



UN High Commissioner António Guterres and UNHCR Turkey Representative Carol Batchelor are with the Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, 10 March 2013, Ankara, Photo © M.Gökhan Koç/UNHCR

UNHCR's High Commissioner Guterres visit to Turkey, 9-12 March 2013

Guterres expresses his appreciation for Turkey's stated open-door policy and acknowledged the high standards provided by the Government of Turkey in providing assistance in camps.

From 9 to 12 March 2013, the UNHCR High Commissioner António Guterres paid a regional visit to neighboring countries (namely Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan) hosting the largest number of Syrian refugees to review the humanitarian situation with regard to the Syria emergency.

Guterres began his visit to Turkey with meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Beşir Atalay, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Minister of Interior Mr. Muammer Güler. In his meetings with the government representatives the HC expressed his appreciation for Turkey's stated open-door policy and acknowledged the high standards provided by the Government of Turkey in providing assistance in camps for Syrian refugees. The HC continued his journey in Gaziantep, where he met with the local authorities, after which he visited refugee camp Nizip 1, where he met with the refugees. Finally he went to a coordination center where registration for urban refugees takes place.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres hailed Turkey for its assistance towards tens of thousands of Syrian refugees, including the launch of a government operation to register refugees in urban areas. As of March 2013, 40,954 Syrian refugees have been registered in urban areas in addition to 189,681 registered in refugee camps, which makes the total number of registered refugees in Turkey 230,635. Some 31,000 further Syrians are awaiting registration in urban areas.

"I would like to take this opportunity to express once again UNHCR's appreciation to the Government of Turkey which has consistently and efficiently provided protection and shelter to Syrian refu-

gees. Turkey has set a clear example of humanitarian leadership during an emergency", the HC said.

While in Ankara, the HC Guterres met with the President of AFAD -the Disaster and Emergency Management Agency- and with the President of the Turkish Red Crescent Society Mr. Ahmet Lütfi Akar. The High Commissioner signed a cooperation agreement with the AFAD to fund 10 mobile coordination centers and praised AFAD for their capacity and response to the Syrian refugee situation. He underlined the importance of innovations AFAD is leading, such as the mobile coordination centers which will be used in the urban areas where any Syrian can come and be registered and through this be linked to assistance. "Registration is essential for refugee protection," he stressed and called the new registration system "innovative and an example of a best practice." The HC said UNHCR planned to contribute to the effort by offering its expertise to expand capacity and identify the most vulnerable refugees and those with special needs.

During his meeting with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), the UNHCR High Commissioner had also opportunity to sign an accord with the TRC on cooperation in logistics, emergency and contingency support to UNHCR's operations globally. The purpose of this agreement as described by the High Commissioner Guterres and TRC President Akar is to strengthen the ongoing partnership between the TRC and the UNHCR and to expand their cooperation to a global level.

Throughout his visit, the High Commissioner stressed that – "the number of Syrians either registered as refugees or being assisted as such in the neighboring countries had reached the one million mark in the first week of March 2013. This number translates into one million people who are dependent on the generosity of host countries, the response of humanitarian agencies and the financial support of governments and individuals," said the UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres and added "We could have up to 3 million by the end of the year if the was doesn't stop. Our key objective is to make sure that, whatever the dimension of the tragedy, borders and protection space remains open". Guterres called on the international community to "establish a much stronger bilateral cooperation with Turkey, supporting this remarkable effort, not only helping refugees but contributing to the stability of the region."



UN High Commissioner António Guterres listening a Syrian refugee family in their tent, 10 March 2013, Gaziantep, Photo © Mert Gökhan Koç/UNHCR Turkey

UNHCR Turkey's Monthly Statistics as of 31 March 2013*

Active Caseload Breakdown by Gender and Age As of 31.01.2013

Country	0-4		5-11		12-17		18-59		60 +		TOTAL
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
AFGHANISTAN	372	380	741	871	652	1161	2035	2706	70	96	9084
IRAN	157	153	240	308	206	276	2193	3228	106	107	6974
IRAQ	599	687	975	1081	673	837	3482	4741	288	328	13691
SOMALIA	73	99	157	161	167	195	618	622	13	6	2111
OTHERS	120	157	150	169	106	152	745	1084	20	13	2716
TOTAL F/M	1321	1476	2263	2590	1804	2621	9073	12381	497	550	-
GRAND TOTAL	2797		4853		4425		21454		1047		34576

Refugees by Age, Gender and Country As of 31.01.2013

Country	0-4		5-11		12-17		18-59		60 +		TOTAL
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
AFGHANISTAN	133	133	293	344	298	416	897	1055	23	37	3629
IRAN	57	68	123	150	98	147	1044	1437	71	64	3259
IRAQ	465	528	766	832	542	616	2816	3784	249	283	10871
SOMALIA	62	82	139	140	135	156	512	448	11	5	1720
OTHERS	57	68	61	71	48	72	287	419	16	6	1105
TOTAL F/M	774	879	1382	1537	1121	1407	5556	7173	370	385	-
GRAND TOTAL	1653		2919		2528		12729		755		20584

Asylum Seekers by Age, Gender and Country As of 31.01.2013

Country	0-4		5-11		12-17		18-59		60 +		TOTAL
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
AFGHANISTAN	239	247	448	527	354	745	1138	1651	47	59	5455
IRAN	100	85	117	158	108	129	1149	1791	35	43	3715
IRAQ	134	159	209	249	131	221	666	957	39	55	2820
SOMALIA	11	17	18	21	32	39	106	144	2	1	391
OTHERS	63	89	89	98	58	80	458	665	4	7	1611
TOTAL F/M	547	597	881	1053	683	1214	3517	5208	127	165	-
GRAND TOTAL	1144		1934		1897		8725		292		13992

* Syrians are hosted under the temporary protection regime outlined by the Government of Turkey. Therefore the numbers are not included in the statistics, for updated information please visit UNHCR's Information Sharing Portal on Syria: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>