

Caritas



Diakonie  **Flüchtlingsdienst**

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Austrian Humanitarian Admission Programme

ARGE Resettlement



Humanitarian Admission Programme Austria - Overview

- Austria has been implementing a humanitarian admission programme (HAP) since 2013 with a total number of beneficiaries of 1.900 Syrian refugees (by mid 2017)
- 1.500 beneficiaries arrived until mid 2016 in Austria (HAP I & II), another 400 persons are coming within **HAP III** until mid 2017.
- 2 **different ways** of selection of individuals:
 - **Cases with family ties:** 650 persons were selected already having family ties to Austria and with the assistance of religious and civil organizations (HAP I: 250, HAP II: 400)
 - **UNHCR cases:** 1.250 persons were selected with the assistance of UNHCR, similar to a resettlement programme (HAP I: 250, HAP II: 600, HAP III: 400)
- HAP I: Jordan; HAP II: Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon; HAP III: Jordan, Turkey

Humanitarian Admission Programme Austria - Overview

HAP I + HAP II + HAP III - cases already in Austria (Goal total 1.900 by September 2017)	
HAP I (Goal 500: 504 admitted)	
...cases with family ties to Austria (Goal 250)	252
...cases submitted by UNHCR (Goal 250)	252
HAP II (Goal 1.000: 997 admitted)	
... cases with family ties to Austria (Goal 400)	394
... cases submitted by UNHCR (Goal 600)	603
HAP III (Goal 400: ongoing)	
... cases submitted by UNHCR (Goal 400)	167
Total – in Austria	1668

Humanitarian Admission Programme Austria - Procedure

- After submitting the proposals (through UNHCR or individual applications) for the programme the cases were assessed by the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.
- **all cases**, after final reception decision - IOM: travel arrangements
UNHCR cases in HAP II and III: cultural orientation trainings by IOM to prepare individuals for the life in Austria and brief them on the travel details.
- **Cases with family ties to Austria**: family support and basic welfare support
UNHCR cases: basic welfare support and additional integration support measures provided by the ARGE Resettlement (Caritas, Red Cross, Diakonie).

Humanitarian Admission Programme Austria – Legal Framework

- Austria entered an obligation under public international law and granted all individuals entering Austria under the HAP asylum status (Art. 3a Asylum Act 2016)
- Austria made unilateral declarations under international law to UNHCR and IOM.
- In addition bilateral agreements were made for the programme implementation (UNHCR, IOM).
- Individuals participating in the HAP were granted asylum ex officio and prima facie. Asylum status entails a residence permit (status granted after 31.05.2016 - preliminarily limited to three years).
- The Austrian representation in the country of first asylum issued the visas to allow individuals in all HAP cases to enter Austria.

Humanitarian Admission Programme Austria – Identification and Selection

UNHCR cases within the HAP:

- Women and girls at risk
- Survivors of torture and/or violence
- Elderly refugees at risk
- Refugees with physical protection needs
- Refugees with medical needs or disabilities

Humanitarian Admission Programme Austria – Identification and Selection

Cases with family ties to Austria:

- Belonging to the target group of especially vulnerable persons (women, families with minors, persecuted minorities such as Christians)
- Syrian citizenship
- Family members entitled to reside permanently in Austria
- Past flight from the Syrian Arab Republic between April 2011 and May 2014
- Current residence in a neighbour country of the Syrian Arab Republic
- Possibility of establishing the individual's identity
- Willingness and Ability

Humanitarian Admission Programme Austria – Post-Arrival-Phase

- All individuals arriving in Austria were transferred to the Initial Reception Centre at Traiskirchen (Lower Austria) – medical examination, interview for granting the asylum status
- Individuals with family ties to Austria in HAP I & II: accommodation was usually the responsibility of family members; otherwise accommodation in the federal provinces within the basic welfare support system
- HAP I: refugees arriving were transferred to the federal provinces for accommodation within the basic welfare support system
- HAP II: UNHCR cases were transferred to intermediary accommodation by the ARGE Resettlement (due to overcrowding in the initial reception centre) before being transferred to their final accommodation
- HAP III: after arrival individuals are transferred to the Initial Reception Centre for approx. 1 week and then being transferred to their final accommodation

Humanitarian Admission Programme Austria – Post-Arrival-Phase

- Integration measures offered by ARGE Resettlement
 - Accommodation & housing counselling
 - General integration support: Initial counselling and care
 - Literacy and language courses
 - Free childcare during workshops and language courses
 - Education and vocational counselling
 - Psychosocial-support

Humanitarian Admission Programme Austria vs. Resettlement

- No permanent resettlement programme in Austria
- Same residence permit as other refugees
- Cases are not fully processed by UNHCR
- Family cases did not qualify as resettlement cases – no UNHCR selection, different criteria