



# EMERGENCY TRANSIT CENTER (ETC) FACTSHEET

Open since 2008, in Timișoara, Romania, the Emergency Transit Centre is now the only functioning establishment of this sort in the world. Find out more about the work we do.

# ESTABLISHED

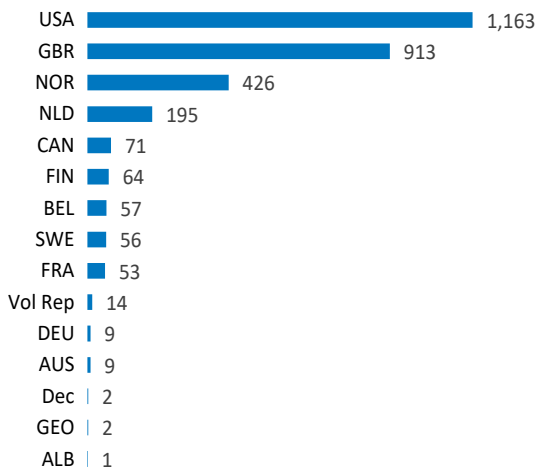
May 2008

On 8 May 2008 the **Tri-Partite Agreement** establishing the Emergency Transit Centre (**ETC**) in Timisoara was signed by the Government of Romania, the International Organization for Migration (**IOM**) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (**UNHCR**)

The **ETC provides a safety net** when refugees are at risk and resettlements procedures cannot be completed in the country of First Asylum.

Medical examinations, orientation sessions and selection missions of the resettlement countries can be conducted in **the best possible conditions**

## Countries of Resettlement



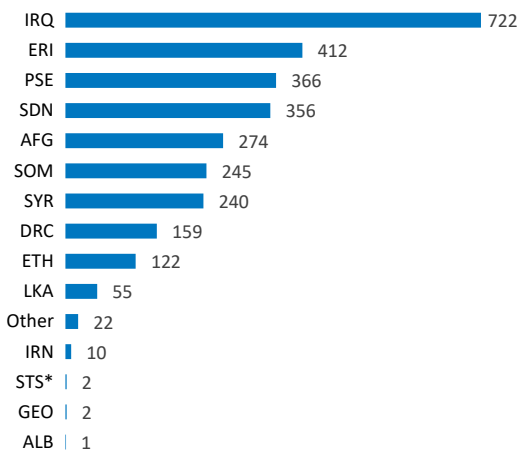
\*USA-United States, GBR-Great Britain, NOR-Norway, NDL-the Netherlands, CAN-Canada, FIN-Finland, BEL-Belgium, SWE-Sweden, FRA-France, Vol Rep-Voluntary Repatriation, DEU-Germany, AUS-Australia, Dec-deceased, GEO-Georgia, ALB-Albania

\*\*As of October 2019

## Overview on the main refugee groups

- **Congolese** refugees out of Libya for resettlement to **Canada**
- **Somali, Ethiopian** and **Iraqi** refugees out of Yemen for resettlement processing to the **USA**
- **Iraqi** and **Afghan** refugees out of Syria for resettlement processing to the **USA**
- **Iraqi, Afghani and Somali** refugees out of Syria for resettlement to the **UK**
- **Eritrean and Somali** refugees from **Niger** for resettlement to the **Netherlands**
- **Eritrean, Sudanese and Syrian** refugees out of Libya for resettlement processing to **Norway**

## Countries of Origin



\*IRQ-Iraqi, ERI-Eritrean, PSE-Palestinian, SDN-Sudanese, AFG-Afghanistan, SOM-Somali, SYR-Syria, DRC-Democratic Republic of Congo, ETH-Ethiopia, LKA-Sri Lanka, IRN-Iran, STS\*-Stateless, GEO-Georgia, ALB-Albania

### PRESENCE IN THE ETC



# Main Activities



## PROTECTION

- The Timisoara ETC is a facility jointly run by the Government of Romania, UNHCR and IOM. Refugees in urgent need of international protection are evacuated to the Timisoara ETC in view of onward resettlement to a third country.



## EDUCATION

All refugees are encouraged to take part in educational activities within the ETC, tailored for different age groups. In some cases, enrolment in educational activities outside the ETC (local schools) can be arranged by AIDRom for refugees that stay longer.



## HEALTH

- UNHCR, through its partner AIDRom, provide refugees with health care services either at the medical room in the ETC or in hospitals, clinics and medical laboratories in Timisoara. Refugees have permanent access to psycho-social counselling by specialized staff. The sessions play an essential role in strengthening refugees' coping mechanisms and also provide timely identification of those refugees in need of specialised protection services.



## SHELTER AND NFIS

- The Government of Romania provides shelter (200 places) within its Regional Accommodation Centre Timisoara, Romania, while UNHCR covers all expenses related to refugees 'stay in Romania.
- UNHCR, through its partner AIDRom in the ETC, conducts needs' assessments considering all age and gender particularities of the refugees and provides non-food items to the refugees accordingly.



## SANITATION

- UNHCR, through its partner AIDRom, provides refugees with a package with personal hygiene items and general cleaning products, upon arrival. Regular needs' assessments are conducted by AIDRom during refugees' stay at the ETC and additional items are provided once every three - four weeks.



## FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- UNHCR, through its partner AIDRom, provides refugees in the ETC with three meals per day, delivered by a catering company. AIDRom and refugee community representatives' asses the food needs and agree on the daily menus which are also adjusted to refugees' special needs (diets), requests and national cuisine.



## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- Refugees participate in the weekly community meetings with AIDRom, an opportunity to share issues of concern and look for solutions together. Refugees are encouraged to participate actively in the life of the community and to plan together the weekly activities in the ETC.
- Upon arrival, refugees learn about the type of leisure time, cultural, social and educational activities available at the ETC. AIDRom guides them on how to enrol in or participate in the activities and encourages refugees to get involved in the design of a customized programme, suitable women, men and children.



## LOGISTICS

The transport arrangements to and from the ETC are done by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) which is also providing the *fit-for-travel* medical check. IOM's support ensures a smooth transit from entering Romania, until reaching the ETC and then to the final destination, being an important liaison between the authorities and the refugees in transit. For this process IOM also counts on the strong collaboration with the

Romanian Border Police, working together for the uneventful undergoing of all movements. When needed, IOM can also provide medical escort services to the final destinations.

## Operational Context

The ETC provides a safety net when refugees are at risk and resettlement procedures cannot be completed elsewhere. It offers short-term stay to refugees identified by UNHCR as being in urgent need of resettlement but cannot remain in those countries for resettlement processing because of acute problems including security considerations and the risk of *refoulement*. The ETC enables UNHCR to bring refugees to protection when protection is not available in the first country of asylum.

The ETC is hosted within the premises of the Timisoara Regional Accommodation Centre's with a total capacity of 250 places. Out of these, 200 are dedicated to refugees evacuated to the ETC, while the remaining 50 are used as a reception centre for asylum-seekers arriving in Romania.

Based on the Tri-Partite Agreement, refugees arriving at the ETC can reside in Romania for a maximum period of six months. Under exceptional circumstances, at the request of UNHCR, their right to stay could be extended by the Minister of Interior. Resettlement countries can come to the ETC to conduct resettlement interviews and provide orientation sessions under the best possible conditions.

## Our Partners' Roles

The ETC operates not only to the commitment of the parties to the Tri-Partite Agreement, but also with the sustained engagement of AIDRom, a Romanian civil society organisation implementing the UNHCR care and maintenance ETC project, as well as resettlement countries, international donors and Romanian citizens living nearby.

### General Inspectorate for Immigration:

- provides the premises for the ETC;
- issues temporary identity cards to ETC residents;
- ensures safety measures inside the ETC.

The Government of Romania authorized the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), through its designated structure, namely the General Inspectorate for Immigration (GI), to implement the responsibilities under the Tri-Partite Agreement.

[www.igi.mai.gov.ro](http://www.igi.mai.gov.ro)

### International Organization for Migration:

- organizes international and domestic transport to Romania and towards the resettlement countries for the accepted caseloads;
- provides health assessments to ETC residents upon arrival and prior to resettlement and
- organizes orientation sessions in accordance with resettlement countries requirements

[www.oim.ro](http://www.oim.ro)

### AIDRom:

- ensures refugees of all ages have access to some form of education while residing at the ETC, based on a preliminary assessment of skills and knowledge;
- provides medical assistance and support within the ETC, as well as in medical clinics and hospitals;
- provides food, according to refugees' nutritional needs and cultural/religious specificity;
- distributes personal hygiene items (age and gender-specific), domestic cleaning products and clothing;
- provides specialized psychological assistance.

[www.aidrom.ro](http://www.aidrom.ro)

### CONTACTS

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### LINKS

[unhcr.ro](http://unhcr.ro) – [fb.com/UNHCR.ro](https://fb.com/UNHCR.ro)