



## HIGHLIGHTS

**1**  
Turkey hosts the world's largest number of refugees.

**Close to 490,000**  
Refugees received one-time cash assistance within UNHCR's 2016/17 winter support programme to date

**Nearly 29,000**  
Refugees were submitted for resettlement in 2016

**Over 7,400**  
Officials and humanitarians trained by UNHCR on international protection in 2016

### Population of concern

A total of **over 3.1 million** people of concern

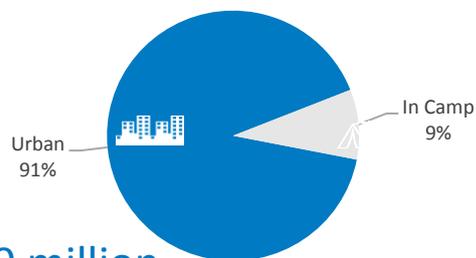
By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Syria*	2,880,325
Iraq**	131,440
Afghanistan**	120,529
Iran**	31,848
Somalia**	3,526
Other Nationalities**	8,058
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,175,726</b>

\* Registered by DGMM (as of 26 Jan 2017)

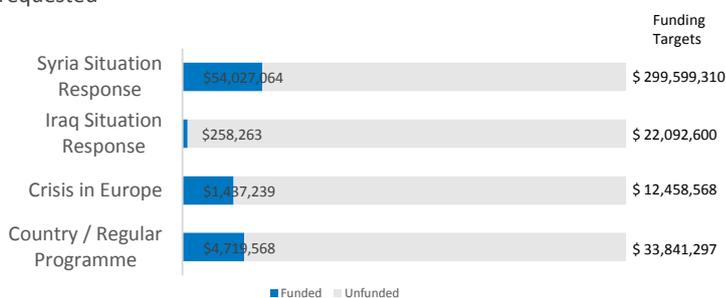
\*\* Recorded by UNHCR (as of 31 Jan 2017)

### Breakdown of Syrian Refugees



### Funding

**Over USD 360 million** requested



### UNHCR and Partner Presence



## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- The Government of Turkey leads the refugee response with UNHCR providing direct operational support, capacity building and technical advice to Turkish authorities. As the refugee agency, UNHCR also coordinates the efforts of the UN agencies and partners to support Turkey's refugee response to avoid duplication and gaps in international assistance. In this role, UNHCR co-leads the Regional Refugee Resilience and Response Plan (3RP) for the Syria crisis with UNDP and the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) with IOM.
- UNHCR implements its activities with 23 partners: [Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development](#) | [Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants](#) | [Concern Worldwide Ireland](#) | [Danish Refugee Council](#) | [Directorate General of Migration Management](#) | [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#) | [Habitat Derneği](#) | [International Medical Corps UK](#) | [International Middle East Peace Research Center](#) | [International Organization for Migration](#) | [Japan Association for Aid and Relief](#) | [KAOS GL](#) | [Mercy Corps](#) | [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) | [People in Need](#) | [Save the Children](#) | [Support to Life](#) | [The Human Resources Development Foundation](#) | [The Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities](#) | [Turkish Red Crescent Society](#) | [United Nations Office for Project Services](#) | [United Nations Population Fund](#) | [United Nations Volunteers](#)

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

### Registration and Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

- **Verify registration data of the 2.8 million Syrian refugees under Temporary Protection:** The Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) and UNHCR are conducting a verification exercise, the first of its kind in Turkey. The exercise aims to update and obtain missing information, including biometric data, contact information, and detailed background information on refugees as well as introduce verification as a continuous part of registration. The outcome will provide the Government of Turkey, UNHCR and other appropriate stakeholders with updated data that can be used to design evidence-based programmes for targeted assistance; promote education and access to employment; identify legal pathways and other durable solutions, such as family reunification, private sponsorship, humanitarian visa programmes, academic scholarships, etc.; and identify and assist persons with specific needs. The roll-out is divided into seven zones covering the 81 locations where Syrians are currently present throughout Turkey.
- **Transition Refugee Status Determination (RSD) activities into national procedures:** Following the coming into force of the Law on Foreigners and International Protection in April 2014, UNHCR is supporting Turkish authorities to integrate all activities related to RSD, largely carried out by UNHCR under its mandate, into national procedures.
- **Register new asylum-seekers from countries other than Syria:** More than 78,700 asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR in 2016, the main nationality was Iraqi, followed by Afghan, Iranian, and Somali.
- **Determine if asylum-seekers fall within the criteria for international protection:** Over 20,000 individuals received a decision on their RSD in 2016, the highest number ever reached by a UNHCR Operation worldwide.

### Resettlement

- **Conduct resettlement on the basis of a rigorous prioritization** of cases with the most acute vulnerabilities or protection risks. Nearly **29,000 refugees** were submitted for resettlement in 2016. Access to resettlement counseling was expanded through a variety of means (phone, in-person, online, etc.); around 20,000 refugees received answers to their queries during interviews, and the multi-lingual helpline served over 9,800 individuals last year.

### Protection

- **Broaden range of services available to asylum-seekers and refugees in urban areas:** multiservice centres, community centres, women centres, and child-friendly spaces are staffed with specialists to offer services to refugees throughout the country, including psycho-social support, legal and general counseling, language training and vocational training.

These outreach centres strengthen protection networks and support community empowerment by enabling both host and refugee communities to utilize the resources available to address their needs.

- **Refugee Outreach Volunteers (ROV) engage communities directly in protection responses:** outreach and awareness-raising by refugees themselves ensure persons with specific needs who normally cannot reach community centers/multi-service centers/protection offices are identified. This project complements and extends existing UNHCR coverage to refugees in 47 provinces through its presence and partners, as well as contributes to establishing an environment of trust while also empowering refugees to assist their own communities through effective information dissemination. 146 ROVs including Syrian, Iraqi, Afghan, Iranian, Somali and Palestinian refugees are active in fifteen provinces so far including Istanbul, Bursa, Mersin, Adana, Kaysari, Ankara, Batman, Kacaeli, Urfa, Izmir, Gaziantep, Nidge, Konya, Sakarya, and Isparta.
- **Protect urban refugees living throughout the country:** outreach centres, implementing partners, missions to satellite cities and focus group discussions contribute to monitoring the situation of refugees outside of camps and to identify individuals with special needs, as well as improve advocacy, protection interventions, targeted assistance and information sharing. Building capacity of protection partners and expanding their presence for individual case management, referrals and follow-up is also a priority.
- **Upscale protection advocacy initiatives with Turkish authorities** concerning pre-registration, access to protection and asylum, and access to person of concern held in removal centres.
- **Support networks of active refugee and Turkish youth:** in line with the priorities identified through the national Youth Empowerment Action Plan, UNHCR and partner agencies assist youth with activities on social cohesion, education, and prevention of child marriage. Additionally, the youth networks have been actively engaged in SGBV and birth registration campaigns as well as peer support projects.
- **Enhance SGBV prevention and response mechanisms:** UNHCR acts as secretariat of the SGBV working group, which is co-chaired by Ministry of Family and Social Policy (MoFSP) and AFAD, while co-chairing the SGBV sub-working group in Gaziantep with UNFPA. Interagency SOPs on Prevention and Response to SGBV were developed with UNFPA, government officials, NGOs and other UN agencies within the Protection Sector. Training modules on SGBV identification and referral mechanisms continue to be delivered, leaflets on early/forced marriage and domestic violence are being disseminated, and, with the help of partners, individual cases are identified and referred to specialized services.
- **Identify children/youth at risk, and strengthen prevention and response mechanisms:** national authorities and local (NGO) partners are being supported to promote access to national child protection services for unaccompanied and other children-at-risk, including those involved in child labour. UNHCR Istanbul has been working in close coordination with provincial authorities and NGOs to strengthen existing national child protection mechanisms to address child labour. Referrals are made to national systems to ensure children benefit from existing protection mechanisms as well as facilitate their access to social services and education.
- **Develop capacity building activities** to strengthen technical abilities of national authorities; provide legislative support to ensure that laws and policies incorporate principles and standards compliant with international refugee law; promote coherence of actions on the ground with the legal framework; and ensure that refugees enjoy their rights and access to services which promote self-reliance.

## Education

- **Bolster the efforts of the authorities to ensure access to education for school-age children:** UNHCR supports the Ministry of National Education's efforts to include refugee children in the national education system through community outreach on educational services as well as procuring almost 450,000 Turkish language textbooks and helping prepare children to enrol in schools.
- **Provide opportunities for advanced Turkish language programmes in partnership with the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB):** high school graduates can benefit from these programmes to enable them to meet language proficiency requirements for higher education enrolment. Over the last two years UNHCR has offered around 1,600 scholarships for the intensive, 10-month accredited Turkish language programme.

- **Provide higher education scholarships through UNHCR’s DAFI Turkiye scholarship programme:** Turkey now implements the largest DAFI scholarship programme in the world with a total of 818 refugee youth awarded scholarships that include tuition costs and a monthly stipend for accommodation and living expenses.



## Health

- **Support the overstretched Turkish health care system:** In 2016, 40 ambulances and a mobile clinic were delivered to the Ministry of Health to offer health services to persons of concern in remote locations, or be deployed in the event of an emergency. 127,500 hygiene kits were delivered to address some of the health needs of the refugee population.
- **Overcome barriers to improve health service delivery:** Language continues to be an obstacle to providing quality services in health care facilities throughout Turkey. UNHCR provides interpreters to hospitals located in areas with a large Syrian and/or Arabic speaking refugee population. Interpretation support to non-Arabic speaking refugee populations is also provided through partners in various provinces. Also, trainings on international legal protection and national legislation related to health issues were provided to Turkish Ministry of Health staff to strengthen understanding, harmonize dissemination of information and support consistent implementation of legislation.



## Basic Needs and Cash-Based Initiatives

- **Provide winter cash assistance to refugees living in urban areas:** close to 490,000 refugees (including 33,600 non-Syrians) benefited from assistance via debit cards issued by the Turkish postal service (PTT) so far. This assistance will continue in February 2017 targeting around 90,700 additional Syrian refugees and 14,000 non-Syrian including Iraqis.
- **Distribute core relief items to those most in need in urban areas:** in support to refugees living outside camps, through partners in the field, blankets, hygiene parcels, kitchen sets, mats, sanitary napkins, and jerry cans are delivered.
- **Distribute winter packages to camp-based refugees:** All 260,000 refugees living in the 23 camps in southeast Turkey received winter clothes, high thermal blankets, and heaters for the 2016/17 winter season. AFAD conducted distributions in the camps.
- **Improve shelter for refugees in camps in southeast Turkey:** replacement tents are provided to AFAD on a regular basis, with 10,000 delivered in 2016.



## Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- **Support AFAD in the management of camps in southeastern Turkey:** UNHCR ensures regular staff presence in all of the camps to offer technical assistance on registration, camp management, identification of vulnerabilities, other protection concerns and to monitor voluntary repatriation. Additional expert technical support is provided on education, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, and site planning on a regular basis. Other assistance includes shelter, winter items, vocational training programmes and materials for people with special needs (see Basic Needs). WC and shower containers are provided as needed.



## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- **Enhance self-reliance through promotion of skills development, employability, and access to the labour market:** refugee communities, local NGOs, national institutions and other partners are empowered to develop their capacities and resilience to be able to respond to immediate and longer term needs. This will counter destitution and negative coping mechanisms as well as promote resilience and social cohesion. The 3RP co-led by UNHCR and UNDP continues to be a viable planning and delivery tool taking into account the linkages between the humanitarian and resilience aspects of the refugee response.
- **Address increasing livelihood needs:** in a project coordinated with the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and partner IMPR, employers, governmental institutions, I/NGOs and refugees under temporary protection are being targeted through awareness raising, life skills training, capacity-development and counselling on work permits.
- **Increase cooperation with private sector actors to ensure employability:** large-scale events are being organized with national and international brands to share information on refugee employment and work permit procedures.

UNHCR is grateful to the donors who have generously contributed to the operation so far this year: [European Union](#) | [Canada](#)

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### Links:

[Regional Portal - Syria Regional Refugee Response](#) | [Regional Portal - Mediterranean](#) | [UNHCR Turkey website](#) | [Facebook](#)