



Syrian children at classroom tent, Turkey. Photo: UNHCR Turkey.

UNHCR Gravely Concerned About Dramatic Escalation of Syria Exodus

Since the current turmoil in Syria began in March 2011, over 265,000 people have so far been forced to flee their homes in search of safety in the neighbouring countries of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. Many depend on assistance from the United Nations and the goodwill of their hosts to survive. As lead agency within the UN system, UNHCR has led and coordinated relief aid for refugees in host countries.

Following the unrest in Syria, Turkey has maintained an open-border policy since the first arrivals from Syria took place in April 2011. In the first half of 2012, the numbers of new arrivals in Turkey have sharply increased largely owing to the security situation in Syria. The Government of Turkey has established a Temporary Protection regime for all Syrians which means; an open border policy, no forced return, no limit of duration of stay in Turkey, possibility to get assistance in the camps for all Syrians. The UNHCR Turkey Representative Carol Batchelor stated: "the authorities have very consistently ensured access to protection for all those in need. We are grateful for the assurance of an open border policy, and for the extensive support and assistance provided to Syrians fleeing conflict in their country".

Since the Syrian crisis started in March last year, nearly 80,000 people have sought formal protection in Turkey. Syrians in Turkey are currently hosted in 9 camps in Hatay, Gaziantep, Sanliurfa and Kilis. The total population of Syrians in Turkey has essentially reached over 50,000 people, half of which are children. There are nearly 40,000 refugees in Jordan, 35,000 in Lebanon and over 9,000 in Iraq.

Upon the request of the Government of Turkey, a UNHCR team deployed to Hatay at the end of February 2012. UNHCR now has a presence in all four provinces where refugees are hosted: Kilis, Islahiye (Gaziantep), Ceylanpinar (Urfa) and Hatay. The UNHCR

team provides technical assistance on registration, camp management, and voluntary repatriation as well as in any areas required by the Government of Turkey under UNHCR's mandate for protection. As lead agency, UNHCR facilitates coordination for the UN Country Team in Turkey on UN support activities and undertakings for those hosted by the Government of Turkey. Key agencies involved in contingency planning include UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, IOM, UNHCR and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office.

UNHCR, to support the Government of Turkey, provided humanitarian assistance in total of 4 shipments of: 5,100 tents, 34,140 blankets and 2,016 kitchen sets for the Syrian people protected by Turkey. The number of persons provided non-food items support by UNHCR's donations reached to 25,500. UNICEF has provided the Government with 100 Early Childhood Development and 100 recreational kits, as well as 150 tents which could serve as child-friendly spaces. IOM is supporting the Government with non-food items and in agreement with the Government of Turkey, WFP is in preparation of implementation of a food voucher programme for food assistance up to 30,000 people for 6 months.

Under the leadership of the UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator, Mr. Panos Moutziz, the UN system and its partners have made an appeal of 193 Million Dollars with the Regional Response Plan re-launched on 28 June 2012 to help Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq in support of increased arrivals from Syria with extreme needs. Less than 35 per cent of this has been funded to date. "The governments and host communities of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey have shown tremendous generosity and hospitality to Syrian refugees", said Panos Moutziz, UNHCR's Regional Coordinator for Syrian Refugees. "It is essential that the international community steps up its support for relief operations for refugees."

UNHCR continues to welcome Turkey's generosity, humanitarianism and respect for international principles which ensure those in need of protection can receive protection and assistance.



Tents of Turkish Red Crescent Agency, Ceylanpinar, Sanliurfa.

UNHCR Turkey's Monthly Statistics as of July 2012*

Refugees and Asylum Seekers by Age, Gender and Country As of 31.07.2012

Country	0-4		5-11		12-17		18-59		60+		Total by Country
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
AFGHANISTAN	250	268	481	563	433	722	1289	1535	40	59	5640
IRAN	145	158	228	277	190	269	1952	2802	104	99	6224
IRAQ	553	586	791	868	597	718	2971	4152	265	298	11799
SOMALIA	88	97	150	168	167	186	556	554	10	6	1982
OTHERS	130	160	137	156	116	134	633	1081	13	7	2567
TOTAL F/M	1166	1269	1787	2032	1503	2029	7401	10124	432	469	-
GRAND TOTAL	2435		3819		3532		17525		901		28212

F=Female, M=Male

Refugees by Age, Gender and Country As of 31.07.2012

Country	0-4		5-11		12-17		18-59		60+		Total by Country
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
AFGHANISTAN	122	139	278	321	258	360	760	882	17	30	3167
IRAN	75	85	122	150	98	149	970	1345	53	37	3084
IRAQ	355	370	506	556	359	446	1985	2786	196	218	7777
SOMALIA	63	65	100	123	104	109	373	376	5	4	1322
OTHERS	46	45	37	49	33	38	189	303	2	2	744
TOTAL F/M	661	704	1043	1199	852	1102	4277	5692	273	291	-
GRAND TOTAL	1365		2242		1954		9969		564		16094

F=Female, M=Male

Asylum Seekers by Age, Gender and Country As of 31.07.2012

Country	0-4		5-11		12-17		18-59		60+		Total by Country
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
AFGHANISTAN	128	129	203	242	175	362	529	653	23	29	3350
IRAN	70	73	106	127	92	120	982	1457	51	62	5154
IRAQ	198	216	285	312	238	272	986	1366	69	80	6053
SOMALIA	25	32	50	45	63	77	183	178	5	2	1020
OTHERS	84	115	100	107	83	96	444	778	11	5	1823
TOTAL F/M	505	565	744	833	651	927	3124	4432	159	178	-
GRAND TOTAL	1070		1577		1578		7556		337		12118

F=Female, M=Male

*Syrians are hosted under the temporary protection regime outlined by the Government of Turkey. Therefore the numbers are not included in the statistics.