

Türkiye

February 2023

Türkiye hosts the **world's largest refugee population** for the ninth consecutive year, with close to 4 million refugees and asylum-seekers under international protection.

Türkiye's refugee response is based on a comprehensive **legal framework**, including the 2013 Law on Foreigners and International Protection and the 2014 Temporary Protection Regulation.

UNHCR and UNDP co-lead the **Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP)**. UNHCR chairs the **UNSDCF Migration, International Protection and Harmonization Results Group**.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022*

Syrians under temporary protection **3.6 million**

Refugees and asylum-seekers under international protection **318,000**

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syrian Arab Republic	3,648,983	Afghanistan	135,445
Iraq	10,244	Iraq	132,166
Afghanistan	8,384	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	15,135

*UNHCR 2022 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#)

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 28 February, **7,131** refugees from Ukraine have applied for international protection in Türkiye.

Reception: The Government of Türkiye is managing the response and has accommodated persons from Ukraine, including evacuated Meskhetian Turks, in a temporary accommodation centre in Elazig province. Most Ukrainians have moved to other countries and those who remain in Türkiye under various residence statuses.

Coordination: UNHCR works with inter-agency partners on identifying challenges, assistance gaps and priority needs for refugees from Ukraine by consolidating tools, coordinating needs assessments and harmonizing information management systems of organisations supporting Ukrainians.

The **UNHCR Counselling Line** has been receiving calls from Ukrainian nationals since March 2022 inquiring about asylum and protection services. Calls have also been received from some Russian nationals.

HIGHLIGHTS

Earthquake Emergency Response

Following the powerful earthquakes which impacted 11 provinces in southeast Türkiye in February, UNHCR is supporting the local authorities in the response, including the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) and the Presidency for Migration Management (PMM). UNHCR is an integral part of the UN humanitarian response in support of the Turkish authorities.

Tents and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

UNHCR is responding with tents and life-saving CRIs such as emergency shelter materials, blankets, hygiene and kitchen sets and solar lamps based on the request of the Turkish authorities. UNHCR is also coordinating with PMM the provision of CRIs for temporary accommodation centres to accommodate affected refugees and local residents.

Flash Appeal

In alignment with the **UN Flash Appeal**, UNHCR issued its **Supplementary Appeal** covering requirements for earthquake emergency in the amount of USD 150 million.



SPORTS AS A BEACON OF HOPE

Meet Yasir, a multi-sport athlete and para-badminton champion, originally from Iraq. He sees sports as an opportunity to feel included. Yasir considers Jiu-Jitsu one of his favourite sports, because when he plays, he says "I feel the power of my entire body, as well as the power of my mind." Read Yasir's story [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Protection:** UNHCR advocates for access to fair and efficient national protection procedures for persons in need of international protection, and for procedural standards and safeguards by working with its main counterpart, the Presidency for Migration Management (PMM) and its provincial directorates (PDMM) under the Ministry of Interior.
- **Strengthening access to protection services:** UNHCR focuses on child protection, preventing and responding to violence against women, girls and vulnerable groups, and on support services, such as counselling and rehabilitation for people with specific needs, in cooperation with the Ministry of Family and Social Services. UNHCR supports partners in identifying and referring vulnerable refugees, and providing specific cash for protection.
- **Resettlement and complementary pathways:** due to high needs, UNHCR has scaled up its resettlement team, opening two new interview facilities in Istanbul and Gaziantep, and is exploring additional complementary pathways through labour mobility and education opportunities for refugees.
- **Promoting social cohesion:** UNHCR works with PMM on its national harmonisation strategy to strengthen engagement between refugees and the host community. UNHCR supports the annual [Syrians Barometer](#)'s research on social perceptions of Turkish and Syrian communities; and cooperates with public authorities and NGO partners in fostering socio-economic refugee inclusion.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with ministries, public institutions, municipalities, NGOs, UN agencies, the private sector, refugees and the host community in a comprehensive response in support of refugees, their inclusion in national systems, access to solutions and fostering of social cohesion.

- The [3RP](#) is the main [coordination platform](#) for international support to the refugee response. The 2023 Regional Strategic Overview is available [here](#).
- UNHCR is supporting the [UN response to the earthquake](#) within the agreed coordination structure, and in synergy with the 3RP. UNHCR is leading the Protection sector, co-leading the Child Protection and Violence against Women, Girls and Other Vulnerable Groups sub-sectors at national level, and co-leading cash coordination.
- In addition to providing core relief items, UNHCR is supporting the Turkish authorities with refugee counselling, referrals, and protection assistance, to improve living conditions of earthquake-affected people and to assist those with specific needs in finding and accessing necessary services.
- In line with the 3RP and the [Global Compact for Refugees](#), UNHCR follows a multi-stakeholder approach for greater protection of refugees. Since 2021, UNHCR has registered 68 good practices from 215 entities on its [data portal](#).

Statelessness

- Türkiye pledged at the Global Refugee Forum to accede to the 1961 Convention and implement it within five years. In 2020, UNHCR and PMM developed standard operating procedures on statelessness determination, the first guidance material on statelessness in the national system.

UNHCR Presence in Türkiye

Staff:

354 National Staff
 57 International Staff

Offices:

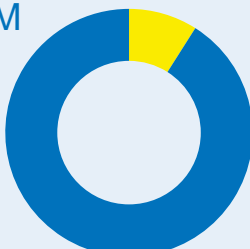
1 Country Office in Ankara
 5 Field Offices in Ankara, Istanbul, Edirne, Izmir and Van
 1 Sub Office covering Gaziantep, Hatay and Sanliurfa
 3 Resettlement offices in Ankara, Istanbul and Gaziantep.

Financial information (February 2023)

Financial requirements

USD 498.5 M

Funding gap
 91%
 452.1M



Funded
 9%
 46.4M

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As well as for the generous contributions from individuals, the private sector, and CERF.