

**August 2018**

### Working in Partnership with the Directorate General of Migration Management

Turkey is the country hosting the largest number of refugees worldwide, including over 3.5 million Syrian refugees who have been granted temporary protection and more than 360,000 asylum-seekers and refugees of other nationalities. Turkey has adopted a strong legal framework - the Law on International Protection and Foreigners (LFIP) which came into effect in April 2014 and the Temporary Protection Regulation (TPR) effective since October 2014 - which forms the basis for UNHCR's strategy and support to the Government of Turkey.

Since the entry into force of the LFIP in 2014 and the establishment of the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), and in line with the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) strategic objectives, UNHCR has increased its dialogue and collaboration with DGMM to support the development and implementation of a strong and fair national asylum system for all persons seeking international as well as temporary protection in Turkey.

### Strengthening the Asylum System

UNHCR's collaboration with DGMM aims to ensure access to registration and documentation as well as fair and efficient national refugee status determination procedures are in place for persons seeking international protection. Also, assistance for registration and verification of Syrian refugees will continue in order to support the Temporary Protection regime.

These priorities will be pursued through a number of different initiatives, as planned in the 3RP and agreed with DGMM, including capacity development support, the provision of human resources and material support, interpretation services and by facilitating access of international protection applicants and refugees to information about national registration and asylum procedures.

#### Registration and Documentation

In line with Turkey's legal framework, all international protection applicants arriving in the country have access to state registration and documentation at any Provincial Directorate for Migration Management (PDMM). UNHCR supports DGMM to implement its registration procedures by facilitating referrals of all approaching asylum-seekers from countries other than Syria to satellite cities where PDMMs conduct registration and documentation. Applicants with special needs continue to be prioritised in national procedures.

UNHCR and DGMM aim at gradual transitioning to the national system and capacity development support to the national authorities to ensure timely and adequate registration of all international protection applicants. Specifically, UNHCR is:

- Supporting government registration by:

- ✓ Developing a well-functioning national referral system which will supersede UNHCR's involvement in carrying out this function thus aligning registration in Turkey with the national legislation.
- ✓ Engaging in continuous discussions with DGMM on further information sharing arrangements, and ways to enhance cooperation in the area of registration such as effective verification of registration information, including biometrics data and documentation in a timely manner.
- ✓ Further supporting capacity of national authorities through joint regular training of DGMM and PDMM personnel engaged in registration activities.

# 9,259



Asylum-seekers were interviewed for RSD procedures by UNHCR from January to July 2018

# 4,805



Decisions were issued by UNHCR from January to July 2018

# 63,039



Asylum-seekers were registered by UNHCR from January to July 2018

- Conducting a population data update through verification activities to confirm the continued presence of refugees and asylum-seekers in Turkey and updating the UNHCR *proGres* database accordingly.
- Continuing to record data of asylum-seekers of nationalities other than Syrian approaching UNHCR, with a view to:
  - ✓ Refer asylum-seekers whose data is recorded in the UNHCR's *proGres* database to satellite cities for government registration.
  - ✓ Identify cases with specific needs and acute vulnerabilities, and refer them for a thorough protection assessment and follow-up.

## Refugee Status Determination

In 2018, UNHCR is committing more resources to support DGMM in implementing national refugee status determination procedures. UNHCR is providing opportunities for on-the-job training, and is sharing good practices, expertise and refugee status determination tools. The **support to the national asylum system** aims to increase the efficiency in activities related to the processing of individual asylum applications, and specifically:

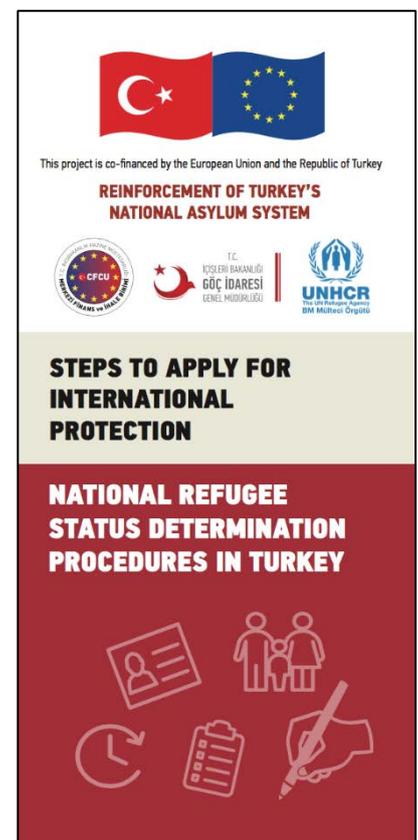
- ✓ Strengthen the technical and working-level cooperation with the DGMM on decision-making.
- ✓ Reinforce the capacity of DGMM, PDMMs and interpreters through focused training and other activities and increase overall quality of the decision-making process.
- ✓ Enhance Country of Origin Information (COI) research and reporting with a view to creating regional or countrywide expertise, through fact-finding missions, capacity development initiatives, including working meetings, study-visits, and the dissemination of relevant information.
- ✓ Establish Quality Assurance framework of International Protection determination procedures as implemented by DGMM.

UNHCR will also continue to **carry-out individual refugee status determination specifically for the purposes of resettlement**, of asylum-seekers from countries other than Syria by:

- ✓ Continuing to work to target the most vulnerable asylum-seekers, for assessment, referral and solutions.
- ✓ Prioritizing cases which may be shared by national counterparts of individuals recognized by the authorities as "conditional refugees" according to the LFIP in order to facilitate access to durable solutions, including resettlement, and other legal pathways.

## Achievements in 2018

- By the end of July 2018, RSD caseworkers had conducted some 126 missions of one to three weeks duration in satellite cities throughout Turkey. During such missions caseworkers interviewed asylum-seekers of various nationalities as part of the status determination process.
- As a result of continuous verification activities of asylum-seekers and refugees from countries other than Syria, the records of a total of 63,007 individuals have been inactivated in 2018 to end of July.
- The UNHCR-DGMM Registration Working Group has drafted a roadmap of activities to achieve a smooth and efficient transition in registration functions, including the development of a referral system to be introduced and incorporated into the national registration system thus superseding UNHCR's involvement in this function.
- The Quality Assurance Board, which was previously launched under the EU-funded Strengthening Project, has been re-activated with a broadened scope of activities. To date in 2018 three meetings have taken place, led by DGMM, involving UNHCR Registration and RSD members, representatives from UNHCR Policy and Development Unit.
- Since March 2018, UNHCR is providing material and technical support to DGMM for RSD processing activities carried-out at the Ankara International Protection Decision Center.
- Within the scope of the three-year, EU-funded "Reinforcement of Turkey's National Asylum System" project, the UNHCR RSD Unit took part in the second Steering Committee Meeting in June 2018 and in the drafting of the Interim Report, which was submitted in July 2018.
- Under the Reinforcement Project, several capacity-development activities were carried-out, including:
  - Two on-the-job trainings of the duration of two weeks delivered in Ankara for staff from seven different PDMMs and two-day joint visits to the respective seven provincial offices for observation of case work and discussions;
  - A two-week Active Training held in Ankara for four PDMM officials;
  - A Thematic Workshop of three days conducted in Gaziantep on "Eligibility for International Protection and Country of Origin Information" for 61 DGMM/PDMM officials;



- 
- An interpreter training held in Istanbul for 33 interpreters assisting DGMM/PDMM Offices.

In addition, within the scope of the Reinforcement Project, 140,000 leaflets were distributed to PDMM Offices and the offices of UNHCR implementing partners illustrating the Registration and RSD procedures in Turkey for International Protection applicants.

## August 2018

## External and Donor Relations

### Thanks to UNHCR's donors for supporting our registration and refugee status determination activities in Turkey and for their unrestricted and regional funds in 2018:

European Union | Japan | United States | Canada | Norway | France | Germany | Private donors Australia | Finland | Sweden | Netherlands | United Kingdom | Private donors Spain | Denmark | Australia | Switzerland | Private donors Republic of Korea | Italy | Belgium

### CONTACTS

**Hilary Bowman**, Inter-Agency Coordination Officer, [bowman@unhcr.org](mailto:bowman@unhcr.org)

### LINKS

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