

**KEY FIGURES (SYRIA – RESPONSE)**

Tents: 42,220 (for 211,100 beneficiaries)

Foam mattresses: 270,000

Plastic Sheets: 24,038 (for 120,190 beneficiaries)

Kitchen sets: 105,088 (for 525,400 beneficiaries)

Jerry cans: 213,600 (for 534,000 beneficiaries)

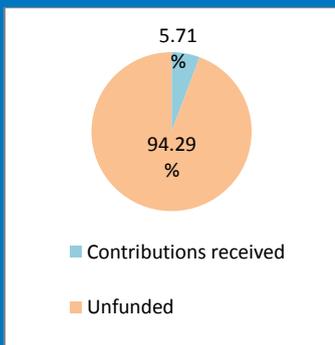
Blankets: 791,440

Sanitary napkins:  
1,930,880 (for 45,973 women)

**FUNDING 2015**

UNHCR Turkey operation\*  
USD 332,681,522.11

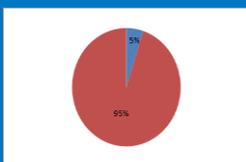
Funded: 5.71 %



\*excluding contributions earmarked at the Regional Level

Interagency Regional Response in Turkey  
USD : 624,089,475

Funded: 5%



**TURKEY**  
**EXTERNAL UPDATE**

31 March, 2015

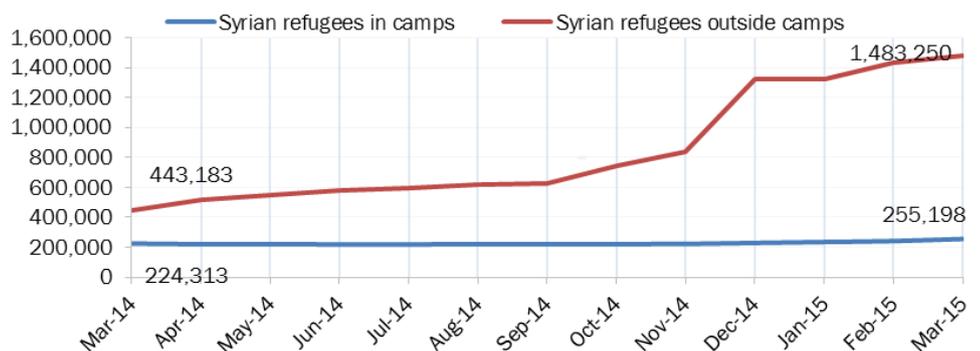
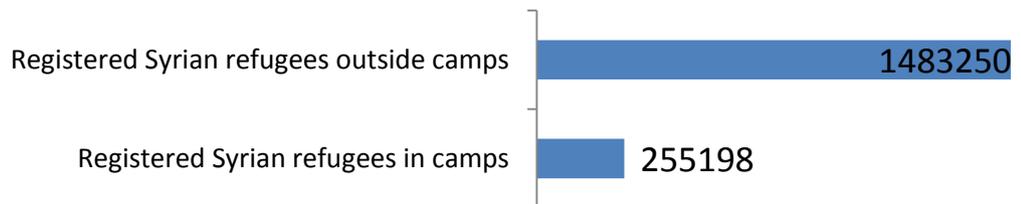
**HIGHLIGHTS**

- ✚ Refugees endure worsening conditions as Syria’s conflict enters 5<sup>th</sup> year
- ✚ Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan Launched in Ankara
- ✚ Turkey Accedes to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons



Creation date:19/11/2014 Sources: UNCS, UNHCR  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

**Syrian Refugee Population in Turkey: 1,738,448 persons**  
(as of 31 March, 2015)



## Borders

As of 9 March, 2015, the last two official border crossings of Oncupinar—Bab-a-Hawa and Cilveguzu —Bab-al-Salam on the Turkey-Syria border are closed for those coming from Syria to Turkey for security reasons. They remain open however, for cross-border operations and for the voluntary return of Syrian refugees back to Syria. UNHCR has discussed with the Turkish authorities the latest developments with regards to access to Turkey of Syrians in need of international protection and has been assured that there is no change in the officially stated policy of “open borders.” UNHCR was told that despite the newly introduced security checks at the border gates “humanitarian cases” are being admitted, including in cases of a mass influx of refugees. UNHCR continues to advocate for access to territory for Syrians fleeing the conflict who are trying to reach safety in Turkey and believes that the denial of access to territory of persons in need of international protection will only compel Syrians to resort to informal crossings with the help of smugglers putting their lives at risk.

## Refugees endure worsening conditions as Syria’s conflict enters 5<sup>th</sup> year



*Syrian refugees flee the fighting in Ayn-al-Arab (Kobane) and enter Turkey. ©UNHCR/I. Prickett*

As the Syrian conflict enters its fifth year, millions of refugees in neighbouring countries and those displaced within the country are caught in alarmingly deteriorating conditions, facing an even bleaker future without more international support. With no political solution to the conflict in sight, most of the 3.9 million Syrian refugees in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt see no end to the human tragedy in Syria.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres reiterated that much, much more needed to be done to pull Syrians out of their nightmare of suffering. “After years in exile, refugees’ savings are long depleted and growing numbers are resorting to begging, survival sex and child labour. Middle-class families with children are barely surviving on the streets: one father said life as a refugee was like being stuck in quicksand –

every time you move, you sink down further,” he said.

“This worst humanitarian crisis of our era should be galvanizing a global outcry of support, but instead help is dwindling. With humanitarian appeals systematically underfunded, there just isn’t enough aid to meet the colossal needs – nor enough development support to the hosting countries creaking under the strain of so many refugees,” Guterres added. He pointed out that with the massive influx of Syrian refugees over the past four years, Turkey had now become the world’s biggest refugee hosting country and had spent over US\$ 5 billion on direct assistance to refugees.

But faced with growing security concerns and insufficient international support, several of Syria’s neighbours have taken measures in recent months to stem the flow of refugees, from new border management regulations to more onerous and complex requirements to extend their stay.



*A Syrian refugee lamenting the loss of her homeland, in Akçakale refugee camp, Şanlıurfa, Turkey ©UNHCR/A. Branthwaite*

More and more Syrians are losing hope. Thousands have tried to reach Europe by taking often deadly land or sea routes after paying their life savings to smugglers. Many have not made it. Those who do, face rising hostility as refugees are conflated with security concerns in a climate of rising panic.

“Refugees are made scapegoats for any number of problems from terrorism to economic hardship and perceived threats to their host communities’ way of life. But we need to remember that the primary threat is not *from* refugees, but *to* them,” Guterres said.

Inside Syria, the situation is deteriorating rapidly. More than 12 million people are in need of aid to stay alive. Almost 8 million have been forced from their homes, sharing crowded rooms with other families or camping in abandoned buildings. An estimated 4.8 million Syrians inside the country are in places that are hard to reach, including 212,000 trapped in besieged areas.

Millions of children are suffering from trauma and ill health. A quarter of Syria’s schools have been damaged, destroyed or taken over for shelter. More than half of Syria’s hospitals are destroyed. More than 2.4 million children inside Syria are not in school. Among refugees, nearly half of all children are not receiving an education in exile. In Lebanon, there are more school-age refugees than the entire intake of the country’s public schools, and only 20 per cent of Syrian children are enrolled. Similar numbers can be seen among refugees living outside of camps in Turkey and Jordan.

“We have only a narrow opportunity to intervene now as this potentially lost generation confronts its future. Abandoning refugees to hopelessness only exposes them to even greater suffering, exploitation and dangerous abuse,” Guterres warned.

There are more Syrians under UNHCR’s care today than any other nationality on earth. Yet by the end of last year, only 54 per cent of the funding needed to assist refugees outside Syria had been raised. Inside Syria, humanitarian organizations received even less.

In December, the UN launched the largest aid appeal ever for \$8.4 billion. Fully funded, this would cover basic needs for refugees, while also helping host communities to bolster their infrastructure and services. UNHCR is hoping significant pledges will be made at the funding conference in Kuwait on 31 March.

“Further abandoning host countries to manage the situation on their own could result in serious regional destabilisation, increasing the likelihood of more security concerns elsewhere in the world,” Guterres said.

### The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan launched in Ankara



*The 3RP was launched on 19 March 2015 in Ankara by H.E. Ambassador Naci Koru, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Kamal Malhotra, UN Resident Coordinator in Turkey and representatives of UNHCR and UNDP, the co-lead agencies of the plan. © UNHCR/ C.Argun*

The crisis in Syria has forced more than 3.9 million Syrians to flee to neighboring countries and become refugees, making them the largest group of refugees under UNHCR’s protection. The Syrian situation is the most dramatic humanitarian crisis the world has faced in a very long time.

The United Nations (UN) and its partners will implement the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) in 2015 and 2016 to support the Government of Turkey’s protection and assistance

response to meet the needs of refugees and host communities, under the regional and global leadership of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for refugee and resilience components respectively.

The 3RP was launched on 19 March, 2015 in Ankara with the participation of H.E. Ambassador Naci Koru, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey. H.E. Kamal Malhotra, UN Resident Coordinator in Turkey together with the representatives of UNHCR and UNDP as the co-lead agencies of the plan delivered speeches. Diplomatic and donor community and high-level representatives from other UN agencies participating in the 3RP attended the event.

In his speech, H.E. Ambassador Naci Koru, Deputy Foreign Minister, underlining that the new emphasis in the 3RP on resilience while retaining the refugee component is appropriate and timely; said “We appreciate the leading role of the UNHCR on the protection of Syrian refugees. Indeed, it has been effective in ensuring protection of the internally displaced Syrians and supporting the refugees in the neighboring countries. With the resilience part of the 3RP, we are pleased that the UNDP will also be included in this process in a more effective way.”

Underlining that the financial burden on Turkey due to the Syrian humanitarian crisis is increasing day by day, with more than USD 5.2 billion spent by Turkey up until now, H.E. Ambassador Naci Koru noted, “We see 3RP 2015-2016 as an opportunity for international community to realise a fair burden-sharing which so far has not been the case.” H.E. Ambassador Naci Koru also added that since the Syrian crisis started Turkish authorities have been closely cooperating with the UN and that Turkey would spare no effort in its commitment to strengthen international cooperation with a view to better managing protecting human lives and life conditions of Syrians.

Margarita Vargas Angulo, Assistant Representative, UNHCR noted that the refugee part of the appeal is centered on core protection issues and life-saving response. She said that “it is not an appeal to do a perfect job, but it is the absolute minimum that is required for people in extremely dire situations.” Margarita Vargas Angulo also added that “the 3RP brings an opportunity for more partners to play an active role in a refugee response, and we hope by doing such, we can establish a more effective and efficient way in handling a large and complex humanitarian crisis”.

Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) officials delivered a presentation on the assistance provided by the Turkish government to Syrian refugees in Turkey.

Representing a strategic shift in the approach to delivering aid for the region, the 3RP brings together emergency humanitarian operations and host community support with longer-term programmes aimed at boosting resilience. The 3RP requires USD 5.5 billion in funding for 2015, of which USD 3.4 billion is for the refugee response while USD 2.1 billion is for the resilience component. Within the 3RP, Turkey’s financial requirement for 2015 is USD 624,089,475.



*Syrian children look out the window of their home at the Öncüpınar refugee camp, near the Turkish border city of Kilis. UNHCR/A. Branthwaite*

## Turkey Accedes to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons

Statelessness is a man-made problem and occurs because of a bewildering array of causes. Entire swathes of a population may become stateless overnight due to political or legal directives or the redrawing of state boundaries. The lack of a nationality deprives stateless people of rights that the majority of the global population take for granted. Often, they are

*“It is wholly within the power of every concerned government to resolve statelessness. We have the opportunity as never before to tackle the injustice. Now is the time to act. –Antonio Guterres, High Commissioner for Refugees.*

excluded for an entire lifetime—being denied a legal identity when they are born, access to education, health-care,

marriage and job opportunities and even the dignity of an official burial and a death certificate when they die. Over a third of the world's stateless are children.

The legal cornerstones of UNHCR's work are the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. These treaties are supported by other legal instruments such as the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and many international and regional human rights treaties which uphold the right of every human being to a nationality.

Upon depositing the instruments to the United Nations, Turkey acceded to the 1954 Convention on 26 March, 2015. In line with the relevant article, the Convention will enter into force for Turkey on 24 June, 2015.

The draft laws on ratification of the two UN Statelessness Conventions were submitted to the Turkish Parliament in September 2011 and the law ratifying the 1954 Convention was endorsed in July 2014. With the accession to the Convention, Turkey now becomes party to the 1954 Convention. As the next step, UNHCR Turkey will continue to provide extensive legal and technical support to the national institutions in order to ensure implementation of the 1954 Convention. The law on ratification of 1961 Convention is still on the agenda of the Parliament for further discussions.

*OVER THREE MILLION STATELESS PEOPLE LIVE IN JUST 10 COUNTRIES. RESOLVING STATELESSNESS IS POSSIBLE: SINCE 2003, FOUR MILLION STATELESS PERSONS AROUND THE WORLD HAVE ACQUIRED A NATIONALITY.*

### Update on donor funding

Ten ambulances funded by the EU Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) under the project "Protection and provision of basic services to out of camp Syrians in Turkey" have been procured by UNHCR and delivered to the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD). The ambulances will be handed over by AFAD to the Ministry of Health for use in the following cities: Kilis, Adana, Mardin, Mersin, Hatay, Şanlıurfa (one unit each) as well as Gaziantep and Istanbul (2 units each).

Qatar Red Crescent made a cash contribution of USD 140,508 to UNHCR to cover logistical expenses of the winterization programme in Turkey. The total donation from QRC including the in-kind donation of tents and high thermal blankets and the cash contribution has reached USD 10 million.

UNHCR Turkey has received a total of USD 5.6 million from Japan for 2015 for protection and assistance of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Turkey. Activities include support to Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) through provision of equipment, capacity building of national institutions, support to two community centres, multi-purpose cash vouchers to the most vulnerable outside camps, distribution of winterization items to both camp and non-camp refugees, interpreters for both UNHCR and DGMM for registration, resettlement and counselling interviews and some staffing support for refugee status determination (RSD) and protection.

In addition, UNHCR Turkey has received a contribution of EUR 250,000 from the Government of France for assisting Syrian refugees in urban areas in Turkey.

### Capacity Building with the Director General for Migration Management (DGMM)

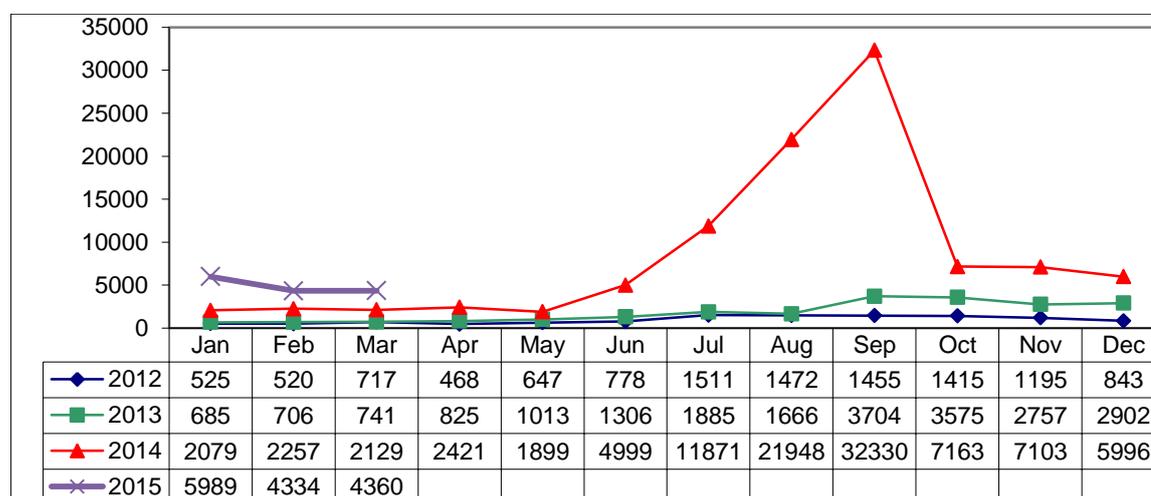
Building capacity with government authorities is a key focus of UNHCR. UNHCR provided training for the provincial staff of the Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) in Izmir. Forty staff from the Provincial Directorates throughout the country attended the training. Topics covered were international legal framework, international refugee law, 1951 Convention, UNHCR's mandate, interview techniques and drafting legal analysis.

## AT A GLANCE: GENERAL REFUGEE RESPONSE (NON- SYRIAN)

### Refugees from Iraq

The total number of persons of concern from Iraq for UNHCR in Turkey stands at 43,554 families (135,585 individuals). This number reflects only persons approaching UNHCR and its Implementing Partner (ASAM) and does not reflect the overall number of Iraqi nationals entering Turkey.

#### New Arrivals



#### New arrival trends for Iraqi individuals over the past 4 years

The number of new arrivals from Iraq remained at almost the same level as in February 2015, indicating somewhat stabilizing trend comparing to the last four months, thus confirming the Office assumption that in 2015 arrival trends may stabilize at 5,000 arrivals per month provided that the security situation in Iraq does not escalate and trigger new influx.

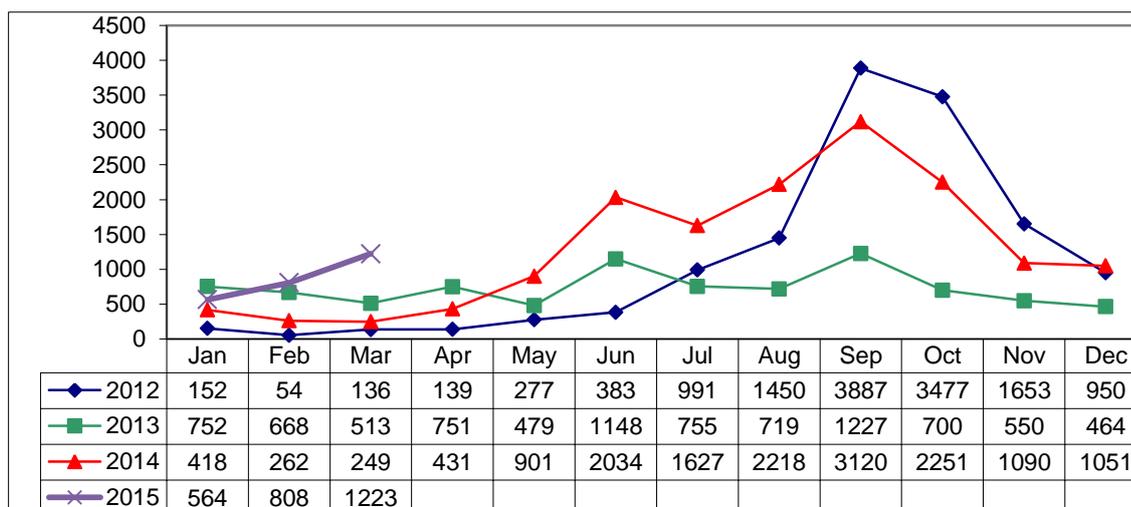
#### Asylum-seekers and refugees from Iraq

	Cases	Individuals
Pending registration & pre-registration	33,150	112,060
Number of registered asylum-seekers	2,037	4,384
Number of recognized refugees	8,367	19,141
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,554</b>	<b>135,585</b>

### Refugees from Afghanistan

The total number of Afghan persons of concern to UNHCR in Turkey is currently 18,419 cases (38,557 individuals).

**New Arrivals**



*Pre-registration trends for Afghans (Individuals) over the past 4 years*

There was an increase of over 400 new Afghan asylum applicants pre-registered by UNHCR’s Implementing Partner (ASAM) this month. This could not be attributed to any significant incident or situation in Afghanistan. UNHCR continues to monitor the situation in order to assess whether this increase would continue over the coming months. Nevertheless, new arrival trends continue to reflect the worsening security situation in Afghanistan as well as the difficult living conditions for the Afghan population in Iran.

At the end of March 2015, a total of 28,397 asylum seekers (10,743 females and 17,654 males) were pre-registered with ASAM and were awaiting registration with UNHCR.

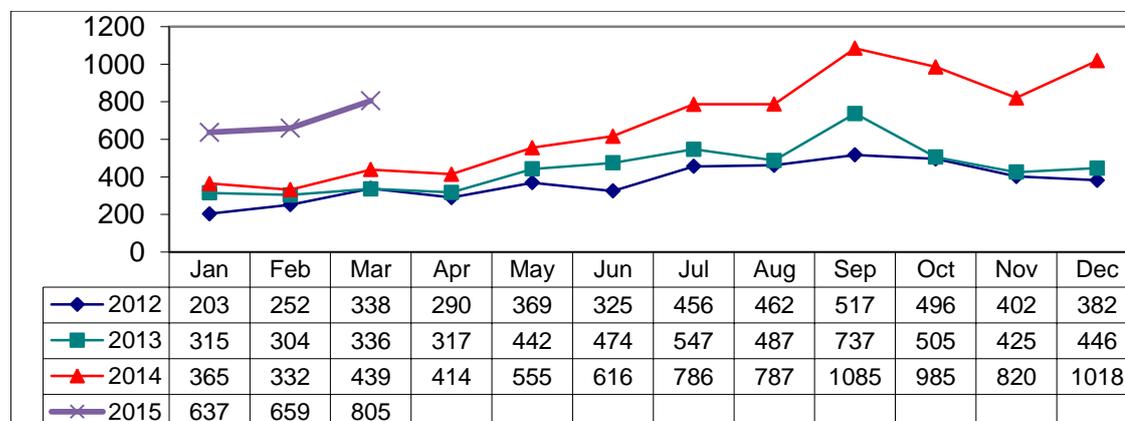
**Asylum-seekers and refugees from Afghanistan**

	Cases	Individuals
Pre-registered	13,788	28,397
Number of registered asylum-seekers	3,173	5,887
Number of recognized refugees	1,458	4,273
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,419</b>	<b>38,557</b>

**Refugees from Iran**

The total number of Iranian persons of concern to UNHCR in Turkey stands at 10835 families (16,317 individuals).

**New Arrivals**



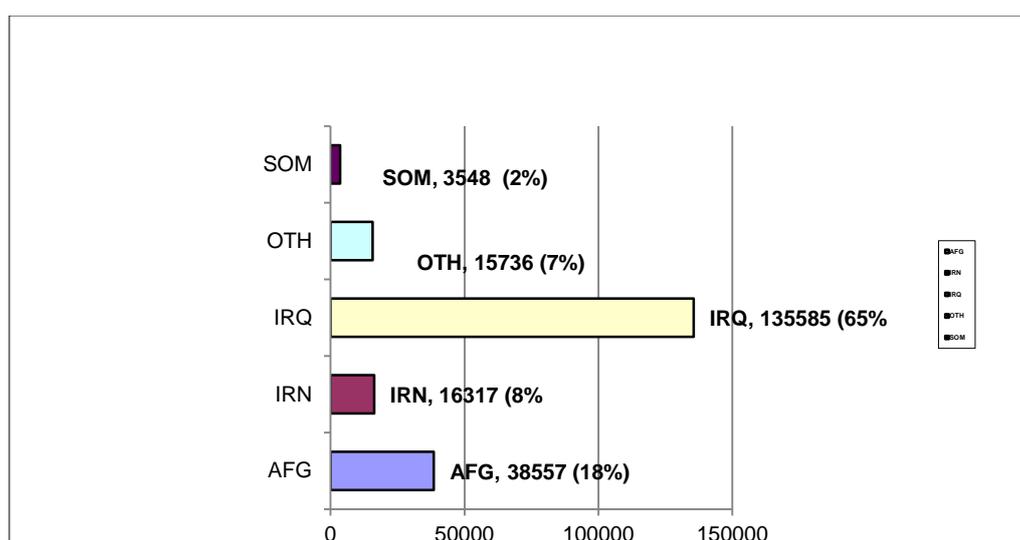
*Pre-registration trends for Iranian asylum seekers over the past 4 years*

Over the past few years UNHCR noted a steady annual increase of up to 20% in new arrivals from Iran, however in 2014 the Office has noted an increase in new arrivals by 50%, with the highest number recorded in December 2014 with 1,018 persons arriving. The first three months of 2015, compared to the first three months of 2014, indicate an increase of almost 100% (with 1136 new arrivals in the first quarter of 2014, compared to 2,101 new arrivals in the first quarter of 2015).

**Asylum-seekers and refugees from Iran**

	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Individuals</b>
Pre-registered, pending registration	4,101	5,738
Number of registered asylum-seekers	4,494	6,906
Number of recognized refugees	2,240	3,673
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,835</b>	<b>16,317</b>

**Total number of Persons of Concern to UNHCR as of 31 March, 2015**  
**209, 743 individuals**



END.



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