

TURKEY

LIVELIHOODS EXTERNAL UPDATE

September 2016



90%

Of Syrian refugees live in urban areas and all non-Syrian refugees

10,000

Work permits issued to Syrian refugees since 15 January 2016

Around 1,000

Participants (private/public sector, (I)NGO, etc.) in work permit conferences

Over 7,600

Refugees and employers trained and received counseling services

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

NEW REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The Government introduced two important regulations providing **legal access to employment** for persons of concern living in Turkey: While refugees and persons granted subsidiary protection status were already given access to work permits, access to employment has now been extended to persons under Temporary Protection since 15 January 2016, and on 26 April 2016 a work permit regulation was also issued for international protection applicants and status holders. Both regulations facilitate access to work permits six months following an individual's registration with the authorities, without any geographical or sectoral restrictions, and clarify implementation issues such as quotas.
- 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 to provide support. A firm ground was established for cooperation; joint projects were launched in March 2016.

LACK OF SELF-RELIANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-CAMP REFUGEES

- **Assistance is limited and fragmented** for refugees who live in urban, peri-urban and rural areas: Nearly 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

- UNHCR's Global Strategic Priorities for livelihoods have been adapted by UNHCR Turkey, with the following priorities:
 - ✓ **Promote the right to work** and the **right to development**
 - ✓ Enable people to **preserve and protect their productive assets** as well as **meet their immediate consumption needs**
 - ✓ Develop and expand proven and innovative ways of **supporting people's economic self-reliance**
- UNHCR is **collaborating with the private sector** to ensure employability, raise awareness on work permit regulations and foster equal rights for refugees. A consultation took place with many national and international brands with potential for employment of refugees in their supply chain.
- Momentum for livelihoods activities has been growing since September 2015 with a number of important initiatives and projects being launched:

ADVOCACY	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 in Gaziantep.
	Undertake a study with around 4,000 enterprises on the challenges faced by refugee entrepreneurs as well as focus on the added value of refugee entrepreneurship.
	Continuously advocate with public and private sector actors to ensure employability and equal rights for refugees.
COLLABORATION WITH MoLSS	Three conferences were organized in Ankara and southeast Turkey in cooperation with MoLSS to raise awareness on the work permit regulations for refugees.
	Conduct awareness raising activities and counselling on work permit procedures throughout Turkey. Provide counselling both to individuals and groups of refugees as well as employers, chambers of commerce, and associations.
CONCRETE VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR REFUGEES	A Livelihoods Centre was established in Istanbul for urban refugees offering career development services; a network between vulnerable refugees and employers/vocational training institutions; and a safe place for refugee youth to engage in community-based initiatives. An incubator established in the centre offers training on foreign trade, interview techniques and CV preparation for employability.
	Provide skills building activities, including training, for Syrian refugees in Hatay.
	A gastronomy centre for women established with the Harran District Governorship.
	UNHCR through the Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce offers training for refugee-owned businesses on shoe design, food safety/hygiene, and business Turkish.
	Technical and vocational training on the automotive and mechanical industry is available in Sanliurfa, Ankara and Bursa for Syrian urban refugees.
	A women’s business centre was established in Ankara to promote self-reliance.
	Business support, counselling and training programmes for refugee entrepreneurs are offered throughout Turkey.
	Vocational training in key sectors and language programmes are offered in Bursa, Nizip, Kırıkhan and Konya in cooperation with the Municipalities.
COLLABORATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR	Entrepreneurship and business creation programme in 14 cities to enable refugee entrepreneurs to start and sustain their own businesses, create jobs, and contribute positively to their local communities as well as Turkey’s economy. Home based micro-business grants programmes are also offered.
	Collaborate with the private sector to ensure employability, raise awareness on work permit regulations and foster equal rights for refugees. Private sector consultations to discuss possible cooperation and refugee employment are ongoing with international brands as they have huge supply chains in Turkey. As a result of the cooperation with UNHCR, Puma has declared an objective of 3% refugee employment in their supply chain in Turkey. An event was organized in order to bring private sector representatives together and focus on refugee employment.
	UNHCR and SAP co-sponsored a Refugee Code Week in Istanbul. More than 200 refugee participants trained on Web Development, Business ERP and Scratch.

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Links:

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