

# Türkiye

September 2024

Impacted by devastating earthquakes in 2023, Türkiye continues to host one of the largest refugee populations in the world with a [comprehensive and inclusive legal framework](#). Almost half the refugee population has spent most of their lives in Türkiye, where some 800,000 were born.

UNHCR supports the government and works with diverse stakeholders, including [civil society organizations \(CSO\)](#) in advancing refugee protection, inclusion in services, access to solutions and improving social cohesion, in a coordinated and collaborative manner.

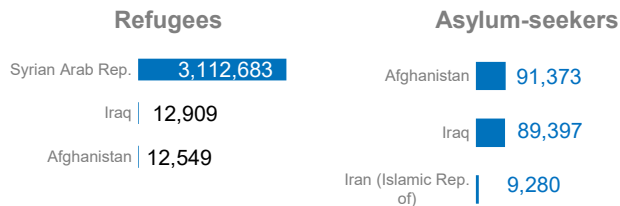
[Responsibility sharing](#) remains key, with diversified and flexible funding for the refugee response, complemented with resettlement and complementary pathways.

## POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2024)\*

Syrians under temporary protection **3.1 million**

Refugees and asylum-seekers under international protection **194,637**

### Top countries of origin\*



\* UNHCR Mid-Year Statistical Report 2024 and UNHCR data finder

## KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

Within the Marmara region, in northwest Türkiye, UNHCR and partners work to facilitate [access to services](#), [increasing self-reliance](#), and promote [social cohesion](#) for over 800,000 refugees, mainly in urban settings. UNHCR also provides life-saving support to apprehended individuals along the western land borders which includes legal counselling.

In the Aegean and West Mediterranean region, UNHCR facilitates [access to rights and services](#) for around 210,000 refugees, mainly in the urban settings. UNHCR also provides assistance and referrals of people intercepted or rescued at sea borders through its partners.

In the southeast region, UNHCR prioritizes key needs of refugees and the host community affected by the earthquakes through [shelter](#), [core relief items and cash assistance](#), [protection monitoring](#), and [advocacy](#). UNHCR also conducts monitoring of voluntary return procedures

Within the Central and Eastern Anatolia and Black Sea regions, UNHCR works to strengthen [access to rights and services](#) for over 630,000 refugees, while also reinforcing [access to livelihood opportunities](#). In the east, UNHCR focuses on monitoring irregular movements and access to territory and asylum.

## Socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Türkiye

### Access to higher education for refugees

Through DAFI scholarships and higher education cash grants, UNHCR provides direct support to university students under international protection. UNHCR also assists Syrian students access tertiary education in collaboration with the Presidency of Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB). So far in 2024, 1,792 students benefitted from the DAFI scholarships and 675 from the higher education cash grants. The cooperation includes trainings of trainers on conflict resolution for refugee and host community.

### Access to the labour market for refugees

UNHCR cooperates with institutions, municipalities and civil society to address the challenges faced by refugees accessing jobs. Together with the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality and the Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce, UNHCR supports job counselling, job-matching, capacity-building and on-the-job trainings for refugees and host community members. In collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, UNHCR organizes information sessions on work permit procedures and legal rights. In the first half of 2024, 13,262 individuals benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions. UNHCR is also exploring collaboration with the International Finance Corporation in Türkiye through the [UNHCR – IFC Joint initiative](#), to create sustainable economic opportunities for refugees through the private sector.



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**“My children are very happy to see their mother learning new things. This has had a positive impact on our family dynamics.”**

Yasemin and Nergis, both refugees from Syria, received psychosocial counselling that helped them overcome the struggle of adapting to a new life after fleeing their homes. Thanks to this support, they quickly became active and contributing members of their new communities and took part in workshops and trainings. Their story underscores the transformative power of the support provided by UNHCR Türkiye and its partners. Read more [here](#).

## Key Priorities

- UNHCR advocates for refugees' **access to fair and efficient protection procedures** and adequate standards and safeguards by working with its main counterpart, the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) and its provincial directories (PDMMs), under the Ministry of Interior.
- With the aim of **strengthening access to protection services**, Protection Desks situated in UNHCR-supported PDMMs engages in the identification and referral of people with specific. UNHCR also works with partners to identify and refer refugees and asylum-seekers to necessary services and provides cash for protection and protection counselling, while social services are provided in cooperation with the Ministry of Family and Social Services.
- UNHCR expedites **resettlement processing** of the most vulnerable refugees. More than 11,000 resettlement submissions were made so far in 2024, 79 per cent of which were for refugees from Syria in the earthquake affected region. So far this year, over 6,800 refugees departed to third countries.
- UNHCR's **capacity development** supports the operational and technical capabilities of national institutions and civil society to meet the specific needs of refugees and address social cohesion. UNHCR's partners carry out capacity-building activities for local NGOs and refugee-led organizations, coordination meetings are also organized with UNHCR to improve outreach and address the urgent needs of refugees.
- UNHCR **engages with the private sector in Türkiye**, and internationally, on funding and partnerships to provide assistance and long-term livelihoods opportunities to refugees.
- In cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and other partners, UNHCR seeks to improve the social cohesion between the refugee and host communities through **sports for protection** activities.
- Public institutions, civil society organizations and the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Türkiye are engaged in good practices in the refugee response, the list can be found on the **good practices portal of UNHCR Türkiye**. The UN Country Team also presented a common pledge during the 2023 Global Refugee Forum.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with local and national authorities, public institutions, civil society, donors, humanitarian and development actors, private sector, international financial institutions, academia, media, refugees and the host community promote refugee inclusion into national systems, identify access to solutions and foster social cohesion. In addition to its close partnership with the UN Country Team (UNCT), UNHCR provides financial and human resources support to the Resident Coordinator's Office.
- UNHCR has **partnership agreements** with 11 local partners to strengthen their refugee response in 2024.
- **The Regional Refugee Resilience Plan (3RP)** is the main regional coordination platform for the Syrian refugee response. **The 2024 3RP Türkiye chapter** was updated with the involvement of 61 partners through consultation meetings in all provinces and across all inter-agency sectors.
- In the transition to the recovery phase, **UNHCR and UNDP co-lead the multi-stakeholder response** under the 3RP plan for 2023-2025 in support of refugees and host communities across Türkiye. In the southeast region, UNHCR maintains strong engagement in the coordination of earthquakes response. UNHCR also co-chairs the protection and shelter sectors and the information management working group.

## Statelessness

- Türkiye is a party to the 1954 UN Convention on Statelessness. At the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, Türkiye pledged to accede to the 1961 Convention. In 2020, UNHCR and PMM developed standard operating procedures on statelessness determination, the first national guidance material on statelessness.

## UNHCR Presence in Türkiye

### Staff:

316 National Staff  
 55 International Staff

### Offices:

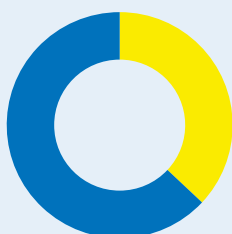
1 Country Office in Ankara  
 3 Field Offices in Ankara, Izmir, Istanbul  
 1 Sub Office in Gaziantep  
 4 Field units in Hatay/Adana, Şanlıurfa, Edirne and Van  
 3 Resettlement hubs in Ankara, Istanbul, Gaziantep

## Financial information (as of 30 September 2024)

### Financial requirements

\$ 329.3 M

Funding gap 63%  
 \$ 209.1 M



Funded 37%  
 \$ 120.2 M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors:

**Australia | Belgium | Denmark | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United States of America**

UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.