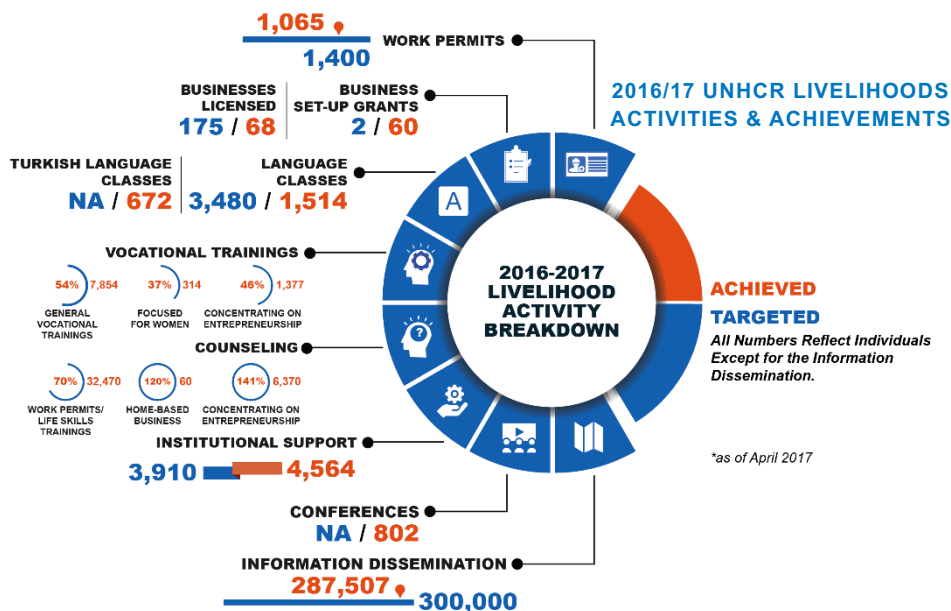


# TURKEY

May 2017

## Work Permit Regulations

- The Government of Turkey expanded access to legal employment for Syrian and non-Syrian refugees in 2016 by introducing two important regulations. The right to work is an important milestone for **refugee resilience**. UNHCR is collaborating closely with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, and the Turkish Labour Agency (ISKUR) to provide support. A firm ground was established for cooperation, and joint projects were launched in March 2016 and are continuing in 2017.



## Access to Opportunities for Non-Camp Refugees

- Assistance is limited and fragmented** for refugees living in urban, peri-urban and rural areas: 90% of refugees are dispersed throughout 81 provinces and many have **difficulties accessing essential services and livelihoods**, exposing them to negative coping mechanisms and protection risks.
- Increasing refugee needs/requests** have brought livelihoods assistance to the fore since mid-2015: Given the protracted nature of displacement and the lack of durable solutions, refugees needs have evolved and livelihoods, namely receiving a wage/ self-employment, allow refugees to be self-reliant, contribute to their host society free from aid dependency, make choices, and live a life in dignity. Livelihoods will also help combat negative coping mechanisms.

## UNHCR Strategy and Activities

- 2017 Livelihoods strategic priorities** are to:
  - ✓ Increase **refugee access to skills, language and vocational training** according to market demand, and individual interest and capacity
  - ✓ Increase refugee **access to information and services leading to employment**
  - ✓ Facilitate and strengthen **access to enterprise start up and development opportunities** as well as greater market access
  - ✓ **Enhance capacity of national systems** and increase cooperation with government, NGOs, private sector actors, and private sector umbrella organizations
- Continue to collaborate **with the private sector** to ensure employability. Several large-scale events have been organized with national and international brands to share information on refugee employment and work permit procedures. Following which many of these brands have co-organized briefing and counselling sessions with UNHCR for their supply chains, reaching more than 1,000 companies so far.

UNHCR Livelihood Activities	
<b>ADVOCACY</b>	Facilitate work permits for beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and international protection.
	A market assessment was carried out in ten provinces in Turkey, and was followed by a value chain analysis in key employment sectors.
	Provide business support and counselling to refugee-owned businesses.
	Promote employability and equal rights for refugees with public and private sector actors.
	Facilitate career fairs for refugees with private sector, vocational training service providers, universities and NGO actors.
<b>COLLABORATION WITH PUBLIC SECTOR</b>	Conduct awareness raising activities/counselling on work permit procedures throughout Turkey in cooperation with MoLSS, ISKUR and DGMM. Counselling services are provided both to individuals and groups of refugees as well as employers, chambers of commerce, and associations.
	Strengthen capacity of government partners on livelihoods.
<b>ENTREPRENEURSHIP</b>	Support refugee enterprise owners through information dissemination in cooperation with chambers of commerce and business development courses.
	Train youth and adult refugee entrepreneurs.
	Assist refugee enterprises with set-up procedures.
	Provide grants and trainings to refugees for small businesses.
<b>VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR REFUGEES</b>	Established a Livelihoods Centre in Istanbul for urban refugees offering career development services. An incubator established in the centre offers training on foreign trade, interview techniques and CV preparation for employability.
	Offer skills building activities, including training for refugees on computer repair, printing technologies, catering, graphic design, patient care, welding, accounting, finance and AutoCAD software.
	Launched a gastronomy centre for women with the Harran District Governorship Family Support Centre.
	Through the Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce launched training for refugee-owned businesses on shoe design, food safety/hygiene, and business Turkish.
	Provide technical and vocational training on the automotive and mechanical industry.
	Established a women's business centre in Ankara promoting self-reliance activities.
	Offer business support, counselling and training programmes for refugee entrepreneurs.
	Provide tailored Turkish language learning classes for refugees in Bursa and Gaziantep.
	Produced an online animated movie published in Arabic, Turkish and English explaining work permit application procedures.
<b>COLLABORATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR</b>	Organize ongoing private sector consultations to discuss possible cooperation and refugee employment with international brands. 1,000 multinationals, SMEs, employee and employers' associations already engaged in this dialogue.

## External / Donors Relations

### **Special thanks to donors funding UNHCR's livelihoods interventions in Turkey in 2017**

United States of America | European Union | Japan | Canada | France |

### **Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017**

United States of America (95 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Australia (19 M) | Private Donors Spain (18 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | France (14 M) | Germany (12 M) |

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## **LINKS**

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