

Budapest Process: UNHCR Presents Route-Based Approach to Manage Mixed Movements Effectively and Save Lives.

The Budapest Process, chaired by Türkiye, brought together over 50 governments and international organisations in İstanbul for the Senior Officials Meeting. It served as a dynamic platform for intergovernmental exchange on legal mobility, integration, international protection, prevention of irregular migration and trafficking in persons.



The Representative and the Deputy Representative of UNHCR in Türkiye at the 37th Budapest Process Senior Officials Meeting in İstanbul. Photo courtesy: ICMPD.

Highlights

- On 21 November, noting Vice President Cevdet Yılmaz's remarks, the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) shared that **560,000 Syrians have voluntarily returned from Türkiye to Syria** since the fall of the Assad regime on 8 December 2024. UNHCR monitored and interviewed 72 per cent of all recorded returns in 22 provinces, at six border crossings and three airports.
- On 26 and 27 November, UNHCR participated in the 37th Senior Officials Meeting of the Budapest Process held in İstanbul, Türkiye. Ms. Daniela Cicchella, Deputy Representative of UNHCR in Türkiye, along with experts from IOM, ILO, UNODC, and ICMPD, joined a panel discussion on recent developments in the Silk Route region. During the panel discussion, UNHCR presented the **Route-Based Approach** to manage mixed and onward movements of refugees and migrants along the routes to Europe. She highlighted UNHCR's key interventions, including facilitating voluntary returns to countries of origin (where conditions are conducive), providing life-saving assistance, protection-centered engagements, promoting inclusion, critical measures to prevent trafficking in persons, and enhancing safe, regular, and complementary pathways. At the conclusion of the 2-day meeting, UNHCR Representative Ms. Angela Li Rosi highlighted the importance of establishing robust asylum systems alongside migration management. She also called for expanding protection-sensitive pathways and tackling challenges throughout the entire migration route. The UNHCR Representative urged participants to pursue a comprehensive, multifaceted approach to finding solutions rather than a linear one.



UNHCR Representative Ms. Angela Li Rosi.

Recent Developments

National

On 30 October, Türkiye's [2026 Presidential Annual Programme](#) was published in the Official Journal. The program details Türkiye's key priorities regarding migration and refugees within its broader national development and governance framework. It reasserts the government's dedication to managing migration responsibly, grounded in human rights and supported by evidence, with a focus on both safeguarding individuals and maintaining public order. The programme underscores continued access for refugees and migrants to health, education, and social services. It noted the integration of migration health services into the national system, training for Migrant Health Centre staff, and vocational and social cohesion initiatives for youth under temporary protection.

On 17 November, during the Planning and Budget Commission session of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, the Minister of Interior outlined Türkiye's migration management, noting that as of 31 October 2025, the country hosts 3,615,491 foreigners, including 2,381,326 Syrians under temporary protection, 1,085,040 residence permit holders, and 149,125 international protection applicants. In addition to information on various migration and border management actions of the Ministry, the Minister noted that 238,697 Syrians had received exceptional citizenship before June 2023, and 2,147 have been naturalised since he took office.



On 26 November, the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office [co-signed](#) the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the period of 2026-2030. This framework, developed with 20 UN entities, will contribute to Türkiye's national development priorities set out in the Twelfth Development Plan 2024-2028, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals. Within the scope of this framework, UNHCR is co-chairing with IOM the results group working for refugees and migrants. Refugee inclusion is a core element across all pillars of the framework, with specific focus on equitable access to services, inclusive livelihoods, prevention of gender-based violence, and climate and disaster resilience in refugee-hosting areas. A dedicated workstream on migration and displacement governance, covering asylum systems and durable solutions, positions UNHCR as a key Inter-Agency actor, with one of the main results groups focusing on International Protection.

Global

In November, UNHCR published the [Global Appeal 2026](#). This Global Appeal sets out our plans to continue delivering life-saving protection and solutions, making the case for funding the organization that remains determined to protect, respond, empower, include, and seek solutions for forcibly displaced, returnees, and stateless people. The Global Appeal is scheduled to be formally presented to Member States at the UNHCR pledging conference on 2 December 2025.

For 2026, the funding need for UNHCR's response in Türkiye is USD 210 million, making it the second-highest in Europe after Ukraine. The response plan aims at (1) attaining favourable protection environments; (2) realizing basic rights in safe environments; (3) empowering communities and achieving gender equality; and (4) securing solutions. **UNHCR Türkiye is the only operation in Europe that addresses all four impact areas.**



Protection-Assistance & Advocacy

Protection and Access to Services

From January to October, UNHCR Türkiye Counselling Line responded to 172,022 calls (mostly from Afghan, Syrian, and Iranian refugees) from 81 provinces. Most queries were related to resettlement, legal assistance, and financial support.

Digital violence targeting women and girls online is increasing every day; whereas digital spaces should instead be empowering, safe, and inclusive, promoting learning, employment, and social participation. During the **16 Days of Activism** campaign this year, the UN country team, including UNHCR, is addressing this concern and advancing the steps needed to resolve it.

So far in 2025, UNHCR provided medical support to nearly 1,100 refugees and asylum seekers through its contracted clinics. The majority of the recipients are from Afghanistan and Iran. All medical referrals were made for individuals with inactive health insurance. Furthermore, UNHCR supported assessed individuals by providing prescribed medications and transportation support to access the medical services.



The UN Country Team is launching the 16 Days of Activism campaign in Ankara.

Access to Territory and Asylum Procedures

On 17 November, UNHCR held a meeting with the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) to ensure synergy between their respective efforts. During the meeting, EUAA presented the upcoming activities planned under the EUAA–PMM Roadmap and sought UNHCR's facilitation in the forthcoming workshop on Temporary Protection. UNHCR outlined the activities currently implemented and planned. Both agreed to continue regular coordination meetings to ensure alignment, avoid duplication, and deliver consistent messages regarding asylum procedures.

In October 2025, UNHCR and partners delivered over 5,450 core relief items, including baby food, water, hygiene products, and clothing for people in need through the border authorities and Gendarmerie (law enforcement force under the Ministry of Interior) in Edirne, İzmir, Balıkesir, and Muğla to address the basic needs of individuals who were rescued. From January to October 2025, UNHCR has distributed a total of 50,637 core relief items. However, due to funding constraints, this assistance will be phased out once the current stock is exhausted.

To identify the people at risk of trafficking in person, UNHCR conducted an exercise with UNHCR data sources, including counselling line intakes, protection assessment forms, and best interest assessments (for children). Preliminary analysis of relevant cases provides insights into the profile of people at risk (such as age, nationality, gender, and province of residence), work-related trafficking indicators (including child labour) and other trafficking indicators. UNHCR will utilize these insights in advocacy to improve structured pre-screening and the accuracy of referrals.

Legal Aid and Legal Assistance

From January to October 2025, UNHCR, in partnership with the Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA), provided legal assistance to **6,582** refugees and asylum-seekers for **10,373** cases, through six Legal Clinics in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Van, Hatay, Kilis and Malatya. During the same period, the legal clinics reached out to **1,385** people, including refugees from Afghanistan and Syria, through awareness-raising sessions.

The **TBBApp automation system** received 3,595 submissions in the 2025 cycle until the end of October. Most of these submissions were made for appeals before administrative courts, covering appeals against deportation orders, rejection of applications for international protection, etc. They also supported civil cases on divorce/custody, guardianship, etc.



Support for Solutions

Voluntary Returns

In November, UNHCR continued the cash assistance for voluntary return under the programme funded by the EU and implemented in partnership with PMM. Under the same programme, during 10-13 November, UNHCR organized two training sessions in Ankara for 60 PMM and PDMM staff. The sessions focused on access to legal aid, referral mechanisms and detailed explanations regarding the cash assistance programme. During the evaluation, the participants mentioned that the training contributed to the accurate identification of beneficiaries for cash assistance and legal aid referrals.

Social Cohesion

On 11–12 November, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) and [FC Barcelona Foundation](#), organized the Sports for Protection Workshop for 66 coaches in the project locations, i.e., Denizli, İzmir, Manisa, as well as seven additional provinces identified by MoYS. The workshop covered the project's objectives and activities, the concept of protection through sport, the role of sports in safeguarding children's rights, the power of sport for refugees, social cohesion and inclusion, psychosocial well-being, and sport as a tool for peace and development.

Refugee women in İzmir came together with UNHCR and its partner "Support to Life" to strengthened solidarity within the community. For many women participating in the project, such events are a tangible way to carve out a place for themselves in a new country. UNHCR Türkiye, along with civil society partners, continues to provide protection and life-saving services to individuals who have been forced to flee violence and persecution.



Participants of social cohesion activities in İzmir.

Education, Livelihoods, and Economic Inclusion

On 11 November, UNHCR announced the second round of the UNHCR Coursera Social Impact Programme and called for applications from potential refugee participants. [Coursera](#) is a leading global online learning platform offering courses from world-class universities and industry leaders. The UNHCR Coursera Social Impact Programme aims to facilitate access to Coursera online learning opportunities for refugees in Türkiye. As of 21 November, UNHCR has received 505 new applications and identified 178 eligible applicants. In the first round of the programme, more than 600 refugees enrolled in over 1,700 training courses on various subjects such as data science, digital marketing, leadership skills, generative AI, and e-commerce.

Inter-Agency Coordination

As part of the ongoing Inter-Agency Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Risk Assessment, several focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted by PSEA Network Co-Chairs, including UNHCR, in Gaziantep, İzmir, İstanbul, and Ankara. On 21 October 2025, the Ankara FGD, supported by UNHCR, included discussions with Syrian and Afghan women, marking the completion of primary data collection aimed at identifying community perceptions of SEA, awareness of reporting mechanisms, and barriers to safe disclosure.

Funding Information

UNHCR is grateful for generous contributions from its donors, who have provided both earmarked and flexible funding to support its operations in Türkiye (as of 31 October 2025).

US\$ 280 million

UNHCR requested for the operation in Türkiye for 2025.

