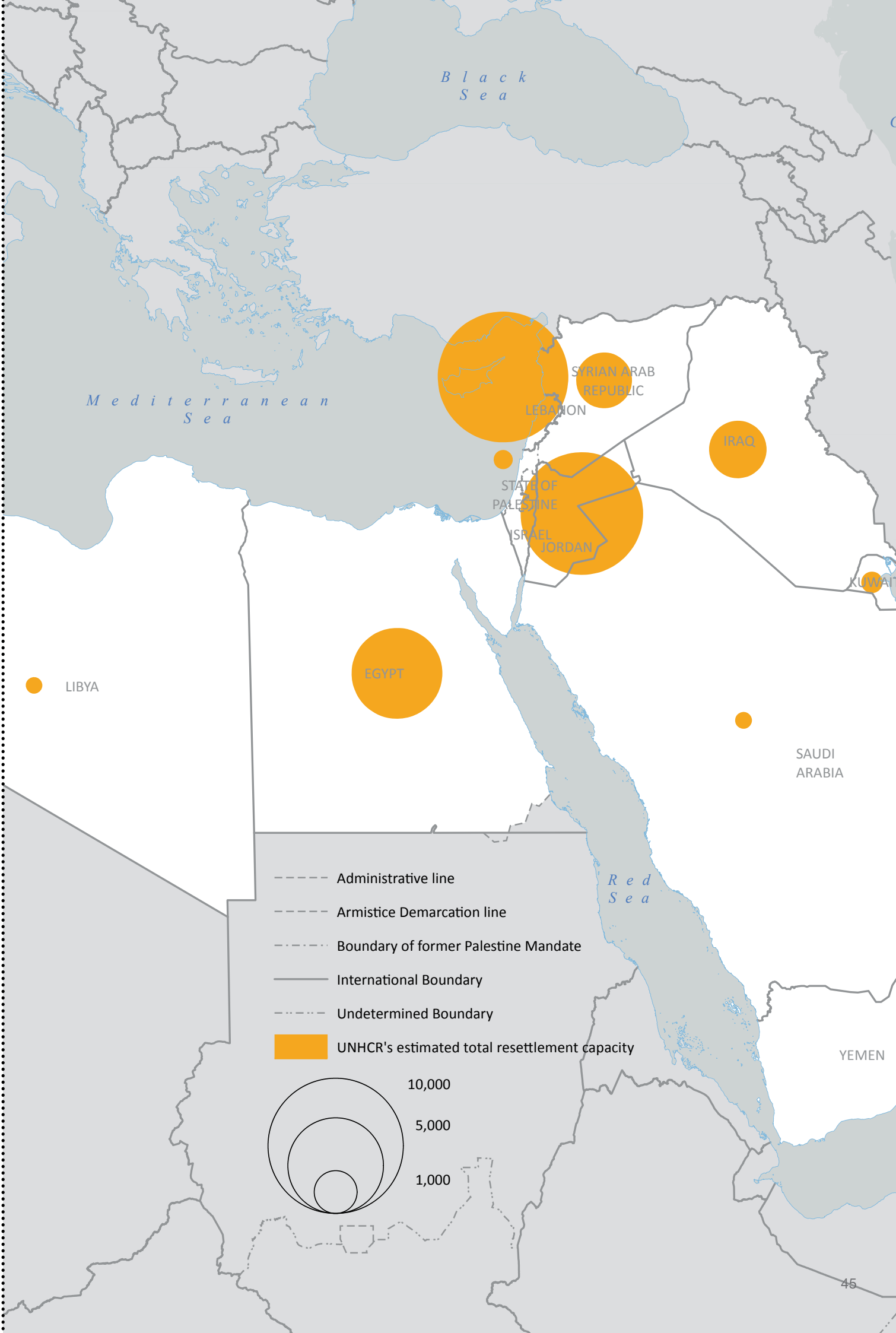
As of June 2015



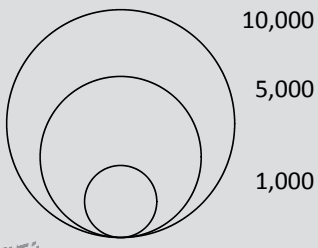
* UNHCR total resettlement capacity includes core staffing and affiliate workforce.

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- Administrative line
- Armistice Demarcation line
- Boundary of former Palestine Mandate
- International Boundary
- · - · - · Undetermined Boundary
- UNHCR's estimated total resettlement capacity



Regional developments

Syrian nationals continue to flee one of the worst conflicts the world has witnessed in decades, and throughout 2014 UNHCR and States intensified the use of resettlement and humanitarian admissions to meet the mounting needs of Syrian refugees in recent years. Additional and diverse avenues which are complementary to traditional resettlement will be pursued – such as humanitarian admission, humanitarian visas, private sponsorship and scholarships for students, expanded opportunities for family reunification, medical evacuation and labour mobility schemes with protection safeguards. In December 2014, UNHCR called for further commitments to ensure that momentum continues in the provision of much-needed protection and durable solutions for Syrians affected by the ongoing conflict. Up to one in ten Syrian refugees in the five neighbouring host States – Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey – are estimated to be in need of resettlement and other forms of admission. UNHCR hopes to reach the milestone figure of 130,000 confirmed resettlement and alternative forms of admission places for Syrian refugees by the end of 2016, and continues to advocate towards sustained, multi-year commitments, which would best represent meaningful expressions of responsibility-sharing in light of the enormity of the Syrian situation.

Among the hundreds of thousands of other refugees in North Africa and the Middle East, including significant numbers of Somalis, Sudanese, Eritreans and Palestinians, some 96,000 Iraqi refugees are registered with UNHCR (mainly in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, the Gulf Cooperation Council States as well as Turkey) and many remain in need of resettlement. While the number of Iraqi refugees in the region has fallen during recent years prior to 2014, some offices in the region are reporting an increase in the number of new Iraqi registrations owing to the renewed violence in Iraq. As a result the situation for Palestinian refugees in Iraq has also significantly deteriorated.

In order to support the solutions strategy, the MENA Protection Service provides oversight, coordination, and support for resettlement activities in Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia (covers Bahrain, Oman and Qatar), Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The office also coordinates with Turkey on the resettlement of Syrian and Iraqi refugees.

In 2016, activities by the MENA Protection Service to promote resettlement within the region will include support to resettlement operations in the MENA region, oversight of the quality and integrity of the resettlement processes, case referrals and submissions, and close coordination and advocacy with resettlement countries on issues relating to resettlement.

With no solutions to the conflicts in sight in the near future, Syrian civilians will continue to seek safety and assistance across international borders in 2015 and 2016. Providing a durable solution in the form of resettlement or relocation to safe third countries is a critical and often life-saving intervention for refugees with urgent protection needs and compelling vulnerabilities. These solutions form an important component of the protection strategy for Syrian

refugees. Staffing resources as well as operational procedures have been put in place to identify the most vulnerable among the Syrian refugee population to be referred for resettlement and other forms of humanitarian admission.

Refugees in Syria are also faced with desperate living conditions and have urgent legal and physical protection needs. In particular, some 962 Palestinian refugees from Iraq who are neither registered nor eligible for registration with UNRWA are uniquely marginalized, with no apparent prospects for legal, economic or social integration. Without the possibility of a safe and dignified return to Iraq due to the current conditions and past persecution, this group are in urgent need of resettlement.

UNHCR will continue to facilitate the use of videoconference technology to ensure access to refugees in Damascus. Cooperation with the International Organization for Migration and host countries will continue to facilitate the 'land bridge' departure of refugees from Syria to Lebanon and onwards to receiving resettlement countries.

Since March 2015, the humanitarian and security situation in Yemen has deteriorated and remains increasingly volatile and unpredictable. More than 300,000 civilians have been displaced in the recent conflict, which has also affected over 250,000 refugees in Yemen. The majority (244,000) are Somali refugees, with an estimated 13,000 refugees of different nationalities, including Iraqis, Syrians, Eritreans and Ethiopians. UNHCR is working to redouble protection activities for refugees and asylum-seekers during breaks in the violence, and many refugees who previously survived as daily labourers or domestic staff have lost their livelihoods in the conflict. The security situation in Yemen has negatively impacted UNHCR's capacity to perform its activities in both Sana'a and Aden and is expected to affect UNHCR's capacity to identify and process resettlement cases during 2015. Most UNHCR staff members are working remotely due to the fighting and general insecurity, and it is currently not possible to schedule interviews with refugees or prepare RRFs. Also, given the closure of main airports, transferring refugees to Emergency Transit Centres (ETCs), or any other country, is a challenge.

The worsening protection space in the MENA region has forced increasing numbers of persons of concern, both refugees and others, to seek cross-border protection, including through irregular movements across the Mediterranean. It is reported that almost 40,000 people have made the sea crossing from Northern Africa to Europe since January 2015. Global attention has focused on the risks refugees and migrants are willing to take to reach Europe, with an estimated 1,700 refugees and migrants believed to have died whilst undertaking the dangerous journey. As Europe responds to the problem of dangerous mixed migration flows across the Mediterranean, UNHCR and its partners have been assisting hundreds of people in Libya rescued at sea or intercepted by the coastguard. UNHCR also plans to work collaboratively with European partners with the aim of improving effective access to protection in Europe.

MENA: 2016

Projected needs and targets

The MENA Protection Service will continue to manage emergency, urgent and medical cases, and facilitate evacuations to the Emergency Transit Centres (ETCs) in Romania and Slovakia for emergency cases in need of immediate protection while their resettlement cases are processed. In addition to this, UNHCR will continue its efforts to find solutions for those Iranians in need of international protection who remain in Camp Liberty in Iraq.

With the region continuing to face political and social challenges owing to the volatile situation in several countries, and with an increasingly challenging environment due to the number of refugees in the region, resettlement continues to form a key component of the regional solutions strategy. Resettlement serves as a protection tool for refugees with urgent needs and as a durable solution for refugees in more protracted situations. Strategically, resettlement also widens the protection space and access to services for refugees remaining in host countries.

The total projected resettlement needs for the MENA region in 2016, identified by UNHCR offices is 369,334 persons. This marks a 17 per cent increase on the projected needs of 316,039 for 2015. Projected submissions for 2016 are 26,865; mainly Syrian refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

Sub-regional overviews

The Middle-East and the Gulf

The total projected resettlement needs for 2016 for the Middle East and the Gulf are 313,226 persons. In 2013 and 2014, UNHCR took measures to enhance the resettlement of the most vulnerable among the Syrian refugee population. In addition to resettlement and humanitarian admission places, UNHCR is advocating for alternative forms of admission, including wider family reunification schemes, private sponsorship programmes, labour migration schemes and student visas, among others. UNHCR is calling on States to provide 130,000 places for the resettlement and alternative forms of

admission of Syrian refugees by the end of 2016 as a first milestone towards the goal of ensuring resettlement remains a credible measure of solidarity.

Next to the resettlement of Syrian refugees, resettlement of Iraqi refugees – including Palestinians living in Iraq or formerly living in Iraq – will continue to be a global priority in 2016. In Syria, despite the challenging security and working conditions, UNHCR continues to refer refugees for resettlement through alternative processing mechanisms such as the use of the ETCs in Romania and Slovakia, and to facilitate the use of digital videoconference technology by resettlement countries in order to be able to interview refugees referred for resettlement.

In Yemen, resettlement activities are significantly affected by the lack of in-country selection missions due to the fragile security situation, resulting in a rather modest target of 200 in comparison to the period prior to 2011. In 2016, UNHCR expects to submit 300 persons for resettlement, which will be filled if sufficient offers of dossier places or processing using videoconference facilities are received.

Refugees of Somali, Sudanese, Eritrean and Palestinian origin continue to be in need of resettlement, and will be referred along with Syrian and Iraqi refugees from all the countries in the Middle East and the Gulf.

North Africa

The total projected resettlement needs are 56,108 persons. This marks a significant increase of 276 per cent compared with the 2015 needs which were projected to be 20,275 persons. This increase is largely due to a tenfold increase in the needs in Libya (from 3,275 in 2015 to an expected 36,971 in 2016), which is as a result of increases in the Syrian refugee population in Libya.

North Africa is characterized by mixed-migration movements from sub-Saharan Africa, with modest refugee populations of these nationalities registered in the host countries, as well as Syrians and others. For UNHCR the challenge remains to ensure access to those in need of protection and resettlement, while avoiding the impression that resettlement might be an alternative migration route. As in previous years, resettlement will be limited to those refugees with compelling protection needs requiring urgent or emergency resettlement.

Middle East and North Africa: 2016 Projected global needs

A. Region of Asylum	B. Total projected resettlement needs*		C. Total UNHCR submissions planned for 2016 (target)**		D. UNHCR core staff capacity in 2016	
	cases	persons	cases	persons	cases	persons
Middle East	109,798	313,226	6,865	22,005	4,968	13,045
North Africa	21,507	56,108	1,874	4,860	1,492	3,880
Grand Total	131,305	369,334	8,739	26,865	6,460	16,925

* including multi-year planning

** based upon UNHCR total capacity (core staff + affiliate workforce) in 2016

UNHCR Global Resettlement Statistical Report 2014

Introduction

This report summarizes the resettlement activities of UNHCR Offices worldwide in 2014. The information for this report is drawn from the UNHCR Resettlement Statistical Reports (RSR), which are submitted by UNHCR Country Offices on a quarterly basis.

Certain information in this report is organized by regions, reflecting the five UNHCR Regional Bureaux: Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and MENA (Middle East and North Africa).

For the purposes of this report, country of asylum refers to the country from which refugees are submitted to and from which they departed for resettlement. Country of resettlement refers to the country to which refugees are submitted for resettlement and to which they arrive on resettlement. Country of origin refers to the country where refugees derive their nationality. The submission figures include those made through UNHCR Regional Resettlement Hubs, Regional Offices as well as Headquarters.

Summary of major trends

Submissions: In 2014, UNHCR submitted 103,890 refugees for resettlement.

The number of submissions has increased markedly, from 75,080 in 2012, and 93,226 in 2013, despite the winding down of large-scale resettlement from Nepal and Thailand. 2014 submissions represent an increase of 11 per cent compared with 2013 submissions, and a 38 per cent increase compared with 2012 submissions, reversing a trend of reduced submissions during 2010–2012. Contributing factors include increased submissions from priority situations, including Afghan, Colombian, Congolese and Syrian refugees; the adoption of simplified processing methodologies, such as group resettlement from Rwanda; the use of humanitarian admission programmes for Syrian refugees and an increased deployment of resettlement and child protection experts. The largest number of refugees were submitted from Turkey (15,738), Malaysia (11,361) and Lebanon (9,188).

Departures: In 2014, 73,331 refugees departed to 30 countries of resettlement. Departures increased 3 per cent, from 71,411 refugees in 2013.

Increased departures can be attributed to a number of factors. Successful efforts were made by States to expedite security clearances, use alternative processing methodologies such as interviewing refugees in inaccessible areas through video conferencing and offer alternative forms of admissions. Around 3,000 people submitted under the German humanitarian assistance programme departed during 2014. In addition, Australia suspended processing of new resettlement submissions and focused on clearing a backlog of cases pending departures, which resulted in a rise in departure numbers.

Malaysia was the country from which the most refugees departed (10,976), followed by Turkey (8,944) and Nepal (8,582).

Origin: The largest number of refugees submitted for resettlement were refugees from Syria (21,154), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (18,828), Myanmar (15,170), Iraq (11,778), and Somalia (9,388).

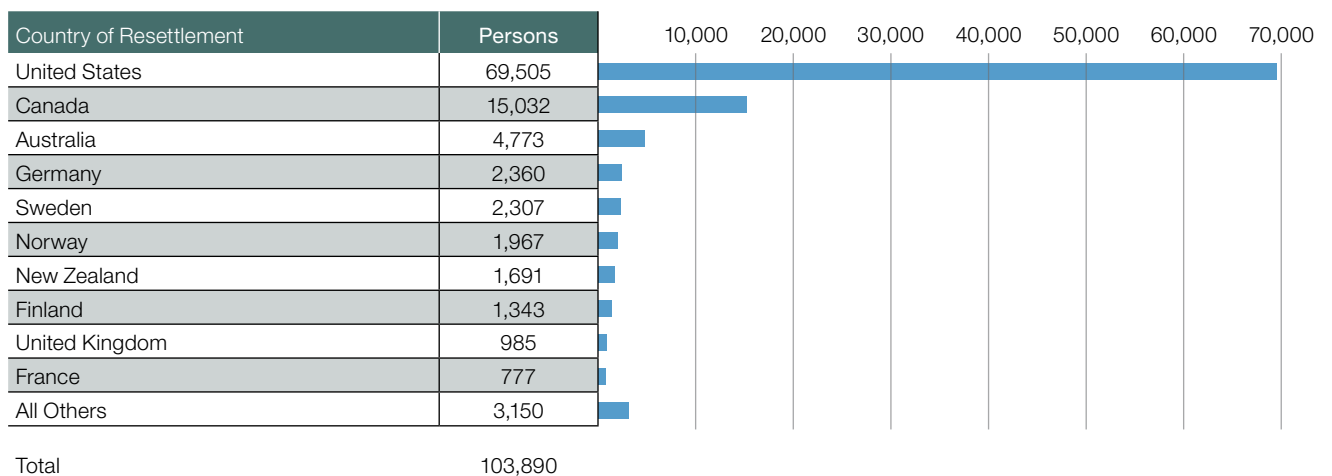
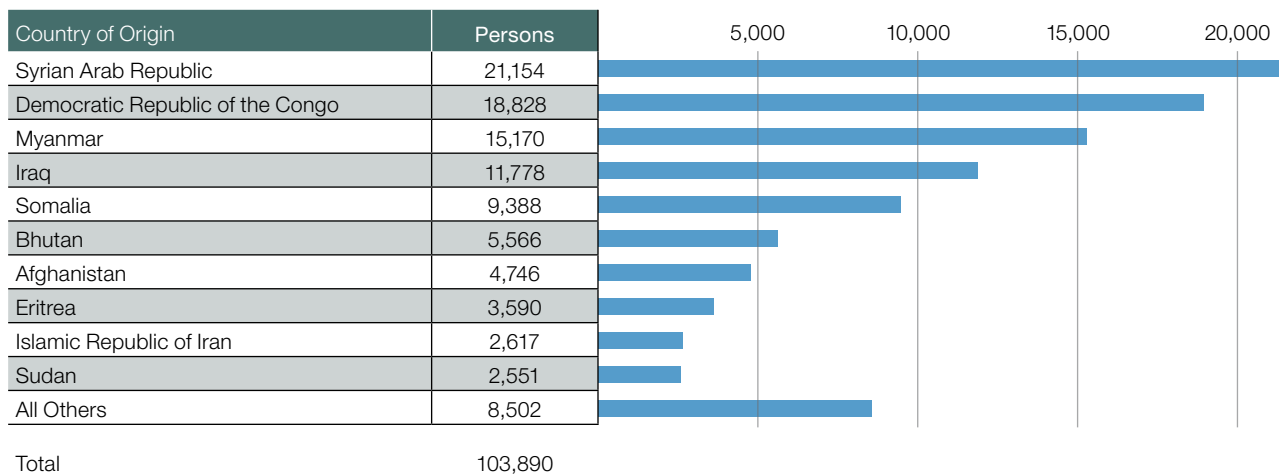
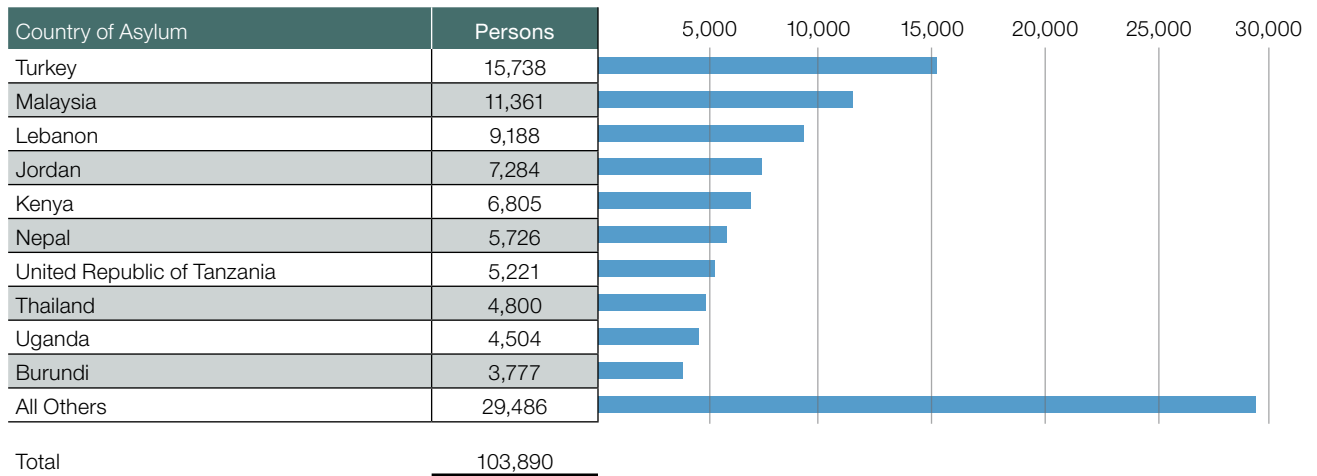
Resettlement: The three major countries of resettlement were: the United States of America (48,911 persons departed), Canada 7,233 (persons), and Australia 6,162 (persons).

At a Glance Figures

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Submissions	103,890	93,226	74,835	91,843	108,042
Departures	73,331	71,411	69,252	61,649	72,914
Countries of Asylum	90	80	80	79	86
Countries of Origin	70	69	79	77	71
Countries of Resettlement	30	25	26	22	28

Submissions

Top ten: UNHCR Resettlement Submissions in 2014



UNHCR Resettlement Submissions in 2014

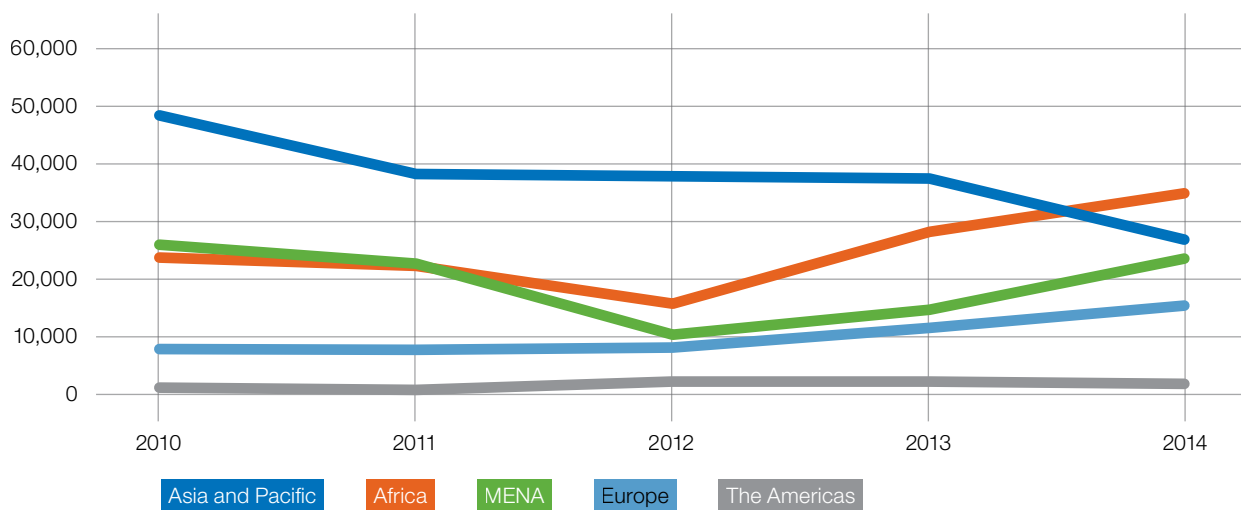
Submissions by Region of Asylum	Cases	Persons	Per cent Total (persons)
Africa	9,970	35,079	33,8%
Asia and Pacific	9,556	27,450	26,4%
Europe	6,587	16,392	15,8%
MENA	6,363	23,169	22,3%
The Americas	625	1,800	1,7%
Grand Total	33,101	103,890	100,0%

Submissions by Region of Origin	Cases	Persons	Per cent Total (persons)
Africa	12,190	39,047	37,6%
Asia and Pacific	10,607	29,313	28,2%
Europe	18	60	<1%
MENA	9,678	33,674	32,4%
The Americas	592	1,750	1,7%
Stateless	16	46	<1%
Grand Total	33,101	103,890	100,0%

UNHCR Submissions by Region of Asylum 2010–2014

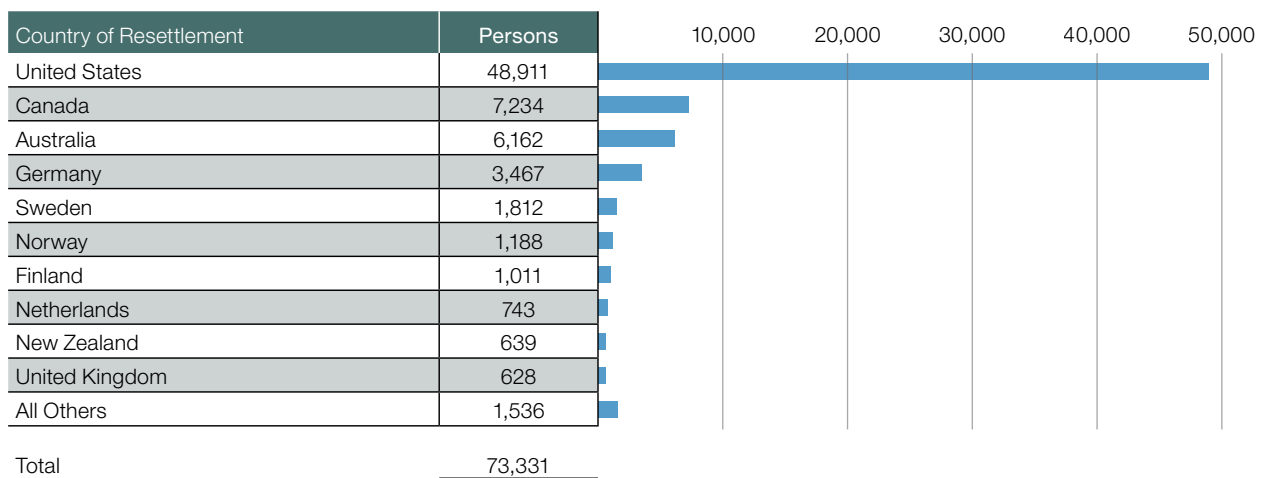
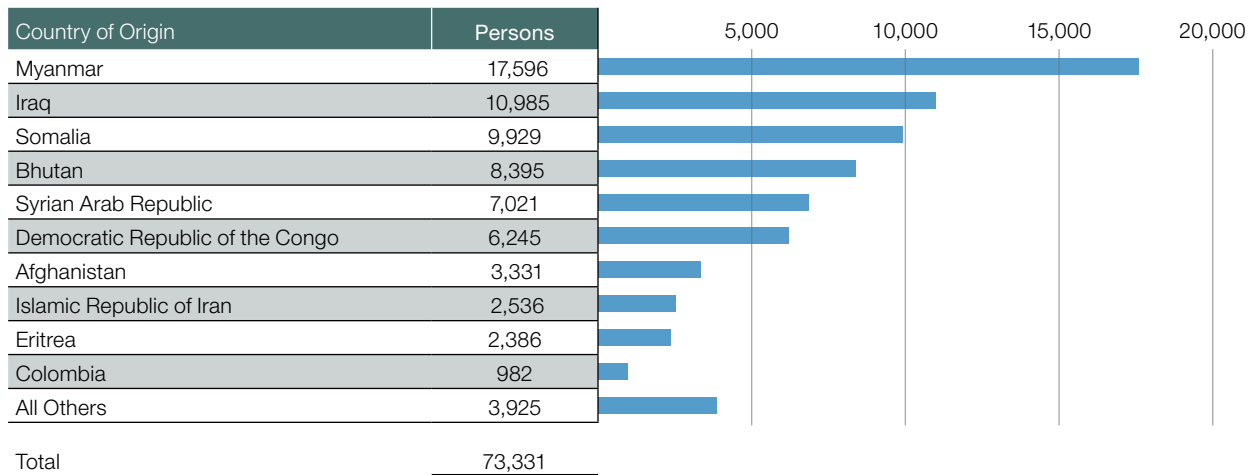
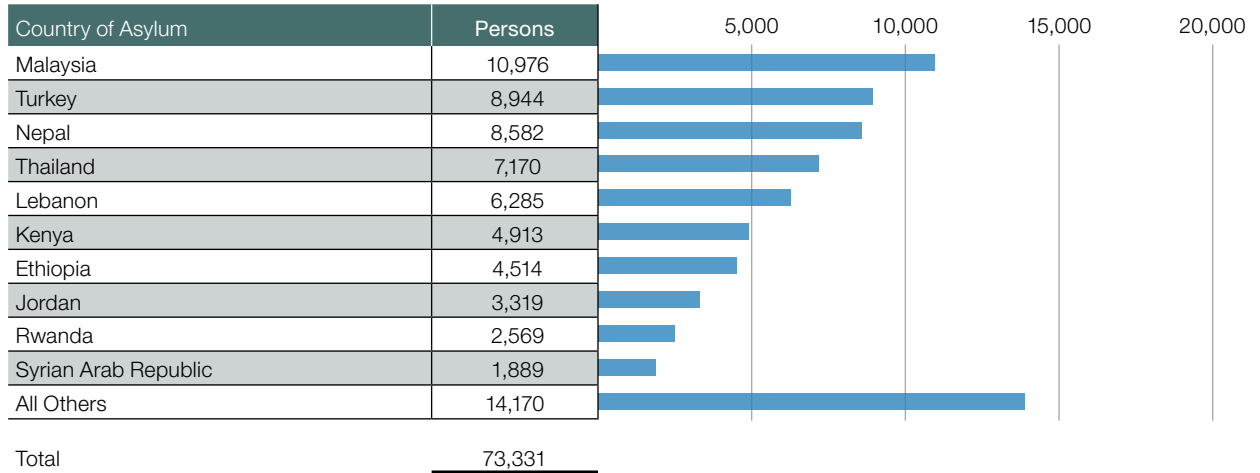
Region of Asylum	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Africa	24,062	22,267	15,710	28,141	35,079
Asia and Pacific	48,507	38,404	38,020	37,559	27,450
Europe	8,218	7,716	8,526	11,096	16,392
MENA	26,059	22,493	10,519	14,247	23,169
The Americas	1,196	963	2,060	1,872	1,800

UNHCR Submissions by Region of Asylum 2010–2014



Departures

Top ten: UNHCR Resettlement Departures in 2014



UNHCR Resettlement Departures in 2014

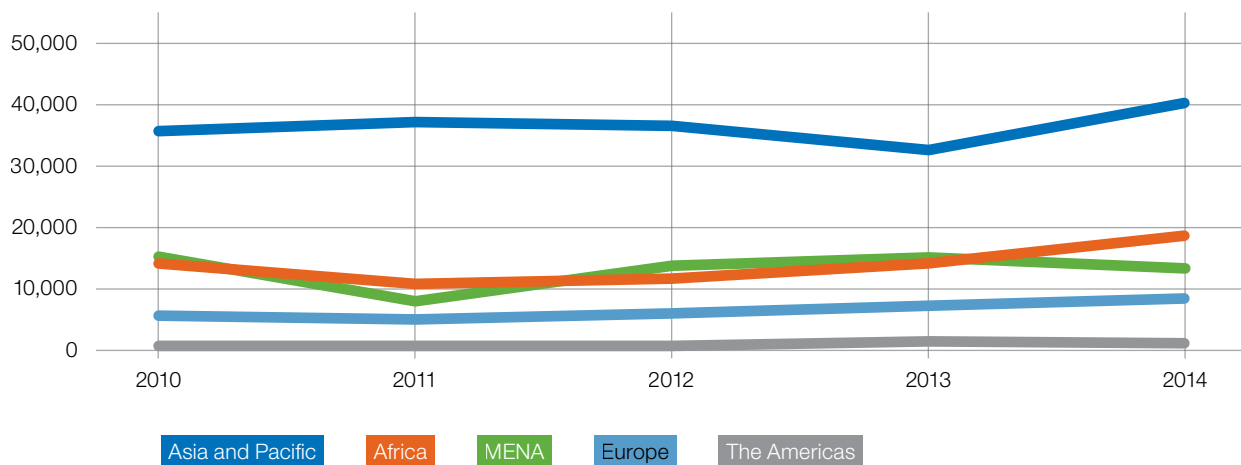
Departures by Region of Asylum	Persons	Per cent Total (persons)
Africa	19,251	26,3%
Asia and Pacific	30,827	42,0%
Europe	9,653	13,2%
MENA	12,573	17,1%
The Americas	1,027	1,4%
Grand Total	73,331	100,0%

Departures by Region of Origin	Persons	Per cent Total (persons)
Africa	21,086	28,8%
Asia and Pacific	32,892	44,9%
Europe	20	<1%
MENA	18,309	24,9%
The Americas	1,009	1,3%
Grand Total	73,331	100,0%

UNHCR Departures by Region of Asylum 2010–2014

Region of Asylum	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Africa	14,865	1,0431	11,342	14,858	19,251
Asia and Pacific	36,360	37,975	37,394	32,731	30,827
Europe	6,046	4,916	6,473	7,939	9,653
MENA	15,138	7,833	13,725	14,658	12,573
The Americas	505	494	318	1,225	1,027

UNHCR Departures by Region of Asylum 2010–2014



UNHCR Resettlement Departures by Resettlement Country 2010–2014

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Countries with regular resettlement programmes					
Argentina	23	24	5	7	21
Australia	5,636	5,597	5,079	11,117	6,162
Belgium	2	19	1	100	32
Brazil	28	23	8	56	44
Canada	6,706	6,827	4,755	5,140	7,234
Chile	6	22	3	3	
Czech Republic	48		25	1	4
Denmark	386	606	324	475	332
Finland	543	573	763	665	1,011
France	217	42	84	100	378
Germany	457	22	323	1,092	3,467
Hungary			1		4
Iceland	6		9		4
Ireland	20	36	40	62	98
Italy (regular programme to begin in 2015)	58		9		
Japan	27	18		18	23
Luxembourg					28
Netherlands	430	479	262	362	743
New Zealand	535	477	719	682	639
Norway	1,088	1,258	1,137	941	1,188
Portugal	24	28	21	6	14
Republic of Korea (three year pilot resettlement programme to begin in 2015)	23	11	20	31	14
Romania	38				44
Spain			80		30
Sweden	1,789	1,896	1,483	1,832	1,812
Switzerland	19	39	54	78	139
United Kingdom	695	424	989	750	628
United States of America	54,077	43,215	53,053	47,875	48,911
Uruguay	17		5	14	52
Countries with special resettlement programmes/ad-hoc resettlement intake					
Austria				4	269
Liechtenstein					5
Mexico					1
Palau	3				
Paraguay	13	13			
Grand Total	72,914	61,649	69,252	71,411	73,331

Priority Situations

Priority Situations for Resettlement 2012–2014

Comparison of UNHCR Resettlement Submissions and Departures 2012–2014			Submissions			Departures		
Country/territory of Origin	Country of Asylum	Total Population	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Afghanistan	Pakistan	16,147	1,079	1,405	2,075	283	990	876
	Islamic Republic of Iran	824,087	1,873	2,185	1,063	1,427	1,900	1,255
Somalia	Kenya	512,069	2,170	3,996	4,325	1,442	2,612	3,562
Myanmar	Thailand	83,317	6,532	8,790	4,064	6,845	8,208	6,632
	Malaysia	84,671	15,103	14,441	10,814	10,308	8,072	10,566
Iraq	Syrian Arab Republic	62,727	2,061	2,462	1,295	3,293	3,796	1,795
	Lebanon	6,516	1,698	1,141	1,652	2,807	2,230	1,292
	Jordan	27,814	1,481	1,793	1,078	3,229	3,000	1,602
Bhutan	Nepal	40,971	9,922	7,070	5,566	16,674	10,665	8,395
Democratic Republic of the Congo	United Republic of Tanzania	63,330	601	362	3,823	622	433	221
	Burundi	41,349	406	1,064	3,776	155	348	549
	Rwanda	57,857	2,160	2,606	2,699	753	922	2,569
	Uganda	127,021	1,451	3,206	4,032	289	898	917
Colombia	Ecuador	54,620	1,620	1,796	1,640	156	1,045	966
Mixed Population	Turkey	257,944	7,913	10,256	15,738	5,929	7,223	8,944
Syrian Arab Republic	Lebanon	1,147,494	17	4,769	7,318	64	983	4,903
	Jordan	623,112	2	373	6,084	6	184	1,539
	Turkey	1,557,899	2	59	5,457	2	22	284

Per Capita Resettlement by Country of Resettlement in 2014

Country of Resettlement	Persons Resettled in 2014	National Population*	Population per Refugees Resettled
Australia	6,162	22,404,000	3,636
Norway	1,188	4,891,000	4,117
Canada	7,233	34,126,000	4,718
Sweden	1,812	9,382,000	5,177
Finland	1,011	5,368,000	5,310
United States of America	48,911	312,247,000	6,384
New Zealand	632	4,368,000	6,911
Liechtenstein	5	36,000	7,200
Denmark	332	5,551,000	16,720
Luxembourg	28	508,000	18,143
Netherlands	743	16,615,000	22,362
Germany	3,467	83,017,000	23,945
Austria	269	8,402,000	31,234
Ireland	98	4,468,000	45,592
Switzerland	139	7,831,000	56,338
Uruguay	52	3,372,000	64,846
Iceland	4	318,000	79,500
United Kingdom	628	62,066,000	98,831
France	378	63,231,000	167,278
Belgium	32	10,941,000	341,906
Romania	44	21,861,000	496,841
Portugal	14	10,590,000	756,429
Spain	30	46,182,000	1,539,400
Argentina	21	40,374,000	1,922,571
Hungary	4	10,015,000	2,503,750
Czech Republic	4	10,554,000	2,638,500
Republic of Korea	14	48,454,000	3,461,000
Brazil	44	195,210,000	4,436,591
Japan	23	127,353,000	5,537,087
Mexico	1	117,886,000	117,886,000

* United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2013). World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, DVD Edition.

Acceptance Rates

Acceptance Rates of UNHCR Submissions in 2014

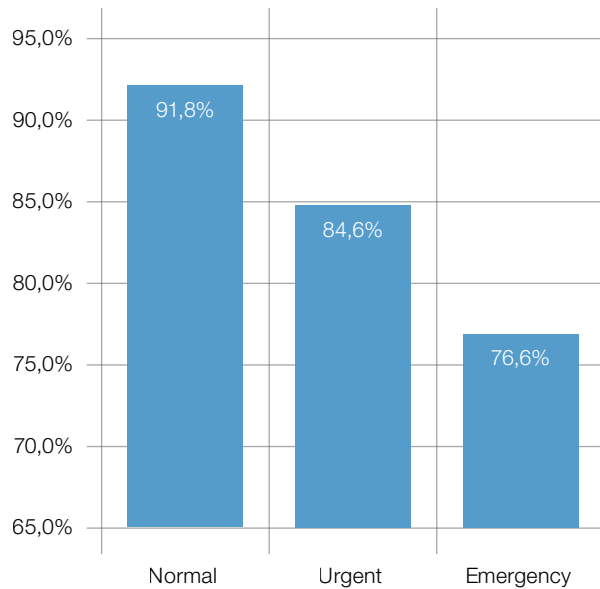
Acceptance Rates of UNHCR Submissions by Country of Origin in 2014

Country of Origin	Cases Submitted	% Cases Accepted
Myanmar	5,207	97,9%
Syrian Arab Republic	5,040	92,1%
Democratic Republic of the Congo	4,676	95,2%
Iraq	4,355	87,2%
Somalia	3,358	82,5%
Afghanistan	1,753	81,3%
Bhutan	1,649	99,4%
Eritrea	1,543	94,4%
Islamic Republic of Iran	1,517	92,4%
Sudan	938	88,2%
All Others	3,065	79,3%
Grand Total	33,101	91,3%

Acceptance Rates of UNHCR Submissions by Submission Category in 2014

Submission Category	Acceptance Rate
Children and Adolescents at Risk (CHL)	87,6%
Family Reunification (FAM)	97,3%
Lack of Foreseeable Alternative Durable Solutions (LAS)	91,3%
Legal and/or Physical Protection Needs (LPN)	92,5%
Medical Needs (MED)	87,3%
Others/Unspecified	79,5%
Suivivors of Violence and/or Torture (SVT)	89,3%
Women and Girls at Risk (AWR)	90,3%

Acceptance Rates of Resettlement Countries by UNHCR Resettlement Priority 2014



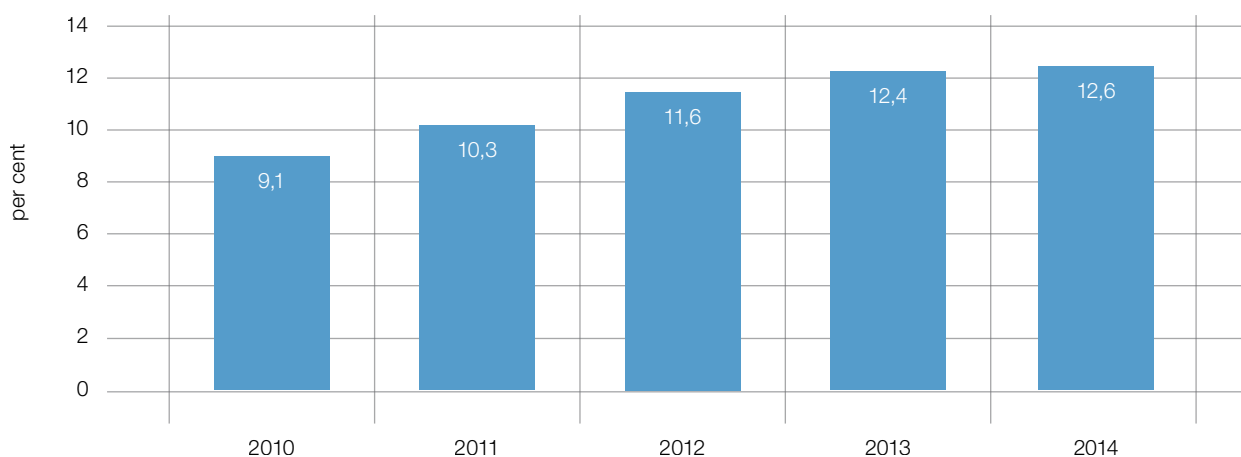
Resettlement Categories

UNHCR Resettlement by Submission Category in 2014

Category	Cases Submitted	Persons Submitted	% Cases Submitted	Persons Departed	% Persons Departed
Legal and/or Physical Protection Needs (LPN)	11,038	34,276	33,3%	26,506	36,2%
Lack of Foreseeable Alternative Durable Solutions (LAS)	8,625	25,262	26,1%	24,397	33,3%
Suivivors of Violence and/or Torture (SVT)	7,349	27,840	22,2%	11,516	15,7%
Women and Girls at risk (AWR)	4,185	11,757	12,6%	6,783	9,3%
Medical Needs (MED)	821	2,847	2,5%	2,050	2,8%
Family Reunification (FAM)	471	1,035	1,4%	1,144	1,6%
Children and Adolescents at Risk (CHL)	402	644	1,2%	439	<1%
Others/Unspecified	210	229	<1%	496	<1%
Grand Total	33,101	103,890	100,00%	73,331	100,00%

UNHCR Resettlement Under the Women and Girls at Risk Category in 2014

UNHCR Resettlement Under the Women and Girls at Risk Category in 2014



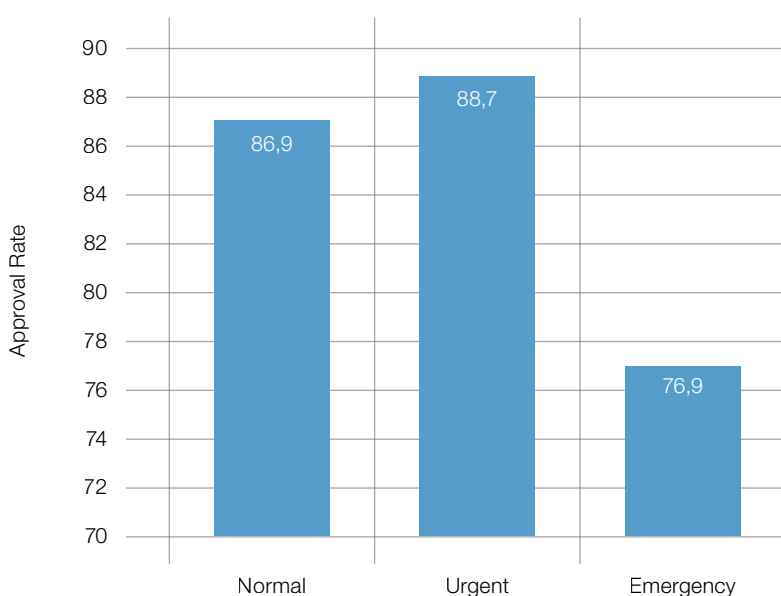
Top Ten Countries of Asylum: Submissions Under the Women and Girls at Risk Category (AWR), 2014

Asylum Country	Cases Submitted	Rate of AWR Submissions (% per Asylum Country)	Persons Submitted	Persons Departed
Turkey	589	9,6%	1374	653
Kenya	564	22,8%	1648	628
Pakistan	408	55,1%	1242	517
Egypt	315	24,4%	652	63
Ethiopia	315	25,1%	921	838
Burundi	227	25,3%	790	194
Islamic Republic of Iran	198	74,4%	758	743
Malaysia	182	4,5%	209	594
Lebanon	159	7,0%	441	164
Uganda	136	11,8%	479	380

UNHCR Resettlement Under the Medical Needs Category in 2014

Top Ten Submissions by Country of Asylum	Cases	Top Ten Submissions by Country of Origin	Cases	Top Ten Departures by Country of Resettlement	Persons
Turkey	322	Iraq	218	United States	1,450
Malaysia	138	Syrian Arab Republic	137	Canada	152
Lebanon	71	Myanmar	128	Sweden	136
Egypt	40	Somalia	78	Australia	78
Kenya	36	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	55	Denmark	72
Ethiopia	26	Afghanistan	45	Norway	47
Israel	18	Islamic Republic of Iran	39	Netherlands	26
Zambia	16	Sudan	32	United Kingdom	25
Chad	16	Eritrea	27	Germany	21
Uganda	15	Bhutan	11	France	15
All Others	123	All Others	51	All Others	28
Grand Total	<u>821</u>	Grand Total	<u>821</u>	Grand Total	<u>2,050</u>

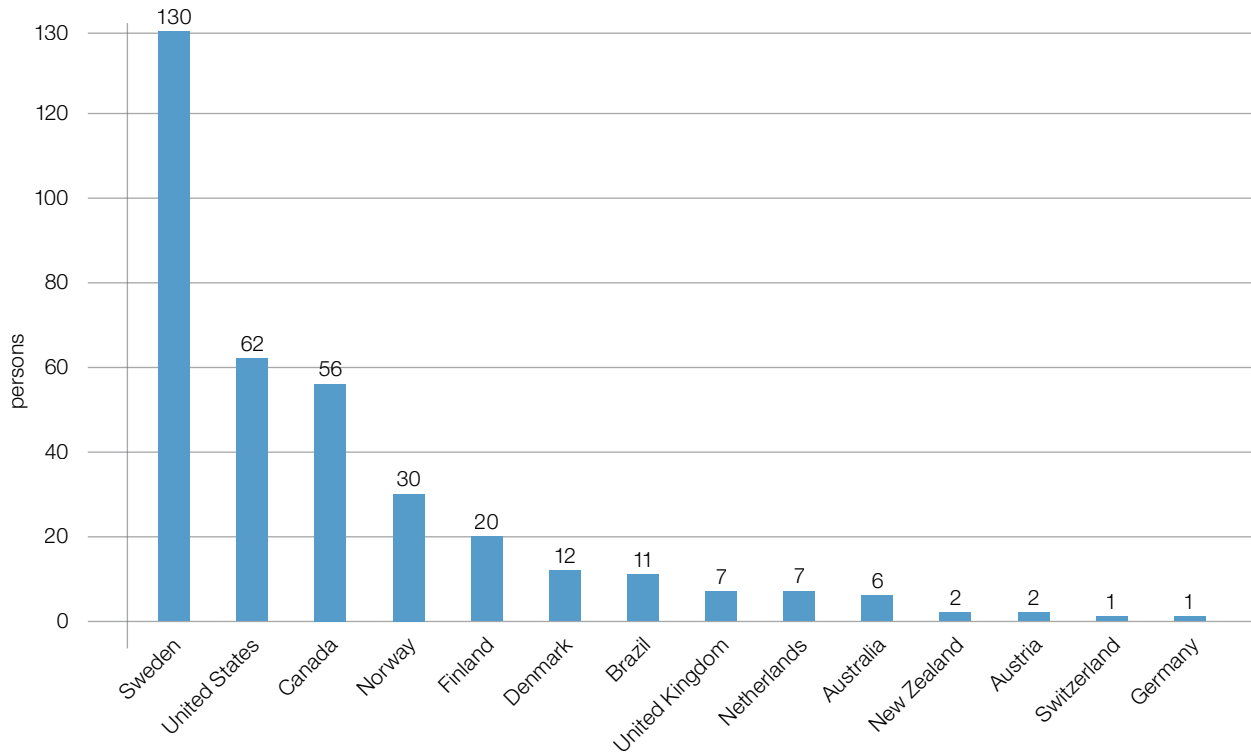
Resettlement Country Approval Rate Under the Medical Needs Category by Priority*



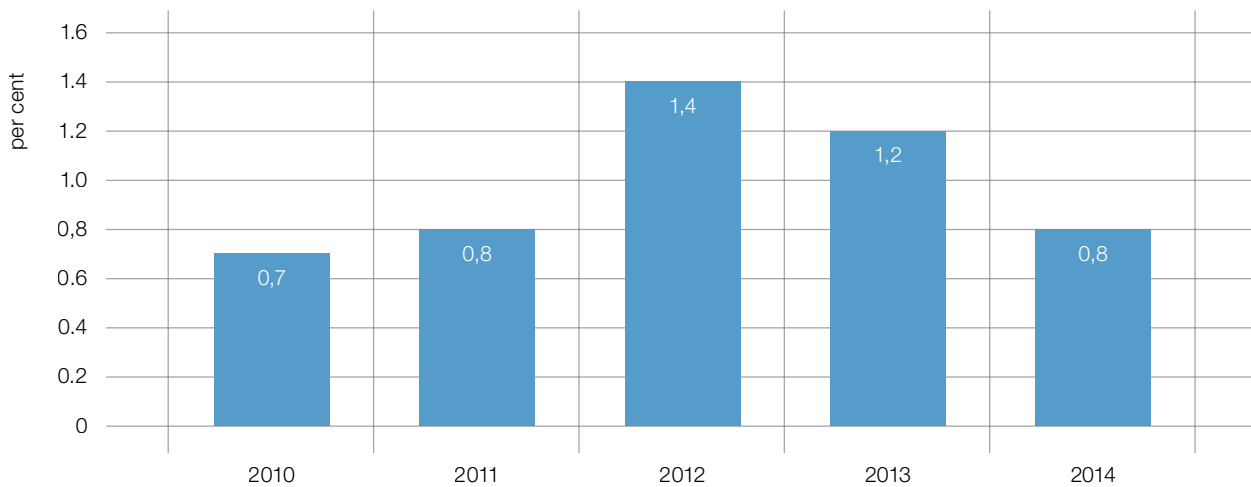
UNHCR Resettlement by Priority in 2014

UNHCR Submission Priority	Submissions			Departures	
	Cases	% Cases	Persons	Persons	% Persons
Normal	29,425	88,9%	92,837	67,359	91,9%
Urgent	3,392	10,3%	10,305	5,403	7,4%
Emergency	279	<1%	723	347	<1%
Unspecified/other	5	<1%	25	222	<1%
Total	<u>33,101</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>103,890</u>	<u>73,331</u>	<u>100%</u>

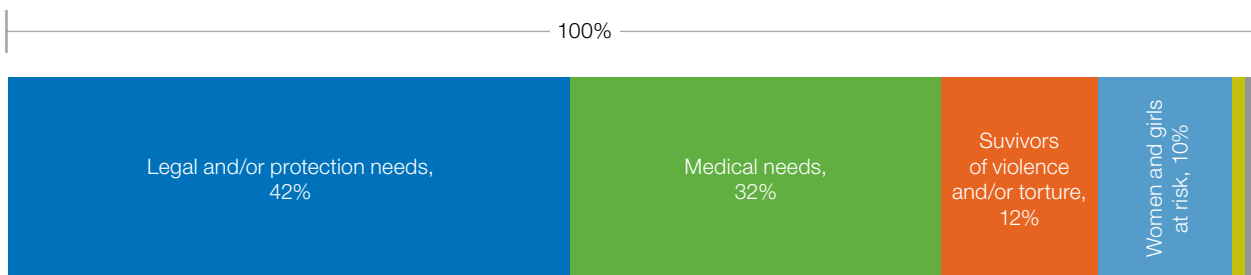
UNHCR Emergency Departures by Country of Resettlement



Emergency Cases as a Percentage of Total Resettlement Submissions by UNHCR (2010–2014, cases)



UNHCR Emergency Departures by Category, 2014



CHL 1%
FAM 1%

Back cover photo: Siblings Larama and Ibrahim share a bond that goes beyond their family ties. She saved his life after a brutal attack in north-eastern Nigeria. © UNHCR/ H  l  ne Caux

<http://tracks.unhcr.org/2015/03/the-boy-who-was-buried-alive-and-survived/>

Thirty-three-year-old Sarratou will never forget the day when dozens of heavily armed men ambushed her village in Nigeria's Borno State. It was 10 o'clock in the morning and she was at home with three of her four children. The gunshots rang in their ears as they hastily embarked on a 12-kilometre trip on foot towards the Cameroon border.

At the time, her husband and their eldest son, 10-year-old Ibrahim, were caring for their cattle on the outskirts of the village. Although they tried to flee, there was no escape. *"My husband got too tired. He was exhausted and could not continue running,"* Sarratou says. *"Boko Haram caught up with them, and they cut the throat of my husband, in front of our son."*

Ibrahim fell down on his father's body and started to cry. But he had little time to grieve. One of the insurgents took out his machete and struck the boy's skull. *"After he cut me on the head, I fainted,"* recalls Ibrahim. *"I could not move. I later dragged myself under a tree for shade. They came back again, they lifted me, they thought I was dead. They dug a hole and threw me in it and covered me with sand."*

Today, several months after the dramatic incident, the large scar on his head is a painful reminder of what the boy had to endure. Young Ibrahim witnessed his father's killing as insurgents attacked their village in north-eastern Nigeria. Against all odds, the boy managed to survive.

Two days after the attack, Ibrahim's grandmother and sister, 13-year-old Larama, came back from the border to look for him and his father – while Sarratou, who felt depressed and anxious and had stopped eating, was in hospital being treated for hypertension. As they looked around the razed village, Larama found her brother in the nearby bush.

"I got tired, sat down under a tree and something with flies caught my attention," Larama recalls, her voice trembling. *"It was a human being."* She remembers that only part of Ibrahim's head was surfacing above the sand. *"I was scared. I took courage. I tried to talk to him but he was just nodding. I asked if it was the boy, because 'boy' is the nickname of my brother – we call him boy. He nodded – it was him! There was this wound on his head and bloodstains all over his face."*

"I told them, 'He is not dead – he is alive!'"

Gathering her strength, she dug him out of the sand and carried him on her back to the village. *"I was tired but I had to manage. When people saw us, they asked where I was taking him. 'I am taking him home,' I said. 'But he is dead already, why are you carrying him?' they said. I told them, 'He is not dead – he is alive!'"*

It took four months and half for Ibrahim to recover in a hospital in Koza, Cameroon. *"The doctors and nurses were nice to me and the food good."* Upon his release, the family moved to Minawao camp, 90 kilometres from the border. Opened in July 2013, it now hosts some 33,000 Nigerian refugees.

Many Nigerian villages along the border have been attacked and burnt to the ground in recent months. Several survivors said they knew some of the attackers, that they were part of the village communities and affiliated with insurgents prior to the attacks. *"But what could we do?"* says one refugee in Cameroon.

Little by little, Ibrahim has been recovering. Even though his mother says that he has changed a lot – that he often looks sad and walks with a limp – the boy has also started to smile again. He goes to school, where he likes the English classes, and he plays football with his big sister and little brother. *"And I have a best friend,"* he says, proudly. But only time and care will tell how fully the invisible scars, the souvenirs of the attack he carries within him, will heal.

Some months after the attack Sarratou went back to check on the family home in Borno. *"Everything is burned,"* she says with resignation. Some of the villagers who escaped after her told her that the insurgents came with jerry cans filled with petrol and doused every house before setting them on fire.

"There is nothing to come back to for us," she laments. *"Insurgents had also stolen our livestock: seven cows and 13 goats. Here in Cameroon, I have food and water for my children, they can go to school, we have shelter, and we feel safe. We will not go back to Nigeria so easily like that. To me, this is home here in the camp. I don't think of leaving this place as of now."*



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