

Working in Partnership with the Directorate General of Migration Management

Turkey is the country hosting the largest number of refugees worldwide, including over 3.5 million Syrian refugees who have been granted temporary protection and more than 365,000 asylum-seekers and refugees of other nationalities. Turkey has adopted a strong legal framework - the Law on International Protection and Foreigners (LFIP) which came into effect in April 2014 and the Temporary Protection Regulation (TPR) effective since October 2014 - which form the basis for UNHCR's strategy and support to the Government of Turkey.

Since the entry into force of the LFIP in 2014 and the establishment of the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), and in line with the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) strategic objectives, UNHCR has increased its dialogue and collaboration with DGMM to support the development and implementation of a strong and fair national asylum system for all persons seeking international as well as temporary protection in Turkey.

Strengthening the Asylum System

UNHCR's collaboration with DGMM aims to ensure access to registration and documentation as well as fair and efficient national refugee status determination procedures are in place for persons seeking international protection. Also, assistance for registration and verification of Syrian refugees will continue in order to support the Temporary Protection regime.

These priorities will be pursued through a number of different initiatives, as planned in the 3RP and agreed with DGMM, including capacity development support, the provision of human resources and material support, interpretation services and by facilitating access of international protection applicants and refugees to information about national registration and asylum procedures.

Registration and Documentation

In line with Turkey's legal framework, all international protection applicants arriving in the country have access to state registration and documentation at any Provincial Directorate for Migration Management (PDMM). UNHCR supports DGMM to implement its registration procedures by facilitating referrals of all approaching asylum-seekers from countries other than Syria to satellite cities where PDMMs conduct registration and documentation. Applicants with special needs continue to be prioritised in national procedures.

UNHCR and DGMM aim at gradual transitioning to the national system and capacity development support to the national authorities to ensure timely and adequate registration of all international protection applicants. Specifically, UNHCR is:

- Supporting government registration by:
 - ✓ Engaging in continuous discussions with DGMM on further information sharing arrangements, and ways to enhance cooperation in the area of registration such as effective verification of registration information, including biometrics data and documentation in a timely manner.
 - ✓ Further supporting capacity of national authorities through joint regular training of DGMM and PDMM personnel engaged in registration activities.
- Conducting a population data update through verification activities to confirm the continued presence of refugees and asylum-seekers in Turkey and updating the UNHCR *proGres* database accordingly.
- Continuing to record data of asylum-seekers of nationalities other than Syrian approaching UNHCR, with a view to:
 - ✓ Refer asylum-seekers whose data is recorded in the UNHCR's *proGres* database to satellite cities for government registration.
 - ✓ Identify cases with specific needs and acute vulnerabilities, and refer them for a thorough protection assessment and follow-up.

4,907



Asylum-seekers were interviewed for RSD procedures by UNHCR from January to April 2018

2,312



Decisions were issued by UNHCR from January to April 2018

126,541



Asylum-seekers were registered by UNHCR in 2017

23,575



RSD interviews were conducted by UNHCR in 2017

16,743



RSD decisions were finalized by UNHCR in 2017

Refugee Status Determination

In 2018, UNHCR is committing more resources to support DGMM in implementing national refugee status determination procedures. UNHCR is providing opportunities for on-the-job training, and is sharing good practices, expertise and refugee status determination tools. The **support to the national asylum system** aims to

increase the efficiency in activities related to the processing of individual asylum applications, and specifically:

- ✓ Strengthen the technical and working-level cooperation with the DGMM on decision-making.
- ✓ Reinforce the capacity of DGMM, PDMMs and interpreters through focused training and other activities and increase overall quality of the decision-making process.
- ✓ Enhance Country of Origin Information (COI) research and reporting with a view to creating regional or countrywide expertise, through fact-finding missions, capacity development initiatives, including working meetings, study-visits, and the dissemination of relevant information.
- ✓ Establish Quality Assurance framework of International Protection determination procedures as implemented by DGMM.

UNHCR will also continue to **carry-out individual refugee status determination specifically for the purposes of resettlement**, of asylum-seekers from countries other than Syria by:

- ✓ Continuing to work to target the most vulnerable asylum-seekers, for assessment, referral and solutions.
- ✓ Prioritizing cases which may be shared by national counterparts of individuals recognized by the authorities as "conditional refugees" according to the LFIP in order to facilitate access to durable solutions, including resettlement, and other legal pathways.

Achievements in 2017

- Within the Joint-Registration activities conducted in collaboration with DGMM, information relating to asylum-seekers approaching UNHCR for registration was shared between UNHCR and DGMM for 4,120 individuals during 2017.
- As a result of continuous verification activities of asylum-seekers and refugees from countries other than Syria, the records of a total of 47,107 individuals have been inactivated during the year.
- UNHCR Registration and RSD staff were involved in 128 training initiatives delivered during 2017, both as facilitators as well as for continuous capacity strengthening in Turkey and the region. Some 47 trainings were developed and facilitated as part of capacity building initiatives taken for government staff, as well as other stakeholders such as Bar Associations.
- In particular, two one-week on-the-job training were provided to staff from four different PDMMs and two-day joint visits were conducted to eight provincial offices of DGMM for observation of case work and discussions.

May 2018

External and Donor Relations

Thanks to UNHCR's donors for supporting our registration and refugee status determination activities in Turkey and for their unrestricted and regional funds in 2018:

European Union | Japan | United States | Canada | Norway | France | Germany | Private donors Australia | Finland | Sweden | Netherlands | United Kingdom | Private donors Spain | Denmark | Australia | Switzerland | Private donors Republic of Korea | Italy | Belgium

CONTACTS

Hilary Bowman, Inter-Agency Coordination Officer, bowman@unhcr.org

LINKS

[Regional Portal - Syria Regional Refugee Response](#) | [Regional Portal - Mediterranean](#) | [UNHCR Turkey website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Services Advisor](#) | [UNHCR Help](#)