



BRIEFING

Next three-year Refugee Resettlement Programme - options

Date:	30 November 2015	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	1132 15-16

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Michael Woodhouse Minister of Immigration	Provide feedback on the attached paper	14 December 2015
Hon Craig Foss Associate Minister of Immigration	Copy attached for your information	N/A

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
Christine Hyndman	Manager, Immigration Policy, MBIE	04 901 8575	s9(2)(a)	✓
Floss Caughey	Senior Advisor, Immigration Policy	04 901 8583		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted					
<input type="checkbox"/> Treasury	<input type="checkbox"/> MoJ	<input type="checkbox"/> NZTE	<input type="checkbox"/> MSD	<input type="checkbox"/> TEC	<input type="checkbox"/> MoE
<input type="checkbox"/> MFAT	<input type="checkbox"/> MPI	<input type="checkbox"/> MfE	<input type="checkbox"/> DIA	<input type="checkbox"/> TPK	<input type="checkbox"/> MoH

Minister's office to complete:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |



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Date:	30 November 2015	Priority:	Medium
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Purpose

To advise on options for the next three-year Refugee Resettlement Programme (2016/17 – 2018/19) for your feedback.

Executive Summary

s9(2)(f)(iv)

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Pages 2 & 3 withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)

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9(2)(f)(iv)

Christine Hyndman

Christine Hyndman
Manager, Immigration Policy
Labour, Science and Enterprise
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Hon Michael Woodhouse
Minister of Immigration

10.11.2015

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The global refugee situation

1. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that over 1,150,000¹ refugees globally are in need of resettlement, which is a 22 per cent increase on its 2014 estimate². The estimated number by region is shown in Table One below. The UNHCR is expected to make a submission to you in early 2016 regarding New Zealand's response to the global refugee situation.

¹This number includes 215,000 in Europe.

²UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs, 2016.

Table One: UNHCR projected refugee resettlement needs by region

Region	Number	Percentage Increase on 2014	Comments
Middle East/North Africa	369,500	13 %	The increase is due to the Syrian conflict.
Africa	396,000	41%	South Sudan, Mali, Nigeria, Central-African Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo are the main source of refugees.
Asia	169,500	-3%	A small decrease has resulted from a gradual phase-out of large-scale resettlement operations in Thailand and the fact that Nepalese and Myanmarese nationals are not being registered as refugees in Malaysia.
Americas	7,500	-52%	A large decrease following expanded durable resettlement opportunities for Colombian refugees becoming available in Ecuador.

New Zealand's current Refugee Quota Programme

From 2018/19, the annual number will revert to 750 if the status quo is maintained

- The current Refugee Quota Programme has been set at 750 (plus or minus 10 per cent) refugees per annum for decades. On 7 September 2015, Cabinet agreed that New Zealand would resettle 750 Syrian refugees over two and a half years, 600 of them in addition to the annual Refugee Quota [CAB-15-MIN-0057].

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

- According to a recent UNHCR report,³ New Zealand is eighth among resettlement countries in terms of numbers of refugees resettled and seventh in terms of per capita resettlement⁴ (see Annex One). Global refugee resettlement needs, however, vastly outnumber the 80,000 places made available each year by around 30 resettlement countries. Countries neighbouring refugee-producing countries (for example, Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan) bear the greatest burden of providing protection to refugees.

All refugees accepted for the Refugee Quota Programme are priority protection cases

- The refugees resettled in New Zealand under the Refugee Quota are all priority protection cases submitted by the UNHCR to INZ for consideration for resettlement. Table Three shows the annual Refugee Quota by category, as agreed in 2013 [CAB Min (13) 20/15].

³ UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs, 2016.

⁴ These numbers exclude successful asylum claimants.

Table Three: Refugee Quota Programme by category

General protection	Transferees**	Women at risk	Medical/disabled	Total
450*	150**	At least 75	Up to 75	750

*Includes family reunification places and large-scale refugee crisis situations.

**To date, the places offered to Australia for refugees subject to Australian offshore processing legislation have been reallocated to UNHCR-referred refugees.

- The UNHCR submits priority protection cases to resettlement countries using internationally-recognised UNHCR Resettlement Submission categories. To protect the integrity of resettlement to provide protection and a durable solution for the most vulnerable refugees, and to maintain streamlined and efficient processes, the UNHCR does not accept country requests for additional selection criteria which consider "integration potential" for these places.

Most refugee places have been allocated to the Asia-Pacific region

- In 2013, Cabinet decided that, from 2014/15, New Zealand would allocate 150 places within the Refugee Quota to refugees who were subject to Australia's offshore processing legislation (transferees) [CAB Min (13) 20/15]. The remaining 80 per cent of the Refugee Quota would be allocated in the following way: 40 per cent to the UNHCR-referred refugees resettled from the Asia-Pacific region and 40 per cent from the rest of the world (11 per cent from the Middle East, 11 per cent from Africa and 18 per cent from the American region). In practice, the regional allocation has varied from this as a result of subsequent decisions – the reallocation of the unused 150 places for transferees to the Asia-Pacific region and the allocation of the places for large-scale refugee crisis situations to Syrian refugees.
- As Table Four shows, the actual percentage of places allocated to the Asia-Pacific region was 63 per cent in 2013/14 and 65 per cent in 2014/15. Family-linked cases only are selected from the Middle East and Africa regions. Due to difficulties in identifying and accessing family-linked cases, the number from the African region is very small.

Table Four: Actual regional allocation for the Refugee Quotas in 2013/14 and 2014/15

Region	2013/14		2014/15	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Asia-Pacific	467	62	501	65
Middle East	120	16	163*	22
Africa	17	2	4	1
Americas	146	20	88	12
Total	750	100	756	100

*Includes 83 Syrians resettled under places for large-scale refugee crisis situations.

- Myanmarese, Colombian, Bhutanese, Afghan, Sri Lankan and Syrian people have been among the top five nationalities resettled under the Refugee Quota in 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Table Five: Top five nationalities of refugees resettled in New Zealand

Nationalities	2013/14	Nationalities	2014/15
Myanmarese	222	Myanmarese	159
Colombian	124	Afghan	157
Bhutanese	91	Bhutanese	96
Sri Lankan	75	Syrian	83
Afghan	40	Colombian	76

Pages 7-15 withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)

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Annex One: Per Capita Resettlement by Country of Resettlement in 2014 (UNHCR)

<i>Country of resettlement</i>	<i>Persons resettled in 2014</i>	<i>Population per refugees resettled</i>
Australia	6,162	3,636
Norway	1,188	4,117
Canada	7,233	4,718
Finland	1,011	5,310
Sweden	1,407	6,267
United States of America	48,911	6,384
New Zealand	632	6,911
Liechtenstein	5	7,200
Denmark	332	16,720
Luxembourg	28	18,143
Netherlands	743	22,362
Germany	3,467	23,945
Austria	269	31,234
Ireland	98	45,592
Switzerland	139	56,338
Uruguay	52	64,846
Iceland	4	79,500
United Kingdom	628	98,831
France	378	167,278
Belgium	32	341,906
Romania	44	496,841
Portugal	14	756,429
Spain	30	1,539,400
Argentina	21	1,922,571
Hungary	4	2,503,750
Czech Republic	4	2,638,500
Republic of Korea	14	3,461,000
Brazil	44	4,436,591
Japan	23	5,537,087
Mexico	1	117,886,000

Source: UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs, 2016