

KEY FIGURES

1

Turkey is the highest refugee-hosting country in the world

21,193

Refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement (since 1 January 2016)

10,582

Refugees counselled on the work permit regulation by UNHCR and partners (Since March 2016)

4,528

Non-Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers with specific needs have been identified by UNHCR and referred for assistance

6,919

Refugees and asylum-seekers received counselling from UNHCR Ankara

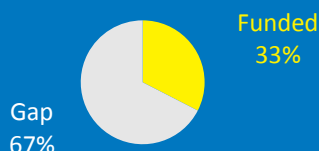
4,660

Officials and humanitarians trained by UNHCR on international protection (Since 1 January 2016)

FUNDING (AS OF 22 NOVEMBER)

US \$ 350.9 M

requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Increase cooperation with municipalities to assist urban refugees
- Strengthen outreach programmes to support the most vulnerable
- Implement winter support plans for the 2016-2017 winter season
- Continue roll-out of Syrian refugee verification exercise with DGMM

TURKEY

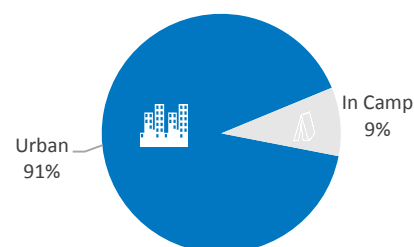
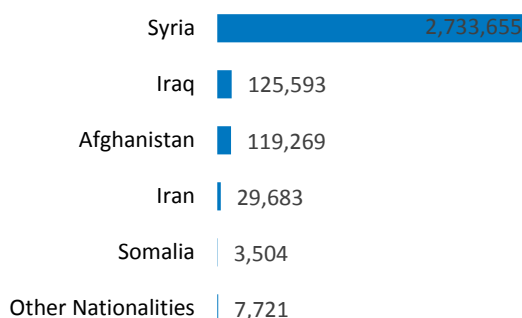
UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

July - September 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Turkey

A total of **3,019,425**



- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi visited Ankara from 31 August to 2 September. During his visit he **pledged to continue advocating for more international responsibility sharing and support for Turkey's refugee response**. Grandi told reporters at a news conference in Ankara: "Turkey alone cannot shoulder this heavy refugee responsibility. This should be shared internationally. It is not just a financial issue. It is a moral international responsibility."
- In August 2016, **the European Union (EU) contributed EUR 75 million to UNHCR operations in Turkey** through two agreements. EUR 35 million was confirmed as a contribution of the European Union Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) for UNHCR's efforts to provide protection and durable solutions to refugees and asylum-seekers. In addition, thanks to a EUR 40 million contribution, the European Union and UNHCR will increase the economic and social resilience of Syrian refugees and host communities supporting Turkey's efforts in mitigating the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis.
- The United States Bureau for Population, Migration and Refugees (BPRM) **contributed an additional USD 10 million in September 2016** to support the Syria refugee verification exercise and winter assistance activities in Turkey. BPRM's total contribution to UNHCR Turkey has risen to USD 66.6 million for the current year.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context



Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu (right) and HC Grandi (left)
Photo ©: MoFA

UNHCR has been operating in Turkey for 56 years and works in support of Turkey to find protection and durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers. To formalize and strengthen UNHCR's long-standing cooperation with Turkey, Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi signed a Host Country Agreement on 1 September 2016.

UNHCR welcomed the Government's passing of the Law on International Labour Force in August 2016, which regulates the principles and procedures on issuing work permits, determines policies, and sets out mechanisms concerning employment of foreigners in Turkey. The new law mirrors and reinforces the procedural and legal framework set out in the two regulations issued in early 2016 stipulating access to employment by international protection applicants, status holders and foreigners benefitting from Temporary Protection.

A Protocol between the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) and the Ministry of Health was issued on 15 August 2016, stipulating that AFAD will now cover the cost for delivering disability reports to Syrians under Temporary Protection out of its budget allocated for health issues. UNHCR considers this an important milestone as this Protocol fills a long-standing gap that UNHCR had been advocating to resolve. Disabled Syrian refugees will have access to social assistance including home-based special care allowance.

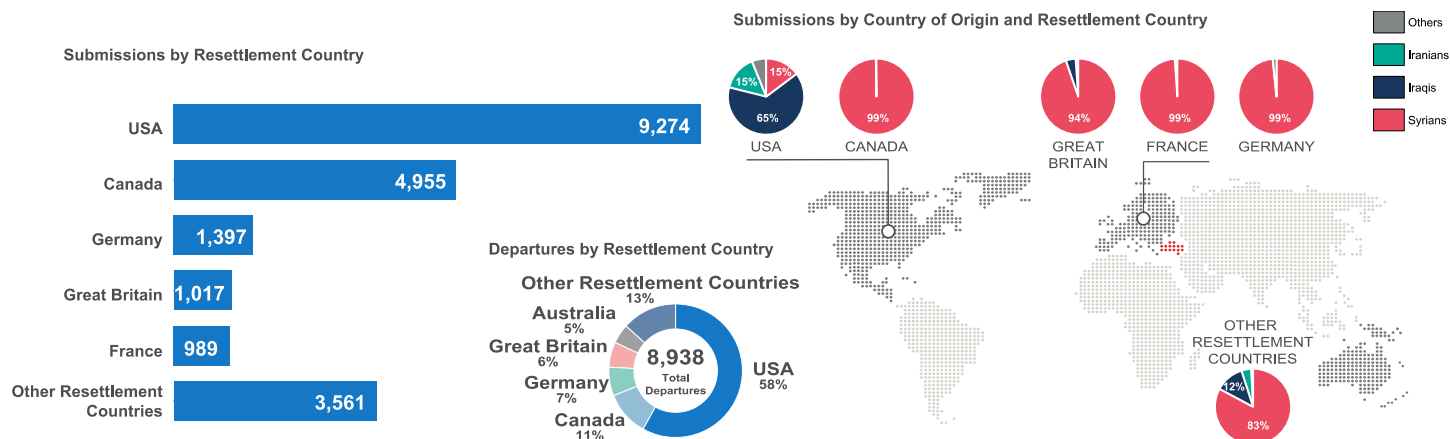
Achievements and Impact

Registration and Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

- In July 2016, UNHCR launched a secure online system (<http://results.unhcr.org.tr/Home>) for refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR to update their personal records such as address, contact number and Government Identity number. The system allows for changes to be reflected in a more timely and efficient manner. As of end September, more than 4,200 entries were recorded.
- Out of almost 16,000 asylum applicants interviewed, close to 13,500 individuals received a decision on their RSD from UNHCR since the beginning of the year. The main nationality was Iraqi, followed by Iranian, Afghan, and Somali.

Resettlement

- Currently, 49,450 refugees are at various stages in the resettlement process, including over 27,900 Syrians that have been assessed in 2016 alone. UNHCR has conducted 96 resettlement missions this year in locations across Turkey to interview Syrian refugees and prepare their cases for resettlement processing. Moreover, 15 resettlement selection missions from various countries have been received in Turkey so far, and at least 12 more are expected to take place before the end of the year.



- **Resettlement counseling is a key tool to manage refugees' expectations:** in addition to routine counseling UNHCR operates a hotline once a week in Arabic and Persian. This year the Operation is expanding access to resettlement counseling through a variety of means (phone, in-person, online, etc.). UNHCR responded to resettlement queries of over 8,300 refugees since 1 January 2016.

Protection

- **Ensuring continued access to information and counselling for asylum-seekers and refugees:** From July – September 2016, UNHCR counselled close to 3,300 non-Syrians (1,300 cases) in group sessions about asylum procedures, asylum law rights and obligations, and services offered by the government, UNHCR and non-governmental partners, as well as access to them. Also, an additional 3,624 persons of concern, of which 1,423 were female, contacted UNHCR Protection by phone or approached UNHCR in person to obtain counselling and advice on topics varying from resettlement, employment, medical issues, and accommodation to other protection issues like SGBV.
- **Over 4,500 non-Syrians with specific needs were identified and referred for protection and other assistance:** Out of this number, 2,389 individuals (910 cases) were referred on a priority basis to RSD procedures, and 2,139 individuals (715 cases) were referred for resettlement consideration. Other targeted protection interventions undertaken by UNHCR for these individuals included referrals, advocacy, and protection follow-up with the line ministries.
- **The Refugee Outreach Volunteer (ROV) programme continues to grow and is strengthening outreach to refugee communities in Turkey:** With partners ASAM and IMPR, refugee outreach volunteers support UNHCR in identifying and assisting vulnerable refugees; informing refugees about their rights and the national services available to them; and developing and strengthening existing capacities within the community. On 29-30 September, UNHCR launched the first workshop for ROVs identified from different locations within Central Anatolia. A group of 30 young refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran and Somalia participated. The workshop was a valuable learning opportunity and facilitated direct communication between ROVs, UNHCR and partner staff. In October and November, similar workshops will be held in Istanbul and Gaziantep.



ROV workshop participants in Ankara during the session on the national refugee protection legal framework ©: UNHCR/Cansin Argun, 29 September 2016

- **Strengthening coordination and improving services among NGOs working with refugee women:** In September, UNHCR gathered 39 NGOs (68 participants) from different provinces. A number of recommendations were made by the participant NGOs including: improving provision of safe shelter and accommodation for refugee women; protection of LGBTI refugees; strengthening cooperation and coordination between NGOs and UNHCR; better assistance services

targeting women and livelihood activities; supporting awareness raising activities targeting various actors; and promoting positive perception among the host community and development of harmonization activities.

- Following the national Global Refugee Youth Consultations (GRYC) in May participants developed an action plan: UNHCR, ASAM and MUDEM (Refugee Support Center) staff assisted youth participants to develop a country-level action plan to accelerate youth engagement and capacity in the areas of education, identification and facilitation of access to services for youth with specific needs, and participation in recreational activities. UNHCR will provide programmatic support to the activities proposed by the youth networks.
- Improving reception conditions for children: UNHCR is providing support and coaching to partner, ASAM, on reception activities conducted for child new comers. The aim is to identify protection risks and needs of unaccompanied and separated children approaching the centre, and to provide appropriate referrals.
- Enhanced protection coordination and follow up on urgent cases in the Aegean Sea and Western Borders response: UNHCR convened the first sub-working group on urgent cases at the end of September in Izmir, which was attended by IOM, Mercy Corps, Multeci-der, ASAM Multi-Service Centre and Médecins du Monde, to identify gaps in procedure and to avoid duplication of assistance.
- Establishment of refugee committees for women and youth in Izmir: In cooperation with partners, UNHCR has begun work on establishing these committees to increase support to the refugee community, identify and understand problems and obstacles they face as well as encourage their own response and problem-solving mechanisms within the community.
- Promoting social integration and inter-cultural harmony among refugee children in Van: During the Eid Al-Adha (Kurban Bayram), UNHCR in cooperation with local authorities supported the Youth and Child Centre in Van in organizing a trip for 30 Afghan, Iraqi, Syrian and Iranian unaccompanied children to Akdamar Island. During the trip, the children learned about the historical background, had a special meal at a local restaurant and played football.
- Harmonization and coordination among community/outreach centres is a priority in southeast Turkey: On 21 July, UNHCR, IOM, IRC, and STL organized a workshop for 18 UN Agencies and I/NGOs running community centres in Hatay. The aim was to enhance cooperation among the actors and improve services by establishing minimum standards and guiding principles concerning mainly feedback and complaint mechanisms, host community engagement, dissemination of information, and outreach programming and mapping.
- Improving coordination in the framework of Child Protection in southeast Turkey: UNHCR and UNICEF jointly facilitated the establishment of the Child Protection Sub-Working Group. The first meeting was held on 24 August with 14 organizations in attendance. It is hoped that the regular monthly briefings will bring together Child Protection stakeholders including Government and local authorities, UN agencies, civil society and I/NGOs to create a forum for Child Protection response planning.

Capacity Building and Awareness Raising

- Refugees' awareness on national legislation and international protection procedures is increasing: Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR printed and disseminated 131,000 leaflets on national RSD procedures to partners in 40 provinces in seven different languages (Turkish, English, Arabic, Farsi, Somali, Amharic, and Russian).
- 4,660 government officials, lawyers, academics, and humanitarians have received targeted training since January: UNHCR delivered sessions on a wide range of topics such as international protection, including child protection and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), to build the capacity of persons representing different state organizations civil society actors, and Bar Associations as well as university students and staff, refugees and UNHCR staff. Moreover, 15 UNHCR Guidelines on International Protection, International Protection Considerations and positions concerning countries of asylum, as well as other reference materials were translated into Turkish since the beginning of the year.
- The first in a series of capacity building events within the framework of the "Reinforcement of Institutional Capacity in International Protection and Mixed Migration" project was launched in September. This UNHCR project is funded by the UK Embassy targeting Gendarmerie General Command staff from different provinces throughout the country.

Children enjoying the “We Are Together!” game during a child rights session in Konya Photo ©: UNHCR/Firuze Dogru, 31 August



who dropped out of school, a venue to interact with their peers on issues important to them and to express themselves through art and photography. The initiative will continue in different locations in Turkey throughout the year.

Education

- 1,141 high school graduates completed a year-long Turkish course which will allow them to meet language proficiency requirements for entry into Turkish universities.
- Higher education is increasingly sought by the young refugee community: over 18,500 scholarship applications were received through the joint online portal for various scholarships, including 6,600 that were received for UNHCR’s DAFI scholarship programme, implemented in partnership with the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB). 1,400 students were interviewed in Istanbul, Ankara, Gaziantep and Adana for 750 university scholarships. UNHCR and YTB conducted a number of information sessions in key cities on access to higher education and scholarship application procedures. Information about the different scholarship packages was disseminated through social media and through NGOs providing refugee counselling.



DAFI and TOMER scholarship holders (left to right) Shebab, Rawan, Fatima and Yousef, from Syria, are photographed in a park in Ankara. Just over two per cent of Syrian refugees are attending universities in Turkey and UNHCR supports the provision of scholarship programmes such as DAFI which enables refugee youth to access education. ©: UNHCR/Ali Ünal

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR is working with the Turkish Government on a number of joint self-reliance projects: ninety per cent of Turkey’s refugees live in urban areas and making ends meet is becoming increasingly difficult for them, forcing many to resort to negative coping mechanisms. The joint projects aim to promote skills training and create work opportunities. Since March, UNHCR with its partner IMPR, has been supporting the Government through its Awareness Raising Programme on Work Permits, with 10,582 refugees counselled on the work permit regulation by the end of September.
- The UNHCR-funded IMC Maharat Livelihoods Centre in Istanbul has assisted 416 refugees since it was inaugurated in May 2016 during the World Humanitarian Summit: Individuals have received training in business development strategies, CV writing and interviewing skills, business negotiations, time and stress management, and enterprise set-up as well as webinars on business, web development, and foreign trade expertise.
- 508 Syrians in Hatay have benefited from skills building activities, and information and awareness raising sessions have reached 541 individuals since January 2016: UNHCR’s partner Support to Life (STL), has conducted courses on Arabic literacy, Turkish and English language, computer training, sewing, and hair dressing.

- Scaling up collaboration with the public sector and partnerships with the private sector: UNHCR held many discussions with MoLSS and ISKUR in order to strengthen and expand policies on refugee livelihoods as well as with the Istanbul Metropolitan Lifelong Education Centre. In terms of private sector partnerships, UNHCR led talks with different companies to promote refugee employment in their supply chains and to cooperate on the prevention of child labour. Furthermore, awareness-raising programmes were also carried out for the suppliers of a number of different brands.

Basic Needs and Cash-Based Initiatives

- About 850 Iraqi, Afghan, and other nationality refugee households continue to benefit from regular cash assistance: UNHCR delivers an average of USD 20 per person per month through cash payments provided by Garanti Bank.
- 7,061 non-Syrian students received cash grants for access to education, in the amount of USD 50 per child per six-month term.
- Approximately 110,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian and non-Syrian households to receive winter assistance this year: UNHCR is in the final planning stages of its winter support programme which will assist individuals residing in and out of camps. The assistance for the camp population will consist mainly of winter clothes, while UNHCR will provide refugees living outside of the camps with debit cards issued by the Turkish postal system (PTT). These cards can be used in any shop which is part of the MasterCard circuit, allowing refugees to buy a variety of goods or services in thousands of shops across the country.



Health

- UNHCR supports the strained Turkish health care system to offer more services: UNHCR delivered 40 ambulances in September to the Ministry of Health to be able to offer health services to persons of concern in remote locations, or to be deployed in the event of an emergency. UNHCR also provided close to 120,000 hygiene kits since the beginning of the year to address some of the health needs of the refugee population.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- A painting class for refugee youth started in Kahramanmaraş Camp in southeast Turkey in end July: UNHCR funded a Syrian painter to teach 16 refugees (ten girls and six boys) between the ages of 12 and 15 residing in the camp. The course took place five days a week and gave youth an opportunity to learn basic painting during the summer holidays.
- UNHCR provided over 5,000 replacement tents to AFAD-run camps so far this year. Procurement of another 10,000 tents is underway for replacement in the oldest tent camps.

Working in partnership

- The Government of Turkey leads the refugee response with UNHCR providing direct 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 the country'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.
- UNHCR implements its activities with 14 partners: [Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants](#) | [Concern Worldwide Ireland](#) | [Danish Refugee Council](#) | [Directorate General of Migration Management](#) | [Human Rights Foundation of Turkey](#) | [International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation](#) | [International Medical Corps UK](#) | [International Middle East Peace Research Center](#) | [International Organization for Migration](#) | [Support to Life](#) | [The Human Resources Development Foundation](#) | [The Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities](#) | [Turkish Red Crescent Society](#) | [United Nations Office for Project Services](#)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR's requirements in Turkey for 2016 amounts to **US\$ 350.9 million**. As of 22 November 2016, total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 114.2 million**, including **US\$ 101.1 million** for the Syria situation.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

UNHCR Türkiye'ye Katkı Sağlayan Donörler - Donors Contributing to UNHCR Turkey - الدول المانحة لمفوضية شؤون اللاجئين في تركيا



Bölgede UNHCR'yi Destekleyen Diğer Donörler - Other Donors Contributing to UNHCR in the Region - الجهات المانحة الأخرى المساهمة في مفوضية شؤون اللاجئين في المنطقة



Children bowling at UNHCR's partner Danish Refugee Council's Child Friendly Space in Urfa. The Child Friendly Spaces are open to both Syrians and Turkish children, and they provide psychosocial counselling, protection awareness sessions as well as recreational activities for refugee children. Photo ©: UNHCR/Emrah Gürel

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Links:

[Regional Portal - Syria Regional Refugee Response](#) [Regional Portal - Mediterranean](#) [UNHCR Turkey website](#) [Story: Syrian teenager flees guns and wins an opportunity to study in Turkey](#) [Story: Mother's dedication inspires 20-year-old to academic success in Turkey](#) [Facebook](#)