REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE FACT SHEET

Türkiye

February 2025

Developments in Syria are leading some refugees to return voluntarily, nearing 81,600 by January 2025 from Türkiye, which hosts one of the largest refugee populations globally with a comprehensive and inclusive legal framework.

UNHCR supports the government and works in coordination with diverse stakeholders, including civil society in advancing refugee protection, inclusion, access to solutions, including voluntary return, and improving social cohesion.

Responsibility sharing to enhance access to social services remains integral, with diversified and flexible funding for the refugee response, complemented with resettlement and complementary pathways.

POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2024)*

Syrians under temporary protection	**2.82 million****
Refugees and asylum-seekers under international protection	**230,250***

Top countries of origin*

Refugees

Syrian Arab Rep.	2,820,362**
Iraq	12,909
Afghanistan	12,549

Asylum-seekers

Afghanistan	91,373
Iraq	89,397
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	9,280

** UNHCR Mid-Year Statistical Report 2024 and UNHCR data finder*
*** Official figure as of February 2025 available at www.goc.gov.tr*

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

In southeast Türkiye, UNHCR monitors voluntary returns along border crossings while addressing the needs of around 1.5 million refugees and the host community affected by the 2023 earthquakes through shelter, core relief items, legal advice, cash assistance and protection monitoring.

In northwest Türkiye, along the Marmara region, UNHCR and partners facilitate access to services, work to increase self-reliance and promote social cohesion for over 800,000 refugees predominately in urban settings. UNHCR's support includes legal counselling to apprehended individuals along the western land borders and monitoring voluntary returns in provinces and at the Istanbul Airport.

In the Aegean and West Mediterranean region, UNHCR facilitates access to rights and services for 210,000 refugees, mainly in urban settings while providing assistance and referrals of people intercepted or rescued at sea borders through its partners. UNHCR also monitors voluntary return.

In the Central and Eastern Anatolia as well as along the Black Sea region, UNHCR supports access to rights and services for 630,000 refugees and monitors voluntary return.

Socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Türkiye

Access to higher education for refugees

Through DAFI scholarships and higher education cash grants, UNHCR provides direct support to refugee university students, and assists refugees from Syria to access tertiary education in collaboration with the Presidency of Turks Abroad and Related Communities. In 2024, 2,467 students were supported; 1,792 with DAFI scholarships and 675 with higher education cash grants directly paid by UNHCR.

Access to the labour market for refugees

UNHCR cooperates with institutions, municipalities and civil society to address challenges faced by refugees in accessing jobs. Together with the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality and the Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce, UNHCR supports job counselling, job-matching, capacity-building and on-the-job training for refugees and host community members. In collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, UNHCR organizes information sessions on work permit procedures and legal rights. In 2024, 26,650 individuals benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions. UNHCR is also exploring collaboration with the International Finance Corporation in Türkiye through the UNHCR – IFC Joint initiative to create sustainable economic opportunities for refugees through the private sector.



UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi affirms Türkiye's support for refugee

As part of his regional visit, High Commissioner Grandi visited Cilvegözü (Bab al-Hawa) border gate in Hatay, one of the border crossings through which voluntary returns from Türkiye to Syria are taking place. Accompanied by the President of Migration Management Atilla Toros, Grandi met with Syrian refugees who are considering to return home after years of displacement.

Read more here.

Key Priorities

- UNHCR advocates for refugees' **access to fair and efficient protection procedures** and adequate standards and safeguards by working with its main counterpart, the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) and its provincial directories (PDMMs), under the Ministry of Interior.
- UNHCR works with the Government to **strengthen capacity** for processing voluntary returns, provide **support for vulnerable refugees** during the return process, **ensure protection standards in return planning** and uphold accountability. UNHCR has enhanced its monitoring of voluntary returns in 12 provinces, four land border crossing points and at Istanbul International Airport.
- With the aim of **strengthening access to protection services**, Protection Desks situated in UNHCR-supported PDMMs engage in identification and referral of people with specific needs. UNHCR also works with partners to identify and refer refugees and asylum-seekers to necessary services and provides cash for protection and protection counselling, while social services are provided in cooperation with the Ministry of Family and Social Services.
- UNHCR expedites **resettlement processing** of the most vulnerable refugees. In 2024, 14,400 resettlement submissions were made, including 10,542 Syrians, 3,247 Afghans and 451 Iranians. In total, 10,650 refugees departed to third countries in 2024, including 6,978 Syrians, 2,599 Afghans and 963 Iraqis. UNHCR also supports refugees in pursuing complementary pathways to third countries - for work or study opportunities as well as reuniting with family members, or seeking private sponsorships.
- UNHCR's **capacity development** supports the operational and technical capabilities of national institutions and civil society to meet the specific needs of refugees and address social cohesion. UNHCR's partners carry out capacity-building activities for local NGOs and refugee-led organizations. UNHCR also engages in coordination meetings to improve outreach and address the urgent needs of refugees.
- UNHCR **engages with the private sector in Türkiye**, and internationally, on funding and partnerships to provide assistance and long-term livelihoods opportunities to refugees. Through the **UNHCR-International Finance Corporation (IFC)** Joint initiative based in Istanbul, UNHCR seeks to advance economic inclusion and strengthen the resilience of refugees and host community members.
- In cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and other partners, UNHCR seeks to improve the social cohesion between the refugee and host communities through **sports for protection** activities.
- Public institutions, civil society organizations and the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Türkiye are engaged in good practices in the refugee response, the list can be found on the good practices portal of UNHCR Türkiye.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with authorities, public institutions, civil society, donors, humanitarian and development actors, the private sector, international financial institutions, academia, media, refugees and the host community to promote refugee inclusion into national systems, find solutions and foster social cohesion. In addition to its close partnership with the UNCT, UNHCR provides financial and human resources support to the Resident Coordinator's Office.
- UNHCR has **partnership agreements** with 10 local partners to strengthen their refugee response in 2025.
- UNHCR co-leads **the Regional Refugee Resilience Plan**, the regional coordination platform for the Syrian refugee response. Within this framework, UNHCR chairs the Protection and Basic Needs sectors and the Information Management working group. Within the scope of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, UNHCR co-chairs the results group on International Protection and Migration.

Statelessness

- Türkiye is a party to the 1954 UN Convention on Statelessness. In 2020, UNHCR and PMM developed SoP on statelessness determination. According to TurkStat figures, there are 420 stateless individuals residing in Türkiye as of end-2024.

UNHCR Presence in Türkiye

Staff:

306 National Staff
40 International Staff

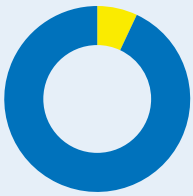
Offices:

1 Country Office in Ankara
3 Field Offices in Ankara, Izmir, Istanbul
1 Sub Office in Gaziantep
4 Field units in Hatay/Adana, Şanlıurfa, Edirne and Van
3 Resettlement hubs in Ankara, Istanbul, Gaziantep

Financial Information (as of 31 January 2025)

Financial requirements

$ 280 M



Funded 7%
$ 20.9 M

Funding gap 93%
$ 259.1 M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors in 2024 and 2025:

Australia | Belgium | Denmark | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.