



RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SWITZERLAND

In 2021 UNHCR estimated that almost 1.5 million refugees worldwide will need resettlement. However, due to the limited places available globally, the most vulnerable with the greatest protection risks must be prioritized.

UNHCR has therefore defined the following as priorities:

1. The Central Mediterranean Situation (host countries in North, East and West, as well as the Horn of Africa).
2. Resettlement out of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, within the context of the ongoing situation in Syria.



In the same year the Swiss government decided to focus on the resettlement of Syrian refugees from Lebanon; Sudanese refugees from Egypt; and refugees from different nationalities (Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran) from Turkey. Switzerland has received 502 beneficiaries in 2020 and has committed to resettle 1,120 beneficiaries during the next phase of the project.

Resettlement and humanitarian admission are essential protection tools as well as clear demonstrations of shared responsibility and global solidarity with those countries that host the majority of forcibly displaced persons. This was duly acknowledged in the Global Compact on Refugees, which was adopted by Member States in 2018. Expanding access to third country solutions for beneficiaries of international protection – including through resettlement, humanitarian admission programmes and other complementary pathways – is one of the pillars of the Global Compact on Refugees. This has since been further defined in UNHCR's Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement (2019-2021) and Complementary Pathways, which set the overall goal of realizing third country solutions for 3 million beneficiaries of international protection, through resettlement and complementary pathways by 2028.

Implementation Timeframe: 6 April 2021 – 5 April 2022

Budget: 1,476,444 CHF

Beneficiaries:

1,120 beneficiaries of international protection, resettled to Switzerland from Lebanon (600), Egypt (320), and Turkey (200)

SWISS RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME: PROJECT OBJECTIVES

This project contributes to providing a durable solution to beneficiaries of international protection in Lebanon, Egypt, and Turkey by facilitating their resettlement to Switzerland. IOM has the specific expertise and capacity required to successfully deliver the project, based on extensive experience in movement management and resettlement processing.

Swiss engagement in the selection process

The selection mission allows the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) to interview and select eligible persons for the resettlement programme. IOM provides logistical support for the selection mission, such as organizing transport for the refugees to and from the location where the interview takes place or booking the actual interview rooms.

Addressing the medical needs of beneficiaries

IOM's pre-departure health assessment measures focus on the refugees' conditions for safe travel as well as the public health concerns related to mobility. IOM doctors decide whether a beneficiary is at risk based on medical information received from the SEM. If needed, further medical examinations are conducted. Necessary travel arrangements, such as medical escorts or wheelchair services are also organized.

Guaranteeing safe and informed travel

Upon receipt of the approved names lists from the SEM, following the interviews, IOM contacts the refugees to confirm their willingness to travel and provides them with information about the procedures. Shortly before departure, IOM informs them about flight procedures and provides them with specific information about COVID-19.

Accomplishments

Between 2013 and 2021, over 5,000 beneficiaries of international protection have been resettled to Switzerland from Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt, Syria, Niger and Jordan. The largest group of beneficiaries was of Syrian nationality, followed by Sudanese, Afghan, and Iraqi.



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