



UNHCR
PROJECTED
**GLOBAL
RESETTLEMENT
NEEDS**

2022



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Front cover photo: Ethiopia, January 2021. Eritrean refugee Hallima (in yellow), 45, and her daughter Dunya, 19, are photographed at Mai Aini camp in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, during a visit of UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi. © UNHCR/Petterik Wiggers



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RESTRICTED DISTRIBUTION
27TH ANNUAL TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS ON RESETTLEMENT



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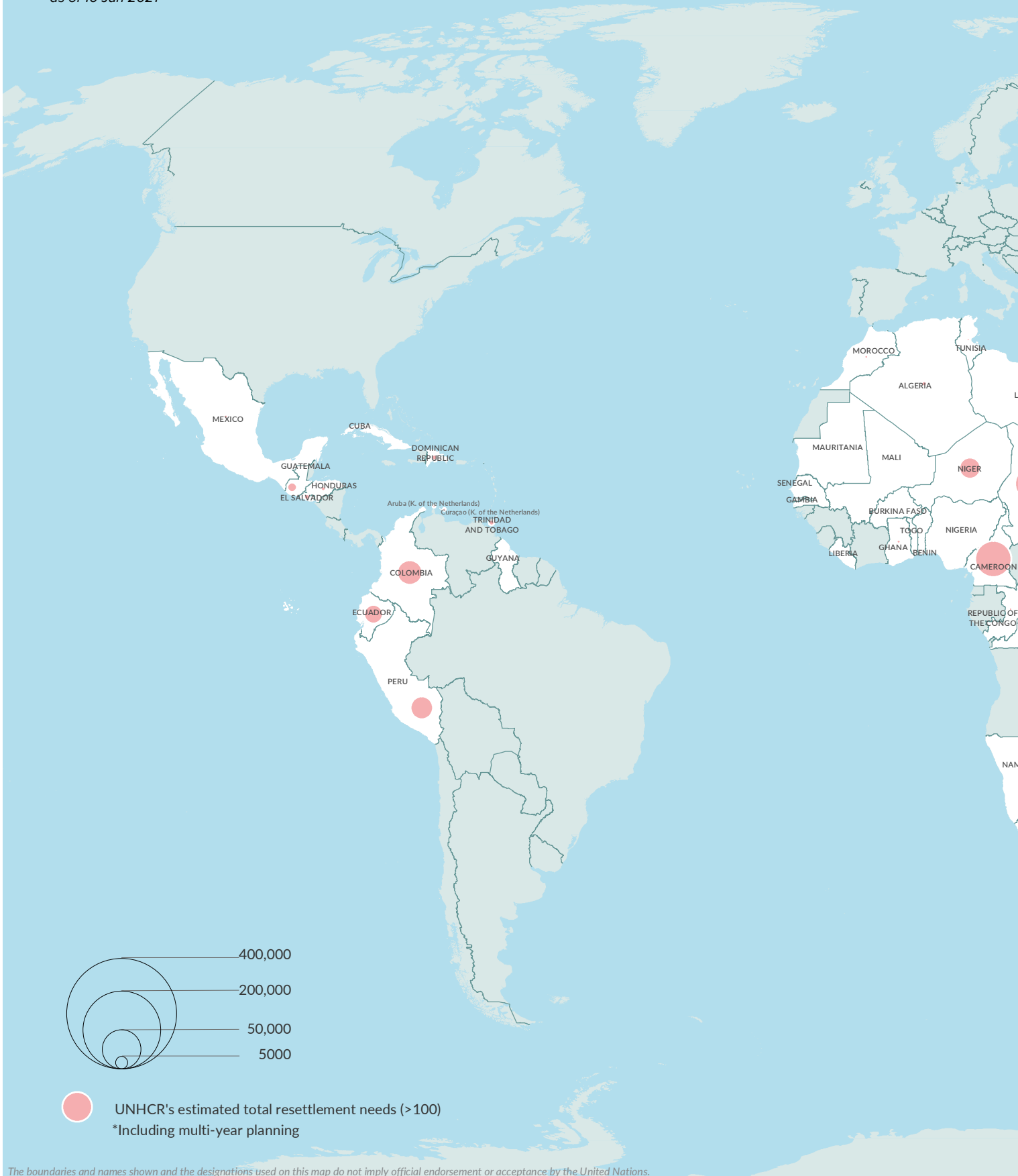
TABLE OF CONTENTS

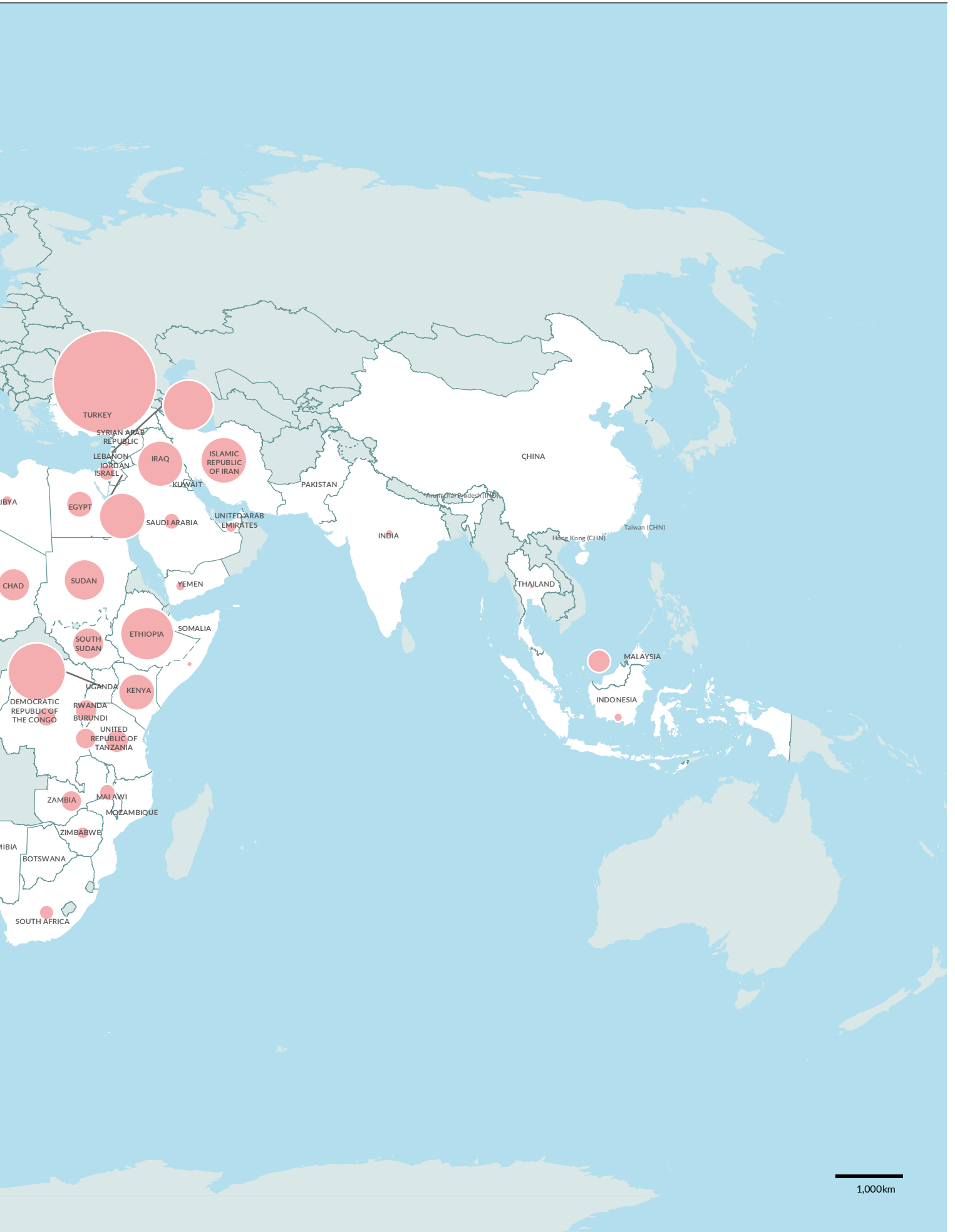
WORLD MAP: UNHCR PROJECTED GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT NEEDS BY COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	6
WORLD MAP: UNHCR PROJECTED GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT NEEDS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	8
INTRODUCTION	10
PROJECTED GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT NEEDS FOR 2022	13
KEY PRIORITIES	15
TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN 2020	17
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THREE-YEAR STRATEGY (2019-2021) ON RESETTLEMENT AND COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS	18
URGENT AND EMERGENCY RESETTLEMENT PROCESSING	24
AFRICA	30
MAP – AFRICA: UNHCR’S TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS FOR 2022 BY COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	32
AFRICA OVERVIEW	33
AFRICA: 2022 PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS	42
AFRICA: REFUGEE VOICE	43
AFRICA FIELD STORY: CHAD	44
AFRICA FIELD STORY: SOUTHERN AFRICA	46
AFRICA FIELD STORY: ZAMBIA	48
THE AMERICAS	50
MAP – THE AMERICAS: UNHCR’S TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS FOR 2022 BY COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	52
THE AMERICAS OVERVIEW	53
THE AMERICAS: 2022 PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS	59
THE AMERICAS FIELD STORY: ECUADOR	60
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	62
MAP – ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: UNHCR’S TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS FOR 2022 BY COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	64

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC OVERVIEW	66
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: 2022 PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS	69
EUROPE	70
MAP – EUROPE: UNHCR’S TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS FOR 2022 BY COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	72
EUROPE OVERVIEW	74
EUROPE: 2022 PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS	77
EUROPE REFUGEE VOICE	78
EUROPE FIELD STORY: TURKEY	80
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	82
MAP – MENA: UNHCR’S TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS FOR 2022 BY COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	84
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA OVERVIEW	86
MENA: 2022 PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS	91
MENA FIELD STORY: MOROCCO	92
MENA FIELD STORY: JORDAN	94
MENA FIELD STORY: IRAQ	96
ANNEXES	98
ANNEX 1: STANDARDIZED METHODOLOGY	98
ANNEX 2: UNHCR PROJECTED GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT NEEDS 2022	100
ANNEX 3: UNHCR GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT STATISTICAL REPORT	118

UNHCR's total projected resettlement needs for 2022 by country of asylum*

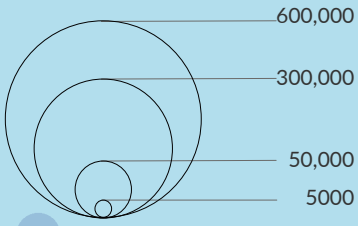
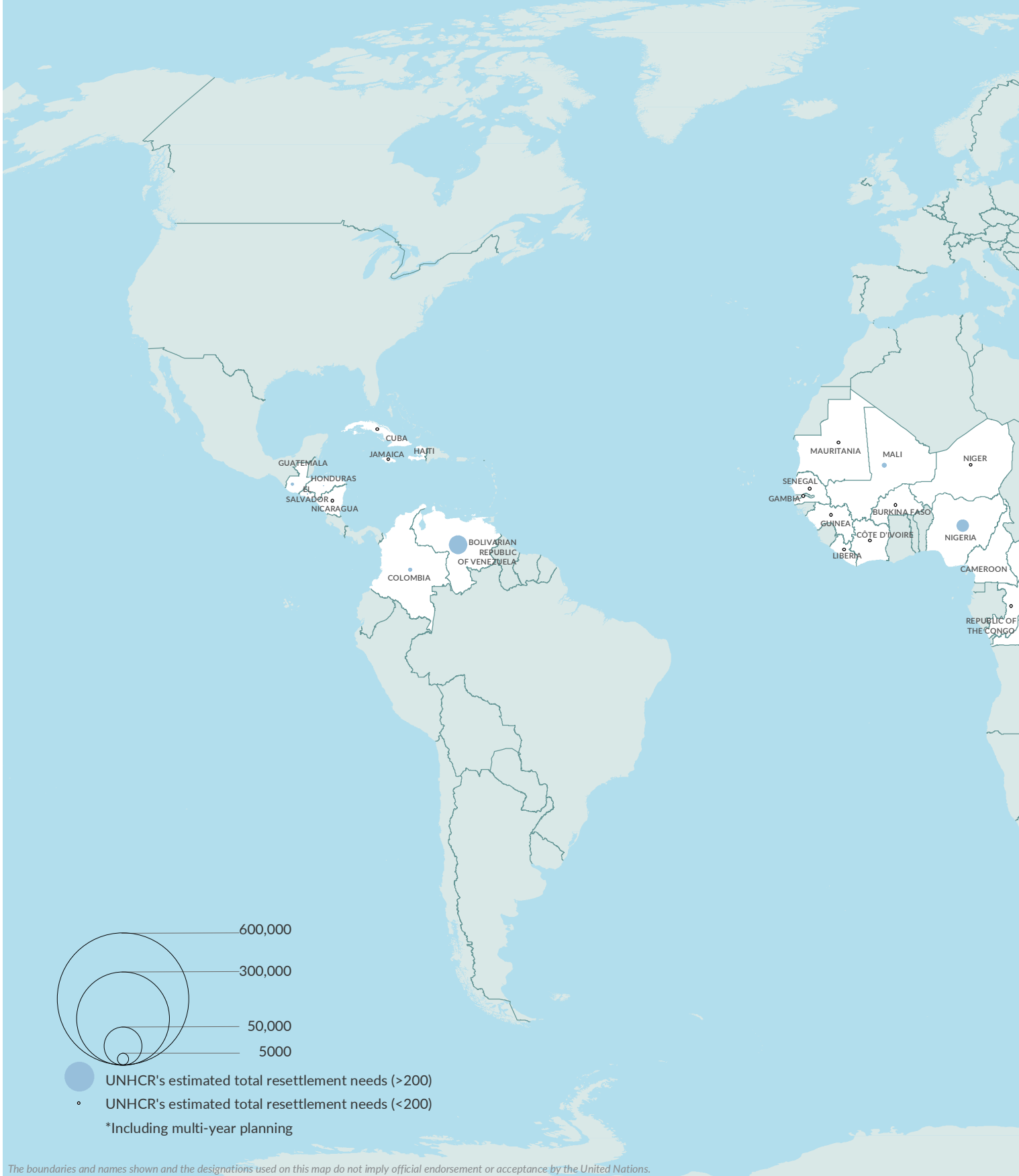
as of 10 Jun 2021





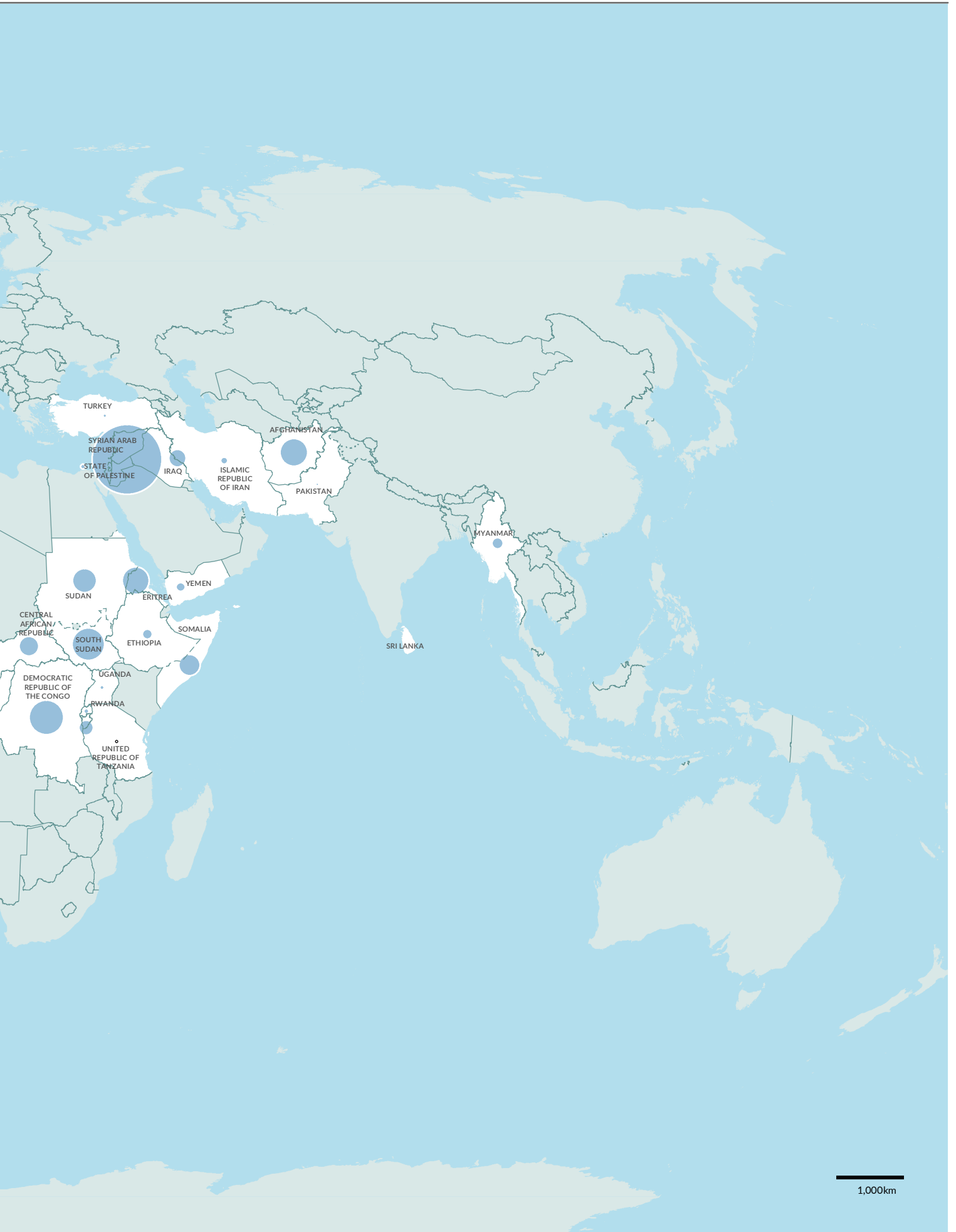
UNHCR's total projected resettlement needs for 2022 by country of origin*

as of 15 Jun 2021



- UNHCR's estimated total resettlement needs (>200)
- UNHCR's estimated total resettlement needs (<200)

*Including multi-year planning





INTRODUCTION

The background of the page is a close-up photograph of a child's face, specifically a young girl with light brown hair and eyes, looking directly at the camera. The image is viewed through a fine, grey mesh screen, which creates a grid-like pattern over the entire scene. The child is wearing a light-colored top with a yellow collar and red buttons. The bottom edge of the image shows a wooden surface, likely a table or desk.

Lebanon, August 2020. Syrian refugee children look through a window in their shelter during the visit of UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi to the Bekaa Valley. © UNHCR/Houssam Hariri



For 70 years, UNHCR and its partners have been on the frontlines of every displacement crisis – yet 2020 was a year unlike any other, with outbreaks of violence in Sudan’s West-Darfur, fighting escalating in North-West Syria, deepening of the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, devastation in Lebanon and Lesbos, thousands fleeing Tigray seeking safety as well as the world’s fastest growing displacement crisis in the Sahel. Conflicts continue and safe return home is still not a viable option for many refugees. In the current context of growing forced displacement, resettlement continues to be a critical protection tool, providing protection and solutions for refugees who face specific or urgent protection risks.

International standards of refugee protection were severely tested in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 situation. At the height of the pandemic, large numbers of countries fully or partially closed their borders, with almost a hundred among them making no exception for people seeking asylum, seriously limiting access to international protection. Some also returned asylum-seekers to their country of origin during this period, risking *refoulement* of many in need of protection, while others increasingly resorted to the disproportionate use of immigration detention. In addition to health and protection challenges, the pandemic also threatened social and economic rights for those forcibly displaced, with many refugees losing their jobs or being evicted from their homes. Lockdowns and increased family tensions led to spikes in gender-based violence, forcing some refugees into survival sex and child marriages. Globally, there was a significant increase of discrimination, stigmatization, and xenophobia against refugees and displaced people, further exacerbating tensions with local communities.

As a result of the pandemic, border closures and travel restrictions necessitated the temporary hold on many resettlement movements during the year. Resettlement states had to cancel selection missions, while UNHCR staff and partners had to reduce resettlement activities significantly, and most staff and partners were required to work from home due to COVID restrictions. In order to maximize the use of resettlement places, UNHCR operations gradually reconfigured their resettlement processing modalities to facilitate remote interviews and processing, keeping in mind procedural integrity and safety of refugees, staff members, and receiving communities.

Many resettlement States similarly stepped up by shifting to more flexible processing through remote virtual interviews and/or expanded dossier consideration of cases. These new tools created safer alternatives to ensure the continuance of resettlement activities and sent an important signal to host governments and refugees that the pursuit of durable solutions remained a priority throughout the pandemic.

Despite the many challenges in 2020, 75 UNHCR operations still managed to jointly submit 39,534 refugees to 25 countries. Keeping in mind a three-month hold on resettlement departures and other travel restrictions, a total of 22,770 refugees still departed to 22 states. In 2021, the impact of COVID-19 remains significant as all resettlement actors struggle to regain their previous capacity.



Democratic Republic of the Congo, February 2021. A refugee woman holds her son. © UNHCR/Adrienne Surprenant

PROJECTED GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT NEEDS FOR 2022

REGION OF ASYLUM	CASES	PERSONS
Africa	162 948	593 598
Asia and the Pacific	39 286	106 400
Europe	106 700	401 740
MENA	91 857	315 778
The Americas	17 662	55 640
Grand Total	418 453	1 473 156

In 2022, UNHCR estimates that global resettlement needs will slightly increase to 1,473,156 persons, as compared to 2021, when 1,445,383 were estimated to be in need of resettlement. This increase is reflected in all regions except for Africa and Europe. Despite a four to five per cent decrease in the needs from last year, the Africa and Europe regions remain the regions with the highest projected resettlement needs, at 593,598 and 401,740 respectively for 2022.

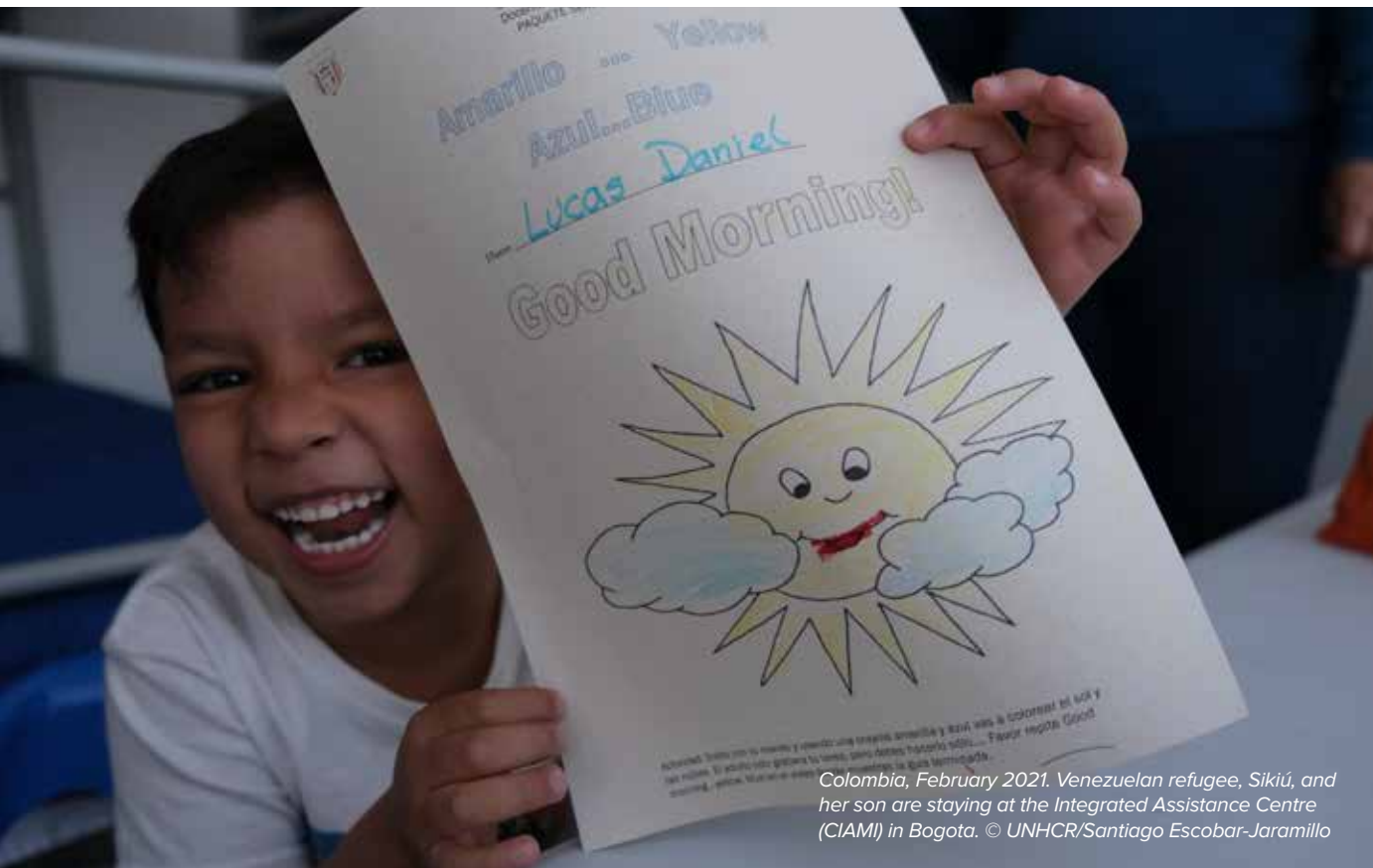
For the sixth year in a row, at just over 610,000 individuals, Syrian refugees represent the population with the highest global resettlement needs. Syrian refugees account for 42 per cent of the total needs globally, up from 41 per cent in 2021. For 2022, refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

(DRC) and South Sudan are estimated to have the second and third highest needs globally, with around ten and nine per cent respectively. Refugees from Afghanistan, at seven per cent of the needs, and Eritrean refugees, with six per cent of the total global needs, round out the top five.

The projected resettlement needs out of the Africa region (593,598 refugees) cover 33 different countries of asylum and represent 40 per cent of the total global needs. These needs reflect numerous protracted refugee situations across the continent, such as that of the Congolese, Central Africans, Eritreans, Somalis, and Sudanese; ongoing conflicts and instability in countries such as Ethiopia, Nigeria, and South Sudan; and mixed migration flows across the Sahel Region.

Projected resettlement needs in the Americas region increased significantly for 2022 (by 47 per cent compared to 2021) and stand at 55,640 individuals. Venezuelan refugees represent 83 per cent of those needs, as the deteriorating human rights and socio economic situation in Venezuela have resulted in over five million people fleeing the country by the beginning of 2020, the vast majority of whom have fled to other countries in the Americas.

The projected resettlement needs for the Asia and the Pacific region have seen a slight increase from 2021 to 2022, with a seven per cent increase (106,400 in 2022 compared to 99,470 in 2021). Afghan refugees continue to make up the largest population group in need, with 79,500 in Iran alone.



Colombia, February 2021. Venezuelan refugee, Sikiú, and her son are staying at the Integrated Assistance Centre (CIAMI) in Bogota. © UNHCR/Santiago Escobar-Jaramillo

For 2022, the resettlement needs in Europe again remain high, despite a decrease by five per cent from the previous year (from 423,600 in 2021 to 401,740 in 2022). Syrian refugees represent over 91 per cent of the needs out of Turkey, with 364,140 individuals, while refugees from Iraq and Afghanistan each make up five and three per cent of the needs respectively. The majority of refugees in Turkey find themselves in protracted situations.

A thirteen per cent increase in resettlement needs is estimated in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region for 2022 (from 275,981 in 2021 to 315,778 in 2022). Three-quarters of the needs are for Syrian refugees (247,326), followed by Iraqi (17,814), Eritrean (12,745), and Sudanese refugees (12,332).

KEY PRIORITIES

In 2022, UNHCR will continue to focus on three priority areas and urges States to follow these key priorities to maximize advocacy, coordination, cooperation, and possible strategic impacts. These priority situations are Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey in the context of the ongoing Syria conflict; the 15 countries along the Central Mediterranean Situation and Rwanda; and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) countries. In addition, UNHCR calls on resettlement States for unallocated quotas that can be used in a flexible way for urgent and emergency cases across the globe and outside these priority areas.

The Priority Situations Core Group (PSCG), established in September 2019 under the chairmanship of Sweden and Ireland, is a multilateral forum on resettlement and complementary pathways for the admission of refugees. On 10 June 2021, the United States of America (USA) and Canada will formally take over the PSCG Chairmanship. The main objectives of the PSCG are to optimize, coordinate, promote, and ensure support for resettlement and complementary pathways, and to maximise the strategic impact of resettlement programmes in refugee-hosting countries, initially with a focus on the Syria and Central Mediterranean situations. In 2020, the PSCG organized a three-day field visit to Istanbul as well as an adjudicators meeting in Sweden. Other visits planned for later in the year had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and were replaced by several virtual meetings.

Syria Situation

The Syria crisis will soon mark its tenth anniversary and remains, by some distance, the largest refugee crisis in the world. Today, the five main refugee hosting countries – Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt – continue to generously host over 5.5 million refugees, while also contending with increasing needs among host communities and larger swathes of their population due to the multiple, overlapping crises. While host governments and the international community stepped up their support to the extent possible, new waves of the pandemic and its after-effects are hitting the region and vulnerabilities are likely to worsen. The most vulnerable remain in day-to-day survival mode. Competition over resources, overstretched services, and scarcer livelihoods opportunities

are increasing risks of tensions between and within communities. Many Syrian refugees live in socio-economic destitution, with limited access to formal employment and basic services, and are vulnerable to protection risks, including exploitation, sexual and gender-based violence, child labour, early marriage, and, in some instances, arrest, detention, deportation, and refoulement.

With over 610,000 Syrian refugees estimated to be in need of resettlement in 2022, and despite the ongoing commitment from States, a renewed sense of urgency and collaborative action is needed to preserve – and if possible, expand – resettlement and complementary pathways opportunities for Syrians in the years ahead, to ensure ongoing protection and solutions.

Central Mediterranean Situation

Due to continuing insecurity and conflict, notably in the Sahel but also in other regions of sub-Saharan Africa, mass forced population displacement continued unabated, and countless individuals and communities have lost their homes and livelihoods, while the most vulnerable have started to sell their belongings to survive. The socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 also seriously affected the wellbeing and resilience of entire populations, both in countries of origin as well as in countries along the routes which host refugees and asylum-seekers. The dangerous irregular mixed movements of refugees and migrants across the Sahara Desert towards and through North African countries, as well as via the sea routes to Europe, continue to take a devastating toll on human life. Extrajudicial killings, being left to die in the desert, torture, including to extract ransoms, gender-based violence and exploitation, forced labour, forced marriage, and other gross human rights abuses are among the many risks faced by people as they travel from West Africa or the East and Horn of Africa to and through North Africa.

It is estimated that almost 367,000 refugees residing in the 15 countries along the Central Mediterranean route and Rwanda will be in need of resettlement in 2022.

CRRF Roll-out countries

The Global Compact on Refugees, affirmed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2019, put in place a new Comprehensive Refugee Response model, envisioning more predictable and sustainable support to ease pressures on countries hosting refugees, enhance opportunities for refugees to become self-reliant, expand refugees' access to third-country solutions, such as resettlement and other pathways, and support conditions in refugees' countries of origin so that they may be able to return in safety and dignity. The Compact sets out arrangements to ensure that both refugees and their host communities benefit from this support. A central arrangement is the Global Refugee Forum, where States and other actors come together every four years to share good practices and contribute with financial support, technical expertise, and policy changes to help reach the goals of the Compact. The

first Global Refugee Forum took place in December 2019 and was a true milestone in building solidarity with the world's refugees and the countries and communities that host them.

There are 15 CRRF countries across three geographic regions: Africa (Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia), the Americas (Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama), and Asia (Afghanistan). More than 362,140 refugees living in CRRF countries will be in need of resettlement in 2022. Major commitments to the CRRF have been made on the part of these host countries. Since resettlement is one of the key tangible mechanisms to show international solidarity and responsibility sharing with States hosting large numbers of refugees, supporting resettlement of refugee populations in the CRRF countries must continue to be a top priority for UNHCR.

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN 2020

In 2020, an estimated 1.44 million persons were projected to be in need of resettlement. Despite the COVID-related challenges, UNHCR submitted 39,534 persons for resettlement to 25 resettlement States. This represented a 52 per cent decrease compared to submissions in 2019 (81,671), and nearly 76 per cent less than submissions at their peak in 2016 (162,600).

Globally, 75 UNHCR operations submitted resettlement cases to 25 resettlement States, with a global acceptance rate of over 90 per cent. Submissions from all regions saw decreases compared to 2019. UNHCR offices in the MENA region submitted approximately 42 per cent of the global total with 16,469 submissions, followed by UNHCR offices in Africa with 31 per cent (12,408), and Europe with around 15 per cent (6,109). The Asia and the Pacific region provided seven per cent of global submissions (2,654), and the Americas region submitted 1,894 persons.

Syrians again made up the largest group by refugee population submitted for resettlement with 18,220 submissions. This represents a 39 per cent decrease from the 2019 submissions (29,660). Refugees from the DRC were the second highest group by population with 5,944 submissions. This represented a 69 per cent decrease from 2019 (18,997 submissions). Eritreans (2,147), Somalis (2,071), and Sudanese (1,805) rounded out the top five groups submitted in 2020.

Almost 40 per cent of cases were submitted to Canada and Sweden in 2020 (15,727). The third highest number of submissions went to France with 4,169, which represents a 26 per cent increase from the previous year. Also, in the top five countries receiving submissions in 2020 were Australia (3,847) and Norway (3,465), with decreases of 45 per cent and 12 per cent respectively compared to 2019.

Global departures decreased in 2020 with 22,800 refugees departing for resettlement. This represents a 64 per cent decrease compared to 2019. The USA remained the country with the highest number of departures, with 6,740 persons arriving in the USA in 2020, an almost 68 per cent decrease from 2019.

Sweden received 3,567 arrivals, a 29 per cent decrease from 2019, followed by the Canada with 3,502 arrivals (61 per cent decrease from the previous year). Rounding out the top five were Norway (1,504) and Germany (1,396), both decreasing their arrivals by 36 and 70 per cent respectively.

UNHCR continued to advocate for resettlement programmes that focus on refugees with strong protection needs, in line with the resettlement submission categories. More than 65 per cent of all cases submitted in 2020 fell under the Legal and Physical Protection Needs or Survivors of Violence and/or Torture categories (35 per cent for Legal and Physical Protection Needs and 33 per cent for Survivors of Violence and/or Torture). This was followed by Women and Girls at Risk (18 per cent), Children and Adolescents at Risk (10 per cent), Medical Needs (three per cent), Lack of Foreseeable Alternative Durable Solutions (one per cent), and Family Reunification (less than one per cent).

Given the deteriorating protection situation in many countries, 25 per cent of global submissions were made on an emergency or urgent basis, reflecting a 38 per cent increase compared to 2019. Approximately five per cent (604 cases) were deemed an “emergency priority”, requiring evacuation in 72 hours, sometimes with support from States hosting emergency transit facilities. Almost 20 per cent (2,230 cases) were considered “urgent priority”, needing removal within weeks.

In 2020, Emergency Transit Facilities (ETFs) continued to be utilized as a protection tool for refugees who were in need of resettlement on an urgent basis, as well as an alternative site for case processing of refugee populations not accessible to resettlement States. During last year, 142 refugees departed for resettlement from the ETC in Romania; however, due to COVID-19 challenges, no departures could be organized from the ETF in the Philippines.

Lifesaving mechanisms for evacuation, resettlement, and other solutions continued through the Emergency Transfer Mechanism (ETM) facilities in Niger and Rwanda. A total of 599 individuals evacuated out of Libya were processed and resettled through the ETMs in Niger (403) and Rwanda (196) in 2020. In Central America, the Protection Transfer Arrangement (PTA) continued providing people at serious risk with safe and legal access to a resettlement country. A total of 1,128 individuals were processed from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, out of which 562 departed to 2 resettlement countries.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THREE-YEAR STRATEGY (2019-2021) ON RESETTLEMENT AND COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS

The Three-Year Strategy (2019-2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways was mandated by the Global Compact on Refugees and launched in June 2019. Its three main goals are to grow resettlement, advance complementary pathways, and build the foundation through promoting welcoming and inclusive societies. To achieve these goals, it seeks to widen the base of actors, expand the scope and size of the programmes, and enhance their protection impact and quality.

Resettlement continues to be the main and, often, only durable solution offering protection to those refugees most at risk and/or suffering from extreme vulnerabilities. In addition to the fundamental objective of growing resettlement, the Three-Year Strategy seeks to advance other third country solutions that are complementary and additional, including humanitarian admission programmes, family reunification, and employment and education pathways.

After surpassing the 2019 resettlement objective with about 64,000 UNHCR-referred departures, the effects of COVID-19 and insufficient pledges meant that total resettlement in 2020 and 2021 was and will be significantly lower than previously hoped, with only 22,800 departures in 2020.

With regard to other legal pathways, the updated joint UNHCR-OECD report “Safe Pathways for Refugees II” was released in May 2021. The new report covers the decade (2010-2019) preceding the COVID-19 crisis. It refers to first time permits issued for family reunification, education, and employment purposes in OECD countries and Brazil to nationals of Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Syria, and Venezuela. Compared to the previous report issued in 2018, this report includes Colombia (a new OECD country) and Brazil.

Highlights of the UNHCR-OECD Report:

- 1.5 million people arrived in OECD countries and Brazil for family, work, and study purposes over the course of 10 years.
- 156,000 people arrived in 2019 alone, compared with the target of 120,000 set for 2019 by the Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways.
- Family permits make up 67 per cent of all permits granted over the decade.
- The ratio between first-time residency permits granted for family, work, and education purposes for refugees of seven nationalities covered by the report against the total number of those resettled from the same nationalities (572,000 persons) was 2.5:1.

COVID-19’s impacts were severe in many areas. At the same time, the pandemic prompted actors to adapt, convening new and vigorous advocacy platforms and communities of practice, and building global virtual networks to find ways to sustain and improve programming. The crisis also focused on efforts to lay the foundations of powerful partnerships for the later years of the 10-year map that lies at the core of the Strategy’s ambition for many more safe homes.

Looking forward from mid-2021, third-country solutions for refugees would seem to be at a pivot point, from the lowest year of resettlement in over 40 years in 2020, to uncertain but gradually brightening prospects for 2021, and

gaining momentum in many areas for 2022 and beyond, with reason to feel growing pathways can be sustainable.

Capacity building to grow resettlement and advance complementary pathways:

A recommendation made by States and key stakeholders during the Three-Year Strategy consultation process was for the creation of a global capacity-building mechanism. Hence in January 2020, UNHCR launched together with IOM the **Sustainable Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Initiative or CRISP**. The CRISP was developed to implement the activities required to reach expansion of resettlement and complementary pathways and is one of the crucial tools to achieve the Three-Year Strategy's goals. This initiative aims to support States and key stakeholders to grow resettlement programmes and advance complementary pathways through targeted capacity building in partnership with relevant actors, to achieve quality, scalable, and sustainable programmes.

To achieve its objective, the CRISP has embarked on several key activities:

- **Global mapping of gaps and opportunities for growth of third country solutions:** The findings of the research paper **“Refugee Resettlement and Complementary Pathways: Opportunities for Growth”** will be presented at the ATCR 2021. The results of this global mapping will inform areas of intervention for the CRISP and actions of other relevant stakeholders going forwards.
- **CRISP global training package:** This capacity-building tool targets relevant government and non-governmental actors involved in the design, development, and implementation of resettlement and complementary pathway programmes. The training takes a modular approach, and each of the courses can be applied in their entirety or used individually to fill specific capacity gaps. A pilot was held in Ireland during May 2021.
- **Second edition of UNHCR’s Integration Handbook:** The 2002 edition of the Handbook has been updated and launched online to assist with the development of integration programs for resettled refugees. The content has been updated with the support of over 20 NGOs and other experts such as academics, government officials, and refugees.
- **A suite of capacity-building tools:** These tools aim to assist States in assessing the sustainability of existing programmes and feasibility of establishing new resettlement and/or complementary pathways programmes. The tools help to identify areas which require strengthening and where targeted technical support and/or capacity-building assistance will prove impactful. The tools include a self-evaluation matrix and national action plan template. While these tools have been primarily utilized in Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay, they can be adapted to various contexts.

- The CRISP has also provided financial support to fund the research study on *The Impact of Government-Sponsored Refugee Resettlement: A Meta Study of Findings from Six Countries* and develop the Opportunities Platform as well as towards building the capacity of the Secretariat of the Global Task Force on Third Country Education Pathways.

Integrity

UNHCR's 2017 Policy on Addressing Fraud Committed by Persons of Concern continues to be the cornerstone of the High Commissioner's commitment to ensuring sustained high integrity standards in protection and solutions activities, including in resettlement procedures. The 2017 Policy framework has been pivotal in increasing UNHCR's capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to fraud committed by persons of concern, with the Integrity Unit at UNHCR's Headquarters continuing with its core role of monitoring implementation and compliance.

The Integrity Unit, located in the Director's Office within the Division of International Protection, in close collaboration with Regional Bureaux, provides guidance and support to field operations in mitigating fraud vulnerabilities with the overall objective of enhancing robustness of oversight and fraud prevention, identification, and response. Together with the Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Service, the Integrity Unit proactively supports operations in strengthening the integrity of resettlement activities and management of specific situations.

The Integrity Unit completed a strategic global rollout of the Learning Programme on Addressing Fraud Committed by Persons of Concern in 2020, thereby ensuring relevant staff were equipped with the necessary knowledge to support fraud prevention, detection, and response efforts in all operation. After covering Asia and the Pacific early in the year, the last regional cohort in Europe received the training virtually due to COVID-19 public health pandemic restrictions.

Further technical support and capacity building was provided to all regions, except MENA and Europe regions, on the centralized fraud management in *proGres V4* as well as the Fraud Module. As a result, more than 400 staff received training cross five Regional Bureaux. To strengthen reporting and trends monitoring, a Population Fraud and Inconsistency Monitoring Tool (Dashboard) was developed by the Integrity Unit with the technical support from Global Data Service. This Dashboard is aimed at making it easier for operations, Bureau, and Headquarters to carry out horizontal and vertical monitoring of fraud-related incidents and reports based on *proGres V4*, thereby facilitating trends analysis and development of corresponding responses.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions, the Integrity Unit was unable to conduct any field anti-fraud support missions.

Partnership and Coordination

The Three-Year Strategy's Global Action Plan, first issued in March 2020 and updated regularly, is coordinated by UNHCR but belongs to all partners and actors. It is considered a living document that is updated and adjusted regularly and is hosted on the Global Compact on Refugees' web pages.

Over the past year, several major foundation pieces were laid. Highlights include:

- To fully integrate refugee participation in the ATCR process, the Refugee Steering Group (RSG) was convened in January 2020, with representatives from national, regional, and global refugee-led networks which contributed to the Global Refugee Forum, as well as those with lived refugee experience who now deliver services to newly resettled refugees or engage in advocacy in local communities. The RSG will have an important advisory and participatory role, liaising between the Chair and the refugee community.
- The States-led Network on Family Reunification, which will work as a forum for experience exchange, collaboration, and advocacy to promote family unity of refugees globally, was launched in December 2020.
- The Global Task Force on Third-Country Education Pathways was launched in May 2020 at a meeting hosted by the Permanent Mission of Portugal. The Task Force is co-chaired by World University Services of Canada and Open Societies University Network, with UNHCR serving as technical advisor.
- During the past year, both Canada and Australia announced or expanded pilot programs in labour-mobility pathways for refugees, and Canada agreed to serve as initial chair for a global task force on refugee labour mobility, to be launched in autumn 2021.


Throughout 2020, UNHCR has continued to engage in a number of strategic partnerships that aim at expanding resettlement opportunities for refugees. For example, UNHCR has continued to be actively involved in the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI), together with the Government of Canada, the Open Society Foundation, the University of Ottawa, the Giustra Foundation, and the Shapiro Foundation to promote and support the establishment and growth of community-based sponsorship programmes in order to increase the reception and integration capacity of states and communities to receive refugees admitted through resettlement.

UNHCR continued to strengthen its resettlement capacity through the management of the Global Resettlement Deployment Scheme, which in 2020

was implemented by ICMC, the Danish Refugee Council, and RefugePoint. Approximately 141 deployments provided critical capacity in resettlement, child protection/BID, registration, refugee status determination, and complementary pathways, thereby significantly contributing to the submission of more than 39,500 refugees for resettlement



Iran, August 2020. Afghan refugees, Ayatollah, 11, and Amirali, 13, are part of the under-18 boys team at the Youth Initiative Fund founded by Nansen Refugee Award Regional Winner for Asia, Rozma Ghafouri, in Shiraz, Iran. © UNHCR/Fatemeh Forootan Torkamani



URGENT AND EMERGENCY RESETTLEMENT PROCESSING

Yemen, July 2020. Young Somali refugee with disabilities gets support from UNHCR.
© UNHCR/SDF

PROCESSING UNIT AT HEADQUARTERS

The Processing Unit in the Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Service is responsible for the annual distribution and monitoring of unallocated quotas globally and for the submission of mainly urgent and emergency cases on a dossier basis on behalf of UNHCR country offices in Eastern and South Eastern Europe, Asia, and Latin America. The Processing Unit also ensures that guidelines on country specific criteria and profiles are shared with the relevant colleagues and provides guidance when needed.

Places under the unallocated quotas are distributed at the beginning of each year between the Processing Unit and the four Regional Bureaus responsible for making dossier case submissions directly to resettlement countries from their respective regions, namely: the Regional Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa in Amman, the Regional Bureau for East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region in Nairobi, the Regional Bureau for Southern Africa in Pretoria, and the Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa in Dakar. The Processing Unit monitors the use of the unallocated quotas throughout the year and has regular consultations with the Regional Bureaus to ensure all places are utilized in a timely and effective manner.

DOSSER SUBMISSIONS

Throughout 2020, dossier submissions under the unallocated quotas continued to be an essential component of the global resettlement programme, particularly in countries with no allocated quotas or where selection missions could not take place due to security conditions or lack of access to refugees

in remote locations. The unallocated quotas served as an important protection tool for refugees with urgent or emergency protection needs, including those with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, refugees in detention and/or at risk of deportation, sexual and gender-based violence survivors, women and girls at risk, survivors of violence or torture, unaccompanied and separate children, and refugees with serious medical conditions.

Resettlement on a dossier basis through the use of unallocated quotas continued to be a very powerful protection tool, even more so in 2020 given COVID-19. The need for places for medical cases remained high in 2020; however, the effect of COVID-19 on medical services in resettlement countries had an impact on the capacity to accommodate refugees with emergency medical needs. Limited resettlement possibilities for large families also remained a challenge in 2020 as well as for cases with complex family compositions, such as mixed marriages between refugees and nationals of host countries, and those deemed to have high needs by resettlement states.

DOSSIER SUBMISSIONS VIA THE PROCESSING UNIT AT HEADQUARTERS

The Processing Unit processes the submission of cases on a dossier basis on behalf of UNHCR country offices in Eastern and South Eastern Europe, Asia, and Latin America. In addition, high profile and/or sensitive cases are also made exclusively through the Processing Unit on behalf of all regions and offices.

In 2020, the Processing Unit submitted cases from 43 different countries of asylum on behalf of refugees from 33 different countries of origin. The highest numbers of submissions were for refugees who had fled to Afghanistan, Iran, India, Zambia, Mexico, and Cuba. Refugees originating from Afghanistan, Honduras, Somalia, and Sudan represented some of the largest groups of refugees referred for resettlement through the Processing Unit in 2020.

During 2020, 68 per cent of the cases submitted by the Processing Unit were under the Legal and/or Physical Protection Needs category. This was followed by Woman and Girls at Risk and Survivors of Violence and Torture, which both represented 13 per cent of cases submitted. Submissions with Medical Needs as the primary resettlement category represented only five per cent of the cases referred for resettlement by the Processing Unit. This low figure was due in part to the lack of submission options for persons with medical needs and the strict criteria implemented by States for the use of such quotas.

DOSSIER SUBMISSIONS FROM THE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION

The unallocated dossier quotas provided life-saving solutions for refugees in the Asia and the Pacific region in 2020. UNHCR's persons of concern face many challenges in Asia which the unallocated quotas helped address. First and foremost, most States in the region do not have a legal refugee framework,

hence refugees fall under national immigration laws. As such, if individuals have entered illegally or if they have overstayed their visas, they may be at immediate risk of arrest, detention, and/or deportation (regardless of refugee status). In addition, UNHCR does not have a presence in a number of States where refugees are in need of resettlement, including Singapore, Uzbekistan, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam, and Lao PDR, rendering it more difficult to monitor the protection environment, intervene with authorities, or engage in easing the exit clearance/departure process. Furthermore, bilateral relationships between States in the region can take precedence over international obligations, often placing refugees from neighboring countries in a precarious situation.

The speed at which cases have been processed, departed, and thus provided with life-saving solutions, in particular sensitive cases at immediate risk of *refoulement*, has been tremendous. The unallocated quotas have allowed UNHCR to respond to unexpected, highly sensitive, and complex situations, in countries where there were no allocated resettlement quotas. States providing places under the unallocated quotas have been exceptionally flexible and willing to work with UNHCR to address the particular dynamics in the region, whether through engagement with the host country government to prevent deportation and secure departure, through creative procedures to issue and deliver travel documents in locations with no UNHCR or Embassy presence, or by meeting emergency deadlines and ensuring exceptionally fast case processing.

DOSSIER SUBMISSIONS FROM THE EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND GREAT LAKES (EHAGL) REGION

In response to record levels of displacement, shrinkage of global resettlement space, and the COVID-19 pandemic, the region greatly appreciated the emergency and urgent unallocated resettlement quotas offered by various States in 2020. These life-saving places demonstrated a strong commitment to offer solutions for refugees with acute protection needs, enabling expedited resettlement processing in operations with no allocated quotas, which could not host selection missions, or where security conditions restricted access to refugees. In view of the many challenges in 2020, both UNHCR and States agreed to adopt more flexible, pragmatic, and innovative processing modalities.

In 2020, the highest percentage of cases referred for resettlement by the EHAGL region was under the Survivors of Violence and/or Torture category, which was followed by refugees referred under the Legal and Physical Protection Needs category (including refugees threatened with *refoulement*), and then refugees under the Medical Needs category. The majority of cases were prioritized as urgent.

DOSSIER SUBMISSIONS FROM THE WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA (WCA) REGION

The WCA region remains one of the most volatile regions in the world, characterized by multiple humanitarian crises, as well as complex mixed migration movements. The region hosts 1.3 million refugees, many of whom are

living in highly precarious protection situations and are extremely vulnerable. Well-established local quotas in larger operations, including Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, address some of the critical resettlement needs in the region. However, many of the smaller operations, such as Burkina Faso, Mali, and Nigeria, find themselves at the forefront of some of the most challenging regional conflict situations, including the Sahel and Lake Chad basin situations and the conflict in South West and North West regions of Cameroon. These operations rely on the availability of slots under the unallocated dossier quotas to ensure that the most vulnerable refugees are able to access resettlement where it remains the most appropriate, often life-saving, solution.

Many countries in the region struggle with underdeveloped health and medical infrastructures, and the services that are available are frequently unable to address complex medical conditions, leaving already vulnerable refugees in increasingly precarious situations. It is not only medical services that are weak – there are very few specialized mental health services able to provide support and treatment for individuals who have experienced significant trauma, without which the opportunity for integration remains extremely challenging. There is also a particular prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence linked to the multiple conflict situations in the region. Here again, specialized services, notably those dealing with rehabilitation are few and far between.

Significantly, the value of these urgent, emergency, and medical places under the unallocated dossier quotas extends well beyond the context of the multiple humanitarian crises listed above. The protection situation in some of the more stable countries of asylum in the region as well as those along the complex mixed migration routes, remains extremely precarious for certain groups, including notably refugees whose sexual orientation or gender identity make integration impossible. Other groups who may face specific risks that can be most appropriately addressed through resettlement under these quotas are refugees with disabilities, women and girls at risk and unaccompanied and separated children.

Finally, while some countries have seen improvements, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to make the situation of vulnerable refugees in the WCA region extremely challenging, frequently exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and risks, making the availability of such quotas even more important.

DOSSIER SUBMISSIONS FROM THE SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION

The unallocated quotas are extremely important to the Southern Africa region, as a significant number of countries do not have allocated quotas for resettlement. Therefore, the unallocated quotas are the only means to provide life-saving durable solutions for vulnerable cases in need, such as those with medical or protection concerns, including women at risk and refugees of diverse sexual orientation or gender identity.

The majority of cases from the region were submitted by the South Africa Multi-Country Office (SAMCO), which covers nine countries. This includes countries

such as Eswatini and Botswana, where UNHCR presence is severely limited and in-country conditions and restrictions applicable to persons of concerns reinforce the need of immediate solutions to those who have urgent protection needs. Accordingly, about half of the places under the unallocated quotas in 2020 were utilized by SAMCO to provide solutions to refugees, some of whom were at risk of *refoulement*.

Other countries in the region that used the unallocated quotas to provide solutions to cases in need of resettlement included the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and the Republic of the Congo. Most of the cases submitted for consideration from these countries were under the Women and Girls at Risk and the Medical Needs submission categories, as many of these countries of asylum lack the adequate infrastructure to tend to the serious medical and protection needs of refugees. Thus, the unallocated quotas helped provide life-saving solutions to refugees who have no other viable alternative at their disposal.

DOSSIER SUBMISSIONS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (MENA) REGION

The unallocated quotas provided solutions to 238 refugees who were accepted for resettlement in sixteen operations in the MENA region in 2020, responding to their urgent or emergency protection and/or medical needs.

More than two thirds of the cases submitted under the allocated quotas in 2020 from MENA region were from country operations with no or very small allocated quotas. Three operations with no allocated quotas for 2020 (Tunisia, Yemen, and Mauritania) were completely reliant on the unallocated dossier quotas. Others like Algeria, Morocco, and Israel had only very small allocated quotas but were able to respond to compelling protection or medical needs through the unallocated quotas. The unallocated quotas were also particularly important for the region where instability and or conflict remains in several countries, such as Yemen. In addition, these quotas were crucial in addressing the needs of refugees who were survivors of smuggling or trafficking, including unaccompanied or separated children. The unallocated quotas also allowed UNHCR to secure a protection solution for a number of refugees who were at imminent risk of deportation.

GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF DOSSIER SUBMISSIONS IN 2020

During 2020, UNHCR submitted a total of 588 cases on behalf of a total of 1,570 refugees on a dossier basis under the unallocated quotas globally. Out of this total, the Processing Unit submitted 188 cases on behalf of 472¹ refugees, while 156 cases/349 refugees were submitted by the MENA Bureau, 126 cases/431 refugees by the EHAGL Bureau, 61 cases/160 refugees by the Regional Bureau in Pretoria, and 57 cases/158 refugees by the Regional Bureau in Dakar.

¹ Of which 166 cases/424 persons were new submissions.

Submissions were made to eight resettlement countries in 2020: Australia, Canada, Finland, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden

Of the total cases submitted, 48 per cent were under the Legal and/or Physical Protection Needs category, which represents a decrease compared to 2019 (57 per cent). The largest percentage of submissions under this category was made by the Processing Unit. Submissions under the Medical Needs category made up 12 per cent of the cases submitted under the unallocated quotas, with the largest percentage submitted by the EHAGL Region. Overall, seventeen per cent of the cases were submitted under the Women and Girls at Risk category, which was higher than in 2019 (11 per cent), with the largest proportion being made by the MENA region (23 per cent of the cases submitted). Globally, 57 per cent of cases were under urgent priority and 29 per cent under emergency priority, leaving the remaining 14 per cent under normal priority.

The combined acceptance rate for submissions made by the five offices on a dossier basis under the 2020 unallocated quotas was approximately 68 per cent, which represents an increase compared to the previous two years when the combined acceptance rate remained at approximately 60 per cent. However, this figure is an estimate given it does not include all cases submitted in 2020, some of which are still pending decision.

Submissions on a dossier basis under the global unallocated quotas were made on behalf of refugees in 74 countries of asylum, from 51 different countries of origin. Refugees originating from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia represented some of the largest populations benefiting from resettlement referral under these quotas in 2020. The unallocated quotas have been invaluable in 2020, and UNHCR is extremely grateful to States for their generosity in providing these places.



Ethiopia, January 2021. Eritrean refugees wait for a humanitarian aid distribution at Mai Aini camp in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, during a visit by UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi. © UNHCR/Petterik Wiggers



AFRICA

EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND GREAT LAKES

Burundi
Ethiopia
Kenya
Rwanda
Somalia
South Sudan
Sudan
Uganda
Tanzania

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

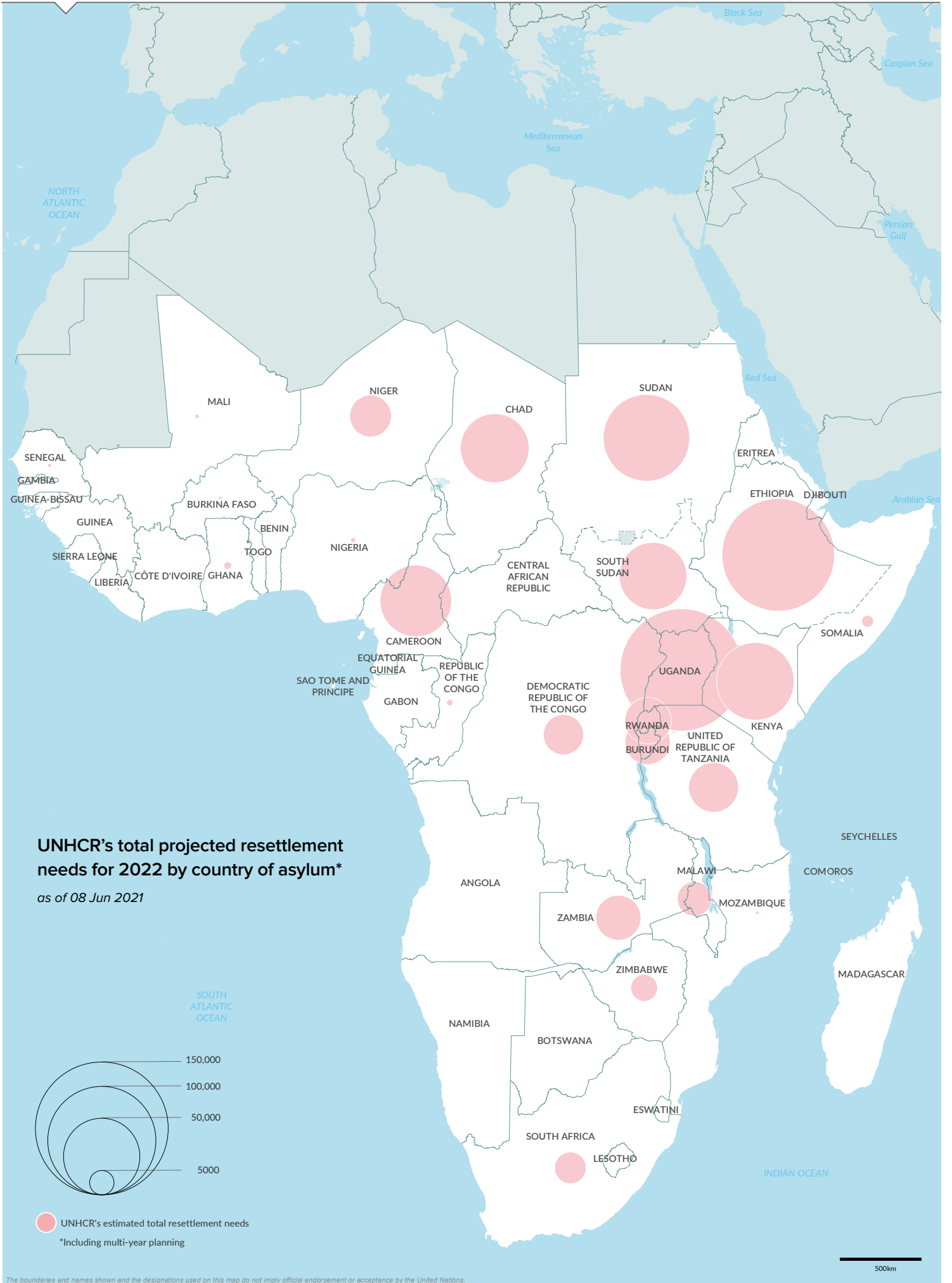
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Chad
Ghana
Liberia
Mali
Niger
Nigeria
Senegal Multi-Country Office

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Democratic Republic of Congo
Malawi
Mozambique
Republic of the Congo
Multi-Country Office for South Africa
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Sudan, February 2021. Sarah, 35, and her family are among the South Sudanese refugees who fled their homes due to flooding and violence. © UNHCR/Sylvia Nabanoba





The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



AFRICA OVERVIEW

Despite a slight decline in projected needs from 2021 to 2022, the estimated resettlement needs in the Africa region continue to be the highest globally for 2022. The diverse region is characterized by numerous protracted refugee situations, ongoing conflicts and political instability that result in continuing and new displacements, and populations on the move who undertake dangerous onward journeys along the Central Mediterranean route. While voluntary repatriation and local integration may be possible in small numbers, resettlement remains the key durable solution for refugees across the three sub-regions of Africa.

REGIONAL COVERAGE

UNHCR Country Offices in the Africa region are supported through the three Regional Bureaus in Nairobi, Pretoria, and Dakar that provide oversight, guidance, coordination, monitoring and support for resettlement and other solutions activities in the respective country operations. The Regional Bureaus offer support missions to interview refugees for resettlement; training and capacity development of staff and partners on the role of resettlement, resettlement categories, case identification, communication and expectation management, and fraud awareness and prevention; case quality control and ensure timely submission to resettlement countries; liaison and advocacy with resettlement countries at the regional level; and review of standard operating procedures. These activities ensure the maximum utilization of resettlement spaces, the harmonization of practices in particular vis-a-vis the same refugee populations in the region, and the quality and integrity of the processes. The Bureaus also ensure close collaboration between durable solutions and technical staff to enhance access to alternative pathway opportunities as well as facilitate knowledge exchange within and across regions.



The **Regional Bureau for the East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes (EHAGL Bureau)** in Nairobi covers 11 countries in the region: Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Kenya remains a stand-alone operation but also benefits from the EHAGL Bureau's coordination and capacity building support.

The **Regional Bureau for Southern Africa (RBSA)** in Pretoria covers 16 countries in the region: Angola, the DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Republic of Congo, and Zimbabwe as well as the countries under the South Africa Multi-Country Office in Pretoria (Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa, and Zambia).

The **Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa (RBWCA)** in Dakar covers 21 countries in the region: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo in West Africa, and Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe in Central Africa.

TRENDS IN 2020

The resettlement submissions in the region again decreased in 2020, with 12,408 refugees submitted for resettlement from the Africa region throughout

2020 compared to 32,387 in 2019. This represents a decrease of 62 per cent from the previous year. Approximately 48 per cent of the refugees submitted for resettlement from the region originated from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (the DRC), 13 per cent from Somalia, 13 per cent from Eritrea, six per cent from the Central African Republic, and five per cent from South Sudan.

Sixteen resettlement states received submissions from the region in 2020. Around 33 per cent of all submissions were made to Canada, 17 per cent to Sweden, 13 per cent to Norway, 11 per cent to Australia and nine per cent to France.

Departures to resettlement countries from the region also decreased by 74 per cent, from 24,248 persons in 2019 to 6,322 in 2020.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN 2020

EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND GREAT LAKES

Resettlement was severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to movement restrictions, border closures, quota uncertainty, and disrupted departures. Nevertheless, operations ensured resettlement processing continuity and prioritization of refugees with compelling protection needs by creating innovative mechanisms for case identification, remote interviewing, and post-submission processes, in line with WHO guidelines and host country mitigation measures.

To help ensure integrity and confidentiality, the EHAGL Bureau developed a *Checklist of Considerations for Remote Interviewing and Interpretation in the COVID-19 Context*. To maintain social distancing, the number of cases scheduled for interviews were reduced. Construction of see-through plexiglass barriers facilitated physical separation of staff, which allowed for in-person resettlement interviews at some UNHCR premises. Operations expanded social media platforms to support information-sharing and remote protection monitoring. However, they often faced severe challenges relating to poor connectivity, lack of equipment, and lack of space required to facilitate these processes.

The EHAGL Bureau, with HQ, engaged in continuous communication and advocacy with resettlement countries to adjust targets and deadlines, and to expedite departures of the most vulnerable. Many operations required case reviewing capacity support either because key staff were not deployed prior to border closures and/or due to submission deadlines being brought forward. A country-to-country support mechanism in the form of a regional *Standby Resettlement Case Review Support Roster* was established to maximize existing case review resources across the region.

Despite these constraints, the region was able to submit a total of 9,179 individuals for resettlement. While departures were suspended until mid-year, the region saw the departure of 4,831 individuals to 12 resettlement countries.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

The landscape of 2020 provided many challenges in Southern Africa, specifically in the context of reduced resettlement quotas and the global pandemic. COVID-19 infection rates in countries, especially high in South Africa, triggered country-wide lockdowns and curfews. It forced domestic and international travel restrictions, limited access to refugee populations, and exacerbated existent protection risks. The pandemic resulted in countries cancelling resettlement missions to the region and putting departures on hold. Outside of the new COVID-19 difficulties, existing challenges like slow asylum procedures, particularly relevant in South Africa and Malawi, and restrictive refugee policies, notable in Botswana, also persisted while some issues like understaffing became less relevant in 2020.

Despite these challenges, the region implemented new protocols to facilitate telework, conduct remote interviews, and mitigate health risks. Operations in the region also supported virtual missions for some resettlement countries, including Australia and Canada. To the extent possible, resettlement and complementary pathway activities were maintained. For example, in Malawi, UNHCR and Canada sought special permission for students selected to the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) program to start their studies as planned.

In total, the region was able to facilitate 501 individuals for resettlement departures and submit 1,371 individuals for resettlement consideration in 2020.

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

All operations faced significant challenges as a result of COVID-related restrictions imposed across most of the region from March 2020. Nevertheless, all quickly adapted, developing measures to ensure that resettlement processing activities could continue and departures later in the year were able to take place. In addition to the rapid introduction of structural and physical adaptations, the development and implementation of remote interviewing mechanisms proved critical during the COVID-19 pandemic. These adaptations and developments also offered an effective alternative for those parts of the region, where physical travel for the purpose of undertaking resettlement interviews has been limited by conflict, unstable security situations, or environmental hazards, including floods. Frequent COVID-related developments, including sudden cancellation of interview missions and changes to planned departures, led to high levels of frustration among the refugee community. Due to the remote location of many refugee camps, unstable electricity supply and inconsistent internet connectivity, timely communication of changes often proved challenging.

Despite these challenges, in 2020, 855 refugees were submitted for resettlement and 990 departed to resettlement countries from the region.

OUTLOOK FOR 2021/22

EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND GREAT LAKES

The operational environment in the EHAGL region is characterized by ongoing conflicts as well as heightened socio-economic fragility and political volatility. The region hosts 4.77 million refugees and asylum-seekers originating primarily from South Sudan, the DRC, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea. Protracted and new situations, including as a result of conflict in Ethiopia, instability in Sudan and South Sudan, and rising human rights violations in Ituri and Kivu provinces in the DRC, are not expected to be resolved in 2022. Climatic shocks, including droughts, flooding, and desert locust infestations may trigger new displacement. The region faces critical levels of food insecurity alongside continued ration cuts for refugee populations, further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has adversely affected the resilience and coping mechanisms of refugees.

The Bureau aims to enhance access to durable solutions, including by planning for solutions from the outset of displacement situations, and through the mobilization of material, technical and financial resources, new and existing networks of partners, and regional actors and platforms. The Bureau continues to expand and diversify its resettlement and complementary pathway activities. By improving operational standards, it seeks to deliver more coherent programmes that address refugees' needs with integrity, transparency, and accountability. The overriding objective is to raise the quantity and quality of resettlement submissions. The Bureau will use resettlement strategically to improve access to other durable solutions and to improve protection for refugees who cannot be resettled, while new partnerships remain a crucial component of the strategy for complementary pathways, and engaging non-traditional actors will be essential to expand the numbers of refugees accessing these solutions.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

In the 2020-2024 Multi-Year, Multi-Partner Protection and Solutions Strategy, RBSA outlines strategic objectives to preserve asylum in mixed flows, protect internally displaced persons, address statelessness, educate and empower communities, and increase access to durable solutions. The strategy builds on the commitment of the 2030 agenda to promote the inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers, the internally displaced, and stateless people in national development frameworks.

Looking specifically at durable solutions, the Bureau commits to supporting refugees to return voluntarily, in safety and dignity where conditions permit, and seeks to ensure funding levels that permit sustainable return. From the main refugee population groups in the region, UNHCR is currently facilitating but not promoting returns to certain areas in the DRC, Burundi, Somalia, and CAR, and promoting returns to Rwanda. However, voluntary repatriation is often not

a viable option for many due to lingering insecurity and protection risks. Local integration is ongoing for specific populations, like Angolans or Rwandans in Malawi and Zambia, but governments in the region remain resistant towards extending citizenship to refugees in large numbers.

Meanwhile, resettlement remains a strategic protection tool for those with identified needs to achieve durable solutions. Complementary pathway opportunities are emerging but limited, available to some in Southern Africa, primarily via family reunification, education in third countries, and sponsorship programs. In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, the RBSA anticipates an upscaling of resettlement and complementary pathways in 2021 and 2022 while also supporting departures of resettlement cases already in process. To increase and better facilitate access to durable solutions, there is a need to enhance and harmonize resources within the region.

In the Southern Africa region, UNHCR has adapted to the pandemic and most activities have restarted in a limited capacity, with further resummptions anticipated later in 2021 and 2022. Countries in the region are rolling out their COVID-19 vaccination programs with the Government of Malawi already beginning to provide vaccinations to refugees in Dzaleka camp.

Moving forward, the Bureau will use resettlement and complementary pathways strategically to create a dialogue with local embassies to expand access to resettlement and legal pathways to a third country. RBSA plans to build the capacity of associations, organizations, and communities to empower refugees to pursue other safe pathways. In 2021 and 2022, activities by RBSA to promote resettlement within the region will include communication and reporting with resettlement states, liaison work with specific regional refugee coordinators, migration secretaries and ministers, and commitment to reliable and valid data management. In 2021, all countries in the region are expected to be using *proGres* V4. The RBSA will also advise country operations on submission guidelines, periodically conduct trainings on integrity and anti-fraud, and monitor compliance with global resettlement doctrine and case management best practices.

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

The West and Central Africa region remains one of the most unstable and risk-prone regions in the world. The environment is extremely complex and increasingly characterized by an expansion of armed conflict, serious insecurity, climate change, a scarcity of resources, and rising criminality, all of which present enormous challenges to the growing refugee population. Complex mixed migration flows persist throughout the region, despite the immense dangers these often represent to the populations on the move. Escalating violence in the central Sahel region, the conflict in north-east Nigeria, and the ongoing unrest in Central Africa, as well as the secessionist conflict in the south and north west regions of Cameroon, have pushed millions to flee their homes. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting

measures introduced to mitigate its spread have exacerbated existing high levels of vulnerability among this population to often life-threatening levels, as competition for already scant resources and opportunities have diminished drastically.

Against this backdrop, the activities of the RBWCA in 2022 will be firmly focused on ensuring that resettlement and complementary pathways are used as effective protection tools by all operations to address the needs of the most vulnerable refugees. Resettlement has an increasingly important role to play as a key protection solution in the face of the growing prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence associated with the multiple conflicts underway in the region.

Advocacy will continue for realistic, sustainable local quotas in smaller operations, most notably those situated within some of the worst-affected areas of the region, particularly the central Sahel and Lake Chad basin. The work undertaken in 2021, as part of the Protection and Solutions Strategy for the Region, which aimed to support smaller operations to strengthen their identification procedures and ensure the presence of robust integrity and anti-fraud procedures, will continue, with a view to creating a sustainable, effective and robust resettlement capacity that is responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable refugees in the region.

COVID-19 continues to have consequences for resettlement activities across the region, as many countries grapple with fluctuating rates of infection and the corresponding imposition, lifting, and reimposition of COVID-related restrictions. RBWCA aims to support operations in the region to build upon the success of remote interview capacities introduced in 2020, to ensure the flexibility remains to resort to this modality beyond the current pandemic, noting its effectiveness as a tool in other contexts, including where the security situation is not conducive to face to face interviews. Sustainable remote interview capacity will ensure greater continuity of resettlement programmes in the West and Central Africa region.

The addition in 2020 and 2021 of key resettlement and complementary pathways positions, including under the RBWCA's decentralization exercise, has facilitated greater awareness and engagement within operations and fostered a more pro-active approach to complementary pathways, including through the enhancement of data collection practices.

Resettlement will continue to be used strategically in the West and Central Africa region to prevent dangerous onward journeys through use of the Emergency Transit Mechanism in Niger and by supporting resettlement activities in country operations located earlier on the Central Mediterranean route. RBWCA is currently strategically mapping and assessing the access to existing complementary pathways opportunities within the region, also with a view to preventing dangerous onward journeys along the Central Mediterranean route. This initiative may also present an additional longer-term advantage of offering sustainable contribution to the immediate region.

RESETTLEMENT NEEDS IN 2022

EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND GREAT LAKES

Governments have generally maintained open-door asylum policies, adopted progressive national refugee frameworks, and promoted the inclusion of refugees into national systems. However, several countries restrict some fundamental rights and local integration remains a challenging prospect, particularly in the aftermath of COVID-19. A large number of refugees have lost their income due to COVID-19 restrictions and rely on humanitarian assistance, which is affected by significant funding shortfalls. Assisted returns were suspended for most of 2020 but resumed in early 2021 following the re-opening of borders and the progressive lifting of movement restrictions. Spontaneous returns to South Sudan and assisted returns to Burundi, Somalia, and Sudan are likely to continue in 2022. However, ongoing conflicts and instability in the region indicate that return opportunities are limited for the foreseeable future.

Within this context, resettlement needs are summarized as follows:

Congolese refugees: The region hosts over 650,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC, the majority of whom originate from North and South Kivu and (former) Oriental/Ituri Provinces. Some arrived in their country of asylum in the early 1990s. Although the rate of outflows from the DRC was lower in 2020 than in previous years, tens of thousands of people still fled across borders. A large number have compelling protection needs, including women at risk, survivors of violence and torture, children at risk, and refugees of diverse sexual orientation or gender identity (LGBTI) individuals. Congolese refugees will therefore form the largest number of resettlement submissions in 2022.

South Sudanese refugees: The South Sudan situation remains the largest refugee crisis in Africa with 2.24 million South Sudanese refugees hosted mainly in Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya. In 2020, some 40,000 South Sudanese refugees obtained asylum in neighbouring countries. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Solutions Initiative launched in October 2020 can contribute to an integrated protection and solutions strategy for South Sudanese refugees but considerable challenges remain. The majority of refugees are hosted in remote and economically under-served areas, impacted by food insecurity, and suffer from limited access to basic services. Many are survivors of violence, have been displaced multiple times, and have no sources of livelihoods. Resettlement, mainly from Uganda and Ethiopia, will target the most vulnerable as a protection tool.

Eritrean refugees: There are around 300,000 Eritrean refugees in the region, mostly hosted by Ethiopia and Sudan. A key challenge concerns the high number of onward movements, some of which is to urban centres in asylum countries. The majority, however, including many unaccompanied minors and separated children, move to third countries, often falling prey to smugglers and traffickers. In late 2020, armed conflict between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front displaced thousands of Eritrean refugees

from the northern camps in Ethiopia. Refugees were subjected to various abuses, including unlawful killing, gender-based violence, *refoulement*, denial of food and other basic necessities, arbitrary detention, and family separation. In the context of near impossibility of voluntary repatriation to Eritrea and the ongoing Ethiopia situation, resettlement needs of Eritrean refugees have increased significantly. In 2022, the EHAGL Bureau will use resettlement as a protection tool for the most vulnerable from this population.

Ethiopian refugees: Since the start of the Tigray conflict, tens of thousands of Ethiopians have crossed the border to seek refuge in Sudan. While many likely wish to return home as soon as the current conflict subsides, some refugees have urgent protection and resettlement needs. Unaccompanied and separated Tigrayan refugee children in Sudan have reported attempts by military forces to forcefully recruit them, and the risk of smuggling/ trafficking of minors and youth both from camps in Sudan is a key concern. Many Ethiopian women and girls are extremely vulnerable, including those whose husbands have gone missing in Ethiopia or in smuggling or trafficking incidents in Sudan. Many are also survivors of violence, including rape, forced/early marriage and face ostracism as a result.

Somali refugees: Widespread insecurity, political fragility, and humanitarian emergencies continue to define Somalia. The biggest Somali refugee population, around 270,000, is hosted by Kenya and most reside in Dadaab Refugee Camp. Kenya is increasingly promoting return as the primary solution for Somali refugees. The most significant challenge is finding resettlement opportunities for refugees with specific protection needs who are unable to return, as well as vulnerable individuals in the urban context, and LGBTI individuals. Ethiopia hosts around 200,000 Somali refugees, many of whom have lived in protracted displacement for almost three decades. New refugees displaced by insecurity and drought continue to arrive. The reduction in food assistance and lack of alternative sources of income affect the ability of refugees to meet their basic needs. Many women and girls are exposed to heightened protection risks, including sexual and gender-based violence. A high number of young Somali refugees attempt risky onward movement. Resettlement will target those with most compelling protection needs, often living in protracted situations.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

In 2022, more than 55,000 refugees are projected to be in need of resettlement in the Southern Africa region. The largest anticipated needs are in Zambia, the



DRC, February 2021. Refugees from the Central Africa Republic have just collected NFIs at a UNHCR distribution center in Yakoma, northern DRC, and are walking back to the homes of the Congolese families hosting them. They fled the city of Bema, CAR, in anticipation of attacks following the presidential and legislative elections in December 2020. Most people left everything behind them and are struggling to make ends meet.
© UNHCR/Hélène Caux

DRC, Malawi, and the operations covered by the Multi-Country Office in South Africa. Refugees from the region in need of resettlement mainly originate from the DRC, Burundi, CAR, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Rwanda.

Refugees from the DRC live in a protracted situation in several countries in the region, many having fled from ethnic and/or political conflict. Within this refugee population, there are a significant number of survivors of violence and women-at-risk, including gender-based violence survivors. Other refugee populations like those from CAR, Ethiopia, Somalia, and South Sudan also face continuing conflict in their countries of origin. The situation in Burundi remains fragile. Depending on the specific area of origin, voluntary repatriation is not facilitated in places of ongoing insecurity. Local integration prospects are also limited. Resettlement will remain a key durable solution for these populations in the region, along with support to complementary pathways.

Within these populations, refugees in protracted situations and individuals at risk of *refoulement* or with vulnerable profiles, such as LGBTI individuals or those with serious medical conditions, will be prioritized for resettlement consideration.

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

There is a significant likelihood that the precarious security, environmental and health situations present in many parts of the West and Central Africa region will persist in 2022. Correspondingly, it is anticipated that the region will continue to experience largescale displacement of populations (including through complex mixed movements), among which will be refugees with very high levels of vulnerability. Resettlement will be used as an effective protection tool to address the needs of the most vulnerable refugees, including notably in the current context of multiple conflicts and humanitarian crises, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, survivors of violence and torture, vulnerable members of the LGBTI community, and refugees with disabilities. Resettlement will also be used strategically to prevent vulnerable refugees from undertaking dangerous onward movements.

AFRICA: 2022 PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS

REGION OF ASYLUM	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS*	
	Cases	Persons
East & Horn of Africa & Great Lakes	121 952	439 842
Southern Africa	13 815	55 361
West & Central Africa	27 181	98 395
Grand Total	162 948	593 598

* including multi-year planning

AFRICA: REFUGEE VOICE

My name is Etienne Serubungo, and I'm a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo living in Kenya since 2015. Before being forced to flee our home countries, some of us have experienced traumatic events, such as torture, rape, imprisonment, physical assault – all this are consequences of civil war, political war, natural disasters, and other serious circumstances.

After having found protection in the country of asylum (in my case Kenya), we find ourselves in the situation where everything looks like new to us. We have to learn many things so that we can just survive. For me, when I arrived in Kenya, I did not know the local language or English, so I had to first learn the language and then see how my family and I could survive. After learning English, I started selling vitenge material (used for African women's clothes). It is now six years, that I am doing this work – walking 10 km on foot each day selling vitenge, even though I have a bachelor's degree in Project Management. In 2017, I started getting part time jobs from NGOs that work with refugees, and now I do both: selling vitenge and working for NGOs so that I can sustain my family (my wife and three children) and help my mother, two brothers, and one sister, who have also come to in Kenya as refugees.

In 2020, I had resettlement interviews with UNHCR and a resettlement country, and now I'm doing cultural orientation and waiting to travel to the resettlement country. Resettlement is so important for us refugees because it settles our mind. It also addresses our specific needs issues and gives us permanent residence, where we can reintegrate and are given the right to work, access health care and other social services. I have many expectations when I will be in my resettlement country which are: my mind will be calm again; my life will positively change in many aspects; as I have a bachelor degree, I want to pursue my studies and get Master's degree then PhD; my wife, who also has a nursing diploma, will pursue her studies; my brothers, sister, and children will be able to get an education up to the level they want; and things like food, house rent, transport, jobs, and health care services will not stress me anymore.



Etienne in Nairobi in 2019.
© Etienne Serubungo

AFRICA FIELD STORY

CHAD



I first joined UNHCR Chad as an interpreter in 2013. I worked with different resettlement colleagues, providing support during resettlement interviews, translating from Arabic to French and/or English. I was also involved in translation of various documents such as the marriage certificates, birth certificates, etc. What I liked most about my job at that time was that it allowed me the opportunity to directly interact with the refugees as they navigated the resettlement process.

In 2015, I was contracted by the *Commission Nationale pour l'Accueil et la Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés* (CNARR), Government of Chad's department responsible for dealing with all issues related to refugees and returnees. I was fortunate to be part of a joint CNARR-UNHCR roving registration mission where I visited refugee camps located in eastern and southern Chad and actively participated in the registration of refugees. The camps, particularly in eastern Chad had Sudanese refugees while in southern Chad, the refugee population was mostly from the Central

African Republic. My task was to record the biodata and biometric information of refugees (through Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) in the UNHCR database. Once registered, the refugees were issued with a ration card which granted them access to services and food items in the camps.



March 2021. Senior Resettlement Assistant Aboulaye Mahamat assists refugees before their departure on resettlement.

© UNHCR/Simplice Kpandji

From 2016 till now, I have been working as the Senior Resettlement Assistant in UNHCR Branch Office N'Djamena. I undertake various administrative tasks linked to resettlement, including planning for and organizing refugees' departures to resettlement countries, compiling resettlement statistics, liaising with IOM on refugee movement from the camps to N'Djamena, providing counselling to refugees to manage their expectations, coordinating with CNARR colleagues for issuance of exit permits for refugees ready to depart on resettlement, etc.

I believe that my work contributes in making a difference to the lives of refugees. For example, in 2018-2019, when we experienced difficulties in the issuance of

exit permits for refugees, I was part of the broader UNHCR Protection team that advocated with the Government for resolution of the problem. We continue to maintain very good relations with CNARR and receive pro-active support from them in issuance of exit permits for resettlement departures.

I am also actively involved in conducting BIMs verification for all refugees prior to their international departures. The process involves confirming key bio-data information, ten fingerprints and iris scan for each individual who is already registered in the UNHCR database. I feel proud that my work helps safeguard the resettlement process from potential abuse or fraud.

Overall, I enjoy the team spirit and the transparency linked to my work. Over the years, I have gained proficiency in several aspects of my job, which helps me deliver my tasks more efficiently. I get regular opportunities to coordinate with Resettlement and Protection colleagues from all offices in Chad. I derive tremendous satisfaction when I see the most vulnerable refugees getting the opportunity to leave for another country. I strongly believe that their lives will improve significantly, and that they will receive specialized care, if they have any medical or other needs.



March 2021. Senior Resettlement Assistant Abdoulaye Mahamat assists refugees before their departure on resettlement.

© UNHCR/Simplice Kpandji

The most challenging aspect of my work is that there are always competing deadlines to meet – and all of them are important! To achieve all given tasks requires a lot of dedication and focus. One needs to be very well organized and have the ability to multitask to achieve good results.

Working during the COVID-19 pandemic was difficult and required a lot of adaptation. Direct interaction with refugees decreased, whereas our reliance on technology increased. I continued to provide counselling by phone during the year and successfully managed to reach 171 families/ 605 individuals to provide status updates on their resettlement cases. Of course, some activities required an in-person presence, and when participating in them, I strove to ensure that all measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 were diligently observed.

I hope to continue to contribute to resettlement work, which I believe offers the refugees a chance to reinvent themselves and become contributing members of the society. What can be more satisfying than that?

Abdoulaye Mahamat Mahamat

Senior Resettlement Assistant
UNHCR N'Djamena, Chad



*Muriel at work in the UNHCR SAMCO office in Pretoria. 2021.
© UNHCR/SAMCO*

AFRICA FIELD STORY

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Coming from a corporate background, I officially joined UNHCR in February 2020 as a resettlement assistant. I began my work, and it was wonderful. But soon after, in March 2020, South Africa and many other countries around the world went into lockdown to contain and mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and we had to readjust resettlement tasks as a result of the work from home modality.

All engagements became virtual/telephonic, and I realized how far removed we were from the new realities of our persons of concern. They were unable to contact us, we were away, and in their minds, we were not present, even though we frequently engaged in virtually during counseling, interviewing,

and other activities. I wondered if that was sufficient. However, we were under lockdown and our options were severely limited. I then embarked on a mission to ensure that each interaction was extremely positive. As a frontline worker who interacts with persons of concern, I am not only the face of UNHCR, but also the bearer of hope. Am I going to crush it? Or, am I going to fuel it? This became my daily mantra: I desired to cultivate their hope. Thus, even as I advised others that movements had been temporarily halted, I re-emphasized that, if they had been accepted, the resettlement country wanted them and that they would depart as soon as movements resumed. And the lasting memory of the engagement would be that I chose to heighten the positive rather than the negative, and in doing so, I would have fueled the hope.

Without a doubt, the COVID-19 pandemic reshaped all our lives and brought with it many tragedies that we had to deal with alone in our homes, and mental health issues became a relevant topic. I needed to replenish my mental stamina while serving our persons of concern. It had been a trying time for everyone. When the first resettlement case I worked on was accepted, I phoned the individual refugee to counsel and share the good news. I was overjoyed and excited to share this good news, as this was the first acceptance I was part of. After I informed him that he had been accepted, the refugee was equally overjoyed and said I had helped to change his life. He began to tell me what he thought of UNHCR and the work that we do. He stated, “We are orphans, and UNHCR is our parent.” He also expressed his gratitude for the way his case was handled, and it was there that my life was also changed. I realized I had found my purpose. This instilled a sense of purpose in me, rekindled my hope and light. I realized that my job is more than just a job; it is a way for me to reach out to others (our persons of concern) and keep their hope alive. I also discovered that this was a two-way street, as in this case he re-ignited mine.

Muriel Jingura

Resettlement Assistant
Southern Africa Multi-Country Office



*Muriel at work in the UNHCR
SAMCO office in Pretoria. 2021.
© UNHCR/SAMCO*

AFRICA FIELD STORY

ZAMBIA



Richard's family before departure in Zambia.
© UNHCR/Zambia

2020 was a rollercoaster year to say the least.

In Zambia, where I work as a national staff, I saw the COVID-19 pandemic and its containment measures unquestionably challenge our service delivery, leading to the temporary halting of resettlement departures due to border closures.

Hard as things were, we had to be strong for those that looked to us for some kind of leadership. We had to reinforce their sense of resilience. Economically, things became bad. Being a country that is largely dependent on imported products, inflation was on the rise. The ripple effect on persons of concern was harder; prices of everything had basically doubled. We all grappled with questions we would not normally ask, about the sustainability of assistance, about the efficacy of our public services such as health, education, the inclusiveness of the labour market and so forth.

Even with reduced physical contact and pandemic restrictions, we tried to find a way to meet the resettlement quota. With working from home as the new normal, we were forced to become creative. Communicating with persons over the phone and internet became the norm. My colleagues and I would be home, call both an applicant and an interpreter on conference call, each in different locations and then collect the needed information. Despite these challenges, we meet our resettlement quota. Necessity truly is the mother of innovation.

With limitations on our normal resettlement activity, our unit took the opportunity to focus on complementary pathways. We encouraged refugees to pursue self-development, as it would better position them for opportunities via labour mobility or education. We impressed upon them that being educated and self-reliant was in their best interest. We made efforts to align qualified persons with available employment opportunities. With high unemployment levels, we encouraged young refugees to pursue self-employment, from teaching language classes over Zoom and other similar business opportunities. It was very satisfying to witness the change in attitude, to see young refugees embrace hard work, entrepreneurship and trying to improve their lives.

There is one experience from 2020 that stands out to me and it involves a young Congolese refugee student named Richard, whom I had met six years prior while serving as a UN volunteer. Richard was a hardworking fellow. He had a single mom but was luckily sponsored by a Zambian teacher, who took care of his school fees. The boy became head prefect and scored the equivalent of straight A's in his final year at school. Like many refugee youths with good results, he was unable to pursue university education right away due to limited sponsorship opportunity.

Later I got to know Richard a bit more when I worked on a livelihoods project and he was starting up a business center whilst doing an IT course sponsored by the organization I was working for at the time. Fast forward to 2019/20, I was arranging photos for families earmarked for the Swedish resettlement quota. I recognized a name and slightly hairy face on the list – it was Richard, again! He was working with the same implementing partner I was with previously, whilst pursuing an online degree in Computer Science with University of the People, a tuition-free and fully-accredited university. He was also farming at the same time! His mother's pride, I imagined. There were few youths I knew that remained that determined and pressed forward, which is what always fascinated me about him. Learning his story and his families' experience put me in awe.

Richard and his family were fortunately accepted and later in the year departed on resettlement and spent their first Christmas in Sweden. Now Richard has a new life in Sweden, extremely grateful and not taking lightly the opportunities he has found. I do not imagine this is the last time I will hear from or of him, not with that kind of ambition. Kudos to hardworking families in countries like Sweden and their leaders who open their land to share the responsibility of hosting displaced persons whose potential is often forgotten. Resettlement isn't just about numbers, but about human lives.

Isaac Bowa

Resettlement Associate
UNHCR Zambia



Richard and his mother experiencing their first winter in Sweden. © UNHCR/Zambia



THE AMERICAS



Colombia
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Mexico
Panama (Aruba, Curaçao, and Guyana)

Peru
Trinidad and Tobago
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras



Colombia, March 2021. UNHCR meets with refugee women to recognize and prevent gender based violence. © UNHCR/Catalina Betancur Sánchez



Colombia, March 2021. UNHCR met with a group of Venezuelan refugee women in Bello Oriente, to recognize gender-based violence through theater and together generate prevention and care strategies in their territory. © UNHCR/Catalina Betancur Sánchez



THE AMERICAS OVERVIEW

With estimated resettlement needs of over 55,600 individuals in 2022, almost doubling the figure of around 29,000 individuals in 2021, resettlement will continue to be used in the Americas region as a strategic tool to ensure protection and to deliver durable solutions to most vulnerable and at-risk individuals identified in the region.

REGIONAL COVERAGE AND SUPPORT

In Northern Central America, the Regional Bureau for the Americas provides direct support, supervision and review of cases for the following operations: Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. The Bureau also provides supervision of cases and support to Resettlement units in two operations that recently started resettlement programmes in South America, namely Colombia and Peru. Lastly, it provides overall guidance, support, and harmonization of resettlement procedures in Ecuador, Mexico, and operations that fall under the two Multi-Country Offices in Washington and Panama, namely: Dominican Republic and Aruba, Curacao, Cuba, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago.

TRENDS IN 2020

The cases of 1,894 refugees were submitted for resettlement from the Americas region throughout 2020. This represents a seven per cent decrease compared to 2,029 submissions in 2019. Approximately 33 per cent of the refugees



Ecuador, March 2021. Elderly refugee struggles to eat two meals a day.
© UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

submitted for resettlement from the Americas originated from Guatemala, 19 per cent from Colombia, 15 per cent from El Salvador, 14 per cent from Honduras, and 13 per cent from Venezuela. Seven resettlement countries continued receiving submissions from the region in 2020. Around 55 per cent of all submissions were made to the United States of America, 20 per cent to Australia, 12 per cent to New Zealand, and 12 per cent to Canada.

Departures to resettlement countries from the region decreased from 1,174 in 2019 to 940 persons in 2020.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN 2020

THE AMERICAS

Countries in the Americas host close to 15.4 million people of concern to UNHCR, including asylum-seekers, refugees, Venezuelans displaced abroad, stateless persons, and internally displaced persons, representing around 18 per cent of the world's forcibly displaced population.

Despite the efforts of countries in the region and of UNHCR to strengthen access to asylum and/or alternative protection stay arrangements for persons in need of international protection, UNHCR continues identifying increasing numbers of individuals with specific protection needs and/or facing serious risks and for whom voluntary return to their countries of origin is not an option, or for whom protection might not be available in countries of asylum. Hence, resettlement remains both a tool to ensure their protection and to deliver durable solutions.

ANDEAN REGION (COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, AND PERU)

In terms of achievements for the Andean Region during 2020, the operations in Colombia and Peru started resettlement programmes, gradually scaling up their staffing and capacity, which it is expected to further expand in 2021 and 2022.

Another important achievement is related to the expansion of complementary legal pathways. The Ecuador operation has been actively engaged with Canada in negotiating inclusion of Venezuelans into Canada's economic immigration programme that would welcome more than 200,000 people, including refugees, selected based on their skills and work experience every year.

In terms of challenges, the Ecuador operation was severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and saw a significant reduction of almost 50 per cent in terms of submissions and departures in 2020 compared to the previous year: 463 individuals were submitted to resettlement countries in 2020 (704 in 2019), while 287 departed (547 in 2019).

NORTH OF CENTRAL AMERICA (NCA)

In 2020, in order to respond to the increased flows of persons in need of international protection in the NCA, the Protection Transfer Arrangement (PTA) continued to offer an innovative life-saving mechanism that provided individuals exposed to extreme risks in the NCA countries with safe and legal access to a durable solution in a resettlement country, via a transit country.

The major achievement registered in the NCA region was that, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR operations managed to submit the highest number of submissions, while also recording the highest number of departures compared to previous years. During 2020 Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala submitted a total of 1,128 individuals in 2020 versus 968 in 2019 and saw the departure of 562 individuals (95 of them departed from transit facilities in Costa Rica) versus 423 departures recorded in 2019.

This achievement is largely due to agreements reached by UNHCR with resettlement countries as well as guidance provided to UNHCR staff to implement new innovative approaches for resettlement and PTA interviews and processing, while addressing the challenges posed by COVID-19 and maintaining the integrity of the resettlement procedures.

Since the PTA programme started in the region in 2016 and as of 1 January 2021, a total of 6,884 persons from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras have been identified for referral to the PTA program, while 1,304 individuals have departed to resettlement countries. Two major challenges related to the PTA programme in 2020 included the temporary suspension of the transfer of PTA applicants to Costa Rica from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador due to national COVID-related restrictions, as well as the decrease in number of resettlement countries involved in the PTA program. This was mainly due to

the lack of quota offered by South American countries, unlike in previous years when Uruguay and Brazil had offered a small, but still important quota.

In addition, since 2020 UNHCR also implements a resettlement program in Guatemala that seeks to provide a third country solution and a protection response to some of refugees from other countries in the region who have sought protection in the country. A small number of identified vulnerable cases in need of third country durable solutions have also been identified in Costa Rica and Panama, although such operations do not implement regular resettlement programmes.

Mexico was also severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, registering a 50 per cent reduction in terms resettlement submissions, from 116 in 2019 to 59 in 2020, and a slight decrease in terms of departures, from 59 in 2019 to 46 in 2020.

CARIBBEAN

As of 1 January 2021, there were a total of 3,693 recognized refugees and 20,946 registered asylum-seekers from over 45 countries of origin, hosted in the six Caribbean countries covered by the Regional Bureau. The vast majority live in local communities in urban and peri-urban areas.

The region saw some significant increases in terms of submissions in 2020 in comparison with previous years. For instance, the Dominican Republic submitted 68 persons in 2020, versus only 9 in 2019. This is largely due to the expansion of existing agreements with resettlement countries and strengthening the identification and referrals schemes for individuals most in need of third country solutions in the region.

On the other hand, certain operations such as Trinidad and Tobago were severely affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and recorded a reduction in terms of submissions: from 146 in 2019 to 99 in 2020.

Another challenge recorded is related to the Cuba operation, where the protection situation of refugees living in Cuba remains precarious due to the lack

Honduras, December 2020. Teosofias and her family are among the thousands of people in Honduras supported by Jovenes contra la Violencia, a community-led organization the spearheads the prevention of violence and response to forced displacement in the country.
© UNHCR/Rafael Zaldivar



of any legal provision to protect them from *refoulement*, in addition to their limited access to rights, especially the right to work or engage in remunerated activities. Additionally, 2020 registered a further decrease in terms of departures of refugees to resettlement countries, mostly caused by COVID-19 and limited processing capacities by resettlement countries, despite the fact that a considerable number of cases had already been accepted and are pending for departure.

OUTLOOK FOR 2021/22

Despite the efforts of countries in the region and UNHCR to strengthen access to asylum and/or temporary protection stay arrangements for persons in need of international protection, this may not offer a solution for all persons most at risk. In 2022, UNHCR will therefore continue identifying increasing numbers of individuals for resettlement, including those facing specific protection needs and/or risks and for whom voluntary return to their countries of origin is not an option, or for whom protection might not be available in countries of asylum.

The continued deterioration of the socio-economic and human rights situation in Venezuela, and more recently in Nicaragua, continued violent crimes and insecurity in countries in the NCA, and the deterioration of the security situation in areas of Colombia continue to force thousands of people to flee their countries in search of protection and safety. Confronted with increasing numbers of persons in need of international protection, countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean continue to feel the strain. In view of limited income generating opportunities and lack of access to basic services, social protection, and livelihoods, refugees are increasingly resorting to harmful coping mechanisms, exposing themselves to heightened risks. In the Americas, resettlement will continue to be used strategically to preserve the protection space, while supporting the achievement of other solutions and serving as a demonstration of international solidarity and responsibility sharing. Resettlement remains a key component of UNHCR's protection and solutions strategy in the region and will be used as a tool for protection for very vulnerable refugees who are facing heightened protection risks and for whom no other options are available.

In addition, the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic has and will continue to have consequences worldwide. In the Americas, the restrictive measures implemented by the various governments and their socio-economic impact have had severe consequences for persons of concern, in many cases affecting their income generating activities, particularly in the informal sector, and further limiting their capacity to cover basic needs (rent, food, health care, education). Additionally, the pandemic has further exposed UNHCR's persons of concern to harassment, abuses, human right violations and persecution.

ANDEAN REGION (COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, AND PERU)

Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru are among the countries more severely impacted by the situation in Venezuela, hosting more than 3 of the 5 million Venezuelans refugees and migrants who have left their country.

Voluntary repatriation is not yet considered an option for the vast majority of Colombians and Venezuelans in need of international protection. Rather, given the situation in both countries, a continuing stream of departures to other countries in the region in search for safety is expected throughout 2021 and in 2022.

In terms of local Integration prospects, the Colombian government has taken significant measures to provide avenues to access legal-stay arrangements for Venezuelans through various types of special stay permits, including the groundbreaking Temporary Protection Status for Venezuelan migrants (TPSV) announced in early 2021. The TPSV – with a 10-year validity – will allow Venezuelans to access essential services, facilitating their access to basic rights such as formal employment, comprehensive health care services, and education.

Despite the positive steps and efforts made by host countries in the region towards local integration of refugees, such options remain limited and, hence, resettlement remains a key component of UNHCR's protection strategy in the Andean Region, both as an effective tool to address and ensure protection and as a durable solution.

The Americas Bureau will continue focusing on strengthening and building capacities of UNHCR operations while ensuring integrity of resettlement procedures through supervision, guidance, support, and review of cases for Peru and Colombia, since both operations have recently started to implement resettlement programmes. Key will also be the strengthening of the strategic use of resettlement as a protection tool to ensure a more protection-driven approach, while maintaining its implementation as a demonstration of the international commitment to sharing the responsibility to protect and find solutions for refugees.

NORTH OF CENTRAL AMERICA

It is expected that the PTA program, which remains a key element of the regional protection and solutions strategy in the NCA region, will be further scaled up and strengthened. Additionally, as of 2021, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador will all implement resettlement programmes for refugees from the NCA region.

The NCA region continues to be severely affected by gang violence, extortion, threats to life, and sexual violence, as well as other serious human rights violations. State capacity to provide effective protection is very limited. Violence and insecurity, compounded by the lack of opportunities, has led to the forced displacement of persons seeking protection and access to basic services and livelihood opportunities.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are further increasing the inequalities in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, deepening structural weaknesses, such as chronic violence, and affecting the economy. The health crisis is likely to have a greater impact on vulnerable and low-income populations, including people with disabilities, children, elderly, indigenous women, people of diverse sexual orientation or gender diversity, and people displaced or at-risk of displacement.

There is also an increasing number of people at risk of internal displacement and communities affected by violence, and this trend is expected to continue through 2022.

Notwithstanding the decrease in the number of deportations from Mexico and the United States of America due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions observed in 2020, UNHCR estimates that the number of deportees with protection needs will increase by 40 per cent during 2021 and 2022.

In this complex humanitarian environment, there will be a growing need in the coming months for UNHCR to reinforce the response for internally displaced persons with heightened protection needs, specific needs, persons at risk of displacement, as well as for returnees and deportees, asylum-seekers, refugees, and the communities that are hosting them. Both PTA and resettlement programmes remain key protection tools for persons of concern to UNHCR in the NCA region.

CARIBBEAN

The southern Caribbean has been profoundly impacted by the arrival of Venezuelans in the last three years, the majority of whom remain unregistered and find themselves in an irregular situation. Some 160,000 Venezuelans are expected to be hosted in the Caribbean countries in 2022 and beyond. As UNHCR expands registration and refugee status determination activities under its mandate in these countries, it is expected that refugee numbers will continue to increase, coupled with limited local integration opportunities in the host countries. The increasing arrivals of new Venezuelans to the southern Caribbean states and territories combined with strengthened UNHCR activities to identify vulnerable refugee protection cases is likely to result in a significantly higher level of resettlement needs being identified during 2022.

RESETTLEMENT NEEDS IN 2022

As indicated above, the projected resettlement needs for 2022 double the figure of the previous year, with a total figure of more than 55,600 individuals in need of third countries solutions.

THE AMERICAS: 2022 PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS

REGION OF ASYLUM	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS*	
	Cases	Persons
The Americas	17 662	55 640
Grand Total	17 662	55 640

* including multi-year planning

THE AMERICAS FIELD STORY

ECUADOR

At the end of February 2020, I started my work as a Resettlement Assistant in Quito, Ecuador. I came to UNHCR when resettlement interviews were still face-to-face, without windows, masks or intercoms. A few days later Ecuador became one of the countries hardest hit by the pandemic at the time, and we saw heartbreaking scenes that did not seem real, with people dying in the streets. Many countries closed their borders, the virus that seemed far away became a pandemic, a period of lockdown began in Ecuador, and our routine changed overnight. We could not continue interviewing as we did not know how long the restrictions would last. There were more uncertainties than certainties, but we hoped that our old normality would return soon.

Given the conditions in the country, people's needs, and vulnerabilities increased, particularly affecting the refugees we worked with. While we lost physical contact, our calls to each family in the resettlement process brought us closer to them in difficult times. As we contacted them, we began to identify similar situations: unemployment, with threats of eviction, malnutrition, children without internet and electronic devices to continue studying, desperate to leave Ecuador but unable to return to their countries. Those who already felt discriminated against because of their nationality, their migratory status or their skin color, now felt even more excluded due to the spread of the virus. For them, the possibility of staying at home was not an option for survival because they were, and still are, heavily dependent on their daily income.

Refugees not only had to face the pain of having fled, leaving behind their homes, their loved ones and their life plans, due to covid-19 pandemic they had to start their lives over again, under unexpected conditions, but with the hope that at some point resettlement might be the solution they had dreamed for. They not only wanted to survive the virus, they wanted to live with dignity in Ecuador or in any country, but economic conditions and border closures became their worst enemies in the asylum country.

Finally, in September 2020 we resumed our activities and interviewed cases again in two modalities: virtual and face-to-face. By then, talking through a screen had become a routine, and face-to-face interviews an exception. I took every precaution and returned with great excitement to talk to people again. Upon my return to the interview rooms, I noticed that even though I could not see their faces completely under their masks, their enthusiasm for resettlement



Conducting a resettlement interview during the COVID-19 pandemic in Quito. © UNHCR/Ecuador

was noticeable and expressed all their hope that at some point they might have the opportunity to start over in another country.

On the other hand, those who have already been accepted by the resettlement countries but are still unable to travel have already read and seen all the pictures on the internet about their new home and were just waiting for those borders to open for them. One excited family told me about their progress with their English classes while they wait for that phone call to tell them that they will be leaving soon. A young man who was a football player before fleeing his country said that when he finally travels and becomes a great player in his new country, he will tell everyone that his dream has come true thanks to UNHCR.

Despite the fact that the pandemic has greatly changed the dynamics of the world, we continue to interview people who were more afraid of staying in their country than of an unprecedented pandemic. They left seeking protection but arrived in a country hard hit by the effects of the pandemic, in a country where unemployment and extreme poverty have increased rapidly, causing greater difficulties for their integration. This is why, even with the constraints of the current context, resettlement remains a necessary solution for millions of people, and it is now that the solidarity of states is most important.

Maria Fernanda Zamora Andrade

Resettlement Assistant
UNHCR Ecuador

A young girl wearing a vibrant red headscarf with a white patterned border is sitting on the ground. The ground is parched and cracked, indicating a severe drought. In the background, there is a simple building with a corrugated metal roof and some laundry hanging on a line. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. A decorative graphic consisting of three overlapping arrows (white, light blue, and dark blue) points to the right, positioned above the main title.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

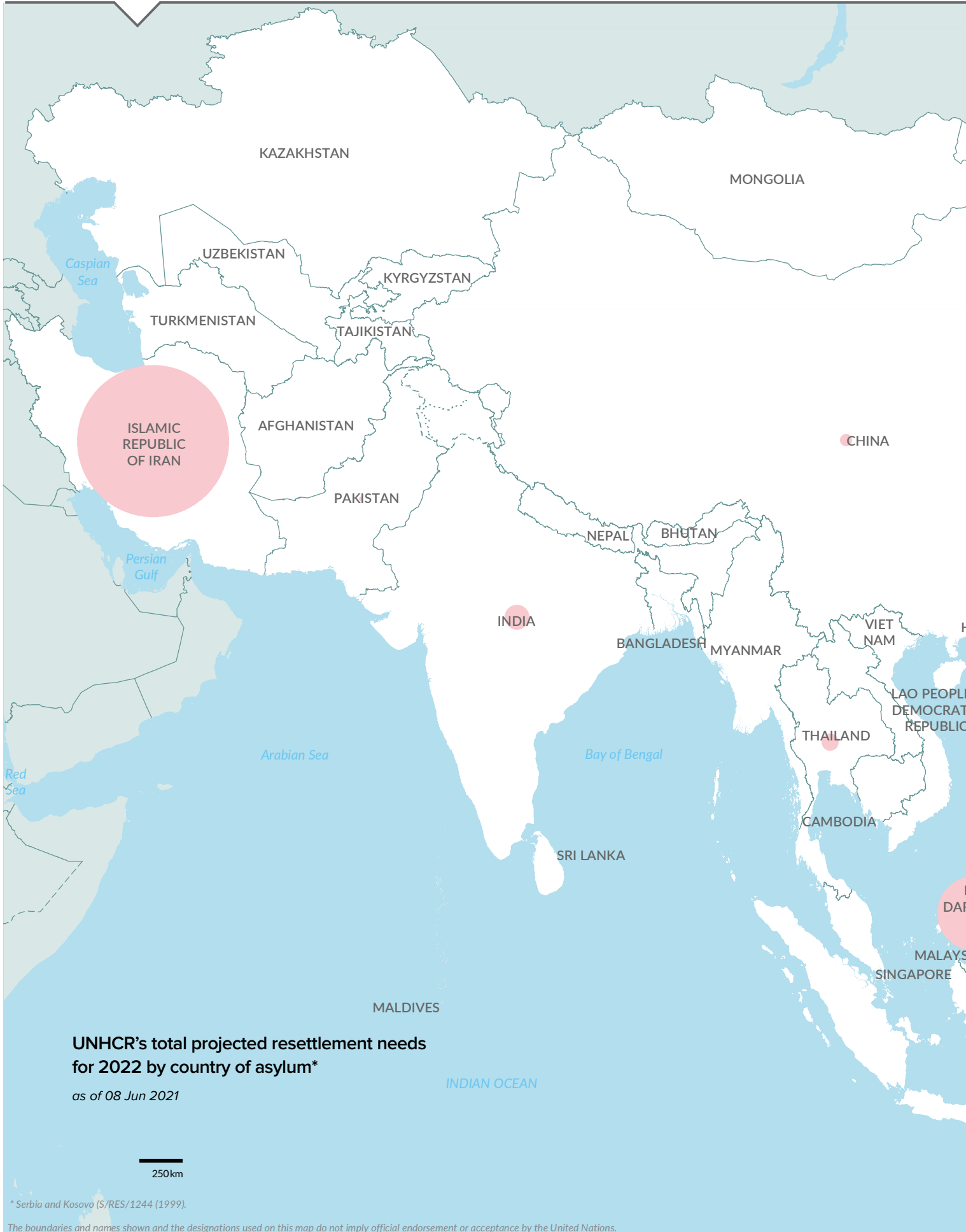
SOUTH ASIA
India

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
China (including Hong Kong SAR)
Indonesia
Malaysia
Thailand

SOUTH-WEST ASIA
Islamic Republic of Iran
Pakistan



Indonesia, September 2021. Alakama, a 10-year-old Rohingya refugee from Myanmar, washes chillis at a refugee site converted from an unused government complex in Lhokseumawe, northern Aceh province, Indonesia. © UNHCR/Jiro Ose





ASIA AND THE PACIFIC OVERVIEW

In a region hosting around 4.4 million refugees and asylum-seekers, many in countries that are not signatories to the 1951 Convention nor have effective national asylum frameworks, UNHCR's persons of concern remain in precarious protection situations. Resettlement will therefore continue to be a key durable solution to help address the needs of refugees while also helping to maintain and enhance protection space and encourage and enable the pursuit of local solutions in host countries, in the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees.

REGIONAL COVERAGE AND SUPPORT

The Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP) provides oversight, coordination, and support for resettlement activities in 45 countries covered by 13 UNHCR operations throughout Asia and the Pacific. In 2022, activities by RBAP to promote resettlement within the region will include: ensuring coordination and harmonization of resettlement approaches in line with the regional solutions strategy, ensuring the strategic use of resettlement to complement other solutions and to strengthen the protection environment in host countries, direct resettlement processing for a small number of cases in countries with no or limited UNHCR presence, reviewing resettlement submissions by country operations as needed, and continued engagement with State programmes which represent complementary pathways for the admission of refugees to third countries.

TRENDS IN 2020

The cases of 2,654 refugees were submitted for resettlement from the Asia and the Pacific region throughout 2020, a significant decrease from submissions in 2019 of 5,719. Approximately 30 per cent of the refugees submitted for resettlement originated from Myanmar, 22 per cent from Afghanistan, 16 per cent from Somalia, and 14 per cent from Pakistan.

Thirteen resettlement states continued receiving submissions from the region in 2020. Around 34 per cent of all submissions were made to the Canada, 24 per cent to New Zealand, 17 per cent to Australia, nine per cent to the United Kingdom, and nine per cent to the United States of America.

Departures to resettlement countries from the region also decreased from 7,651 persons in 2019 to 3,131 in 2020.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN 2020

Out of almost 100,000 refugees projected to be in need of resettlement in 2020, 2,654 refugees were submitted to resettlement countries by UNHCR operations in Asia and the Pacific, and 3,131 departed for resettlement. In addition to quotas allocated to specific country operations, UNHCR made effective use of the critical places made available by some resettlement countries under unallocated global quotas to ensure protection for individuals and families facing heightened and emergent protection risks, as well as refugees identified in countries without a UNHCR presence. Complementary pathways for admission provided additional opportunities to find solutions.

Resettlement programs in all country operations faced significant challenges in 2020, including a limited number of States providing resettlement opportunities and other pathways for admission to refugees in the region, restrictive selection criteria, and logistical difficulties due to the COVID pandemic. UNHCR operations adapted quickly and found ways to continue resettlement case processing and related activities through innovation, including remote interviewing mechanisms and/or remote interpreting, with appropriate safeguards for integrity and confidentiality. Several resettlement countries also demonstrated flexibility, whether by interviewing refugees remotely or through the adjudication of cases on a dossier basis, including urgent and emergency priority submissions. Although there were insufficient opportunities for departure due to limited flights and/or entry restrictions in receiving States, the tools and mechanisms developed in 2020 to enable the continuity of resettlement programs will have long-term benefits for effective and efficient case processing by both UNHCR and resettlement States.

OUTLOOK FOR 2021/22

Resettlement is not only a means of sharing responsibility for refugee protection with major host countries, it has a critical strategic role in supporting broader



Iran, May 2021. A young Afghan refugee woman wearing masks during the COVID-19 pandemic is buying bread in Pakdasht, Tehran, Iran. © UNHCR/Zahra Nazari

efforts to address the predicament of large refugee populations, who face an increasingly protracted displacement due to ongoing conflict and human rights violations in countries of origin. It is imperative that countries hosting a large proportion of the world's refugee population receive recognition and substantive support from the international community, and that persons of concern – particularly in protracted situations – have access to opportunities to grow, engage, and contribute while in displacement.

To these ends, UNHCR is working with governments, host communities, partners, and refugees to improve the quality of life in displacement through the more consistent inclusion of persons of concern in national healthcare, education, judicial, and social systems and in activities that enable self-reliance. In addition to providing a safe solution to those most in need, the strategic use of resettlement encourages and assists host country governments to maintain and enhance protection space for those persons of concern who remain on their territory.

In resettlement case identification, UNHCR operations in Asia and the Pacific will continue to prioritize refugees facing serious risks to their personal safety, health, or well-being, and those with serious or compounded vulnerabilities. Cases are individually assessed prior to submission through panels and other protection-oriented mechanisms designed to ensure consistency, fairness, confidence, and transparency in resettlement procedures. UNHCR assesses each case holistically with a focus on protection risks and will not prioritize refugees for resettlement on the basis of their ethnicity, religion, or nationality. The resettlement selection

criteria of States must be equally inclusive, non-discriminatory, and protection-oriented to address the identified needs in the region.

UNHCR offices throughout the region continue to seek opportunities for persons of concern to access complementary pathways for admission, additional to resettlement programs, including engagement with civil society and support to States to create new pathways within the region, with a focus on education and labour pathways. UNHCR anticipates the realization of a Global Refugee Forum pledge by the Government of the Philippines in the near future to create a complementary pathway for admission of Rohingya refugees and other positive developments.

RESETTLEMENT NEEDS IN 2022

In the following chapters, country operations have highlighted resettlement needs for the 106,400 refugees in Asia and the Pacific. Resettlement needs have been identified through a combination of methods, including specific needs registered in *proGres*, referrals from partners in the field, and an assessment of the impact of the protection environment, risks, and opportunities in host countries.

As the majority of persons of concern in the region are located in host countries that are not signatories to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and do not have an effective national asylum framework, refugees remain in a precarious predicament, often with limited access to livelihood opportunities, education, healthcare, and other services and systems for social protection. In addition, their irregular status in the host country represents a need for legal and physical protection, and impacts freedom of movement, rendering them at heightened risk of arrest, detention, and deportation on immigration-related charges. As resettlement needs will likely exceed available opportunities, UNHCR will prioritize submissions for individuals experiencing heightened protection risks or presenting acute vulnerabilities, which cannot be adequately addressed in the country of asylum.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: 2022 PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS

REGION OF ASYLUM	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS*	
	Cases	Persons
East Asia and the Pacific	18 418	24 230
South Asia	860	2 120
South-West Asia	20 008	80 050
Grand Total	39 286	106 400

* including multi-year planning

Turkey, February 2021. Gazel is 13 years old living in Istanbul with her family. They fled to Turkey five years ago.
© UNHCR/Emrah Gurel



EUROPE

Turkey







EUROPE OVERVIEW

As in previous years, Turkey represents an important share of the resettlement needs in Europe on account of its large refugee population amounting to some 4 million individuals, as of 1 January 2021. Infrastructure and resources in Turkey remain overstretched despite the multifaceted support provided by a wide range of actors. Durable solutions, notably voluntary repatriation, are not yet available to most refugees. It is projected that 401,740 refugees, including 364,140 Syrians, will be in need of resettlement in 2022, making Turkey the host country with the greatest needs globally. In Turkey, resettlement will continue to be used strategically to preserve the national protection space and to generate other solutions, while representing a demonstration of international solidarity and responsibility-sharing.

In a few other European countries, resettlement is a small but key component of UNHCR's protection strategy, including in the Russian Federation and Ukraine, where it represents a protection tool for very vulnerable refugees facing heightened protection risks.

TRENDS IN 2020

The number of resettlement submissions from Europe dropped to 6,109 (of which 6,097 were from the Turkey operation) in 2020 compared to 17,572 in 2019. This represents a decrease of 65 per cent from the previous year. Departures to resettlement countries from the region also decreased from 10,617 in 2019 to 4,061 in 2020, with the majority of departures from Turkey (4,048) followed by countries in Eastern Europe.

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR submitted just over 21,700 refugees for resettlement to 18 countries in Europe, 36 per cent fewer than in 2019 (33,838), and 28 per cent fewer than the yearly average of 30,200 over the previous five years (2015-2019). Resettlement arrivals in Europe inevitably fell as well, with COVID-19-related measures and the closure of EU external borders leading to the disruption or temporary suspension of resettlement programmes in many European countries while also affecting other pathways for admission.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on population movements within and to Europe throughout 2020, including mixed flows of people. The number of new arrivals to southern Europe decreased by nearly 23 per cent in 2020 when compared to 2019, from 123,700 to some 95,000 individuals. Notably, the number of sea arrivals to Greece reduced by 84 per cent when compared to 2019. The overall reduction in the number of arrivals to Europe can be attributed, in part, to COVID-19-related public health measures taken by States, including movement restrictions, the imposition of temporary entry bans, the quarantine of new arrivals and, in several cases, the closure of borders. Italy and Spain,



Turkey, February 2021. Ahmed, a Syrian refugee, learned Turkish at a UNHCR supported centre and attended textile courses. He now has a second-hand antique store and makes masks for people in need during the pandemic. © UNHCR

however, saw an increase in the number of sea arrivals, with some 34,000 individuals arriving in Italy (three times more than in 2019) and some 42,000 arriving in Spain (a 29 per cent increase when compared with 2019).

Within this context, arrivals to Turkey from Syria and several other countries continued, including asylum-seekers and refugees. As a result, Turkey remained the world's largest refugee hosting country in 2020, with significant resettlement needs among Syrian refugees, in addition to refugees from Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and other countries. Due to the pandemic, however, only 6,097 submissions were possible and only 4,048 refugees departed for resettlement. Numerous resettlement countries remained proactively engaged in the resettlement of Syrian refugees, complemented by family reunification and opportunities through other pathways, including private sponsorship.

Resettlement from Turkey not only provides refugees with protection and a durable solution, but it also represents an opportunity for the international community to ease pressure on host communities, support the largest refugee-hosting country, and demonstrate the positive impact of responsibility-sharing. Large-scale resettlement from Turkey is essential to developing comprehensive refugee responses as envisaged in the Global Compact on Refugees.

In Eastern Europe, access to asylum and the capacity to conduct efficient and fair asylum procedures has also been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The protection environment throughout the sub-region remains relatively constrained, marked by restrictive approaches and prevalence of national security considerations over the assessment of asylum claims in line with international standards. Certain groups of people, notably from specific ethnic and religious communities as well as individuals with a diverse sexual orientation or gender identity (LGBTI), face increased risks of *refoulement*, physical threats,

and sexual and gender-based violence. UNHCR works with State authorities towards ensuring access to fair and efficient refugee status determination (RSD) procedures and decision-making that meets international standards, while supporting the local integration of refugees remains a key priority. UNHCR will nonetheless pursue resettlement for refugees at heightened risk or with serious vulnerabilities.

In South Eastern Europe, a steady flow of asylum-seekers and migrants continues to move through the region. For various reasons, persons who are potentially in need of international protection rarely pursue their applications for asylum and attempt to move onward. However, with restrictive border management by some States, such movements have become increasingly more difficult. The number of persons applying for international protection in the region is likely to increase.

RESETTLEMENT NEEDS IN 2022

The resettlement needs in Europe remain high for 2022. Syrians in Turkey make up over 90 per cent of this figure. In Eastern and South Eastern European countries, UNHCR will continue to focus on strengthening national asylum systems and increasing efforts to find local and community-based solutions for persons of concern; however, refugees facing specific protection risks may need resettlement, including individuals at risk of *refoulement* or threats to their physical safety, as well as refugees in need of life-saving medical treatment that is not available and accessible in the host country.

SUB-REGIONAL OVERVIEWS

TURKEY

Syrian refugees in Turkey continue to benefit from temporary protection, and the Government recognizes that they will remain in Turkey for an extended period of time in view of the prevailing situation in Syria. Although the work permit regulations of early 2016 provide a firm ground for labour market integration of persons of concern, significant constraints, including the economic climate and high rates of unemployment, continue to inhibit refugees' participation in the labour market. Destitution among refugees has resulted in reliance on harmful coping mechanisms, such as child labour and child marriage, while aggravating tensions among communities. Given the scale of the refugee population, the social infrastructure in Turkey is under pressure, making it difficult for refugees to access services. Therefore, resettlement remains a vital responsibility-sharing mechanism and a means to ease the strain on Turkey's resources. The estimated resettlement needs in Turkey are 401,740 persons, most of whom are Syrian refugees.

Unlike Syrian refugees, asylum-seekers from other countries of origin undergo individual RSD for which the Government of Turkey has assumed responsibility since 2018. Those who originate from outside Europe are considered to hold "conditional" refugee status if recognized as eligible for international protection, due to the geographic limitation, which Turkey

maintains with respect to the definition in Article 1 of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Those holding this conditional status may remain in the country legally, but only until a durable solution is found outside Turkey, limiting access to local solutions for this group. The estimated resettlement needs of refugees from countries other than Syria in Turkey are around 37,600 persons (including refugees from Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and other countries), comprising children and adolescents at risk, refugees with legal and/or physical protection needs, survivors of violence or torture, and refugees with serious medical needs or disabilities.

EASTERN AND SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

Resettlement needs in South Eastern and Eastern Europe (particularly in the Russian Federation and Ukraine) in 2022 are estimated to be 120 people. These refugees originate primarily from Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Syria, and the South Caucasus, as well as a small number from sub-Saharan countries. The protection environment across the region remains relatively volatile with certain ethnic and religious minorities as well as LGBTI persons facing considerable risks. UNHCR plans to continue using resettlement throughout the region for highly vulnerable refugees, including those at risk of *refoulement*, while increasing its efforts to find other solutions.

In Ukraine, some refugees are exposed to threats to their physical safety and remain in a vulnerable socio-economic situation, including women and LGBTI individuals. While UNHCR's efforts are focused on local integration through community-based approaches, persons of concern with serious protection risks and/or social vulnerabilities, including acute medical needs which cannot be effectively addressed in Ukraine, will be identified as needing resettlement. In the Russian Federation, access to international protection remains a challenge, resulting in a risk of arrest and deportation as well as a lack of access to healthcare and livelihoods. In South Eastern Europe, individuals with specific protection needs, particularly women and adolescents at risk, may be in need of resettlement in 2022.

EUROPE: 2022 PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS

REGION OF ASYLUM	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS*	
	Cases	Persons
Turkey	106 700	401 740
Grand Total	106 700	401 740

* including multi-year planning

EUROPE REFUGEE VOICE

My name is Chahira Bourhan. I am 26 years old. I am married and I have two wonderful boys. I am from Syria, the country that I am proud to belong to. I don't have many good memories there, though, because the war began there when I was 16, when I started to form memories, which will remain with me all my life. I was able to withstand in Syria during the war for four years, but the danger increased with the days, so I had to move to Lebanon. The journey was not easy.

As a Syrian, the situation in Lebanon was also not very good; we were suffering a lot there and I do believe it is the same for many of the Syrians living there.

Believe me, it is so hard to survive war, leaving behind your home, your family, your country that you're born in, and come to a new country where many people struggle. That, nobody can imagine. So, the best solution was to travel on resettlement, but that was not a decision I could take on my own. You must wait for the UN to contact you and then you have to do a lot of interviews, after that you learn which country you are going to travel to.

This all happened to my family. We waited for a year and a half until we left Lebanon to come to Ireland in December 2019. It was our good luck that we were chosen to be supported through the sponsorship resettlement programme. I didn't know anything about this programme until shortly before my travel date, which added to my uncertainty.

I left Lebanon with many thoughts in my mind and great fear of the unknown future, but when we arrived at Dublin Airport, all of the members of the sponsorship team were there waiting for us with their families. They were holding signs written in Arabic and were very happy to see us and to get to know us as well. Those moments were really unforgettable. It is really cool to feel there is a group of people who don't know you but they are waiting for your arrival as a member of their family, they love you and wish you the best. This made me calm down a bit and be less nervous.

Frankly, in the beginning things were difficult and we were afraid of making any mistakes. I think this was because of the difference in the cultures and customs of the societies in which we grew up. But with the days we got to know each other, and I began to feel safe. I started again thinking about the future and making plans for my boys life because in the last ten years I had forgotten how people can dream and hope for a beautiful future.

The sponsorship team members tried their best to make us happy and comfortable, and they really helped us a lot to settle down. I knew I was not alone, and there were people who had prepared well for my arrival with my family. They were with us and still are in every step of this way. They are like my family here. I am very grateful to them for being here for us all the time.

Refugees leave everything and everyone they love behind. I am grateful to be safe but I do feel guilty when I think of friends and family left behind. I know I shouldn't feel it, survivor guilt, but I do.

Last but not least I want to remind you that refugees are humans like you.

It doesn't matter their nationality, please don't treat them differently. Be humane. Don't let them feel they are without value or they are a heavy burden on you. Every human being deserves to live. If their countries have war that is not their fault and it is a 100 per cent not their choice. Give them a chance for life, they don't ask for more. I think they deserve that.

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to tell my story and to highlight the voices of many refugees around the world.

Chahira Bourhan



Chahira in her new home country, Ireland. 2020.
© UNHCR/Chahira Bourhan

EUROPE FIELD STORY

TURKEY

Like in many places, the resettlement team in Turkey was forced to stop conducting in-person interviews with refugees at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The new situation had already exacerbated the refugees' vulnerability and therefore the whole team was collectively keen to resume interviews as swiftly as possible.

Instead of bringing refugees to Ankara where UNHCR's interview facilities are located, or sending caseworkers to refugees' locations, UNHCR laptops were installed at the Turkish Provincial Directorate of Migration Management (PDMM) offices in several locations across the country. Thus, refugees do not have to travel long hours nor risk their lives to have access to resettlement.

As caseworkers, we are used to have different ways to help refugees alleviate stress during face-to-face interviews. In a remote interview setting, this is however almost impossible. Instead, together with the interpreters, we try to smile and wave at refugees through the screens as well as greet and thank them for coming to the interview. After all the family members sit



*Damla working in the
UNHCR Ankara office.
November 2020.
© UNHCR/Turkey*



Selim conducting remote interviews in Ankara, Turkey. November 2020.
© UNHCR/Turkey

and relax a little, we would explain to them why the interview is conducted in this manner.

Taking photographs of refugees while conducting interviews remotely is often entertaining. Young children would tease each other while their photos are being taken. The child whose photo is being taken frequently cannot help but laugh hysterically when they see their own image on the screen. On the other hand, babies and toddlers do not understand why they must look at the green light on the computer without moving. Naturally, they protest by running around the room or bursting out in tears.

The interview rooms are also equipped with scanners, and the refugees can scan their own documents. In order to maximise the internet connection while scanning, we often switch off the camera. As our interpreters cannot see what is going on with the scanners, this can create bizarre situations when we try to explain how to use the scanners without visual guide.

While maintaining rapport remains a challenge, especially when we want to show our deep understanding and provide genuine support, refugees' gratitude for conducting interviews under these extraordinary times does certainly transmit over the computer screens.

Senim Dirican and Damla Deniz Haykir

Senior Resettlement Associates
Ankara, Turkey



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

THE MIDDLE EAST

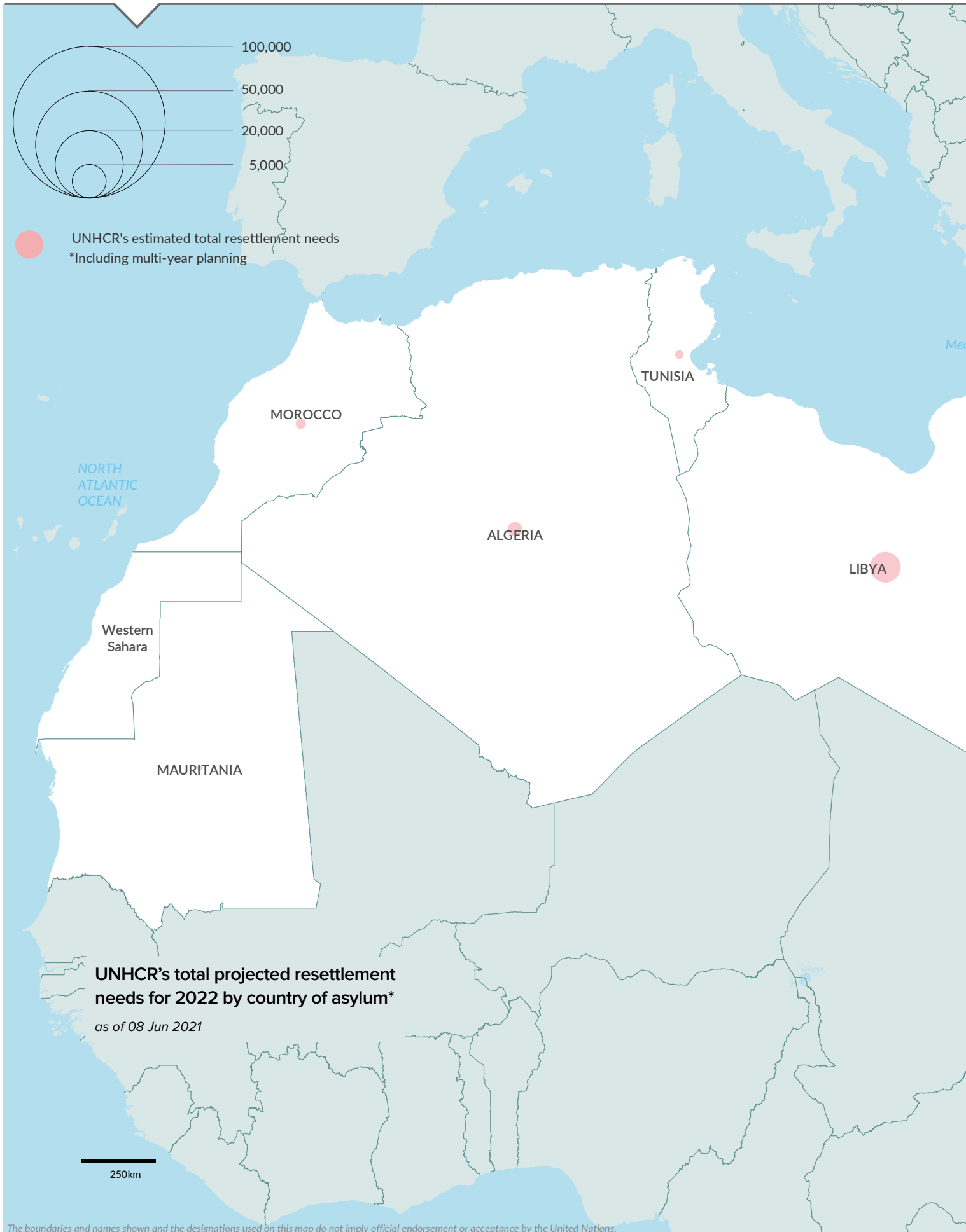
Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, and Bahrain
Iraq
Israel
Jordan
Kuwait
Lebanon
Syrian Arab Republic
United Arab Emirates
Yemen

NORTH AFRICA

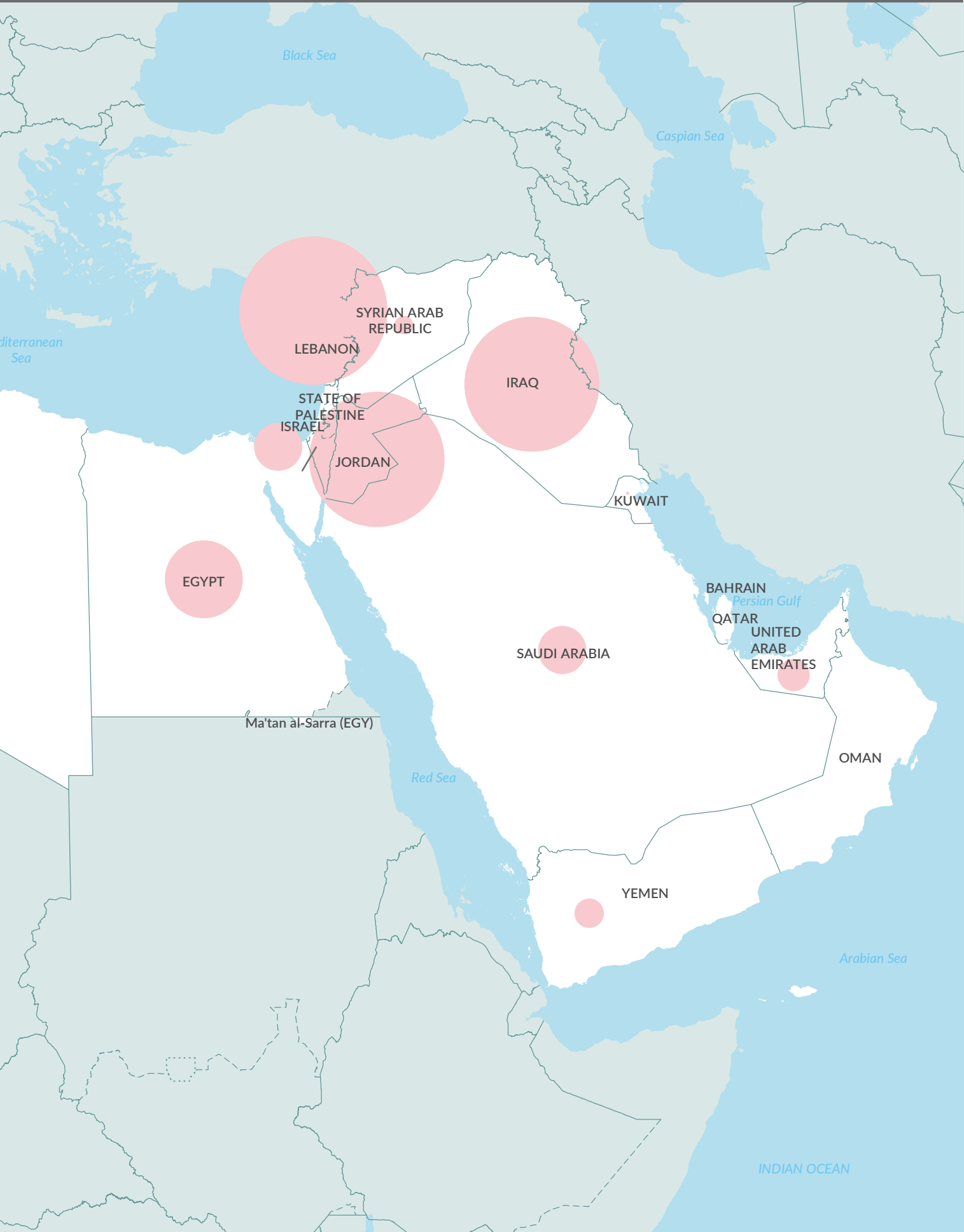
Algeria
Egypt
Libya
Mauritania
Morocco
Tunisia



Jordan, November 2020. Syrian refugee and community volunteer, Barak, 21, plays football with refugee and Jordanian children in his neighbourhood in Karak. © UNHCR/Lilly Carlisle



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA





Lebanon, November 2020. Syrian refugee, Huda, works harvesting tomatoes with her daughter in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon. The single mother of three lost her husband in Syria and says smiling and staying positive helps her overcome difficulties.
© UNHCR/Houssam Hariri

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA OVERVIEW

The protection situation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is characterized by conflict zones in Syria, Libya and Yemen, instability in Iraq, mixed migration movements throughout North Africa, and large-scale protracted populations. With the continued and compounding needs of refugees in the region having only worsened sharply in the past year, resettlement remains a critical solution for many refugees.

REGIONAL COVERAGE

The Regional Bureau in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA Bureau) provides oversight, coordination, and support for resettlement and complementary pathways in: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The MENA Bureau maintains functional oversight of Turkey for the Iraq and Syria regional responses.

The MENA region is multi-faceted, and the support required by operations is similarly diverse. The region is composed of several very different durable solutions environments with distinct characteristics that require contextual attention. Depending on varying needs of operations, support includes an array

of tailored activities that serve to build sustainable resettlement programmes in smaller and medium size resettlement operations, while ensuring that operations with larger resettlement programs benefit from responsive, strategic, and needs-based support.

TRENDS IN 2020

2020 saw a decrease in submissions from the MENA region with 16,469 refugees submitted for resettlement compared to 23,964 submissions in 2019. This is a 31 per cent decrease from the previous year, although almost a 76 per cent reduction from the peak of submission in 2016 (67,723).

In 2020, approximately 80 per cent of the refugees submitted from the MENA region originated from Syria. The top three non-Syrian nationalities submitted in 2020 were Sudanese (seven per cent), Iraqi (four per cent), and Eritrean (three per cent).

Submissions were made to 19 different resettlement countries in 2020. 29 per cent of all submissions were made to Canada, 12 per cent to Sweden, 11 per cent to the France, 11 per cent to Norway, seven per cent to Germany, and seven per cent to Australia. Departures to resettlement countries from the region also decreased from 20,036 in 2019 to 8,346 in 2020.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN 2020

UNHCR in the MENA region has largely maintained productivity despite experiencing the universal impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, with severe socio-economic repercussions, disruptions in education, movement restrictions, and border closures. The pandemic has had a particularly disastrous effect on refugees and others of concern, with many pre-existing vulnerabilities faced by refugees further aggravated, particularly for women and girls. The economic context, already challenging for host communities, has now worsened to the point where even countries of asylum with relatively favorable protection environments are becoming less secure. In other countries, lives or safety are increasingly at direct risk due to instability, violence or conflict, marginalization, or outright hostility from host communities, renewed targeting for arrest, detention and deportation, or complete destitution. In this context, the disruption of resettlement departures has been a significant challenge.

Against this backdrop and despite fluctuations of resettlement quotas and planning, the MENA Bureau focused on the delivery of quotas during in 2020, in order to capitalize on every precious resettlement place and maintain the “stay and deliver” approach. All quotas were met through timely, high-quality submissions, aimed at those with the most compelling protection needs.

While submissions decreased sharply from the previous year, this was the result of general uncertainty of quotas or disruption of resettlement processing, including several important programmes being paused until further notice.



*Tunisia, March 2021.
Patrice and his wife
arrived in Tunisia in May
2016 from Cote d'Ivoire,
having been forced to
leave their country.
© UNHCR/Hallouli
Mohamed Ameur*

The commitment and dedication of UNHCR colleagues in the region was well demonstrated. For example, notwithstanding the vast impact of the Beirut explosions on communities in Lebanon, including many staff, Lebanon maintained a similar pace of submissions compared to 2019, achieving 95 per cent of planned submissions for 2020. The operations of Israel, Egypt, Syria, and Turkey generously provided remote interview or review support for short “surge” periods to assist in meeting and capitalizing on regional quotas. In Libya, Yemen, and Iraq, colleagues navigated ongoing instability and conflict to deliver on resettlement pledges. Faced with repeated and sustained lockdown measures, colleagues in Jordan nonetheless maintained resettlement interviewing and processing via remote means, while in Tunisia, colleagues continued to prioritize resettlement despite the lack of allocated quotas, benefiting from the global unallocated quotas, in order to seek protection and solutions for the most at risk.

To ensure ongoing submissions while safeguarding the health of all involved, the MENA Bureau and operations developed remote processing modalities to maintain quality, integrity and systemic security. Previously well-established methodologies were drawn from the regional context, and standard operating procedures and risk assessment guidance regulated the new processing approach. In a welcome development, the MENA Bureau and operations developed ways to support and facilitate virtual selection missions (VSMs) from several resettlement countries to ensure processing continued.

During 2020 and continuing in 2021, the MENA Bureau established a unique Complementary Pathways Contact Group, co-Chaired by Canada and the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP). The Contact Group is envisaged as an incubator for complementary pathways opportunities in the region and as a space which drives the expansion of complementary pathways opportunities in the region through sharing of ideas, collaboration, and innovation.

OUTLOOK FOR 2021/22

Given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on resettlement for the past year, 2022 will, for the MENA region, be the year of recovery.

There was been a sharp drop in submissions during 2020, and 2021 is forecast to reflect similarly modest submission numbers, despite the increasing needs. Therefore, the MENA Bureau and operations in the region, including Turkey, aim to increase resettlement submissions in 2022, to reach or exceed the 2019 total of more than 41,500. This is an achievable goal and reflects the wider regional protection and solutions strategy for the region.

During 2020, the protection and solutions strategy has been underpinned by the “stay and deliver” approach through which UNHCR strengthened efforts, capacity, and advocacy opportunities for persons of concern’s access to safety, dignified stay, and realization of solutions through a rights-based and age, gender and diversity approach.

During 2021 and 2022, the MENA Bureau will build upon this approach, taking into account regional protection realities and the global context of resettlement, with the overall goal being to ensure that existing resettlement and complementary pathways opportunities in the region are realized and additional opportunities are actively generated or sought after. This will be achieved through engagement with and support to operations, as well as thorough more targeted review processes and regional quota management and oversight. The MENA Bureau also aims to introduce a more tailored form of support according to operations’ individual needs and priorities, which will serve to further capacitate resettlement and complementary pathways activities, including advocacy, in the region as a whole.

Another key priority is continued collaboration with States and partners to further improve coordination at all levels, including for remote processing and other innovations, and by supporting new interest and activities in the region. The MENA Bureau will continue its partnership with multi-lateral fora, including the Priority Situations Core Group (PSCG) and the Regional Durable Solutions Working Group for the Syria situation. Ongoing partnership with the Regional Integrity Working Group is envisaged, bringing together practitioners from UNHCR, embassies, and IOM to promote regional dialogue and exchanges of good practices in resettlement programme integrity and anti-fraud safeguards. In the absence of sufficient resettlement places, the MENA Bureau will build on the partnerships established in the regional contact group to unlock and promote access to complementary pathways for refugees.

In 2022, resettlement will continue to be used strategically to benefit both those to be resettled and those remaining in the region. Resettlement will promote international responsibility-sharing as reflected in the Global Compact on Refugees. UNHCR uses resettlement as a foundation for dialogue with host States, crucial in the deteriorating protection space. Building on these dialogues, offices

may advocate for access to territory, granting or extension of legal stay, and access to educational and livelihood opportunities. Resettlement programmes targeting Syrians may be used to advocate for the inclusion of non-Syrian refugees or to seek improvement to their status in some host communities. Resettlement will be used to unlock impasses with host States on specific matters and within a wider framework of durable solutions in the Libya and Central Mediterranean context.

RESETTLEMENT NEEDS IN 2022

The complex protection environment across the region and the effect of COVID-19 impact the availability of lasting solutions. The COVID-19 crisis has caused a reduction in returns, with some 38,000 Syrian refugees returning in 2020, a 60 per cent decrease compared to 2019. Current forecasts indicate that despite deteriorating situations in neighboring countries, the ongoing instability and hardships in Syria will likely result in similarly low rate of returns during 2021. Other factors, including the situation in Yemen and ongoing insecurity in Iraq, indicate that voluntary repatriation opportunities for other nationalities will likely remain minimal in the medium term.

Refugees suffer wide-spread socio-economic destitution with large families and female-headed households particularly affected. Refugees have limited access to employment and are vulnerable to protection risks, including exploitation, abuse, xenophobia and discrimination and, in some instances, arrest, detention, summary expulsion or deportation, and *refoulement*. Those without existing community support, including those with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity or women and girls, in specific circumstances, suffer pervasive marginalization and targeting. Women, girls, and vulnerable people are at elevated risk of gender-based violence (GBV), including intimate partner violence and domestic violence during lockdowns. Health and education services have been severely disrupted by the pandemic with thousands of children and youth at risk of dropping out of education completely, putting them at increased risk of early marriage and child labour.

Within this context, regional resettlement needs are summarized as follows:

For the **Syria response**, refugees in untenable situations and with strong protection needs will be prioritized for resettlement. Women, girls, and boys – including those at risk of GBV, early marriage, or child labour – are particularly vulnerable, as well as those with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity. Others in need of resettlement include those at risk of arrest, detention, or deportation; those with protection needs resulting from complete destitution, including food and shelter insecurity; and those with ongoing vulnerabilities relating to experiences of mistreatment, violence, or torture. Refugees with high needs, medical needs, or those with larger families are particularly in need of resettlement opportunities. As the situation develops in Syria over the coming years, resettlement will remain a critical demonstration of responsibility sharing by the international community. It will also be increasingly reserved for those with compelling protection needs and for whom return to Syria will not be possible in the foreseeable future.

For **North Africa and the Central Mediterranean situation**, resettlement activities, as well as evacuations from Libya to the Emergency Transit Mechanisms in Niger and Rwanda, will target those with compelling protection needs, including: refugees who have suffered extreme mistreatment and are survivors of trafficking, violence and torture; women and girls at risk, such as those at risk of or survivors of GBV; and those with protection needs stemming from their sexual orientation or gender identity, risk of arrest, detention, or expulsion, or who are facing pervasive discrimination, marginalization, exploitation, or abuse. Ongoing resettlement activities will be complemented by close engagement with the PSCG and other advocacy channels to increase and diversify resettlement partners and solutions in the sub-region.

For the **Gulf States, Israel, Syria, and Yemen**, resettlement activities will address serious protection risks in these complex environments. In the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) sub-region, resettlement will target refugees at imminent risk of *refoulement* (including those at risk while travelling through international airport hubs), those with diverse sexual orientation or gender identity, and those at risk of statelessness or have serious life-threatening medical conditions. In Israel, resettlement will provide a durable solution for refugees unable to return home or to enjoy quality asylum in Israel, while promoting and facilitating shared responsibilities. Resettlement will overall remain, however, as a life-saving intervention for those with medical needs, women and girls at risk of GBV, children at risk, and those with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, and will also provide meaningful protection to survivors of violence and torture. For Syria and Yemen, resettlement activities are particularly vital given the ongoing conflicts and escalating needs. Resettlement will be pursued – despite ongoing logistical and security challenges – for those with the strongest protection needs, including women, girls, and boys at risk, those facing immediate physical risks due to complex conflict environments or armed groups, and refugees with medical needs or needs stemming from experiences of violence or torture.

MENA: 2022 PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS

REGION OF ASYLUM	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS	
	Cases	Persons
Middle East	77 099	283 583
North Africa	14 758	32 195
Grand Total	91 857	315 778

* including multi-year planning

MENA FIELD STORY

MOROCCO

I joined UNHCR Morocco 15 years ago, where I first worked as an Eligibility Officer before joining the Protection team and becoming the focal point for the resettlement activities in the office.

Since UNHCR in Morocco is a relatively small office, I am the only staff member interviewing refugees for resettlement and drafting their cases. For me resettlement means hope, resilience, and empowerment for refugees.

Often, refugees arrive in Morocco and see the country as a peaceful and calm place, after the tremendous difficulties and violence they had faced during their journeys and in their countries of origin. Yet, for those who are interviewed for resettlement, a few weeks, months, or years later after their arrival to the country, their point of view is usually different. They've lost hope in the possibility of a brighter future in Morocco. Resettlement then comes as their last hope to have a happy life and bright future for them and their families.

My favorite part of the job is the last counselling I provide for refugees just before they travel. At that moment, we can see the joy and hope on their faces as they foresee a better life in the resettlement country, a life full of new opportunities. It has always amazed me to see the transformation of refugees between the first resettlement interview and the pre-departure counselling and how resilience starts to build even prior to their departure.

Working in a small office enables me to follow refugees during the entire resettlement process and to create an individualized rapport with them. The challenge is always to maintain a balanced and healthy distance. I have always tried avoiding being overwhelmed by the emotional stories. On the other hand, my contact with refugees sometimes continues after their arrival to their resettlement country, their new home, through messages that refugees share with me. Those messages are a testimony of the growing resilience and empowerment of resettled refugees. They also give a real meaning to my daily work.

One of the cases that I will always remember dates from ten years ago. It was for a young refugee woman in her twenties who had endured horrific violence in her country of origin and was heavily traumatized by the time she was identified for resettlement. The first time I interviewed her, she could barely look at me and her psychologist had to be by her side during the whole



interview, regularly comforting her. Yet, after only one year and a half in her new home, she had learnt a new language, completed an internship with the mayor of the city where she had been living, and gave an interview to a local newspaper. Three years later, she got a diploma as an assistant nurse and started her medical studies. The first time I met her in Morocco, I would never have imagined that she would be able to overcome her trauma so quickly and do such great things in so little time.

During all those years, following refugees through the resettlement process, resettlement continues to be a unique opportunity for the most vulnerable refugees to become what they have dreamt of, to thrive, and to give the best of their capacities in a secure environment. This programme is crucial for refugees, and I hope it will continue and expand.

Marie Eychenne
Senior Protection Associate
Rabat, Morocco

MENA FIELD STORY

JORDAN

I have been working with the UNHCR Office in Amman, Jordan as a resettlement interviewer since February 2018. My role has been to interview and process refugees in Jordan in need of resettlement to a third country, with a focus on the most vulnerable, for example women and children at risk, gender-based violence survivors, and persons of diverse sexual orientation or gender identity.

In March 2020, Jordan came to a halt and went into lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The UNHCR Resettlement Unit temporarily suspended all in-office activities and shifted into remote working arrangements. Resettlement guidance and procedures were adjusted to ensure a smooth transition into virtual interviews. Simultaneously, I set up my bedroom as my office, and my cat, Akila, as my company.

A year into remote working, life-work boundaries have become blurred. Juggling interviews, meetings, and emails while tending to a family member, doing housework, or running errands is challenging. Dealing with interruptions at home, while facing technical hiccups during an interview, is frustrating.

As I prepare for my virtual interview, while sipping coffee in front of my computer screen, I remind myself of the moral obligation we have towards refugees, who were forced to flee their countries desperate to reach the shores of safety. And, today's interview was no different. Amal¹, 30, is a refugee and a widowed single parent, who fled from war-torn Syria in 2013. Amal's husband was killed during shelling in Homs, Syria. Amal and her daughter, Eman, 9, reside alone in Irbid Governorate, in the North of Jordan.

During her interview, Amal looked straight into the screen and spoke in a melancholic tone of the anguish of fleeing her hometown, the struggles of multiple internal displacements in Syria and the grief of losing her late husband. While listening to Amal, I tried to appear as strong and composed as possible. I dropped a few assuring words, while attempting to masquerade my own feelings. Little did Amal know that I could relate to her pain, as I have been grieving the loss of my father due to COVID, which was not easy.

¹ Names of refugees mentioned have been changed to protect their confidentiality.

Amal continued by sharing the details of her dire living circumstances in Jordan, amid the difficult economic situation and the current recession caused by COVID-19, affecting both Jordanian nationals and refugees.

Despite the distance between us, Amal managed to convey her struggles, ambitions, and hopes to me. While preparing Amal's resettlement case for submission, I thought of how each refugee's story is unique. The experience of listening to Amal's story was personally inspiring. Despite the hardships she endured, Amal remains hopeful that her current upheaval is short-lived and will not last. Amal is amongst many other women at risk in Jordan in need of resettlement, due to their exposure to threats and challenges pertaining to their gender and the lack of familial support.

During my resettlement work experience, I have come to realize that resettlement is not merely the transfer of refugees from the country of asylum to a third country, where they are granted permanent residency. Resettlement is a protection tool and, in some instances, a lifesaving optimal solution for the refugee in question. Resettlement is also a demonstration of global solidarity and responsibility-sharing. Resettlement is the anchor to which refugees cling while sailing away from a turbulent past and an uncertain present towards a secure and brighter future.

Rand Dahiyat
Resettlement Associate
Amman, Jordan



*Akila the cat keeps Rand company while she continues resettlement activities from home, following UNHCR Jordan's shift to remote work during the COVID pandemic. April 2021.
© UNHCR/Rand Dahiyat*

MENA FIELD STORY

IRAQ



*Iraq, June 2020. Rana and Bishr in their apartment in Erbil. During the cancer treatment and hair loss, Rana wore a wig all day long to maintain a normal appearance in front of her son.
© UNHCR/Shaza Shekfeh*

Despite the hardship – A Syrian mother in Iraq finds a glimpse of hope in a resettlement opportunity

Rana didn't know anyone when she arrived with her then 5-year-old son Bishr to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). The single mother fled her hometown in Syria out of fear for her son's life. She took a brave decision to leave her community and her life behind and move on to a new country just for the sake of her son.

The single mother has been struggling on a daily basis to maintain shelter, education, and food for her son. As a single mother in the country of refuge, she was living alone without any form of assistance. No family and no friends. Rana firmly believes that she is the one and only person who can protect herself and her son. "I have to be strong for him. He has no one else besides me. It's not a figure of speech. He literally has no one besides me." Said Rana, "This thought terrifies me."

In her first attempt to travel to KRI, people who promised to help her arrive safely swindled her for almost all her savings. Her determination to move forward led her to continue her journey until she arrived in Erbil in August 2019.

"I was scared. I didn't know anyone here and was almost out of money." Said Rana, "I wasn't worried for myself, but I was terrified for my son."

The local community in Erbil welcomed Rana warmly. A family from Erbil, whom she had never met before, hosted Rana and her son in their house for almost a month until she was able to rent her own place.

The Arabic-language teacher started working as a tutor almost immediately. Her first goal was to enroll her son back in school. "I can cut down on my expenses but not for Bishr. I want him to have a good life and a future."

The KRI is host to over 245,000 Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers currently living in Iraq. Syrian refugees in KRI are permitted to work and have access to public services free of charge, including education and health care facilities. However, the challenging economic climate in recent years strained the existing basic services and limited livelihood opportunities, which put additional pressure on the host and refugee communities alike.

Shortly after her arrival, and one day before her son's 6th birthday, Rana was diagnosed with breast cancer. "My first thought was, who's going to take care of Bishr? I have to get better, just for him!" Rana said, "I didn't tell anyone. I didn't want my son nor my family in Syria to worry about me. They had their own struggle. On the next day, I put a smile on my face and celebrated my son's birthday."

The impact of displacement is felt more severely for refugee women in Iraq, especially those who find themselves alone, often caring for their young children. This hardship increases with limited livelihood opportunities and harsh economic conditions.

For Rana, the treatment journey was arduous. She went alone to the hospital to get her radiotherapy and chemotherapy. Rana described that period as 'days she wishes to forget'. But she continued to be strong and cheerful for her son.

"As a teacher, I learned to always give positive energy to my students. We can't pass on our pain and trouble to the children," said Rana, who is now close to full recovery.

Right after her diagnosis, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world, and many jobs were affected due to COVID preventive measures, including her tutoring job. Rana lost her source of income and was left entirely dependent on the cash assistance she received from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

"I searched everywhere for a job opportunity, but with my age and medical condition, in addition to the fact that I'm a single mother here, it was a big challenge." Said Rana.

Based on their level of vulnerability, UNHCR assessed Rana and Bishr's situation. They were eligible for resettlement to a third country. "The thought of finally living safely and without constant fear brings me to tears. I believe this opportunity for a new life can open the door to everything I have ever wished for Bishr. Good education, good friends, and a bright future." Said Rana.

"The community here has been very welcoming and helpful; I wouldn't have been able to survive if it weren't for them. However, the community is facing economic hardships. Many people had lost their jobs last year because of COVID19."

UNHCR estimates that 78,730 refugees need resettlement in 2022 in Iraq. The number had increased compared to last year due to the devastating impact of COVID-19 on the refugee population in Iraq. Refugees were already among the most disadvantaged group of people in the increasingly desperate socio-economic situation in Iraq wrought by protracted conflict and the economic crisis.

Shaza Shekfeh

Associate Communications Officer
UNHCR Iraq

Iraq, April 2021. Rana with her son Bishr. Her hair started growing again after her recovery.
© UNHCR/Rana



ANNEX 1

STANDARDIZED METHODOLOGY

Identifying and estimating the number of refugees in need of resettlement and UNHCR capacity

The figures in this document indicating the projected resettlement needs for 2022 have been drawn from the Operations Plans for 2022 and the Summary Protection Assessments prepared by UNHCR Country Offices.

Pursuant to UNHCR's priority to use resettlement as a protection tool and as part of a comprehensive durable solutions strategy, UNHCR Country Offices undertake a yearly exercise of proactive planning for resettlement as an integral part of the planning process. They forecast refugee resettlement needs in the next calendar year. Each Office is required to report the actual resettlement needs and, where applicable, involving the strategic use of resettlement.

In addition to the Operations Plans for 2022, UNHCR Country Offices' Summary Protection Assessments, which outline the core protection problems currently affecting UNHCR's populations of concern, provide important information to assist with forward planning, especially with regard to the challenges and opportunities to promote resettlement, scope for working with partners, staffing and resources, and making effective use of resettlement tools such as the standard operating procedures, *proGres*, participatory assessments, and other ways to identify refugees at heightened risk.

In the planning for 2022, UNHCR's Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Service in Geneva undertook an assessment of the PGRN country chapter template. Based on feedback received from colleagues in Country Offices across the globe and key resettlement stakeholders, several changes were made to the template, including allowing for a more tailored approach in describing the asylum context and resettlement needs by the Country Operations. One of the changes was to capture all methodologies used by a Country Office in estimating the projected resettlement needs, in addition to the standard methodologies. While the standard methodologies ensure systematic needs-based resettlement projections, they may not reflect all methodologies used by a Country Office for context-specific reasons.

Generally, the methodologies used are underpinned by a few basic principles. First, the estimation of the number of refugees in need of resettlement depends on the quality of registration data. The estimated needs for resettlement are primarily based on the data available in *proGres*.¹ Additionally, government

¹ *proGres* is UNHCR's refugee registration platform.

registration records – where available – or World Food Programme (WFP) food distribution databases are used to inform decisions about the needs. Second, in addition to making effective use of *proGres* and other data sources, the projection of resettlement needs is derived from information gathered during participatory assessments with refugees and other interactions with persons of concern, such as needs assessment surveys, e.g. using the Heightened Risk Identification Tool (HRIT).²

Standard Methodology A: Uses the Specific Needs Codes (SNC) in *proGres* to estimate the number of people in need of resettlement. This methodology requires Offices to create a report from *proGres* showing the number of persons who have specific needs that correspond to a likelihood of resettlement eligibility. The guidelines further provide breakdown of SNC into high/medium or variable/low resettlement likelihood.

Standard Methodology B: Uses community-based approaches, participatory assessments, and the HRIT to inform resettlement needs of people of concern to UNHCR as well as to key partners. The HRIT links participatory assessments and individual assessment methodologies to identify refugees at risk.

Standard Methodology C: Uses “best estimates” based upon limited available data. This methodology requires Country Offices to provide a “best estimate” of the projected resettlement needs by using relevant internal and external data.

For the 2022 planning cycle, the vast majority of Country Offices combined various methodologies to ensure a comprehensive and multi-year approach to this exercise. The respective country chapters describe the methodologies used by each Country Office.

² The HRIT was developed to enhance UNHCR’s effectiveness in identifying refugees at risk by linking community-based/participatory assessments and individual assessment methodologies. It has been designed for use by UNHCR staff involved in community services and protection activities (including resettlement) and partner agencies, and the second version was released in 2010. See: UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *The Heightened Risk Identification Tool (User Guide)*, June 2010, Second Edition, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/46f7c0cd2.html>.

ANNEX 2

UNHCR PROJECTED GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT NEEDS FOR 2022 WITH THE REGION OF REFUGEES' COUNTRIES OF ASYLUM

REGION OF ASYLUM	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
	cases	persons
East & Horn of Africa & Great Lakes	121 952	439 842
Southern Africa	13 815	55 361
West & Central Africa	27 181	98 395
Asia & the Pacific	39 286	106 400
Europe	106 700	401 740
MENA	91 857	315 778
The Americas	17 662	55 640
Grand Total	418 453	1 473 156

UNHCR PROJECTED GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT NEEDS FOR 2022 WITH THE REGION OF REFUGEES' COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

REGION OF ASYLUM	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
	cases	persons
East & Horn of Africa & Great Lakes	117 174	398 123
Southern Africa	43 304	149 512
West & Central Africa	18 930	76 244
Asia & the Pacific	42 698	120 174
Europe	490	1 925
MENA	174 743	663 249
The Americas	17 470	55 275
Various	3 644	8 654
Grand Total	418 453	1 473 156

UNHCR PROJECTED GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT NEEDS 2022 BY COUNTRY OF ASYLUM

REGION/SUB-REGION OF ASYLUM	COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
		cases	persons
East & Horn of Africa & Great Lakes			
	Burundi	4 248	17 000
	Ethiopia	25 875	106 140
	Kenya	18 583	50 174
	Rwanda	5 899	18 215
	Somalia	233	1 165
	South Sudan	7 300	38 079
	Sudan	13 870	62 950
	Uganda	41 800	125 403
	United Rep. of Tanzania	4 144	20 716
East & Horn of Africa & Great Lakes – Sub-Total		121 952	439 842
Southern Africa			
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	2 733	13 663
	Rep. of the Congo	85	350
	Malawi	2 500	10 000
	Mozambique	20	100
	South Africa/Namibia/Botswana/ Indian Ocean Islands/Lesotho/ Swaziland	2 795	8 300
	Zambia	4 182	16 948
	Zimbabwe	1 500	6 000
Southern Africa – Sub-Total		13 815	55 361

REGION/SUB-REGION OF ASYLUM	COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
		cases	persons
West & Central Africa			
	Burkina Faso	25	100
	Cameroon	10 710	42 850
	Chad	12 325	39 800
	Ghana	100	500
	Liberia	15	65
	Mali	40	150
	Niger	3 798	14 550
	Nigeria	80	200
	Senegal	58	140
	Benin, The Gambia, Togo	30	40
West & Central Africa – Sub-Total		27 181	98 395
Asia & the Pacific			
	China & China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	257	544
East Asia & the Pacific	Indonesia	1 885	3 000
	Malaysia	15 941	19 686
	Thailand	335	1 000
South Asia	India	860	2 120
South-West Asia	Islamic Rep. of Iran	20 000	80 000
	Pakistan	8	50
Asia & the Pacific Sub-Total		39 286	106 400
Europe			
South-Eastern Europe	Turkey	106 700	401 740
Europe Sub-Total		106 700	401 740

REGION/SUB-REGION OF ASYLUM	COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
		cases	persons
MENA			
Middle East	Iraq	19 680	78 730
	Israel	3 400	10 000
	Jordan	25 771	79 488
	Kuwait	17	50
	Lebanon	22 885	95 555
	Saudi Arabia/Bahrain/Qatar/Oman	2 365	10 000
	Syrian Arab Rep.	500	1 500
	United Arab Emirates	1 541	4 500
	Yemen	940	3 760
	North Africa	Algeria	300
Egypt		11 250	26 325
Libya		2 616	4 100
Mauritania		60	115
Morocco		342	455
Tunisia		190	300
MENA Sub-Total		91 857	315 778
The Americas			
	Aruba	155	305
	Colombia	5 003	20 000
	Cuba	65	105
	Curacao	155	305
	Dominican Republic	500	1 000
	Ecuador	3 620	10 860
	El Salvador*	400	1 000
	Guatemala*	1 250	3 125
	Guyana	45	90
	Honduras*	239	720
	Mexico	200	450
	Peru	5 440	16 615
	Trinidad and Tobago	590	1 065
The Americas Sub-Total		17 662	55 640
Grand Total		418 453	1 473 156

* These figures include cases of internally displaced persons from the North of Central America (NCA) namely El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. The cases are referred as part of the Protection Transfer Arrangement (PTA).

UNHCR PROJECTED GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT NEEDS 2022 BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

SUB-REGION OF ORIGIN	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
		cases	persons
East & Horn of Africa & Great Lakes			
	Burundi	8 562	27 195
	Rwanda	929	3 361
	Eritrea	25 704	92 331
	Ethiopia	4 174	12 895
	Somalia	18 546	56 534
	South Sudan	38 423	130 983
	Sudan	19 986	72 468
	Uganda	820	2 256
	United Rep. of Tanzania	30	100
East & Horn of Africa & Great Lakes – Sub-Total		117 174	398 123
Southern Africa			
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	43 274	149 412
	Rep. of the Congo	30	100
Southern Africa – Sub-Total		43 304	149 512
West & Central Africa			
	Burkina Faso	8	40
	Cameroon	158	353
	Central African Rep.	11 867	48 138
	Côte d'Ivoire	99	178
	The Gambia	32	35
	Guinea	63	75
	Liberia	5	30
	Mali	1 020	4 955
	Niger	8	40
	Nigeria	5 575	22 300
	Senegal	95	100
West & Central Africa – Sub-Total		18 930	76 244

SUB-REGION OF ORIGIN	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
		cases	persons
Asia & the Pacific			
East Asia & the Pacific	Myanmar	11 599	15 616
South Asia	Sri Lanka	400	464
South-West Asia	Afghanistan	27 499	96 234
	Islamic Rep. of Iran	2 300	6 598
	Pakistan	900	1 262
Asia & the Pacific Sub-Total		42 698	120 174
Europe			
South-Eastern Europe	Turkey	490	1 925
Europe Sub-Total		490	1 925
MENA			
Middle East	Iraq	14 690	37 716
	Palestinian	781	2 949
	Syrian Arab Rep.	154 632	612 145
	Yemen	4 637	10 424
North Africa	Mauritania	3	15
MENA Sub-Total		174 743	663 249
The Americas			
	Colombia	1 256	3 728
	Cuba	55	90
	El Salvador*	530	1 330
	Guatemala*	1 148	2 810
	Haiti	175	350
	Honduras*	360	1 011
	Jamaica	25	25
	Nicaragua	37	110
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	13 884	45 821
The Americas Sub-Total		17 470	55 275
Various Sub-Total		3 644	8 654
Grand Total		418 453	1 473 156

* These figures include cases of internally displaced persons from the North of Central America (NCA) namely El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. The cases are referred as part of the Protection Transfer Arrangement (PTA).

TOP TEN'S BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
	cases	persons
Syrian Arab Rep.	154 632	612 145
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	43 274	149 412
South Sudan	38 423	130 983
Afghanistan	27 499	96 234
Eritrea	25 704	92 331
Sudan	19 986	72 468
Somalia	18 546	56 534
Central African Rep.	11 867	48 138
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	13 884	45 821
Iraq	14 690	37 716
All Others	49 948	131 374
Grand Total	418 453	1 473 156

TOP TEN'S BY COUNTRY OF ASYLUM

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
	cases	persons
Turkey	106 700	401 740
Uganda	41 800	125 403
Ethiopia	25 875	106 140
Lebanon	22 885	95 555
Islamic Rep. of Iran	20 000	80 000
Jordan	25 771	79 488
Iraq	19 680	78 730
Sudan	13 870	62 950
Kenya	18 583	50 174
Cameroon	10 710	42 850
All Others	112 579	350 126
Grand Total	418 453	1 473 156

COMBINED STATISTICS

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
		cases	persons
East & Horn of Africa & Great Lakes			
Burundi	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	4 243	16 975
	Various	5	25
Ethiopia	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	300	900
	Eritrea	9 375	30 475
	Somalia	5 050	22 810
	South Sudan	8 850	42 390
	Sudan	1 775	7 990
	Yemen	500	1 500
	Various	25	75
Kenya	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	2 678	7 231
	Rep. of the Congo	30	100
	Burundi	703	1 899
	Eritrea	101	272
	Ethiopia	1 261	3 404
	Rwanda	201	542
	Somalia	9 664	26 093
	South Sudan	2 895	7 816
	Sudan	101	272
	United Rep. of Tanzania	30	100
	Turkey	25	60
	Uganda	794	2 145
	Yemen	35	100
	Various	65	140
Rwanda	Burundi	50	200
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	4 804	16 815
	Eritrea	800	850
	Somalia	75	150
	Sudan	80	100
	Various	90	100

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
		cases	persons
Somalia	Eritrea	2	10
	Ethiopia	178	890
	Yemen	48	240
	Various	5	25
South Sudan	Burundi	2 500	1 390
	Central African Rep.	500	1 390
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	2 500	12 800
	Ethiopia	300	300
	Sudan	1 500	22 199
Sudan	Central African Rep.	74	398
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	107	430
	Eritrea	9 502	47 509
	Ethiopia	950	4 751
	Somalia	36	178
	South Sudan	3 168	9 502
	Various	33	182
Uganda	Burundi	100	300
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	19 872	59 618
	Rwanda	100	300
	Somalia	100	300
	South Sudan	21 528	64 585
	Various	100	300
United Rep. of Tanzania	Burundi	2 790	13 954
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	1 324	6 712
	Various	30	50
East & Horn of Africa & Great Lakes – Total		121 952	439 842

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
		cases	persons
Southern Africa			
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	Central African Rep.	1 443	7 215
	South Sudan	942	4 710
	Burundi	338	1 688
	Various	10	50
Rep. of the Congo	Central African Rep.	52	210
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	20	80
	Rwanda	13	60
Malawi	Burundi	900	3 600
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	1 200	4 800
	Ethiopia	20	80
	Rwanda	340	1 360
	Somalia	24	96
	Various	16	64
Mozambique	Burundi	8	30
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	8	50
	Various	4	20
South Africa/Namibia/ Botswana/Indian Ocean Islands/ Lesotho/Swaziland*	Burundi	500	1 500
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	1 900	5 600
	Ethiopia	50	150
	Somalia	330	1 000
	Various	15	50
Zambia	Burundi	568	2 214
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	2 986	12 247
	Rwanda	168	671
	Somalia	409	1 594
	Uganda	26	111
	Various	25	111
Zimbabwe	Burundi	105	420
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	1 245	4 980
	Rwanda	107	428
	Various	43	172
Southern Africa – Total		13 815	55 361

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
		cases	persons
West & Central Africa			
Benin/The Gambia/ Togo	Central African Rep.	5	10
	Senegal	20	20
	Various	5	10
Burkina Faso	Mali	20	80
	Various	5	20
Cameroon	Central African Rep.	7 150	28 600
	Nigeria	3 500	14 000
	Various	60	250
Chad	Central African Rep.	2 500	10 000
	Sudan	9 500	28 500
	Various	325	1 300
Ghana	Cameroon	10	65
	Central African Rep.	21	90
	Côte d'Ivoire	7	30
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	10	40
	Eritrea	12	70
	Liberia	5	30
	Sudan	10	45
	Syrian Arab Rep.	15	70
	Various	10	60
Liberia	Côte d'Ivoire	10	50
	Various	5	15
Mali	Burkina Faso	8	40
	Central African Rep.	6	15
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	8	20
	Mauritania	3	15
	Niger	8	40
	Syrian Arab Rep.	2	10
	Various	5	10

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
		cases	persons
Niger	Eritrea	363	400
	Mali	960	4 800
	Nigeria	2 075	8 300
	Sudan	300	900
	Various	100	150
Nigeria	Cameroon	50	150
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	20	30
	Various	10	20
Senegal	Central African Rep.	16	65
	The Gambia	32	35
	Various	10	40
West & Central Africa – Total		27 181	98 395
Asia & the Pacific			
China & China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	Afghanistan	28	60
	Pakistan	33	70
	Somalia	28	60
	Syrian Arab Rep.	35	75
	Yemen	38	80
	Various	95	199
India	Afghanistan	165	420
	Iraq	5	10
	Myanmar	620	1 520
	Somalia	45	110
	Various	25	60

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
		cases	persons
Indonesia	Afghanistan	950	1 340
	Iraq	75	180
	Myanmar	80	165
	Pakistan	60	130
	Palestinian	40	105
	Somalia	350	500
	Sudan	80	130
	Various	250	450
Islamic Rep. of Iran	Afghanistan	19 875	79 500
	Iraq	125	500
Malaysia	Afghanistan	594	744
	Islamic Rep. of Iran	135	158
	Iraq	195	262
	Myanmar	10 764	13 531
	Pakistan	807	1 062
	Somalia	1 754	1 928
	Sri Lanka	400	464
	Syrian Arab Rep.	394	499
	Yemen	516	599
Various	382	439	
Pakistan	Afghanistan	5	35
	Various	3	15
Thailand	Myanmar	135	400
	Various	200	600
Asia & the Pacific – Total		39 286	106 400
Europe			
Turkey	Afghanistan	5 830	14 000
	Islamic Rep. of Iran	1 390	3 335
	Iraq	7 895	18 950
	Syrian Arab Rep.	91 035	364 140
	Various	550	1 315
Europe – Total		106 700	401 740

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
		cases	persons
MENA			
Algeria	Cameroon	30	60
	Central African Rep.	30	60
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	30	60
	Mali	30	60
	Syrian Arab Rep.	150	600
	Various	30	60
Egypt	Eritrea	1 000	1 900
	Ethiopia	855	1 620
	Iraq	355	680
	Somalia	350	670
	South Sudan	1 040	1 980
	Sudan	2 800	5 450
	Syrian Arab Rep.	4 350	13 050
	Yemen	475	925
	Various	25	50
Iraq	Islamic Rep. of Iran	775	3 105
	Palestinian	635	2 530
	Sudan	80	325
	Syrian Arab Rep.	17 665	70 665
	Turkey	465	1 865
	Various	60	240
Israel	Eritrea	2 840	8 415
	Palestinian	50	60
	Sudan	500	1 500
	Various	10	25
Jordan	Iraq	2 933	7 332
	Sudan	1 578	2 367
	Syrian Arab Rep.	18 948	66 321
	Yemen	2 312	3 468

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
		cases	persons
Kuwait	Iraq	4	10
	Somalia	3	10
	Syrian Arab Rep.	10	30
Lebanon	Iraq	2 290	7 265
	Sudan	635	830
	Syrian Arab Rep.	19 435	86 555
	Various	525	905
Libya	Eritrea	1 304	1 435
	Somalia	91	100
	Sudan	994	1 730
	Syrian Arab Rep.	202	785
	Various	25	50
Mauritania	Palestinian	5	10
	Mali	10	15
	Senegal	20	25
	Syrian Arab Rep.	5	20
	Yemen	5	20
	Various	15	25
Morocco	Cameroon	68	78
	Central African Rep.	70	85
	Côte d'Ivoire	47	58
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	19	24
	Guinea	63	75
	Senegal	55	55
	Syrian Arab Rep.	12	48
	Yemen	8	32

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
		cases	persons
Saudi Arabia/Bahrain/ Qatar/Oman	Eritrea	70	150
	Ethiopia	300	400
	Iraq	40	192
	Palestinian	41	194
	Syrian Arab Rep.	1 116	5 247
	Yemen	690	3 450
	Various	108	367
Syrian Arab Rep.	Afghanistan	37	110
	Iraq	413	1 240
	Somalia	12	35
	Sudan	23	70
	Various	15	45
Tunisia	Côte d'Ivoire	35	40
	Eritrea	35	45
	Sudan	30	60
	Syrian Arab Rep.	10	55
	Various	80	100
United Arab Emirates	Iraq	320	895
	Syrian Arab Rep.	1 133	3 450
	Various	88	155
Yemen	Eritrea	300	800
	Ethiopia	260	1 300
	Iraq	40	200
	Palestinian	10	50
	Somalia	225	900
	Syrian Arab Rep.	100	500
	Various	5	10
MENA – Total		91 857	315 778

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
		cases	persons
The Americas			
Aruba	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	150	300
	Various	5	5
Colombia	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	5 000	19 990
	Various	3	10
Cuba	Afghanistan	15	25
	Syrian Arab Rep.	15	25
	Yemen	10	10
	Various	25	45
Curacao	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	150	300
	Various	5	5
Dominican Republic	Haiti	175	350
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	300	600
	Various	25	50
Ecuador	Colombia	1 196	3 588
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2 424	7 272
El Salvador*	El Salvador	400	1 000
Guatemala*	Guatemala	1 100	2 750
	El Salvador	80	200
	Honduras	54	135
	Nicaragua	4	10
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	8	20
	Various	4	10
Guyana	Cuba	30	45
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	10	35
	Various	5	10
Honduras*	Honduras	206	620
	Nicaragua	33	100

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL PROJECTED RESETTLEMENT NEEDS (INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR PLANNING)	
		cases	persons
Mexico	El Salvador	50	130
	Guatemala	48	60
	Honduras	100	256
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2	4
Peru	Colombia	60	140
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	5 320	16 355
	Various	60	120
Trinidad and Tobago	Cuba	25	45
	Jamaica	25	25
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	520	945
	Various	20	50
The Americas – Total		17 662	55 640
Grand Total		418 453	1 473 156

* These figures include cases of internally displaced persons from the North of Central America (NCA) namely El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. The cases are referred as part of the Protection Transfer Arrangement (PTA).

ANNEX 3

TOP TEN: UNHCR RESETTLEMENT SUBMISSIONS IN 2020

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	PERSONS	COUNTRY OF RESETTLEMENT	PERSONS
Lebanon	8 172	Canada	10 937
Turkey	6 097	Sweden	4 790
Jordan	3 657	France	4 169
Egypt	2 478	Australia	3 847
Kenya	1 820	Norway	3 465
Rwanda	1 789	Germany	2 507
Ethiopia	1 626	United States of America	2 081
Uganda	1 396	United Kingdom*	1 904
Malaysia	1 143	Finland	1 107
United Rep. of Tanzania	952	Switzerland	934
All Others	10 404	All Others	3 793
Grand Total	39 534	Grand Total	39 534

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	PERSONS
Syrian Arab Rep.	18 220
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	5 944
Eritrea	2 147
Somalia	2 071
Sudan	1 805
Afghanistan	1 205
Iraq	1 118
South Sudan	890
Myanmar	802
Central African Rep.	726
All Others	4 606
Grand Total	39 534

* United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

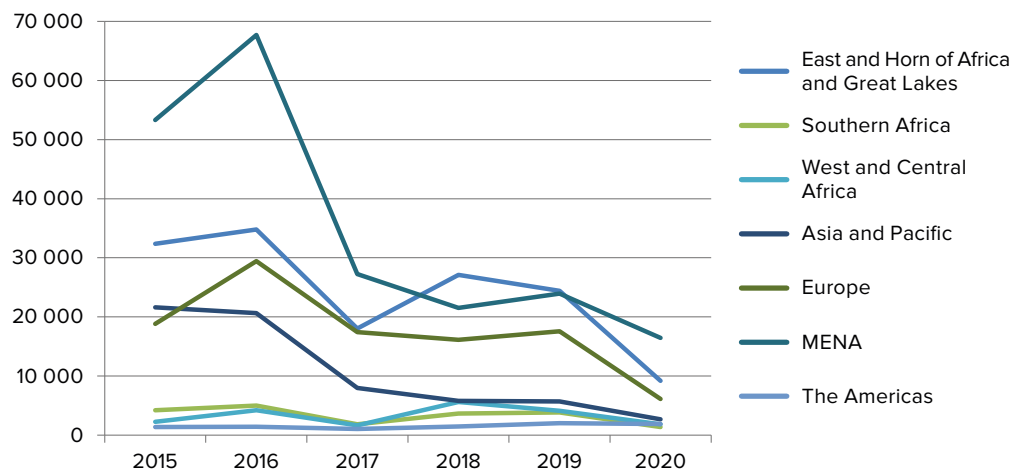
UNHCR RESETTLEMENT SUBMISSIONS IN 2020

SUBMISSIONS BY REGION OF ASYLUM	CASES	PERSONS	% TOTAL (PERSONS)
East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes	2 729	9 179	23.2%
Southern Africa	375	1 371	3.5%
West and Central Africa	855	1 858	4.7%
Asia and Pacific	995	2 654	6.7%
Europe	1 315	6 109	15.5%
MENA	4 178	16 469	41.7%
The Americas	692	1 894	4.8%
Grand Total	11 139	39 534	100.0%

SUBMISSIONS BY REGION OF ORIGIN	CASES	PERSONS	% TOTAL (PERSONS)
East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes	3 107	8 129	20.6%
Southern Africa	1 583	5 948	15.0%
West and Central Africa	424	1 120	2.8%
Asia and Pacific	871	2 544	6.4%
Europe	47	154	<1%
MENA	4 444	19 790	50.1%
The Americas	663	1 849	4.7%
Grand Total	11 139	39 534	100.0%

UNHCR SUBMISSIONS BY REGION OF ASYLUM 2015-2020 (PERSONS)

REGION OF ASYLUM	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes	32 392	34 785	18 039	27 119	24 393	9 179
Southern Africa	4 203	4 981	1 836	3 666	3 861	1 371
West and Central Africa	2 275	4 212	1 632	5 623	4 133	1 858
Asia and Pacific	21 620	20 657	7 983	5 796	5 719	2 654
Europe	18 833	29 447	17 413	16 135	17 572	6 109
MENA	53 331	67 723	27 231	21 542	23 964	16 469
The Americas	1 390	1 401	1 054	1 456	2 029	1 894



UNHCR RESETTLEMENT BY SUBMISSION CATEGORY IN 2020

CATEGORY	CASES SUBMITTED	PERSONS SUBMITTED
Legal and/or Protection Needs (LPN)	3 889	12 954
Survivors of Violence and/or Torture (SVT)	3 651	12 783
Lack of Foreseeable Alternative Durable Solutions (LAS)	134	811
Women and Girls-At-Risk (AWR)	2 023	6 228
Children and Adolescents-At-Risk (CHL)	1 085	5 189
Medical Needs (MED)	300	1 430
Family Reunification (FAM)	56	137
Others/Unspecified	1	2
Grand Total	11 139	39 534

TOP TEN: RESETTLEMENT DEPARTURES IN 2020*

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	PERSONS	COUNTRY OF RESETTLEMENT	PERSONS
Lebanon	4 645	United States of America	6 740
Turkey	4 048	Sweden	3 567
Jordan	1 557	Canada	3 502
Egypt	1 353	Norway	1 504
United Rep. of Tanzania	1 341	Germany	1 396
Uganda	1 069	France	1 211
Rwanda	1 063	Australia	1 082
Thailand	1 022	United Kingdom**	829
Malaysia	971	Finland	667
Niger	554	Switzerland	503
All Others	5 177	All Others	1 799
Grand Total	22 800	Grand Total	22 800

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	PERSONS
Syrian Arab Rep.	9 377
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	3 731
Myanmar	1 757
Eritrea	1 296
Sudan	1 107
Iraq	1 102
Somalia	675
Afghanistan	621
Ethiopia	392
South Sudan	343
All Others	2 399
Grand Total	22 800

* *Departure figures reported by UNHCR may not match resettlement statistics published by States as Government figures may include submissions received outside of UNHCR resettlement processes.*

** *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*

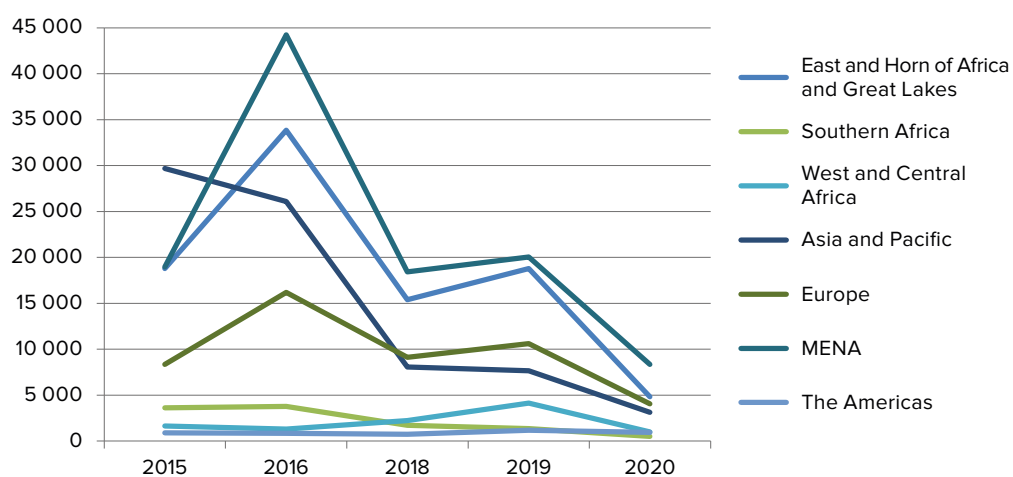
RESETTLEMENT DEPARTURES IN 2020

DEPARTURES BY REGION OF ASYLUM	PERSONS	% TOTAL (PERSONS)
East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes	4 831	21.2%
Southern Africa	501	2.2%
West and Central Africa	990	4.3%
Asia and Pacific	3 131	13.7%
Europe	4 061	17.8%
MENA	8 346	36.6%
The Americas	940	4.1%
Grand Total	22 800	100.0%

DEPARTURES BY REGION OF ORIGIN	PERSONS	% TOTAL (PERSONS)
East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes	4 068	17.8%
Southern Africa	3 732	16.4%
West and Central Africa	379	1.7%
Asia and Pacific	2 956	13.0%
Europe	97	<1%
MENA	10 651	46.7%
The Americas	917	4.0%
Grand Total	22 800	100.0%

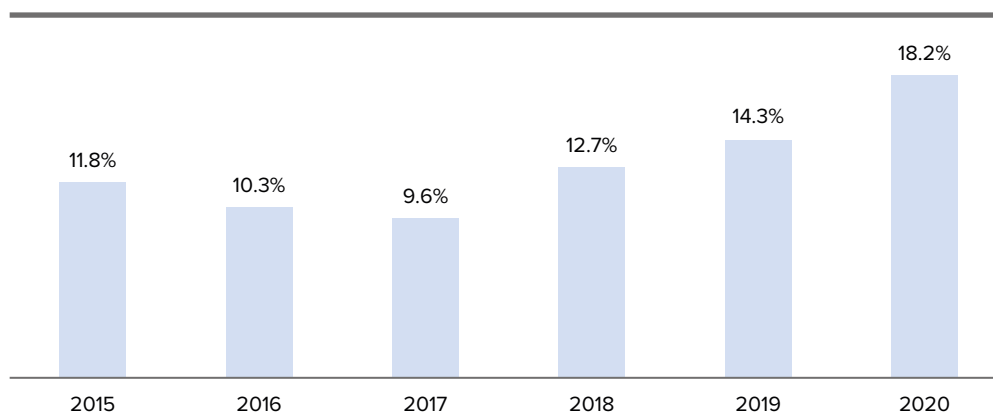
DEPARTURES BY REGION OF ASYLUM 2015-2020

REGION OF ASYLUM	2015	2016	2018	2019	2020
East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes	18 781	33 858	15 388	18 774	4 831
Southern Africa	3 602	3 756	1 706	1 342	501
West and Central Africa	1 633	1 311	2 233	4 132	990
Asia and Pacific	29 677	26 091	8 057	7 651	3 131
Europe	8 334	16 192	9 125	10 617	4 061
MENA	18 972	44 240	18 428	20 036	8 346
The Americas	892	843	743	1 174	940



UNHCR RESETTLEMENT UNDER THE WOMEN AND GIRLS AT RISK CATEGORY, 2020 *

WOMEN AND GIRLS AT RISK CASES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RESETTLEMENT SUBMISSIONS BY UNHCR, 2015-2020 (CASES)



TOP TEN COUNTRIES OF ASYLUM: SUBMISSIONS UNDER THE WOMEN AND GIRLS AT RISK CATEGORY (AWR), 2020

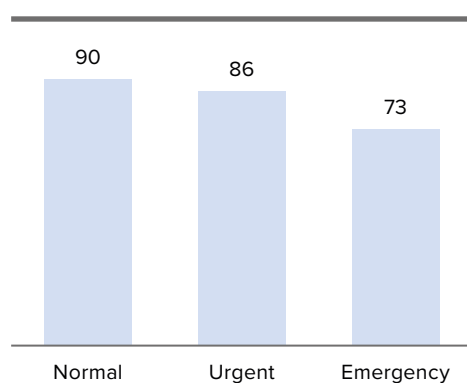
COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	CASES SUBMITTED	RATE OF AWR SUBMISSIONS (% PER COUNTRY OF ASYLUM)	PERSONS SUBMITTED
Egypt	210	27.7%	625
Malaysia	158	38.4%	345
Lebanon	155	8.8%	502
Rwanda	136	20.1%	385
Ethiopia	117	26.2%	451
Burundi	101	48.3%	438
Turkey	97	7.4%	302
Kenya	94	19.5%	323
United Rep. of Tanzania	93	48.9%	291
Chad	91	57.2%	351

* Cases submitted under the Women and Girls at Risk as the primary submission category.

UNHCR RESETTLEMENT UNDER THE MEDICAL NEEDS CATEGORY IN 2020

TOP TEN SUBMISSIONS BY COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	CASES	TOP TEN SUBMISSIONS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	CASES
Lebanon	48	Syrian Arab Rep.	123
Turkey	35	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	37
Malaysia	24	Myanmar	24
Iraq	22	Somalia	24
Egypt	21	Sudan	19
Uganda	20	Eritrea	16
Rwanda	19	Afghanistan	15
Thailand	14	Burundi	9
Kenya	13	Pakistan	8
Chad	10	Central African Rep.	5
All Others	74	All Others	20
Grand Total	300	Grand Total	300

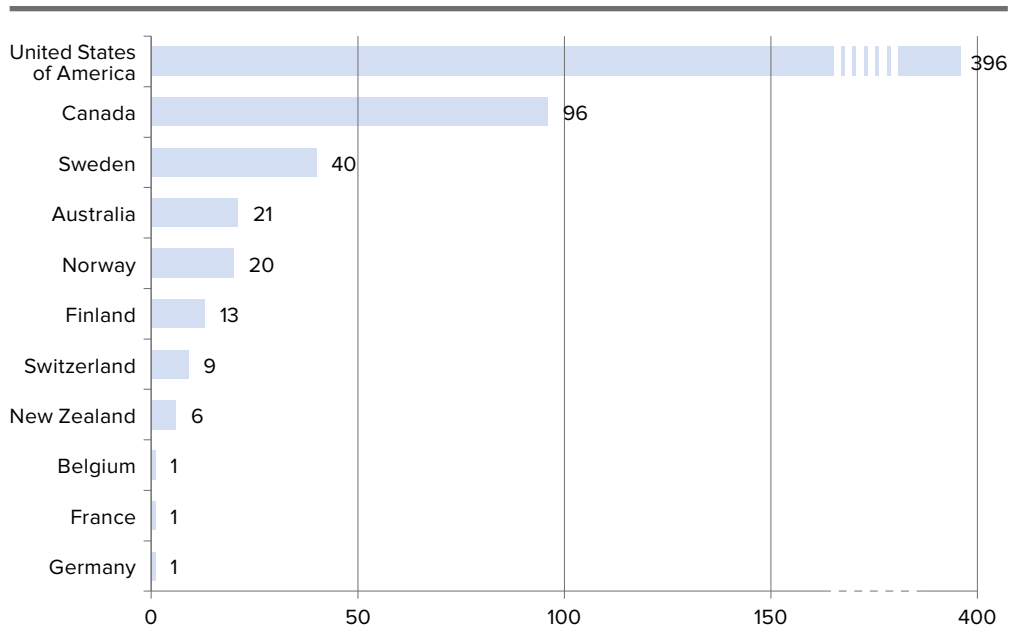
RESETTLEMENT COUNTRY ACCEPTANCE RATES UNDER THE MEDICAL NEEDS CATEGORY BY PRIORITY IN 2020 (IN %)



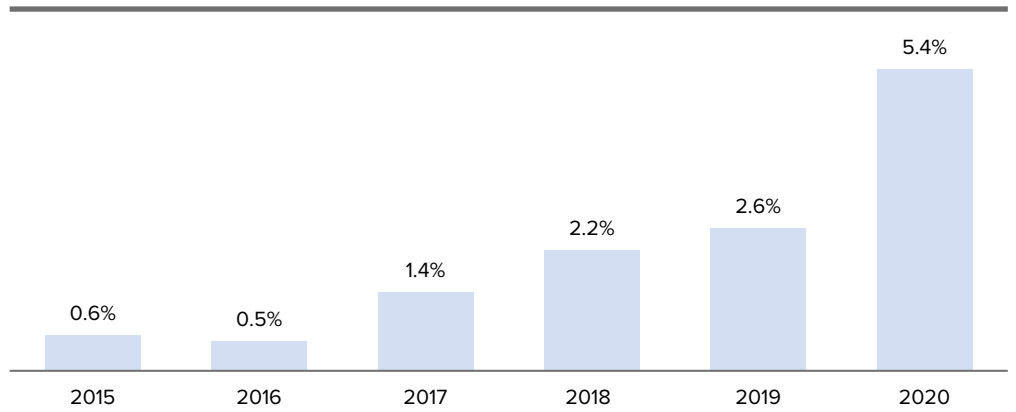
UNHCR RESETTLEMENT BY PRIORITY IN 2020

UNHCR SUBMISSION PRIORITY	SUBMISSIONS		
	Cases	% Cases	Persons
Normal	8 305	74.6%	32 682
Urgent	2 230	20.0%	5 242
Emergency	604	5.4%	1 610
Grand Total	11 139	100.0%	39 534

UNHCR EMERGENCY SUBMISSIONS BY COUNTRY OF RESETTLEMENT, 2020 (CASES)



EMERGENCY CASES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RESETTLEMENT SUBMISSIONS BY UNHCR (2015-2020, CASES)



ACCEPTANCE RATES OF UNHCR SUBMISSIONS IN 2020

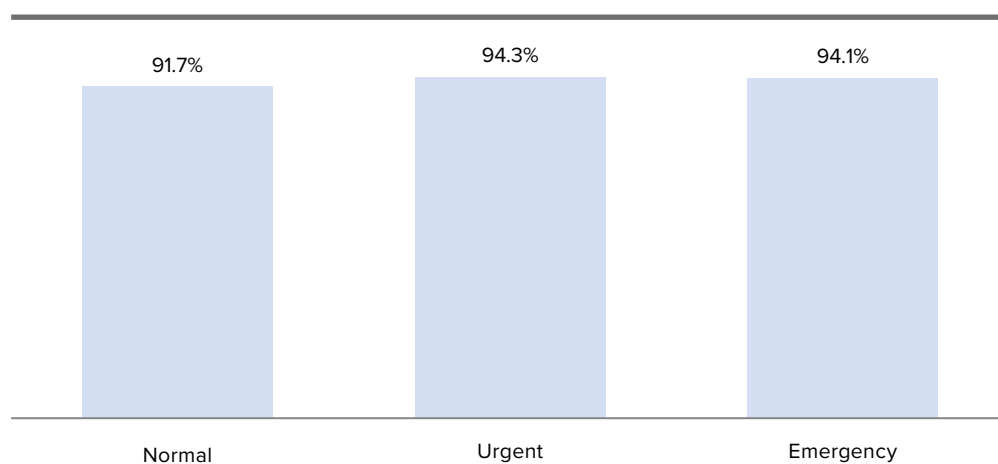
ACCEPTANCE RATES OF UNHCR SUBMISSIONS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IN 2020

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	CASES SUBMITTED	% CASES ACCEPTED
Syrian Arab Rep.	3 969	90.0%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	1 581	96.1%
Eritrea	1 137	96.7%
Somalia	711	82.8%
Sudan	609	94.4%
Afghanistan	386	86.7%
Iraq	315	89.2%
Ethiopia	249	93.5%
Guatemala	249	100.0%
Myanmar	247	90.9%
All Others	1 686	94.2%
Grand Total	11 139	92.4%

ACCEPTANCE RATES OF UNHCR SUBMISSIONS BY CATEGORY IN 2020

SUBMISSION CATEGORY	ACCEPTANCE RATE
Legal and/or Protection Needs (LPN)	90.6%
Survivors of Violence and/or Torture (SVT)	92.9%
Lack of Foreseeable Alternative Durable Solutions (LAS)	94.4%
Women and Girls-At-Risk (AWR)	94.5%
Medical Needs (MED)	86.4%
Children and Adolescents-At-Risk (CHL)	94.8%
Family Reunification (FAM)	84.8%

ACCEPTANCE RATES OF RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES BY UNHCR RESETTLEMENT PRIORITY IN 2020 (CASES)



RESETTLEMENT DEPARTURES, 2015-2020*

COUNTRY OF RESETTLEMENT	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Albania	483	–	–	–	–	–
Argentina	–	–	–	3	–	4
Australia	5 211	7 502	4 027	3 741	3 464	1082
Austria	642	81	380	–	–	0
Belarus	14	–	–	–	–	0
Belgium	276	456	1 294	894	239	176
Brazil	6	31	2	–	24	–
Bulgaria	–	–	–	21	64	–
Canada	10 236	21 865	8 912	7 704	9 031	3502
Chile	–	–	66	–	–	–
Croatia	–	–	40	88	122	–
Czech Rep.	–	22	–	–	–	–
Denmark	486	317	5	–	–	31
Estonia	–	11	19	29	7	–
Finland	964	928	1 094	611	873	667
France	700	1 328	2 505	5 109	4 544	1211
Germany	2 097	1 229	3 005	3 217	4 622	1396
Hungary	2	4	–	–	–	–
Iceland	13	56	47	52	74	–
Ireland	178	359	273	338	783	194
Italy	96	528	985	400	471	21
Japan	19	18	29	22	20	–
Latvia	–	6	40	–	–	–
Liechtenstein	17	–	–	–	–	–
Lithuania	–	25	59	18	–	–
Luxembourg	49	52	182	–	35	14
Malta	–	–	17	–	–	–
Monaco	–	6	23	–	–	–
Netherlands	428	689	2 262	1 190	1 857	415
New Zealand	756	895	986	982	915	305

COUNTRY OF RESETTLEMENT	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Norway	2 220	3 149	2 799	2 324	2 351	1504
Portugal	39	12	167	33	373	222
Rep. of Korea	42	64	44	27	37	17
Romania	2	–	43	–	73	37
Slovakia	–	–	4	–	–	–
Slovenia	–	–	–	34	–	–
Spain	92	288	1 066	80	821	363
Sweden	1 808	1 868	3 346	4 871	4 993	3567
Switzerland	664	667	610	1 074	990	503
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1 768	5 074	6 202	5 698	5 774	829
United States of America	52 583	78 761	24 559	17 112	21 159	6740
Uruguay	–	–	16	8	10	–
Grand Total	81 891	126 291	65 108	55 680	63 726	22 800

** All figures in 2020 are provisional and subject to change. This table includes countries with special resettlement programmes/ ad-hoc resettlement intake. Resettlement country figures (submissions and departures) may not match UNHCR reported figures as resettlement country figures may include submissions received outside of UNHCR auspices. UNHCR figures may also include cases in which UNHCR assisted, i.e. obtained exit permits for humanitarian admissions or family reunion but did not primarily submit.*

PER CAPITA RESETTLEMENT BY COUNTRY OF RESETTLEMENT IN 2020

COUNTRY OF RESETTLEMENT	RESETTLED REFUGEES IN 2020*	NATIONAL POPULATION**	POPULATION PER REFUGEE RESETTLED	NUMBER OF RESETTLED REFUGEES PER 1,000 INHABITANTS
Argentina	4	45 195 777	11 298 944	0.0
Australia	1 082	25 499 881	23 567	0.0
Belgium	176	11 589 616	65 850	0.0
Canada	3 502	37 742 157	10 777	0.1
Denmark	31	5 792 203	186 845	0.0
Finland	667	5 540 718	8 307	0.1
France	1 211	65 273 512	53 901	0.0
Germany	1 396	83 517 045	59 826	0.0
Ireland	194	4 937 796	25 453	0.0
Italy	21	60 461 828	2 879 135	0.0
Luxembourg	14	625 976	44 713	0.0
Netherlands	415	17 097 130	41 198	0.0
New Zealand	305	4 822 233	15 811	0.1
Norway	1 504	5 421 242	3 605	0.3
Portugal	222	10 196 707	45 931	0.0
Rep. of Korea	17	51 269 183	3 015 834	0.0
Romania	37	19 237 682	519 937	0.0
Spain	363	46 754 783	128 801	0.0
Sweden	3 567	10 099 270	2 831	0.4
Switzerland	503	8 654 618	17 206	0.1
United Kingdom***	829	67 886 004	81 889	0.0
United States of America	6 740	331 002 647	49 110	0.0

* Departure figures reported by UNHCR may not match resettlement statistics published by States as Government figures may include submissions received outside of UNHCR resettlement processes.

** Source: United Nations, Population Division, World Population Prospects: The 2019 Revision, New York, 2019. For the purpose of this analysis, the 2020 population projections (medium fertility variant) have been used. (See: <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/>).

*** United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION OF REFUGEES SUBMITTED FOR RESETTLEMENT IN 2020 (PERSONS)

REGION OF ASYLUM	COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	SUBMISSIONS 2020	DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS*			
			<18 YEARS	18-59 YEARS	60+> YEARS	% WOMEN AND GIRLS
Africa	Burundi	907	60%	38%	2%	54%
	Djibouti	11	73%	27%	0%	64%
	Ethiopia	1 626	54%	45%	1%	54%
	Kenya	1 820	50%	48%	2%	52%
	Rwanda	1 789	48%	49%	4%	48%
	Somalia	48	67%	33%	0%	50%
	South Sudan	8	38%	63%	0%	63%
	Sudan	622	38%	58%	3%	54%
	Uganda	1 396	52%	47%	1%	52%
	United Rep. of Tanzania	952	70%	28%	2%	56%
	East and Horn of Africa & Great Lakes Sub-Total	9 179	53%	45%	2%	53%
	Botswana	32	41%	59%	0%	47%
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	10	40%	60%	0%	60%
	Eswatini	26	58%	42%	0%	38%
	Madagascar	19	32%	58%	11%	58%
	Malawi	494	66%	32%	2%	59%
	Mozambique	16	56%	44%	0%	38%
	Namibia	108	52%	45%	3%	53%
	South Africa	304	52%	47%	0%	53%
	Zambia	355	51%	47%	2%	48%
	Zimbabwe	7	43%	57%	0%	100%
	Southern Africa Sub-Total	1 371	56%	42%	2%	54%
	Cameroon	334	57%	42%	1%	56%
	Chad	585	59%	38%	3%	55%
	Cote d'Ivoire	3	33%	67%	0%	67%
	Ghana	4	25%	75%	0%	50%
	Niger	907	36%	64%	0%	31%
	Nigeria	5	40%	60%	0%	80%
	Senegal	20	15%	85%	0%	30%
	West and Central Africa Sub-Total	1 858	47%	52%	1%	43%
	Africa Sub-Total	12 408	52%	46%	2%	51%

REGION OF ASYLUM	COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	SUBMISSIONS 2020	DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS*			
			<18 YEARS	18-59 YEARS	60+> YEARS	% WOMEN AND GIRLS
Asia & the Pacific	Afghanistan	58	48%	45%	0%	40%
	Bangladesh	14	36%	64%	0%	36%
	China	7	29%	43%	29%	57%
	China, Hong Kong SAR	11	27%	73%	0%	64%
	India	168	46%	49%	5%	58%
	Indonesia	616	38%	60%	2%	44%
	Islamic Rep. of Iran	110	52%	46%	2%	63%
	Malaysia	1 143	49%	50%	2%	53%
	Nauru	2	0%	100%	0%	0%
	Nepal	7	29%	57%	14%	29%
	Pakistan	15	53%	47%	0%	80%
	Papua New Guinea	12	0%	100%	0%	0%
	Sri Lanka	134	37%	61%	1%	34%
	Thailand	357	47%	50%	3%	43%
	Asia & the Pacific Sub-Total	2 654	45%	53%	2%	49,0%
Europe	Russian Federation	2	0%	100%	0%	0%
	Turkey	6 097	52%	46%	2%	48%
	Ukraine	10	50%	50%	0%	40%
	Europe Sub-Total	6 109	52%	46%	2%	48%
MENA	Algeria	80	34%	64%	3%	56%
	Bahrain	1	0%	100%	0%	100%
	Egypt	2 478	47%	50%	3%	50%
	Iraq	787	50%	47%	3%	49%
	Israel	82	41%	57%	0%	38%
	Jordan	3 657	51%	46%	3%	49%
	Kuwait	32	47%	41%	13%	44%
	Lebanon	8 172	56%	43%	1%	48%
	Libya	786	44%	55%	1%	50%
	Mauritania	20	35%	65%	0%	35%
	Morocco	118	22%	76%	0%	30%
	Oman	4	25%	75%	0%	75%
	Qatar	4	25%	50%	25%	50%
	Saudi Arabia	36	42%	53%	6%	50%
	Syrian Arab Rep.	9	33%	67%	0%	67%
	Tunisia	110	42%	56%	2%	51%
	United Arab Emirates	52	38%	58%	4%	38%
	Yemen	41	63%	29%	7%	63%
MENA Sub-Total	16 469	52%	46%	2%	49%	

REGION OF ASYLUM	COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	SUBMISSIONS 2020	DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS*			
			<18 YEARS	18-59 YEARS	60+ YEARS	% WOMEN AND GIRLS
The Americas	Cayman Islands	1	0%	100%	0%	0%
	Costa Rica	7	29%	57%	14%	57%
	Cuba	23	26%	74%	0%	17%
	Curacao	36	28%	67%	6%	44%
	Dominican Rep.	68	35%	62%	3%	68%
	Ecuador	463	51%	49%	0%	50%
	El Salvador**	280	40%	58%	2%	59%
	Grenada	2	0%	100%	0%	0%
	Guatemala**	617	39%	56%	4%	53%
	Guyana	8	25%	63%	13%	63%
	Honduras**	231	41%	56%	3%	49%
	Mexico	59	56%	42%	2%	61%
	Trinidad and Tobago	99	32%	68%	0%	49%
	The Americas Sub-Total	1 894	42%	56%	2%	53%
Grand Total	39 534	51%	47%	2%	50%	

* Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

** These figures include cases of internally displaced persons from the North of Central America (NCA) namely El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. The cases are referred as part of the Protection Transfer Arrangement (PTA).

UNHCR EMERGENCY TRANSIT CENTRE (ETC) & EMERGENCY TRANSIT MECHANISM (ETM) 2020 ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

LOCATION	COUNTRY OF ASYLUM*	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	RESETTLEMENT COUNTRY
Timisoara, Romania	Libya	Syria	Norway
	Libya	Eritrea	Norway
	Libya	Sudan	Norway
	Libya	Syria	Norway
	Libya	Eritrea	Sweden
	Libya	Sudan	Sweden
	Libya	Eritrea	Norway
	Libya	Sudan	Norway
	Libya	Syria	Norway
	Saudi Arabia	Eritrea	Argentina
	Niger	Eritrea	Netherlands
Total Timisoara			
Philippines	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Philippines			
Grand Total			

* Country of asylum prior to entering the ETC

** Arrived in 2019

	NUMBER OF CASES	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	IN CENTRE AS OF END 2020	DEPARTED AS OF END 2020
	1**	5	5	0
	9**	24	1	23
	8**	28	0	28
	5**	20	0	20
	33**	33	0	33
	1**	1	0	1
	8	15	0	15
	9	24	6	18
	1	4	0	4
	4	4	4	0
	13	18	18	0
	92	176	34	142
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	92	176	34	142

Back cover photo: Tunisia, March 2021. Khadija, 9 years old, fled with her family from Libya in 2020 after her father was kidnapped and is currently living in Sfax governorate with her mom and two siblings. Her family doesn't earn an income and rely on assistance provided by UNHCR. © UNHCR/Hallouli Mohamed Ameur



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