VOLUNTARY REPARTIATION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN TÜRKİYE

UNHCR in Türkiye
January 2026

600,000 Syrian refugees are estimated to return from Türkiye to Syria since 8 December 2024.

73 per cent of all recorded returns were monitored and interviewed by UNHCR in 22 provinces, at six border crossings and three airports.

30,362 Syrian refugees (6,524 households) have withdrawn their cash assistance, amounting to approximately US$ 7.6 million for transportation and USD 139,000 for specific needs.

Context

Returning home is the most preferred durable solution for most refugees worldwide. Türkiye has been generously hosting Syrian refugees for over a decade. The political developments in Syria in December 2024 led to a sense of improved security and encouraged many refugees to return home. The Government of Türkiye took special measures to facilitate the voluntary returns, including authorized go-and-see-visits during the first half of 2025 that enabled the Syrian refugees to assess the situation back home and make well-informed decisions about their safe, dignified and voluntary return.

Syrian refugees in Türkiye, before crossing into Syria to return home.

UNHCR's Support

Monitoring and Support at Border Crossings: To ensure compliance with voluntary return principles and facilitate safe and dignified returns, UNHCR, in collaboration with the T.R. Ministry of Interior, Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), monitors returns at 25 Provincial Directorates of Migration Management (PDMM) offices in 22 provinces and at six border crossings in the south-east. UNHCR was also present at İstanbul and Sabiha Gökçen Airports in İstanbul and at Esenboğa Airport in Ankara. Ad hoc monitoring of voluntary returns from Adana Sarıçam and İstanbul Arnavutköy TAC continues. UNHCR also provides staff to PDMMs and border crossings to process the voluntary return requests. A Protocol on Sharing Personal Data within the scope of joint activities between the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) and UNHCR has also been signed. To further strengthen UNHCR's monitoring of voluntary returns, UNHCR and PMM have signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) to enable UNHCR to conduct voluntary return interviews remotely in selected provinces where voluntary return applications remain low.

Capacity Enhancement: UNHCR provides materials (hygiene kits, food packs, vehicles), accommodation close to border crossings, training to PMM/PDMM staff, and policy support to PMM to improve return processing. UNHCR refurbishes waiting areas to ensure safe and private interviews, women and child-friendly spaces, and expands border processing capacity. UNHCR also collaborates with the Turkish government to streamline registration and exit procedures for returnees.

Legal Assistance and Civil Documentation: UNHCR is partnering with Union of Turkish Bar Association (UTBA) to assist refugees in obtaining essential documentation (e.g., birth, marriage, divorce, and death certificates). Addressing the property restitution issues and providing guidance on civil documentation is also a key priority.

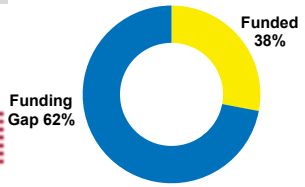
Cash Assistance for Transportation and Persons with Specific Needs: UNHCR provides targeted grants to vulnerable refugee families to cover transport costs, based on family size and distance to Ito support their safe return. UNHCR also provides cash assistance to Persons with Specific Needs who were assessed and identified to fall under the categories outlined in PMM.

Enhancing Communication with Refugees: UNHCR expanded the capacity of its call centre to provide timely information on voluntary return processes. In that regard, UNHCR has developed and distributed informational materials about return procedures, available assistance, and legal services.

Pre-Departure Activities: UNHCR assists PDMMs in managing data updates and registrations for individuals choosing to return.

Funding Information

UNHCR is grateful for generous contributions from its donors, who have provided both earmarked and flexible funding to support its operations in Türkiye.

US$ 210 million

UNHCR requested for the operation in Türkiye for 2026.