

EUROPE RESETTLEMENT



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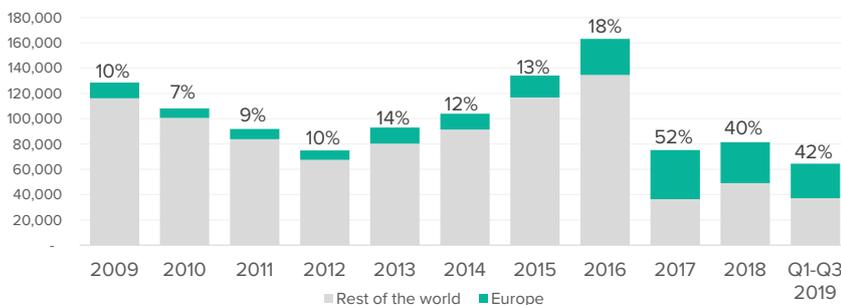
Begoña (centre), 78, is a sponsor with a community sponsorship pilot programme that aims to provide wrap-around care to five families of refugees as they settle in the Basque Country, an autonomous community in northern Spain. "People say to me: 'What are you doing helping those people?' and I say: 'It is more what are they doing for me?' They change you and help you think in a different way," said Begoña. [Full story.](#)

Overview

In the first nine months of 2019, just over 27,200 refugees were submitted by UNHCR for resettlement¹ to 20 countries in Europe.² This is 84% of the total submissions in 2018, and already more than double the average rate of 17,800 submissions per year during the previous 10 years. Three countries that received smaller numbers of resettlement submissions in 2018 have not yet received submissions during 2019.³

Europe's proportion of resettlement submissions globally in 2019⁴ is 42%. Between 2009 and 2016, this proportion increased from 10% to 18%, before substantially increasing to 52% during 2017 and 40% during 2018. The increase in 2017 is primarily due to a significant decrease globally in the scale of some States' resettlement programmes, most notably by the United States of America, in parallel to an increase of resettlement places made available by European States.

Resettlement submissions to Europe compared to global trends⁵



Resettlement submissions to Europe⁵

2019	27,245	in 20 countries ³
2018	32,363	in 20 countries
2017	38,881	in 25 countries
2016	28,651	in 27 countries
2015	17,209	in 19 countries

Resettlement arrivals to Europe⁶

2019	21,083 ⁷
2018	26,081
2017	27,450
2016	18,175
2015	11,175

¹ See www.unhcr.org/resettlement.html for more background information on resettlement. The figures presented in this fact sheet reflect UNHCR submissions of resettlement cases to resettlement countries. Following submission, the timescale can vary in each resettlement country before a case is accepted and the refugees depart from their previous country of asylum and arrive finally in the country of resettlement.

² Europe comprises 49 countries, including the EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein, South-Eastern Europe (inc. Kosovo (S/RES/1244(1999))), Turkey and Eastern Europe (exc. Kazakhstan). Countries receiving resettlement submissions in 2019 are shown on the map on page 2.

³ These were Iceland, Lithuania, and Latvia. Romania, Luxembourg and Denmark are the countries so far that received submissions in 2019, but not in 2018. Countries that received submissions earlier in 2016 and/or 2017 but not since include: Austria, Bulgaria, Czechia, Cyprus, Hungary, Monaco and Slovenia.

⁴ All references to 2019 refer to the period between January and September.

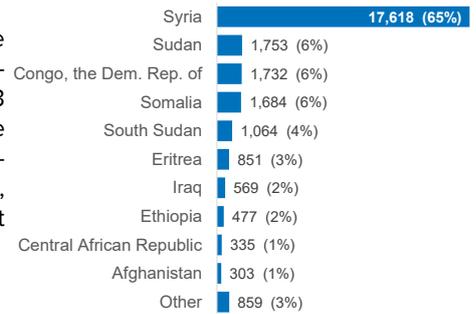
⁵ Source: Resettlement submission and departure data from rsq.unhcr.org.

⁶ Resettlement arrival data is from Eurostat for the EU and Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein, and are potentially accessible for Eastern and South-Eastern Europe on rsq.unhcr.org.

⁷ Only data on resettlement cases referred by UNHCR is available for 2019. Departure figures reported by UNHCR may not match resettlement statistics published by States as government figures may include submissions received outside of UNHCR's resettlement processes.

Country of origin

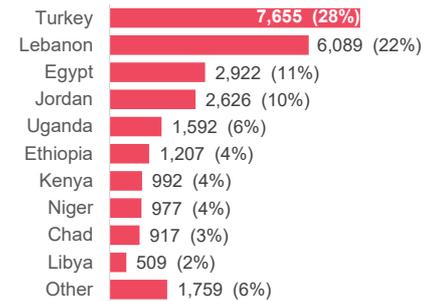
The vast majority of refugees submitted for resettlement to Europe in 2019⁴ are originally from the Syrian Arab Republic (65%), consistent with 2018, with the resettlement of Syrians to Europe having increased significantly in scale between 2013 and 2016 in accordance with the increasing displacement from Syria during these years. In total, 87% of refugees submitted for resettlement to Europe in 2019 originate from five countries: Syria, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Somalia, and South Sudan.⁸ Some 22% of submissions to Europe are from East Africa and just 0.8% are from West Africa.



Country of asylum

Refugees submitted for resettlement to Europe were typically registered in the following countries: **Syrians:** Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt or Jordan; **Sudanese:** Egypt, Chad or Jordan; **Congolese (DRC):** Uganda, Ethiopia or Kenya; **Somalis:** Ethiopia, Kenya or Egypt; **South Sudanese:** Ethiopia or Egypt; **Eritreans:** Niger or Egypt; **Iraqis:** Turkey.⁸

In September, the first vulnerable refugees were transferred to the [Rwandan Emergency Transit Mechanism](#) (ETM), agreed and set up by the Government of Rwanda, UNHCR, and the African Union (27 September 2019). Resettlement submissions⁹ from Rwanda and Niger (where a similar ETM has been operational since late 2017) have reached 1,013 (977 from Niger, 36 from Rwanda), compared to 1,888 (1,853 from Niger, 35 from Rwanda) in the whole of 2018 (in 2019, most commonly Burundi and the DRC in Rwanda; Eritrea, Somalia and Nigeria in Niger, submitted to France, Sweden, Finland, the UK, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany and Norway)⁸. Those being considered for resettlement in both countries include evacuees from Libya as well as refugees initially registered in Rwanda and Niger.

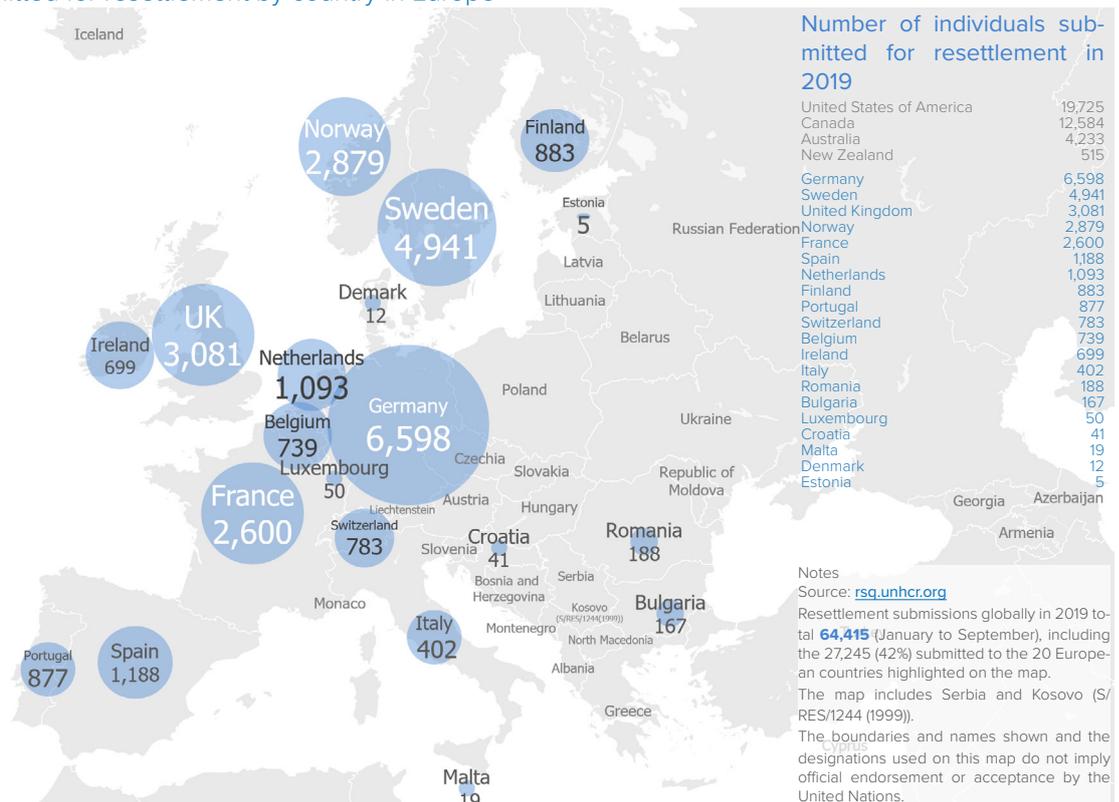
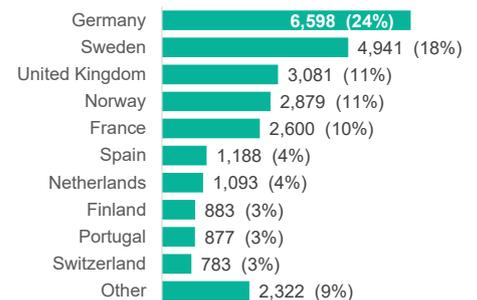


Country of resettlement

In 2019, five countries in Europe (Germany, Sweden, the UK, Norway, and France) have received 74% of all resettlement submissions.

Of the 20 countries in Europe to which resettlement submissions were made in 2019, 8 resettled predominately Syrians (defined as submissions comprising at least 80% Syrians). Only Sweden, Norway, France, Germany, the UK and Portugal have all resettled substantial numbers of other nationalities of refugees, including from Sudan, the DRC, Somalia, South Sudan, Eritrea and Iraq.⁸

Number of refugees submitted for resettlement by country in Europe



Notes
 Source: rsq.unhcr.org
 Resettlement submissions globally in 2019 total 64,415 (January to September), including the 27,245 (42%) submitted to the 20 European countries highlighted on the map.
 The map includes Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)).
 The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

⁸ All lists are ordered in terms of the number of resettlement submissions, in descending order.

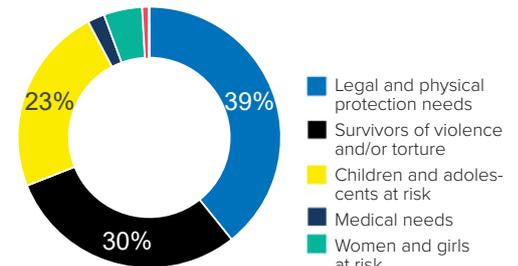
Categories of resettlement submissions

Resettlement remains an important tool that is used to address cases that cannot be provided with appropriate protection and support in the country of asylum and to show solidarity with countries hosting large numbers of refugees. In 2019, cases were most commonly submitted to European countries to provide adequate protection to survivors of torture and/or violence (32%), individual and legal and physical protection needs (31%), and to children and adolescents at risk (18%).⁹

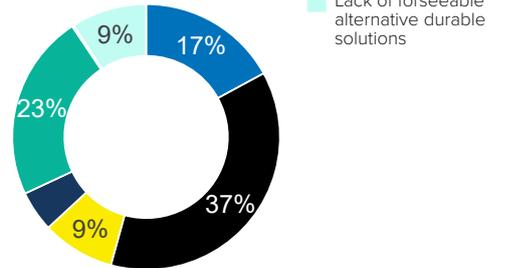
For nationalities other than Syrians (35% of submissions overall), fewer cases were submitted based on legal and physical protection needs (17%) and for children and adolescents at risk (9%). By contrast, more cases were submitted to provide adequate protection to survivors of torture and/or violence, women and girls at risk, and due to the lack of foreseeable alternative durable solutions in protracted refugee situations (37%, 23%, and 9% respectively).

Overall, just 1% of cases submitted to European countries were under the emergency submission procedures, while 9% were regarded as urgent.⁹ Of the 5,109 resettlement submissions (19,319 individuals in total) on which a decision was made by European countries in 2019, 90% were accepted, consistent with acceptance rates in previous years, as well as globally.

Syrians



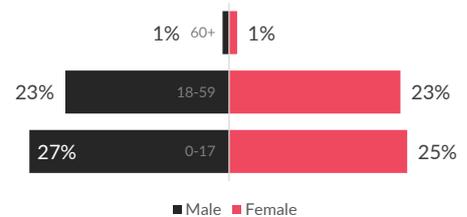
Other nationalities



Demographics

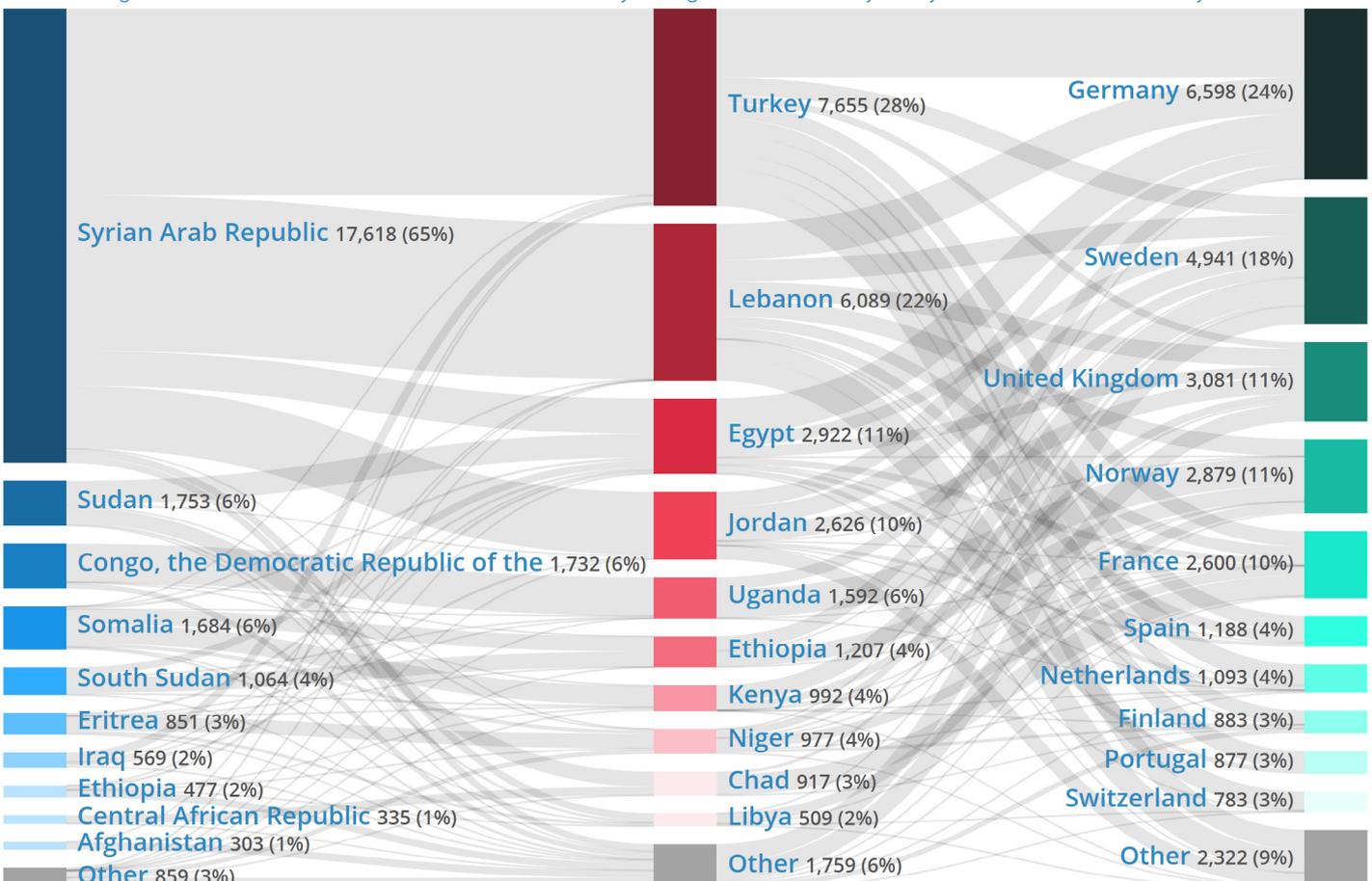
Each case submitted to Europe included 4 people on average in 2019.

In 2019, resettlement submissions to Europe comprised 52% children, 46% were aged between 18 and 59, and 2% were over 60 years old. Overall, submissions of men and boys compared to women and girls were close to equal (51% versus 49%). This demographic profile is consistent with submissions in 2018 and also in relation to both the country of origin and country of resettlement.



Flow of refugees

Flow of refugees submitted for resettlement in 2019 from country of origin via their country of asylum to the intended country of resettlement



⁹ See the [UNHCR Resettlement Handbook](#): chapter six (resettlement submission categories) on page 243 and section 6.1.1 (resettlement priority levels) on page 246.