

## TURKEY

### RESETTLEMENT EXTERNAL UPDATE

24 February 2017

#### 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.

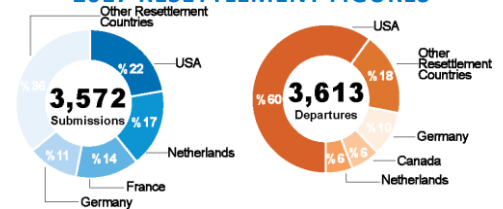
#### UNHCR RESETTLEMENT STRATEGY AND ACTIVITIES

- 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 the Department General for Migration Management (DGMM) of the Ministry of Interior would also be processed for resettlement according to UNHCR criteria.

#### RESETTLEMENT PROCESSING MODALITIES

- 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**. Less than 1% of the refugee population in Turkey are submitted for resettlement every year.
- Resettlement identification and referral of non-Syrian refugees: **non-Syrians are registered by UNHCR** and go through an individual RSD process. **The protection team identifies the most vulnerable asylum-seekers** and refers them for RSD, then the cases are referred for resettlement processing.
- Resettlement identification and referral of Syrian refugees: **currently the majority of 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.
- Since 2014, **merged RSD/resettlement for Syrians** in a multi-stage resettlement review process is implemented. Cases are selected based on the global resettlement criteria. This process consists of two phases:
  - Case Identification:**
    - Pre-assessment** – a phone interview to establish the refugee's presence in Turkey, family composition and interest in resettlement;
    - 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.
- Turkey is also one of three countries, with Jordan and Lebanon, implementing the **identification based methodology (IBM)**, which is a streamlined form of resettlement for Syrian refugees.

#### 2017 RESETTLEMENT FIGURES



- 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/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. A total of **27 resettlement selection missions** have been hosted in 2016.

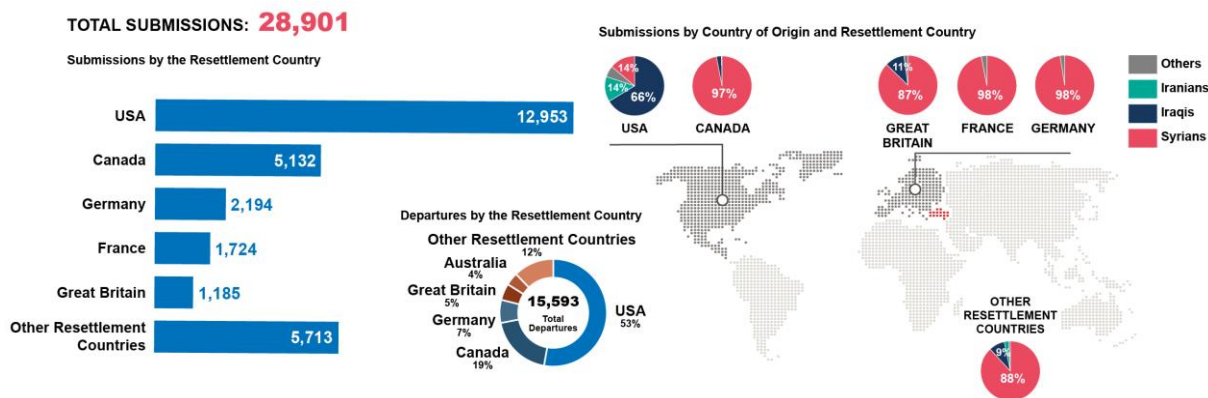
## RESETTLEMENT COUNSELLING

- Resettlement counseling is a **key tool to manage refugees' expectations**: in addition to routine counseling (over 20,000 refugees received resettlement counseling during resettlement interviews) the Resettlement Unit operates a hotline in Arabic and Persian on a weekly basis. The Operation expanded access to resettlement counseling through a variety of means (phone, in-person, online, etc.) in 2016. Over 9,800 refugees had their resettlement queries answered through the multilingual hotline from 1 January – 31 December 2016.

## TURKEY RESETTLEMENT: 2016 FIGURES

- UNHCR Turkey implemented **one of the largest resettlement operations in the world** for the third consecutive year in 2016. Over 45,700 individuals are at various stages of the RST process – this is the total of refugees referred to resettlement and still active.

## 2016 RESETTLEMENT FIGURES



- 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.
- In 2016, **32,630 resettlement referrals (individuals) for Syrian refugees were received from DGMM** from various locations across Turkey.
- In the course of 2016, **35,202 Syrian refugees cases were assessed** for resettlement.
- In 2016, **7,863 Syrian refugees were submitted to 18 EU countries**. In addition, 909 individuals were submitted to Norway and 1,042 to the United Kingdom.
- In 2016, **135 resettlement missions were undertaken to various provinces of Turkey** to conduct resettlement interviews.

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