

EUROPE RESETTLEMENT



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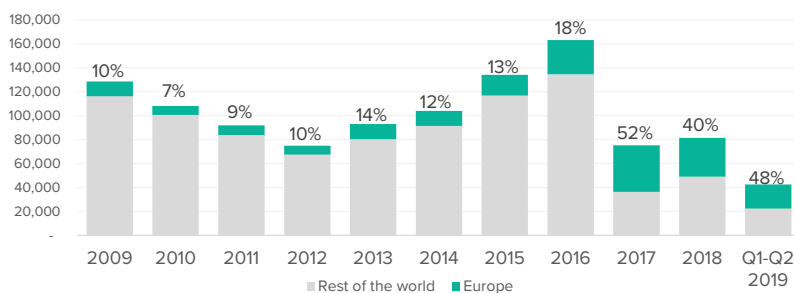
Becoming a refugee is the worst thing that can happen to a human being," says Angelique, who was resettled in Denmark after fleeing Rwanda's 1994 genocide. Now highly educated, Angelique pursues international humanitarian work. "I've learned something about myself, and I know that I've made a difference," she says. [Full story](#).

Overview

In the first six months of 2019, just over 20,200 refugees were submitted by UNHCR for resettlement¹ to 18 countries in Europe.² This is almost two-thirds of the total submission 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 48%. 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, but also to an increase of resettlement places made available by European States.

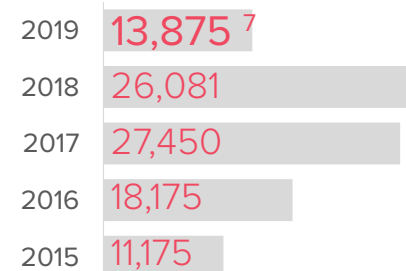
Resettlement submissions to Europe compared to global trends⁵



Resettlement submissions to Europe⁵



Resettlement arrivals to Europe⁶



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 is the only country so far that received submissions in 2019, but not in 2018.

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

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 Syria (67%), consistent with 2018, with the resettlement of Syrians to Europe having increased significantly in scale between 2013 and 2016. In total, 92% of refugees submitted for resettlement to Europe in 2019 originate from six countries: Syria, Somalia, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan and Eritrea.⁸ Some 21% of submissions to Europe are from East Africa and just 0.6% 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; **Somalis:** Ethiopia, Kenya or Egypt; **Sudanese:** Egypt, Chad or Jordan; **Congolese (DRC):** Uganda, Ethiopia or Kenya; **South Sudanese:** Ethiopia or Egypt; **Eritreans:** Niger or Egypt; **Iraqis:** Turkey.⁸

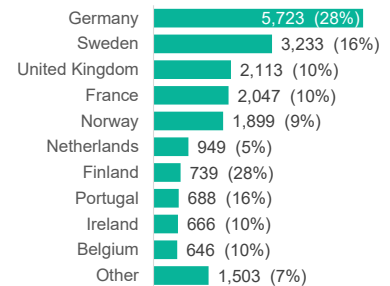
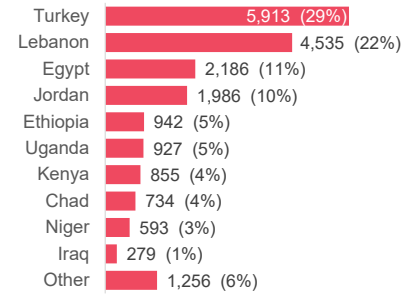
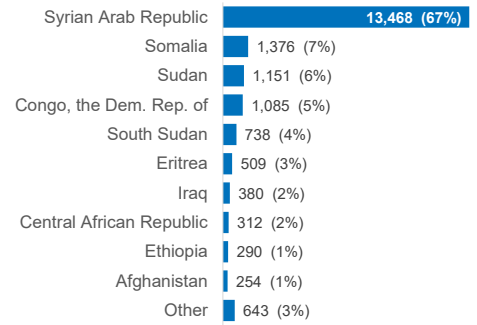
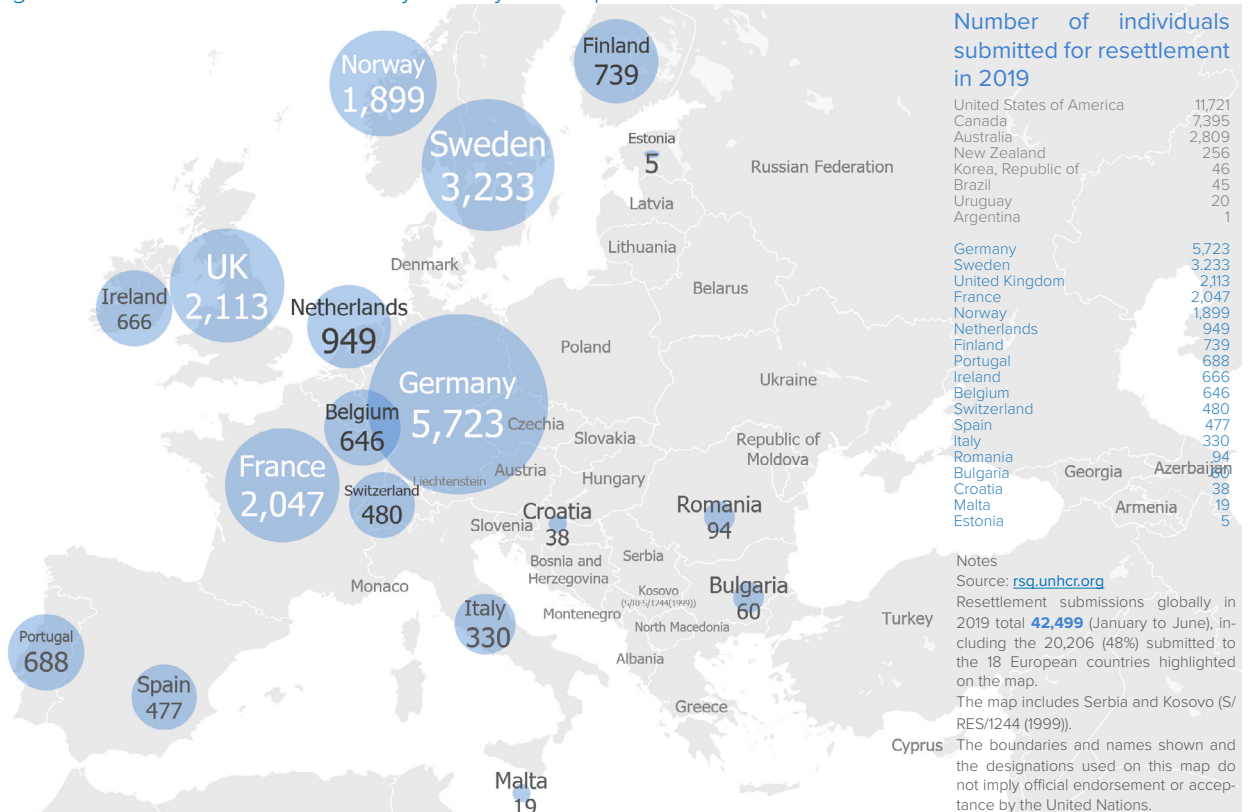
Following UNHCR's establishment of an [Emergency Transit Mechanism](#) in Niger in late 2017 for the evacuation of highly vulnerable persons out of detention in Libya, resettlement submissions from Niger (which include [evacuees](#) as well as refugees initially registered in Niger) continued in 2019 with 593 submissions to European countries (France, Switzerland, Netherlands, Norway, and Germany).⁸

Country of resettlement

In 2019, six countries in Europe (Germany, Sweden, the UK, France, Norway, and the Netherlands) have received 78% of all resettlement submissions.

Of the 18 countries in Europe to which resettlement submissions were made in 2019, 10 resettled predominately Syrians (defined as submissions comprising at least 80% Syrians). Sweden, Germany, Norway, France, the UK, Portugal, and the Netherlands have all resettled substantial numbers of other nationalities of refugees, including from Somalia, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Eritrea and Iraq.⁸

Number of refugees submitted for resettlement by country in Europe



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. In 2019, cases were most commonly submitted to European countries based on legal and physical protection needs (32%), to provide adequate protection to survivors of torture and/or violence (32%), and to children and adolescents at risk (18%).⁹

For nationalities other than Syrians (33% of submissions overall), fewer cases were submitted due to legal and physical protection needs (18%). 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 (36%, 23% and 10% respectively).

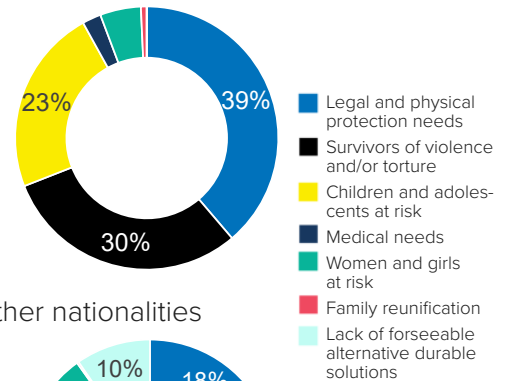
Overall, just 1% of cases submitted to European countries were under the emergency submission procedures, while 8% were regarded as urgent.⁹ Of the 3,286 resettlement submissions (12,085 individuals in total) on which a decision was made by European countries in 2019, 92% were accepted, consistent with acceptance rates in previous years, as well as globally.

Demographics

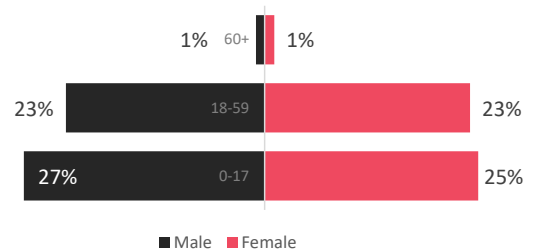
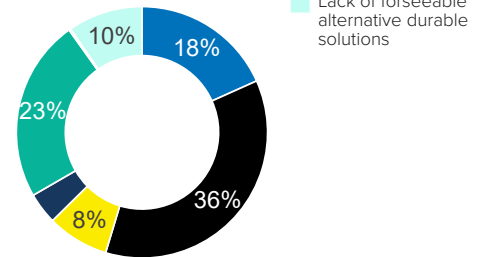
Each case submitted to Europe included 4 people on average in 2019.

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 by both the country of origin and country of resettlement.

Syrians

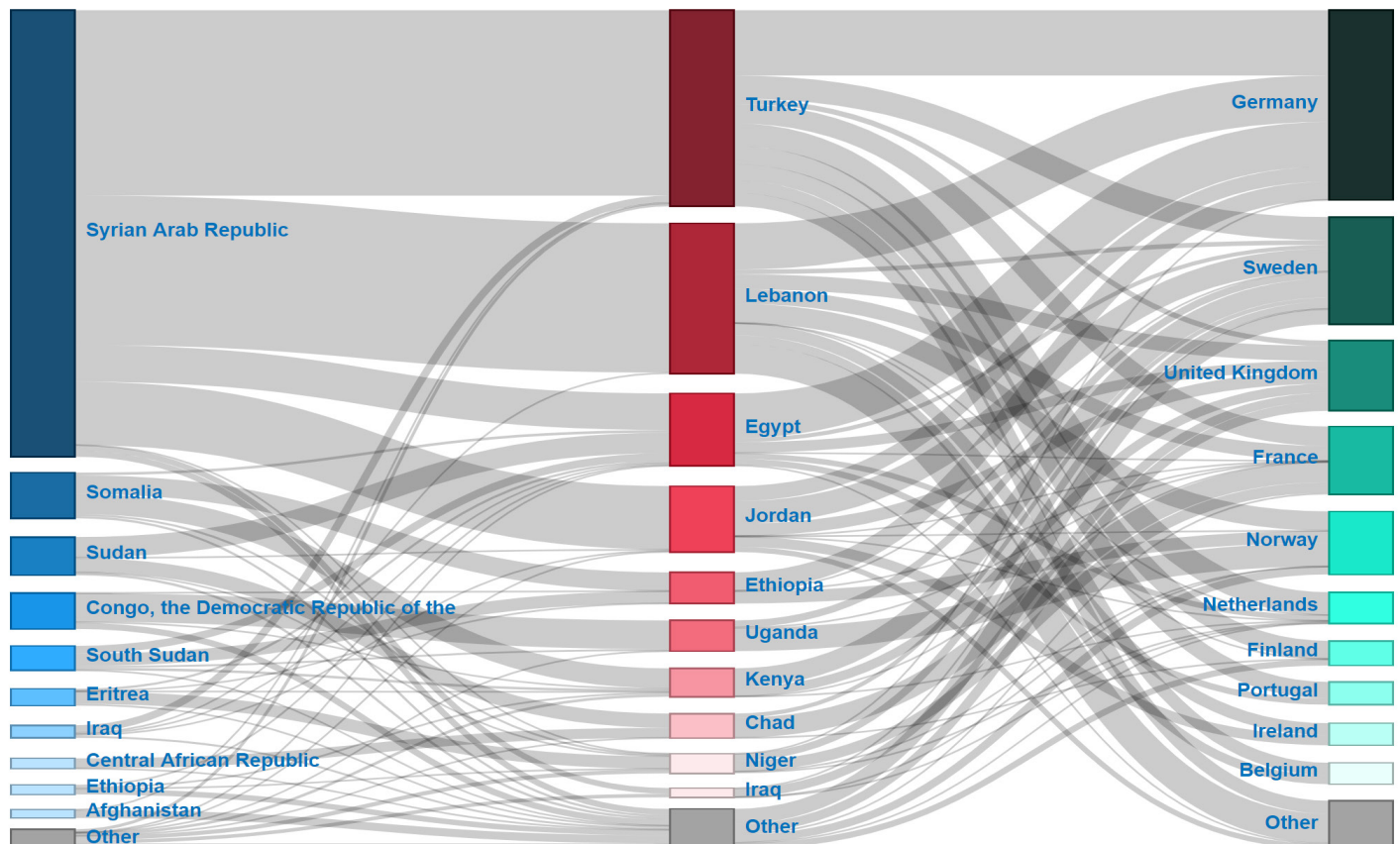


Other nationalities



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.