

# TURKEY FACT SHEET

September 2018

## Close to 4 million refugees

Turkey continues to be home to the world's largest refugee population.

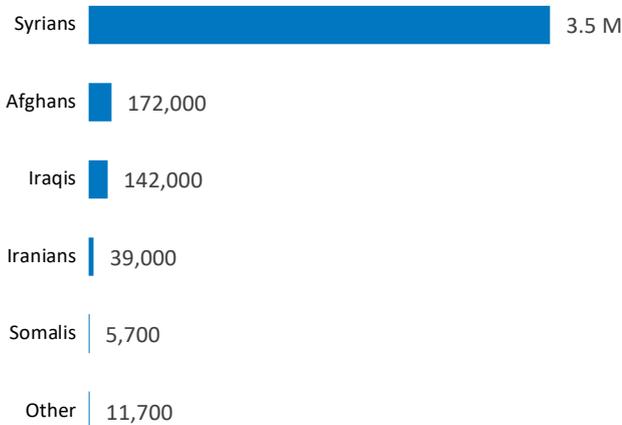
## Key locations

Almost 50 percent of all refugees in Turkey are registered in four key provinces: Gaziantep, Hatay, Istanbul and Sanliurfa.

## Youth refugees

Approximately one million refugees in Turkey are aged between 15 and 24, of which 60 percent are male.

## POPULATION BREAKDOWN



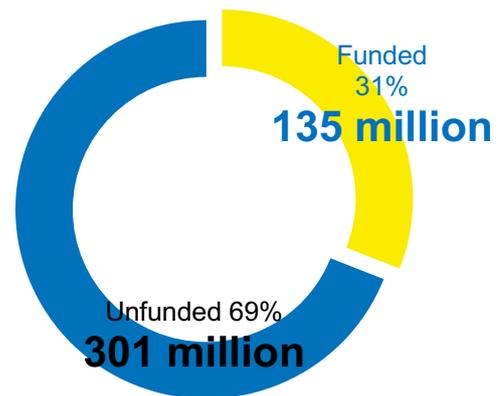
\* Data source for Syrian Population: DGMM as of 18 October 2018.

\* Data source for other nationalities: UNHCR 20 October 2018.

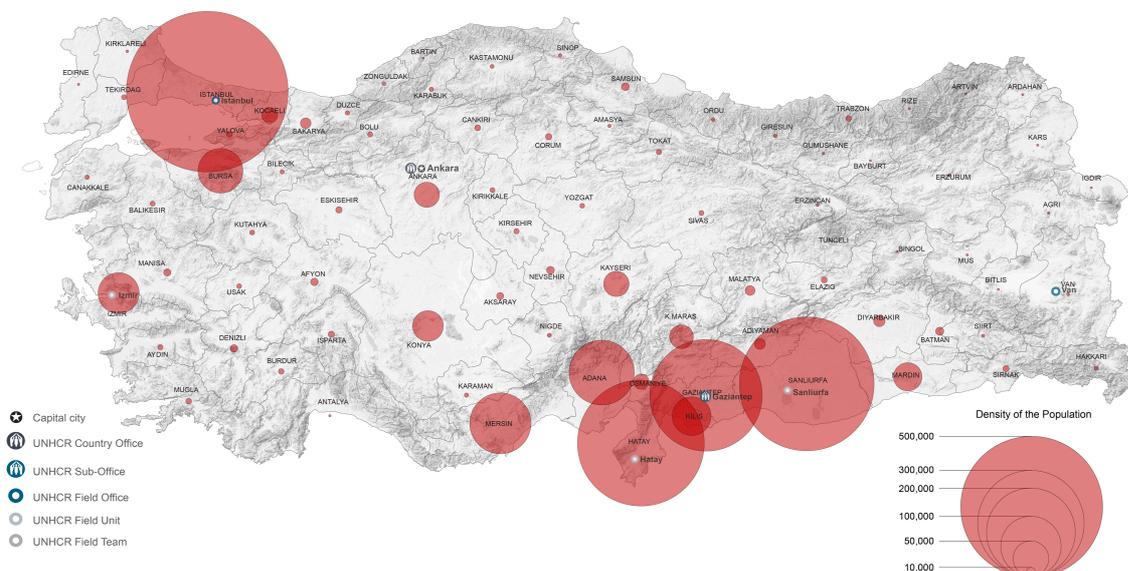
## FUNDING (AS OF 2 OCTOBER 2018)

**USD 436.1 million**

requested for Turkey



## BREAKDOWN OF REFUGEES PER PROVINCE (AS PER 01 OCTOBER 2018)



UNHCR's Turkey operation is one of its largest operations globally with an office in Ankara and field presence in Istanbul, Izmir, Gaziantep, Hatay, Sanliurfa and Van.

## Working with Partners and Public Institutions

- The Government leads the refugee response in Turkey with UNHCR providing direct operational support, capacity development and technical advice to the authorities. UNHCR programmes in Turkey are implemented through various partnerships, including supporting public institutions at the national and local levels (5), and working with international (4) and national NGOs (10), UN sister agencies (3) but also directly using private service providers to ensure a coordinated, holistic approach to meeting the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers.
- As the Refugee Agency, UNHCR coordinates the efforts of partners to support Turkey's refugee response and avoid duplication and gaps in international assistance. In this function, UNHCR co-leads the Regional Refugee and Resilience Response Plan (3RP) for the Syria crisis with UNDP and leads the International Protection and Migration Pillar of the Turkey 2016-2020 UN Development and Cooperation Strategy (UNDCS).

## Strategic Directions

- UNHCR supports the development and implementation of the national refugee response strategy. Turkey's legal framework for international and temporary protection provides refugees and asylum-seekers with a broad range of rights, including access to education, health care and social services. While refugees and asylum-seekers enjoy increased access to services provided through the public system, the capacity of the existing infrastructure and personnel, including in hospitals and schools, is stretched. Support by the international community is required to enable and sustain the successful inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers into national systems and structures.
- UNHCR advocates for the effective access by refugees and asylum-seekers to services through their increased inclusion in existing state systems and advocates for continued support of national systems to be able to respond to the needs of refugees.

## Priority Activities

### Promote access to and provide protection

On the basis of the national legal framework for international and temporary protection and in compliance with the principle of *non-refoulement*, UNHCR promotes protection-sensitive border management and access to asylum procedures for refugees and asylum-seekers, including those in removal centres, inter alia by working to improve access to information and legal assistance. Support to the Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) will continue, including in the registration and verification of the Syrian refugee population and development of the national asylum-system for registration and refugee status determination procedures of persons seeking international protection in Turkey.

More specifically, UNHCR interventions are centred on:

- **Enhancing partnerships with key institutions**, including DGMM, the Turkish Coast Guard, the Gendarmerie General Command, Turkish Land Forces and line ministries at both the field and central level, to monitor trends, promote protection-sensitive border management for admission to territory, and for referrals to registration and asylum procedures for those in need of international protection and assistance.
- **Broadening access by refugees to legal protection and assistance** by working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and the Union of Turkish Bar Associations to develop the capacity among lawyers, judiciary and court personnel through a range of initiatives, including knowledge transfer and sharing good practices; expansion of knowledge on national and international refugee law matters supporting national legal interpretation and application consistent with international refugee law; providing interpretation support for lawyers; and developing information materials for refugees to overcome practical barriers to accessing legal aid.

- **Supporting DGMM to register Syrian refugees under Temporary Protection** through technical expertise, capacity development initiatives; provision of equipment and interpreters; as well as, where necessary, refurbishment of premises.
- **Collaborating with DGMM on verification of registration data of Syrian refugees under Temporary Protection in all 81 provinces** to update and supplement information, including biometric data, contact details, and detailed background information on occupation, education and special needs of refugees. This will institute verification, including protection desks, as a continuous part of registration, and will help establish a referral system and increased tailoring of interventions, in particular supporting self-reliance, moving forward.
- **Supporting registration and protection procedures conducted by DGMM** to build a strong and quality national asylum system and procedures. UNHCR undertakes, jointly with DGMM, capacity-development activities for DGMM and Provincial Directorate of Migration Management (PDMM) staff, including support on Country of Origin Information research and on-the-job visits to coach PDMM personnel involved in status determination as part of staff exchange programmes. In preparation of the phase out by UNHCR from registration and refugee status determination under UNHCR mandate, DGMM requested UNHCR support in the development of the national referral mechanism. A transition roadmap has been jointly prepared outlining specific activities aimed at enhancing the national registration system and supporting DGMM and its provincial departments in the timely registration and documentation of asylum-seekers applying for the international protection in Turkey.
- Having phased out from registration and refugee status determination under mandate, UNHCR continues individual **case processing** for resettlement purposes in close consultation with the Government of Turkey to facilitate durable solution for refugees in line with the Law on Foreigners and International Protection (LFIP).
- **Providing tailored financial support to persons with specific needs** such as LGBTI persons, separated children, and adolescents aging out of orphanage care, and children involved in hazardous work and other forms of child labour as an alternative to negative coping mechanisms.

#### Strengthen access to quality services for refugees through public systems, national and local institutions

Aiming for inclusion of refugees into national systems, UNHCR continues its advocacy efforts and active engagement, including by strengthening cooperation with line ministries and institutions at national, provincial and local level and by providing technical and capacity development support to this effect. While inclusion into national services is a priority in all sectors, UNHCR's specific emphasis will be on child protection, the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and the identification of and social support to refugees with specific needs. With regard to education, UNHCR will continue to focus on higher education. Support at the municipal level will be strengthened with a view to promote social cohesion. UNHCR is focusing on:

- **Ensuring regular monitoring of the situation of refugees and asylum-seekers** to identify individuals with specific needs, assess their vulnerability, provide counselling and refer them to necessary protection interventions by state service providers and other partners; monitor the implementation on the ground and gather information on access to services and design interventions at the policy level to coordinate with line Ministries.
- **Increasing the capacity of the existing national social and protection system** to provide services to persons of concern with specific needs. UNHCR has strengthened its partnership with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS) to increase the capacity of their Social Service Centres. Alongside training activities for staff on international protection, outreach work and psychosocial support (PSS), Social Service Centres are supported through interpreters, social workers, equipment, vehicles, office spaces and refurbishment of existing spaces, where necessary.
- **Prioritizing response for children identified at higher risk** through a child protection systems-building approach, focusing in particular in supporting the development of best interests procedures as part of the case management system.
- **Enhancing SGBV prevention and response mechanisms** by continuing to deliver training on SGBV identification and referral mechanisms, developing, jointly with the authorities and partners, strategies to prevent and respond to

early and forced marriage and domestic violence, including through information dissemination and, with the help of partners, by identifying individual cases and referring them to specialized services.

- **Assisting refugees with urgent needs**, UNHCR provides one off emergency grants, including for travel, medical and hospital referral and treatments as well as translation fees for legal documents for the most vulnerable.
- **Supporting networks of active refugee and Turkish youth**: In line with the priorities identified through the national Youth Empowerment Action Plan, youth are engaged in activities on social cohesion, education, and prevention of child marriage with the assistance of UNHCR and its partners.
- **Expanding support to Public Education Centres (PEC)**, with interventions including salary payments for additional teachers; temporary appointment of interpreters; and, provision of teaching materials. The provision of Turkish language classes to refugees is expected to contribute positively to social cohesion and support access to services delivered through Turkish state institutions and corresponds to a priority expressed by refugees during participatory assessments.
- **Cooperating with the Ministry of National Education's (MoNE) to include refugee children in the national education system** through community outreach on educational services, procuring Turkish language textbooks and helping prepare children to enrol in schools.
- **Facilitating access to higher education with the Presidency for Turks Abroad (YTB)** by providing higher education preparation programmes with intensive Turkish courses for refugee youth and higher education scholarships through UNHCR's DAFI scholarship programme. In 2017, UNHCR introduced cash grants to assist refugee families with the cost of tuition fees.

#### Provision of humanitarian assistance and temporary services to meet unaddressed needs, including in temporary accommodation centres

UNHCR and its partners will focus on the identification of persons with specific needs and the most vulnerable. Where necessary, those not eligible for other types of assistance, will be supported through cash-based interventions as a component of a wider individual protection response. Specific interventions include:

- **Providing support to DGMM on the consolidation and closure of temporary accommodation centres (TAC)**. In response to a request from DGMM in July 2018 in relation to the closure of five TAC in the south-east, UNHCR is providing support to facilitate relocation. Specifically, UNHCR is supporting the relocation through the provision of a relocation package for those leaving the camps and moving to live within the host community. The package consists of financial support disbursed over two periods: at the point of departure from the camp and following completion of registration procedures in the new location. An inter-agency task team to facilitate the operational aspects of the relocation of camp residents has been established to support the relocation, in particular the inclusion into services in host communities.
- **Providing assistance to DGMM in TACs** to identify and follow-up on protection cases, and support the establishment of refugee committees. Along with UNICEF, the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) and refugee women and youth committees, UNHCR organizes awareness raising sessions for the TAC population on protection issues including early marriage, child labour and school attendance. UNHCR also contributes with student kits and teacher bags, and the procurement of text books. In tented TACs, UNHCR provides the tents and WASH containers (including for schools). Upon the request of DGMM, UNHCR also delivers domestic non-food items such as hygiene kits. To prepare refugees for the winter, UNHCR provides cash assistance (PTT card) of 100 TL per person.

#### Promote and prepare for durable solutions for refugees

UNHCR will continue livelihood support with a view to refugees and asylum-seekers becoming active economic actors. The focus remains on working closely with public institutions for advocacy and job matching, providing information to the public and private sector, as well as catalytic interventions, which increase employability of refugees. UNHCR continues to advocate for resettlement and safe pathways for both Syrians and refugees of other nationalities and undertakes resettlement processing.

UNHCR's activities in this area focus on:

- **Enabling labour market access of refugees in cooperation with relevant line ministries, the Turkish Employment Agency and the Vocational Qualifications Authority.** This includes collaboration to enable access to formal employment and harmonization of legal provisions for all refugees. Training and information on legal provisions and administrative procedures will continue to be provided to refugees.
- **Promoting skills development and employability** by providing language and vocational trainings, entrepreneurship support including training, mentorship and business-development and start-up grants, work permit and business licensing facilitation as well as through organizing events to link employers and employees.
- **Increasing cooperation and partnerships with private sector actors to promote employability** through outreach activities to raise awareness and share information on refugee employment and work permit procedures.
- **Conducting resettlement processing on the basis of a rigorous prioritization** of cases with the most acute vulnerabilities or protection risks.
- **Monitoring voluntariness of return** in cooperation with PDMMs in southeast Turkey, Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir by observing interviews conducted by PDMM staff with Syrians wishing to return spontaneously to their country of origin. UNHCR monitors interviews only to ascertain the voluntariness of the returns and does not, at present, facilitate or promote repatriation to Syria.

#### **Cross-cutting support to UNHCR's strategic directions:**

As 95 per cent of refugees in Turkey live in urban, peri-urban and rural areas, UNHCR Turkey will consolidate its community-based approach and support communication with communities (CwC), including host communities, to engage them directly in protection responses and to strengthen social cohesion. UNHCR strives to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers have the information they need to access protection and assistance services, and to make informed decisions about their lives. UNHCR also aims to receive information and feedback from the refugee communities to ensure its activities best meet the needs of affected communities. The communication channels and tools used by UNHCR in Turkey include outreach and information sessions; engagement with key influencers; one-to-one counselling including through phone lines managed by partners; printed materials; and online platforms and other digital tools, such as 'Help' (<http://help.unhcr.org/turkey/>), and 'Services Advisor' (<https://turkey.servicesadvisor.org/#/>)

UNHCR's role in inter-agency coordination, including information management, will contribute to identifying and responding to gaps and unmet needs of refugees and asylum-seekers in Turkey. Through the sector working groups and other coordination fora, UNHCR contributes to improving referral networks to public service providers and ensuring the complementarity of interventions by humanitarian actors in the field.

**September 2018**

## External and Donor Relations

### Thanks to donors for their support to UNHCR Turkey and their unrestricted and regional funds in 2018:

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### LINKS

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