

# Turkey

May 2017

## Over 3.2 million refugees

Turkey continues to host the world's largest refugee population.

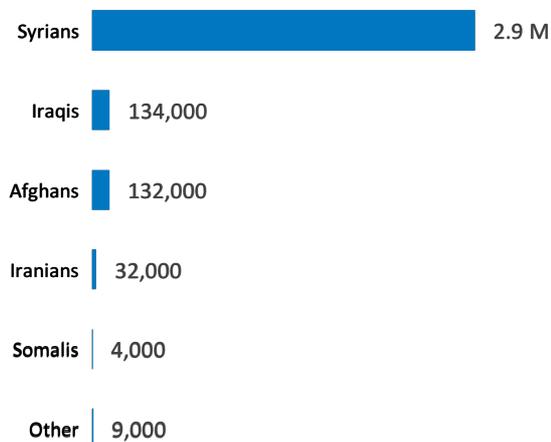
## Predominantly out of camp

More than 90 per cent of refugees in Turkey live outside of camps in urban and peri-urban areas.

## Mostly children and women

70 per cent of refugees in Turkey are children and women.

### TOTAL POPULATION OF CONCERN: 3.2 MILLION



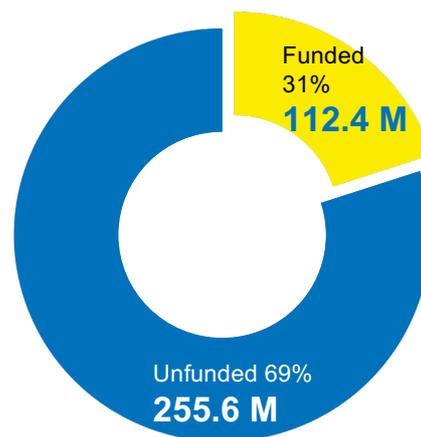
\* Data source for Syrian Population: DGMM end of April.

\* Data source for Non-Syrian Population: proGres 30 April.

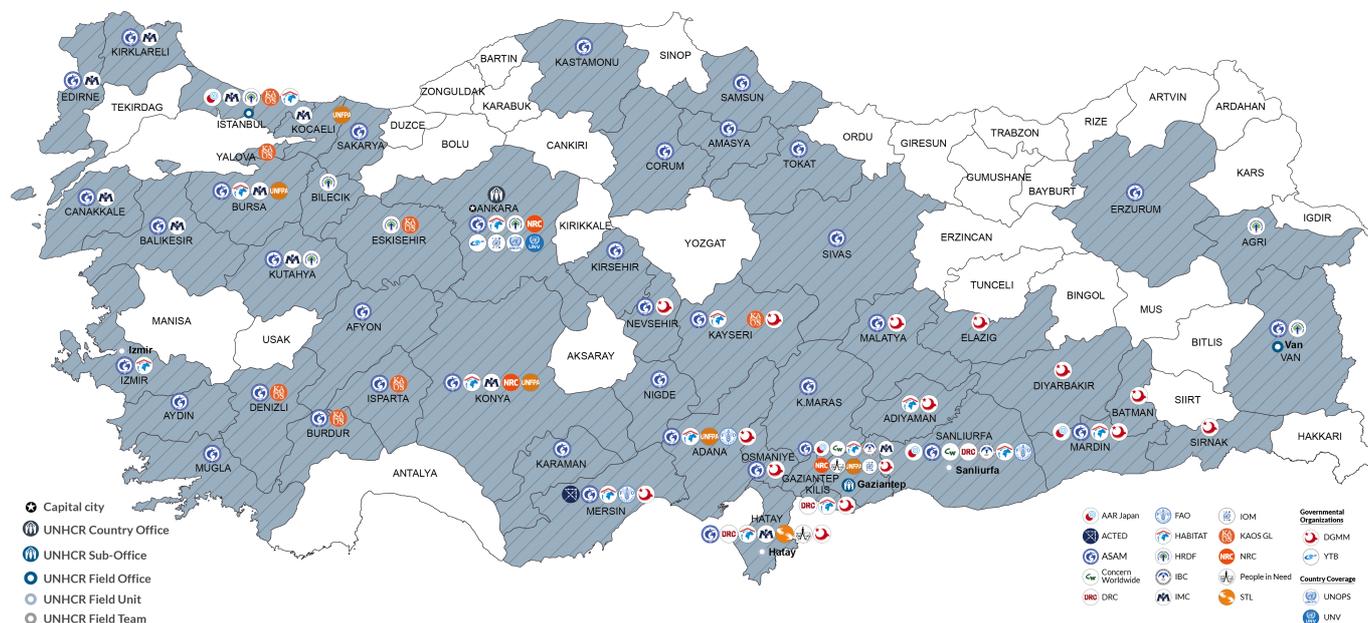
### FUNDING (AS OF 16 MAY)

# USD 368.2 M

requested for Turkey



### UNHCR AND PARTNER PRESENCE



# Working with Partners

- The Government of Turkey leads the refugee response with UNHCR providing direct operational support, capacity building and technical advice to Turkish authorities. As the refugee agency, UNHCR also coordinates the efforts of the UN agencies and partners to support Turkey's refugee response to avoid duplication and gaps in international assistance. In this role, UNHCR co-leads the Regional Refugee Resilience and Response Plan (3RP) for the Syria crisis with UNDP and the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) with IOM.

## Main Activities

### Registration and Refugee Status Determination

- **Verify registration data of the 2.8 million Syrian refugees under Temporary Protection:** The Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) with the support of UNHCR is conducting a verification exercise to update and obtain missing information, including biometric data, contact information, and detailed background information such as occupation, education and vulnerability on refugees as well as introduce verification as a continuous part of registration. The project began in January 2017 in the first three Zones in Ankara, Koceli, Karamanmaras, and Konya. Verification also started in Istanbul at a lower scale in the PDMMs of Sultanbeyli and Kumkapi. Zone Four was launched in early May in Hatay, Adana, Mersin and Kilis. The project will be rolled out in all 81 Provinces divided into seven Zones.
- **Transition Refugee Status Determination (RSD) activities into national procedures:** UNHCR is further strengthening its cooperation with DGMM to build a strong and quality national asylum system and RSD procedures. In this context, UNHCR and DGMM agreed on Data-Sharing Standard Operating Procedures to be implemented at registration.
- **Register new asylum-seekers from countries other than Syria:** Close to 28,500 asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR so far in 2017, the main nationality was Afghan, followed by Iraqi, Iranian, and Somali.
- **Determine if asylum-seekers fall within the criteria for international protection:** Over 5,700 individuals received an RSD decision from UNHCR in 2017 to date. In 2016, 20,000 decisions were issued, the highest number ever reached by UNHCR Turkey.

### Resettlement

- **Conduct resettlement based on a rigorous prioritization** of cases with the most acute vulnerabilities or protection risks. Nearly 29,000 refugees were submitted for resettlement in 2016, and the current target for 2017 is 32,000 individuals.

### Protection

- **Promote access to national protection mechanisms:** UNHCR is strengthening its partnerships with frontline institutions and upscaling advocacy initiatives with Turkish authorities concerning registration, access to asylum and protection, including for persons of concern in closed centres. In addition, improving access to legal remedies and assistance remains a priority.
- **Support integration of refugees and asylum-seekers into public services** in sectors such as education, child protection, prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and support to persons with specific needs and vulnerabilities to ensure persons of concern benefit from existing protection mechanisms and to facilitate their access to social services as a way to promote sustainability of the response and improve social cohesion.

- **Reach out and communicate with refugee communities to engage them directly in protection responses:** UNHCR is consolidating its community-based protection approach by engaging with authorities and service providers to facilitate access to services and support and establish two-way communication with refugee communities to empower them. Strengthening partners' presence in the field, a dedicated refugee counselling line and outreach and awareness raising by refugees themselves (Refugee Outreach Volunteers (ROVs)) ensure persons with specific needs who normally cannot reach community centres/multi-service centers/protection offices are identified and assisted. Communication will also improve advocacy, protection interventions and information sharing.
- **Support networks of active refugee and Turkish youth:** in line with the priorities identified through the national Youth Empowerment Action Plan, UNHCR and partner agencies assist youth with activities on social cohesion, education, and prevention of child marriage. Additionally, the youth networks have been actively engaged in SGBV and birth registration campaigns as well as peer support projects.
- **Develop capacity building activities** to strengthen technical abilities of national authorities and humanitarian partners; provide legislative support to ensure that laws and policies incorporate principles and standards compliant with international refugee law; promote coherence of actions on the ground with the legal framework; and ensure that refugees enjoy their rights and access to services which promote self-reliance.
- **Harmonize provision of assistance and services, in particular between Syrians and refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities:** Despite the difference of legal status among different categories of persons of concern, ensuring that the nature and the level of assistance provided by UNHCR and its partners is provided equally, to the maximum extent possible, is a priority.
- **Strengthen the capacity of NGO partners on the identification of cases with specific needs and child protection:** continuous training is provided to NGO partners to improve their case management capacity including case identification, vulnerability assessment, monitoring of protection situations and reporting. On child protection emphasis is placed on best interest assessment procedures.

## Education

- **Bolster the efforts of the authorities to ensure access to education for school-age children:** UNHCR supports the Ministry of National Education's efforts to include refugee children in the national education system through community outreach on educational services as well as procuring over 900,000 Turkish language textbooks in 2016 and 2017 and helping prepare children to enrol in schools.
- **Provide opportunities for advanced Turkish language programmes in partnership with the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB):** high school graduates can benefit from these programmes to enable them to meet language proficiency requirements for higher education enrolment. Over the last years UNHCR has offered 1,600 scholarships per session for the intensive, 10-month accredited Turkish language programme.
- **Provide higher education scholarships through UNHCR's DAFI Turkiye scholarship programme:** Turkey now implements the largest DAFI scholarship programme in the world with a total of 814 refugee youth awarded scholarships that include tuition costs and a monthly stipend for accommodation and living expenses.

## Basic Needs and Cash-based Interventions

- **Provide cash assistance to particularly vulnerable non-Syrian refugees:** in continuation of its longstanding cash assistance programme UNHCR will continue to assist 1,500 households on a monthly basis.
- **Distribute core relief items to those most in need in urban areas:** in support to refugees living outside camps, through partners in the field, mini-fridges, hot plates and kitchen cabinets are being delivered.
- **Improve shelter for refugees in camps in southeast Turkey:** replacement tents are provided to AFAD on a regular basis, with 7,000 delivered in 2017 to date.
- **Provide winter assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers in Turkey:** provision of winter cash remains a key

priority for UNHCR, especially for the most vulnerable in urban areas whose vulnerabilities increase over the winter period with rising costs. From November 2016-March 2017, over 580,000 persons received winter cash assistance. All camp-based refugees received winter clothes, high thermal blankets, and/or heaters. A winter assistance programme will be developed for the 2017-18 winter season.

- **Support improvement of WASH conditions:** Hygiene kits continue to be delivered to address some of the health needs of the refugee population both in and out of the camps. Also, shower, WC and accommodation containers are provided to frontline institutions to improve sanitary conditions in the Mediterranean response.

## Health

- **Overcome barriers to improve health service delivery:** while the legal framework provides access to health care for all refugees and asylum-seekers, language continues to be an obstacle to providing quality services throughout Turkey. UNHCR provides interpreters to hospitals throughout the country. Trainings on international legal protection and national legislation related to health issues are provided to Turkish MoH staff to strengthen understanding, harmonize dissemination of information and support consistent implementation of legislation. Also, in cooperation with MoH and DGMM, leaflets on persons of concerns' access to health services have been distributed in several languages.

## Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- **Support the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) in the management of camps in southeastern Turkey:** UNHCR ensures regular staff presence in all of the camps to offer technical assistance on registration, camp management, identification of vulnerabilities, other protection concerns and to monitor voluntary repatriation. Additional expert technical support is provided on education, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, and site planning on a regular basis. Other assistance includes shelter, winter items, vocational training programmes and materials for people with special needs (see Basic Needs). Also, UNHCR provided AFAD with 16 minibuses to transport refugees to training activities and events organized both in camps and out of camps settings. WC and shower containers are provided as needed.

## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- **Enhance refugees' access to the labour market:** UNHCR will continue to advocate with the authorities for access to formal employment, including through harmonization of legal provisions for all refugees. Also, training and information will continue to be provided to concerned employers and refugee communities on legal provisions and administrative procedures.
- **Address increasing livelihood needs and improve self-reliance through promotion of skills development, employability** by providing language and vocational trainings, entrepreneurship support, work permit and business licensing facilitation as well as through organizing events to link employers and employees.
- **Increase cooperation and partnerships with private sector actors to ensure employability:** large-scale events are being organized with national and international brands to discuss possible cooperation and refugee employment. 1,000 multinationals, SMEs, and employee and employers' associations have already engaged in this dialogue.

## External / Donors Relations

### Thanks to the critical support provided by donors to this operation in 2017

European Union (58 M) | United States of America (45 M) | Japan (5 M) | Canada (2 M) | France (2 M) |

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

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## LINKS

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