FIGURE 1. REFUGEE RESSETTED FROM TURKEY: COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND COUNTRIES OF SETTLEMENT

The three charts reflect the increasing weight of Syrian nationals among all the refugees resettled from Turkey, and how a growing number of EU Member States (in red) have become significant countries of destination. Nonetheless, the relative weight of the resettled population has been dwarfed by the wave of refugees entering Turkey in the context of the Syrian War.

Resettlement, a durable solution strongly encouraged by UNHCR, is also concrete evidence of solidarity and burden sharing. It is of particular importance to countries like Turkey, currently hosting 3,572,565 Syrians (UNHCR data), alongside other critical nationalities.

Though between 2015 and 2017 the figure of resettled persons increased, the actual number of resettled persons (Graphs 1-3) from Turkey remains low. The United States and Canada were two of the main countries participating in resettlement from Turkey, mainly of refugees from Iraq and Iran. However, under the Trump administration, the US decreased its participation in the global resettlement program and particularly for Syrians (Graph 3). Unless a global increase in resettlement takes place, the burden on hosting countries—like Turkey—will remain.

The EU, in contrast, participated in a resettlement ad hoc until 2015, with few Member States engaged in the process. In response to the Syrian refugee crisis, the EU launched in 2015 a resettlement program from Turkey for Syrians (Graph 1). The EU Member States agreed to resettle over 22,000 persons in need of international protection during the period 2015-2017. An additional resettlement scheme takes place through the EU-Turkey Statement of March 18, 2016.

Germany is the main country of settlement from the EU Member States, having overtaken Canada in 2017 (Graph 3) and closely followed by the Netherlands. Beyond the Syrians, Iraqis remain the second critical nationality participating in resettlement.