

KEY FIGURES

(SYRIA –RESPONSE)

Tents: 45,220 (for 227,540 beneficiaries)

Foam mattresses: 270,000

Plastic Sheets: 32,840 (for 120,190 beneficiaries)

Kitchen sets: 78,544 (for 392,720 beneficiaries)

Jerry cans: 126,500 (for 316,250 beneficiaries)

Blankets: 1,596,975

Sanitary napkins:
1,130,880 (for 26,926 women)

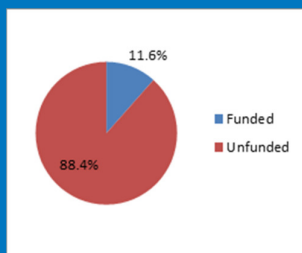
FUNDING 2015

UNHCR Turkey operation

USD 332,518,969.35

Funded: 11.6 %* (USD 38,591,254.31)

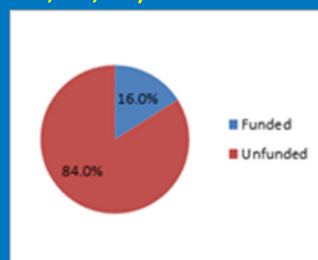
(*excluding contributions earmarked at the Regional Level)



Interagency Syria Response (3RP) in Turkey

USD : 624,089,475

Funded: 16% (USD 100,053,378)



TURKEY

EXTERNAL UPDATE

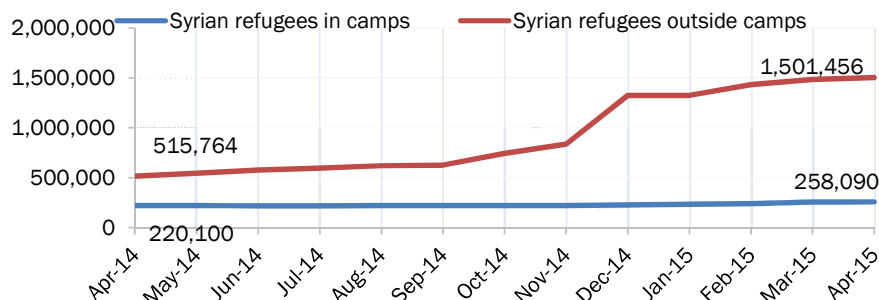
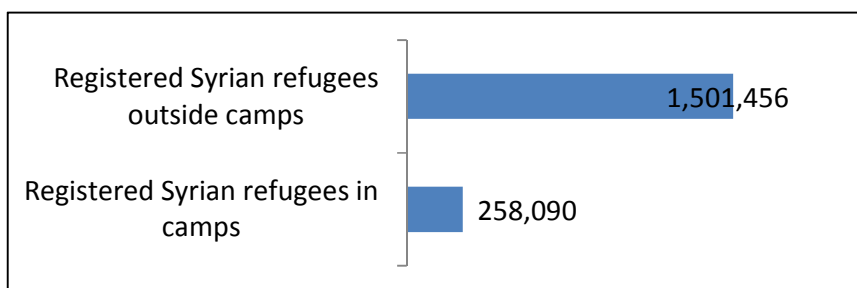
30 April, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- One thousand lives lost in Mediterranean crossings in April, 2015
- EU triples funding for rescue operations in the Mediterranean
- Turkey spends US \$ 6 billion on hosting Syrian refugees
- The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict visits Turkey
- Hacettepe University, Ankara hosts workshop on “Syrians in Turkey: From Emergency Aid policies to Integration Policies.”



Syrian Refugee Population in Turkey: 1,759,546 persons (as of 30 April, 2015)



Danger on the High Seas : Crossings on the Mediterranean claim 1,000 lives this month

“A tragedy of epic proportions is unfolding in the Mediterranean. We, the undersigned, strongly urge European leaders to put human life, rights, and dignity first today when agreeing upon a common response to the humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean.” The joint statement issued by António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees along with Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for International Migration and Development, William L. Swing, Director-General of the International Organisation for Migration and Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on 23 April, 2015 spotlights the horrific journeys refugees and migrants embark on, hoping to find safety on European shores. More than a thousand people have died on the high seas in April alone.



The Italian navy helps a boatload of refugees and migrants trying to reach Europe. ©Italian Navy/M.Sestini

The statement urged the European Union “to go beyond the present minimalist approach in the 10 Point Plan on Migration, which focuses primarily on stemming the arrival of migrants and refugees on its shores.” It noted that the safety, protection needs, and human rights of all migrants and refugees should be at the forefront of the EU response. It called for, among other steps, “a State-led, robust, proactive, and well-resourced search-and-rescue operation, urgently and without delay, with a capacity similar to Mare Nostrum and a clear mission to save lives.” Mare Nostrum refers to an Italian-run search-and-rescue operation that saved hundreds of lives in 2014.

On the 19 April, more than 700 people lost their lives in Libyan waters, about 180 kilometers south of Italy’s Lampedusa. Italian and Maltese naval vessels and merchant ships, along with several helicopters were engaged in the rescue operation coordinated by the Italian authorities. This was the largest loss of life from any incident on the Mediterranean involving refugees and migrants. It follows an incident just a week ago, on 15 April, where 400 lives were lost.

“This disaster confirms how urgent it is to restore a robust rescue-at-sea operation and establish credible legal avenues to reach Europe. Otherwise people seeking safety will continue to perish at sea,” said António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, expressing his shock at the 700 lives lost. “But it also points to the need for a comprehensive European approach to address the root causes that drive so many people to this tragic end.”

This month’s incidents on the Mediterranean, and the more than 1700 deaths and almost 40,000 crossings we have seen so far in 2015 are symptoms of an enormous and intensifying tragedy that is playing out on Europe’s southern frontiers. The boat crossings are not just a migrant phenomenon, they are a refugee one too – half of those who crossed the Mediterranean in 2014 were people seeking refuge from wars and persecution. And for refugees fleeing war, there has to be some alternative to having to cross the Mediterranean in smugglers boats.

European leaders agreed to triple funding for rescue operations aimed at migrant boats in the Mediterranean following crisis talks in Brussels. This follows the meeting in held in Luxemburg with Foreign and Interior Ministers where the 10 point plan was launched on 20 April, 2015. Several EU member states have promised more ships and other resources. The boost in funding to some €120m brings spending back up to about the level of Mare Nostrum, the Italian-run search-and-rescue operation of last year.

Turkey has also been trying to rescue migrants/refugees from the seas as well as preventing people from undertaking dangerous crossings into Europe. For example, in the last week of April, the coast guards and gendarmerie units launched an anti-human smuggling operation in the Mediterranean province of Mersin, detaining 416 migrants, most of whom were Syrians seeking passage into European countries along with several human smugglers. According to reports, 416 migrants traveled to the coastal village of Camlipinar at night. Once there, a raft was used to transfer the migrants to a Mongolian flagged ship named Ole offshore. Working together, the Coast Guard and the gendarmerie detained 345 migrants on shore waiting their turn, 71 on the ship and 10 members of the ship's crew. The ship and the raft were seized. In total, some 799 persons were apprehended Turkish Land Forces while trying to illegally exit from the western borders and 2,252 persons rescued or intercepted by the Coast Guards Command in the month of April.

With regard to the measures announced in Luxembourg and Brussels, UNHCR believes they are an important first step towards collective European action – which is the only approach that can work for a problem of such a large and trans-national nature. UNHCR looks forward to working closely with the EU and its Member States in building on some of the measures that have been announced and in particular, welcomes the tripling of funding for joint maritime operations. The UN Refugee Agency appreciates the assurance given at the summit press conference that this will mean an operation with similar capacity, resources, and scope to the Mare Nostrum operation. It's crucial that everyone's focus is on saving lives, including in the Libyan search and rescue area, which is where most of the distress calls tend to come from.

Addressing other EU measures announced this week, including a 10-point plan of action, there clearly needs to be further elaboration of what these will mean for resettlement and relocation, and facilitating of access to international protection in Europe through other legal channels. Without realistic and substantial alternative channels for people to reach safety, the much-needed increase in international efforts to crack down on smugglers and traffickers is unlikely to be effective.

Engagement with third countries will need to go beyond financing programmes and strengthening law enforcement capacity. Efforts still need to be made to address the root causes pushing people to flee, and to support Governments in truly protecting refugees and others more effectively, ensuring full respect for human rights.



Refugees and migrants rescued at sea by the Italian Coastguard ship Bettica arrive at Port Augusta. Many are women and children. © UNHCR / F. Malavolta

Ultimately, the test will be whether there is a reduction in lives lost, effective access to protection in Europe without having to cross the Mediterranean, and an effective Common European Asylum System, which truly lives up to its commitments of solidarity and responsibility sharing. UNHCR expresses its readiness to work collaboratively with its European partners.

So far in 2015, more than 35,000 asylum seekers and migrants have arrived by boat in southern Europe and some 1700 have died. In 2014, around 219,000 people crossed the Mediterranean, and 3,500 lives were lost.

Turkey: 1.7 million Syrian refugees and still counting

Turkey hosts over 1.7 million –out of the total number of more than 3.9 million Syrian refugees in exile--at a considerable cost of US \$ 6 billion, as reported by the Government of Turkey. Its generosity and hospitality at a time when intolerance is increasing elsewhere, is an example to follow.

Helen Clark, Head of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the former prime minister of New Zealand, visited Turkey and the refugee camps in Nizip I and Nizip II. Impressed with the quality of care at the camps, the *Daily News* quotes her as saying that these camps were “the best in the world.” Figures from the authorities (AFAD)

bring the camp population as of end of April 2015 to 273,639 persons (258,090 Syrians and 15,540 Iraqis), hosted in the 25 camps in south-eastern Turkey. The bulk of Syrian refugees live in urban areas.

Ms. Clark warned that the numbers could grow and by the end of this year, Turkey may be hosting as many as 2.5 million refugees from Syria, as push factors and the desperation to flee to safety, become more extreme. She noted that “Turkey has not seen much international support ...it is doing everything, but it is doing it on its own, and it is extremely expensive.”

Among the most promising developments in Turkey and one that deserves to be emulated by others, was the entry into force of the Law on Foreigners and International Protection (LFIP) in 2014 which provides protection to those deserving of it and outlines the rights and obligations of refugees.



“Thank you, Turkey.” The wall says it all – a latrine block in Ceylanpinar camp, Turkey. Home to 19,000 refugees from Syria. ©UNHCR/N.Bose

Also in 2014, the issuance of the Temporary Protection (TP) regulation, gives a clear legal status to those individuals under TP, and sets out their entitlements and rights, including access to the labour market. All Syrian refugees are granted Temporary protection in Turkey. Those in the camps are provided with shelter and food. All camps have schools that Syrian children attend, many of these teach in Arabic and follow a modified Syrian

curriculum. All refugees in Turkey are entitled to free primary health care, access to

hospitals and schools. UNHCR continues to advocate that refugee children attend Turkish schools as this will ensure high quality education that is certified and recognised. It is commendable that despite staggeringly high numbers, refugees are guaranteed protection and a quality of care that is of high standards. Turkey is the largest and one of the most generous refugee hosting countries in the world today.

The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict visits Turkey

Sexual violence is being committed strategically, in a widespread and systematic manner, and with a high-degree of sophistication by most parties to the conflict in Syria and Iraq, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Bangura, said as she briefed journalists at the UN News Centre, on her “scoping mission” to the region, including Turkey, in April. “Women and girls are at risk and under assault at every point of their lives,” Ms. Bangura said, emphasizing that the threat of brutality followed them “every step of the way...in the midst of active conflict, in areas under control of armed actors, at check-points and border crossings, and in detention facilities.”

Ms. Bangura’s visit to the region lasted from 16 to 29 April, 2015 and took her to Syria and Iraq, as well as to neighbouring countries of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, where she met directly with women who escaped captivity and survived sexual violence. In Turkey, Ms Bangura visited Elbeyli camp with UNHCR and the outreach center funded by UNHCR and run by the International Medical Corps (IMC). She also visited the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) in Gaziantep, where she met with NGOs, UN Agencies and refugee women. In Elbeyli camp, the Deputy Governor in charge of the camp, and the regional representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, briefed her on the general situation in Kilis and about Elbeyli camp in particular. She was guided around the camp and met with refugee representatives.

Syrians in Turkey: From Emergency Aid Policies to Integration Policies

A workshop organized by Hacettepe University's Migration and Politics Research Centre (HUGO) on "Syrians in Turkey: From Emergency Aid policies to Integration Policies" was held on 30 April, 2015 at the Hacettepe University campus in Ankara. The Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM), the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), Ministry of Labour, the Turkish Statistical Institute, as well as Turkish Red Crescent attended the workshop along with academics from several universities who are working in the field of migration and international protection. Following an overall summary by the UN Resident Coordinator, UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and ILO provided statements on their works related to Syrian refugees in Turkey.

UNHCR's remarks focused on three key areas, vital to ensuring socio-economic inclusion: Livelihoods, access to education and perceptions.

UNHCR noted that when given opportunities to be self-reliant and productive in their countries of asylum, refugees – of all education levels and skills sets - have been more willing to return to their countries of origin. Issues such as pride – going back in a better (or at least not worse position) than when they left – are factors. But also, persons who are active, productive and self-reliant wish to return to help build up their country. Providing humanitarian aid is an important and necessary live-saving component of the response to a humanitarian crisis, however, experience has also shown that in such situation dependency can ensue, making it more difficult for refugees to make the choice to return; and the actual re-integration process itself becomes more challenging.



Refugees in Kahramanmaraş camp, Turkey, selling clothes in the informal market place. ©UNHCR/N.Bose

dignity, and provides for the full enjoyment of human rights. Helping refugees and other persons of concern achieve self-reliance is an important part of UNHCR's work throughout all phases of displacement. Experience has shown that creating livelihood and self-reliance opportunities supports refugees' ability to take responsibility for their own lives, and enhances their contributions to the communities and host countries where they are living.

The legal framework in Turkey will allow refugees, including persons under temporary protection, access to the labour market. An important next step is the Draft Law on Employment of Foreigners, which will set out the parameters for this access. UNHCR sees this not only as an opportunity for Syrians and other refugees in Turkey, but also as an opportunity for Turkey itself.

Other crucial elements of integration are in the education sector, including programming to support language acquisition of children, youth and adults; as well as the expansion of education services for children. UNHCR advocates for and supports the integration of Syrian and other refugee children in Turkey into the Turkish school system. Infrastructure support and teacher development will benefit Turkish children and Turkish families.



Its break time at the school in Kahramanmaraş camp, Turkey. About 4,500 Syrian refugee children are enrolled at the school. ©UNHCR/N.Bose

UNHCR is working with the Ministry of National Education in the implementation of an EU project in education, with generous funding received from the EU Delegation of 10 million Euro. Key aspects of this project look at the long-term perspective and the need to strengthen access to the national education system and vocational training, as well as language training.

In terms of social integration, it is understood that social acceptance is not simply about ensuring access to education, language, vocational training and economic self-reliance activities. It is also about tackling negative perceptions and fostering interaction between refugees and their Turkish neighbours. Turkish society and the Turkish people have been incredibly generous and hospitable.

As the HUGO study on Social Acceptance pointed out, however, there are some unfounded negative perceptions about Syrians – that they are thieves, criminals, prostitutes, husband-stealers. UNHCR is supporting community centres in a number of cities and districts which provide opportunities for Syrians and their Turkish neighbours to interact.

The meeting concluded with academics sharing their insights on Syrians in Turkey, the need for a migration and integration policy, and its economic, socio-political and sociological aspects. Most participants were of the opinion that integration in the context of the Syrian refugee crisis in Turkey requires their socio-economic inclusion, so that they can contribute to their own well-being and that of their families, and to their host country as well.

Update on donor funding

UNHCR Turkey received a contribution of USD 19.5 million from the United States Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) to fund activities for Syrian refugees in Turkey in 2015 under the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP). The Assistant Secretary of BRPM, Ms. Anne Richard was briefed extensively by UNHCR Representative a.i. on the current operational context, UNHCR's response and programming, use of funds, priorities and funding gaps during her visit to Turkey in April 2015.

A total of US\$ 100,053,378 has been received as of 29 April, 2015 by 3RP participating agencies in Turkey.

The EU Delegation's newly appointed Head of Section C, Institution Building and Civil Society, Mr. Michael Rupp paid a visit to UNHCR with his team. He was extensively briefed on the current operational context, recent developments, progress in projects that are being implemented with EU funding as well as upcoming proposals for IPA and other type of EU funding in Turkey.

Anne Brasseur, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe conducted a mission to Turkey, during which she had meetings with the Prime Minister and the President of Turkey. Before travelling to Gaziantep and Kilis on 8 April, she met with the UNHCR Representative a.i. in Ankara. Ms. Brasseur was briefed about operations and the current situation of Syrian refugees in Turkey. UNHCR teams were present during her field visits in Southeast.

The final report on the USD 4 million contribution from Japan in 2014 to UNHCR Turkey for the Syria response has been submitted to the donor. The contribution covered costs for registration training to Government officials, running of child friendly spaces, interpretation services for registration and RSD, training to legal workers, awareness raising on SGBV, distribution of cooking facilities in camps and winter clothing both in and out of camps and distribution of multi-purpose cash vouchers out of camps.

UNHCR Turkey has submitted the final report on the Qatar Red Crescent pledge of USD 10 million made in 2014. The pledge includes an in-kind donation of 10,000 tents handed over to AFAD, 315,090 high thermal blankets handed over to AFAD and Turkish Red Crescent for distribution in camps and to UNHCR NGO partners for distribution outside camps in Suruc where approximately 190,000 Syrian refugees fled to in September 2014. The pledge also includes a cash contribution of USD 140,508 to support logistics and warehouse costs for the tents and blankets.

Capacity Building

Building capacity with government authorities is a key focus of UNHCR. As a part of its structural planning, the specific responsibilities of 'junior migration experts', at the Provincial Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) who will be functioning out in the field, have been determined and each expert was assigned to their department. Following this division, UNHCR started delivering its advanced trainings on 'international protection and RSD' targeting the field staff of Department of International Protection under DGMM. Three workshops were organised in April, with

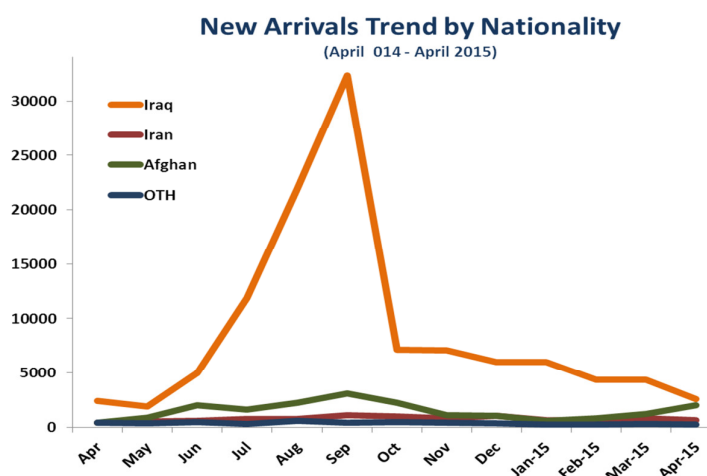
one more to follow in May. The workshops will target 160 migration experts in all. The trainings focus on the interviewing techniques, drafting legal analysis and country of origin (COI) information. These sessions were complemented with several case studies on different claims and role plays.

UNHCR provided a one day training to Arabic speaking NGO staff based in Hatay. Thirty Arabic staff from various NGOs such as STL (Support to Life), KADER (Chaldean-Assyrian Humanitarian Organisation), IRC (International Rescue Committee), IMC (International Medical Corps) and YUVA (Association for Adult Education, Implementation and Research) attended the training. Topics covered during the training were International Protection, UNHCR's mandate, role and activities of UNHCR in Turkey, Temporary Protection, referral mechanisms for refugee women and children and the 'Do No Harm' Principle. In addition, open discussion sessions were facilitated for sharing experiences from the field and implementation gaps observed concerning national legislation, if any.

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

New Arrivals

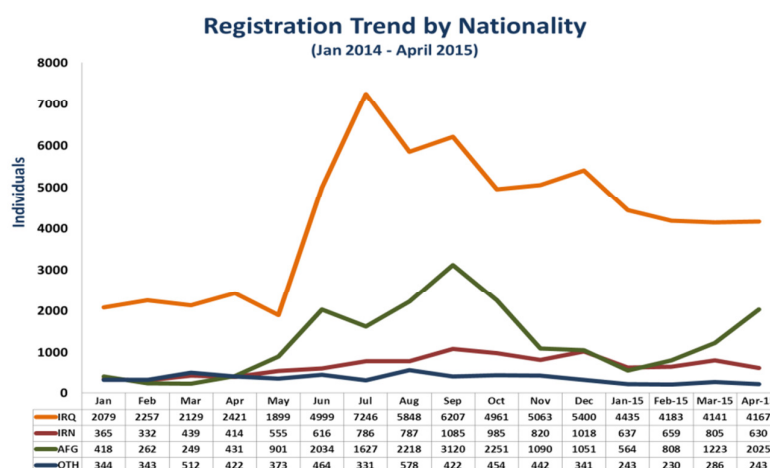
In April 2015, a total of 5,490 new asylum seekers approached the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM) office for registration. Of this number, 2,592 were Iraqis, 630 were Iranians, 2,025 were Afghans and 243 were other nationals. There is a 65% increase in the number of Afghan arrivals and a significant decrease in the number of Iraqi new arrivals compared to last month.



Registration

UNHCR Partner Registration (ASAM)

A total of 3,549 cases/7,065 individuals were registered by ASAM in April. 1,577 cases/4,167 individuals were from Iraq, 414 cases/ 630 individuals were from Iran, 1,364 cases/2,025 individuals were from Afghanistan and 194 cases/243 individuals were other nationals.



UNHCR Registration

ASAM partner registration is followed by in-depth UNHCR registration¹. UNHCR registered a total of 424 cases/964 Individuals in April 2015, which includes interviews on site in Ankara as well as on mission. This includes 211 Iraqi cases/584 individuals, 163 Iranian cases/281 individuals, 8 Afghan cases/36 individuals and 42 Other nationality cases/63 individuals.

Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

UNHCR Turkey is the biggest RSD operation globally. 310 cases /597 individuals underwent full Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews in April 2015.

Registration 2015					
		April 2015		Cumulative (Jan - April 2015)	
		Case	Ind	Case	Ind
Partner Registration	IRQ	1,577	4,167	6,683	16,938
	IRN	414	630	1,839	2,732
	AFG	1,364	2,025	3,205	4,620
	OTH	194	243	809	1,000
	Total	3,549	7,065	12,536	25,290
UNHCR Registration	IRQ	211	584	1,379	3,150
	IRN	163	281	950	1,508
	AFG	8	36	128	248
	OTH	42	63	182	300
	Total	424	964	2,639	5,206

Humanitarian residence permit, Circular 12 February 2015

Following the adoption on 12 February of the Circular relating to Iraqi Nationals who entered Turkey after 1 May 2014, the Turkish authorities have granted the option to Iraqi nationals to apply either for a one-year Humanitarian Residence Permit or for International Protection. With both options providing similar access to basic services, it is anticipated that a significant proportion of Iraqi nationals may opt for the humanitarian residence, particularly as it, unlike the international protection regime allows freedom of movement. As such persons will not be registered by UNHCR; the number of pending applicants will decrease, as will the corresponding waiting period.

UNHCR had two meetings on 17 and 20 April with the Government, Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) to discuss the implementation of the new circular and the impact of this on number of Iraqi nationals seeking international protection in Turkey.

END.

Donor Countries of UNHCR's Regional Syrian Refugee Programme for Turkey:



Other Donor Countries Contributing to UNHCR's Regional Syrian Refugee Programme in alphabetical order:



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¹ ASAM registration is recognized as UNHCR partner registration.