

# PRESERVING the HUMANITARIAN NATURE of RESETTLEMENT

An Analysis of 2018-2020 Resettlement Data  
Published June 2021



## Overview of Report



### Goal of Report

It is estimated that at least **1.4 million refugees** are in need of resettlement globally each year. In 2016, UN member states committed to providing sufficient resettlement places to meet the resettlement needs identified by UNHCR (New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, para. 78). With this report, we examine the degree to which states have delivered on this commitment as we highlight critical gaps in the global resettlement system to inform joint planning and resource-allocation.



### Why is this report needed?

While progress has been made over the years in expanding resettlement infrastructure and quotas to include more locations and populations, **more than 1 million refugees needing resettlement remain with little or no access to it**. Performance metrics are typically aggregated at the global and regional level, which can obscure gaps at the country level. Analyzing disaggregated data is necessary to identify where additional resources and attention are needed.



### Why now?

With the expectation of **higher global resettlement quotas** in the coming years, it is important to remind resettlement stakeholders to focus not just on *volume* but also on *equitable access* – so that no matter where refugees are, those in need of resettlement have access to it. There is also a worrying trend of prioritizing states' desires over refugees' needs in selection criteria. This report calls for a refocusing on the fundamental humanitarian nature of resettlement.



### Focus of Analysis

Using data from 2018-2020,<sup>1</sup> RefugePoint conducted two analyses: 1) **comparing resettlement submissions to the total refugee population** in each Country of Asylum, and 2) **comparing submissions to the resettlement needs** projected by UNHCR in each Country of Asylum. These separate approaches aim to gauge: 1) how evenly resettlement opportunities are distributed geographically, and 2) how well projected needs are met in various locations.

<sup>1</sup> Accessed from UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder, Resettlement Data Finder and Projected Global Resettlement Needs reports.



## Main Findings

### During 2018-2020:

- Only **one-third of 1%** (.33%) of the 20.5 million refugees globally were submitted for resettlement on average annually.
- Submissions reached only **5%** of the 1.4 million in need annually. This is very far from the commitment UN member states made in 2016.
- Resettlement opportunities were **unevenly distributed** across geographies and populations. Refugees in some regions and Countries of Asylum were many times more likely to have access to resettlement than those in other locations (detailed in the report).

## Recommendations (selected)

The report concludes with recommendations for UNHCR, States, NGOs and all resettlement stakeholders to:

- **Integrate** this type of analysis (comparing submissions to needs and population in each Country of Asylum) into joint planning activities in the future;
- **Increase** quotas and the proportion that are unallocated for UNHCR to use flexibly;
- **Diversify** receiving countries' resettlement programs with more populations from more locations;
- **Prioritize** protection-based criteria and needs identified by UNHCR, while minimizing restrictive selection criteria;
- **Increase** remote vs in-person interviewing to expand access to more locations;
- **Move** towards multi-year planning, funding and quota allocations;
- **Leverage** the private sector and philanthropy to fill gaps; and
- **Redouble** collective commitment to meeting the resettlement needs as identified by UNHCR.

 **Read the full report:**  
<https://www.refugepoint.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/RefugeePoint-Preserving-Humanitarian-Resettlement-Report.pdf>

 **Read a blog post about the report:**  
<https://www.refugepoint.org/preserving-the-humanitarian-nature-of-resettlement/>

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