

Секция «Английский язык и право (на английском языке)»

Refugee crisis in Europe

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Over the past months, an ever-increasing number of people have been risking their lives to cross the Mediterranean Sea and take other dangerous routes in search of safety in Europe. European States bordering the Mediterranean Sea, the Western Balkans and other European countries have been struggling to deal with this inflow of refugees and migrants.

Since mid-2015, the number of people searching for safety in Europe has increased rapidly. By early November, more than 790,000 people had arrived in Europe by sea in 2015. The number of arrivals in Greece is already 13 times higher than the total number of arrivals in 2014. Most people are fleeing war, violence and persecution - originating mainly from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) - and there is a larger proportion of families, women, and unaccompanied and separated children than in previous years.

Almost 445,000 asylum applications were lodged in 38 European countries between January and June 2015 - 60 per cent more than in the same period in 2014. Some 78 per cent of these applications were lodged in European Union Member States, mainly France, Germany, Hungary and Sweden. The scale and fluidity of refugee movements in Europe have posed significant challenges for asylum systems and reception facilities in many countries.

UNHCR is working closely with the European Union and its Member States, as well as with other affected States in Europe, and in North Africa, West Africa, the East and Horn of Africa and the Middle East to support their efforts to deliver, build on and expand some of the measures being implemented in response to this growing humanitarian crisis.

Following UNHCR's initial response plan entitled Special Mediterranean Initiative Plan for an enhanced operational response (June-December 2015), The Initial Response Plan for the Refugee Crisis in Europe (June 2015 - December 2016) has been prepared for affected countries in the Europe region. It outlines proposed strategies and activities and corresponding financial requirements up to the end of 2016, in order to provide relevant support, operational responses and protection measures in affected countries in Europe, in respect of assessed needs. It should be noted that this is an initial emergency appeal that may be subject to revision as the situation continues to evolve rapidly.

UNHCR's response in 2016 to the needs of people of concern in the many complex and critical situations across this region will be articulated around the following protection and operational strategies.

To begin with, the situation of refugees and migrants in the Mediterranean is reaching a critical point.

In view of the further support the High Commissioner designated the Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe as Regional Refugee Coordinator (RRC) for the situation in Europe. The RRC is leading the organization's response to the emergency, ensuring a comprehensive approach across all affected countries and closely coordinating with the European Union.

In 2016, UNHCR will continue to cooperate with relevant government counterparts, European Union institutions and agencies, international partners, non-governmental organizations and local communities to respond to the situation in line with its Special Mediterranean Initiative. The Office will continue to focus on: providing emergency and life-saving assistance; strengthening

coordination structures; conducting protection monitoring, critical incident reporting and advocacy; providing appropriate advisory, technical and functional support to government authorities; and capacity building, particularly in terms of emergency reception arrangements.

As for safeguarding asylum space and providing acceptable reception conditions UNHCR will continue to advocate for alternative legal channels to allow refugees to reach Europe safely, including: enhanced resettlement opportunities; humanitarian admission programmes; private or community-based sponsorship schemes; increased access to family reunification; humanitarian visas; and student scholarship schemes. Establishing adequate reception conditions, particularly for individuals with specific needs, remains a challenge in Europe. Innovative solutions are required, such as the sharing of reception facilities and the provision of vouchers for accommodation, which can benefit local economies and infrastructure. UNHCR will continue to support governments to strengthen national asylum procedures, including through quality control measures. UNHCR will also support the second phase of the Asylum Systems Quality Initiative in Eastern Europe and the Southern Caucasus (2015-2017), which will focus on addressing outstanding gaps in the refugee status determination procedure, improving access to asylum, as well as the quality of judicial review.

In the context of its global campaign to end statelessness by 2024, UNHCR will continue to advocate measures to reduce known stateless populations, notably in the Baltic States and in the successor States to the former Soviet Union and the former Yugoslavia. Measures may include legislative amendments to permit undocumented stateless people to acquire lawful residence and/or a nationality, improvements in birth registration procedures, training for officials implementing these laws and procedures, and outreach to affected communities.

The countries in Europe have diverse political traditions, as well as differing asylum systems and integration measures. Increased arrivals and onward movements through Europe have challenged the European Union's Common European Asylum System, as well as the political resolve of European Union Member States and others, to act collectively with responsibility and solidarity, in line with their international obligations.

In some countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, ongoing efforts are required to develop the capacity of national asylum systems, increase refugee recognition rates and ensure that those who qualify for refugee status under the 1951 Convention receive full recognition, rather than complementary forms of protection with lesser rights and entitlements. It will also be important to increase awareness of the risk and impact of statelessness, including in relation to refugees and migrants arriving in Europe.