

# Resettlement and complementary pathways

## CONTEXT AND PRIORITIES

As refugee situations continue to increase in scope, scale and complexity, resettlement continues to be a critical protection tool and a solution for many vulnerable refugees whose protection needs cannot otherwise be met and who do not have the option of returning home. It also remains an important and a tangible demonstration of solidarity and responsibility sharing among States. On 17 December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees.<sup>1</sup> The Compact recognises the imperative to expand access to third country solutions for refugees, including through resettlement and complementary pathways. This translates into more resettlement opportunities for refugees who are at heightened risks, as well as better access for refugees to complementary pathways that provide protection and solution.<sup>2</sup>

UNHCR is mandated by its Statute and the UN General Assembly Resolutions to undertake resettlement as one of three durable solutions, which include voluntary repatriation and local integration.

### Resettlement is...

**A protection tool** to meet the specific needs of refugees whose life, liberty, safety, health or other fundamental rights are at risk in the country of asylum. All refugees are processed in accordance with global resettlement criteria which include: legal and physical protection needs, survivors of violence and torture, medical needs, women and girls at risk, children and adolescents at risk and family reunification.

**A durable solution** for vulnerable refugees where other durable solutions are not viable options. UNHCR is mandated by its Statute and the UN General Assembly Resolutions to undertake resettlement as one of three durable solutions. Resettlement remains a very limited durable solution for vulnerable refugees.

**A tangible expression of international solidarity and responsibility sharing.** The Global Compact on Refugees reiterated the need to enlarge the scope, size and quality of resettlement programmes and to ensure that complementary pathways for admission to third countries are made available on a more systematic and organized basis.

<sup>1</sup> Global Compact on Refugees, A/RES/73/151, 17 December 2018: [https://www.unhcr.org/gcr/GCR\\_English.pdf](https://www.unhcr.org/gcr/GCR_English.pdf)

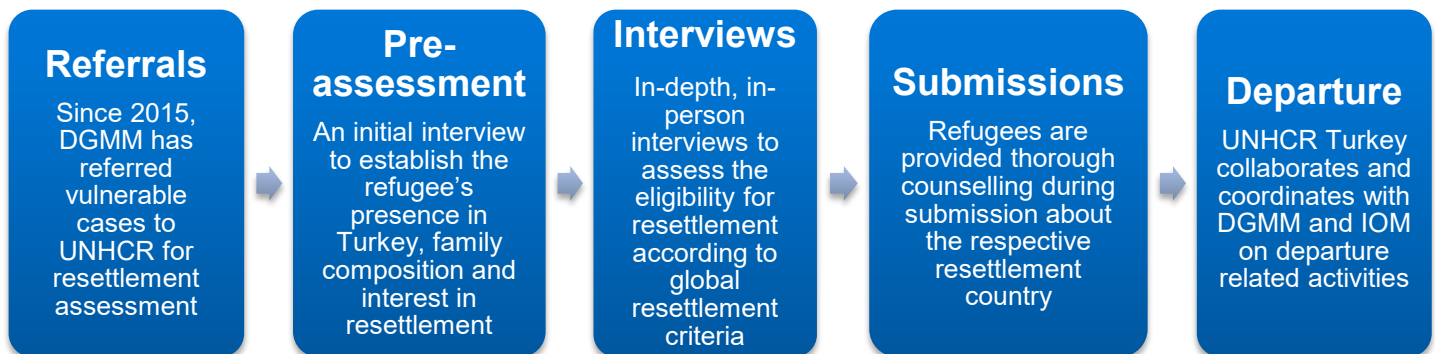
<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, The Three-Year Strategy (2019-2020) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways, June 2019.

## Resettlement in Turkey

UNHCR Turkey's resettlement programme is one of the largest globally. Over the last six years, more than 106,500 refugees were submitted to countries for resettlement and over 63,000 refugees departed to resettlement countries. That being said, UNHCR is only able to resettle a fraction of the refugees who are in need of resettlement; namely **extremely vulnerable refugees** and those facing **serious protection risks**.

Out of four million refugees in Turkey, UNHCR estimates that approximately 10 per cent are in need of resettlement. In 2018, a total of 16,042 refugees were submitted for resettlement consideration and 8,979 refugees departed to resettlement countries. In 2019, UNHCR plans to make submissions of 20,000 vulnerable refugees, provided quotas are available and confirmed. UNHCR advocates for this quota to be maintained, if not increased, in 2020.

### The Resettlement Process



In **2019**, UNHCR has so far submitted refugees to **16 resettlement countries**: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA

## Achievements in 2019

In 2019, from January to mid-August 2019, a total of 10,690 refugees have been submitted to countries for resettlement consideration, (72% Syrians and 28% other nationalities) while 7,066 refugees departed to 16 countries. UNHCR has conducted 73 resettlement interview missions throughout Turkey and has facilitated 16 resettlement country selection missions so far.



**10,690**  
Refugees  
submitted to  
countries



**7,066**  
Refugees  
departure to  
countries



**73**  
UNHCR resettlement  
interview missions  
throughout Turkey



**16**  
Resettlement  
country selection  
missions

## Complementary pathways

In order to expand solution opportunities for refugees, UNHCR advocates for complementary pathways, such as family reunification, private or community sponsorship programmes, labour mobility and third country scholarships. These pathways are entry or migration avenues that, if made available to persons in need of international protection, can provide comprehensive solutions options and expand the number of actors that can provide safe and regulated avenues for refugees to stay lawfully in a third country where their international protection needs are met.

However, refugees face a multitude of legal, administrative and practical obstacles to access complementary pathways including eligibility criteria, financial and documentary requirements. UNHCR is working with States to overcome these barriers and bring together other actors, including the private sector, to form partnerships to explore and expand complementary pathway opportunities.

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**In the last 6 years, 106,882 individuals were submitted and 63,055 individuals departed to resettlement countries**

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**Thanks to UNHCR's donors for supporting our resettlement programme and for their unrestricted and regional funds in 2019:**

Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | United States of America | United Kingdom | Private donors

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### LINKS

[Regional Portal - Syria Regional Refugee Response](#) | [Regional Portal - Mediterranean](#) | [UNHCR Turkey website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Services Advisor](#) | [UNHCR Help](#)