

Turkey

July 2018

Over 3.5 million Syrian refugees registered of 31 July, according to Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM).

94 per cent of Syrian refugees live in urban areas and peri-urban areas while the remaining live in 19 camps operated by DGMM.

361,692 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR as of 31 July.

Update on Achievements

Host Country Agreement: The Host Country Agreement (HCA) between UNHCR and Turkey entered into force on 1 July 2018. The High Commissioner and the Foreign Minister had signed the HCA on 1 September 2016 to formalize and strengthen UNHCR's long-standing cooperation with Turkey. The agreement will enhance UNHCR's ability to support the Government of Turkey in its refugee response. .

Alternatives to Camps: On 27 July, the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) informed UNHCR of their recent decision to **close five tented temporary accommodation centres (TAC)**. These include Islahiye, Nizip 1, Karkamis in Gaziantep, Midyat in Mardin and Adiyaman camps hosting nearly 30,000 individuals. DGMM proposed to the residents of the aforementioned camps to either transfer to another camp or relocate to an urban or rural center to reside among the host communities. Refugees opting to move to host communities, were allowed to choose any provinces. DGMM asked for UNHCR's immediate support so the transfers could take place before the start of school year mid-September. In line with UNHCR's global policy on Alternatives to Camps, detailed discussions and inter-agency exchanges have been underway to develop the support scheme and decide on operational steps. This include, inter alia, communication with communities, cash and other material support, as well as support with access to services and livelihoods following relocation to provinces.

Promoting Access to and Provision of Protection

Support to registration, verification and development of national asylum system: A Joint UNHCR and DGMM Workshop on Verification was held on 12 – 14 July. It brought together all Provincial Directorates of Migration Management (PDMM), different units of DGMM and UNHCR to discuss lessons learned, good practices, challenges, and way forward for 2019. The workshop was attended by 33 PDMM experts from 30 provinces and seven psychologists and social workers working on protection desks in verification centres as well as a team from DGMM projects, protection and ICT departments. The outcomes of the workshop will inform the process of verification as well as the continuous registration.



UNHCR and DGMM Workshop on Verification was held on 12 – 14 July in Antalya. © UNHCR

Strengthening Access to Quality Services for Refugees through Public Systems and National and Local Institutions

Cooperation with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS): Training and capacity development support activities for Provincial Directorate of Family, Labour and Social Services staff in

Istanbul continued in July, reaching 65 and 56 Social Services Centre (SSC) staff respectively. Since March, a total of 341 SSC staff in Istanbul received training including on topics on relevant legal and implementation procedures as well as international protection and legal procedures regarding refugees. UNHCR organized three international protection workshops targeting 120 staff of the 10 SSCs of Sanliurfa. The workshops facilitated the interaction between SSC officials and the Refugee Counselling Centre (RCC) project staff members and increased the awareness of SSC officials on refugee law and protection.

Engaging at the local level (municipalities, governor offices, imams, and mukhtars): A Letter of Understanding (LoU) was signed between UNHCR and the **Buca District Governorate** in Izmir on 31 July aimed at cementing the coordination and partnership at the local level in an effort to promote social cohesion and peaceful coexistence among the refugee and host communities in Izmir. The cooperation focuses on



UNHCR Representative in Turkey Katharina Lumpp meeting with the Mayor of Zeytinburnu Municipality Murat Aydın. © Zeytinburnu Mun.

assistance to refugee women and children and affected host communities with special emphasis on Turkish language learning, psychosocial counselling, hygiene and nutrition, social and recreational activities, implemented through the existing local community centre AKUMER (In Fact We Are One Education, Activity and Cohesion Centre).

During her mission to Istanbul, the Representative met with the Mayor of **Zeytinburnu Municipality**, one of the districts with a high refugee population in Istanbul, and discussed the ongoing livelihood project with UNHCR which is being implemented together with the municipality. A letter of Understanding was signed with the municipality in order to frame the ongoing cooperation.

Education: The Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) and UNHCR organized three **cultural visits organized** for students in the higher education preparation programme who have successfully completed proficiency levels B2 or C1 in Turkish language examinations. Approximately 3,000 students participated in visits to the Black Sea region (Bolu and Karabuk) and Cappadocia. A total of nine tours were organized, with each group consisting of around 200 to 300 students. The trips included visits to historic and natural sites, lectures on the significance of the sites and a cultural evening with music, dancing and poetry from the region. Students were invited to perform songs and poems at the event.



Over 200 Syrian refugee youth visited Cappadocia as part of UNHCR and YTB's jointly organized social and cultural tours. © E. Gürel / UNHCR

Social cohesion: UNHCR, in cooperation with DGMM, conducted a **participatory assessment** in Kayseri on 3-4 July. Iranian, Syrian, and Afghan nationals as well as local community leaders such as mukhtars, imams, teachers, doctors, and police officers participated. Similar to previous sessions, both qualitative and quantitative information was collected, assessing frequency, level, type, challenges, and changes in interactions between refugees and host community members as well as refugees and service providers. Participants expressed common concerns of limited interaction with host community members and challenges caused in particular by language barriers, misperceptions and lack of formal employment opportunities. Participants identified language barriers as the most important challenge in their interaction, especially at health institutions which severely impedes access to medical care and proper treatment. Participants expressed the need for awareness raising targeting both refugees and host community members, not only to inform individuals on their rights and responsibilities but also to address misconceptions and prejudices. In terms of social cohesion, most positive interactions and suggestions of integration were observed among students, who spend prolonged periods of time together with host community members.

Local community leaders also noted the significance of negative or misinformed perceptions towards refugees as a barrier to social cohesion and endorsed recommendations related to awareness raising and facilitating dialogue between the refugee and host communities at the family level.

Promoting and Preparing Durable Solutions for Refugees

Resettlement: As of 31 July, 10,288 submissions (6,896 Syrians and 3,372 refugees of other nationalities) were made and 4,570 refugees departed on resettlement (4,151 Syrians and 419 refugees of other nationalities). By end July, the confirmed quotas for Turkey for 2018 stand at 19,760 refugees.

Self-reliance and livelihoods support: The **entrepreneurship training** launched in February was completed in nine cities of Turkey by the end of July. A total of 1,034 beneficiaries participated in the basic training with 462 female and 572 male participants. The programme will continue with the next step which is Entrepreneurship Bootcamps in order to design business ideas with the selected candidates.

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