

MIGRATION & REPATRIATION CASES

The document examines few global cases of mass repatriation/migration observed during the recent years. The research focuses on i) the government policy framework towards the repatriation/migration, ii) challenges faced and addressed during the resettlement, iii) services provided upon arrival and iv) the measures taken for further integration. Few issues of resettlement and integration related to the forced immigration of Syrian-Armenians due to 2012 conflict are also observed.

Israel

3.3 mIn diaspora repatriation



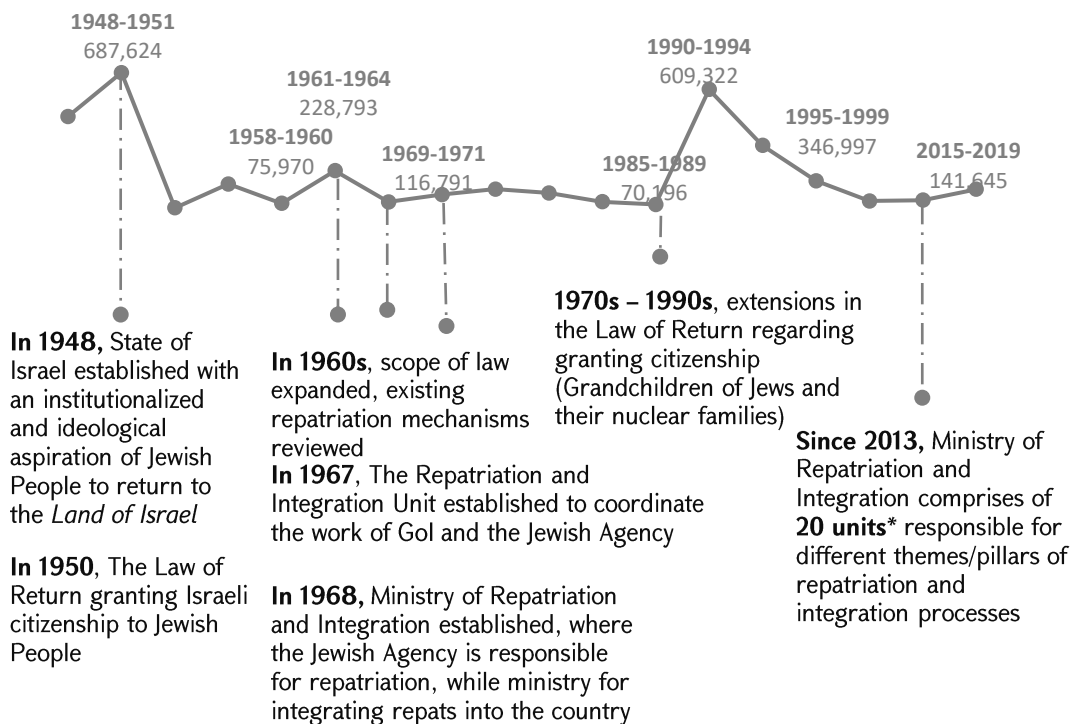
Governed by The Law of Return

Israel exclusively uses the system of *jus sanguinis* (law of blood) to determine the citizenship of immigrants and their descendants.

Embedded in **the Law of Return of 1950** is the centrality of the idea of migration as a **return of the diaspora**. This law created the framework that grants Israeli citizenship to Jews and their children **immediately upon immigration**.

According to the halakha (Jewish law), a Jew is a person who was born of a Jewish mother or has converted to Judaism and who is not a member of another religion. **Since the 1970 reform of the Law of Return**, the "right of return" has been extended to grandchildren of Jews too, and their nuclear families (even if not Jewish).

Legal and Policy Timeline of Israel Repatriation



Upon Arrival

The repatriate registration process starts when person arrives the country and includes completion of registration form replaced by ID, formulation of new repatriate identity document/certificate, allocation of funds for first expenses, provision of medical referral, and if no place of residence provision of a hotel ticket. Additionally, some extra services are being offered upon arrival (child and mother room, first aid, small treats).

- Each repat (individual and/or family) is assigned with a permanent case manager, who escorts, coordinates and directs towards all the formal processes, as well as, ensuring integration in the future
- The Repat receives “Basket of Goodies”, and subsidies for children and elderly
- After the registration process at the airport, the repat is screened for the customs. The repatriate is free of customs tax (4-year period)
- The repat is then transported (with an escort) to the accommodation

Integration

Employment

- Job transfer process starts with a registration in the labour market by applying to specialization centers, where training are arranged and possibility of receiving special benefits.
- **The "Voucher" program** supports new repatriates and returned Israelis in employment, private business and integration of scientists.
- The Ministry of Repatriation and Integration participates in the **financing of repatriates' salaries (co-financing) for a limited period of time** in order to promote the employment of repatriated Israelis who have returned.

Housing options

- Rent an apartment in a private market with a subsidized loan mortgage
- Rent an apartment in a **kibbutz agricultural settlement-community**, “**First Home In the Homeland**” project which includes food, ulpan language studies, kindergarten and school attendance. The service is paid and the rental is only for 1-year contract.
- Temporary residence with relatives
- Accommodation In student dormitories

The apartment rent is included in the “basket of Goodies” and in case of not having it, the repatriates receive a “patriotism basket” through which they can get rent allowance in a mortgage bank.

Education

Mandatory Ulpan courses (Hebrew language) to continue receiving the social baskets.

* The department of Integration in Science Field, Business Initiatives/Entrepreneurship, Housing, Integration in Society, Repatriated Military Department, The Department of Ulpan dealing with Hebrew language education



Canada has long been a country of immigrants, where the governing policies have had shifting priorities over the decades based on the following dimensions:

Focus Sector	Agriculture	Agriculture & Manufacturing	Industrial Production	Highly Skilled
Responsibility for Selection & Integration	Mainly federal			Greatly expanded provincial role
Integration Services	Extensive; subsidized travel, free land, Immigration Halls, and Aid Societies		Focus on employment transition, orientation, language learning	Increased funding, overseas predeparture services, credential recognition
	1867 – 1914	1915 - 45	1946 - 85	1986 - Present

Policies have generally moved toward greater **skills-based immigration**, diversification and removal of racial restrictions, **expansion of the role of provincial governments**, **increased focus on integration services**, and **greater refugee resettlement**.

Having a strong commitment to **refugee resettlement** as part of its **legal immigration program**, the Canadian government in 2015 and 2016 embarked on resettlement of **25,000 Syrian refugees** through government's **Operation Syrian Refugees**.

One of the major challenges faced by the Government, the organizations and groups responsible for assisting Syrian refugee newcomers was **the need to find suitable and affordable housing, as mid-sized and major cities had a severe shortage of rental housing that would be affordable for low- and modest- income households**.

Key activities to solve the challenge:

- Increasing local stakeholder engagement through **additional contacts with new landlords, nonprofit housing associations, and social housing providers**
- Tapping into voluntary and private support. A **Welcome Fund for Syrian Refugees** to manage and direct corporate donations, provided a temporary rental supplement to high-needs Syrian refugees.
- **Municipalities and local nonprofits** setting up **housing portals** that allowed private individuals and landlords to offer suitable/affordable housing
- **Settlement in expanded range of locations** through voluntary support. Housing offers made by private individuals through local housing portals allowed **settlement workers to place refugees in neighborhoods that otherwise might not have been accessible**.
- The federal government also began offering settlement services in seven new cities across Canada, **many of them smaller cities that offered promising employment opportunities for low- and semi-skilled workers but that had not previously been considered for resettlement**

Upon Arrival

- Refugees arrived via government-chartered aircraft (99 flights) and some commercial flights
- Greeting at the airport, customs support and income support based on resettlement category: **Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs)** or **Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs)**
- Income support through one-time household start-up allowance and monthly income support payment.
- As soon as they arrive (next 4-6 weeks), the GARs receive “bundle” of practical “life skills” orientation services, such as help with temporary accommodation, school and healthcare, guidance on navigating the administrative procedures and living independently
- Needs Assessment and Referral Services, language assessment

Integration

Employment

- Preparation for the labor market through Employment Related Services that include programs such as training and bridging programs, employment and credential assessment, work and volunteer placements, professional networking, mentoring, career pathways explorations, and programs incorporating interventions relating to resume writing, job search, interview preparation, networking skills, understanding Canadian workplace culture, and interpersonal skills
- **Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)** for a work permit based on criteria set by the province itself. Immigration outside of the major migrant hubs of Toronto, Vancouver, and Montréal by addressing labor or skills shortages in individual provinces.

Education

- Language training (English and French) that are formal trainings: lessons take place in classroom settings, online, one on one, or a blended environment

Healthcare

- Settlement service health services can include anything from primary care, health education, disease prevention, mental health supports, healthy eating, dental care, sexual health, etc.

Ireland



The Global Irish Diaspora Policy 2015 seeks to recognize the immense contribution of diaspora through **Global Irish Network** and **The Global Irish Economic Forum** in recovering the Ireland during the unprecedented economic challenges. With **the Emigrants Support Programme (ESP)** continuing facilitating the needs of Irish emigrants, Irish Diaspora Policy contains a range of measures, big and small, to facilitate the best possible experience of emigration at all stages of the journey from pre-departure, life overseas and in returning home to a growing economy.

Ireland



With a **“one-stop-shop”** model, the central government delegating less to local government, while participation of NGOs in the provision of services and social support at national and local level being high, Irish model differs from that of Scandinavian, where local municipalities are vested with wide administrative and budgetary powers.

Although the approach of “one-stop-shop”/individual case manager has been modeled, the return emigration still has many barriers:

- **Housing:** purchasing/renting suitable housing; Accessing social housing; Securing mortgage
- **Motor:** obtaining an Irish driver’s license; obtaining car insurance (incl. recognition of driving record)
- **Employment:** identifying and securing suitable employment opportunities in Ireland; Recognition and transferability of qualifications;
- **Finance & Banking:** Opening an Irish Bank Account; Organizing a Pension; Transferring Pensions or Other Savings to Ireland
- **Health & Childcare:** Securing childcare; accessing government childcare schemes; obtaining health insurance in Ireland; etc.
- **Immigration and Welfare:** obtaining a visa/leave to remain/permission to work for spouse/partner; demonstrating normal/habitual residence in Ireland; obtaining a personal public service (PPS) number; accessing welfare supports
- **Education:** organizing primary or secondary schooling; organizing university/higher/further education and their payment

Upon Arrival

- Upon arrival the immigrants are met with settlement officers together with local support workers provide advice on a range of integration-related activities such as language training, employment training, education opportunities, local community groups, Irish culture and customs and so on. The settlement officers provide support from 1 to 3 years or more, constantly monitoring the progress of refugees. Individual integration plans and tailor-made introduction programmes are offered for each refugee/repatriate.
- Assistance with travel in transit/assistance with escort in transit, if required
- Post-arrival reception arrangements, including information and referral to local partners if necessary

Integration

Employment

- FAS offering trainings, Job Seekers Pack (e.g., CV prep, interview skills)
- Training and Employment Assistance Mentoring program consisting of vocational assessment, jobs club, educational guidance, practical job-seeking assistance, peer mentoring, program TASKFORCE to review and identify possible employment opportunities for immigrants

Housing

- The Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) decides upon the location for the placement of resettled refugees in advance of their arrival in Ireland. This is done for geographic dispersal of refugees.
- If the refugee is unable to fully meet the rental costs (as is usually the case), the state provides assistance, by means of a **Supplementary Welfare Allowance** known as rent allowance determined by the weekly income.

Education

- Refugee children are enrolled in mainstream Irish schools, Adult resettled refugees attend language training courses provided by Integrate Ireland Language Training
- Immigrant children are entitled to free primary and post-primary education, regardless of their legal status
- Financial support for further and Higher Education

Healthcare

- Resettled refugees are entitled to the same level of health care as Irish citizens: free primary medical care, including optical and dental care and pharmacy services

Integration of Syrian Armenians

22k Syrian-Armenian Repatriation

In 2012 the situation in Aleppo, Syria worsened, especially the attacks on Armenian communities, mass influx of Diaspora Armenians repatriated to Armenia and Armenia was not ready for such a new reality in terms of **practical policy framework and considerations**.

The diaspora has played a key role in funding the refugees’ resettlement through grassroots campaigns for the **Syrian Armenian Relief Fund**, raising close to \$1.2 million. The Armenian government has offered **free health insurance, scholarships, and a simplified naturalization and accelerated asylum procedure**, as well as **facilitating residence permits for Syrian-Armenian families intent on remaining in Armenia**. The “adopt-a-family” project matches refugees with Armenian host families to help them integrate into Armenian society. Finally, the Armenian government has established a microcredit project with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to help refugee entrepreneurs.

In 2015—2016, under the leadership of Razmik Panossian (Gulbenkian Foundation), the AGBU and Christoph Bierworth from the UNHCR, a strategy summit was hosted at the headquarters of the AGBU in Yerevan to address the challenges Armenia faced in integrating refugees and an immediate action plan was the urgent need to draft a coordinated plan for the post humanitarian phase of the crisis. The Government Of Armenia (GoA) planned to embark on an effort to formulate a comprehensive strategy **to address the different dimensions of the integration** of Syrian refugees in Armenia. The aftermath of the summit was the urgent need of a baseline study, based on which **identification of needs** for Syrian-Armenian refugees, afterwards, **the development and design of the project**.

Beyond immediate support, the most important challenge in the integration of refugees is the **provision of and access to quality housing, health services, education, and employment.**

The needs assessment of Syrian-Armenians revealed:

- Significant **mismatch between the skills possessed by SAs and the jobs they performed in Armenia**
- SAs interested in finding employment in **wholesale and retail trade, accommodation, and food services.**
- SAs demonstrated a **propensity for entrepreneurial activities.** Many of those who had businesses in Syria would also like to establish one in Armenia but are **facing a different reality.** In this regard, **training and coaching for tax legislation in Armenia and writing a business plan, and applying for a loan** would be beneficial.
- Need to be **consulted and trained in the fields of business, finance and credits, legal issues, job searching, and the health sector.**
- SAs often “bring” high-level skill sets and business culture, multiple languages, and excellent vocational skills, including **traditional arts and crafts well preserved through generations.** However, **informed policy collaboration among various stakeholders involved in promoting SAs’ economic integration is crucial.**
- **Russian language is an important prerequisite for accessing local labor markets**
- Through UNHCR funding, **vocational education and training (VET) implementation, and job placement projects,** engaging private employment agencies through **vouchers incentivizes employers to hire SAs**
- **Job fairs to employ SAs, which in the long run, observations showed that they were disengaged from employment– this was mainly due to low salaries, followed by language and cultural barriers.**
- The UNHCR’s operationalized **rental subsidy instrument through its partner Mission Armenia NGO** created a condition where SAs would have their housing rents partly subsidized to allow them to seek employment and integrate into the labour market. Later other actors, such as **OXFAM and the Armenian Redwood Project, the Armenian Missionary Association of America, and others also contributed to these developments**
- Benefit from the **SAs’ business connections in the Middle East and a well-advanced service culture.** However, economic integration is even more difficult as around 30 percent of the immigrant population lives below the national poverty line, a constrained market, small purchasing power, and limited job opportunities.
- **UNHCR’s projects offer language, life skills, vocational training, and courses on business development** implemented jointly with SME DNC, Sparkassenstiftung, and GIZ EISRA project. Training courses offered by KASA and Sparkassenstiftung provided the successful trainees with some **basic income generation skills (e.g., hairdressing).** Since 2014, more ambitious entrepreneurs could benefit from **micro-credits of up to 10,000 USD offered by the SME-DNC at a preferential 4 percent interest rate.**
- From 2013 onwards, “Rossotrudnichestvo,” Federal Agency for CIS issues, was contacted to **provide Russian language classes to assist those who wish to enter the banking sector.**
- Many other factors hampering the economic integration of Syrian refugees in Armenia **are not necessarily displacement-specific but are instead linked to the economic and market environment in Armenia.**
- **Expertise and high-level engagement** of development actors are required to tackle such challenges.