# CASE STUDY B

Refugees are flooding into a medium-sized regional town in country X land, driven by fighting in the neighbouring country Y land between a group of rebels and the national forces. The town, which usually has about 100,000 inhabitants, is a market and administrative centre for a large area with a thriving mineral industry. However, its population has swelled to nearly a quarter of a million because of the refugees and the arrival of humanitarian relief organisations.

There are two main official crossing points where refugees are entering the country, but the border is quite porous, so refugees are also making their own way across the border and making their way into the town. The refugees that cross through the formal crossing or are bussed across the border by IOM are taken to transit sites (one in each location) from where they are supposed to be screened and then taken on to refugee camps which are being hastily erected in two locations.

The condition of refugees arriving across the border is poor. Many have been wounded during their flight and are arriving with serious injuries. To make matters worse, many of the refugees had been displaced from their homes for more than 2 years because of fighting and had received little help as access to the area was so poor. Their long and arduous journey has been too much for many who were already in a weakened state and in many cases, suffering from chronic malnutrition. Emergency medical treatment is being provided in field hospitals at the transit sites but again, the staff are overwhelmed and there is insufficient capacity.

The capacity to process all the new arrivals is severely stretched and people are crowding on to transport at the transit sites such that it has been impossible to register all arrivals and some that have been registered have moved on – no one really knows where.

There are reports of children having been abducted by rebel groups in Y land.

The refugee population consists mainly of women and children as many of the men have stayed at home to fight or protect their land.

No assessments have been carried out of the extent of separation, however at one of the transit sites there is a makeshift children’s centre to which local church groups have been donating goods and food. The local church groups have also been active in linking up women and children, or in some cases just children, with local families who have taken them in.