Rabat Process
Thematic Meeting on Asylum and International Protection
in the Rabat Process Region
Rabat, 15-16 June 2015

The search for durable protection solutions: voluntary return, local integration or resettlement in a third country

The case of Morocco: solutions and additional partnerships

UNHCR Morocco

Local integration for refugees

- Draft asylum law pending presentation to Parliament

- Provisional and pragmatic solution:

  - Status determination + recommendations by UNHCR

  - Validation by the Inter-ministerial Commission for Regularisation and issuance of refugee cards by the BRA/MAEC

  - Residence permit by the Ministry of the Interior

- Access to Government integration programmes (MCMREAM)

  - Including to the labour market (exemption from national preference)

- Access to humanitarian assistance + integration programmes of UNHCR and its local partners/NGOs

- Synergy with projects of United Nations development agencies

Differentiated approach for Syrians

▶ What status will they have pursuant to the future asylum law?

   ▶ Refugee status?

   ▶ Temporary protection?

▶ Pending: regularisation of stay as a migrant

▶ Does not replace refugee status - but a short-term pragmatic solution:

   ▶ Freedom of movement and residence permit (Ministry of the Interior)

   ▶ Access to Government integration programmes (MCMREAM)

▶ Access to humanitarian assistance + integration programmes of UNHCR and its local partners/NGOs

Case of "stranded" Yemenis in Morocco

▶ Wish to return to their country – but not possible at the moment (closure of Sanaa airport)

▶ Government: extension of student visas

▶ UNHCR: registration, no RSD; humanitarian assistance

▶ IOM: return flights

▶ Yemen Embassy: consular protection; renewal of documents, etc.

Resettlement

▶ What are the requirements for resettlement in a host country which already grants protection to refugees?

▶ Gradual implementation

  ▶ of the legislative and administrative asylum framework

  ▶ of the local integration programme

▶ Responsibility shared between Morocco, the host country, and the resettlement countries (North America and Europe)

▶ UNHCR identification of persons with specific needs (still) not covered in Morocco

Voluntary return

- Voluntary return of refugees
  - Few returns – situation in countries/regions of origin (Syria, Iraq, DRC, Palestine, etc.)
- Voluntary return of those being refused refugee status
  - Referral: UNHCR
  - Assistance to return and resettlement: IOM
  - Financing: Morocco and foreign donors