

# TURKEY FACT SHEET

October 2019

FUNDING (AS OF 02 OCTOBER 2019)

**USD 390.6 million**

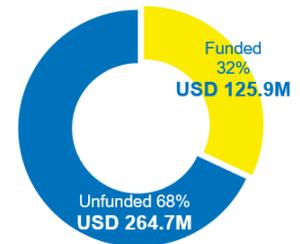
requested for UNHCR operations in Turkey

## Some 4 million refugees

Turkey is home to the world's largest refugee population, with over 3.6 million Syrian refugees and close to 400,000 refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities.

## Key locations

Over 98 per cent of refugees in Turkey live in urban, peri-urban and rural areas, while the remaining refugees (1.7%) live in Temporary Accommodation Centres.



- The Government of Turkey leads the refugee response with UNHCR providing technical, operational and capacity development support. Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees in the world and its response to refugees has been generous and positive. The national legal framework, namely the Law on Foreigners and International Protection and Temporary Protection Regulation provides refugees and asylum-seekers with a range of rights, including access to education, health care and social services, upon registration with the authorities. UNHCR Turkey has a country office in Ankara and field presences in Istanbul, Izmir, Gaziantep, Hatay, Şanlıurfa and Van.
- In supporting the refugee response in Turkey, UNHCR works in **partnership** with public institutions at the national, provincial and local levels, including municipalities, with national and international non-governmental organisations, United Nations sister agencies, the private sector, as well as with refugees and host communities.
- As the Refugee Agency, UNHCR coordinates with partners to support Turkey's refugee response, with a view to avoid duplication and gaps, and address unmet needs of refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR co-leads with UNDP the **Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) in response to the Syria crisis**, and chairs the International Protection and Migration Results Group of the Turkey 2016-2020 UN Development and Cooperation Strategy (UNDCS). Through sector working groups and other fora, UNHCR contributes to achieving the objectives of the 3RP by improving referral networks to public service providers and to the complementarity of interventions by different actors in the response.

## Strategic Directions and Interventions

Turkey's legal framework for international and temporary protection forms the basis of UNHCR's strategy and priorities in 2019. More specifically, the agency has the following key strategic directions and interventions:

- UNHCR promotes **access to and the provision of protection**, by working in close partnership with the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), the Turkish Coast Guard and Land Forces, the Gendarmerie General Command, the Ministry of Justice, and the Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA), advocating for the admission of persons in need of international protection, their access to fair and efficient national asylum-procedures and promoting procedural standards and safeguards. Cooperation with DGMM to support continuous registration and international protection procedures remains a priority.
- In line with Turkey's legal and policy framework, UNHCR works to support **access to quality services of refugees with specific needs**. UNHCR focuses on child protection services (in particular for unaccompanied or separated children), the prevention and response to SGBV, support of active refugee and Turkish youth, as well as social services for persons with specific needs. UNHCR aims to expand its cooperation with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, in particular its Social Service Centres, as well as support the identification, referral and response to cases of refugees with specific needs, working with civil society partners.

- In an effort to **promote social cohesion and harmonization**, UNHCR supports DGMM in the implementation of the National Strategy on Harmonization and the National Action Plan and engages with local administrations, municipalities, imams and mukhtars to strengthen interaction and social cohesion between refugees and host communities. A priority for refugees in this regard is Turkish language courses, provided through Public Education Centres (PECs). UNHCR also implements social cohesion activities and small scale Community Support initiatives aimed at encouraging dialogue and interaction between refugees, host communities and service providers.
- UNHCR promotes and prepares for **durable solutions for refugees**. This entails working with public institutions, private companies and development actors to improve access of refugees to the labour market. UNHCR works closely with the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) with regard to higher education and language training for higher education preparation. The focus on self-reliance will also be pursued by working with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and İŞKUR, with a view to improving access to the labour market for refugees, and increasing cooperation and partnerships with private sector actors. UNHCR also continues to process cases of individuals with the most acute vulnerabilities and protection risks for resettlement purposes; to advocate for safe complementary pathways such as reunification and humanitarian visas; and to monitor the voluntary nature of spontaneous returns in cooperation with DGMM.
- Throughout its work, UNHCR has prioritized **partnership and communication** with a wide range of stakeholders. As over 98 per cent of refugees in Turkey live in urban, peri-urban and rural areas, UNHCR Turkey continues to strengthen its community-based and outreach approaches and further invest in communication with communities, including host communities, through a variety of channels and tools which engage them directly in the response.

## Global Compact on Refugees and Global Refugee Forum

In December 2018, the UN General Assembly affirmed the **Global Compact on Refugees**, a framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing, recognizing that a sustainable solution to refugee situations cannot be achieved without international cooperation. The objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees as a whole are to ease pressure on host countries, enhance refugee self-reliance, expand access to third country solutions and support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

Turkey is one of five co-conveners of the **Global Refugee Forum** in December 2019 in Geneva. The Global Refugee Forum aims to generate commitments and action for refugees and to share good practices from around the globe in pursuing the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees. The Forum will be an opportunity for governments, international organizations, the private sector, NGOs, faith leaders, development actors, cities, refugees and others to announce concrete pledges and contributions which will make a tangible, long-term difference in the lives of refugees and host communities.

## Thanks to donors for their support to UNHCR Turkey and their unrestricted and regional funds in 2019 as of 02 October 2019

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## LINKS

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