

REFUGEE AND MIGRANT SUNDAY 30 AUGUST 2009

FROM THE FACT SHEETS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Humanitarian Program of the Australian Government

Offshore Resettlement

The offshore resettlement component comprises two categories of permanent visa. These are:

- **Refugee** for people who are subject to persecution in their home country, who are typically outside their home country, and are in need of resettlement. The majority of applicants who are considered under this category are identified and referred by the UNHCR to Australia for resettlement. The Refugee category includes the Refugee, In-country Special Humanitarian, Emergency Rescue and Woman at Risk sub-classes.
- **Special Humanitarian Program (SHP)** for people outside their home country who are subject to substantial discrimination amounting to gross violation of human rights in their home country. A proposer who is an Australian citizen, permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen, or an organisation that is based in Australia, must support applications for entry under the SHP.

Composition of the Offshore Resettlement Program

The size and composition of the resettlement program are influenced by a number of factors. These include:

- an estimate of the number of people likely to be found in need of protection in Australia in accordance with international obligations under the Refugees Convention
- UNHCR assessments of the resettlement needs of refugees overseas
- the views of individuals and organisations in Australia conveyed during community consultations with the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- Australia's capacity to assist.

2008–09 Program

In May 2008 the Government announced an increase in the Humanitarian Program to 13 500 places for 2008–09. The Refugee category was increased to 6500 places based upon a one-off increase of 500 places. These additional places have been set aside for the resettlement of Iraqis in recognition of their critical resettlement needs. The remaining 7000 places will be made available under the SHP category and for onshore needs.

The offshore regional composition of the Humanitarian Program will be evenly distributed in 2008–09. Africa, the Middle East and Asia will remain as priority regions and each region will be allocated a 33 per cent intake, with the remaining one per cent allocated for contingencies.

2009-2010 Program

The figure has been increased to 13,750

Humanitarian Program figures

Humanitarian Program grants by category 2003–04 to 2007–08

Category	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Refugee	4 134	5 511	6 022	6 003	6 004
Special Humanitarian	8 927	6 755	6 836	5 275	5 026
Onshore Protection	788	895	1 272	1 701	1 900
Temporary Humanitarian Concern	2	17	14	38	84
Total	13 851	13 178	14 144	13 017	13 014

Offshore resettlement program grants by region 2002–03 to 2006–07

Region	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Europe	354	20	55	50	59
Middle East & SW Asia	2 867	3 174	4 335	3 126	3 807
Africa	8 353	8 486	7 100	5 695	3 291
Asia	221	415	1 260	2 315	3 636
America	7	1	8	0	6
Total	11 802	12 096	12 758	11 186	10 799

2007–08 Offshore Visa Grants by Top Ten Countries of Birth

Burma/ Myanmar	Iraq	Afghanistan	Sudan	Liberia	Congo (DRC)	Burundi	Iran	Sierra Leone	Sri Lanka
2 961	2 215	1 185	1 158	410	348	303	302	267	243

Further information is available on the department's web site.

See: www.immi.gov.au