

RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME - LEBANON

December 2021

Lebanon remains the country hosting **the largest number of refugees per capita**, with the Government estimation of **1.5 M Syrian refugees** and **13,617** refugees of other nationalities.

The socio-economic downturn coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic and Beirut blast have all contributed to **nine out of ten Syrian refugees living in extreme poverty**.

UNHCR Lebanon submitted **8,034 refugees to 17 different resettlement countries** in 2021, meeting **7% of the projected resettlement needs in Lebanon**.

> What is Resettlement?

Resettlement is an invaluable protection tool to meet the specific needs of refugees whose life, liberty, safety, health or fundamental human rights are at risk in the country where they have sought refuge.

Resettlement is a process which results in a third country solution for refugees who have no option to integrate locally or return to their home country. Resettlement involves the identification and transfer of refugees (**Country of Origin**) from a State in which they have sought protection (**Country of Asylum**) to a third State which has agreed to admit them (**Country of Resettlement**). UNHCR's identification of refugees for resettlement is referred to as **Submissions**, and the transfer of refugees to a third State is referred to as **Departures**.

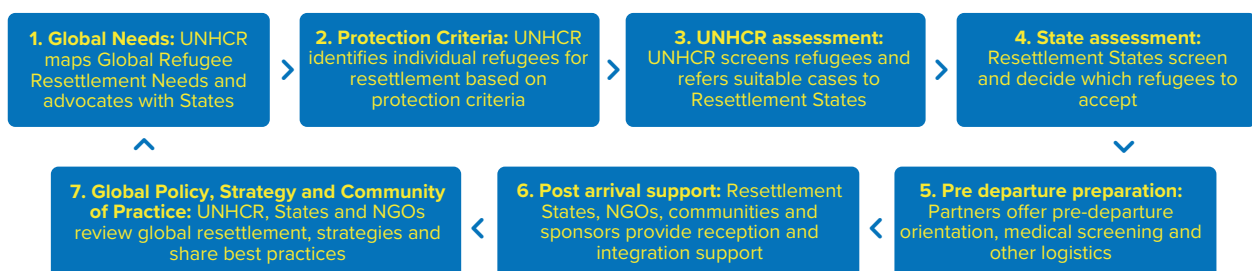


> What Are the Objectives of Resettlement?

Resettlement has three functions: (i) meet the specific needs of refugees whose fundamental rights are at risk in the country where they sought asylum; (ii) offer a long term solution by ending refugees' displacement; and (iii) serve as an international responsibility sharing mechanism because it signals support for countries hosting large refugee populations.

> How is Resettlement Conducted?

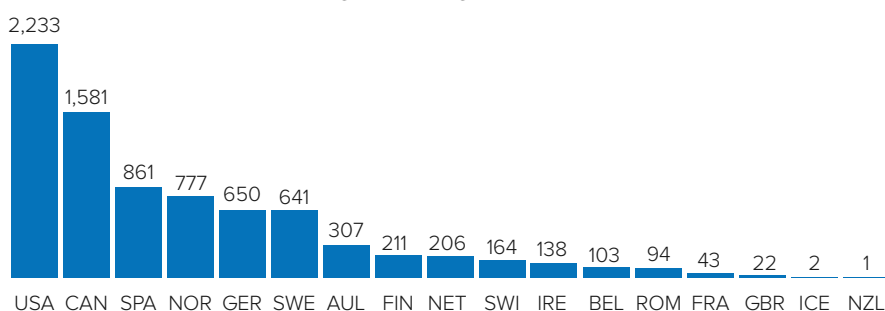
UNHCR identifies and refers refugees for resettlement in accordance with established submission categories based on heightened protection risks, after determining their eligibility for international protection. Resettlement States then decide who to admit.



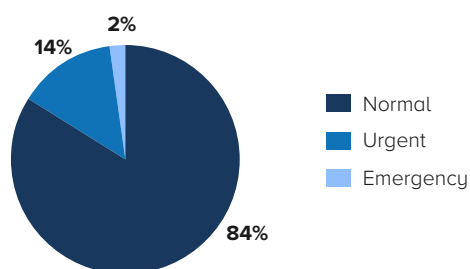
> Resettlement Submissions

In 2021, out of the total submissions of 8,034 refugees, 3,843 (47.8%) of the refugees were women and girls, and 4,473 (55.7%) were children. The vast majority of refugees submitted for resettlement from Lebanon were from Syria, hence 7,594 or 94.5% of those submitted, while 440 were refugees from other countries of origin.

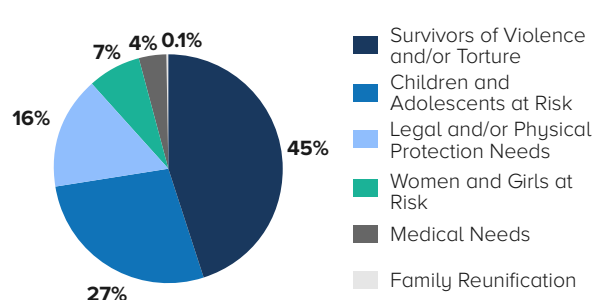
2021 resettlement submissions by country



2021 case submissions by priority



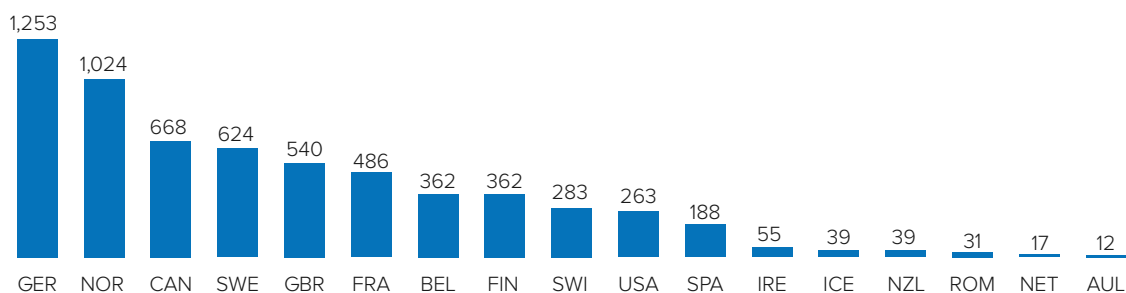
2021 submissions by primary category



> Departures

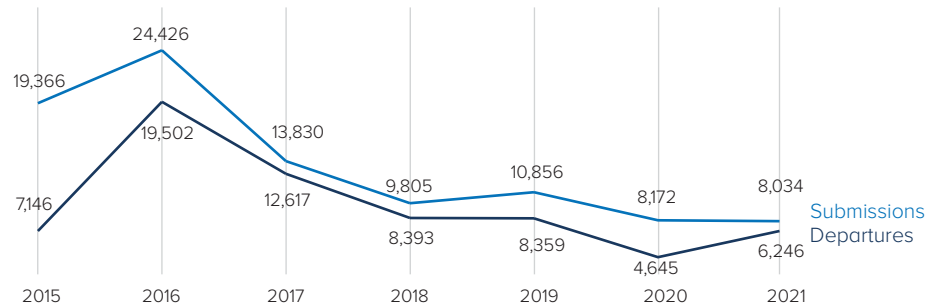
Although the COVID-19 pandemic was still present in 2021, the number of refugees departing Lebanon on resettlement increased from 4,645 in 2020 to 6,246 in 2021, comprising 26.2% of total departures from MENA and Turkey and 15.9% of total global departures. Of the 6,246 refugees who departed Lebanon on resettlement in 2021, 97% were refugees from Syria. Refugees departed on resettlement to 17 countries in 2021. The highest number of refugees departed to Germany (1,253 persons), followed by Norway (1,024 persons), Canada (668 persons), Sweden (624 persons) and the United Kingdom (540 persons).

2021 departures by country (persons)



Note: Departure figures include refugees submitted and/or accepted in previous years.

Resettlement submissions and departures 2015-2021



UNHCR Lebanon resettlement processing: 2021



> 2022 RST Needs

A thirteen percent 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), with 95,555 Syrian refugees in Lebanon projected to be in need of resettlement in 2022. (Projected Global Resettlement Needs 2022). With this estimate and despite the ongoing commitment from States, a renewed sense of urgency and collaborative action is needed to preserve – and where possible, expand – resettlement and complementary pathways opportunities for Syrians in the years ahead, to ensure ongoing protection and solutions.

> Feature Story: from Syria, to Lebanon, to Spain



For Samer, the chance to start over in Spain is a blessing after years of hardship since fleeing to Lebanon in fear of his and his family's lives at the start of the Syria crisis in 2011.

Originally from Idlib in northwestern Syria, Samer, his wife Ghada and their three sons Ghaith, Mohamad, and Jamil, fled to Lebanon and settled in south Beirut. **"We fled a war, a country in conflict. It was exhausting," he said.**

Samer, who suffers from an injured back and poor eyesight, decided to sell vegetables in their area from a rented three-wheeled cart that he and his sons pushed around the streets. **“Sometimes I make a profit and sometimes I lose [money], but we collected the rent bit-by-bit,”** he explained. **“I chose this business because at the end of the day you can eat whatever is left over.”**

His sons used to help him push the cart and make deliveries in the morning before going to school in the afternoon. But as their financial situation deteriorated, they would work longer hours and often be late for lessons. Eventually, the boys dropped out altogether.

“I have failed my kids in regard to education,” Samer said. **“Many times, we missed the [start] of school so they would skip going, but it was against my will – we had to do that.”**

“I want to build a new, dignified life and better future for them,” he added. **“It’s like raising them again in better conditions, because here life wasn’t fair to them, but we had to survive this way.”**

Ghaith is looking forward to resuming his education and playing football in Spain, and finally seeing where his favourite team play. His youngest brother Jamil, 10, has already learned several words of Spanish, and 12-year-old Mohammad is saying how much he is looking forward to going back to school.

“I hear that Spain is beautiful,” Mohammad said. **“I want to go to school, make friends and become a doctor or an engineer.”**

Although Samer is aware there will be challenges in adapting to life in a new country, he is excited by the opportunity and ready to work hard to give his family the chance at a new start.

“I want to open a shop and develop a business ... I don’t like sitting at home; I love working,” Samer said. **“What may be difficult is moving to a new community with a new language you must learn, but when you have a goal in mind nothing is too difficult. The will I have to [make] a better future for us is stronger than all challenges.”**

> Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors who have contributed to the resettlement programme as well as major donors of flexible and unearmarked funds in 2021:

Australia | Belgium | Canada | Finland | France | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Japan | Luxembourg | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Romania | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

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