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