

# RESETTLEMENT NEEDS, COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS AND KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2022

## SUMMARY OF UNHCR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

UNHCR issues these recommendations in advance of the High-Level Resettlement Forum hosted by the European Commission on 9 July. The recommendations set out UNHCR's key asks of EU Member States as they consider their commitments to resettling refugees in 2022. EU Member States are due to communicate such commitments to the European Commission in September this year.

These recommendations are in line with the [Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways](#). This Strategy builds on the objective set out in the [Global Compact on Refugees \(GCR\)](#) to increase the number of resettlement and complementary pathways admissions globally. The Strategy also seeks to expand the number of countries engaged in resettlement and complementary pathways and improve the availability and predictability of third country solutions for refugees. The Strategy foresees the resettlement of one million refugees and admission of two million through complementary pathways by 2028.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on resettlement has been substantial. However, many EU States remained engaged with UNHCR and partners to find ways to ensure admissions. Several States were able to maintain case processing through flexible modalities allowing refugees, particularly those with urgent or emergency needs to depart.

UNHCR welcomes the convening of the High-Level Forum on Resettlement by the European Commission on 9 July and the message the Forum will send about the resumption of global leadership on resettlement. In this context, UNHCR sets out the following recommendations to EU Member States.

### MAINTAIN A STEADY GROWTH OF RESETTLEMENT TO THE EU

- 1. Increase resettlement places.** UNHCR recommends that the 27 EU Member States admit at least 36,000 refugees in 2022.
- 2. Ensure the incremental growth** as envisaged in the Strategy with EU resettlement targets increasing to a minimum of 40,000 in 2023 and 44,000 in 2024.
- 3. Adopt flexible case processing modalities** to increase the agility and resilience of resettlement and admissions under other legal pathways.
- 4. Increase the number of EU Member States participating in resettlement.** UNHCR, together with IOM, EASO and others, is ready to support capacity building initiatives to meet this objective.
- 5. Increase EU funding for capacity building initiatives** accessible to NGOs, UNHCR and other actors to enhance capacity and quality in resettlement programmes.

## KEY PRIORITY SITUATIONS

6. UNHCR urges EU Member States to use the [2022 Projected Global Resettlement Needs](#) document and prioritise for resettlement refugees hosted in countries and part of the following situations: the Syria crisis ; the Central Mediterranean Situation; and, the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) countries.
7. UNHCR calls on resettlement states to dedicate at least 10% of their resettlement programmes to urgent or emergency cases.

## SOLIDIFYING THE EU LEADERSHIP ROLE - KEY POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

8. Maintain the EU's **strong leadership** at global level, and ensure effective collaboration with other major actors, considering the opportunity for greater global coverage as well as for more diversity in resettlement.
9. **Preserve the protection nature** of resettlement in the EU. UNHCR urges States not to seek to use resettlement as a substitute to their obligations under international law to provide access to asylum. Resettlement should remain a protection tool and not serve migration policy objectives. When planning for resettlement and selecting refugees, States should apply protection criteria rather than considering integration potential.
10. **Ensure that resettlement remains the primary means of admission** for refugees in need of a third country solution. UNHCR welcomes the European Commission's call to expand and scale up complementary pathways and calls for those to remain additional to resettlement targets.
11. **Show increased solidarity** by considering a larger proportion of refugees with high or medical needs within resettlement programmes.
12. Maintain a close coordination between EASO, UNHCR, IOM and other involved stakeholders in order to avoid redundancies, and to ensure better planning and optimize resources management.
13. EASO can play a key role in building States capacity, re-engage previous resettlement states and work with emerging states willing to build new resettlement programmes in the EU. UNHCR welcomes the close coordination with EASO for capacity building activities that will support the scale up of resettlement programs.

## COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS

14. **Expand pathways by strengthening existing ones** and making them more **accessible, reliable and predictable** for refugees. Adequate funding, guidance and building expertise will be crucial to develop these programmes further and ensure refugees have access to them.
15. Ensure **adequate funding from States** to expand education and labour pathways for refugees.
16. Work with the **Global Task Force on Education Pathways** to work together and build sustainable programmes for refugee students with adequate funding, good planning and multi-stakeholder collaboration. UNHCR encourages stakeholders to plan for numerical admissions targets starting in 2023.
17. Adopt a common and holistic approach on **labour mobility** to address current and future labour needs in the EU, while enabling more access to such opportunities for refugees. Refugees should be considered when discussing the revision of legal migration instruments. Administrative and financial obstacles faced by refugees to access pathways must be addressed.
18. **Maintain the engagement between States and** civil society actors for the expansion of humanitarian admission programmes. Such programmes should align with the global resettlement needs; remain driven by protection considerations; and be complementary to resettlement opportunities in the EU.

19. **Use humanitarian visas as a tool** to enable refugee admissions for complementary pathways.
20. Work closely with civil society and UNHCR and facilitate **access to funding** for actors in the facilitation of complementary pathways for refugees.
21. Preserve the **right to family unity** and enhance refugees' access to established procedures. While the right to family unity is enshrined in international and regional instruments, many legal and administrative obstacles need to be overcome.
22. When developing **family reunification schemes** for those who are not eligible for family reunification under national legislation, ensure that these are complementary/ in addition to humanitarian, protection-driven solutions.
23. Plan for a meaningful growth of community **sponsorship programmes** that will enhance reception capacity and allow for an increased number of admissions. Welcoming sponsorship initiatives and pilot projects, UNHCR asks States to design programmes with an intention to scale them up, and to take steps to increase the number of community sponsored admissions.
24. **Build stronger sponsorship programmes together:** UNHCR welcomes the active role of EASO and sees it as a positive step towards a potential leading role in the development and strengthening of community sponsorship programs in Europe in close coordination with all involved stakeholders.