

# Turkey

September 2018

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

**Five tented temporary accommodation centres** (TACs) closed as of 30 September. 95 per cent of Syrian refugees live in urban and peri-urban areas while the other five per cent live in the remaining 14 TACs operated by DGMM.

**370,932 refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities** registered by UNHCR as of 10 September, date of the UNHCR registration phase-out. The majority are Afghans (46 per cent) and Iraqis (39 per cent), followed by Iranians (11 per cent), Somalis (2 per cent) and other nationalities (3 per cent).

## Update on Achievements

**Alternatives to Camps:** In September, UNHCR continued to support DGMM in implementing the Government's decision to close five tented temporary accommodation centres (TACs), namely İslahiye, Nizip 1, Karkamış, Midyat and Adiyaman. The TACs hosted some 29,500 persons. TACs residents were given the choice to move either to urban areas or to other TACs identified by DGMM. Close to 76 per cent of the residents decided to move to urban areas, the vast majority to urban areas in the province, where their respective TAC was located. Refugees received a one-off relocation assistance package to cover transportation, rent and immediate needs upon arrival to their new place of residence. The one-off relocation assistance package was provided through ATM card. The amount was defined with DGMM, based on family size and the minimum expenditure basket as estimated on a quarterly basis by the World Food Programme through market surveys. Residents who opted to move to another TAC were provided with transportation. By mid-September, all five TACs had closed.



Families in the Adiyaman TAC next to their tents before the move.

Photo: UNHCR / Fuat Özdoğru

**UNHCR phase-out of registration and mandate Refugee Status Determination:** As of 10 September, UNHCR phased-out of the registration of international protection applicants and of refugee status determination procedures of registered applicants in agreement with the Government. Pursuant to the Law on Foreigners and International Protection, foreigners seeking to apply for international protection in Turkey need to approach the Provincial Directorates of Migration Management (PDMMs) in the cities as soon as possible upon entry to the country. PDMMs will initiate and undertake registration and further processing of asylum applications lodged by individuals in Turkey. DGMM and UNHCR developed information materials to provide timely and accurate information on the changes to newly arriving asylum-seekers. UNHCR's phase-

out was announced on 7 September and UNHCR started providing counselling on the changed registration mechanism to asylum seekers on the same day.

## Promoting Access to and Provision of Protection

**Support to registration, verification and development of national asylum system:** In September, a total of over 1,640 asylum-seekers were registered by UNHCR, of whom over 75 per cent were from Afghanistan, close to 17 per cent from Iraq, 6 per cent from Iran, 1 per cent from Somalia, and less than 1 per cent are individuals from other nationalities. As of 10 September 2018, when UNHCR phased out of registration, the total population of concern to UNHCR in Turkey (active cases) was over 370,900 individuals, of whom 16 per cent are refugees, and 84 per cent are asylum-seekers.

While phasing out from mandate Refugee Status Determination (RSD), UNHCR continues individual case processing for resettlement purposes in close consultation with the Government of Turkey. In addition, UNHCR has continued and increased its support to the Turkish authorities, specifically DGMM. In September, **40,000 leaflets on the national RSD procedures were printed**, translated into Arabic, Farsi and Dari, and disseminated to DGMM and all 81 PDMMs across Turkey. Moreover, UNHCR delivered a training on “**Interpretation in the International Protection Context**” focusing on the refugee definition, interpretation techniques, working with persons with specific needs, ethics and conduct of interpretation. More than 40 interpreters from DGMM and PDMMs participated.

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

**Child protection and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) prevention and response, identification of, and social support to, refugees with specific needs:** UNHCR conducted 29 Focus Group Discussion sessions in seven cities (Ankara, Kayseri, Konya, Mersin, Erzurum, Samsun and Eskişehir) with the focus on SGBV related risks and community-led and identified prevention and response mechanisms. The sessions were held with more than 160 persons of concern, both men and women of different age groups and profiles, from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Syria. Results will inform advocacy and programming in 2019.

**Cooperation with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS):** In September, UNHCR delivered two international protection trainings to staff of **Provincial Directorates of Family, Labour, Social Services** (PDoFLSS), respectively for 150 staff in Mardin and 80 staff in Hatay. The majority of the participants were social workers, psychologists and directors of Social Service Centres (SSCs). The trainings covered the national and international legal frameworks on refugee rights, child protection, women's protection, human trafficking and its protection mechanisms.

**Engaging at the local level (municipalities, governor offices, imams, and mukhtars):** In September, UNHCR delivered ten **capacity development workshops** to 20 refugee committees in Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Mardin, Adana, Osmaniye and Hatay. Two information sessions on issues selected by the refugee committees were included, namely child protection, legal protection, self-care, education, SGBV and livelihoods. The objectives of the workshops were to empower the refugee committee members and strengthen their structures to enable them to solve day-to-day protection issues on the ground.

UNHCR supported the establishment of a **Refugee and Asylum-Seekers Counselling and Referral Centre** in Ankara's Mamak Municipality. Thanks to this centre, the municipality aims to reach out to more than 30,000 persons, and to ensure the provision of psycho-social, legal, health, education and livelihoods assistance by strengthening collaboration with local institutions responsible for these services. The centre will work with a district coordination committee comprised of representatives from key governmental institutions that will meet on a bi-monthly basis to ensure all referrals received access to services and assistance, as well as organize activities to promote positive social interactions between refugee and host communities.

**Education:** Ahead of the start of the new school year on 17 September, UNHCR, as 3RP education sector co-lead, contributed to the development of a **Back to School support pack** which was shared widely. The pack included the procurement of 800,000 school bags and stationery kits for refugee and vulnerable Turkish children. The pack also included key advocacy messages on the importance of education and detailed information on enrolment procedures for refugee families, as well as tools, such as a “problem log”, through which non-governmental organisations and others can record common difficulties experienced by refugees when enrolling their children in schools. On-going coordination on these reporting tools helped bring the most urgent issues to the attention of Ministry of National Education for their urgent action. The most commonly recorded problems are a lack of space in schools, children being assigned to schools that are not in their immediate residential neighbourhood and inability to register due to not having up-to-date residence information.

As part of UNHCR's DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) global higher education scholarship programme, UNHCR Turkey was informed in September that it would receive an additional 80 scholarships for refugees who originate from countries other than Syria. These scholarships will be awarded during October and November, following the completion of selection procedures. UNHCR's **DAFI** programme plays an integral role in enabling refugees worldwide to access higher education.



Ghaeda, a Syrian refugee and DAFI scholar in Turkey, at the book signing of her first adventure book in September. Photo: UNHCR

## Promoting and Preparing Durable Solutions for Refugees

**Resettlement:** As of 30 September, over **12,700 submissions** (around 68 per cent Syrians and almost 32 per cent refugees of other nationalities) of refugee cases were made, and over 6,440 refugees departed on resettlement (almost 92 per cent Syrians and just over 8 per cent refugees of other nationalities). By the end of September, the confirmed quotas for Turkey for 2018 were around 18,500. So far in 2018, over 40,870 individuals were referred for resettlement consideration by DGMM. 97 missions were conducted outside of Ankara to interview refugees for resettlement consideration.

**Self-reliance and livelihoods support:** UNHCR livelihoods intervention was evaluated by Tango International in September. Tango International concluded that the livelihoods programme was innovative, impactful and in line with the proposed Global Compact on Refugees and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. The team provided a set of recommendations, including on UNHCR's role as a catalytic facilitator for the adaptation and integration of refugees into the labour market.

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