

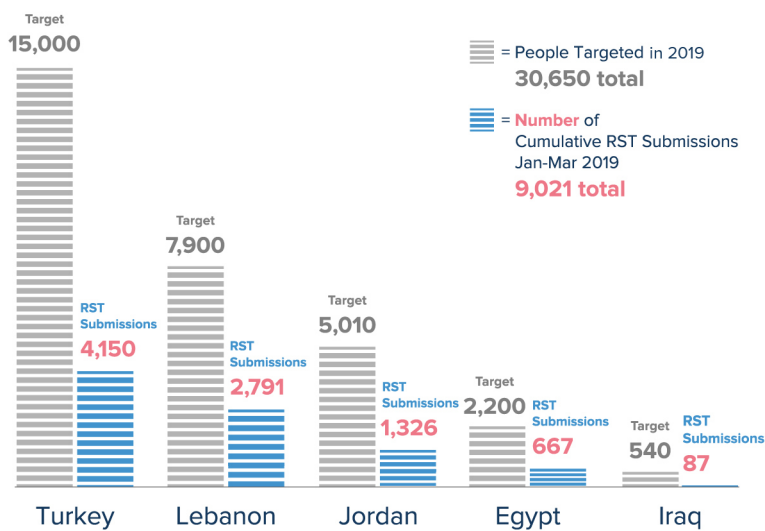
Update: Durable Solutions for Syrian Refugees

The March / April 2019 update on durable solutions for Syrian refugees focuses on:

- i) Refugee Intentions Survey; ii) Civil documentation and Registration booklet; iii) Resettlement

Resettlement and Return Figures

Resettlement Targets and Submissions Jan - Mar 2019

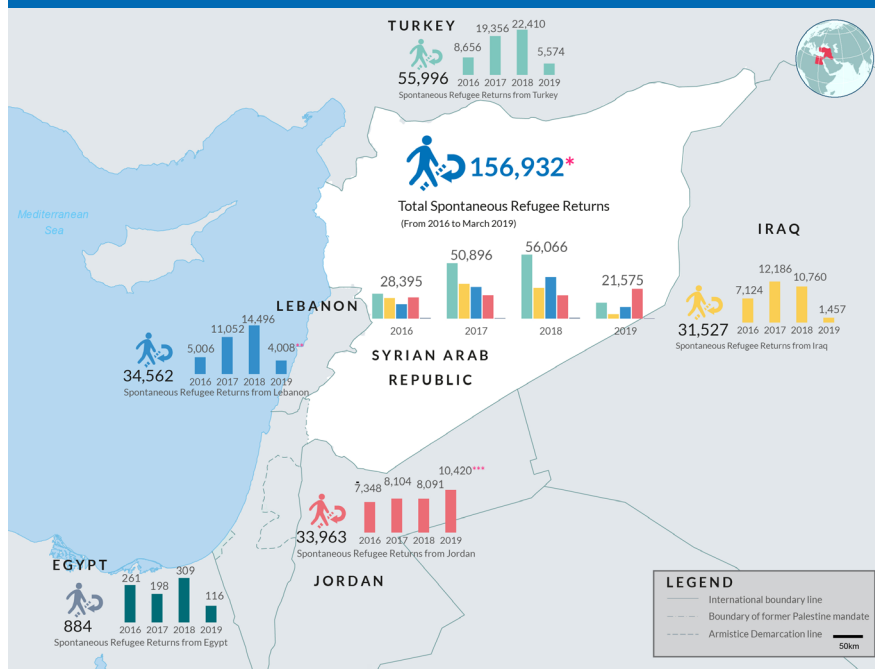


Resettlement Needs

10% of Syrian refugees are in need of resettlement and meet resettlement criteria

0.5% of Syrian refugees will be submitted for resettlement (only one in 20 of those in need) (total 27,277 submissions in 2018)

Self-Organized Syrian refugee returns as verified by UNHCR* as of 31 March 2019



50,900
Refugee returns in 2017

56,047
Refugee returns in 2018

21,575
Refugee returns so far in 2019

* The numbers reported are only those monitored/verified by UNHCR and do not reflect the entire returns.

** These figures include only those verified by UNHCR. General Security reported additional figures from their group returns and these total 484 individuals were not known to UNHCR.

*** The figures following the re-opening of the border in October 2018 are tentative. UNHCR identifies returns based on departure lists regularly obtained from the Government.

data: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria_durable_solutions

Refugee Intentions Survey

In an effort to continue monitoring refugees' intentions and aspirations vis-à-vis return and in turn inform interagency operational planning, between November 2018 and January 2019, UNHCR conducted its [fifth Refugee Perception and Intention Survey \(RPIS\)](#) in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon. Due to the operational context, Turkey did not take part in this RPIS exercise.

In line with the results from the previous surveys, the findings show that voluntary repatriation in safety and with dignity remains the preferred durable solution for Syrian refugees, with the majority continuing to express their hope to return one day. Survey results indicate that as a regional average, 75 per cent of Syrian refugees in the four countries where the survey was conducted are hopeful to return to Syria one day. However, only a minority, 5.9 per cent, intend to return in the next 12 months.

It is noteworthy that while the findings of the RPIS report represent an aggregation of regional findings, individual countries may have specific variations. For instance, those hoping to return to Syria one day reaches as high as 86 per cent in Lebanon and those planning to return within the next 12 months was only 2.1 per cent in Iraq.

Further, when asked about the key drivers influencing their decision-making on return, respondents mentioned security, access to basic services and shelter, military exemptions, and the need for job

opportunities. These were essentially the top factors among all refugees surveyed regardless of their current return intentions. Importantly, these factors also indicate the areas where obstacles will need to be removed in order for refugees' intentions to change.

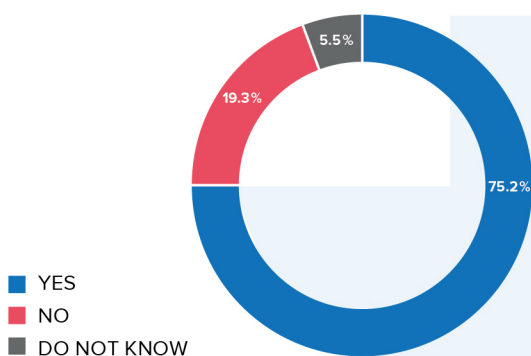
Also, 51 per cent of those undecided about their return plans reported that "go-and-see" visits are an "important" element in order to make a final decision.

Finally, a number of refugees reported not having sufficient information on their area of origin, including in relation to security, military exemptions and access to services and property, before returning. Therefore, ensuring safe, unhindered and regular humanitarian access inside Syria will not only enable provision of assistance, but is also essential in order to present reliable, objective and timely information to refugees so they can make informed decisions on their future.

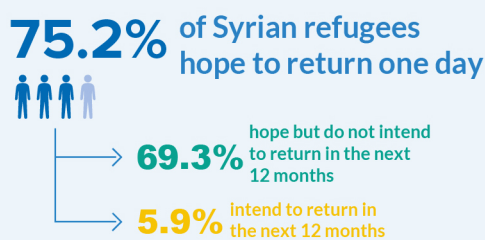
While the number of those who are undecided about return is decreasing, the percentage of Syrian refugees with no hope to return remains relatively steady. Therefore, it is crucial to maintain a comprehensive protection and solutions strategy. Such a strategy seeks to:

- 1) support host country resilience;
- 2) enable refugee self-reliance;
- 3) expand access to resettlement and other safe pathways to a third country, and;
- 4) plan for and support voluntary, safe, and dignified return of refugees to Syria.

DO YOU HOPE TO GO BACK TO SYRIA ONE DAY?



WHILE YOU HOPE TO RETURN TO SYRIA ONE DAY, DO YOU PLAN TO RETURN IN THE NEXT YEAR?



Civil documentation and Registration booklet

In cooperation with the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior, UNHCR Syria published a civil documentation booklet to provide key information and answers to frequently asked questions on the procedures related to issuance of civil documents and registration of civil events.

The booklet provides guidance on the substance, entitlements, validity and procedures related to personal documents (identity card, family booklet, individual and family civil registry statements, and national passport) and family registration (marriage, birth, divorce and death). Though mainly focusing on procedures for applicants from inside Syria, the booklet also provides information on applications for civil documents at Syrian representations abroad. The booklet includes contact numbers of legal aid centers and partners offering legal assistance on personal civil status documents and documentation process following civil status events.

The booklet is available on the websites of [UNHCR](#) and the Syrian Ministry of interior and [here](#), and 200,000 copies were distributed through partners, community centres, and civil affairs offices in 14 governorates, immigration departments, medical facilities and five 3RP countries.

Resettlement

Resettlement needs for Syrian refugees continue to far outpace the places provided by resettlement countries. 2019 has unfortunately – so far – illustrated a continuation of this trend. The decrease in resettlement places for Syrian refugees began in 2017, which saw a drastic reduction of quotas available for Syrians. The main cause of this decrease was a global drop in the number of resettlement places available, but also a shifting of resettlement opportunities to other (global) priority situations.

As a result, only 28,046 Syrian refugees were submitted for resettlement from the region in 2018. This figure is significantly lower than previous years and a 63 per cent reduction from the all-time high of 76,693 submissions in 2016. While some States' individual quotas are still to be confirmed, the outlook for 2019 forecasts a continued downward trend. Moreover, given that resettlement needs of Syrian refugees are currently projected at over 600,000 persons, refugees are now remaining in countries of asylum for longer, compounding their needs and resulting in increased pressure on assistance programmes and vital services. Despite the sharp decrease in available resettlement places, and as was reiterated in the co-chairs declaration of the Brussels III Conference on “Supporting the future of Syria and the region,” it remains vital that resettlement is pursued and available as a durable solution – with efforts presently being made to expand the number of resettlement countries and continued advocacy for placements in existing resettlement countries.

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Further Information: http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria_durable_solutions