

Turkey

September 2021

Turkey hosts the **world's largest refugee population** with 3.6 million Syrians under temporary protection and 330,000 refugees and asylum seekers under international protection. Afghan nationals have been the leading international protection applicants since 2019.

Legal Framework: Turkey's refugee response is based on a comprehensive legal framework, in particular the Law on Foreigners and International Protection (2013) and the Temporary Protection Regulation (2014).

UNHCR co-leads with UNDP the **Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP)** coordinating partner support to Turkey's inclusive refugee response and chairs the Migration and International Protection Results Group of the Turkey 2021-25 UNSDCF.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Syrians under temporary protection	3.65 million
Refugees and asylum-seekers under international protection	330,000

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

	Refugees		Asylum-seekers
Syria	3,641,370	Iraq	162,760
Iraq	4,565	Afghanistan	125,104
Afghanistan	4,219	Iran	24,300

Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR adapted its programming to provide direct assistance to vulnerable refugee and hosting communities while maintaining personnel, material and technical support to public institutions. UNHCR prioritised communication with communities, emergency cash assistance, provision of hygiene and protective items, and worked with municipalities and local authorities to strengthen community mobilisation and promote social cohesion.

Inclusion: All populations are included in the national COVID-19 prevention and response plans, including for vaccination. UNHCR formed an internal vaccine task force to advocate for inclusion of refugees in vaccination campaigns and to reach out to refugee communities with information.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR provides regular and timely information on COVID-19 in multiple languages, diversifying communication strategies based on the needs of persons of concern, adopting various digital means of communication and increasing its outreach through the Counselling Line; social media platforms, the Help site, Services Advisor, community sessions and phone calls.

HIGHLIGHTS

88,799 households

were reached through a COVID-19 Emergency Cash Assistance, in cooperation with DGMM through the service provider PTT. UNHCR carried out post-distribution monitoring during the process to measure the effectiveness of the cash assistance.

5,900 refugees

were submitted for resettlement consideration so far in 2021 to 14 countries. Over 4,800 refugees departed to 13 countries, 76% of whom were Syrian and 13% Afghan.

188,850 calls

were answered through the UNHCR counselling line in 2021, from an average of 75 provinces, most often enquiring about resettlement and financial assistance. Of these, close to 12,100 calls were answered through a dedicated GBV line.

Sports bring people together and can help to build confidence and forge friendships



See [here](#) how refugee and Turkish children come together at a youth camp to play sports and have fun.

Key Priorities

- **Protection:** UNHCR advocates for admission of persons in need of international protection, access to fair and efficient national protection procedures and for procedural standards and safeguards by working in partnership with the Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) and its provincial directorates, law enforcement, the Ministry of Justice and Union of Turkish Bar Associations. Cooperation with DGMM to support national registration and international protection procedures remains a priority.
- **Strengthening access to protection services:** UNHCR focuses on child protection, prevention and response to gender-based violence, and social services for persons with specific needs. UNHCR provides personnel and logistical support to the Ministry of Family and Social Services and its social service centres; supports partners in identification, referral and response to refugees with specific needs; and provides cash for protection assistance.
- **Resettlement and spontaneous voluntary return:** UNHCR processes resettlement cases of individuals with acute vulnerabilities and protection risks, advocates for safe complementary pathways and works with DGMM to enhance procedural safeguards for voluntary returns. In 2021, UNHCR observed voluntary return interviews of over 15,500 individuals in 14 provinces.
- **Self-Reliance:** UNHCR cooperates with national authorities and partners to identify needs, facilitate access to employment and skills development; supports İŞKUR, the Turkish Employment Agency to strengthen job matching and access to refugee self-reliance prospects; and works with development actors for sustainable income generation through social entrepreneurship and cooperatives.
- **Promoting social cohesion:** DGMM and UNHCR cooperate on interventions in line with the National

Strategy on Harmonisation and the National Plan of Action to encourage dialogue between refugees, the host community, public institutions and service providers. Social cohesion initiatives have been redesigned to reach refugee and the host community through alternative modalities during the pandemic.

- **External Engagement:** Building on the legal framework, in line with the 3RP and GCR, UNHCR works with a multi-stakeholder approach that enables greater support to, and protection of, refugees.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with ministries and public institutions, with municipalities, NGOs, UN agencies, the private sector, refugees and the host community. For 2021, UNHCR signed 16 partnership agreements.
- The **Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP)** is the main strategy, coordination and fundraising platform for international support to the refugee response. The **2021-22 Turkey Country Chapter**, co-led by UNDP and UNHCR (which leads the Protection and Basic Needs Sectors) was launched in February 2021 with an appeal of USD 1.04 billion.

Statelessness

- Turkey pledged at the GRF to accede to the 1961 Convention and implement it within five years. In 2020, UNHCR and DGMM developed SOPs on statelessness determination, the first guidance material on statelessness in the national system, setting out principles and procedural safeguards.

UNHCR Presence in Turkey

Staff:

302 National staff
 57 International staff

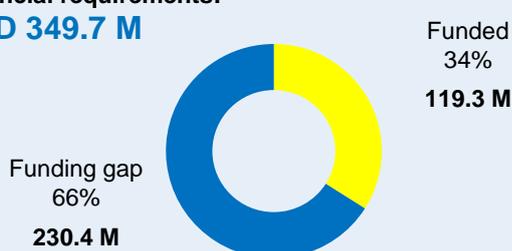
Offices:

1 Country Office in Ankara
 4 Field Offices: Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, Van
 1 Sub Office covering Gaziantep, Sanliurfa and Hatay

Financial information (28 September 2021)

Financial requirements:

USD 349.7 M



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