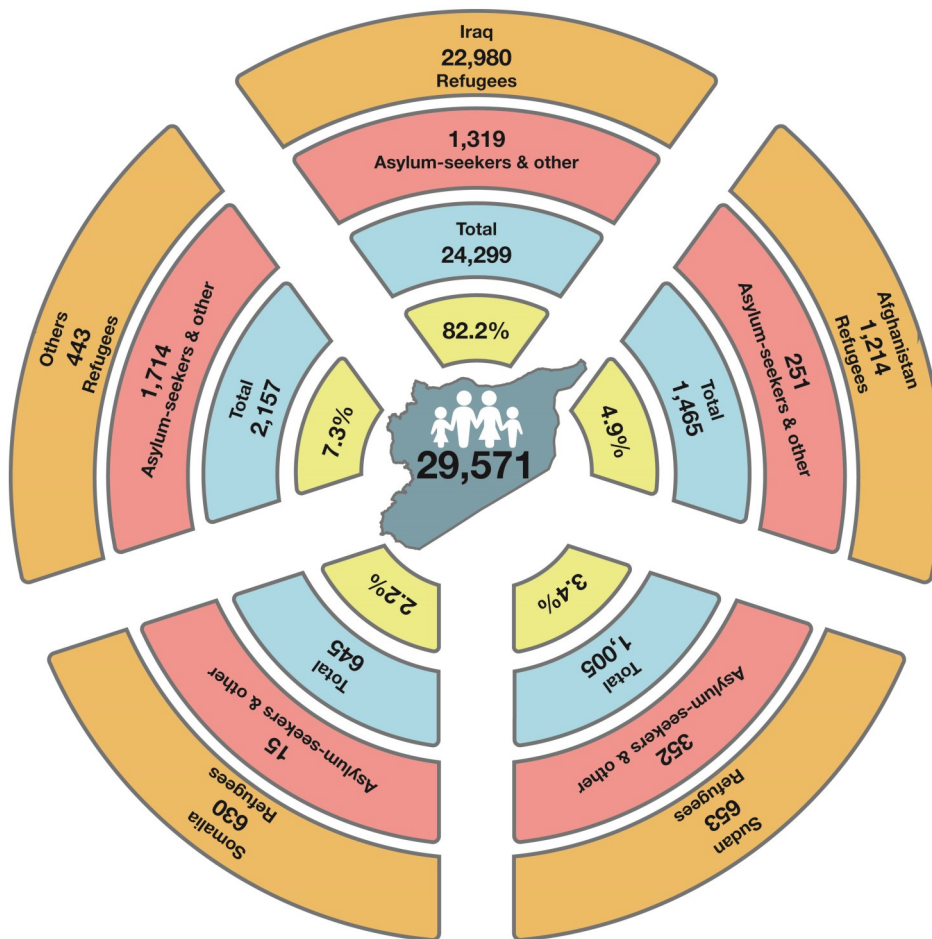




## Refugee Situation in Syria

Since the beginning of the crisis in Syria, more and more refugee families have been displaced, in many cases multiple times. As violence escalates more people are reaching UNHCR with registration claims. As of end of 2014, 29,571 persons had registered with UNHCR.

Countries of origin of population registered with UNHCR (end of December 2014)



## HIGHLIGHTS

**Influx of new Iraqi families into north-east Syria.**

**UNHCR announces its scholarship vacancies for new refugees.**

### Influx of new Iraqi Families into north-east Syria

**During December** there was an influx of more than 1,000 Iraqis to Al Hol in Hassakeh governorate north-east Syria on 21 and 22 December. All new arrivals are coming from Baaj and Tel Afar areas, close to Sinjar, and most of them have relatives in Al Hol. UNHCR is closely monitoring the situation and planning for the way forward to register and assist these people.

### UNHCR Continues to Support Yazidis

Meanwhile, UNHCR continues to support the 3,000 Iraqi Yazidi refugees in Newroz camp in Malkia area, UNHCR's response includes providing much-needed supplies. In addition to the distribution of winterized core relief items to all families residing in Newroz refugee camp who have been exposed recently to heavy rains. These items included high thermal blankets, mattresses, plastic sheets, sleeping mats, baby and adult diapers, and sanitary napkins in addition to 200 tents. Furthermore, as part of its emergency mitigation measures to help refugees adapt to the cold rainy season, UNHCR started the provision of layers of crushed stones under the tents to separate them from the ground in order to prevent water from flowing into the tents.

Registration and file inactivation (end of December 2014)

Nationality	New Registrations (December 2014)	New Registrations (Total 2014)	Re-activations (December)	Re-activations (Total 2014)	New registrations and reactivations (Total 2014)	In-activations and other closures (Total 2014)
Iraqis	217	1,327	265	1,837	3,164	7,527
Non-Iraqis	185	1,250	34	470	1,720	2,272
<b>Total</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>2,577</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>2,307</b>	<b>4,884</b>	<b>9,799</b>

The files of refugees who have had no contact with UNHCR for at least 6 months are inactivated. Following assessment of their situation, their files may be re-opened if they approach UNHCR again.



**UNHCR announces its scholarship vacancies for new refugees**

Albert Einstein once said: “In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity”. This is the story of Fatima, a hard working Iraqi refugee student living in Syria. She used to study for at least 12 hours straight every day, from 6 am to 6 pm to avoid the electricity power cuts. “While studying, the only light that was guaranteed was the sunlight every day,” said Fatima. After a very difficult school year, amid an escalating crisis, Fatima, an 18 year-old Iraqi refugee student achieved excellence. She scored 94.5% on the Syrian public high school exam, the second highest score among all refugee students in Syria. With the help of the UNHCR scholarship program, she secured a place in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Damascus. She hopes that one day she can help her fellow Iraqis to live a better life.

The higher education programme for refugee students has helped hundreds of refugee students go to college since it was launched in 1999. It was initially funded by the German government as part of UNHCR's Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee programme, or DAFI. It is now funded by Belgium and Italy using the same scholarship model. Fatima was one of 31 outstanding refugee students living in Syria that received UNHCR university scholarships this year.

Countries supporting the UNHCR Syria refugee programme in 2014 with financial contributions and/or resettlement departures



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**Resettlement** The resettlement process faces many challenges such as the fact that resettlement-country access to refugees is limited to video conferencing and dossier processing, there has been less interest among resettlement countries, and there are also technical and logistical challenges.

Resettlement in 2014				
Nationality	Submissions December 2014	Submissions Total 2014	Departures December 2014	Departures Total 2014
Iraqis	90	1173	229	1693
Non-Iraqis	5	319	73	196
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>1,492</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>1889</b>

Voluntary repatriation in 2014				
Nationality	Assisted returns October 2014	Assisted returns Total 2014	Own returns October 2014	Own returns Total 2014
Iraqis	0	93	60	532
Non-Iraqis	0	1	0	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>583</b>