TURKEY
RESETTLEMENT EXTERNAL UPDATE
September 2016

Over 20,000 Refugees submitted for resettlement in 2016	UNHCR Turkey Largest resettlement operation in the world	27,000 + *(including 10,000 non-Syrians)* 2016 baseline submission target	Between 2015 and 2016, resettlement countries increased from 10 to 24

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

DURABLE SOLUTION

■ Resettlement **is currently the most accessible durable solution** for the majority of refugees in Turkey. The situations in the countries of origin of the largest refugee groups Turkey remain volatile and not conducive to return.

RESETTLEMENT OUT OF TURKEY

■ UNHCR Turkey implements the **largest resettlement operation in the world** for the third consecutive year: currently UNHCR has over 40,500 individuals at various stages of the RST process – this is the total of refugees referred to resettlement and still active. Over 22,000 individuals have been submitted and are pending decisions from resettlement countries, nearly 8,500 individuals have been accepted, but not yet departed.

■ As UNHCR is only able to resettle a fraction of refugees with resettlement needs it **concentrates on extremely vulnerable individuals and those with serious protection risks**. In 2014-2015, UNHCR submissions constituted roughly 1% of the refugee numbers in Turkey.

■ The initial 2016 resettlement target is 27,000 submissions (including 17,000 Syrians); however, the Operation **may finish the year with up to 35,000** submissions (10,000-12,000 non-Syrians and 21-25,000 Syrians).

■ The **acceptance rate by resettlement countries in 2016 was 90%** in the first submission. Average processing time (from referral for resettlement to departure) is around a year for successful cases depending on national security clearances.

■ UNHCR has so far submitted 47% of Syrian refugees being resettled to 21 European countries.

UNHCR STRATEGY AND ACTIVITIES

■ UNHCR continues to use resettlement as a **protection tool** for the most vulnerable Syrian refugees: At least 270,000 (10% of the total) Syrians are estimated to be in need of resettlement in Turkey.

■ Given the growing number of non-Syrian asylum-seekers, UNHCR is **seeking to identify persons with specific needs**, so as to prioritize them for refugee status determination and resettlement. Conditional refugees (non-Syrians) recognized by Department General for Migration Management (DGMM) of the Ministry of Interior are also processed for resettlement according to UNHCR criteria.

RESETTLEMENT PROCESSING MODALITIES

■ Resettlement identification and referral of non-Syrian refugees: **non-Syrians are registered by UNHCR** and go through an individual RSD process. UNHCR's protection team identifies the most vulnerable asylum seekers and refers them for RSD, then the cases are referred for resettlement processing. Referrals are received on an ongoing basis.

- <u>Resettlement identification and referral of Syrian refugees</u>: UNHCR currently receives the majority of the resettlement referrals for Syrian refugees from DGMM. DGMM coordinates the collection of referrals from the provincial authorities (multi-agency committees doing initial identification based on global resettlement criteria, which include: *legal and/or physical protection needs, survivors of violence and torture, medical needs, women and girls at risk, family reunification, children and adolescents at risk*) and forwards them to UNHCR. Referrals identified through multiple other sources (protection referrals) are discussed with DGMM through a consultative mechanism established in 2015. In 2015, UNHCR received around 26,700 resettlement referrals (individuals) for Syrian refugees from DGMM from various locations across Turkey. **Over 26,000 referrals have been provided so far in 2016.**

- Since 2014, UNHCR has been implementing **merged RSD/resettlement for Syrians** in a multi-stage resettlement review process. UNHCR selects cases based on the global resettlement criteria. This process consists of two phases:
    - **Case Identification:**
        - o **Pre-assessment** – a phone interview to establish the refugee's presence in Turkey, family composition and interest in resettlement;
        - o **Assessment** – an in-person interview, the initial assessment of the cases's suitability for resettlement and to formally register the case in UNHCR's proGres database.
    - **Resettlement interview** – an in-person interview with each person in the family followed by the drafting of an RRF for submission.

- UNHCR Turkey is one of three countries, with Jordan and Lebanon, implementing the **identification based methodology (IBM),** which is a streamlined form of resettlement for Syrian refugees where cases are presented to resettlement countries, currently Canada and EU countries, after the assessment phase. Most recently, an agreement has been reached with the USA to process cases under IBM.

- DGMM provides important logistical support to UNHCR during **resettlement missions across Turkey to provinces** where refugees are staying by providing facilities for interviews, facilitating the movement of refugees and coordinating with security/police.

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

RESETTLEMENT COUNSELLING

- Resettlement counseling is a **key tool to manage refugees' expectations**: in addition to routine counseling the Resettlement Unit operates a hotline in Arabic and Persian on a weekly basis. This year the Operation is expanding access to resettlement counseling through a variety of means (phone, in-person, online, etc.). UNHCR responded to resettlement queries of around 8,150 refugees from 1 January – 23 September 2016.