

Türkiye

June 2023

Key Figures (as of 30 June)

3.7 million

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Türkiye including around 3.4 million Syrians under temporary protection and over 300,000 international protection status holders, asylum-seekers of other nationalities and stateless persons. Temporary accommodation centres (TACs) are being used to accommodate people who lost their homes in the earthquake. Over 65,600 people are hosted in nine TACs managed by the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) while over 98% of Syrian refugees live across Türkiye in 81 provinces.

7,924 refugees

Refugees have been submitted for resettlement consideration to 17 countries in 2023 so far. Over 6,700 refugees have departed for resettlement to 16 countries. Vulnerable refugees from the earthquake zone have been prioritised for resettlement.

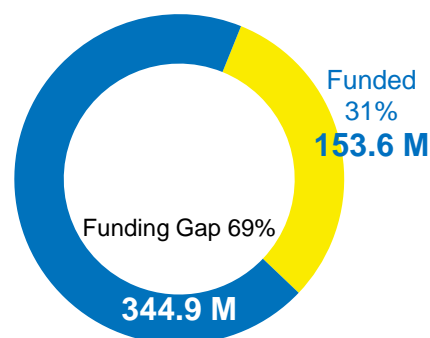
3 million

Unique visitors to the UNHCR Help Page (Türkiye). UNHCR shares information about rights, obligations and available services for refugees. A specific page dedicated to information on the earthquakes was launched in February.

Funding (as of 27 June)

USD 498.5 million

requested for UNHCR operations in Türkiye



At the CerModern art space in Ankara, UNHCR held a digital photography exhibition for **World Refugee Day** featuring photographs of renowned photographer, Platon, through his collaboration with UNHCR in the multimedia project "Portrait of a Stranger". The World Refugee Day exhibit in Ankara was called Hope Away from Home. Around 120 distinguished guests were present including government officials, refugees, members of the civil society and representatives of foreign missions, donors and the media. Invitees wore blue ribbons and were able to get a glimpse of the life of the refugees who were photographed for the project through a short documentary and leaflets with their bios, and information on UNHCR's latest global trends. Music by refugee and Turkish bands livened the evening.

Earthquake Response

In line with the request of the Government of Türkiye, the OCHA-led earthquake coordination structure was extended until 17 August 2023 and the Humanitarian Response Overview now replaces previous reporting and tracking of in-kind assistance provided to the authorities. The UNCT+, which includes civil society partners from the Local Humanitarian Forum and beyond, the Turkish Red Crescent and the IFRC, in addition to its traditional UN agencies, has proposed a Recovery Framework to ensure coordination after 17 August to address continuing needs of the host and refugee communities affected by the earthquake until the end of the year.

The 3RP coordination structures in the southeast region of Türkiye have downscaled following the end of the emergency stage and with the establishment of the additional coordination platforms for the earthquake response. In transitioning to the recovery phase, UNHCR co-leads with UNDP the multi-stakeholder response under the 3RP plan for 2023-25 in support of refugees and the host community across Türkiye, subject to a review to incorporate current needs and to leverage on current capacities and structures including earthquake consequences.

UNHCR is supporting the capacity of national and local authorities to respond to needs, including through the delivery of core relief items (CRIs). To date, UNHCR has delivered over 2.9 million CRIs to counterparts, mainly to the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), and the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS). UNHCR has also delivered CRIs to selected municipalities for their distribution to earthquake-affected communities.

Furthermore, UNHCR has engaged with the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Youth and Sports to support their earthquake response efforts. UNHCR has delivered fabric, yarn, and sewing tools and equipment to 19 public education centres across the earthquake-affected region, so that refugees and the local population together can produce clothes, shoes, sleeping bags and other items to address their needs. UNHCR has also delivered sleeping items, blankets and hygiene kits to 25 centres of the Ministry of Youth and Sports in seven earthquake-impacted cities.

For further updates on the earthquake response, please check [UNHCR's external updates on the earthquake response](#).

Legal Aid and Legal Assistance

Through a joint partnership between UNHCR and the Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA), the legal clinics in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Hatay, Kilis and Malatya provide legal assistance and legal counselling services to refugees and asylum seekers in those provinces. The Van legal clinic became the sixth clinic to join the partnership at the beginning of June.

The clinics provide legal assistance to refugees and asylum seekers on civil law, exit and re-entry procedures, detention, access to rights, family reunification, reissuing of identity cards, queries related to resettlement and civil law, and consumer and rent laws. In June, the legal clinics in Gaziantep and Kilis provided legal assistance to 154 individuals each; the clinic in Hatay to 175 individuals, and that of Malatya to 102 individuals. The legal clinic in Şanlıurfa provided legal assistance to 132 individuals and the newly joined legal clinic in Van started off with two clients. The legal clinics also do outreach activities, and in June, these included an information session on access to justice and rights of unaccompanied children by the Gaziantep legal clinic in cooperation with Şahinbey Municipality and the Damascus Orphans Organisation benefitting 217 people. The Şanlıurfa legal clinic held an information session for 25 Syrian women in cooperation with partner KAMER Association, with a focus on marriage and divorce, as did the Kilis legal clinic for 15 Syrian women, which also organised an information session for 72 Syrian women in the temporary accommodation centre in Elbeyli focusing on protection and civil law matters.

Cases are also submitted online through an online activation system for legal aid applications of bar associations which are a part of the UNHCR-UTBA partnership. In June 530 cases were received. A joint commission is tasked to evaluate the applications received upon which action is taken.

Education

Six refugee students from Türkiye have been selected by the LCC International University Middle East Scholarship Programme in Lithuania for full scholarships. UNHCR held an information-exchange for the students in June so they could enquire about the details of the scholarship and prospects after their graduation. Similarly, ten refugees from Kenya were awarded scholarships through a pilot programme between the Presidency of Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) and UNHCR Kenya for the inclusion of refugee youth in Kenya to enrol in the Türkiye scholarships scheme. Such scholarships are considered complementary pathways, which are safe and regulated

avenues for persons in need of international protection allowing them a lawful stay in a third country where their international protection needs are met, and they can support themselves to reach a durable solution.

Resettlement

The Priority Situation Core Group for resettlement visited Türkiye on 21-23 June and went on a field visit to Adana and Hatay to see the impact of the earthquake. The Core Group held meetings with AFAD, PMM, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials of the provincial directorates of migration management to better understand the needs of earthquake-affected refugees. The Core Group also held focus group discussions with women and adolescents who talked about the impact of the earthquakes on them and their families and reiterated their immediate reality and future needs. The Chairs of the Core Group commended the cooperation of the government of Türkiye with UNHCR in the resettlement process, and stressed upon support of the international community to show solidarity with Türkiye by resettling refugees who were residing in the earthquake-affected provinces in Türkiye.

Football Fun



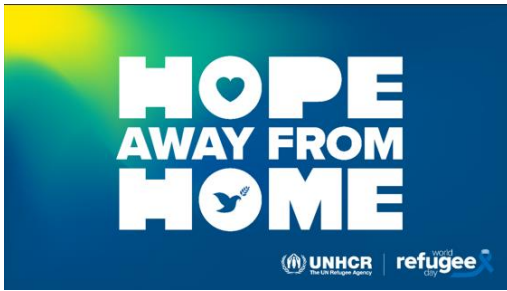
UNHCR organised a few football events in June to celebrate the UEFA Champions League Finale in Istanbul, highlighting the pivotal role of sports in fostering social cohesion.

On 8 June, UNHCR organised a panel discussion at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul with academics, students, representatives of the university, the Türkiye Football Federation and the Ministry of Youth and Sports to discuss how sports can unite people from diverse backgrounds. UNHCR Representative highlighted how sports can provide one of the best avenues for refugees in the society they currently call home.

The [European Club Association](#) (ECA) and UNHCR agreed on a new partnership agreement, following a generous donation of €500,000 from the ECA to UNHCR to support the survivors of the February earthquakes. A signing ceremony was held in Istanbul with the chairman of ECA, Paris-Saint-Germain', Mr Nasser Al-Khelaïfi; Mr Cédric Anker, President of Switzerland for UNHCR; Ms Cristina Davies, Executive Director of Switzerland for UNHCR; the Representative of UNHCR in Türkiye, Mr Philippe Leclerc; and ECA Executive Board Member, Mr Ali Koç, President of Türkiye's Fenerbahçe Football Club. The ECA, which is the sole independent body directly representing football clubs at European level, announced the partnership in a [Tweet](#) and issued a [press release](#), quoting Mr. Leclerc saying, *"This renewed act of solidarity by ECA will enable UNHCR to provide very needed support to those deeply affected by the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria. This partnership exemplifies our commitment to leveraging our platform and resources to make a lasting impact in communities impacted by the earthquake. We understand the importance of standing together and providing assistance to those who have lost their homes and livelihoods."*

In an exciting encounter on 11 June, UEFA and UNHCR came together for a friendly match with renowned Brazilian footballer, Ricardo [Kaká](#) who played in a game composed of teams of both refugees and Turkish hosts wearing jerseys bearing UEFA and UNHCR logos, the name of the match, *Hope United: A Game of Inclusion and Empowerment*, and the #WithRefugees hashtag in Turkish and English. Kaká, ever popular, took the time to engage with the players and signed footballs and t-shirts for his fans and supporters. UNHCR presented Kaká with a medal after the game, in an act of solidarity with people in need of international protection in Türkiye.

World Refugee Day



UNHCR and its partners together with local authorities across the country commemorated World Refugee Day on 20 June. Among these was an outdoor event at the scenic Niğde Gebere recreation area, which drew around 1,400 people from Niğde and Nevşehir, over half of whom were refugees, as well as NGO representatives and officials from the two provinces including the Deputy Mayor of Niğde, PDMM directors of the two provinces, Niğde's National Education and Youth and Sports directors. The day was filled with sports competitions and outdoor fun and was recognised for the third year in a row as a regional celebration promoting social cohesion.

Another outdoor event took place in Tarsus, with the support of Tarsus Municipality and District Governorship and brought together around 80 members of the host and refugee communities and included fun and games for the children as well as nature-related activities such as planting seedlings.

In the southeast region, UNHCR and partners commemorated World Refugee Day under the theme *Hope Away from Home*, through social events, seminars, art and culture exhibitions, and awareness-raising activities with youth, adults and children; while in Izmir, UNHCR, together with partner ASAM, and Izmir and Muğla PDMs, organised a field visit to the ancient city of Ephesus and the House of the Virgin Mary. Around 25 people, refugees and residents of Izmir and Muğla joined the trip.

UNHCR cooperated with Izmir Metropolitan Municipality in organising the screening of refugee-related movies at the [3rd Izmir International Festival of Film and Music](#) which took place 16-22 June in Izmir. Fourteen international films about refugees were screened at the festival, including [Remedy](#), a short film produced in 2020 with the support of UNHCR. Selin Ünal, UNHCR Spokesperson, participated in a panel, '*Refugees on the Silver Screen*' at the Izmir Festival to talk about the cinema and forced displacement.



Livelihoods and Vocational Training

UNHCR cooperates with its partners to enhance the skills of refugees and the local community through vocational training to improve their livelihood and chances of employment. The Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Institute Istanbul (ISMEK) provides vocational training on pastry making, textiles and barista skills. In June, ISMEK completed two barista training courses for refugees and the local community, 15 of whom were refugees. UNHCR provides consumables and equipment for these courses and will support the graduates' employment, leveraging on their newly acquired skills. ISMEK's pastry and textile machinery operator courses continue in June, with 9 refugees out of 19 participants in the former and 5 refugees out of a total 12 participants in the latter.

The career centre of the Refugees and Asylum Seekers Assistance and Solidarity Association (MSYDD), provides vocational training, employment counselling and job placement services to refugees and the host community and facilitates women's participation in socio-economic life. As a result, MSYDD has provided job counselling services to enhance employment readiness to 1,262 individuals (including 340 refugees), access to labour market to 184 individuals (including 21 refugees). MSYDD also supports HEMDEM, a women's cooperative, by providing a dedicated workspace and facilitating their access to private sector networks.

Also, through UNHCR's support, the Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce (GCC) is providing capacity building and business development trainings with 45 women in Gaziantep, including 21 refugees.

Inter-Agency Coordination

An initial round of Protection Dialogues in preparation for the Global Refugee Forum to be held in December was organised by UNHCR and UNDP with the participation of three refugee-led organisations (RLOs), one woman-led organisation and members of the private sector. The platform allowed refugee-led organisations to share their field activities and observations. This particular Dialogue focused on the involvement of refugees and private sector stakeholders in the refugee response, and the development of roadmaps to increase sustainable cooperation with the private sector.

UNHCR hosted and co-facilitated the first National Reference Group (NRG) meeting on 16 June as part of the NRG secretariat together with Localisation Advocacy Groups (LAG) and Türkiye Refugee Council (TMK). The

discussions focused on the NRG, its function and priority areas, as well as progress achieved so far especially also with regards to the earthquake response. The meeting was a good way for the participants which included the representatives from UN agencies, donors and international NGOs way to plan ahead and look at opportunities for external engagement with various actors and stakeholders, especially public institutions.

UNHCR's inter-agency team is currently leading Round 7 of the Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessment exercise. Considering contextual changes related to the earthquake, the methodology of this seventh round differs from previous ones where random sampling was utilized. Here, a stratified sample will be applied targeting Turkish citizens and refugees in and outside the earthquake-affected provinces. Two questionnaires are being used: one focusing on provinces hosting the largest number of refugees and receiving people relocated by the earthquake; and another on provinces most affected by the earthquake.

Communications

UNHCR uses its communication with communities (CwC) channels to disseminate information and messages that concern refugees. These channels have been especially useful as a source of information for earthquake-related matters to communities in multiple languages. The topics covered in June included information on UNHCR's refugee-led innovation fund, World Refugee Day messages, and education grants, among others.

In June, the UNHCR Türkiye Counselling Line received over 76,400 calls. Operators answered some 28,500 calls which came from 80 provinces across Türkiye. Most callers were Syrian nationals followed by nationals from Afghanistan and Iran, who mostly enquired about resettlement opportunities as a first priority, followed by financial assistance. Since February, most calls in general have been coming from earthquake-affected provinces, mainly Gaziantep followed by Istanbul and Hatay and for specific earthquake-related calls the majority of those come from Hatay. Around 2,500 calls came through UNHCR's dedicated GBV line, with approximately 1,000 individuals choosing to be connected to an operator for counselling.



Through its digital CwC platforms, the Help website and Facebook Information Board, UNHCR shares information about rights, obligations and available services in multiple languages with refugees and asylum seekers. By the end of June, the UNHCR Türkiye Information Board on Facebook had reached almost 97,000 followers and the WhatsApp Communications Tree obtained over 201,000 clicks.



The UNHCR Türkiye Help page has surpassed 3 million unique visitors! In June, it had reached almost 3,057,400 unique visitors. A specific section for information related to the earthquake was launched on 8 February and has reached over 75,000 views.

UNHCR and its partner ASAM organise periodic media gatherings with members of the press. On 21 June, a gathering was held with around 20 press members in Ankara, an opportunity to talk of World Refugee Day and UNHCR's global trends in displacement. Statements and interviews with the Representative were published in the press, including an [interview with Hürriyet Daily News](#) on 24 June and with [Anatolian News Agency](#) on 2 July.

Thanks to donors for their support to UNHCR Türkiye in 2023

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LINKS

[UNHCR Türkiye website](#) | [Regional Portal - Syria Regional Refugee Response](#) | [Regional Portal - Mediterranean](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Services Advisor](#) | [UNHCR Help](#) | [UNHCR Türkiye Information Board](#) | [Good Practices Portal](#)