

# Turkey

October 2017

## Over 3.5 million refugees

Turkey continues to host the world's largest refugee population.

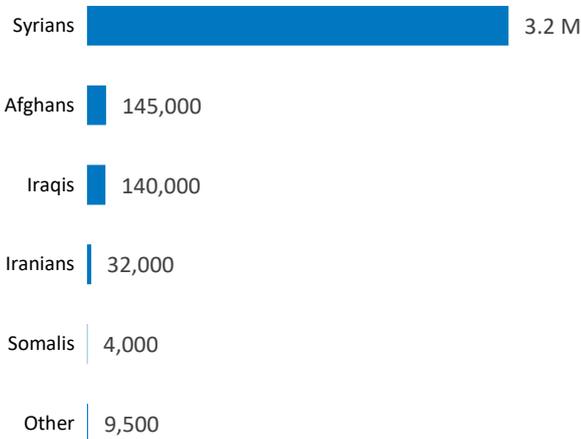
## Predominantly out of camp

More than 90 per cent of refugees in Turkey live outside of camps in urban and peri-urban areas.

## Mostly children and women

70 per cent of refugees in Turkey are women and children.

### POPULATION BREAKDOWN



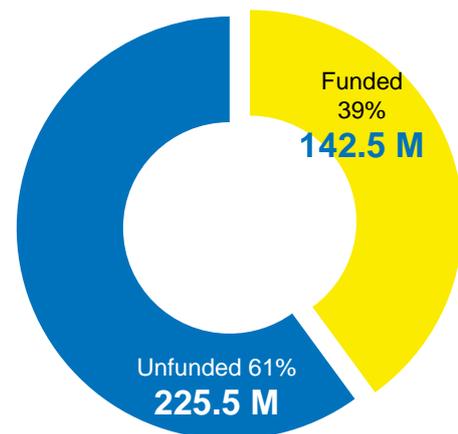
\* Data source for Syrian Population: DGMM as of 05 October 2017.

\* Data source for Non-Syrian Population: UNHCR proGres 30 September 2017.

### FUNDING (AS OF 02 OCTOBER)

**USD 368 M**

requested for Turkey



### UNHCR AND PARTNER PRESENCE



## Working with Partners

- The Government of Turkey leads the refugee response with UNHCR providing direct operational support, capacity building and technical advice to the Turkish authorities. As the refugee agency, UNHCR also coordinates the efforts of the UN agencies and partners to support Turkey's refugee response to avoid duplication and gaps in international assistance. In this role, UNHCR co-leads the Regional Refugee Resilience and Response Plan (3RP) for the Syria crisis with UNDP and the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) with IOM.
- UNHCR in Turkey implements its programmes through various partnerships, namely by supporting public institutions at the national and local levels, through international and national NGOs and with private service providers.

## Main Activities\*

### Registration and Refugee Status Determination

- **Verify registration data of 2.7 million Syrian refugees under Temporary Protection:** The Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), with the support of UNHCR, is conducting a verification exercise to update and obtain missing information, including biometric data, contact information, and detailed background information such as occupation, education and vulnerabilities of refugees. This will introduce verification as a continuous part of registration. The project is being rolled out in all 81 provinces divided into seven zones, with UNHCR supporting DGMM regarding issues on Temporary Protection, and identification and protection of persons with special needs.
- **Register new asylum-seekers from countries other than Syria:** 71,233 asylum-seekers were registered by UNHCR by the end of September 2017. The main nationality was Afghan, closely followed by Iraqi, Iranian, and Somali.
- **Conduct UNHCR-DGMM joint registration activities** to expand collaboration in terms of data sharing modalities regarding registration of asylum-seekers who apply for International Protection with the Turkish authorities. The aim of which is to gradually transition registration functions to DGMM. A pilot phase began in July 2017 with DGMM starting to process Iranian cases. It is expected that by October DGMM will start processing all asylum-seekers registered by UNHCR. As of the end of September 2017, DGMM processed 1,826 individuals under this joint framework.
- **Transition Refugee Status Determination (RSD) activities into national procedures:** UNHCR is further strengthening its cooperation with DGMM to build a strong and quality national asylum system and RSD procedures. UNHCR conducts capacity-building activities for DGMM and PDMM adjudicators, including on-the-job visits to coach PDMM personnel involved in RSD, who are also hosted in UNHCR's processing office in Ankara as part of staff exchange programmes.
- **Conduct Mandate RSD:** 11,672 individuals received an RSD decision from UNHCR under its mandate as of end of September 2017. In 2016, above 20,000 decisions were issued, the highest number ever reached by UNHCR Turkey.

## Resettlement

- **Conduct resettlement based on a rigorous prioritization** of cases with the most acute vulnerabilities or protection risks. Nearly 29,000 refugees were submitted for resettlement in 2016, and the current target for 2017 is 32,000 individuals.

## Protection

- **Promote access to national protection mechanisms:** UNHCR is strengthening its partnerships with frontline institutions and upscaling advocacy initiatives towards the Turkish authorities concerning registration, access to asylum and protection. In addition, improving access to legal remedies and assistance remains a priority.
- **Provide legislative support** to ensure that laws and policies incorporate principles and standards compliant with international refugee law. As well as promote coherence of actions on the ground with the legal framework in place and ensure that refugees enjoy their rights and access to services which promote self-reliance.
- **Ensure regular protection monitoring** of the situation of persons of concern to identify individuals with specific needs, assess their vulnerability and refer them to necessary protection interventions by state service providers and/or partners.
- **Monitor voluntariness of return:** UNHCR collaborates with PDMMs in several locations in southeast Turkey and Ankara by monitoring interviews conducted by PDMM staff with Syrians wishing to return spontaneously to their country of origin. While it neither facilitates nor promotes repatriation to Syria, UNHCR monitors interviews only to ascertain the voluntariness of the returns.
- **Ensure detained refugees and asylum-seekers have access to legal remedies and national asylum procedures,** in compliance with the principle of non-refoulement, by regularly monitoring detention.
- **Support integration of refugees and asylum-seekers into public services** in sectors such as education, health, social assistance, child protection, legal representation, prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and support to persons with specific needs and vulnerabilities to ensure persons of concern benefit from existing protection mechanisms. In close cooperation with line ministries and municipalities, persons of concern's access to social services is facilitated to promote sustainability of the response and improve social cohesion.
- **Harmonize provision of assistance and services between Syrians under Temporary Protection and refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities** to ensure that the level of assistance provided by UNHCR and its partners is provided equally and to the maximum extent possible.
- **Increase the capacity of the existing national social and protection system:** to provide services to persons of concern with specific needs. UNHCR supports the Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP) to strengthen the capacity of their Social Service Centers. Apart from training activities for staff on international protection, outreach work and psychosocial support (PSS), support is provided through provision of interpreters, social workers, equipment, vehicles, office spaces and refurbishment of existing spaces.
- **Ensure clear roles and coordinated action on family tracing and reunification activities** through coordination with the Government of Turkey, the Turkish Red Crescent Society, other UN agencies and NGOs.
- **Prioritize prevention and response for children identified at higher risk** through a child protection systems-building approach. During 2017 UNHCR's capacity building training of staff and partners emphasized on best interest procedures as part of the individual case management system.
- **Reach out and communicate with refugee communities to engage them directly in protection responses:** ensure the persons of concern have the information they need to access protection and assistance services,

as well as to make informed decisions about their lives. UNHCR also aims to receive information and feedback from the different refugee communities for its activities to best meet the needs of affected communities. The communication channels and tools used by UNHCR in Turkey include outreach and information sessions; engagement with key influencers; one-to-one counselling (in person, via the UNHCR/ASAM phone counselling line and through written correspondence); printed materials; and online platforms and other digital tools.

- **Support networks of active refugee and Turkish youth:** in line with the priorities identified through the national Youth Empowerment Action Plan, youth are engaged in activities on social cohesion, education, and prevention of child marriage with the assistance of UNHCR and partners. UNHCR implements a dedicated youth project with the support of the HQ Youth Initiative Fund to reach out to both Syrian and Turkish youth to raise awareness on various subjects as well as help foster community relations.
- **Enhance community-based psychosocial support** by continuing to reach out to international and national organizations focusing on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to map available resources and establish functional referral pathways for the implementation of community-based PSS.
- **Develop capacity building activities to strengthen technical abilities of national authorities and humanitarian partners** to ensure implementation of a rights-based approach and efficient implementation of the legal framework.

## Education

- **Bolster the efforts of the authorities to ensure access to education for school-age children:** UNHCR supports the Ministry of National Education's (MoNE) efforts to include refugee children in the national education system through community outreach on educational services. In addition UNHCR has procured over 900,000 Turkish language textbooks and helped prepare children to enrol in schools.
- **Provide opportunities for advanced Turkish language programmes in partnership with the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB):** high school graduates can benefit from these programmes to enable them to meet language proficiency requirements for higher education enrolment. Over the last few years, young refugees have benefited from 1,600 scholarships per session for the intensive 10-month accredited Turkish language programme.
- **Provide higher education scholarships through UNHCR's DAFI scholarship programme:** Turkey now implements the largest DAFI programme in the world with a total of 814 refugee youth awarded scholarships. This includes tuition costs and a monthly stipend for accommodation and living expenses.

## Basic Needs and Cash-based Interventions

- **Provide winter assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers:** this remains a key priority for UNHCR, especially for the most exposed in urban areas whose vulnerabilities increase over the winter period with rising costs. A winter assistance programme is being developed for 2017-18. It aims to target an estimated 3,200 Iraqi households, 60,000 Syrian households and 4,600 households of other nationalities.
- **Provide basic needs cash assistance to particularly vulnerable refugees and persons with specific needs:** by the end of 2017, around 2,800 Iraqi and other nationality households and up to 2,000 Syrian households will receive monthly financial assistance. Additionally, UNHCR is developing a financial support programme for LGBTI persons, separated children, adolescents released from orphanages, individuals at risk of survival sex, individuals with disabilities, persons with serious medical conditions, and children involved in hazardous work and other forms of child labour.

- **Deliver cash assistance and grants for education, livelihoods and shelter support:** UNHCR is continuing its cash-based support for education, focusing on higher education. An entrepreneurship grant programme is being launched for start-ups and business development of existing refugee-owned enterprises. In August UNHCR began a pilot project to give direct cash transfers to support shelter improvements.
- **Distribute core relief items to those most in need in urban areas:** through partners in the field, mini-fridges, hot plates and kitchen cabinets are being delivered.
- **Support improvement of sanitation and hygiene conditions:** hygiene kits continue to be delivered to address some of the health needs of the refugee population both in and out of the camps. Shower, WC and accommodation containers are provided to frontline institutions to improve sanitary conditions as part of the Mediterranean response.

### Livelihoods

- **Enhance refugees' access to the labour market:** support related to labour market integration in cooperation with the Government will continue. This includes collaboration with the authorities for access to formal employment and through advocacy for harmonization of legal provisions for all refugees. Training and information will continue to be provided to concerned employers and refugee communities on legal provisions and administrative procedures.
- **Address increasing livelihood needs and improve self-reliance through promotion of skills development and employability** by providing language and vocational trainings, entrepreneurship support, work permit and business licensing facilitation as well as through organizing events to link employers and employees.
- **Increase cooperation and partnerships with private sector actors to ensure employability:** Outreach activities are continuing in the form of large-scale sector, geographical and supplier-based events with national and international brands as well as chambers of commerce, associations, and organized industrial zones to raise awareness and share information on refugee employment and work permit procedures. Follow up support is provided for actual recruitment of refugees with over 1,000 international companies, SMEs, and employee and employers' associations already engaged in this dialogue.

### Health

- **Overcome barriers to improve health service delivery:** while the legal framework provides access to health care for all refugees and asylum-seekers, language continues to be an obstacle to providing quality services throughout Turkey. UNHCR provides interpreters to hospitals throughout the country. Trainings on international legal protection and national legislation related to health issues are provided to Turkish MoH staff to strengthen understanding, harmonize dissemination of information and support consistent implementation of legislation. Also, in cooperation with MoH and DGMM, leaflets on persons of concerns' access to health services have been distributed in several languages.

### Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- **Support the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) in the management of camps in southeastern Turkey:** UNHCR ensures regular staff presence in the camps to offer technical assistance on registration, camp management, identification of vulnerabilities, other protection concerns and to monitor voluntary repatriation. Additional technical support is provided on education, health and nutrition, water and sanitation and site planning on a regular basis. Other assistance includes shelter (including tents), winter items, vocational training programmes and materials for people with special needs (see Basic Needs). UNHCR provided AFAD with minibuses to transport refugees to training activities and events organized both in and out of camp settings. WC and shower containers are provided as needed.

\* Main activity data is as of end of September 2017.

## External / Donors Relations

### Thanks to the critical support provided by donors to this operation in 2017

European Union (58 M) | United States of America (52 M) | Germany (22 M) | Japan (5 M) | Canada (2 M) | France (2 M) | Norway (535 K) | Private Donors Germany (21 K) | United Kingdom (20 K) |

### Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

United States of America (266 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Private Donors Spain (41 M) | Norway (41 M) | Japan (25 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Private Donors Republic of Korea (20 M) | Australia (19 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | France (14 M) | Private Donors USA (13 M) | Germany (12 M) | Private Donors Italy (13 M) | Private Donors Japan (10 M) | Italy (10 M) |

### Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

Algeria | Austria | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Chile | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Ireland | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Morocco | New Zealand | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Zambia | Private Donors |

## CONTACTS

**Lauren Panetta Chammas**, Reporting Officer, [panetta@unhcr.org](mailto:panetta@unhcr.org)

## LINKS

[Regional Portal - Syria Regional Refugee Response](#) | [Regional Portal - Mediterranean](#) | [UNHCR Turkey website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Services Advisor](#) | [UNHCR Help](#)



© UNHCR / E. Gurel