

Türkiye

February 2024

Impacted by devastating earthquakes in 2023, Türkiye continues to host one of the largest refugee populations in the world with a [comprehensive and inclusive legal framework](#). Almost half the refugee population has spent most of their lives in Türkiye; some 800,000 were born there.

UNHCR [supports the government and works with diverse stakeholders, including civil society organizations](#) in advancing refugee protection, inclusion in services, access to solutions and improving social cohesion, in a coordinated and collaborative manner.

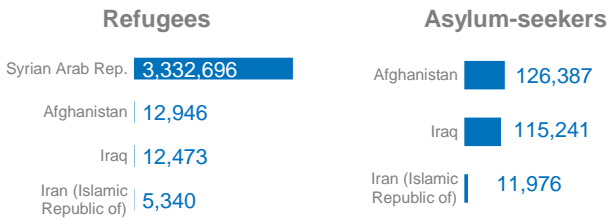
[Responsibility sharing](#) remains key, with diversified and flexible funding for the refugee response, complemented with resettlement and complementary pathways.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2023)*

Syrians under temporary protection **3.3 million**

Refugees and asylum-seekers under international protection **300,000**

Top countries of origin*



*UNHCR mid-2023 Trends and UNHCR data finder

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

In **Marmara region**, northwest Türkiye, UNHCR and partners work to facilitate [access to services](#), [increasing self-reliance](#), and promote [social cohesion](#) for nearly 800,000 refugees, mainly in urban settings. UNHCR also provides life-saving support to apprehended individuals and pushback survivors along the western land borders.

Along the **Aegean and Mediterranean coast**, UNHCR promotes access to and [provision of protection and services](#) for 232,000 refugees. UNHCR cooperates with law enforcement to improve [reception conditions](#) for people intercepted or rescued at sea borders, meet immediate needs and strengthen [access to international protection](#).

In the **southeast region**, which hosts 1.7 million refugees, UNHCR prioritizes key needs of refugees and the host community affected by the earthquakes through [shelter](#), [core relief item and cash assistance](#), [protection monitoring](#), and [advocacy](#).

In **Central and Eastern Anatolia and Black Sea regions**, UNHCR works to strengthen [access to rights and services](#) for 634,000 refugees, while reinforcing [access to livelihood opportunities](#). In the east, UNHCR focuses on monitoring irregular movements and access to territory and asylum.

Socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Türkiye

Access to higher education for refugees

With DAFI scholarships and higher education cash grants, UNHCR provides direct support to university students under international protection and supports Syrian students to access tertiary education in collaboration with the Presidency of Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB). The cooperation includes trainings for trainers on conflict resolution for refugee and host community youth in universities.

Access to the labour market for refugees

UNHCR cooperates with institutions, municipalities and civil society to address the challenges faced by refugees accessing the labour market. UNHCR and Ankara Metropolitan Municipality organize field visits to Career Centres across Türkiye in order to exchange good practices and lessons learned related to job counselling. Together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, UNHCR organizes information sessions on work permit procedures and legal rights. Through its Cash for Work project in several earthquake-impacted provinces, UNHCR aims to enhance job skills and promote self-reliance to support strengthening the local economy. UNHCR is also exploring collaboration with International Finance Corporation in Türkiye to create sustainable economic opportunities for refugees through the private sector.



“We are the frontline of UNHCR, and we are dealing with the most vulnerable people. We try our best to provide a service unique for each caller.”

Farah, an Iranian refugee in Türkiye, is a call centre operator working at the UNHCR Türkiye Counselling Line. Along with her 50 colleagues, she receives various daily inquiries from refugees and asylum-seekers and answers a wide range of questions. Since 2019, the UNHCR Türkiye Counselling Line receives approximately 80,000 calls every month. Learn more about Farah and UNHCR Türkiye Counselling Line [here](#).

Key Priorities

- UNHCR advocates for refugees' **access to fair and efficient protection procedures** and adequate standards and safeguards by working with its main counterpart, the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) and its provincial directorates, under the Ministry of Interior.
- With the aim of **strengthening access to protection services**, UNHCR supports partners to identify and refer refugees and asylum-seekers to necessary services and provides cash for protection. UNHCR focuses on support such as counselling on rights and services and referrals of people with specific needs, in cooperation with the Ministry of Family and Social Services.
- UNHCR expedites **resettlement processing** of the most vulnerable refugees, particularly unaccompanied children and women at risk in earthquake-affected locations. More than 16,800 resettlement submissions were made in 2023, 94 per cent of which were from the earthquake region.
- UNHCR's **capacity development** supports the operational and technical capacities of national institutions, border authorities and civil society, to meet the specific needs of refugees and address social cohesion. UNHCR has partnership agreements with 11 local partners to strengthen their refugee response in 2024.
- UNHCR **engages with the private sector in Türkiye**, and internationally, on funding and partnerships to provide assistance and long-term livelihoods opportunities to refugees.
- In cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and other partners, UNHCR seeks to improve the social cohesion between the refugee and host communities through **sports for protection** activities.
- Public institutions, civil society organizations and the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Türkiye shared new good practices and announced pledges on sports, child protection, higher education and support for Rohingya refugees during the **Global Refugee Forum 2023**. A list of good practices can be found on the **good practices portal of UNHCR Türkiye**.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with ministries, public institutions, municipalities, civil society, donors, humanitarian and development actors, private sector, international financial institutions, academia, media, refugees and the host community to support refugee inclusion into national systems, identify access to solutions and foster social cohesion. In addition to its close partnership with the UNCT, UNHCR provides financial and human resources support to the Resident Coordinator's Office.
- **The Regional Refugee Resilience Plan (3RP)** is the main regional coordination platform for international support to the Syrian refugee response, as outlined in the **2024 Regional Strategic Overview**.
- UNHCR supports the Government's earthquake response as co-chair of the **inter-agency coordination** of the Area-Based Coordination earthquake response structure in Gaziantep, together with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and IOM. Additionally, UNHCR co-chairs the Earthquake Solution and Mobility Analysis team (ESMAT) together with IOM and partners. UNHCR also co-chairs the protection and shelter sectors and the information management working group. In the transition to the recovery phase, UNHCR and UNDP co-lead the multi-stakeholder response under the 3RP in support of refugees and host communities.

Statelessness

- Türkiye is a party to the 1954 UN Convention on Statelessness. At the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, Türkiye pledged to accede to the 1961 Convention. In 2020, UNHCR and PMM developed standard operating procedures on statelessness determination, the first national guidance material on statelessness.

UNHCR Presence in Türkiye

Staff:

350 National Staff
 58 International Staff

Official Presence:

Formal endorsement:
 July 1960
 Host Country Agreement:
 July 2018

Offices:

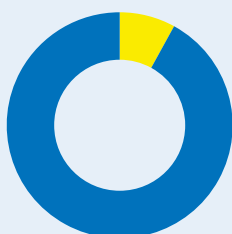
1 Country Office in Ankara
 3 Field Offices in Ankara, Izmir, Istanbul
 1 Sub Office in Gaziantep
 4 Field units in Hatay/Adana, Şanlıurfa, Edirne and Van
 3 Resettlement offices in Ankara, Istanbul, Gaziantep

Financial information (31 January 2024)

Financial requirements

\$ 329.3 M

Funding gap 92%
 \$ 306.6 M



Funded 8%
 \$ 26.7 M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors:

Austria | Belgium | Denmark | Finland | France | European Union | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Kuwait | Netherlands | Norway | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | Türkiye | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland | United States of America

UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.