

UNHCR in Türkiye April 2025

49 provinces covered by 4 teams of the Ankara Field Unit.

600,000 refugees (approx.) and Asylum seekers (Afghan, Iranian, Iraqi and Syrian) living in the area of responsibility of the Ankara Field Unit.

Top 5 provinces with the highest number of refugees in AFU are Ankara, Konya, Kayseri, Eskişehir, and Diyarbakır.

100 field missions conducted by AFU in 2024.

29 Focus Group Discussions conducted by AFU with 164 participants in 2024.

5 local NGOs are working in partnership.

Context

To facilitate a focused and efficient implementation of the refugee response, the UNHCR Türkiye operation has delegated the overall operational responsibilities to four field units, serving the refugees and host community across the country. The UNHCR **Ankara Field Unit (AFU)** plays a critical role in addressing protection needs across its vast area of responsibility (49 provinces) in Türkiye. AFU operates through four field teams and a dedicated Protection, Outreach, and Voluntary Repatriation team. These teams conduct field missions, foster partnerships, and provide crucial services to refugees and asylum seekers, including Syrian, Afghan, Iraqi, Iranian, and Ukrainian nationals.



Areas of responsibility of different teams in Ankara Field Unit (AFU).

The UNHCR **Ankara Field Unit (AFU)** plays a critical role in addressing protection needs across its vast area of responsibility (49 provinces) in Türkiye. AFU operates through four field teams and a dedicated Protection, Outreach, and Voluntary Repatriation team. These teams conduct field missions, foster partnerships, and provide crucial services to refugees and asylum seekers, including Syrian, Afghan, Iraqi, Iranian, and Ukrainian nationals.

Key Activities

Protection Monitoring and Services: UNHCR conducts field missions and organizes focus group discussions (FGDs) engaging refugees from Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq. UNHCR also monitors the local media to identify incidents of social tension between refugees and host community members and follow up. UNHCR focuses on addressing a range of pressing concerns and needs faced by these individuals, including access to registration for international protection, assistance with navigating the process in the event of application rejections, and support related to health issues. Additionally, UNHCR engages in legal advocacy to address matters relating to detention and deportation, promoting the rights of individuals throughout these processes. Moreover, to ensure the protection of vulnerable children, UNHCR collaborates closely with relevant local actors,

including the Provincial Directorates of Migration Management (PDMMs), local authorities, and partner organizations.

Awareness Raising and Capacity Enhancement: UNHCR conducts awareness-raising sessions and FGDs on a wide range of topics, including the rights and obligations of refugees and asylum seekers, and gender-based violence. UNHCR also conducts training sessions on various topics, including protection and capacity enhancement training for local NGOs, and engages with grassroots organisations, reflecting UNHCR's commitment to sustainable solutions.

Coordination and Partnerships: UNHCR organizes meetings with key local actors, including public authorities and NGOs, to establish a protection mechanism and to provide a platform to discuss and identify protection challenges for rapid and coordinated solutions. UNHCR maintains partnerships with NGOs, local authorities and universities in provinces, such as Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, Kayseri Governorate, and Abdullah Gül University, to monitor and address protection challenges.

Voluntary Repatriation Monitoring: UNHCR monitors voluntary returns of Syrian refugees and observes the interviews in Ankara, Konya, and Kayseri PDMMs to confirm the voluntary character of returns and address any protection concerns of returnees.

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.

