RESETTLEMENT AND COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS FOR REFUGEES IN TÜRKİYE

UNHCR Türkiye
April 2026

More than **100,000** vulnerable refugees have resettled from Türkiye since 2016.

3,772 refugees resettled in 2025, and **327** have resettled so far in 2026.

1,264 applications from refugees – including women and children at risk, and LGBTI refugees – were submitted to **8** resettlement countries in 2026.

The largest resettlement quotas in 2026 are for **Canada, Australia, France, Ireland and Italy**.

Most refugees who resettle from Türkiye originate from Syria, Afghanistan, and Iran.

Earlier this year, 7-year-old Zehra became the 100,000th refugee to resettle from Türkiye since the EU–Türkiye deal in 2016.

Zehra's family fled persecution in Afghanistan, and their need for international protection was recognised in Türkiye, however they were long reliant on humanitarian assistance.

With their resettlement to Ireland, Zehra and her family have an opportunity to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity, with the freedom to pursue their dreams.

Read more: *100.000th refugee resettled from Türkiye since the EU–Türkiye deal*

Resettlement

Many refugees live in perilous situations or have urgent protection needs that cannot be addressed in the first country of asylum. In such circumstances, UNHCR considers refugees for resettlement to a third country.

An Afghan refugee family resettle from Türkiye to Ireland.

A dedicated team within UNHCR in Türkiye carefully assesses the claims and vulnerabilities of refugees, matches their profiles with the criteria of resettlement countries, and submits their cases to resettlement countries for consideration.

Upon receiving resettlement referrals from the Government of Türkiye's Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), UNHCR identifies potentially eligible cases. Face-to-face interviews are conducted with refugees by UNHCR staff trained in protection-sensitive interviewing techniques, who assess the refugee claim and vulnerabilities of each case. Suitable cases are submitted to resettlement countries based on their criteria.

If a refugee is accepted for resettlement, UNHCR works closely with PMM to obtain exit permits and secure necessary travel documents. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) then arranges pre-departure orientation, medical checks, and travel arrangements to the resettlement country.

Resettlement enables UNHCR to secure durable solutions for the most vulnerable refugees, and provides an opportunity for resettlement countries to demonstrate responsibility-sharing with the Republic of Türkiye.

Complementary Pathways

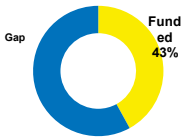
While resettlement remains a critical protection tool, only a very limited number of resettlement places are available to refugees. It is therefore essential to expand complementary pathways to meet the needs of refugees in Türkiye, for example to pursue study opportunities or reunite with family members in third countries. Such complementary pathways can open up more possibilities for refugees to secure durable solutions. UNHCR Türkiye works actively to identify potential complementary pathways and to facilitate refugees' access to these programmes.

In 2025, UNHCR Türkiye assisted six students to travel to France, Japan, and Slovenia through scholarships. So far in 2026, one refugee student has departed to Slovenia to enrol in a Master's programme in Kinesiology at the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI).

Learn more: Education Pathways: Slovenia

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.