

## UNHCR in Türkiye

April 2025



**1,755** refugees benefited from counselling services provided by legal clinics (LCs) so far in 2025 (9,914 in 2024).

**356** refugees reached through outreach activities of LCs in 2025 (2,453 in 2024).

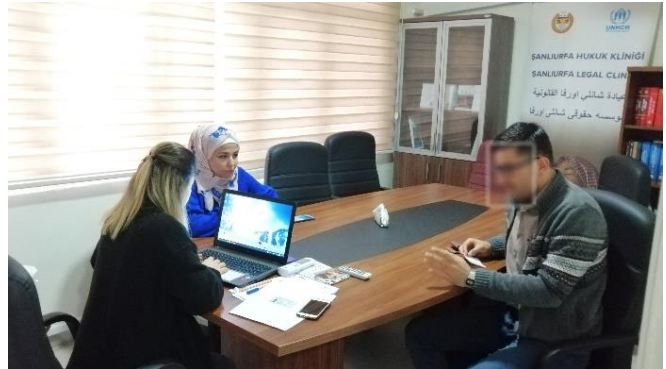
**1,214** legal aid appointments submitted for coverage under UNHCR-UTBA partnership so far in 2025 (4,593 in 2024).

**6** UNHCR-established legal clinics (LCs) in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Hatay, Kilis, Malatya and Van.

**56** Bar Associations in provinces across Türkiye providing legal aid to refugees in partnership with UNHCR.

### Context

Refugees often face difficulties due to unfamiliar legal systems in host countries, which, can be complex and overwhelming. Legal assistance is, therefore, very important to protect the rights of refugees and ensure access to essential services and procedures.



Counselling services at one of the Legal Clinics.

UNHCR, in partnership with the Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA), works to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers have access to quality and free legal representation, quality legal counselling, and interpretation support in their interviews with lawyers, including for vulnerable groups such as victims of domestic violence, sexual offences, and trafficking in person.

### Legal Aid Support

To ensure refugees' access to legal representation, UNHCR, in partnership with UTBA, supports appointing lawyers from participating Bar Associations (BAs) when BAs cannot otherwise accept cases due to budgetary constraints. The assistance covers attorney fees, litigation expenses, and notary expenses, including the issuance of power of attorney, translation expenses, and the lawyers' transportation costs to visit their clients, including those at the removal centres.

Lawyers of participating BAs attend specialized training offered by UNHCR and UTBA. The BAs then appoint these certified lawyers to ensure quality representation before the court. The lawyers address administrative and civil law issues that refugees often face, including appeals against negative decisions on asylum applications, appeals against deportation orders, divorce, custody and guardianship cases, as well as protective and preventive measure requests for women and children.

### Legal Clinics

UNHCR supports **six legal clinics** (LCs) in Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis, Malatya and Van provinces. These LCs provide one-to-one quality legal counselling, petition support, referrals for legal aid appointments, and support in various processes in the Provincial Directorates of Migration Management (PDMM). LCs also conduct outreach activities to provide counselling and raise awareness on various thematic topics. Furthermore, they regularly meet with local authorities to discuss the challenges in their provinces and address those in cooperation with governorates, PDMMs, Provincial Directorates of Family and Social Services (PDoFSS), and other public institutions, as well as I/NGOs. UNHCR and UTBA maintain a complaints and feedback mechanism at the LCs and jointly assess the feedback. In addition, UNHCR organizes focus group discussions with refugees to receive feedback from beneficiaries receiving the services at LCs.

### Interpretation Support Line

The Interpretation Support Line established under the partnership between UNHCR and UTBA provides simultaneous interpretation support in Arabic, Farsi, Dari and French during interviews between lawyers and refugees, ensuring accurate communication.

*UNHCR is grateful to the donors for unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the refugee response. UNHCR in Türkiye is also thankful to donors who are contributing to 2025 programmes. For more details: UNHCR Türkiye Funding Update – 31 March 2025.*

