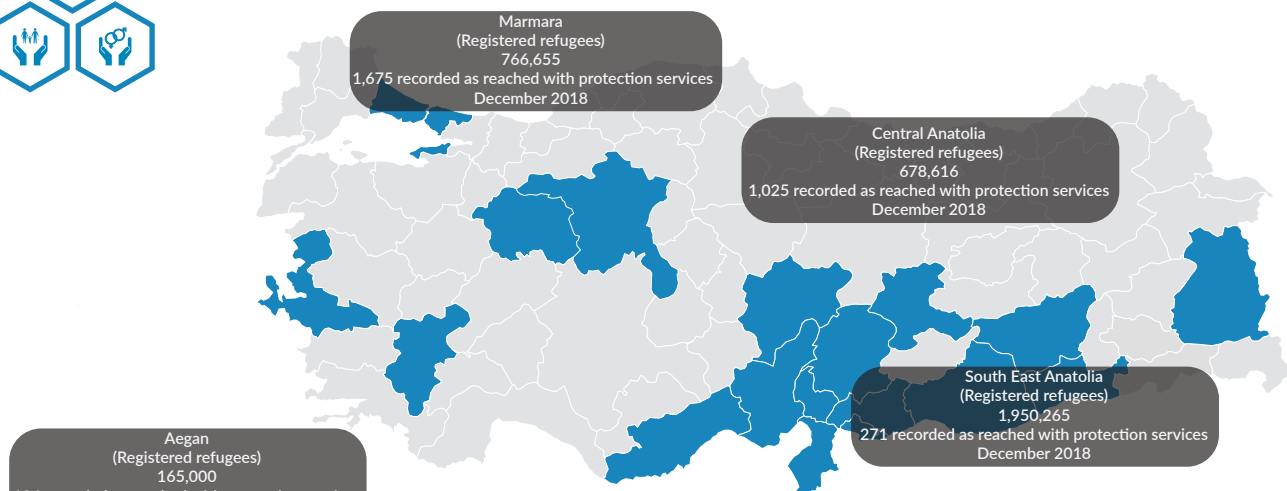




**Coverage of LGBTI services, registered refugees (TP), and LGBTI individuals reached**



The data represented on the map shows the discrepancy between the number of LGBTI individuals recorded as accessing protection specific services between Istanbul and Ankara, and South East Turkey. This is the case despite similar number of refugees registered under temporary protection. Given substantive indications that not all LGBTI individuals move towards metropolitan centres and face considerable protection concerns in places of residence the PWG is working with partners to further analyse the issue. The discrepancy can *inter alia* be caused by a reluctance to self-identify when accessing protection services, a reluctance to access services, reduced ability to identify LGBTI status of PWG partners, unwillingness to report LGBTI individuals' accessing services, etc. Careful analysis is required in order to propose evidence-based corrective actions.

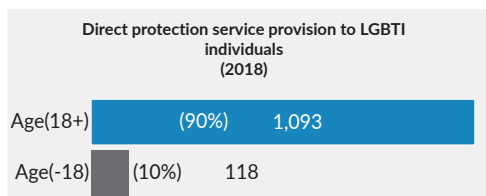
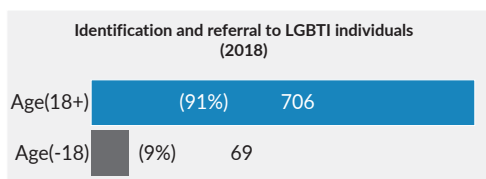
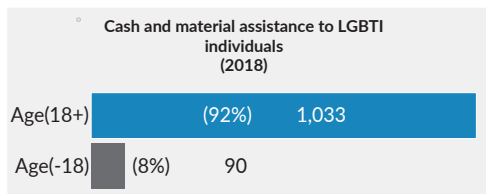
**GENERAL OVERVIEW**

Persons whose sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression differs from prevailing norms – often referred to as LGBTI – may face discrimination, prejudice, rejection, social exclusion and stigma within their community or family. These attitudes may put LGBTI individuals at increased risk of abuse, exploitation, and violence, including sexual abuse, torture or murder at the hands of the community or family members. Cultural barriers frequently prevent self-identification and reporting of (sexual) violence, resulting in a fragmented understanding of the specific barriers, risks and concerns faced by LGBTI individuals.

Prevailing attitudes significantly undermine LGBTI individuals' ability to access rights, services and support networks, potentially lead to the adoption of negative and harmful coping strategies such as survival sex, drug abuse, etc., while LGBTI survivors of sexual and gender-based violence are often criminalised. The situation is compounded by the lack of a specific protective framework and inconsistent implementation of applicable laws.

According to available information, LGBTI refugees are at risk of being marginalized as refugees and as LGBTI individuals. They may be in a more vulnerable situation due to a lack of language skills and legal status, while they often also face discrimination or violence. Syrian LGBTI refugees described incidents involving harassment, verbal abuse, threats, physical attacks, and blackmail by relatives and by members of the broader Syrian and Turkish community. In addition, Syrian and non-Syrian refugees report grave challenges related to inconsistent access to justice and legal remedies, as well as limited access to self-reliance opportunities and social assistance programmes. Limited interaction, support, and solidarity between local and refugee LGBTI communities further abates coping capacities.

General service providers in direct contact with LGBTI refugees frequently report to have limitations in knowledge, experience, and capacity to adequately deal with concerns of LGBTI individuals, especially in establishing trust to enable self-identification and in understanding of LGBTI refugee specific challenges. In many areas – especially rural areas – there is a lack of specific service providers, including community-based initiatives, providing a targeted protection response.



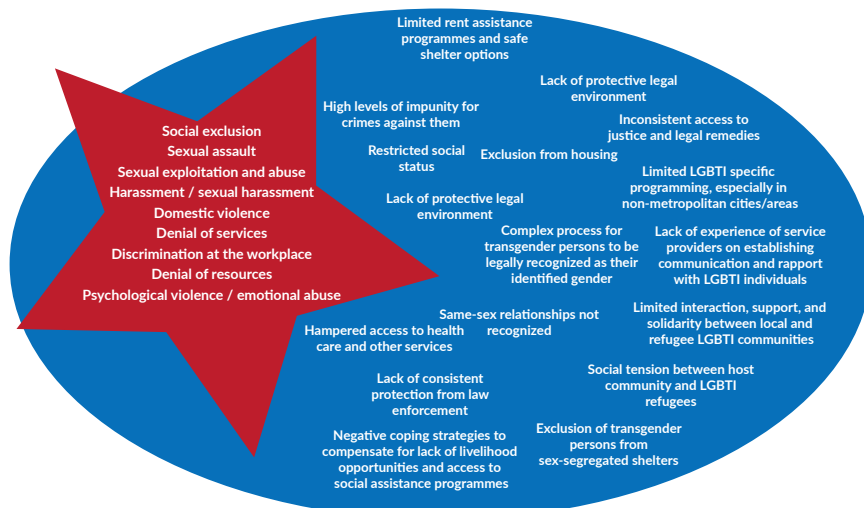
**Working Definitions**

<b>Lesbian</b>	A woman whose enduring physical, romantic or emotional attraction is to other women.
<b>Gay</b>	Often used to describe a man whose enduring physical, romantic or emotional attraction is to other men. The term can be used to describe lesbians as well as gay men.
<b>Bisexual</b>	An individual who is physically, romantically or emotionally attracted to both men and women.
<b>Transgender</b>	Individuals whose gender identity or gender expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth.
<b>Intersex</b>	Bodily variations from culturally established standards of maleness and femaleness, including variations in chromosomes, gonads and genitals.

Source: UNHCR Emergency Handbook via: <https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/221506/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-and-intersex-lgbti-persons>

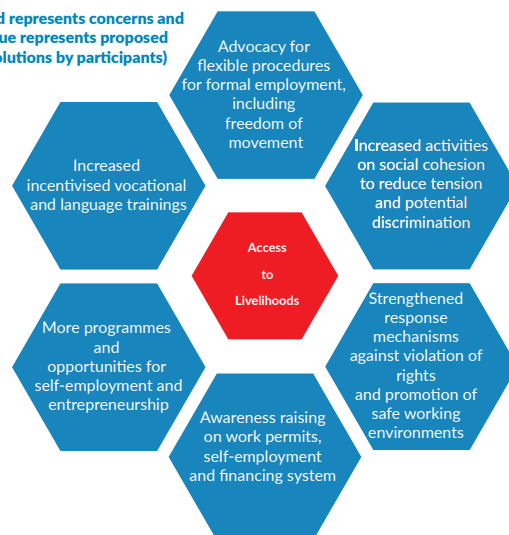
## Understanding of situation and selected response actions

### Violations/risks and exacerbating factors



### UNHCR 2018 Participatory Assessment Findings

(Red represents concerns and blue represents proposed solutions by participants)



### Activities of PWG partners

PWG partners strive to collect diversity disaggregated data and information to facilitate analysis and planning, and aim to involve representatives from the affected population – including LGBTI individuals – in a participatory manner throughout the programme cycle. These approaches are the basis for PWG partners to ensure programmes and activities effectively address needs and concerns of all affected individuals.

Despite diverse operational challenges, further specific activities of PWG partners and community-based organisations include:

- Identification and referral, establishment of specific referral pathways
- Specialized service delivery and targeted response based on identified individual/community needs, including psychosocial counselling, legal aid, and referral to safe houses
- Cash assistance to prevent protection violations
- Support to organisation of LGBTI community groups
- Refugee support hotline
- Awareness raising and information dissemination activities
- Community solidarity events organised around Pride Week and World AIDS Day
- HIV counseling and gender transition counseling
- Wellbeing workshops using psychodrama
- Training on Working with LGBTIs in Forced Displacement Humanitarian Contexts to PWG partner staff
- Advocacy and training on homophobia and transphobia

### LGBTI & Key Refugee Groups (KRG) Coordination Platform Istanbul/Marmara Region

In July 2018 a platform co-led by UNHCR and UNFPA was established to discuss issues of specific concern to LGBTI individuals & KRGs. Membership comprises mainly of specialized national NGOs with LGBTI specific programming in the Marmara region. Thematic areas prioritized for discussion in 2019 included specialized service delivery and individual case response, access to rights and legal remedies, physical safety and safe accommodation, health. In 2019 the platform will inter alia focus on:

- Development of a training targeting social workers;
- Identification and documentation of good practices;
- Development of community-based activities, with focus on strengthened social cohesion;
- Engage with grassroots organizations, private sector, development actors.

### PWG Recommendations

- Facilitation of regular, country-wide exchanges on good practices and information and continued capacity-building to relevant staff in all locations;
- Support activity-level mapping through expansion and tailoring of Services Advisor;
- Development of standardized sensitisation and training modules for protection actors at institutional and staff level, specifically targeting operational staff and interpreters (including on protection monitoring, high-risk identification, and protection referrals), and development of a guideline for interpreters;
- Promote (and facilitate) engagement between LGBTI individuals and public institutions to strengthen dialogue and collectively identify concerns and barriers;
- Advocate for establishment of pathways for LGBTI individuals to relocate to more metropolitan provinces with increased diversity and more services available;
- Explore working with the Health Working Group and national health institutions to increase identification of LGBTI individuals in need of specific support and facilitate referrals;
- Inclusion of LGBTI mainstreaming / sensitive programming in all calls for proposals and ensure accountability, incorporate clauses explicitly preventing the exclusion of LGBTI from programming in grant agreements;
- Increased monitoring of LGBTI communities including in close consultation with relevant civil society and community-based organisations;
- Ensure financial support to respond to the specific needs of some of the most vulnerable LGBTI individuals to mitigate security concerns related to living in unsafe neighbourhoods and/or engaging in negative coping mechanisms;
- Develop tailored / context-specific notes for sector members on:
  - Good practices of communicating with state actors on topics concerning LGBTI individuals' rights, challenges, and concerns;
  - Do's and don'ts in working with LGBTI individuals for civil society / humanitarian partners.