3RP Türkiye 2023-2024 M&E Overview

Strategic Objective 3: Promote Harmonization, Self-Reliance and Durable and Other Solutions Including Voluntary Returns

12%
% of refugees with improved employability

11%
% with increased income through agricultural and non-agricultural jobs or income generation

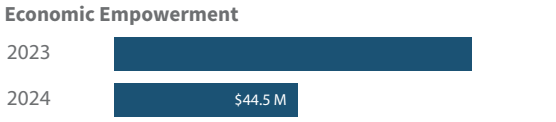
47%
% of refugees who observed/ heard of conflict with host community members

10,770
# of refugees in need of resettlement departing Türkiye

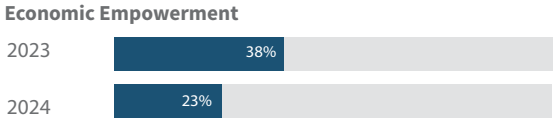
*figures are from 2024

3RP Funding Status 2023-2024

Sectoral Funding Received



Sectoral Funding Status



Context

- Service providers' immediate focus on emergency relief following the EQs, diverted resources, capacity and focus from longer-term, resilience and development-focused interventions. The impact of this diversion carried into 2024, with many activities focusing on self-reliance temporarily paused or slowed down.
- The earthquakes had a significant impact on livelihoods in the Southeast region, with considerable effect on human resources coupled with damage to industrial and production facilities. The work of public service providers – including some of the primary 3RP stakeholders such as ISKUR and the Social Security Institution – was disrupted with damage to their service buildings, requiring reconstruction.
- Labor shortages had a considerably negative impact on sustainability of businesses – particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) which lacked skills and entrepreneurs, but also customers.
- Through 2023 and 2024, partners observed growing social distance between refugees and host community members, due to the heightened vulnerabilities caused by the earthquakes, the physical separation of the communities, the general socio-economic context, and the dynamics of the 2023 general elections. In addition, various stakeholders, as well as host community members were seen less willing to engage with and participate in social cohesion programmes.
- While both resettlement and volutary repatriation processes continued as in previous years in 2023 and most of 2024, the context conerning durable solution schanged rapidly after the fall of the former government in Syrian in December 2024. With this, voluntary return to Syria has become a possibility for a greater number of Syrians.

Progress Against Outcomes

The response community's re-prioritization of resources and capacities impacted efforts aimed at promoting harmonization, self-reliance, and durable solutions. Despite only partial progress on select indicators, 3RP partners remained committed to fostering socio-economic inclusion, social cohesion, and access to solutions.

Outcome 3.1 Increased socio-economic inclusion through job creation, improved employability, and system support

- The Economic Empowerment sector experienced low achievement in 2023, as vocational and language trainings, business development support, and job placement activities were largely paused after the earthquake. Furthermore, as a result of the interruption to public institutions' regular services, partners' activities aiming to support beneficiaries through strengthened public institutions reached a very limited number of persons.
- Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) were amongst the most impacted in the region, and although many partners provided support, funding received did not target refugee enterprises. During 2024, more funding was provided to support MSMEs, resulting over five times the support compared to 2023.
- Reflective of funding shifts, in 2024, projects with the highest set targets for vocational trainings were funded less than 5%, with annual indicator progress remaining at 15%. Yet vocational trainings remain essential for boosting employability, especially considering the significant impact of the earthquakes on existing labour opportunities.

Strategic Objective 3: Promote Harmonization, Self-Reliance and Durable Solutions

- With serious impact of the EQs on the agriculture sector, which employs a significant number of refugees, the sector continued its advocacy for supporting producers through support to new businesses and development of modern farming technologies. However limited funding levels impacted progress.
- Throughout 2023 and early 2024, the delivery of agricultural training, modern farming technology adoption, and cooperative support lagged behind targets, reflecting limited operational scope. Despite increasing recognition of the sector's potential to absorb labour, agricultural livelihoods interventions remained fragmented, with limited reach, disproportionately affecting women and seasonal workers, who often depend on agriculture for subsistence.

Outcome 3.2 - Enhanced social cohesion through increased trust between refugees and host communities, active participation at the local level, and the removal of social barriers such as language

- Despite the implementation challenges caused by the earthquakes and the evolving political context, 3RP partners were able to successfully implement structured and sustained programs in 2023 aimed at fostering social cohesion particularly through large-scale activities implemented with the Ministry of Youth and Sports targeting youth and adolescents.
- In 2024, the Protection sector continued prioritizing social cohesion but faced significant challenges due to the deteriorating socio-economic situation in Türkiye. Despite these challenges, structured and sustained programmes significantly exceeded expectations, reaching over 55% of the annual target, thanks to strong collaboration with national institutions. However, efforts to engage public institutions remained limited, in part due to continuing institutional perspectives that social cohesion can be primarily addressed through responses such as education and employment rather than through dedicated community-building initiatives.
- Participation in one-off events saw some improvement compared to 2023, though it still fell short of the target, with partners stressing that these events remain essential for engaging marginalized groups, such as women, Afghan refugees, and individuals in socio-economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- Social cohesion programming for children mainly took place in non-formal and informal education settings, through provision of life skills and citizenship education programmes. More than 300,000 children were reached with these initiatives in both 2023 and 2024, with partners' reach reduced in 2024.
- Partners also reached more than 16,000 individuals in 2024 with social cohesion programming as part of livelihoods programmes.

Outcome 3.3 - Increased durable solutions (resettlement/ voluntary repatriation)

- Resettlement remained a vital solution for refugees with acute vulnerabilities, especially those affected by the February 2023 earthquakes, though it covered only 0.3% of the refugee population. Despite this, in 2023 Türkiye saw its highest resettlement departures since 2017, with 13,900 refugees resettled—94% of whom were earthquake-affected.
- In 2024, resettlement continued with 10,770 departures, and Afghan submissions increased significantly, reflecting efforts to expand protection space beyond Syrian refugees. Despite strong resettlement efforts, donor withdrawal and reduced capacities in 2024 posed risks to future protection programming.
- In 2023, voluntary returns remained minimal due to ongoing conflict and earthquake devastation in Syria. UNHCR monitored 19,900 returns, ensuring voluntariness and addressing protection concerns in coordination with Turkish authorities. Following the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024, voluntary returns surged, with over 30,000 Syrians returning in just a few weeks. UNHCR expanded its monitoring to additional border crossings and tracked 54,074 returns in total for the year.

  Despite the political shift, many Syrians remain hesitant to return, citing ongoing protection needs and uncertainty. Surveys indicate a significant portion still prefer to stay in Türkiye. In this light, continued access to protection and services in Türkiye remains essential.

Recommendations

- Expanding access to formal employment pathways remains critical to achieving sustainable socio-economic inclusion and resilience for both refugee and host community members. To this end, 3RP partners should continue their work with public institutions, IFIs, and other actors to ensure complementarity in support provided to businesses and cooperatives.
- There is a need for change in perspective towards social cohesion across the 3RP to have an increased focus on economic empowerment, development and education-related activities. It is recommended for partners to target populations that can be influenced more, such as children, youth/adolescents who can act as agents of change that can create multiplier effects in community settings. Partners are encouraged to consider potential participation barriers faced by women, girls, and others such as stigma, gender norms, or mobility restrictions, when designing and implementing community-based social cohesion activities.
- Given the number of refugees in need of resettlement and the reduced number of resettlement quotas, 3RP partners urge resettlement countries to consider offering additional resettlement opportunities for refugees in Türkiye, recognizing resettlement as a protection tool for some categories of refugees, and as a responsibility sharing tool, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees.
- Partners call for increased funding of resettlement operations. Due to financial constraints, resettlement processing capacities have significantly reduced in the first quarter of 2025. The financial situation also means that UNHCR can no longer maintain its cash for protection assistance to specific categories of vulnerable refugees such as adolescents discharged from child-care institutions, transgender and intersex individuals who cannot benefit from ESSN, and survivors of gender-based violence.
- It is important to initiate analyses related to voluntary return intentions to ensure planning, prioritization and programming is evidence-based. Coordinated information dissemination and exchange with regards to the return context, including within and between sector partners and Syrian refugees, will continue to be critical to ensure that information needs of the service providers and refugees are met in a timely manner.

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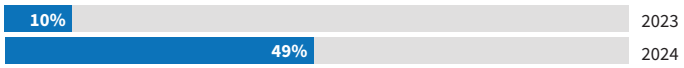
Key Output Indicators 2023-2024

Individuals completed livelihoods trainings (non-agircultural)

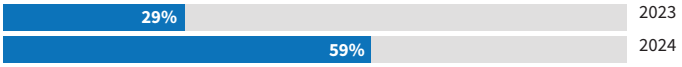
Individuals completed livelihoods trainings (agricultural)

Start-ups/new businesses started/developed

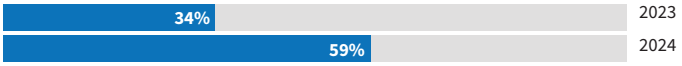


Individuals supported with job placement

Individuals supported with self-employment opportunitites



Individuals participating in one-off events specific to social cohesion

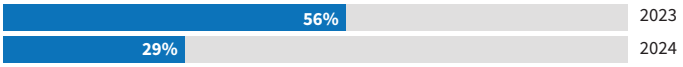
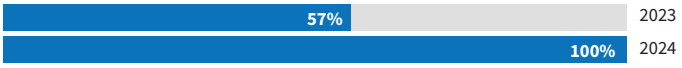


Individuals participating in structured and sustained programmes specific to social cohesion

Children benefiting from life skills and citizenship education programmes in formal settings

Individuals participating in social cohesion initiatives as part of livelihoods programmes

Individuals submitted for resettlement by UNHCR



Syrian voluntary repatriation interviews observed