



# Share Network

## Resettlement & Community Sponsorship across Europe

A Share Quality Sponsorship Network (QSN) Publication

[www.share-network.eu](http://www.share-network.eu)



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- In a global context
- In Europe
- As a safe and legal pathway

## Community sponsorship programmes in:

- Germany, Ireland, UK, Belgium, Spain, France & Italy

## The Share QSN partnership & achievements

- DiCV (Caritas Cologne)
- The Irish Refugee Council
- Citizens UK
- Caritas International Belgium
- The Basque Government
- The Fédération de l'Entraide Protestante
- Caritas Italy/ Consorzio Comunitas
- Share QSN project objectives, outputs and achievements

# GLOBAL CONTEXT

## Global Trends

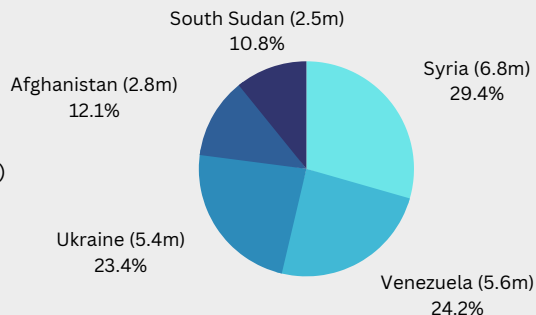
Over 100 million forcibly displaced in May 2022

- 60.1 million internally displaced people (IDPs)
- 32.1 million refugees
- 4.5 million asylum seekers
- 83% are hosted in low- and middle-income countries and 72% in neighbouring countries
- Approx. 40% of forcibly displaced are children <18 & 50% are women and girls
- 48% of IDPs live in urban areas

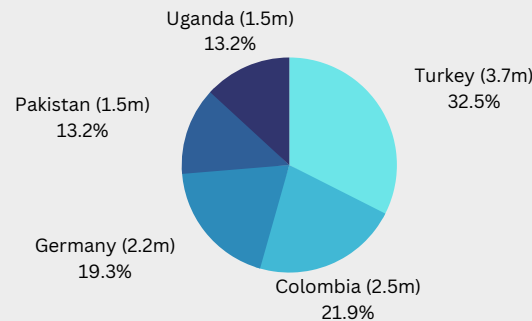
Countries hosting the most refugees per capita of population:

- Lebanon (1 in 5 people are refugees)
- Jordan (1 in 10 people are refugees)
- Turkey (1 in 20 people are refugees)

72% of refugees originate from 5 countries:



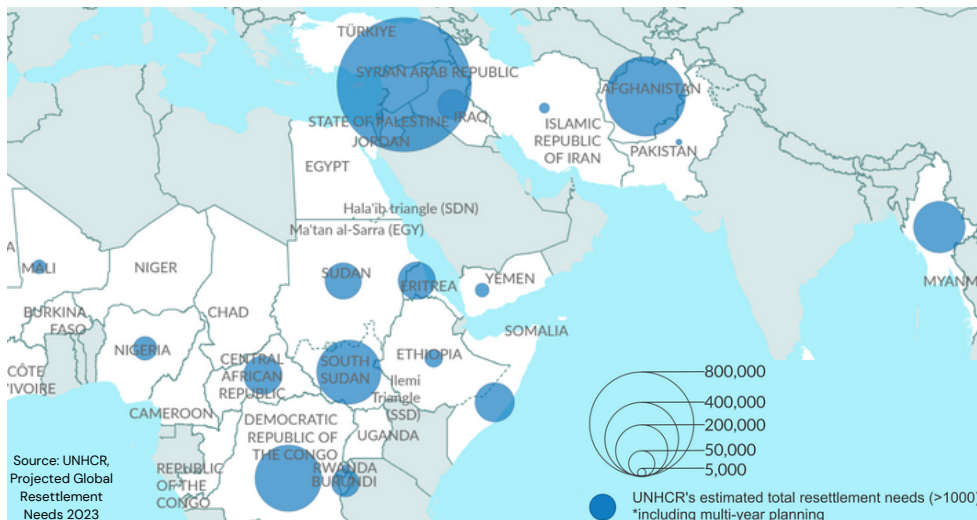
36% of refugees are hosted in 5 countries:



Credit: Max Hirzel for Ilaria Schnyder, Human Lines

## Global Resettlement Needs for 2023

2 million refugees are estimated to be in need of resettlement in 2023, while only 39,266 refugees departed in 2021 (during Covid-19).



Since only about 1% of refugees have access to resettlement each year, millions of people are left in limbo. Complementary pathways provide an additional way, beyond resettlement, for displaced people to find durable solutions.

## Global Solidarity

### 3 year Strategy on Resettlement & Complementary Pathways

Targeting 1m refugees resettled and 2m refugees offered complementary pathways of admission by 2028

### Third Country Solutions for Refugees: Roadmap 2030

- Goal 1: Grow resettlement & UNHCR target 2028 to reach 150,000 departures
- Goal 2: Advance compl. pathways and fam. reunif. & UNHCR target 2028: over 2m refugees accessing CP
- Goal 3: Build the foundation by promoting welcoming and inclusive societies incl. through CS



**Dec 2018**  
Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)  
Recognises the importance of third country solutions for global solidarity and responsibility sharing

**Dec 2019**  
Global Refugee Forum (GRF)  
Reporting on initial progress in the implementation of the Three-year-Strategy and encourage continued support

**June 2022**  
Global Refugee Forum (GRF)  
After Covid-19 and the Afghan and Ukrainian refugee crises, the UN MS will make pledges and contributions towards meeting the objectives of the GCR.

A third country solution is a safe and regulated opportunity to leave the first country of asylum and obtain a temporary or permanent legal status in a third country.

## THIRD COUNTRY SOLUTIONS

Resettlement

Complementary Pathways

Humanitarian Visas

Humanitarian Admission

Community Sponsorship

Family Reunification

Education Opportunities

Employment Opportunities

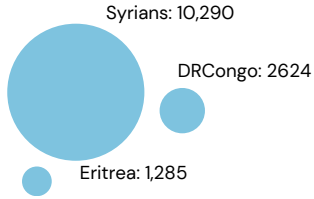
Other Opportunities

Source: UNHCR complementary pathways for admission of refugees to third countries - Key considerations

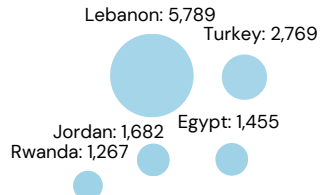
# RESETTLEMENT & HUMANITARIAN ADMISSION IN EUROPE

## 2022 Statistics

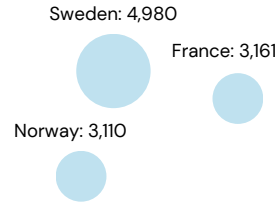
### Main nationalities selected for resettlement



### Main departure countries for resettlement



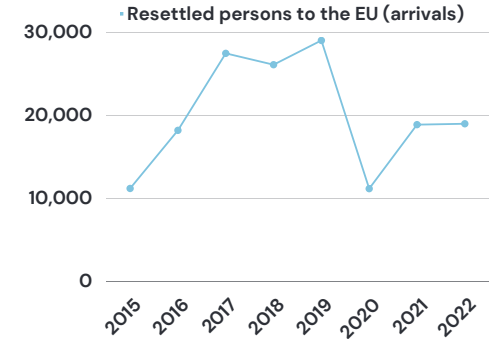
### Main destination countries for resettlement



Source: IOM, EEA Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission in 2022

## Decreasing resettlement numbers and countries engaging in resettlement

Since 2019 the number of departures of resettled refugees has decreased annually. After Covid-19, numbers are expected to catch up slowly. In 2023, 16 EUMS participate in RST, of which 5 MS pledging no more than 50 persons. In addition to UNHCR RST providing for durable solutions, more MS operate ad-hoc HA programmes providing for subsidiary protection.



The '20.000 programme' to receive 20.000 refugees over 2 years  
**19.432 persons resettled**  
 97.1% of target

EU pledge to resettle 50.000 refugees in over two years  
**39,000 persons resettled**  
 78% of target

2019 Global Refugee Forum pledge to resettle 30.000 refugees in 2020-2021  
**23.974 persons resettled**  
 79.9% of target

EU pledge to resettle 20.000 refugees and admit 40.000 Afghans between 2021-22.  
**17.647 persons resettled** (including evacuations from Afghanistan)  
**41.500 Afghan nationals were admitted**



EU pledge to resettle/admit 50.000 refugees over 2 years (tbc) 2023-2024-6

2023 Pledges received		
DG Home, Pledges submitted by the MS for 2023		
	Resettlement	Humanitarian admission
Belgium	500	125
Bulgaria	50	0
Finland	1 075	0
France	3 000	0
Germany	6 500	12 000
Ireland	800	100
Italy	500	850
Lithuania	0	20
Luxembourg	15	15
Malta	20	0
Netherlands	737	0
Portugal	300	100
Romania	200	0
Slovakia	50	50
Slovenia	50	0
Spain	1 200	tbc
Sweden	900	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15 897</b>	<b>13 260</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>29 157</b>	

**Resettled refugees** are admitted following a referral from the UNHCR, are granted international protection and have access to a durable solution.

**Humanitarian admission** grants international protection or a humanitarian status under national law equivalent to subsidiary (temporary) protection.

## Policy & Advocacy

### Share Network Advocacy Points

- The **Union Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Framework (URF)** to be adopted in 2023, must establish a more structured, predictable and long-term commitment.
- Within the URF Framework, EU member states should admit, as of 2024, **40,000 refugees annually** under resettlement and humanitarian admission (RST & HA), in addition to **42,500 Afghans** at risk over the coming 5 years.
- EU MS must in all cases uphold the right to seek asylum in Europe.
- The EU and MS should ensure regular reporting on fulfilling existing pledges on RST & HA and produce regular and reliable statistics.
- With EU support, EU MS develop and incrementally increase **complementary pathways** programmes, incl. labour mobility and education pathways, with a target of 50.000 by 2028, **additional** to refugee RST commitments.
- Community sponsorships (CS) can add to **additional** RST & HA numbers- requiring multi-annual programmes and dedicated governance structures that can set, implement and monitor numbers and outcomes.
- AMIF lumpsum funding to MS for sponsorships under RST & HA, including via CS, should benefit civil society organisations and regional/local gvts - implementing these programmes.
- Citizens hosting initiatives cannot replace MS obligations to provide reception. EU MS must expand reception capacity and explore alternative arrangements to support the reception and integration of all refugees.
- Practices linked to welcoming Afghans and Ukrainians should be assessed to innovate ongoing RST and complementary pathways programmes, linked to CS.

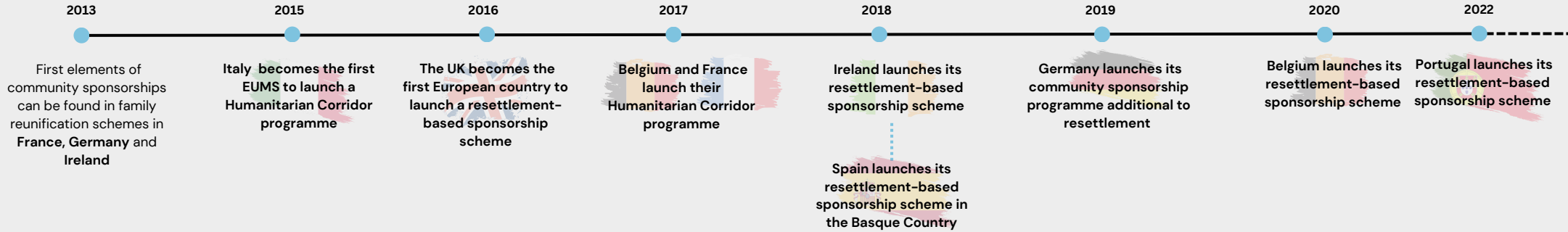
### EU Asylum Migration Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021-7

Supports resettlement and humanitarian admission of refugees

- MS receive 10.000€ for each person admitted through resettlement (including resettlement-based community sponsorship programmes).
- MS receive 6.000€ for each person admitted through humanitarian admission (including humanitarian corridor sponsored refugees) which can be increased to 8.000€ when specific vulnerable groups.

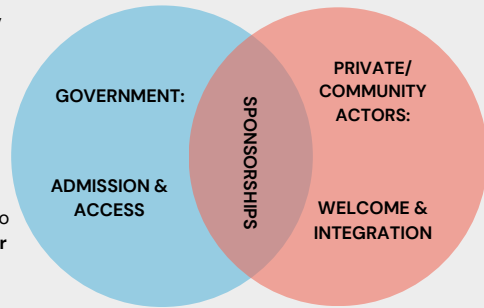
# COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIPS IN EUROPE

## The progressive engagement of European countries

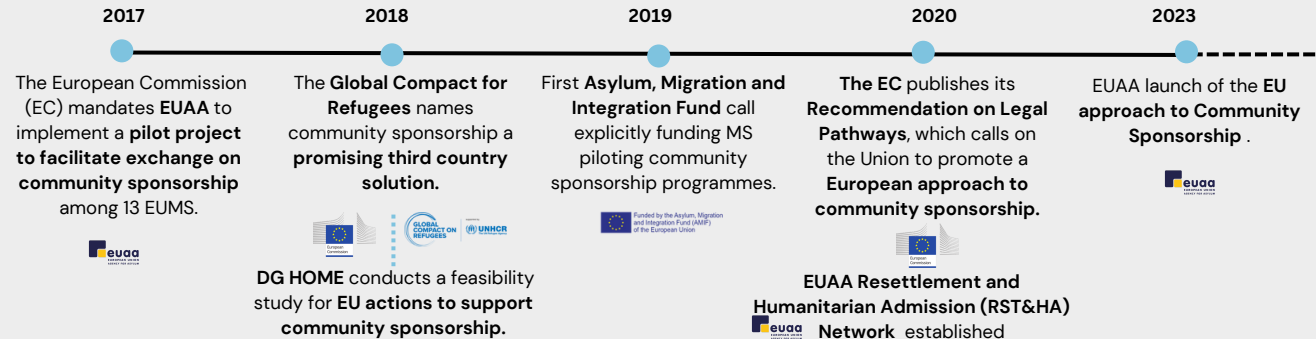


## What is community sponsorship?

A public-private partnership between governments who facilitate legal admission for refugees and private/community actors who provide financial, social and/or emotional support to receive and settle refugees into the community



## A growing interest on the EU policy stage



## Main types of community sponsorships:

- One type of community sponsorships are **resettlement-based sponsorship schemes**. Resettlement-based community sponsorship programmes enable groups of citizens to support refugees who are identified and referred by UNHCR and selected by governments within or additional to the respective resettlement quotas of each country. Once refugees are selected, they're matched via NGO lead sponsors with local sponsoring groups, who are then responsible for fundraising, securing housing, and providing post-arrival support.
- Another type are the **Humanitarian Corridors programmes** which offer complementary pathways in addition to resettlement. The humanitarian corridor model is based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the government and civil society groups who are responsible for identifying refugees for resettlement in cooperation with local organisations, the UNHCR and IOM. Humanitarian Corridor programmes offer a safe and legal entry to vulnerable people in evident need of protection who have been identified in a first stage of assessment as prima facie refugees.
- Sponsorships are considered a standalone pathway when the sponsor **nominates (names) an individual** and supports their entry or stay in the third country. Examples: Canada: Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program, which allows communities to sponsor the entry and stay of individuals they named. The recent EU MS Afghan admission programmes have often included 'naming', identifying individuals (human rights defenders, journalists, women groups) they propose to be admitted – often offering community support upon arrival.

# SAFE AND LEGAL PATHWAYS

## Safe and Legal Pathways

### Resettlement

(State-led)

Resettlement-based  
Community Sponsorship  
(State-led admissions  
additional to or included  
in Resettlement quotas)

### Community Sponsorship

Education Pathways

Labour Pathways

Humanitarian Corridors

Humanitarian Visas

Humanitarian Admission

Extended Family  
Reunification

Integration, Economic,  
Emotional and Physical  
Support + Sometimes Private  
Sponsorship elements

### Complementary Pathways

(Non-State-led)

Education Pathways

Labour Pathways

Humanitarian Corridors

Humanitarian Visas

Humanitarian Admission

Extended Family  
Reunification

Private Sponsorship

Evacuations

### Community sponsorships

are a refugees' admission and integration support pathway, implemented by public-private partnerships between governments and private or community actors (sponsors), who provide support to refugees from integration, financial, practical, and emotional perspective.

### Education pathways

provide refugees with safe access to receiving countries for the purpose of scholarships, most often in a higher education setting. These may involve:

- Regular migration pathway (student visas) such as in
  - **Germany**, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD);
  - **France**, the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (UNIV'R);
  - **Italy**, the Italian University Corridors (UNICORE).
- They may include options for extended residence for further study or employment after graduation, in some cases leading to opportunities for permanent residence.

### Education pathways may involve sponsorships:

- with support from academic institutions and NGOs (though direct funds or through fund-raising initiatives)
- scholarships with scholarships/fees, as well as
- integration, language training, accommodation, mentoring support
  - Examples: in **Italy** the LUISS University and UNICORE; in **France** the Programme UNIV'R).

### Labour/employment pathways

provide refugees with safe and regulated access to receiving countries for the purposes of employment

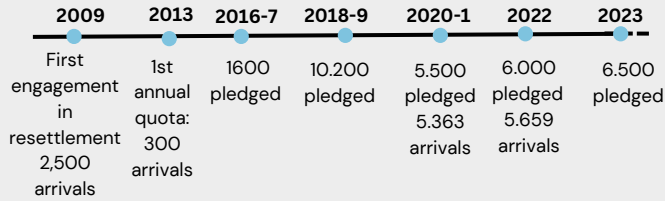
- Eligibility criteria (skills and qualifications) might vary. The admissions often depend on having specific skills being matched to a job offer from employers.
- Refugees might have arrive through:
  - **regular labour migration channels**, i.e., working visas of different duration (the majority)
  - **tailored-refugees arrangements** (Examples: Canada – Hospitality Industry Welcomes Refugee Employments (HIRES by WUSC)

**Labour pathways may involve sponsorships:** employers, NGOs, and communities support in sponsoring successful applicant and/or in mentoring support, training and accommodation arrangements (Examples: Canadian HIRES by WUSC; Australia – Skill Refugee Labour Agreement Pilot; UK – Displaced Talent Mobility Pilot Scheme (DTMPS)).

**EU-PASSWORLD** is an AMIF-funded project that aims to create new places for legal admission and effective integration of people in need of international protection by both designing and implementing new complementary pathway programmes in education and labour with a community sponsorship component and scaling existing ones. By incorporating practices from community sponsorship, the project aims to expand the modalities of facilitating refugees' enrolment in European universities and their access to work-related residence permits in three countries (Italy, Belgium, and Ireland). The project is led by Caritas Italy in partnership with ICMC Europe /Share Network, Refuge Hub, UNHCR, University of Bologna, Nasc (Ireland), Caritas Belgium, University of Leuven.

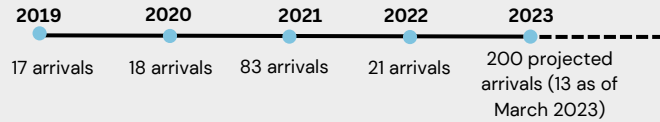
# GERMANY

## RESETTLEMENT PLEDGES & ACTUAL ARRIVALS\*



\*Humanitarian Admission Programmes are not included in this overview. The numbers under the HAP substantially add to RST numbers.

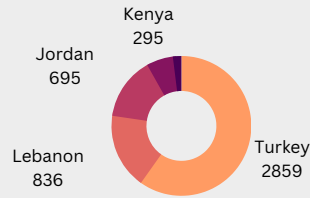
## COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP



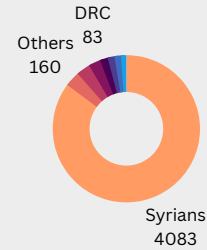
### Community Sponsorship Programme

- Established in 2019 as an agreement between the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI), the Federal Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration (IntB) and the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) and in cooperation with UNHCR and civil society organisations.
- NesT was made permanent as a regular resettlement programme of the Federal government on 1 January 2023 and aims to admit up to 200 refugees from countries such as Egypt, Lebanon, Kenya, Libya and Jordan
- Additional to resettlement quota.
- Family units but also, in rarer cases, individuals are welcomed.
- A core group of a minimum of 4 volunteers supports the family for 12 months (previously 24 months).
- The volunteers cover 1 year of net rent and providing one year of non-material assistance to help refugees participate in society (e.g. visits to government offices, finding schools, training opportunities or jobs, facilitating local social interaction).
- The refugees arriving to Germany through NesT do not have to apply for asylum. They receive a renewable residence permit initially valid for three years and are entitled to take integration courses, receive social welfare benefits and take up employment.
- After 5 years they can apply for a permanent residence permit.

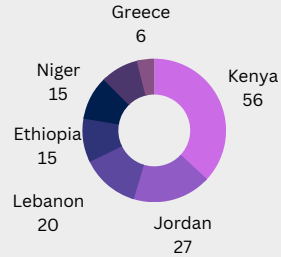
### Selection countries resettlement 2022



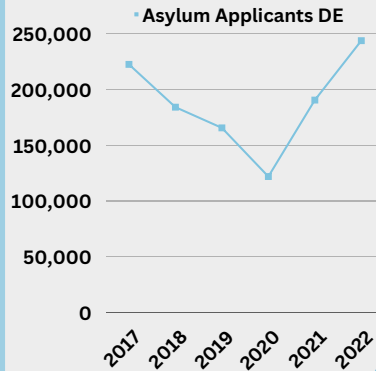
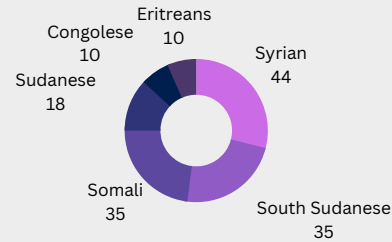
### Countries of origin resettled refugees 2022



### Selection countries for sponsorship

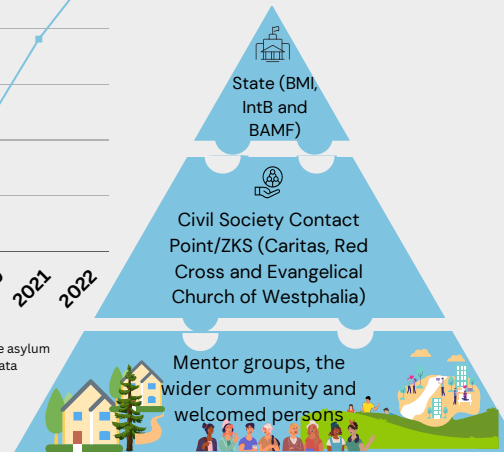


### Countries of origin of sponsored refugees



Source: Eurostat, Asylum and first time asylum applicants - annual aggregated data

### Community Sponsorship Partners



## COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP - OPERATIONAL STEPS

### IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL

UNHCR forwards the refugees' files (registered by UNHCR in country of first asylum) to German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) for initial screening. BAMF reviews the files forwarded by UNHCR and conducts interviews in country of first asylum. Security clearance is conducted by security agencies. The diplomatic mission responsible carries out the visa procedure.

### MATCHING REFUGEES WITH COMMUNITIES

BAMF matches refugees with mentors. The deciding factor is the size of the refugee family and the accommodation made available by mentors. Special focus placed on needs of refugees (e.g. health needs and accessibility of accommodation). Sponsor groups receive the anonymised profile of matched refugees, which they accept or reject (citing valid reasons). If accepted BAMF informs the refugees during an interview about the sponsor group and local conditions), if they agree, a document will be signed by both parties.

### PRE-DEPARTURE CULTURAL ORIENTATION

IOM conducts Pre-departure Orientation with additional information about the NesT program shortly before the refugees' departure for Germany. If possible, IOM facilitates a first virtual meeting between refugees and sponsors.

### ARRIVAL

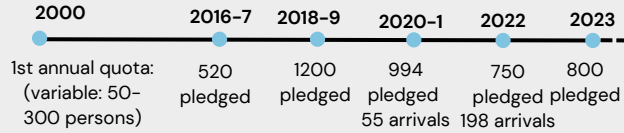
First 2 weeks after arrival are spent in one of two designated reception centers in Germany. Then they are picked up by sponsor group to accompany them to their new home. Social workers at the reception center facilitate the first meeting between sponsors and refugees providing interpretation.

### POST-ARRIVAL/ INTEGRATION SUPPORT

Sponsor groups assist and accompany refugees for at least for one year while settling in their new homes. Sponsor groups offer a wide variety of support and help refugees engage in activities that foster the integration process. The social worker at the initial reception center conducts 3 interviews with the refugees within the first year of arrival to assess how they are settling in and if there are any issues with the sponsor groups.

# IRELAND

## RESETTLEMENT PLEDGES & ARRIVALS



## COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP (CS)



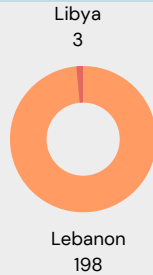
## Community Sponsorship Programme

- After a pilot phase between 2017-18 the programme was launched by the Irish Government in 2019 as an agreement between the Irish Resettlement Protection Programme (IRPP) and four secular regional support organisations (RSOs): the Irish Refugee Council; Irish Red Cross; Doras and NASC.
- Not additional to resettlement quota (represents 10% of the resettlement quota).
- Only family units.
- A core group of 7-12 volunteers supports the family for 18-24 months and secures housing for that period.
- They need to prove that they have at least 10,000€ (although the IRC recommends 15,000€) and are able to support refugees in accessing services such as education and employment.
- The volunteers and newcomers are supported by a national support organisation: the Open Community brings key partners together to promote and mobilise groups and communities and by RSOs who support volunteers directly.
- Upon arrival, newcomers are part of the IRPP under "programme refugee" status.
- This allows them to obtain citizenship after 3 years.

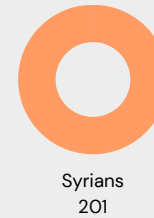
## Higher Education Pathway

- Established in 2022 as a pilot programme between Nasc, the Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre and UNHCR Ireland.
- The education-pathway scholarship is currently being advertised in Nigeria with a focus on students displaced from English-speaking Cameroon.
- Community support will be a component of the programme.

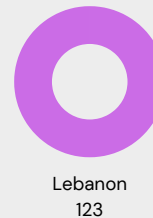
## Selection countries resettlement 2022



## Countries of origin resettled refugees 2022



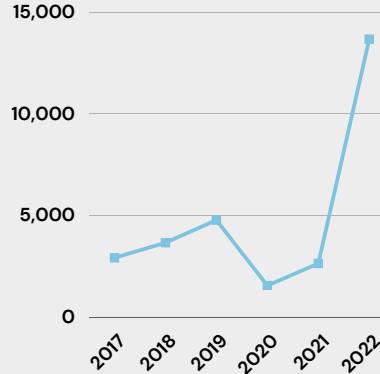
## Selection countries for sponsorship



## Countries of origin of sponsored refugees

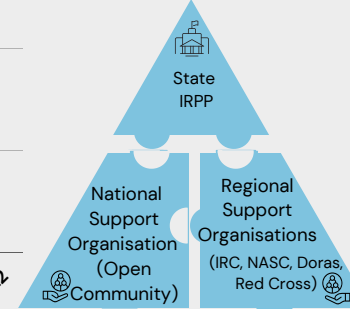


## ASYLUM APPLICANTS IE



Source: Eurostat, Asylum and first time asylum applicants - annual aggregated data

## Community Sponsorship Partners



Mentor groups, the wider community and welcomed persons

## COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP - OPERATIONAL STEPS

### IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL

IOM and UNHCR identify and shortlist candidates in Lebanon. The Irish government is involved in interviewing candidates and ultimately selects them for sponsorship.

### MATCHING REFUGEES WITH COMMUNITIES

Matching with the community sponsorship group is done by IRPP and UNHCR in cooperation with RSOs. This is done on the basis of needs, characteristics of the family, capacity and resources of the volunteers. Once a match is made, the RSOs are notified.

### PRE-DEPARTURE CULTURAL ORIENTATION

1 month before the departure, delivered by IOM. Refugees and sponsors have their first contact 1-2 weeks prior arrival. IRPP is currently re-examining its PDO with a view to delivering an improved programme for future arrivals. PDO will be delivered to CS resettlement families separately to that delivered to those selected for resettlement under the general resettlement strand.

### ARRIVAL

The volunteers pick up the newcomers and immediately transfer them to their new home.

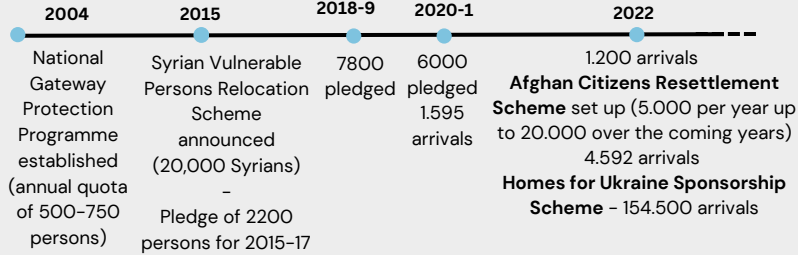
### POST-ARRIVAL/ INTEGRATION SUPPORT

Families and sponsor groups are supported through their RSO. RSOs establish a direct line of communication with families soon after arrival. They conduct an initial needs assessment, undertake monitoring and evaluation for the resettlement period, and signpost to appropriate services where applicable. The IRC offers additional cultural orientation training to all CS families within our geographic areas. This training is offered by an IRC resettlement officer and tailored to the family's country of origin.

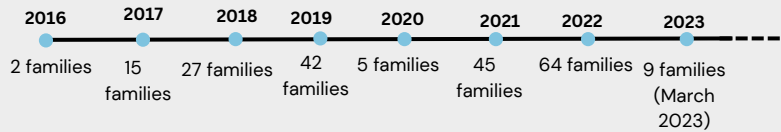


# THE UK

## RESETTLEMENT PLEDGES & ARRIVALS



## COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP ARRIVALS



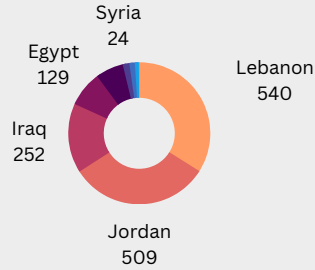
### Community Sponsorship Programme

- Launched in 2016 by the Home Office.
- Groups of citizens that wish to sponsor must act in partnership with a registered charity or incorporated association: lead sponsors.
- Sponsor groups must be, or partnered with, an organisation with Charity or Community Interest Company status.
- They must draft a detailed settlement plan and a safeguarding policy.
- Family units are welcomed.
- A core group of 8-12 volunteers supports the family for 12 months.
- The volunteers must provide 9,000 pounds, secure housing for 2 years
- Newcomers arrive with 'Indefinite Leave to Remain' with the right to work and access health care and full social support.
- Can apply for British nationality after 5 years.

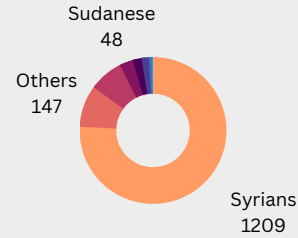
### Higher Education Pathway (Univ. Refugee Sponsorship Initv.)

- Established in 2017 at King's College London in collaboration with UNHCR, UK Home Office and Citizens UK.
- King's College acted as sponsor for a Syrian family.
- Since 2022 King's Sanctuary Programme Team with Citizens UK, Ukrainian Sponsorship Pathway UK (USPUK) and three other UK universities to lead the development and delivery of a University Sponsorship Model.

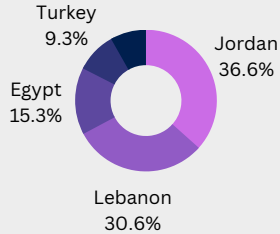
### Selection countries resettlement 2021



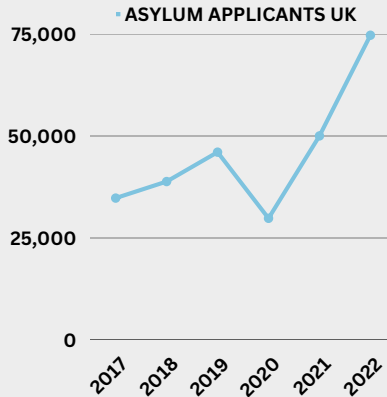
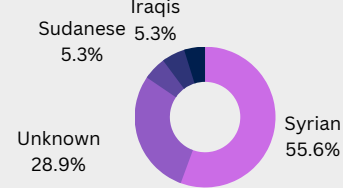
### Countries of origin resettled refugees 2021



### Selection countries for sponsorship

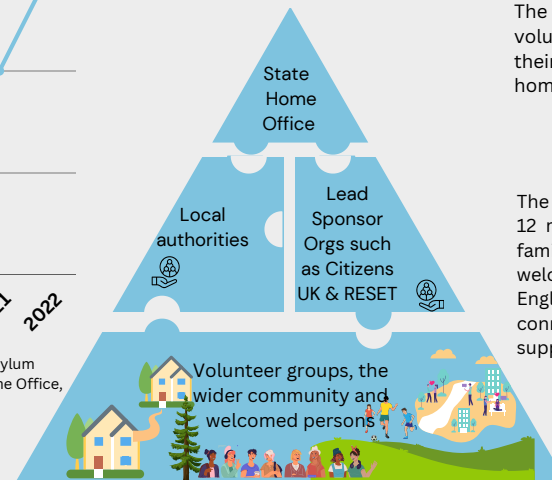


### Countries of origin of sponsored refugees



Source: Eurostat, Asylum and first time asylum applicants - annual aggregated data & UK Home Office, asylum and resettlement datasets

### Community Sponsorship Partners



## COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP - OPERATIONAL STEPS

### IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL

Individuals and families are identified by the UNHCR. Pre-departure information and departure arrangements are organised by IOM.

### MATCHING REFUGEES WITH COMMUNITIES

Matching is done by the Home Office Resettlement Allocations Team, sponsorship groups and local government representatives are given the family's profile and information and can then accept or request another match. The family is also counselled as to whether they want to settle in that region and with a community group.

### PRE-DEPARTURE CULTURAL ORIENTATION

Pre-departure preparative is carried out by the IOM and includes training on life on the UK. Prior to arrival groups send a factsheet to the family through the Home Office and IOM. This contains information and photos of the group, local area, and property. They can also give contact information such as an email address and phone number so that the family may choose to make contact with the group in advance of arrival.

### ARRIVAL

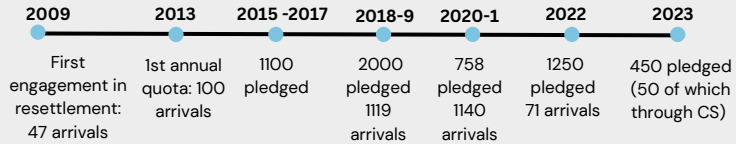
The family is welcomed at the airport by a small number of volunteers and a translator. They then travel with the family to their new home directly, present them with the key to their new home, a meal ready for them.

### POST-ARRIVAL/ INTEGRATION SUPPORT

The community group's agreement to support the family lasts for 12 months, although they must secure accommodation for the family for 24 months. During this time the group is responsible for: welcoming the family to the local area, supporting their access to English lessons, supporting their journey into employment, connecting them to local services including health care, supporting their access them to universal credit.

# BELGIUM

## RESETTLEMENT PLEDGES & ARRIVALS



## COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP (CS)



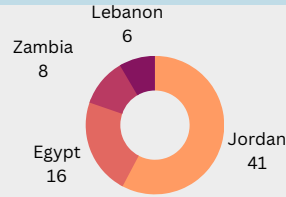
### Community Sponsorship Programme

- Established in 2020 as an agreement between the State Federal Reception Agency for Asylum Seekers (FEDASIL) and Caritas International
- In 2022, SB Overseas, a secular organisation, supported alongside Caritas International > in 2023 SB Overseas stepped out
- Not additional to resettlement quota
- Only family units
- A core group of 4-5 volunteers supports the family for 12 months. Since 2023 there is an option to prolong for an additional 12 months with follow-up by the partner organisation
- No pre-determined amount to be provided by the volunteers but the estimated amount to cover costs for the family between arrival and reception of social allowance is between 3,000 - 5,000 euros
- Upon arrival, the newcomers have to formally apply for refugee status on Belgian territory but are guaranteed recognition and priority treatment
- After their refugee status is recognised, which usually takes 1-2 months, social benefits and an initial residence permit for 5 years is given
- After 5 years they can apply for a permanent residence permit

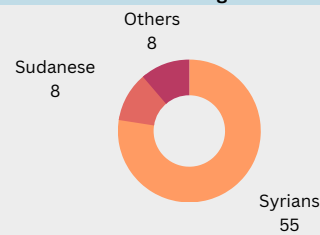
### Higher Education Pathway

- Established in 2022 as a pilot programme between 2022-2024 with KU Leuven (Leuven University), Fedasil and Caritas International
- Community support is provided in Leuven for the students
- Caritas International organises, trains and monitors the Leuven stakeholders involved in community support
- 3 students in 2023; 3 in 2024 and expansion to other Belgian universities.

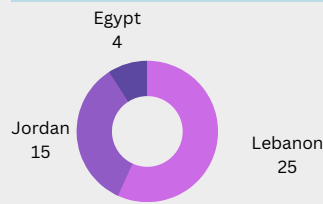
### Selection countries resettlement 2022



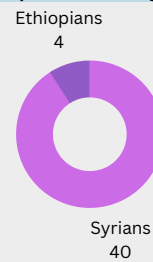
### Countries of origin resettled refugees 2022



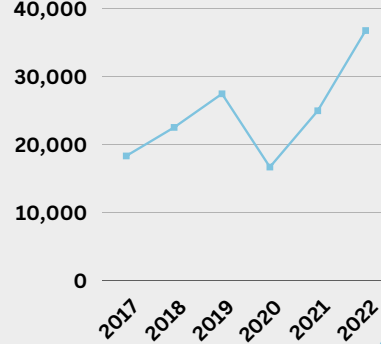
### Selection countries for sponsorship



### Countries of origin of sponsored refugees

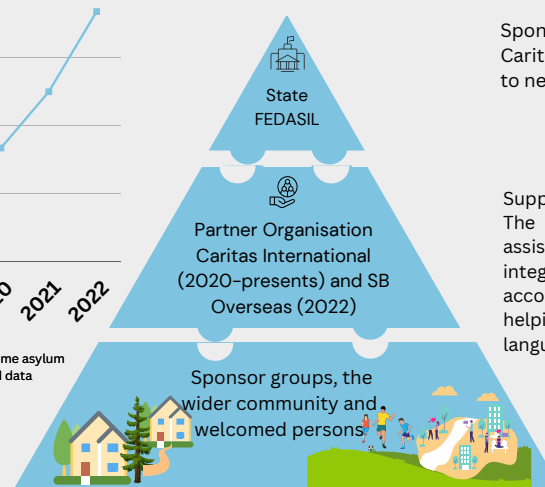


### ASYLUM APPLICANTS BE



Source: Eurostat, Asylum and first time asylum applicants - annual aggregated data

### Community Sponsorship Partners



## COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP - OPERATIONAL STEPS

### IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL

Identification by UNHCR, selection by the Belgian government through the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRA), social + medical screening by Fedasil where families are proposed CS, concluded by the signing of a consent form for agreement.

### MATCHING REFUGEES WITH COMMUNITIES

Anonymous shortlist provided by Fedasil, which Caritas discusses with sponsor groups (basic information will be provided such as family composition, ages, language proficiency). Matching is mostly based on capacities/ profiles within a sponsor group and not on preferences.

### PRE-DEPARTURE CULTURAL ORIENTATION

Takes place 1-2 months before departure and consists of an orientation course "BELCO" delivered by the Fedasil. The course includes a presentation of life in Belgium and the resettlement programme (+...). Close to the family's departure, an online meeting between volunteers and refugees is organised together with Fedasil and Caritas.

### ARRIVAL

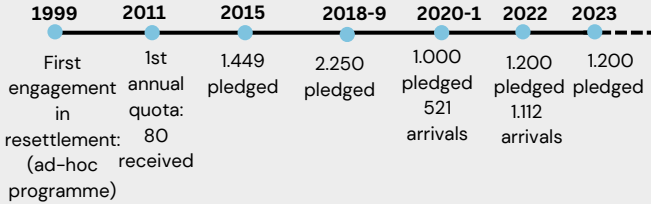
Sponsor group picks up the family at the airport. Fedasil and Caritas representatives are also present. An immediate transfer to new home follows.

### POST-ARRIVAL/ INTEGRATION SUPPORT

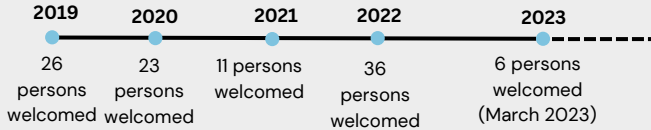
Support by volunteers *complementary* to public services offered. The Public Centre for Social Welfare (OCMW) provides a social assistant to the family, helps with registrations for language and integration courses, etc.). Sponsor groups are more focused on accompanying the family, welcoming them to the community, helping to build social networks and activities for acquiring language and social skills with locals.

# SPAIN

## RESETTLEMENT PLEDGES



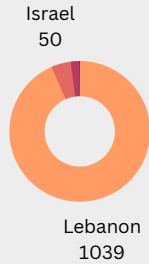
## COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP in Spanish regions of Basque Country, Navarra & Valencia



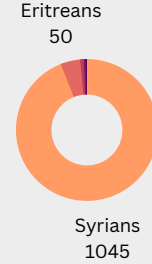
## Community Sponsorship Programme

- Established in 2018 as an agreement between national authorities, the Basque regional government and UNHCR to implement a pilot sponsorship programme in Bilbao, Donostia and Vitoria.
- Since 2021, the region of Valencia and Navarra have signed agreements with the national government.
- Within resettlement quota.
- Only family units are welcomed.
- An average of 5-6 volunteers supports the family for 24 months.
- Volunteers do not need to raise funds but they collaborate by getting some material resources. Regional Governments support financially the programme with different budgets according to the region.
- Upon arrival, the refugees' asylum request is approved and they receive their status.
- Refugees receive support from social workers and the local group (volunteers and sponsors), financial aid from the local government, access to housing.

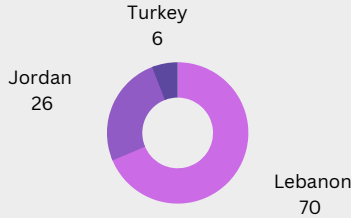
## Selection countries resettlement 2022



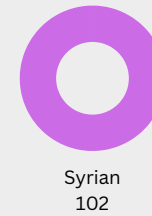
## Countries of origin resettled refugees 2022



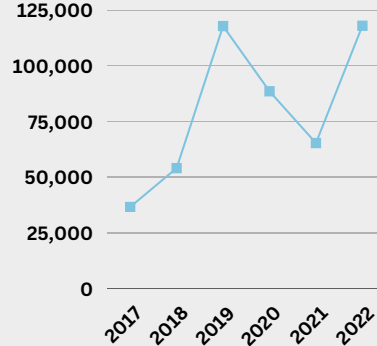
## Selection countries for sponsorship



## Countries of origin of sponsored refugees

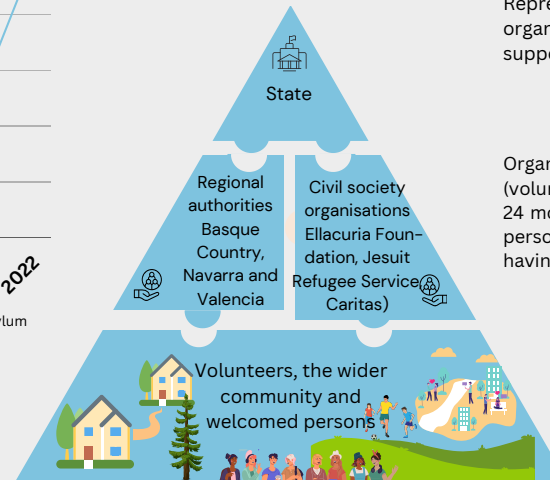


## ASYLUM APPLICANTS ES



Source: Eurostat, Asylum and first time asylum applicants - annual aggregated data

## Community Sponsorship Partners



## COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP - OPERATIONAL STEPS

### IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL

UNHCR and Spanish Government identify families/people participating in the resettlement programme. In the Basque Country, during the second pilot, it has been the social organisations identifying those families from the resettlement programme participating that would be resettled under the Community Sponsorship scheme.



### MATCHING REFUGEES WITH COMMUNITIES

Matching is done by the region together with the Spanish government. In the last edition the civil society organisations were also able to participate in the matching and established some criteria that could help identifying families for the programme.



### PRE-DEPARTURE CULTURAL ORIENTATION

It is done by the Spanish Government. Includes some pre-departure information. During the last edition in the Basque Country the regional Government and the organisations were able to participate in a pre-departure video call with the families.



### ARRIVAL

Representatives from the regional governments and the organisations meet families at the airport, always with the support of translators.

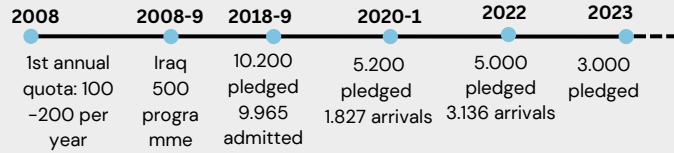


### POST-ARRIVAL/ INTEGRATION SUPPORT

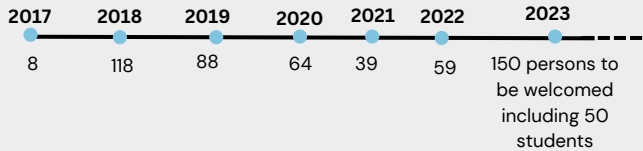
Organisations (social workers) together with local groups (volunteers) help families to be as autonomous as possible during 24 months. Social workers accompany families with a progressive personalised settlement plan, so they can leave the programme having access to housing and independent income.

# FRANCE

## RESETTLEMENT PLEDGES & ARRIVALS



## HC ARRIVALS (FEP)



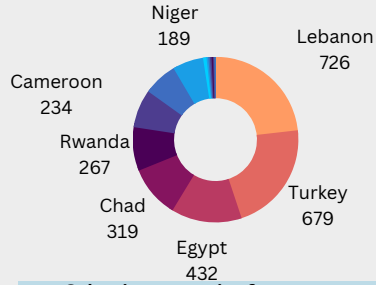
### Humanitarian Corridor (HC)

- Established in 2017 as an agreement between Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Interior Ministry and 5 NGOs: Caritas, the Bishop's Conference, Sant Egidio, the Fédération Protestante de France (FPF) and the Fédération d'Entraide Protestante (FEP).
- The current (third) protocol gives 300 humanitarian visas to 300 Syrians or Iraqis in Lebanon between 2023-2026.
- Open to Syrian, Iraqi and Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and is a separate avenue from resettlement, granting humanitarian visas.
- Mostly family units are welcomed (the average being 5 persons).
- 10 volunteers supports the family for an average of 15 months.
- There is no pre-determined amount to be provided by the volunteers but the estimated amount to cover financial burdens for the family for the duration of support is 8.000€ to 12.000€.
- Beneficiaries enter France with a Visa D and need to file an asylum claim with French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless people (OFPRA) - usually after 3 month they have the refugee status.
- They will either receive subsidiary protection status for 4 years or refugee status for 10 years.

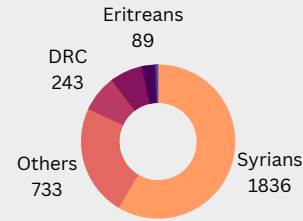
### Higher Education Pathway (UNIV'R)

- UNIV'R was established in 2022 between UNHCR, the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) and Réseau MenS (migrants in higher education network).
- In 2022, 21 students received scholarships throughout France (Paris, Bordeaux, Clermont-Ferrand)
- FEP facilitates administrative, legal and social support to 6 students, as well as accommodations for 2 of the project's laureate students.

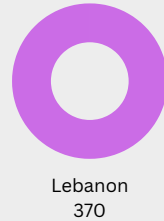
### Selection countries resettlement 2022



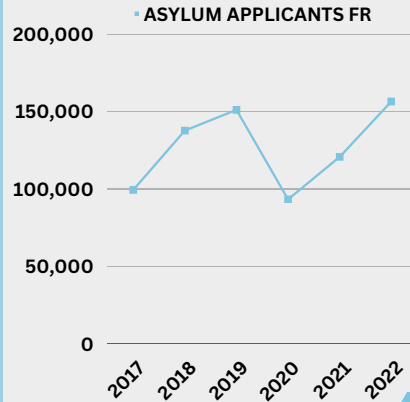
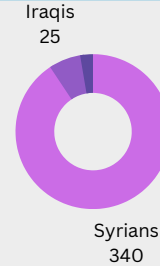
### Countries of origin resettled refugees 2022



### Selection countries for sponsorship (FEP)



### Countries of origin for sponsorship (FEP)



Source: Eurostat, Asylum and first time asylum applicants - annual aggregated data

### Community Sponsorship Partners

State  
(Ministry of Foreign Affairs & the Interior)

Civil Society  
(FEP, Caritas, Sant' Egidio, Conference des Evêques, FPF)

Volunteer groups, the wider community, and welcomed persons

## HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS - FEP's OPERATIONAL STEPS

### IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL

Identification by FEP Lebanon Team in collaboration with the protestant Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI). Referral is done by UNHCR, IRAP, ICRC or local NGOs on the ground who also support the social and medical screening done by FEP Lebanon team.

### MATCHING REFUGEES WITH COMMUNITIES

The matching is done by the social workers based in Lebanon, the national platform and the regional intermediary organisations in France. Based on the characteristic of the family unit (size of the family, health issues, presence of children etc.)

### PRE-DEPARTURE CULTURAL ORIENTATION

Happens 2 months before departure, done by FEP Lebanon in collaboration with Metanoia, a local NGO that conducts a psychological evaluations. Beneficiaries receive specific information about the exact place of accommodation. Volunteers and refugees have first contact through a online meeting.

### ARRIVAL

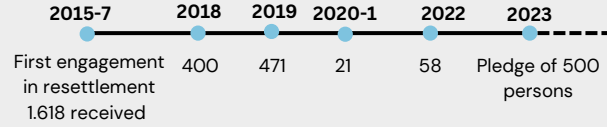
Pick-up by volunteers at the airport -transfer to a hotel in Paris before travelling onwards by train to their own place.

### POST-ARRIVAL/ INTEGRATION SUPPORT

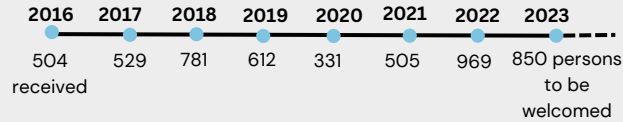
The volunteers provide financial support during the first 45 days, before the receipt of State asylum seeker allowance and material and emotional support for at least 1,5 years. The social workers of the regional intermediary organisations, coordinated by FEP) provide administrative and technical support regarding the asylum claim.

# ITALY

## RESETTLEMENT ARRIVALS\*



## HUMANITARIAN CORRIDOR (HC) ARRIVALS\*



\*Source: Italian ministry of Interior

### Humanitarian Corridor (HC)

- The first protocol (out of currently three) was established in December 2015 between the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, and 4 religious organisations: the community of Sant'Egidio, the Waldesian Board, the Federation of Protestant Churches (FCEI), Caritas Italiana/ Consorzio Communitas and since 2021 Association Ricreativa Culturale Italiana (ARCI).
- Humanitarian visas are provided in addition to resettlement.
- Mostly family units are welcomed.
- At least one volunteer as a contact person and coordinator of the group
- Flexible integration support is provided by the civil society partners and sponsors for around 12-18 months.
- Upon arrival, newcomers apply for international protection at the competent police headquarters.
- After their refugee status is recognised, the newcomers receive social benefits and an initial residence permit for 5 years.
- After 5 years they can apply for a permanent residence permit.

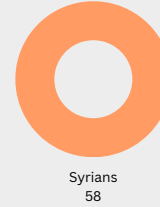
### Higher Education Pathway (UNICORE)

- Established in 2022 as a pilot by Italian universities with the support of UNHCR, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Caritas Italiana, Diaconia Valdese, Centro Astalli and the Ghandi Charity.
- Until March 2023, 115 students have been welcomed.
- Students receive a scholarship and are housed in student halls.
- Caritas Italiana finances integration activities, supports administrative procedures and puts together the pre-departure information together with the Diaconia Valdese.

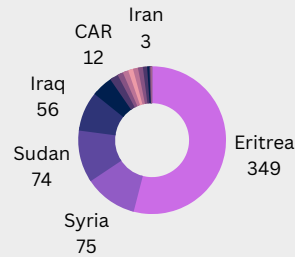
### Selection countries resettlement 2022



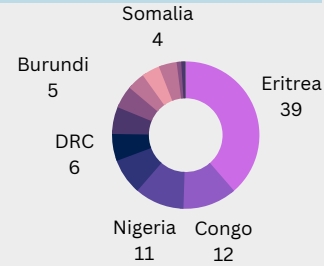
### Countries of origin resettled refugees 2022



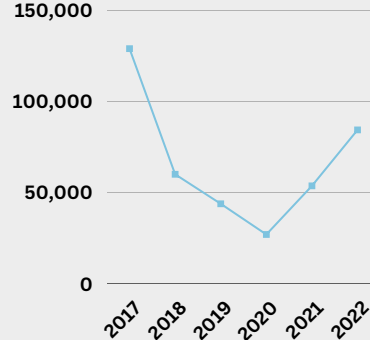
### Countries of origin of sponsored refugees (Caritas Italy)



### Countries of origin of students (Caritas Italy)

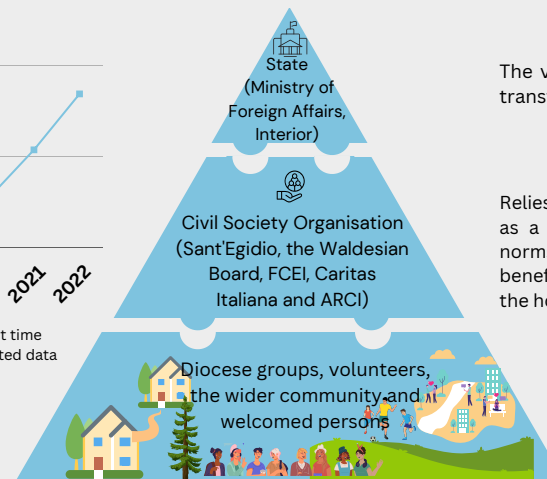


### ASYLUM APPLICANTS IT



Source: Eurostat, Asylum and first time asylum applicants - annual aggregated data

### Community Sponsorship Partners



## HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS - OPERATIONAL STEPS (CARITAS ITALIANA)

### IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL

Identification by UNHCR in cooperation with Caritas Italiana and the Gandhi Charity. UNHCR and Gandhi Charity in Ethiopia share information with Caritas Italy about the vulnerabilities of candidates and collaborate for the interviews of the individuals (at least 3 before the selection). Caritas Italy asks beneficiaries to sign a written agreement.

### MATCHING REFUGEES WITH COMMUNITIES

Caritas Italy matches the list of beneficiaries with local diocesan host communities. The matching process takes into consideration both the refugees' vulnerabilities and the host communities' particular resources and abilities. E.g. for beneficiaries with health problems, the host community should be located near specialised hospitals.

### PRE-DEPARTURE CULTURAL ORIENTATION

Happens 2 months before departure, done by Caritas Italiana, includes a presentation on life in Italy, volunteers and refugees have first contact via on line calls. Refugees have to pass final checks by the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs in Addis and Italian authorities. After approval, they are issued "limited territorial validity" visas.

### ARRIVAL

The volunteers pick up the family at the airport. An immediate transfer to new home follows.

### POST-ARRIVAL/ INTEGRATION SUPPORT

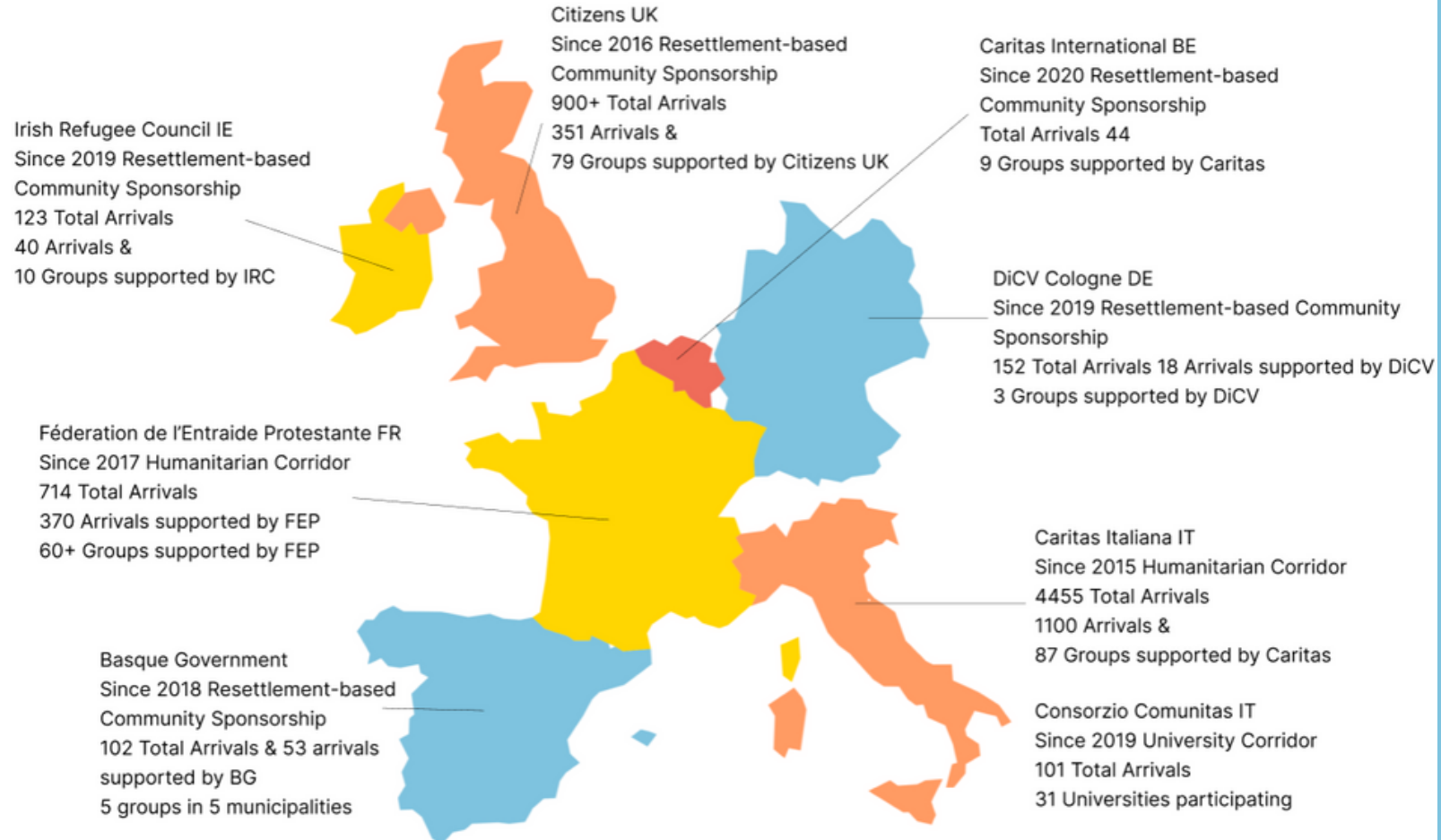
Relies on various kinds of volunteers, including a person who acts as a "Family Mentor". The mentor explains social and cultural norms and practices and cultivates a genuine relationship with the beneficiaries. An intercultural mediator acts as a liaison between the host community, diocesan Caritas staff and the refugees.

Source: Benedetta Panchetti and Ilaria Schnyder, Human Lines

# THE QSN PARTNERSHIP

In 2021, the Share Network started the Quality Sponsorship Network (QSN), co-funded by the AMIF and a private donor, the objective of the project is to support sponsorship initiatives to develop into sustainable, community-driven programmes. QSN brings together a consortium of actors running community sponsorship programmes in Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain and the UK.

Figures from March 2023



# DiCV - Caritas Cologne (DE)

SPOTLIGHT

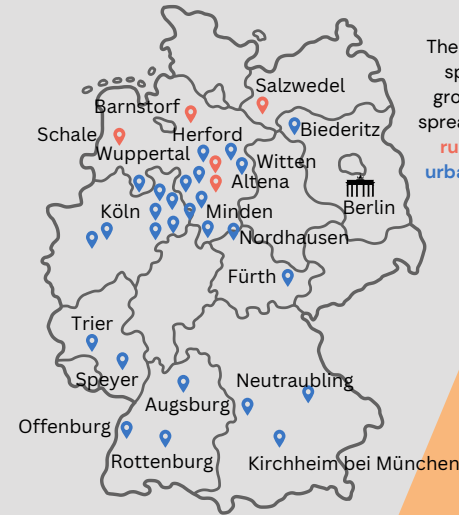
## The overarching structure: ZKS

- The **Civil Society Contact Point** (Zivilgesellschaftliche Kontaktstelle ZKS) consists of the German Caritas Association, the German Red Cross and the Evangelical Church of Westphalia.
- It spreads information about the programme and reaches out to potential sponsors.
- It guides sponsors through the whole process, providing training, assistance and supporting with any questions or problems.
- It works in close contact with the German state actors, UNHCR and IOM to ensure processes are well coordinated and to develop the programme further based on feedback and experiences of the sponsors.
- ZKS keeps other civil society stakeholders of the NesT programme such as welfare organisations, churches, foundations, etc. informed, organises meetings and coordinates their support to the programme.

## DiCV - Caritas Cologne

As partner of the Share QSN, Caritas Cologne (DiCV) co-organised a conference on Multifaith and wider community engagement in May 2022.. It provided the opportunity for relevant multi-stakeholder actors to exchange and share best practices on broadening engagement beyond Christian faith-based groups, across different faith groups as well as secular actors. It covered the following topics:

- Inter-faith and local community engagement
- Diversifying and strengthening sponsoring groups
- Refugee participation in sponsorship schemes
- Operational frameworks for safeguarding



## New Neighbours Campaign

The DiCV Cologne, through its New Neighbours campaign, provides the three mentoring groups in the Archdiocese of Cologne with funding for rent. Furthermore, the DiCV Cologne provides a vast net of counselling offices and support through trainings and capacity building.

In general, the campaign supports volunteers, finances refugee aid initiatives and seeks to promote integration through language classes, and projects for labour market integration and social inclusion.

## TOOLS AND BEST PRACTICES (ZKS)

### CITIES AND REGIONS

ZKS conducts information events with representatives of cities and regions to inform them about the programme and motivate them to support the programme and local sponsor groups. Cities and regions are invited to help secure housing and support structures for sponsor groups as done by the city of Rottenburg am Neckar, that decided to take over all housing costs related to hosting a family. The German Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI) provided an official letter to sponsor groups which they can pass on to their city or region. The letter asks cities and regions to support the local sponsor groups.



### PARTICIPATION

NesT conducts three monitoring interviews with refugees two, six and twelve months after arrival to gather their perspective on the program and their journey. Ensuring refugee participation is still a work in progress. In 2023 the ZKS will organize two online networking events for refugees involved in NesT to provide an space for exchange of experiences and perspectives and networking as a further step in this process.

### HOUSING

The ZKS relies on housing provided by Churches and Dioceses mobilising available housing resources. Sponsor groups approach local newspapers to publish an article explaining their journey to sponsorship and asking the community to help with securing housing.



# THE IRISH REFUGEE COUNCIL (IE)

SPOTLIGHT

As a regional support organisation (RSO), the Irish Refugee Council (IRC), along with 4 other RSOs:

- Mobilises and recruits sponsor groups.
- Trains and supports the CS groups and refugee families on cultural competency, expectation management, settlement planning etc.
- Meets the family as an Non Govt support within 2 weeks of arrival (adults only) with an interpreter if necessary to communicate the services and confidentiality offered by the RSO.
- Supports access to housing and social supports.
- Monitors and evaluates the programme by providing oversight, guidance and monitoring of the family's progress in accessing rights and entitlements including self-declared objectives.
- Monitoring interviews with families and sponsors month 1, 3, 6, 12 and 18.

As partner of the Share QSN, the Irish Refugee Council organised a roundtable on philanthropy and innovative financing for sponsorship in Dublin in October 2022

The roundtable looked at the feasibility of Social Impact Bonds for community sponsorship.



The Irish sponsor groups are spread across rural and urban areas.



## Housing support

IRC is securing accommodation from 'benevolent landlords' – both from civil society and religious missionary congregations/ diocesan property. IRC is constantly working on securing property that is not being taken from the rental market.

## Tailored trainings

The IRC provides training to groups on safeguarding, cultural orientation, trauma and dealing with far-right activity. This additional training is tailored to the specific needs of groups and has emerged from the experiences and feedback from previous groups. The IRC does not believe that one size fits all with CS and it is essential for us to tailor our support to the specific needs of groups.

## TOOLS AND BEST PRACTICES

### AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE

In response to the crisis in Afghanistan in August 2021, Ireland, through the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP), made approximately 560 refugee places available for humanitarian cases from Afghanistan.

The Government co-operated with a wide range of organisations, including Amnesty International, the Irish Refugee Council, the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and the UNHCR, to identify individuals and families whom they could welcome to Ireland under the IRPP. Priority was given to human rights defenders, people supporting women's organisations, LGBTI+ activists, journalists, judges and those most at risk from the Taliban takeover.

To respond innovatively to this crisis, support was sought from potential refugee sponsors and relevant civil society organisations to maximise the number of places for Afghan nationals.

CS adapted to respond to help welcome Afghans. Due to Covid, no selection missions or travel from Lebanon or Jordan meant that CS groups had capacity and in some cases access to available accommodation. (Source: IRPP, Humanitarian Admissions from Afghanistan)

### UKRAINE RESPONSE

In response to the war in Ukraine, CS adapted to bring learnings and training developed for CS to communities that were welcoming Ukrainians and families that were welcoming people into their homes.

### RURAL AREAS

Rural CS groups have different needs in supporting a family. Transport and access to education, employment, and cultural needs require different supports and training. Independent transport and extra dependency on the CS group for transport needs require more resources from the CS group. Consideration is also needed to ensure the welcomed family have long term secure accommodation within the community after the initial support levels off.





- **Citizens UK (CUK)** supports the mobilisation and formation of strong community sponsorship groups.
- Supports groups through each step of the CS journey from fundraising, to applications, to building relationships with local government, and supporting the family when they arrive.
- Offers regular trainings and toolkits available to all community sponsorship groups.
- Works with resettlement partners across the UK, including large and respected faith-based organisations, to safely deliver the Communities for Ukraine scheme.
- Adds additional safeguarding support, best practices, and training to improve the safety and sustainability of sponsorship programmes for all involved.
- Advocates for improvement to policy and innovation in the community sponsorship space.
- Invests in people who have been resettled as potential leaders to win change and improve the process for future newcomers.

As partner of the Share QSN, Citizens UK organised capacity building training workshops on how to build strong groups, manage expectations, deliver empowerment and independence focused sponsorship, and effectively manage boundaries. Together, a training platform has been developed.



### Training & Capacity Building

Citizens UK is principally a community organising organisation rooted in leadership development and mobilising communities to win change. In our resettlement work we are dedicated to strengthening the capacity of community sponsorship volunteers so that they feel confident, supported, and informed in transforming the lives of their community and newcomers through sponsorship.

### CUK Resettlement Leaders

CUKRL are a group of refugees who have been resettled to the UK through different Resettlement schemes

Leaders come from different parts of the UK. There are 13 leaders, 12 from Syria and 1 from Iraq. The sessions are in Arabic, which gives the leaders the space to express their views in their native language. Together they build power and communicate recommendations to power holders. Currently, the leaders are planning to take an action & tell their stories to the UK Immigration Minister.

## TOOLS AND BEST PRACTICES

### UKRAINE RESPONSE

In response to the new resettlement route for Ukrainians, Citizens UK mobilised its connections to UK institutions and built on its expertise in traditional community sponsorship to deliver the Communities for Ukraine programme. This programme adds additional safeguards to the government scheme, delivers thoughtful and considered matching of hosts and Ukrainian guests, and empowers institutions new to resettlement to become leading resettlement partners.

### PARTICIPATION

In September 2022, CUK launched a listening campaign to identify the main issues with resettled families through the Community sponsorship scheme or the Local Authority programme. The listening was carried out in Arabic to allow families to express themselves and their resettlement journey. CUK have also asked some questions suggested by the Home Office to allow decision makers to understand more about refugees' experiences. One of these questions is how they feel if they could 'name' family members to come to the UK through the CS scheme. Nearly all refugees agreed to this, and CUK is now campaigning to see this implemented.

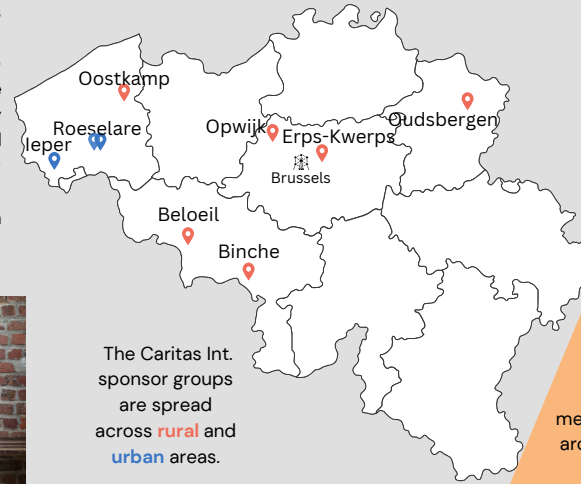


# CARITAS INTERNATIONAL (BE)

SPOTLIGHT

- Caritas Int. mobilises, informs and prepares sponsor groups.
- Delivers trainings on geopolitical background (before arrival) and intercultural communication and accompaniment post-arrival and prepares sponsor groups.
- Follows up with the sponsor group and family separately by monitoring the accompaniment/integration trajectory after months 1, 3, 6 and 12.
- Offers needs-based intervention for sponsor groups.
- Mediates intercultural through intercultural mediators between the welcomed family and the sponsor group; the welcomed family and Caritas International; the welcomed family and Fedasil; the sponsor group and Fedasil.
- Organises moments of encounter and inspiration among (mostly) sponsor groups, and also among refugee families.
- Provides a permanent helpdesk for sponsor groups and a safety net procedure for the welcomed family and sponsors.
- Provides collective activities for refugee families (within the resettlement framework) in Arabic, moderated by intercultural mediators, on specific integration-related themes.

**As a partner of the Share QSN**, Caritas International co-organised a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of CS workshop in June 2021 and carried out an evaluation of the Belgian CS. Throughout the project they provided their expertise on M&E, cultural mediation and refugee participation. They co-host of the first European Refugee Sponsorship Convention in April 2023 with ICMC Europe.



The Caritas Int. sponsor groups are spread across **rural** and **urban** areas.

## Intercultural mediation

Intercultural mediators are bridging figures between refugee families and sponsor groups, but also between families and Caritas Int. They are more than interpreters: they are experts with lived experience, language competence and mediators.

## Internal expertise

Caritas Int. offers legal advisors, a guardianship service for minors, reintegration support, accompaniment of vulnerable refugees, and integration support.

## Peer 2 Peer

Participatory workshops in Arabic, organised by our intercultural mediators, for adults of refugee families in RESET and CS programmes, around thematic discussions: represents an opportunity for resettled refugees to exchange and reflect on their integration in Belgium.

## Cooperation with project 'Other Talk' (for Flemish region)

Porticus-funded project that promotes a different narrative on migration by mobilising the "moveable middle". The project delivers information sessions on communication strategies on migration to different volunteer initiatives (incl. sponsor groups in CS), small CSOs, local authorities and educational institutions.

## TOOLS AND BEST PRACTICES

### CITIES AND REGIONS

- Building regional networks: Caritas Int. has good contacts to the Bisdom Brugge (Diocese of Bruges) that has a regional network of volunteer groups for all kinds of initiatives and vulnerable target groups (beyond refugees). Mr. Lelie advocates for CS in the whole West-Flemish region, and sometimes acts as an intermediary between Caritas Int. and a (potential) sponsor group.
- Caritas Int. attempts to mobilise the deacons of other Flemish and Walloon regions to promote CS within their large networks of voluntary initiatives and housing (locally, parishes).
- Efforts are made to build transversal links with other Caritas projects that address or mobilise regions and cities.

### PARTICIPATION

Caritas organises "Encounter Days" with all families and sponsor groups involved in Belgium to open up a safe space for critical reflection by families and volunteers on several project aspects (communication, advocacy, interculturality, etc.) combined with time for entertainment and leisure with other families and sponsor groups.

### UKRAINE RESPONSE

Caritas Int. organises individual socio-legal counselling sessions for Ukrainian beneficiaries and hosting families both through a mobile helpdesk and physical appointments. Social coaching skills from CS-team were temporarily mobilised for this helpdesk. In addition, the Caritas team (legal experts and integration coaches) offers collective training and support for Ukrainian beneficiaries and professionals (including local authorities) in the Brussels Capital Region on topics related to access to social rights.

### RURAL AREAS

Caritas Int. engages in "expectation management" beforehand through an online meeting betw family and sponsor group + photos of house and the village/ commune/ locality. Post-arrival: intercultural mediation and regular monitoring. Here, the lived experiences and expertise by intercultural mediators is highly useful to normalise the new reality for refugee families (and show them they are not the only ones in a particular situation).



# THE BASQUE GOVERNMENT (ES)

- The Basque Government defines in detail the objectives, the overall design and how the initiative fits into the general asylum context.
- Ensures the arrival and admission of people.
- Engages the host society to take part in the admission, accommodation and integration of the beneficiaries.
- Introduces the governance and coordination instruments.
- Identifies the main stakeholders and their responsibilities.
- Prepares the basic protocols for the admission, accommodation and integration processes.
- Informs the project participants in a correct and extensive manner.
- Puts together and approves the settlement plans that will be implemented by the sponsorship entities and local support groups.

As partner of the Share QSN, the Basque Government co-organised a Regions and Cities as Sponsors Conference as well as a Look and Learn visit in Bilbao in June 2022. Being both a pioneering initiative in the engagement of regional governments in complementary pathways, the conference reflected upon the Basque, Valencia and Navarra experiences in building successful multi-stakeholder community sponsorship programmes.



The sponsor groups are spread across rural and urban areas & supported by 3 regional govts: Basque, Navarra & Valencia.

## SPOTLIGHT

### Social workers

Collaboration between public administration and social organisations allows for the hiring of social workers to professionalise the accompaniment of volunteers and sponsored families.

### Becoming neighbours – proximity

Volunteers in local groups must reside in or be part of the community where families will be welcomed. Community bonding is a strong tool to build local roots and a sense of belonging for families. Geographical proximity between the local group and the family are essential in giving a meaning to the word "neighbourhood". Community sponsorship is a great opportunity to create close, welcoming and connected neighbourhoods.

### Systematised tool for social inclusion processes

Accompaniment through a tool called "Individual care plan" in which family and technical staff agree on medium and long-term objectives. The plan established between both parties serves as a guide when accompanying the family's resettlement process. Once the plan has been established together with the family, it is monitored by the technical person through regular interviews where progress is updated and new objectives and commitments are designed. This document also guides the work with the local group in terms of pace and priorities of accompaniment.

## TOOLS AND BEST PRACTICES

### CITIES AND REGIONS

Three regional Governments have been involved in Community Sponsorship. Even if some differences can be found among the three regions there are some key points in common:

- Constant communication between regional Governments, Spanish Government, UNHCR and the social organisations. In some cases, local administrations have been also a representative partner.
- Social organisations working on the programme have long experience in managing social projects based on community involvement.
- Faith based communities and groups have been key to create local groups and engage the community.

### PARTICIPATION

Families are responsible for setting their goals during the process. Social workers from the organisations meet monthly with families to set goals and evaluate them. Group sessions are organised to assess the programme. In the Basque Country, during the second edition, a member of one family participating in the first edition was hired as translator/mediator.

### UKRAINE RESPONSE

The Basque Govt developed an emergency plan divided in four pillars: financial aid for families, after school support for children, psychological aid and community hosting. Together with the Jesuit Organisations, it developed a hosting model based in Community Sponsorship. This model includes support to both hosting families and hosting groups. Hosting families are families that welcomed Ukrainian families in their homes for short or medium term. Hosting groups are local groups hosting Ukrainians in their communities and supporting them in their integration.

### HOUSING

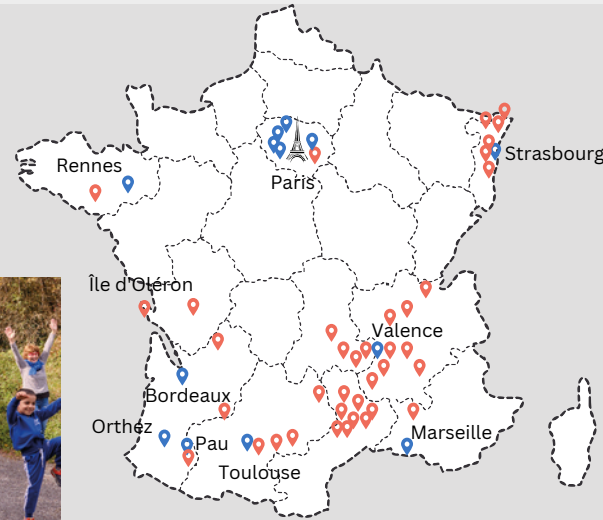
To have housing during the hosting period of the families, the social organisations seek inter-congregational agreements. This involves looking for housing that religious congregations have made available. Usually, the commitment between congregations goes beyond the provision of housing. In the Auzolana II experience, 5 of the 7 houses accompanied by the Jesuit Organisations are the result of inter-congregational work.



FEP manages the different steps of the HC programme:

- The identification, referral, matching and preparation of the persons from Lebanon.
- The early welcome and orientation in France.
- Support with the asylum claim and administrative procedures through the regional intermediary organisation.
- Integration support regarding access to independent housing, French courses and employment, through the coordination of the regional intermediary organisations and the sponsor groups.
- In addition, FEP organises events gathering sponsor groups and hosted families at regional and national level.
- Aims at fostering the participation of hosted persons and sponsor groups in the management of the project.
- Elaborates standard tools and trainings for intermediary organisations and sponsor groups.
- Is involved in the recruitment of new sponsors.

As partner of the Share QSN, FEP co-organised a Roundtable on Identification, Referral, cultural orientation & matching in January 2023 (online). It highlighted how stakeholders with different backgrounds and expertise work together to develop a multi-stakeholder approach creating synergies among actors in the pre-departure phase of CS.



The sponsor groups are spread across rural and urban areas.

### Identification & Referral

FEP identifies beneficiaries through its Lebanon Team. They conduct home interviews, build the file for the Consulate, and prepare the family for their arrival. To provide a familiar face upon arrival, one person from the Lebanon team travels with each identified family to France.

### Support of social workers & volunteers

- Support provided to the family relies on a double system:
- The social workers working for the regional intermediary organisation who provide professional support related to asylum claims and administrative support. As often persons are welcomed in rural areas, this support is essential to ensure access to rights and services. The intermediary organisation can provide mediation in case of difficulties between the sponsor groups and the persons hosted.
  - The volunteer group facilitates the early integration and improve the sense of belonging of the newcomers.

## TOOLS AND BEST PRACTICES

### CITIES AND REGIONS

The regional intermediary organisations and the sponsor groups are liaising with cities and regions. The municipalities are systematically informed of every arrival. In general, the link between municipalities and the project are much stronger in rural or semi-rural areas. In this context the support of the city can be very helpful. Cities can also provide sometime small financial contribution to the sponsor groups.

### PARTICIPATION

FEP has set up a participatory group in the project, composed of welcomed persons willing to engage in the development of the project. The objective is to provide a free and safe space for discussion, where they can express their thoughts, challenges and propose new approaches or activities. For example, they proposed the organisation of a webinar 1 month after a new family's arrival with all the beneficiaries who travelled together, the FEP Lebanon Team, the coordinator of the platform in Paris and persons already hosted by the HC and eager to share their experiences.

FEP observes through involving formerly hosted persons, they become more likely to be members of sponsor groups.

### UKRAINE RESPONSE

Building on the expertise developed through HC, FEP informed and guided the French public authorities in the design of the public reception scheme for beneficiaries of temporary protection. FEP also supported individuals and sponsor groups willing to host Ukrainians, by providing useful tools and resources related to CS.

Together with Caritas France, the Jesuit Refugee Service and the Bishop Conference, a common platform on community mobilisation was created. This platform provides guidance and orientation to actors involved in the hosting of beneficiaries of temporary protection and conducted a study on community mobilisation.

FEP observes that groups who hosted Ukrainians who are now independent, are willing to engage in CS through Humanitarian Corridors.

### HOUSING

It can be useful to find temporary accommodations before the arrival of a family and after the arrival of a family to find access to independent housing.



# CONSORZIO COMMUNITAS (IT)

SPOTLIGHT

## Consorzio Communitas/ Caritas Italiana:

- Organises meetings to train the diocesan operators, conveying knowledge and providing tools to understand different cultures, relaying information on resettlement and countries of first asylum and origin.
- In addition to the training courses for local partners and volunteers, the dioceses involved in Humanitarian Corridors carry out advocacy work, disseminate information on the programme and raise awareness in the host communities.
- Selects beneficiaries and conducts interviews in transit countries including providing support for documentation.
- Raises funds for the programme.
- Is involved in follow-up monitoring and evaluation of the beneficiaries and communities.

As partner of the Share QSN, Consorzio Communitas co-organised a conference on Universities as Sponsors in Bologna in March 2022.

Together, a Manifesto on expanding higher education pathways to Europe for refugee students was launched. The conference highlighted the importance of a multistakeholder approach including students, refugees, the wider community and the private sector.



The groups supported by Consorzio Communitas are spread across **rural** and **urban** areas and students in **university towns**.

## UNICORE

Young refugees often do not have the opportunity to continue their studies in the country where they have found protection, so Caritas Italiana offers them opportunities to obtain visas for study purposes and scholarships in third countries.

## National Tutors

The intervention model of Caritas Italiana is characterised by the presence of national Tutors, who supervise and monitor the communities involved in reception.

## TOOLS AND BEST PRACTICES

### CITIES AND REGIONS

The student pathway (UNICORE) promotes the formalisation of agreements between municipalities, universities and local communities in order to share the objectives, goals and concrete commitments for the integration of the beneficiaries.

### RURAL AREAS

Caritas Italy notes that in rural areas the communities are stronger and more involved in reception processes. Living in a small social context allows for faster social integration and for the beneficiaries to feel more strongly part of a community. Before activating reception in rural contexts, however, particular attention must be paid to transport connections in the area to major services (schools, medical centers and shops) because, while in the initial period, support for mobility can be strengthened due to the commitment of the volunteers, this solution cannot be implemented in the long term as it would limit the path to autonomy for the beneficiaries.



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# The objectives and approach of Share's Quality Sponsorship Network (QSN)

## Objectives of Share QSN:



To build up and strengthen the sponsorships stakeholder community across Europe



Ensure quality and sustained engagement, support, and recognition of volunteer sponsoring groups, ensuring refugee participation



To broaden the base of sponsorship by engaging a wider spectrum of new actors in welcoming refugees

## Share QSN Approach



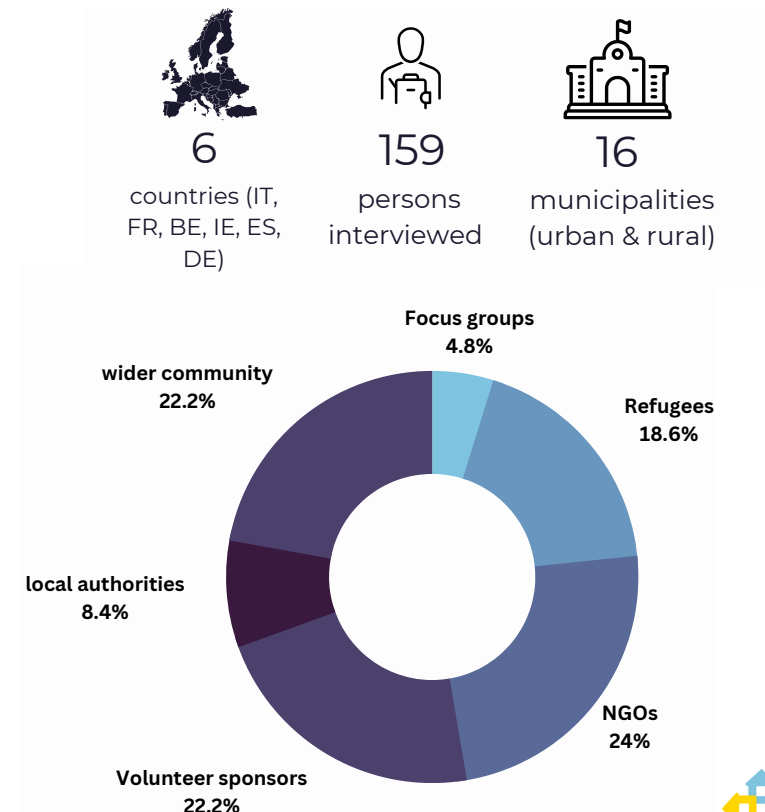
# MONITORING & EVALUATION WITHIN THE QSN PROGRAMME

- 2 roundtable and workshop on monitoring and evaluation of community sponsorship
- 1 Policy brief on first lessons learned in sponsorship programmes
- Cross-country research on sponsorship & grassroots engagement across Europe
- 6 country evaluations & case studies in FR, BE, IE, ES, DE, IT
- Policy recommendations for enhancing Community Sponsorship Programmes in Europe: Key lessons from Share's Quality Sponsorship Network's cross-country evaluations

# COMPARATIVE CROSS-COUNTRY RESEARCH ON SPONSORSHIP

## General research objectives:

- Research drivers and barriers to engagement of sponsors
- Improve programme effectiveness by highlighting areas of best practice in different phases of programmes
- Understand challenges & various factors that impact transition to autonomous living for sponsored refugees; explore ways to mitigate difficulties



# Building a EU Sponsorship Community: broadening the base of sponsorship through the convening of strategic stakeholders

1. Meeting of mobilisation platform members w/focus on multi-stakeholder approach to grow sponsorship (2 convenings, 70+ participants)

2. Engagement of Universities as sponsors conference in Bologna (90+ participants)

3. Multifaith and wider community engagement in sponsorship (conference in Cologne - 50+ participants)

4. Regions and cities as sponsors (conference in Bilbao - 60+ participants)

5. Capacity building trainings for intermediary organisations and volunteer sponsors (60+ /session)

6. Engagement of refugee advisors in sponsorship (23 advisors in DE, UK, FR, IE, SE, BG, ES, IT)

7. Share QSN European Sponsorship Convention in Brussels (140+ participants)





# BROADENING SPONSORSHIP ENGAGEMENT



## MOBILISING CITIES AND REGIONS

Further engaging regions and cities, under varied partnerships and programmes, can allow community sponsorship programmes to grow and become more sustainable. The Spanish sponsorship programme shows that regional governments, working with civil society, can act as co-sponsors of the programme, providing regional government funding, coordination and monitoring and evaluation support.

### WHY ?

- It offers regions and cities, a direct role in designing and supporting safe and legal refugee admissions, offering community welcome and facilitating local integration
- Community sponsorships allows regions and cities to engage in strengthening local partnerships and community bonds
- Community sponsorships can offer a response to an overburdened central government-led reception system
- Through supporting community sponsorships, political leaders can play the role of 'champion' paving the way for other regions and cities to follow suit.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Need for awareness raising and outreach through eg. networks of cities and regions
- Need for best practice exchange through frameworks for exchange and communication between programme stakeholders
- Need for recruitment strategies that include city officials and political representatives
- Municipalities that already work on successful refugee inclusion programmes should be approached for sponsorship
- Facilitate establishing employment partnerships
- Capitalise on the new models of welcome, designed by cities as a result of the war in Ukraine, delivering fast and flexible support.

## ENGAGING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTIUTIONS

Expanding and creating higher education pathways is a task that must be undertaken by a multitude of stakeholders. This multistakeholder approach enables the formation of cooperation and partnerships at the regional, national and local level. To be efficient such partnerships must be diverse and include civil society, diaspora, migrant-led organisations, students, university staff, municipalities and the private sector to support refugee students' welcome and inclusion.

### WHY ?

- Today, only 5% of refugees have access to higher education compared to the global average of higher education enrolment among non-refugees, which stands at 39%.
- Increasing education pathways linked to a secure status with protection safeguards for refugees is thus crucial
- It is a tangible way for states and the international higher education community to provide durable solutions to refugee students while contributing to improvements to their access to tertiary education.
- Sponsorship can provide welcome support upon arrival, ensure the active participation of student and local communities by means of mentoring and opportunities to explore social, cultural, sports, and learning.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- A multi-stakeholder approach is key to the success of higher education pathways
- Good cooperation with local partners in countries of first asylum is key
- Engaging civil society organisations with expertise in integration, refugee protection and special needs is beneficial
- Early labour market integration must be an integrated part of the programme design.



# BROADENING SPONSORSHIP ENGAGEMENT



## BROADENING BEYOND FAITH-BASED ACTORS

Across Europe, churches and faith-based organisations have been at the heart of making community sponsorship a success. To build on that success, expansion of the schemes can be achieved through collaborations and partnerships across faiths and stakeholder types, linking actors from the local, regional, and national level in terms of fundraising, volunteer engagement (translators, cultural mediators, etc.), job or training placements, and outreach.

### WHY ?

- Engaging different faiths and the wider local community in community sponsorship makes programmes more efficient and sustainable over time, facilitating not only social but also very concrete challenges such as labour market integration
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships and more diverse sponsoring groups help to smooth out the sponsoring process
- They also present good opportunities to find job or training placements through community networks
- Non-Christian faith, non-faith, diaspora and migrant-led organisations represent a largely untapped resource for sponsorship actors.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Outreach strategies to mobilise/engage new sponsor groups need to be defined/thought out early on by supporting organisations
- Multifaith engagement ought to be seized with regards to sponsor group recruitment, fundraising, volunteering for translation & general awareness raising about sponsorship;
- Creating more synergies between Muslim, Jewish and Christian network organisations ought to be explored;
- Migrant- and refugee-led associations should be at the heart of programmes, from their conception over monitoring implementation up to evaluating outcomes
- Comprehensive preparation and orientation of prospective sponsors and newcomers prior to arrival is needed.

## ENGAGING PHILANTHROPIC ACTORS & INNOVATIVE FINANCING

Philanthropy and innovative funding solutions can help to secure and scale up Community Sponsorship initiatives across Europe and ensure that these can respond to new needs and contexts. In this context, private and corporate foundations are playing an increasingly important role with contributions that are multifaceted, combining operational and policy-oriented initiatives. In the social impact investing sphere, Social Impact Bonds (SIBs) could address funding gaps.

### WHY ?

- There is a need for effective financing solutions to support community work and building capacity of communities
- Social Impact Bonds (SIBs) are “Pay-by-results (PBR)” tools, a new form of financing that makes payments contingent on the independent verification of results. The use of SIBs to address funding gaps in sponsorship should be further explored
- For funders, sponsorship initiatives can be seen as ready-made programmes that can demonstrate good practice
- As Community Sponsorships tend to be Government backed programmes, with regional/local support structures led by NGOs, it increases confidence to funders.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- ‘Ethical banking’ that finances projects that regular banks would never finance represents an opportunity
- Using integration markers to target funding will bolster the benefits of choosing community sponsorship routes (empowering and building the capacity of individuals resettled)
- Funding support can be enhanced in rural areas to address shortfalls in accessibility
- Creating platforms for open conversations with funders is important as civil society actors must understand what funders need.

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## The Share Network



The Share Network is an inclusive network of local communities and actors engaged in the welcoming and inclusion of newcomers in Europe and coordinated by ICMC Europe. Share promotes and fosters safe pathways to Europe for migrants and refugees as well as their integration. We support and connect local initiatives, share best practice, and raise the voice of communities to inspire action and policy change.



**International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC Europe)**

**Rue Washington 40, 1050 Brussels, Belgium**

**+32 (0) 2 227 97 29**

[www.icmc.net](http://www.icmc.net)

[www.share-network.eu](http://www.share-network.eu)

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