REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Carolin Spannuth Verma
Division of International Protection
UNHCR Geneva
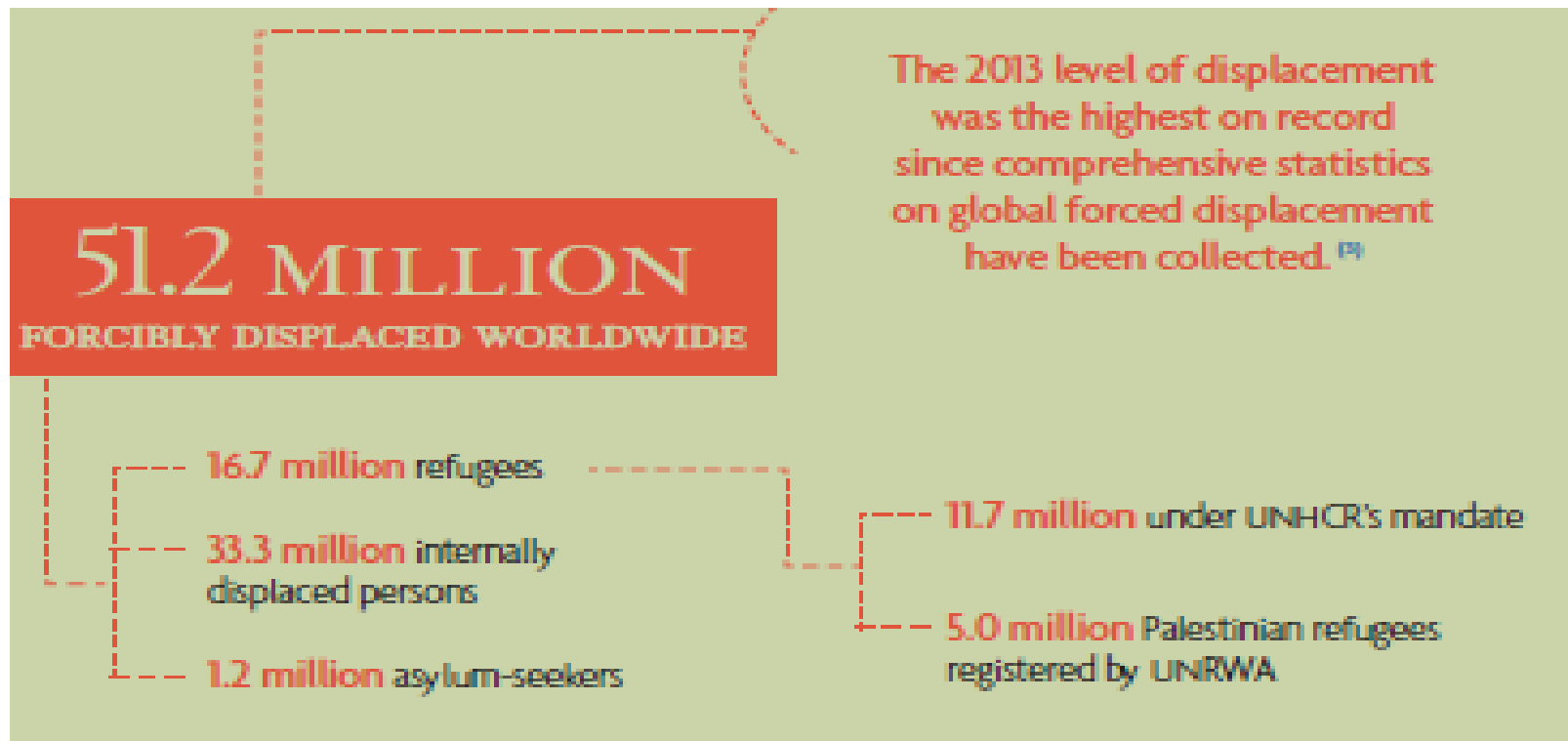November 2014

CSV

Content

1. Resettlement and its context
2. Planning figures
3. Resettlement challenges
4. Priorities and vision

1. What is resettlement ?

- **Resettlement involves the selection and transfer of refugees from a State in which they have sought protection to a third state which has agreed to admit them and provide them with <u>permanent residence status</u>.**

- The status provided in the resettlement country should ensure <u>protection against *refoulement*</u> and should facilitate the local integration of the resettled refugee and her/his family or dependants (similarly to those enjoyed by nationals).

- According to UNHCR policy, resettlement can be pursued for any <u>refugee falling within UNHCR's mandate</u> .

Mandate of UNHCR

"Providing International protection to refugees & seeking permanent solutions"

51.2 MILLION FORCIBLY DISPLACED WORLDWIDE

The 2013 level of displacement was the highest on record since comprehensive statistics on global forced displacement have been collected. [9]

16.7 million refugees

33.3 million internally displaced persons

1.2 million asylum-seekers

11.7 million under UNHCR's mandate

5.0 million Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA

CSV

"Durable solutions"

- Voluntary repatriation (3,4%)
- Local solutions (alternative stay arrangements, mobility)
- Resettlement (1%)

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Volrep	197,600	500,000	500,000	400,000
Resettlement	108,842	91,843	74,835	93,226
Local integration				

Agenda for Protection (June 2004)

Goal 5: Redoubling the search for durable solutions

- Realization of **comprehensive durable solutions** strategies, especially for protracted refugee situations.
- Improved conditions for **voluntary repatriation**, strengthened cooperation to make volrep sustainable.
- **Local integration** having its proper place as part of a comprehensive strategy for durable solutions. Self-reliance and livelihoods for refugees.
- **Expansion of resettlement opportunities**.
- More efficient use of resettlement both as a **protection tool** and as a **durable solution** [and as a **burden and responsibility-sharing mechanism** – see goal 3]
- Make more **strategic use** of resettlement to benefit more refugees than the ones being resettled.

csv

Core functions of resettlement

- Durable solution
- Protection tool
- International responsibility sharing

Comprehensive approach to solutions

- "There is no hierarchy among durable solutions"

- All solutions needs to be seen in the regional and global context.

- Resettlement can serve as an immediate protection response to large scale displacements in emergency situations (i.e. Syrian refugees)

Strategic use of resettlement

is under evaluation

- Integrated approach in applying resettlement to broader durable solutions and protection strategies.

- **Resettlement can be used strategically to leverage wider protection and solutions benefits; i.e. livelihood options in host countries.**

- Requires close collaboration among the various resettlement countries, host countries, development actors, UN agencies, Core Groups, Solutions Alliance.

CSV

Resettlement can open doors

Protection and solutions benefits:

- Maintaining borders open
- Out of camp policies/ freedom of movement
- Residence permits / work permits and other Convention rights
- Livelihood development policies
- Land allocation for agriculture
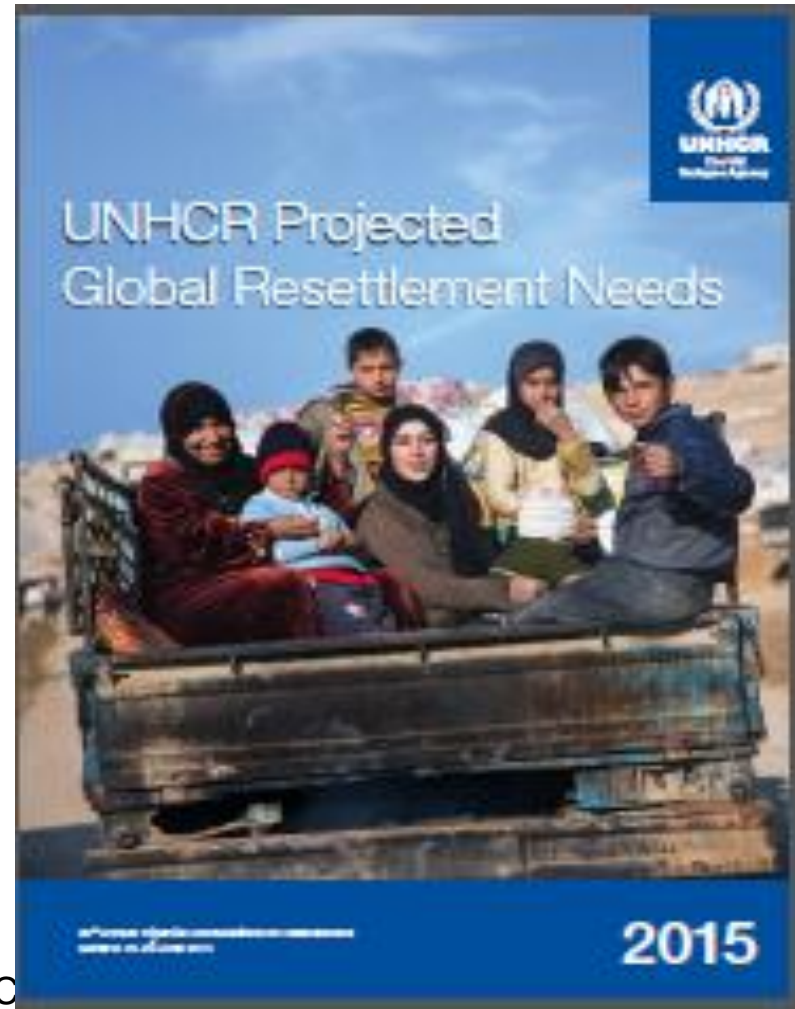
csv

Core groups since 2013

- Syrian refugee situation (chaired by Sweden)

- Congolese refugee situation (chaired by the USA)

Priority situations for the strategic use of RST

- Kenya (hosts 438,000 Somali refugees)
- Iran (hosts 840,000 Afghan refugees)
- Pakistan (1,6 Mill Afghan refugees)
- Turkey (610,000 different nationalities)
- Syria/ Jordan/ Lebanon (62,000 Iraqi refugees)
- Ecuador (53,000 Colombian refugees)
- Great Lakes Region (450,000 Congolese refugees)
- Sudan (95,000 Eritrean refugees)

csv

2. Planning figures

- UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs (PGRN) Publication 2015
- UNHCR Global Trends 2013
- UNHCR Statistical Year book

Projected Global RST Needs

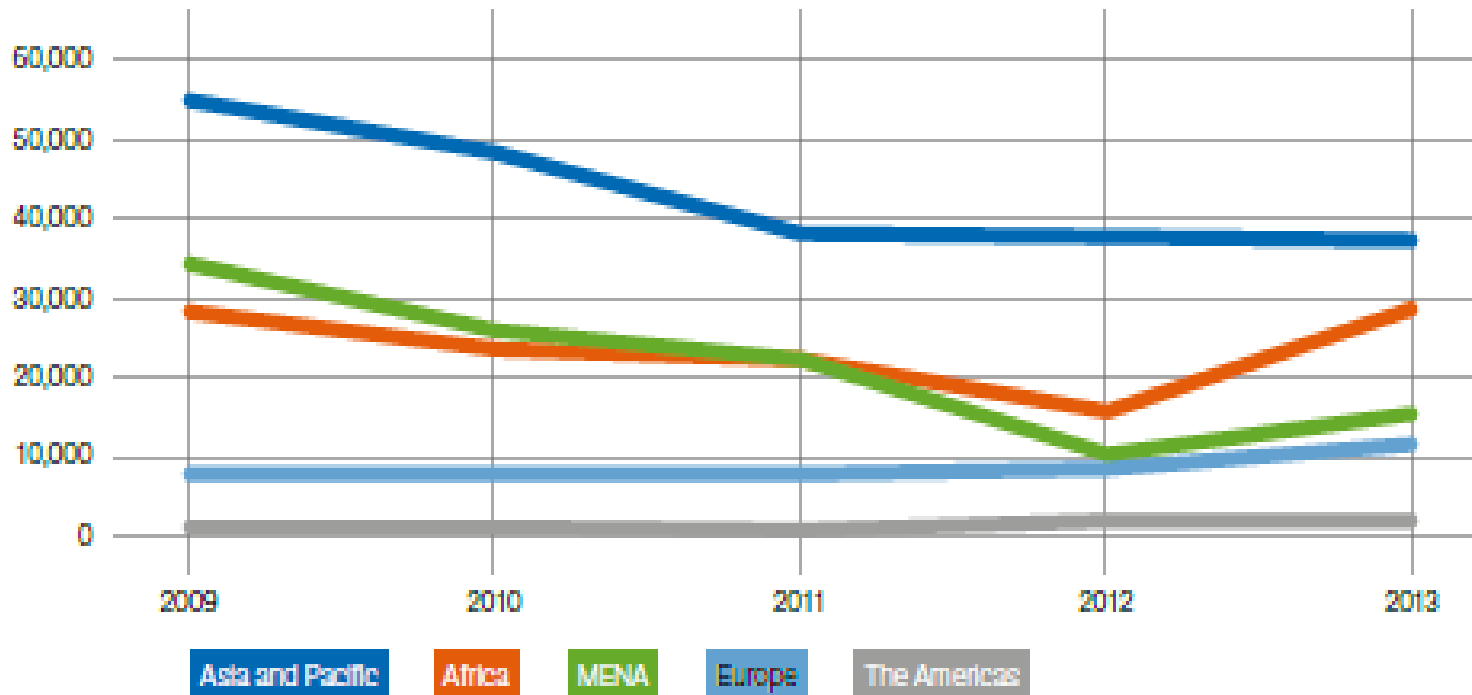| 2014	2015
691,000	**958,000**
Capacity target*	**Capacity target**
110,338	**126,000**
Submissions until Sept	
70,604	

* To be produced by core staff + workforce affiliated to UNHCR (deployees)

CSV

Establishing the needs

- Specific needs codes in the registration data base
- Participatory assessments (Heightened Risk Identification Tool)
- Best estimates

PGRN 2015

UNHCR Submissions by Region of Asylum 2009-2013

Legend: Asia and Pacific, Africa, MENA, Europe, The Americas

Largest refugee populations by country of origin planned for RST submission in 2015	Largest refugee populations in the world
Syria Congo (DRC) Myanmar Iraq Somalia Afghanistan Eritrea Sudan	Syria Afghanistan Somalia (over half of the world's refugees come from these three countries) Congo (DRC) Myanmar Iraq

CSV

27 RST countries including HAP

≥ 1000	100-1000	Below 100	Future
USA Australia Canada Germany Sweden **Those five countries received 93% of all UNHCR submissions and 94% of all arrivals.**	Norway, UK New Zealand Finland Denmark France Netherlands Belgium Switzerland	Austria Argentina Brazil, Chile, Czech Republic, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Portugal, Romania, Uruguay S. Korea	Bulgaria?

CSV

Resettlement in Switzerland

Pilot project 2013-2015

- Resettlement submissions of Syrians: 420
- Resettlement departures/arrivals: 137

Visa for extended family members:

- 4,238 visas issued

csv

Resettlement process

1. UNHCR identifies, prioritizes and submits refugees to RST countries according to agreed upon categories and priorities

2. RST countries ensure **timely processing** of these already identified refugees; **timely acceptances and departures**; (normal submissions 52 weeks, urgent 6 weeks, emergency submissions 1 week).

3. **Reception and integration processes follow acceptances and should not be a criteria for acceptances.**

4. It is important that resettlement countries accept UNHCR referrals and do not establish their "own criteria".
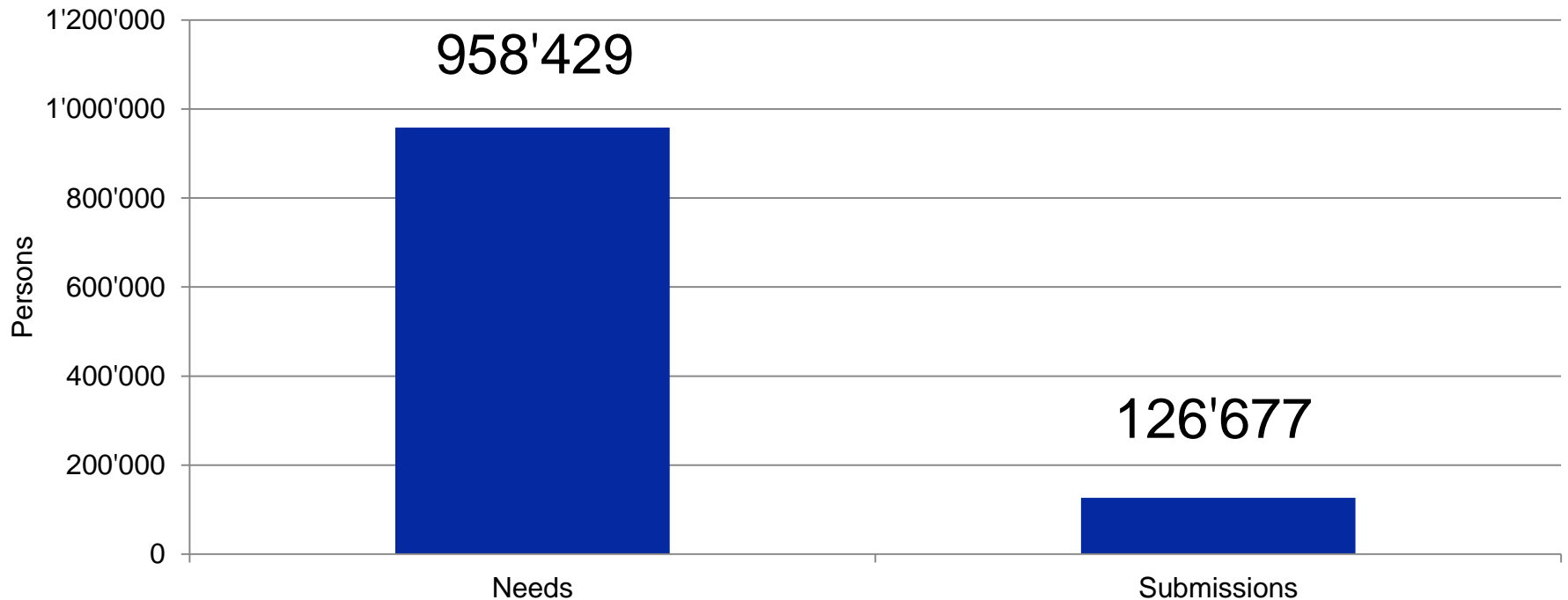
5. Average acceptance rate in 2013: 94%

Resettlement categories

(the % represents the departures by categories in 2013)

- Legal and/ or physical protection needs (42%)
- Lack of local integration prospects (now lack of foreseeable alternative DS) (22%)
- Survivors of violence and/ or torture (16%)
- Women/girls-at-risk (12%)
- Medical needs (2%)
- Family reunification (2%)
- Children & adolescents at risk (<1%)
- Older refugees (<1%)
- [Humanitarian Admission Program (3%)]

csv

3. Resettlement challenges

- **Gap between needs and submissions**
- **Gaps between needs and available places**

Challenges (identification)

- Challenging to prioritize a small number (126,677) among the larger group (11,7 Mill) = 1% of total refugee population globally

- Individual case management (registration, RSD, resettlement interviews) is resource intensive

- Limited human resources capacity

- Registration data not always up to date (in particular in protracted situations)

- Ongoing and new emergencies

csv

Challenges (out-processing)

- Low departure figures (i.e. of Afghans, Somalis)
- Slow departure procedures
- Accessing refugee populations in countries of first asylum (remote locations, security or dispersed in urban settings).
- Political barriers
- Too few agreements on group/ accelerated processing
- **Too few dossier submission possibilities**
- **Too few places for emergency/ medical cases**
- **Large number of unaccompanied/ separated children (custody releases, Best interest determination capacity)**

CSV

UNHCR vision/ outlook

- Integrated approach to durable solutions
- Larger scale resettlement of <u>protracted populations</u>
- <u>Link resettlement to broader solutions strategies</u> (i.e. investment in hosting countries to pursue livelihood strategies)
- Strengthen <u>partnerships</u> with development agencies and host countries
- <u>Safeguarding integrity of the resettlement process</u>
- <u>Simplification of resettlement processes by enhancing registration</u>^{csv}

Appeal to resettlement countries

- Increase resettlement places and other types of admission

- Accept UNHCR referrals as per standard resettlement categories and mandate and as per UNHCR needs analysis

- Increase emergency, medical and dossier places

- Use video conferencing where appropriate

- Funding for deployment scheme (RST, BID)

- Help achieve broader solutions outcomes as a result or linked to Resettlement (i.e. partnerships and investments into hosting countries to pursue livelihood activities for refugees and sometimes also the host population).

csv

Not all refugees can benefit from resettlement. However, resettlement can also benefit also those refugees who are left behind.

Thank you for your attention

CSV