

UNHCR in Türkiye April 2025

10 provinces covered by the İzmir Field Unit.

180,000 refugees (approx.) (Afghan, Iranian and Syrian) living in the area of responsibility of the İzmir Field Unit.

Top 5 provinces with the highest number of refugees in the region are İzmir, Manisa, Denizli, Muğla, and Aydın.

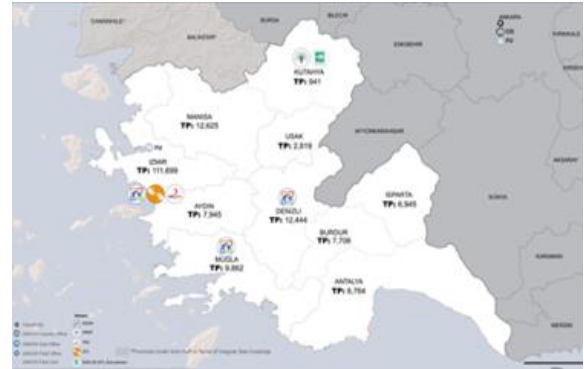
11 Focus Group Discussions conducted in 4 provinces with 63 participants in the first quarter of 2025.

26,384 core relief items were provided to persons rescued, intercepted and apprehended in the first three months of 2025.

6 local NGOs are working in partnership.

Context

To facilitate a focused and efficient implementation of the refugee response, the UNHCR Türkiye operation has delegated the overall operational responsibilities to four field units, serving the refugees and host community members across the country. The **İzmir Field Unit** of UNHCR plays an essential role in addressing the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers across its area of responsibility (AoR), spanning over ten provinces, including those with high rates of irregular cross-border attempts along the coastline.



Areas of responsibility of İzmir Field Unit (IFU).

Key Activities

Protection Monitoring and Services: UNHCR identifies the protection needs of refugees and asylum seekers with specific needs through various channels and addresses them by following up on individual cases and advocating for access to basic rights and services, including registration, legal aid, health, and education. UNHCR also intervenes in detention cases, facilitates legal aid for refugees at risk of deportation, and advocates for reactivating identity documents to ensure access to essential services.

Humanitarian Assistance: In cooperation with the Turkish Coast Guard, Police, Gendarmerie, relevant local authorities and NGO partners, UNHCR addresses the challenges relating to people apprehended/intercepted during irregular crossing attempts towards Europe and the survivors of pushbacks, with particular attention to persons with special needs. The İzmir field unit helps improve reception conditions, distributes core relief items, and provides interpretation support.

Community Engagement and Capacity Building: Through focus group discussions, UNHCR assesses refugees' needs and motivations and implements tailored interventions. The Unit strives to enhance the capacity of RLOs and CSOs by providing training and bringing them together to facilitate information exchange and experience sharing. In addition, the Unit provides training to local stakeholders, enhancing their capacity to deliver effective services and uphold refugee rights.

Collaboration and Partnerships: UNHCR maintains partnerships with local authorities, including Buca Municipality to enhance employment opportunities for refugees; and the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Barça Foundation to develop youth capacity and promote social protection through sports. Through collaboration with provincial authorities, NGOs, and international agencies, UNHCR strengthens the regional refugee and resilience plan (3RP) mechanisms with partners. As part of UNHCR's leading role in the coordination of international support to Türkiye's response under the 3RP, UNHCR leads the Aegean Region Inter-Agency Coordination Group, and thematic working groups focusing on child protection and gender-based violence, key refugee groups, and case discussion.

Voluntary Repatriation Monitoring: UNHCR monitors voluntary returns of Syrian refugees and observes the interviews in PDMMs to confirm the voluntary character of returns and address any protection concerns of returnees.

UNHCR is grateful to the donors for unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the refugee response. UNHCR in Türkiye is also thankful to donors who are contributing to 2025 programmes. For more details: UNHCR Türkiye Funding Update – 31 March 2025.

