

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 368,000 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 forms 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

UNHCR's phase-out of registration was announced to the public as of 7 September 2018 and UNHCR started providing counseling on the changed registration mechanisms on the same day. During the first two weeks after phase-out, an estimated 1,905 individuals approached UNHCR for counseling. 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). Applicants with special needs continue to be prioritised in national procedures.

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

- Supporting government registration by:
 - ✓ Developing a well-functioning national referral system
 - ✓ Engaging in 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 the capacity of national authorities through joint regular training with DGMM and for PDMM personnel engaged in registration.

Case processing

On 10 September 2018, DGMM announced publically to be the sole authority in Turkey conducting refugee status determination according to the Turkish law. While phasing-out registration and mandate RSD, UNHCR continues individual case processing for resettlement purposes in close consultation with the Government of Turkey. In 2018, UNHCR is investing efforts in supporting 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 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.

Achievements in 2018

- The UNHCR-DGMM Registration Working Group has drafted a roadmap of activities to achieve a smooth and efficient transition in registration functions, including the development of a referral system to be introduced and incorporated into the national registration system thus superseding UNHCR's involvement in this function.
- The Quality Assurance Board, which was previously launched has been re-activated with a broadened scope of activities. To date in 2018, three meetings have taken place, led by DGMM, with UNHCR.
- Since March 2018, UNHCR is providing material and technical support to DGMM for RSD processing activities carried-out at the Ankara International Protection Bureau (Decision Center). Plans are being set within the UNHCR-DGMM partnership to provide the necessary support to the Istanbul Decision Center and the Mobile Decision Units of imminent activation.
- Within the scope of the three-year EU-funded "Reinforcement of Turkey's National Asylum System" project, several capacity-development activities were carried-out, including:

- Two on-the-job trainings of the duration of one week delivered in Ankara for staff from seven different PDMMs and two-day joint visits to the respective seven provincial offices for observation of case work and discussions;
- A two-week Active Training held in Ankara for four PDMM officials;
- A Thematic Workshop of three days conducted in Gaziantep on “Eligibility for International Protection and Country of Origin Information” for 61 DGMM and PDMM officials;
- Three interpreter trainings held in Istanbul for 33 interpreters and in Ankara for respectively 43 and 36 interpreters assisting DGMM and PDMM Offices.
- Two two-days Specific Training on international protection, RSD adjudication and Country of Origin Information, held in Ankara for 17 caseworkers selected to take part in Ankara Decision Center, the upcoming Istanbul Decision Center and the Mobile Teams, in close coordination with DGMM, in early October.

184,000 leaflets were distributed to PDMM Offices and partners illustrating the Registration and RSD procedures in Turkey for International Protection applicants.

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External and Donor Relations

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

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