
Resettlement in Turkey

In the current complex refugee context, resettlement continues to be a critical protection tool and a solution for many vulnerable refugees whose protection needs cannot otherwise be met and who do not have the option of returning home, as well as a tangible mechanism for responsibility sharing among States. This was confirmed in the UN General Assembly New York Declaration for Refugee and Migrants¹ in the specific commitment made by States to scale up and increase global resettlement opportunities as well as pursue complementary pathways.

UNHCR is mandated by its Statute and the UN General Assembly Resolutions to undertake resettlement as one of the three durable solutions, including voluntary repatriation and local integration. Resettlement is an essential element in ensuring refugees have access to host countries in which they can thrive and aim for self-sufficiency.

All refugees are processed in accordance with global resettlement criteria which includes the following categories: legal and physical protection needs, survivors of violence and torture, medical needs, women and girls at risk, children and adolescents at risk and family reunification.

Resettlement is a **tool to provide international protection** and meet the specific needs of individual refugees whose life, liberty, safety, health or other fundamental rights are at risk in the country where they have sought refuge.

Resettlement is also a **durable solution** for larger numbers or groups of refugees, alongside the other durable solutions of voluntary repatriation and local integration.

Resettlement can also be a **tangible expression of international solidarity and a responsibility sharing mechanism**, allowing States to help share responsibility for refugee protection, and reduce problems impacting the country of asylum.

As UNHCR is only able to resettle a fraction of refugees with resettlement needs it **concentrates on extremely vulnerable individuals and those facing serious protection risks**. Less than 1 per cent of the refugee population in Turkey was submitted for resettlement in 2016. In 2017, this number dropped to **under 0.6 per cent** as a result of the global reduction in resettlement quotas.

UNHCR estimates that at least 10 per cent of the Syrians in Turkey (over 340,000 individuals) are in need of resettlement. Resettlement needs for other nationalities are estimated to be at 25,000 individuals.

¹ UN General Assembly, New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants : resolution / adopted by the General Assembly, 3 October 2016, A/RES/71/1, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/57ceb74a4.html> [accessed 8 May 2018]

Resettlement of Syrians under Temporary Protection

Since 2015, the Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) has referred over **90,000 Syrians** for resettlement processing. DGMM coordinates the collection of referrals from the provincial authorities (multi-agency committees undertake the initial identification based on global resettlement criteria) and forwards them to UNHCR. Since 2017, the provincial authorities also receive lists of vulnerable refugees through the Verification of registration of Syrians under Temporary Protection, carried out by DGMM with support from UNHCR. Referrals identified through other sources (protection referrals) are discussed with DGMM through a consultative mechanism that was established in 2015.

- Since 2014, UNHCR implements a **merged procedure, encompassing refugee status determination and resettlement for Syrians**, once referrals are received, in a multi-stage resettlement review process where resettlement cases are selected based on the global resettlement criteria. For the majority of countries to which cases are presented, the process consists of the following stages:
 - **Pre-assessment** – a phone interview to establish the refugee’s presence in Turkey, family composition and interest in resettlement.
 - **Resettlement interview** – an in-depth, in-person interview to assess the eligibility of a case for resettlement according to the global resettlement criteria.
- Depending on the requirements of the resettlement countries, UNHCR prepares a Resettlement Registration Form (RRF) or an Identification Based Methodology (IBM) form for submission.

DGMM provides important logistical support for missions to conduct resettlement interviews in the various provinces across Turkey by providing facilities for interviews, facilitating the movement of refugees and coordinating with security and police authorities.

IOM works closely with UNHCR and resettlement countries to provide support with health assessments and travel health assistance, pre-departure orientation and movement and travel operations.

Resettlement of refugees of other nationalities

Conditional refugees recognized by the Department General for Migration Management (DGMM), refugees from countries outside of Europe, excluding Syrians who are granted temporary protection in Turkey, are processed for resettlement as the most important durable solution available to them. UNHCR seeks to **identify persons with specific needs** among refugees from Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and other countries to prioritise them for refugee status determination for the purposes of resettlement. All refugees are processed in accordance with the global resettlement criteria which includes the following categories: legal and physical protection needs, survivors of violence and torture, medical needs, women and girls at risk, children and adolescents at risk and family reunification.

2017 Key Resettlement Figures

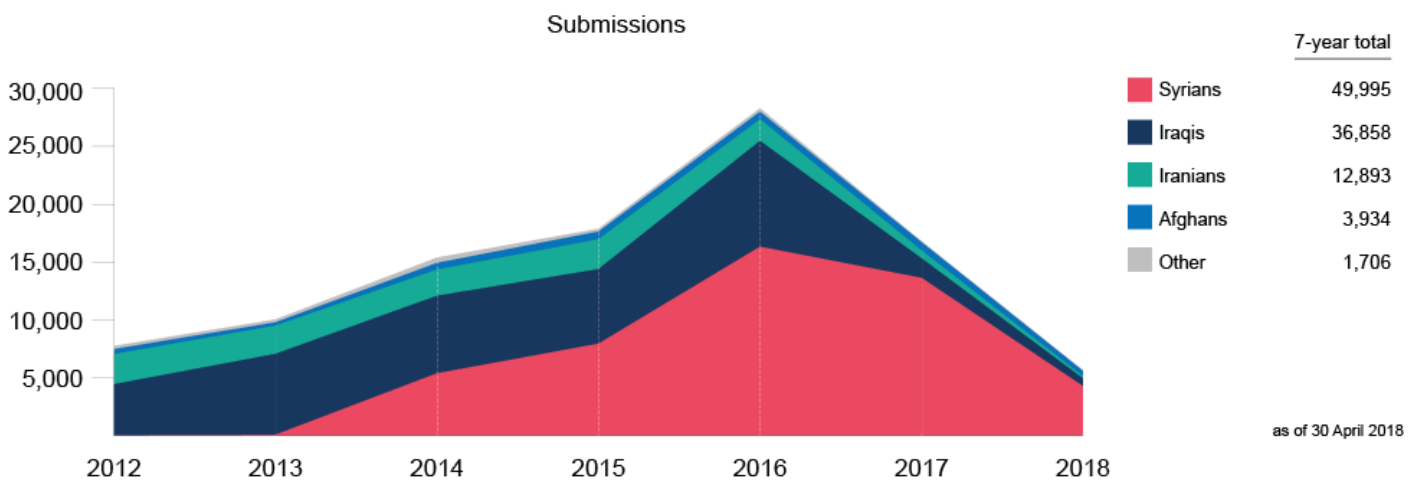


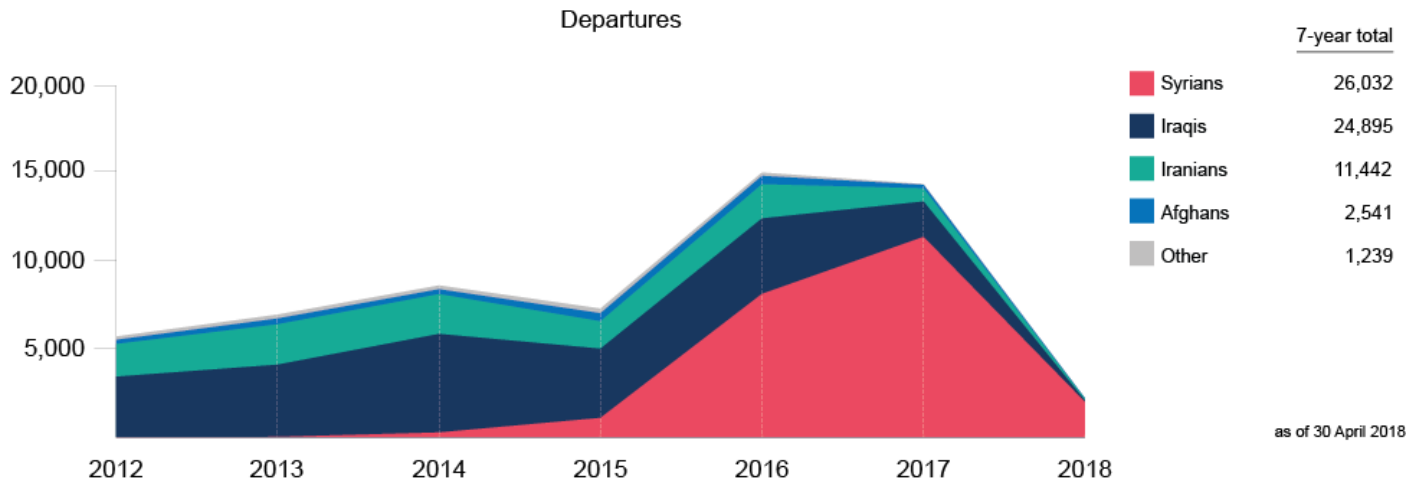
- UNHCR Turkey has been implementing **one of the largest resettlement operations in the world** since 2014.
- Since the start of the Syrian crisis, UNHCR Turkey has submitted **44,230** Syrians for resettlement processing. **21,686** Syrians have departed as of the end of 2017.

Resettlement Counselling

Resettlement counselling is a key tool **to provide information, respond to queries and manage refugees' expectations**: over 38,000 refugees have received resettlement counselling in 2017 through a variety of means (phone, in-person, online, etc.).

Resettlement Figures 2012 to 2017





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External and Donor Relations

Thanks to UNHCR's donors for supporting our resettlement activities in Turkey and for their unrestricted and regional funds in 2018:

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LINKS

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