REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE FACT SHEET

Türkiye

September 2025

Developments in Syria have led to an increase in voluntary return to Syria, with 474,000 refugees returning by early September from Türkiye, which hosts one of the largest refugee populations globally and has a comprehensive and inclusive legal framework.

UNHCR supports the government and works in coordination with diverse stakeholders, including civil society in advancing refugee protection, inclusion, access to solutions, including voluntary return and improving social cohesion.

Responsibility sharing to enhance access to social services remains crucial, with an increasing need for diversified and flexible funding for the refugee response, and other solutions, such as resettlement and complementary pathways.

POPULATION STATISTICS (mid-year 2025)*

Syrians under temporary protection	**2.52 million****
Refugees and asylum-seekers under international protection	**166,899*****

Top countries of origin*

Refugees

Syrian Arab Republic	2,646,142
Iraq	13,106
Afghanistan	9,872

Asylum-seekers

Iraq	65,259
Afghanistan	58,406
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	5,836

** UNHCR mid-year Statistical Report 2025 and UNHCR data finder*
*** Official figure as of September 2025 available at www.goc.gov.tr*
**** According to the Turkish Presidency of Migration Management*

Socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Türkiye

Access to higher education for refugees

UNHCR provides direct support to refugee university students through DAFI scholarships and higher education cash grants. It also assists refugees from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Syria access tertiary education in collaboration with the Presidency of Turks Abroad and Related Communities. In 2025, UNHCR provided 2,578 students with supported: 1,970 with higher education cash grant and 608 with DAFI scholarship directly paid by UNHCR and YTB.

Access to the labour market for refugees

UNHCR cooperates with institutions, municipalities and civil society to address challenges faced by refugees in accessing jobs. Together with the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality and the Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce, UNHCR supports job counselling, job-matching, capacity-building and on-the-job training for refugees and host community members. In collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, UNHCR organizes information sessions on work permit procedures and legal rights. As of June 2025, 12,264 people have benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions. UNHCR is also exploring collaboration with the International Finance Corporation in Türkiye through the UNHCR – IFC Joint Initiative to create sustainable economic opportunities for refugees through the private sector.

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

In southeast Türkiye, UNHCR, in addition to monitoring voluntary returns along border crossings, it addresses the needs of over 1.32 million refugees and the host community affected by the 2023 earthquakes. UNHCR does this through shelter, core relief items, legal advice, cash assistance and protection monitoring.

In northwest Türkiye, predominantly in urban areas along the Marmara region, UNHCR and partners facilitate access to services, work to increase self-reliance and promote social cohesion for over 665,000 refugees. UNHCR's support includes legal counselling to apprehended individuals along the western land borders and monitoring voluntary returns in provinces and at international Airports.

In the Aegean and West Mediterranean region, UNHCR facilitates access to rights and services for 168,000 refugees, mainly in urban settings, while providing assistance and referrals of people intercepted or rescued at sea borders through its partners. UNHCR also monitors voluntary return.

In the Central and Eastern Anatolia as well as along the Black Sea region, UNHCR supports access to rights and services for 368,000 refugees and monitors voluntary returns in provinces and Esenboğa Airport in Ankara.

FC Barcelona Foundation, UNHCR, and Turkish Ministry of Youth and Sports Collaborate to Promote Social Cohesion

Now sport is not just a game — it's a game-changer!

UNHCR and the Turkish Ministry of Youth and Sports have formed a unique partnership with the FC Barcelona Foundation since 2023 to support refugee and host community youth through sports initiatives in Izmir, Denizli and Manisa provinces of Türkiye.

Read more here.

Key Priorities

- UNHCR supports and 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 (PDMMs), under the Ministry of Interior. UNHCR also collaborates with the Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA) to provide legal assistance for refugees.
- UNHCR works with the Government to **strengthen capacity** for voluntary returns processing, **support for vulnerable refugees** during the return process, **ensure protection standards in return planning** and uphold accountability. UNHCR has enhanced its voluntary returns monitoring in 22 provinces, six land border crossing points and international Airports in İstanbul and Ankara.
- To **strengthen access to protection services**, Protection Desks, supported by UNHCR and situated at 48 PDMMs, continue to engage in identification and referral of people with specific needs. UNHCR also works with partners to provide counselling to refugees and asylum-seekers on services. UNHCR's operational support to the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MOFSS) had to phase out in July 2025 due to the funding crisis, while thousands of vulnerable people remain in need of assistance. While the MOFSS continues to provide services, the language barrier and the higher demand compared to the available response capacity strains service delivery in the absence of interpreters and adequate personnel support. UNHCR continues to liaise with UN agencies and other partners to address these unmet needs.
- UNHCR expedites **resettlement processing** of the most vulnerable refugees. As of September 2025, 2,963 resettlement submissions were made and 2,276 refugees departed to third countries. UNHCR also supports refugees in pursuing complementary pathways to third countries - for work or study opportunities or to reunite with family members.
- UNHCR's **capacity development** activities strengthen operational and technical capabilities of national institutions, local NGOs and refugee-led organisations to meet the specific and urgent needs of refugees, improve outreach and enhance social cohesion.
- UNHCR **engages with the private sector in Türkiye,** and internationally, on funding and partnerships to provide assistance and long-term livelihood opportunities to refugees. Through the UNHCR-International Finance Corporation (IFC) Joint Initiative based in Istanbul, UNHCR advances economic inclusion and support refugee resilience.
- In cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and other partners, UNHCR works towards greater social cohesion between the refugee and host communities through **sports for protection** activities.
- Public institutions, civil society and the UN Country Team (UNCT) are engaged in the refugee response and produce good practices, the list can be found on the **good practices portal of UNHCR Türkiye**.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with authorities, public institutions, the UNCT, civil society, donors, humanitarian and development actors, the private sector, international financial institutions, academia, media as well as refugees and the host community to promote refugee inclusion, find solutions and foster social cohesion.
- UNHCR has **partnership agreements** with 10 local partners to strengthen their refugee response in 2025.
- **UNHCR co-leads the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan**, the regional coordination platform for the Syrian refugee response, and chairs its Protection and Basic Needs sectors and the Information Management working group. Within the scope of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, UNHCR co-chairs the results group on International Protection and Migration. UN Agencies also work together on a **UN Common Pledge**.

Statelessness

- Türkiye is a party to the 1954 UN Convention on Statelessness. In 2020, UNHCR and PMM worked together on statelessness determination. According to TurkStat figures, there are 420 stateless individuals residing in Türkiye as of end-2024.

UNHCR Presence in Türkiye

Staff:

251 National Staff
25 International Staff

Offices:

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

Financial information (as of 31 August 2025)

Financial requirements

$ 280 M

Funded 32%
$ 90.26 M

Funding gap 58%
$ 189.74 M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors in 2025:

Australia | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Japan | Luxembourg | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Norway | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United States of America

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