



MAPPING REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The EBF Commission on Migration presents the following report to its member bodies and partners. A previous mapping report conducted by the EBF refugee working group focused on Baptist responses to the refugee crisis of 2015/2016. This new report is based on the findings of a survey sent out in summer 2021 that sought to capture an updated picture of the Baptist response in the EBF region and bring to light thematic areas that will guide the Commission on Migration over the coming years.

The survey revealed that 40% of EBF member bodies continue to work with and alongside displaced peoples across the entire EBF region (roughly 24 of the 59 EBF member bodies). Hundreds of churches are serving in areas of humanitarian aid, advocacy and asylum, and integration and discipleship. Projects are funded primarily through church offerings and donations and enacted by volunteers, pastors, and church leaders. The needs are great and include financial, human resources, and aid materials. Despite sparse resources, Baptists in the EBF region have an astoundingly large impact, serving and working alongside thousands every month.

The report includes a context overview of refugee and migration trends in the past years. There are currently more refugees in the world now than there ever have been and the numbers will likely continue to increase over the coming years. Continued conflicts in the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia as well as climate related crises are pushing people to seek safety further north and west. The degrading situation in Afghanistan is chief among many concerns, however, debilitating situations in Lebanon and Ukraine highlight the needs within the EBF region as well. The COVID-19 crisis has limited some ways of response, but spurred on other creative ways of ministering to displaced peoples.

The report showcases the extended reach of the EBF as diverse populations integrate into their new homes in Europe and the Middle East. Christians from Africa, the far Middle East and Asia enrich EBF member body churches with new perspectives. Additionally, as unions, churches, and ministries reach out with hospitality and unconditional aid, displaced peoples are able to communicate back to their home contexts a fuller picture of what Christianity in Europe looks like.

For further information contact migration@ebf.org or visit ebf.org/migration.



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INTRODUCTION



A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

In the history of the EBF, the theme of refugees and migrants is not new. Reaching out to people on the move and caring for the stranger has long been part of the character of the EBF and Baptist churches across Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia. However, conflicts across the world and the influx of refugees and asylum seekers over the past six years has brought the movement of peoples to the forefront of social, political, and religious conversations. Baptists have and continue to rise to the occasion to welcome and support new neighbours, and advocate for displaced peoples.

When “Mapping The Response to The Refugee and Migrant Crisis in the European Baptist Federation (EBF) Region” was published in 2015 (with updates in 2016), a “crisis” was unfolding as refugees and asylum seekers poured into Europe from nearly every border of the EU. As partners around the world reached out to the EBF for consultation on where support was needed, a survey was necessary to capture a glimpse of what projects were going on where and what needs existed, especially financial. Six years later, while numbers of people coming to Europe have dropped, many of the same needs still exist, and new needs have arisen. Additionally, where refugees had been previously welcomed the temperature has shifted and the welcome has grown tepid (see later in the report for a more extensive update of the broader context of refugee and migration across the EBF region).

INTRODUCTION

EBF structures have changed to adapt to these growing and persistent needs around issues of migration. The EBF refugee working group officially became the EBF Commission on Migration at the Online EBF Council meeting in 2020 and a part-time Coordinator for Migration Issues was hired in March of 2021 (supported in partnership with BMS World Mission). We launched this new mapping exercise to learn an updated view of the ways EBF member bodies and their churches are working with and alongside forcibly displaced peoples (this includes refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced peoples, and economic migrants).

The survey was divided up into different categories of responses: 1. Humanitarian Aid/Relief 2. Asylum and Advocacy and 3. Integration and Discipleship followed by more general questions. The results will help us strengthen the network of Baptist responses to displacement, share resources for best practices, and set the priorities to best serve EBF member bodies and their churches in the coming years.

We want to say a heartfelt thank you to all those individuals who filled out the survey on behalf of their union, church, or ministry, and for those that submitted additional information via email and Zoom conversations. We are thrilled with the response and deeply thankful for the efforts of Baptists across the EBF region. We hope this report will inform, inspire, and spur on EBF member bodies to continue loving the “strangers” among them and stand up for those in need around the world.

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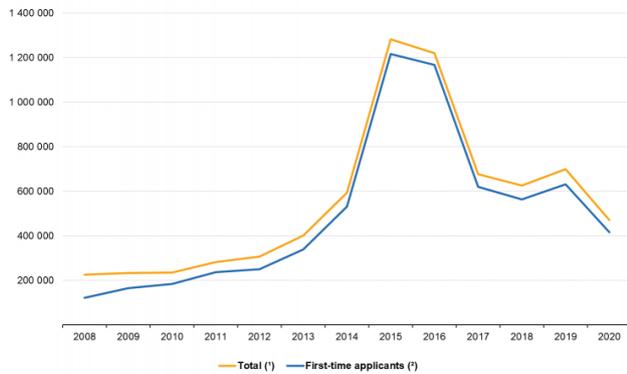
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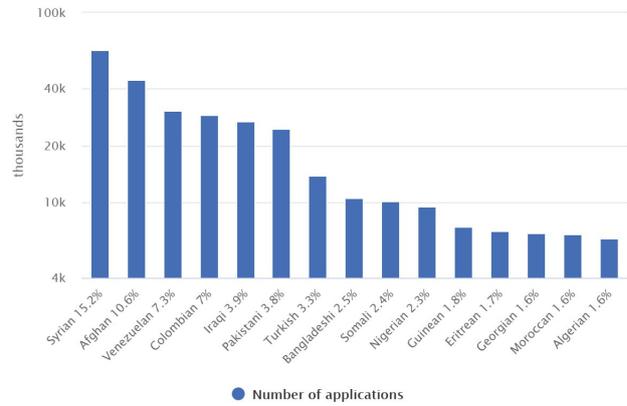
CONTEXT OVERVIEW

Number of asylum applicants (non-EU citizens), EU, 2008–2020



(*) 2008–2014: Croatia not available.
 (*) 2008: Bulgaria, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Austria, Romania, Slovakia and Finland not available. 2009: Bulgaria, Greece, Spain, Croatia, Luxembourg, Hungary, Austria, Romania, Slovakia and Finland not available. 2010: Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Luxembourg, Hungary, Austria, Romania and Finland not available. 2011: Croatia, Hungary, Austria and Finland not available. 2012: Croatia, Hungary and Austria not available. 2013: Austria not available.
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyppctza)

Source: Asylum statistics, Eurostat

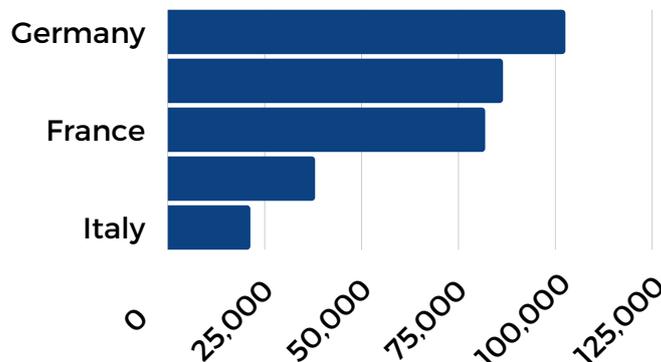


Source: Statistics on migration to Europe, Eurostat

There are more forcibly displaced peoples today (82.4 million by end of 2020) than ever before in history. The context of the last mapping exercise was overwhelmingly focused on the Syrian Civil War and the massive number of refugees and internally displaced peoples fleeing because of this conflict. In 2021, the grim ten-year anniversary of the conflict passed with no real end in sight.

Within the EU asylum applications have significantly dropped since their peak in 2015, but Syrians still top the list of nationalities submitting first-time asylum applications across the EU. However, continued conflicts in Central Africa, South America, Central Asia, and Eastern Europe continue to force individuals to flee both within their home countries and outside of their countries of origin.

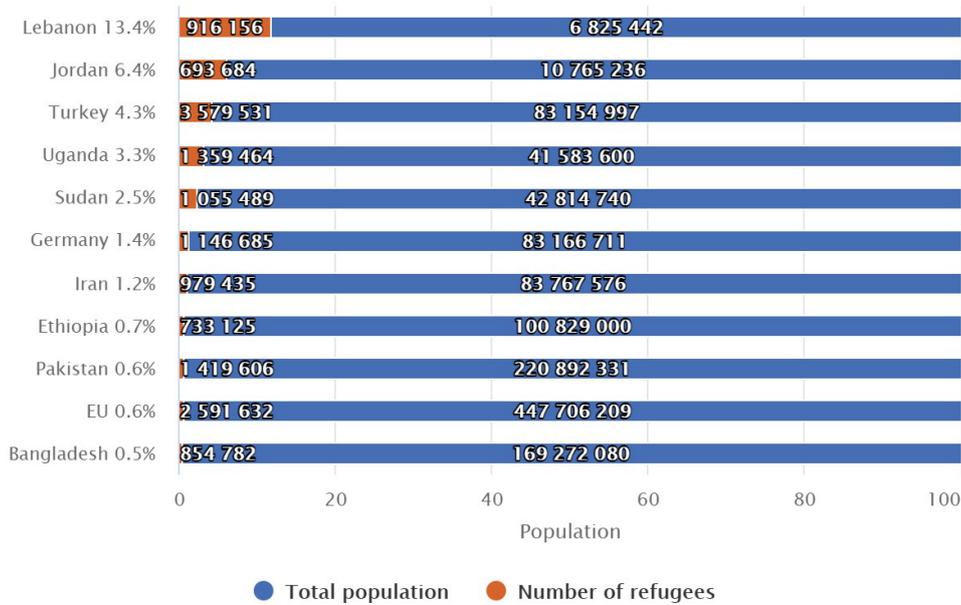
THE TOP NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME ASYLUM CASES BY COUNTRY IN 2020:



Note on statistical data: In compiling this report, we tried to use the most updated data available from various trusted data sources. However, data points are always delayed and often difficult to represent with full accuracy. Additionally, while much data is available for the European Union, it is more difficult to find cross-national statistics that encompass the breadth of the EBF region. Finally, hundreds of thousands of undocumented and stateless individuals likely remain uncounted in many data sets as they are often missed (intentionally or unintentionally) in traditional data collecting methods. For additional context and information, please see the list of sources at the end of the report.

CONTEXT OVERVIEW

The EU itself only hosts a small fraction of refugees and asylum seekers compared to many other regions of the world (only 10% of all refugees worldwide at the end of 2019). However, there are a number of countries outside of the EU that continue to host a significant portion of refugees compared to their general population.

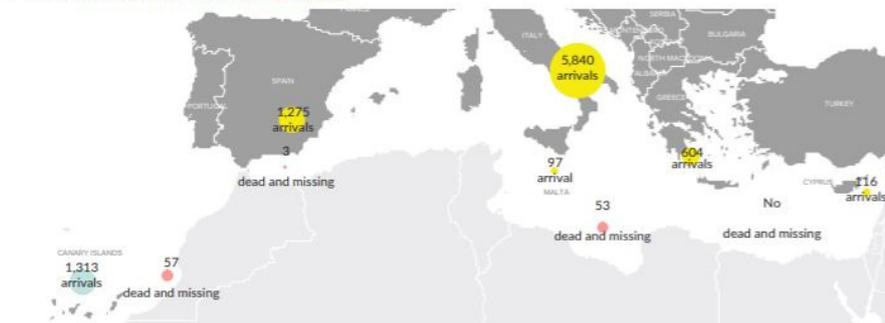


Source: [Statistics on migration to Europe, Eurostat](#)

Highcharts.com

The route of displaced peoples entering Europe has changed as well. Whereas the majority of entry in the EU was coming from Turkey to Greece, numbers have recently decreased (though not stopped completely) and shifted towards Italy and Spain (including via the Canary Islands). Thousands continue to lose their lives every year as they risk the journey across the sea.

FIGURES as of 30 JUNE 2021



CUMULATIVE FIGURES (1 JANUARY - 30 JUNE 2021)

39,313 estimated arrivals 1,044 estimated dead and missing at sea¹

CANARY ISLANDS ROUTE ²	WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE ³	CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE ⁴	EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE ⁵
6,952 arrivals no arrivals by land	6,603 arrivals, of which 436 by land	20,776 arrivals no arrivals by land	4,982 arrivals, of which 2,505 by land
203 dead and missing	142 dead and missing	694 dead and missing	5 dead and missing

Source: [Europe Situations: Data and Trends - Arrivals and Displaced Populations, UNHCR](#)

CONTEXT OVERVIEW: THE EU MIGRATION PACT

As of September of 2020, the European Commission launched the [New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#) which is meant to be a fresh start on European migration and refugee policy. Though meant to be an improvement from the Dublin III regulations, it builds on similar principles and focuses heavily on shifting the burden of asylum processing to the borders of Europe and to third party countries.

Here is a simplified overview of the proposed regulations:

- Effective and fair management of external borders, including identity, health and security checks
- Fair and efficient asylum rules, streamlining procedures on asylum and return;
- A new solidarity mechanism for situations of search and rescue, pressure and crisis;
- Stronger foresight, crisis preparedness and response;
- Efficient, EU-coordinated approach to returns;
- Comprehensive governance at EU level for better management and implementation of asylum and migration policies;
- Mutually beneficial partnerships with key third countries of origin and transit;
- Development of sustainable legal pathways for those in need of protection and to attract talent to the EU; and
- Support to effective integration policies.

Proposing such sweeping changes to the EU-wide policy on such a contested issue is of course a challenge as member states have a variety of responses to the proposal. Many faith-based organisations and NGOs have voiced concerns about some aspects of the proposal (view a [document here](#) for an ecumenical overview of some of the concerns to the regulations). The large fear and the overall sentiment is that a once “open” and compassionate view towards migrants and refugees has shifted and the movement is toward a “fortress Europe” mentality. This includes more detention style processing on the borders of Europe and expedient deportation of asylum seekers back to home and third party countries. Both situations already are prone to human rights abuses, and the fear is that more would come with such an approach. By shifting the burden of migrant and asylum processing to the edges, it also significantly reduces the capabilities of churches and ministries to be directly involved in community sponsorship schemes and other outreach initiatives.

It remains to be seen what official policy will be taken by the EU parliament and then how cooperative member bodies will be, especially within the solidarity measures (as many member states did not follow through on directives in former migration policies). More than ever, churches are needed to advocate to local governments in order to try and sway larger EU policies on migration and asylum.

CONTEXT OVERVIEW: SITUATIONS OF NOTE

There are numerous unfolding situations around the EBF region and beyond that warrant attention in this report as they have impacted and will continue to impact issues of displaced peoples in the years to come.

Climate related crises have increased over the past years and both directly and indirectly impacted migration patterns. Increasing temperatures leads to loss of hospitable conditions, pushing people into urban centres. Scarcity of resources increases social pressure and a higher likelihood of conflict and displacement.

As mentioned above, the ongoing conflict in Syria and the long term effects of the conflict continue to be of great concern, both for Syrians displaced in poor conditions within Syria, and the millions displaced outside. Particularly in Turkey and Lebanon the presence of so many refugees without proper infrastructure continues to strain local populations and keep refugees in precarious situations. The deepening economic crisis in Lebanon and political instability is cause for great concern for the millions of vulnerable in Lebanon.

Further east in Afghanistan, the recent Taliban takeover of Kabul is raising alarms around the world. Still, as of the publishing of this report, the US military and other Western countries have completely pulled out of the country, with thousands of vulnerable people left behind, and even more fleeing. The new regime will surely lead to continued displacement within Afghanistan and to its neighbours.

Continuing conflicts and political instability in Subs-Saharan Africa causing huge numbers of displaced peoples to live in refugee camps is a further cause of concern. As noted above, there has been a significant increase in crossings both from Libya to Malta and Italy, but also an increase in those taking the western route to the Spanish Canary Islands. Both journeys are extremely dangerous and concerning. This has led to the crackdown on boat smuggling, reduction of government-sponsored water rescues, some criminalisation of NGO rescue efforts and an increase of returns to Libyan camps (where there have been cases of egregious human rights violations).

In Eastern Europe, continued conflicts within Ukraine have left thousands displaced or left in dangerous conflict zones. Recent political pressure in Belarus also bring cause for concern, firstly as some Belarusians are fleeing themselves, and secondly as migrants and refugees are being used by the government to put pressure on neighbouring Lithuania and Latvia by extension the EU (there are reports of displaced peoples being flown in from conflict areas and then pushed towards the Lithuanian border).

Finally, with the finalisation of the UK's exit from the EU, troubling policies are set to be put in place by the current government. These match some of the larger new EU policies mentioned above, but with harsher restrictions, setting up the UK to accept very few asylum seekers.

CONTEXT OVERVIEW: EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DISPLACED PEOPLES

Lastly, we would be remiss to not mention the impact of the global pandemic on displaced peoples within the EBF region. The pandemic halted some forms of work amongst Baptists and spurred on even more. EBF, in partnership with the Baptist Forum for Aid and Development, funded COVID relief projects focused on working with vulnerable displaced peoples in Lebanon, Turkey, and Greece. As with all levels of society, the pandemic has exposed the growing distance between the haves and the have nots and put millions who make it day-to-day into increasingly desperate situations. For refugees along the way, access to quality healthcare and proper hygiene and sanitation was limited, and refugee camps continue to be vulnerable to COVID outbreaks (though outbreaks have not occurred at the levels feared). Additionally, with strict border closing and restricted movements of people, many countries have used the pandemic as a reason to keep displaced peoples out and shift public opinion against refugees.

For a time, asylum cases and court hearings were also halted with government restrictions, however, the decrease in asylum applications due to the pandemic helped clear some of the backlogs in the asylum systems of the EU (though over 700,000 applications were still pending at the end of 2020). The pandemic did not stop the flow of people trying to reach Europe and displaced communities and individuals continue to be vulnerable to the virus (especially the spread of more contagious strains) as vaccine access has been limited in many contexts. Still, the prolonged economic hardship caused by the pandemic and the harsher attitudes toward displaced peoples will continue to have perhaps a worse impact on displaced communities for the months and years to come.

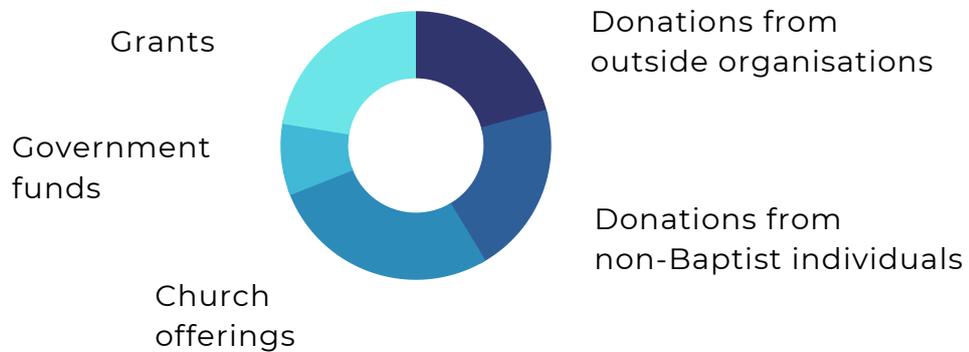
BAPTIST RESPONSE

AT LEAST
40%
EBF MEMBER BODIES ACTIVELY WORKING WITH DISPLACED PEOPLE

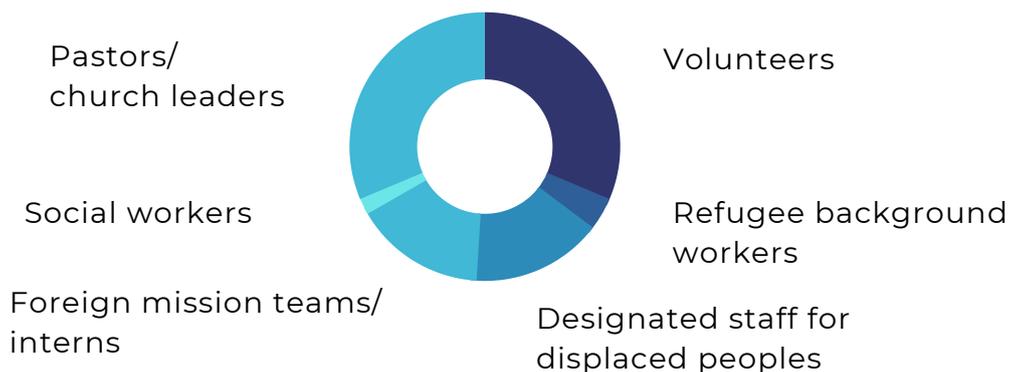
16 EBF member bodies and associated ministries submitted responses for the previous EBF report. For this survey, we were thrilled to receive responses from 22 different EBF member bodies - this includes 20 direct survey responses (12 member bodies & 8 individual churches/ministries) and 8 responses in another form.

We recognise that not every union was able to respond and that there are at least five more member bodies that are involved with displaced people's work. Based on this, we estimate that at least 40% of all EBF member bodies are actively working with and alongside displaced peoples. Because of a lack of central office staff and large union sizes in many member bodies, it is difficult to say exactly how many Baptist churches in the EBF region are reaching out. However, it is likely that there are churches from nearly every member body who have members from a migrant and refugee background, showing that the EBF is far more diverse than we may normally think.

PROJECT FUNDING

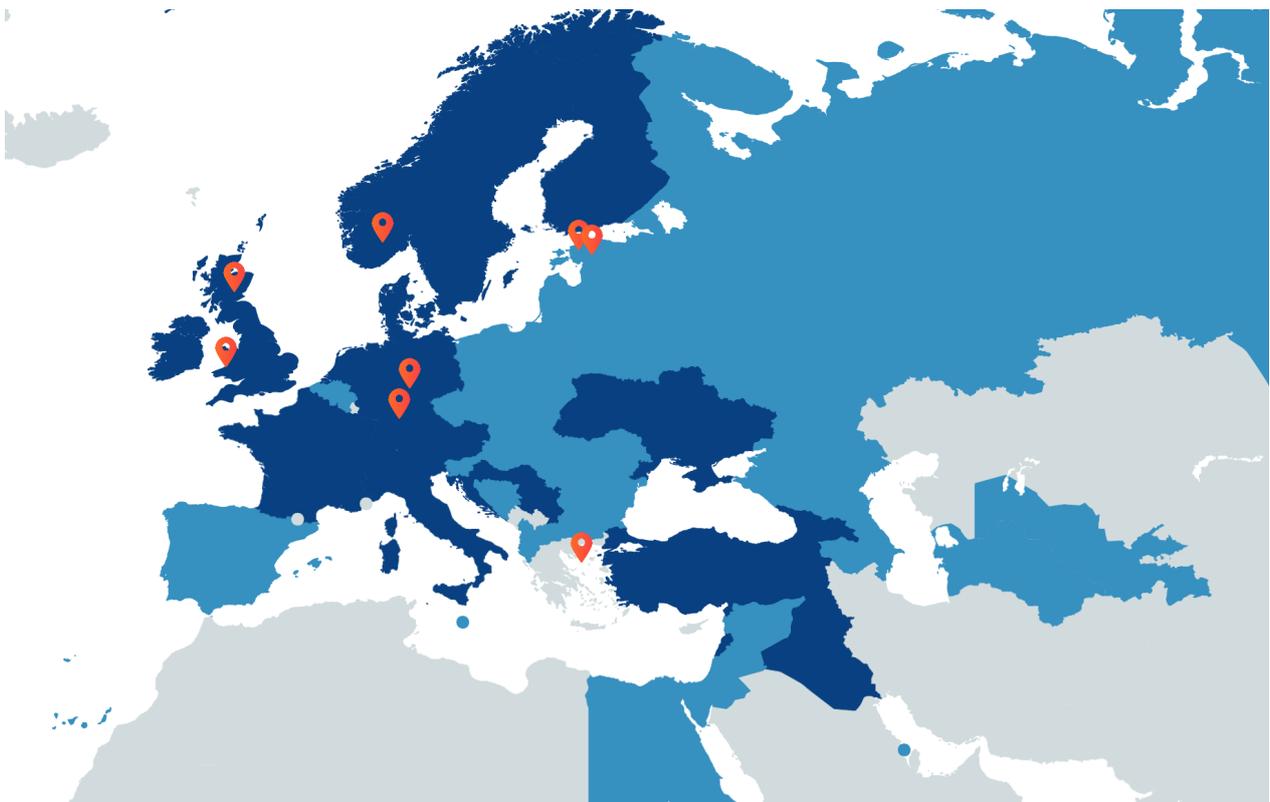


HOW ARE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED



BAPTIST RESPONSE

"It has been challenging but a blessing to serve refugees." -Turkey



■ EBF Member Bodies

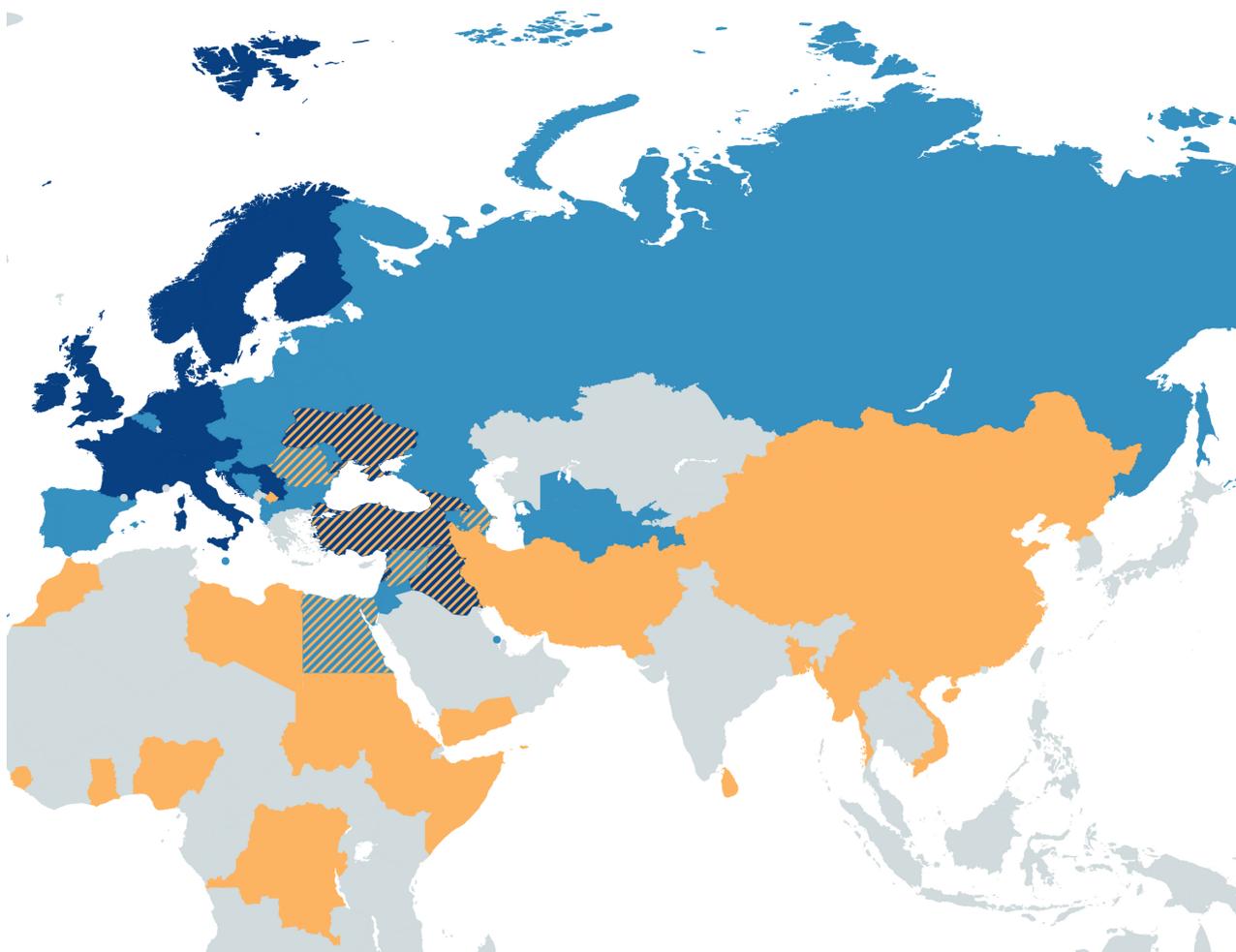
■ EBF Member Body Responses:

Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Iraq, Italy, Lebanon, Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, Serbia North, Serbia South, Switzerland, Uniting Church in Sweden, Turkey, UK, Ukraine.

📍 Ministry/Church responses: Germany (Berlin), Germany (Baden-Württemberg), Norway, Scotland (Glasgow), Estonia (2), Wales (Llangynidr, Central Wales), All4Aid/IBC (Lesvos, Greece) ¹

¹- All4Aid is a non-religious NGO that was founded by an International Baptist Convention Church and still supported by the IBC.

BAPTIST RESPONSE



EBF Member Bodies

Country Member Body Responses:

Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Iraq, Italy, Lebanon, Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, Serbia North, Serbia South, Switzerland, Uniting Church in Sweden, Turkey, UK, Ukraine.

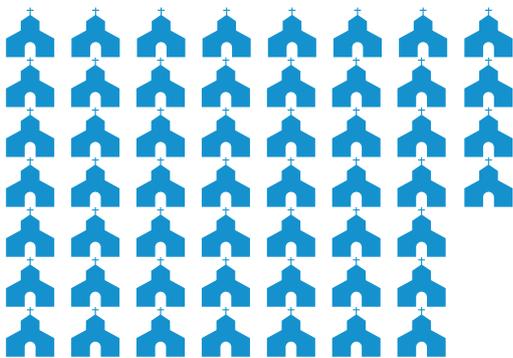
Countries people come from: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Burundi, Chechnya, China, DRC, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Kosovo, Kurds (Turkey/Iran), Lebanon, Libya, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Romania, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Vietnam, Yemen.

This map showcases the extended reach of the EBF through the displaced peoples represented across EBF member bodies. While the Church is certainly alive in the far Middle East, Africa, and Asia, the responses show that Church of the far Middle East, Africa, and Asia is also alive within the EBF region. This is a powerful tool for churches within the EBF to recognise. Refugees and displaced peoples in Europe connect with their own networks back in their old homes, giving a fuller picture of what Christianity in Europe looks like.

HUMANITARIAN AID

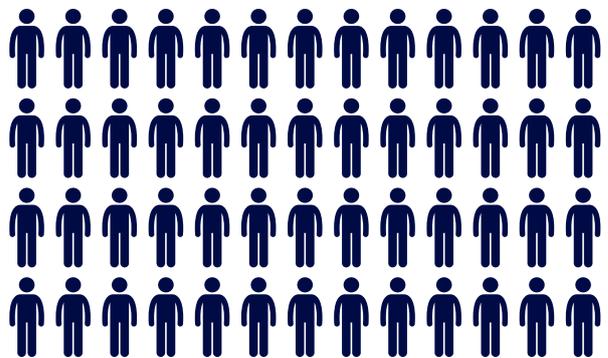
"Humanitarian assistance should remain totally unconditional to preserve the dignity of the beneficiaries. Many times though, it opens a door for holistic Christian testimony. Nothing replaces the value of relationships in providing assistance to vulnerable people. It is the relationship that makes the biggest difference in people's lives, not only the material help in itself. Investing time in people, not only material resources, is key to be true witnesses of God's love for all." -Lebanon

Baptist churches involved: ~528



 = 10

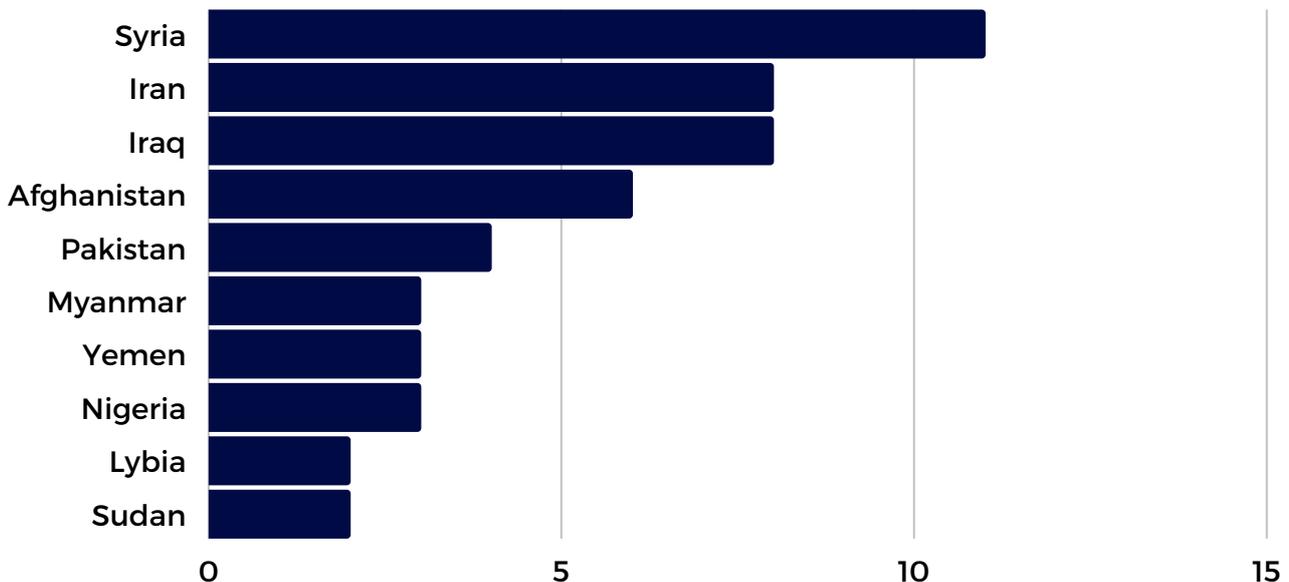
Number of people served: ~5,200*



 = 100 *in a combination of monthly or regularly repeating projects



Where do the people you serve come from?



= Number of member unions/churches working with different people groups
 Others (at least one response): Eritrea, Kosovo, Chechnya, Rwanda, Burundi, Bangladesh, Sierra Leone, IDPs in Georgia, Egypt, Morocco, DRC, Ukraine

HUMANITARIAN AID

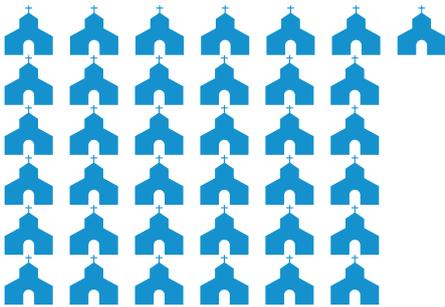
	TURKEY	NORWAY	GERMANY	SWEDEN, UC	FINLAND	SERBIA NORTH	LEBANON	DENMARK	AUSTRIA	CROATIA	GEORGIA	ITALY	FRANCE	UKRAINE	SCOTLAND	ESTONIA	ALL4AID
DISTRIBUTING HYGIENE ITEMS				X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X		X
WASH FACILITIES				X		X					X						X
FOOD DISTRIBUTION/ FOOD VOUCHERS	X	X		X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X		X
PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT/ COUNSELING			X	X			X		X	X	X				X	X	
TRANSLATION SERVICES			X	X	X				X	X							X
BIBLE STUDY/ DISCIPLESHIP	X		X	X	X					X	X				X		X
RUNNING/ WORKING WITH A WELCOME CENTRE			X	X						X		X	X		X		X
EMERGENCY HOUSING			X	X									X	X			
CLOTHING/ BEDDING DISTRIBUTION		X		X									X		X		X
MEDICAL SUPPORT		X								X		X					
FINANCIAL SUPPORT								X									
SEARCH AND RESCUE												X					
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION							X										X

We recognise that many humanitarian aid activities were disrupted because of the pandemic, and thus we anticipate that some of the figures reflected in these findings reflect activity before the pandemic.

ADVOCACY & ASYLUM

"Certainly we have learned a lot about people, human suffering, our own limitations, weaknesses during the migrant crisis." -Croatia

Baptist churches involved: ~404



= 10

Number of people served: ~750*

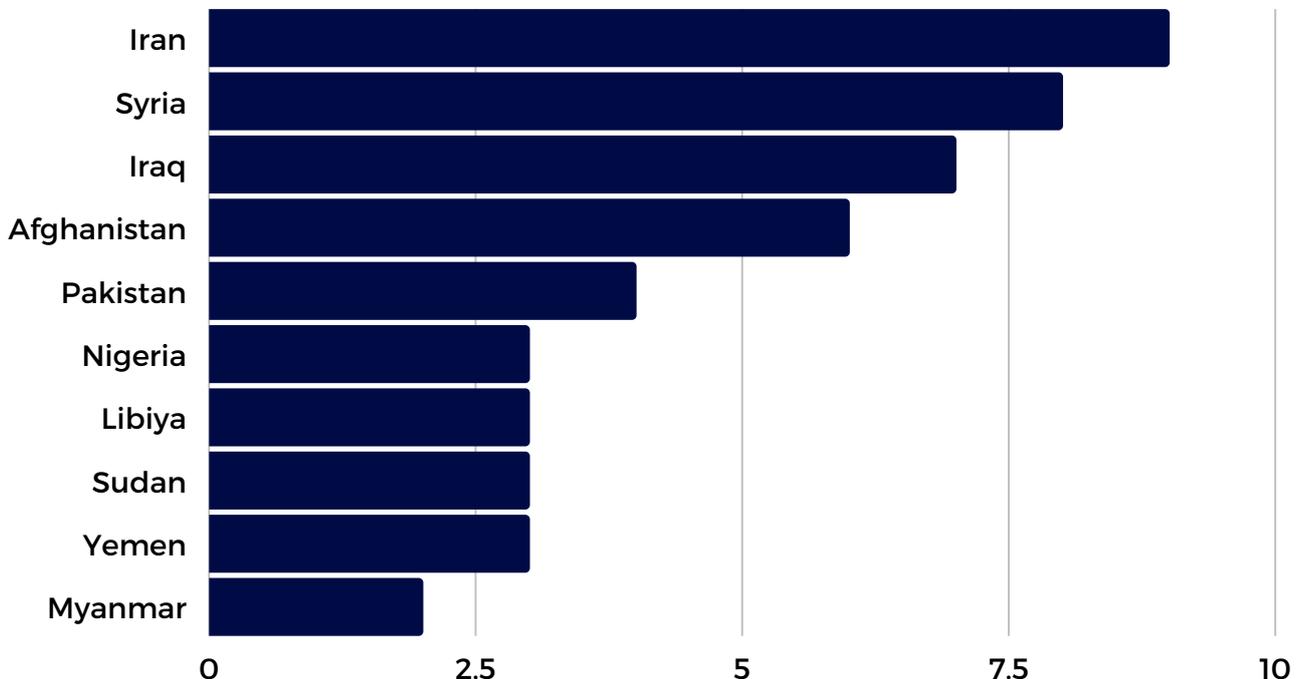


= 100

*in mostly a mix of one time and regular recurring projects



Where do the people you serve come from?



= Number of member unions/churches working with different people groups

Others (at least one response): Somalia, Eritrea, Kosovo, Chechnya, Kurds (Turkey/Iran), Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Sierra Leone, DRC, North Korea, China, Egypt, Morocco, Ethiopia.

ADVOCACY & ASYLUM

"It is important to be able to collaborate with other churches and organizations to coordinate efforts for those in need. It is especially important to work together with advocacy work to become a strong voice in society. We have seen that isolation during the pandemic has led to increased mental illness and it is important to continue to offer community, friendship and context. Digital tools and materials have been developed, which enables us to more easily reach each other from different parts of the country. Going forward, it is important to be able to support in finding work and to continue to include new people in the community." -Uniting Church in Sweden

	TURKEY	NORWAY	GERMANY	SWEDEN, UC	FINLAND	DENMARK	AUSTRIA	CROATIA	GEORGIA	UK	ITALY	SCOTLAND	ESTONIA	ALL4AID
PROVIDE LEGAL COUNCIL							X	X						
PAY FOR LEGAL AID				X			X	X						X
ACCOMPANY ASYLEES TO ASYLUM INTERVIEWS			X	X		X	X	X				X		
SUPPORT DEPORTED REFUGEES	X	X	X	X		X	X	X				X	X	
MEET WITH POLITICIANS ABOUT ASYLUM ISSUES	X		X	X	X		X	X		X		X		
WORK WITH LAWYERS/JUDGES	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				X		X
RUN CHURCH ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS		X	X	X						X	X			
CHURCH ASYLUM INITIATIVE			X											
CONNECTING TO NGOS									X					

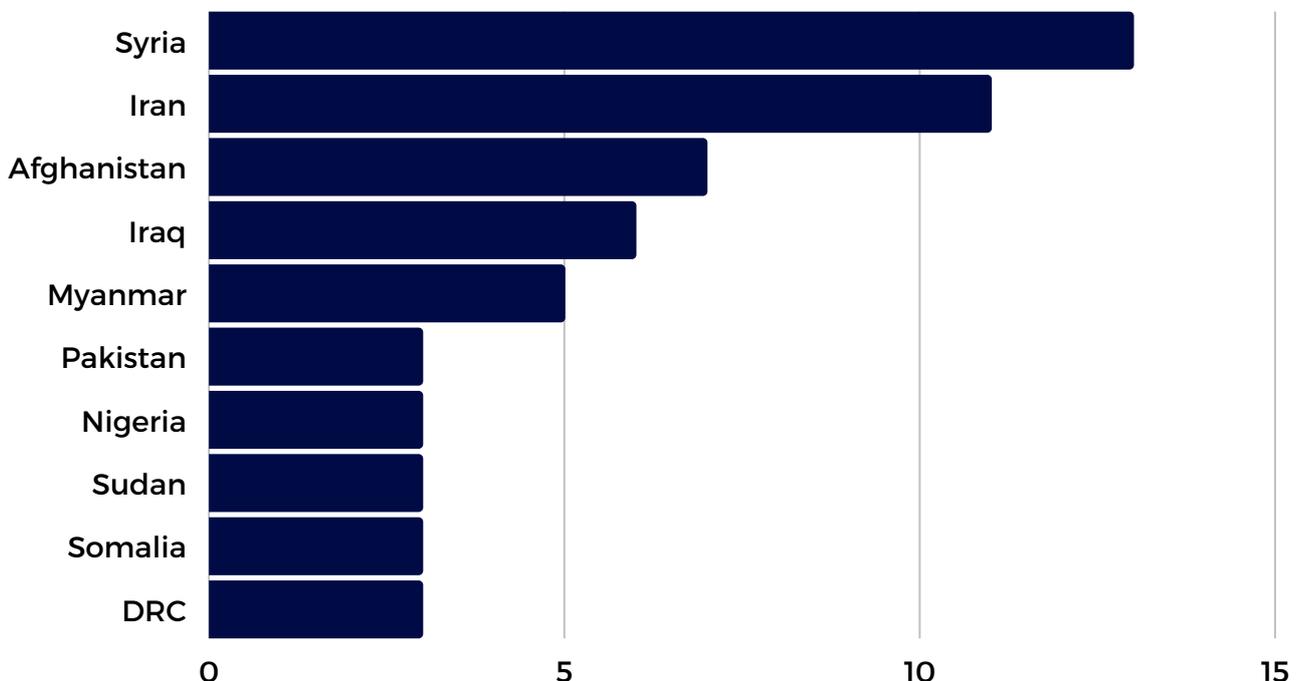
INTEGRATION & DISCIPLESHIP

"We are not only helping others, but we are blessed through their experiences and spirituality, connected with other parts of the world and the needs of people there, some of our churches are revitalised by migrants; we want to grow together, empower leaders, serve the weak, learn from God's people." -Germany

"Many of the meeting places for asylum seekers and newcomers have been paused during the pandemic. However, gatherings and meetings have been possible via digital platforms. Exposure to asylum seekers and new arrivals has increased." -Uniting Church in Sweden



Where do the people you serve come from?



= Number of member unions/churches working with different people groups

Others (at least one response): Libya, Yemen, Kurds(Turkey/Iran), Azerbaijan, Kosovo, North Korea, China, Egypt, Morocco, Ethiopia, Ghana, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Angola, Lebanon, Mongolia, Romania, Chechnya, Eritrea, Bangladesh, Sierra Leone.

INTEGRATION & DISCIPLESHIP

	TURKEY	NORWAY	GERMANY	SWEDEN, UC	FINLAND	LEBANON	DENMARK	AUSTRIA	CROATIA	GEORGIA	ITALY	FRANCE	WALES	SWITZERLAND	UK	SCOTLAND	ESTONIA	ALL4AID
CHURCH, UNION, OR MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT IN INTEGRATION																		
LANGUAGE/ CULTURE CLASSES	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X				
HOUSING/ FOOD/ TRANSIT SUPPORT	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT/ COUNSELING	X		X	X		X		X		X		X		X				
COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES (COFFE HOURS, GAME NIGHTS, ETC)	X		X	X		X	X	X					X	X				
TRANSLATION SERVICES	X		X	X			X	X	X	X								
GOVERNMENT SUPPORT (HELP WITH STATE REGULATIONS, ETC)	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X						
CHURCH, UNION, OR MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT IN DISCIPLESHIP, MULTICULTURAL CHURCH AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT																		
SPECIAL LANGUAGE CHURCH SERVICES	X		X	X		X	X	X	X								X	
BAPTISM CLASSES	X		X	X		X		X	X	X								
SPECIAL LANGUAGE BIBLE STUDIES	X	X	X	X				X	X	X							X	
DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING	X		X	X		X		X	X	X							X	X
MENTORING	X	X	X	X	X			X	X								X	X
PASTORAL ACCREDITATION			X															

INTEGRATION & DISCIPLESHIP AND EFFECTS OF COVID

	TURKEY	NORWAY	GERMANY	SWEDEN, UC	FINLAND	LEBANON	DENMARK	AUSTRIA	CROATIA	GEORGIA	ITALY	FRANCE	WALES	SWITZERLAND	UK	SCOTLAND	ESTONIA	ALL4AID
STYLE OF CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICES OFFERED IN YOUR CHURCH OR UNION																		
SEPARATE LANGUAGE WORSHIP SERVICES FOR DISPLACED PEOPLES	X	X	X	X			X	X		X					X	X		
OCCASIONAL BLENDED WORSHIP SERVICES	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X	X	X	
CONSISTENT BLENDED WORSHIP SERVICES	X		X	X		X		X			X				X			

"[COVID-19] changed completely the way our church partners provide assistance. Reduced drastically the number of home visits they make. Increased time to distribute assistance as large groups cannot gather. The lockdowns have pushed many new people into extreme poverty as displaced people often rely on daily work to survive." -Lebanon

"COVID delayed many asylum interviews, but the backlog seems to be clearing now. The biggest challenge was trying to maintain a community for those isolated during the pandemic. Some refugees are still out of work and struggling to find jobs or internship opportunities. Being at a distance from family during crisis times is difficult. COVID delayed building projects that will be social businesses to benefit refugee work." -Austria

"The lockdowns have hindered events and programs, but opened new paths of online ministries and networking, for example, online-seminars in Farsi." -Germany

FINAL REFLECTIONS



We close by reiterating our heartfelt thanks to those unions, churches, and ministries who have spent countless hours in ministering with and alongside displaced peoples. We wish for this report to remain a living document. If you or your union have stories that continue to tell the ways Baptists around the EBF region are serving alongside migrants and refugees, please contact us at migration@ebf.org.

We intend for the migration section of the new [EBF website](#) to become a hub of resources and story sharing in the coming years.

The faith landscape of Europe will continue to shift as people move into new communities. While the current moment may feel particularly acute or special, the story of human history is the story of people on the move. God's Church can continue to play an important role in this story by providing spaces of welcome and home to those who are displaced. We finish with a quote from Brent Hamoud, current director of the Master of Religion program at the Arab Theological Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon and the co-author alongside Rupen Das of "Strangers in the Kingdom":

"For me, the ministry of home and place has been a profound way of framing the needs people are facing and the opportunities for the Church to serve in vital ways. I'm also challenged to see our current migration in the greater story of human history. Millions around the world (whether Europe, the Middle East, North America, or elsewhere) now may be foreigners/migrants/strangers, but someday they (or their future generations) will be local/nationals settled in their places as full-fledged members of their community at all levels. This is simply a continuation of an age-old history of people anywhere and everywhere arriving and making themselves at home. The work of churches today can be part of making this a more beautiful unfolding of history, and this is meaningful."

*Brent Hamoud,
Director MRel, Arab Baptist Theological Seminary and Co-Author of
"Strangers in the Kingdom"*

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Page 20 - Courtesy of Lebanese Society of Educational and Social Development

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