

TURKEY

November-December 2021

Key Figures (as of 31 December 2021)

4 million

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Turkey including over 3.7 million Syrians under temporary protection and over 330,000 international protection status holders and asylum-seekers of other nationalities. While 98.6% of Syrian refugees live across Turkey in 81 provinces, 1.4% are hosted in seven temporary accommodation centres managed by the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM).

12,270

Refugees were submitted for resettlement consideration to 14 countries in 2021. Close to 7,400 refugees departed for resettlement to 13 countries, 76% of whom were Syrian and 12% Afghan.

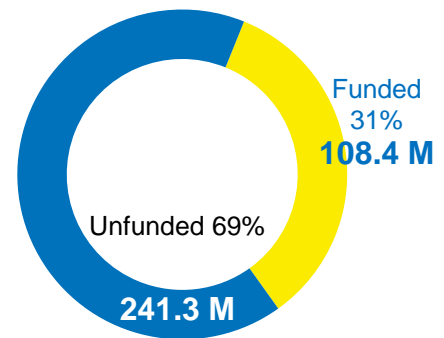
46,700

Calls answered on the UNHCR Counselling Line in December. There is an almost 50% decrease in total received calls from September. Most of the callers, the majority Syrian (50%) followed by Afghan nationals (23%), enquired about resettlement opportunities followed by financial assistance. Among those, almost 7,000 calls came through UNHCR's dedicated GBV line.

Funding (as of 29 December 2021)

USD 349.7 million

requested for UNHCR operations in Turkey



UNHCR Turkey @UNHCRTurkey · Dec 31, 2021

2021 year in review: UNHCR Turkey's Representative, Philippe Leclerc's year-end message for our donors: 🙏



Watch UNHCR's Turkey Representative 2021 year-end message [here](#)

High Level Officials Meeting

The **High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM)** marking the half-way point between the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) held in December 2019 and the one planned for 2023 took place on 14 and 15 December. The Meeting and the preparatory and side events provided an opportunity for senior government officials and representatives of relevant stakeholder groups to take stock of progress made in achieving the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, including through pledges and contributions made and initiatives announced at the GRF. As a co-convenor of the Global Refugee Forum, Turkey participated in the High-Level Officials Meeting at various levels. Turkey's participation included a Joint Statement on behalf of the GRF Co-Hosts and Co-Convenors at the opening session by Ambassador Sadık Arslan, Head of Turkish Permanent Mission in Geneva; panel participation by Ms. Fatma Şahin, Metropolitan Mayor of Gaziantep and Chairperson of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey during the Panel on Expanding Support through Responsibility-Sharing; a side event participation by Mr. Emre Kaçar, Deputy Director General at the Ministry of Youth and Sports on 13 December; and a plenary representation by Mr. Yavuz Selim Kiran, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey.



COVID-19 Cash Assistance

The 2021 round of COVID-19 cash assistance was conducted from 16 November to 13 December covering 85,000 households (366,700 individuals). By 12 December, close to 72,200 households (over 315,300 individuals) of the 85,000 households processed by UNHCR had collected their assistance with a collection rate of 85 per cent. The remaining 15 per cent of beneficiaries had not collected their cash cards for various reasons which will be determined during a post-distribution monitoring exercise. The top five provinces with the highest targeting and collection numbers were Istanbul, Gaziantep, Bursa, Hatay and Mersin.

Furthermore, in view of the recent volatile economic conditions in Turkey which caused a sudden spike in the price of essential items significantly affecting the vulnerable population, including refugees, UNHCR launched a top-up payment to the UNHCR COVID-19 cash assistance. The top-up provides an additional 1,100 TRY to the COVID-19 cash beneficiary households as well as 3,965 cash-for-protection beneficiary households.

Social Cohesion and Harmonization

In November and December, UNHCR and the Presidency for Migration Management (PMM), formerly DGMM, jointly organized **eight neighbourhood gatherings with mukhtars** as part of their Joint Harmonization Initiative. The workshops, held on 9, 18, 24 and 25 November and 13, 17 (online) 24, and 30 December covered various districts of Istanbul. They included consultation sessions with mukhtars and discussions on social cohesion activities, trends and recommendations, and the importance of strengthening coordination between mukhtars and public institutions in ensuring social cohesion. The sessions helped to create an understanding of the work of mukhtars with foreign nationals, their rights, and the importance of their inclusion in various services. Mukhtars were able to share their observations, challenges and recommendations for better involvement.

Furthermore, **three engaged conversations** were held in November and December, also jointly organised by UNHCR and the Presidency of Migration Management. These were held in Tokat on 1-2 November, in Kutahya on 6-7 December and in Uşak on 20-21 December. The meetings identified activities targeting social cohesion in provinces and challenges experienced. The events covered two days each, the first day included focus-group discussions with Turkish and foreign communities. The second day encompassed a meeting with local authorities and training delivered to local and foreign opinion leaders on inter-cultural dialogue for social cohesion, together with Q&As with representatives of public institutions. In Izmir, the discussions focused on risks of gender-based violence and safety at the workplace for women and children. In Uşak, the focus of the discussions was on conflict analysis, negotiation, transformative mediation and solution-oriented communication. Participants included officials from PMM, including the General Director of Harmonization and Communications, Dr. Gökçe Ok, as well as representatives of national and local authorities and NGOs. Some 100 participants, two thirds of whom were from the host community and one third foreigners, took part in the events.

The Presidency of Migration Management and UNHCR also jointly organised a series of **Harmony in Economy events** in November and December in Gaziantep, Izmir, Bursa, Mersin, Kocaeli and Istanbul. The events brought state institutions and the private sector together to discuss challenges and opportunities for the economic inclusion of foreigners under international and temporary protection. Each took place over two days and included discussions as well as visits to firms and workplaces showing positive examples of cohesion in the economy. Overall, over 450 participants attended the meetings held from October to December, visiting over 20 firms.

Mission to Denizli

UNHCR Representative was on [mission to Denizli in the Aegean region](#) on 13 and 14 December, visiting local authorities and inaugurating the Denizli Youth Academy. The Representative held courtesy meetings with the Governor of Denizli, Mr. Ali Fuat Atik, and the Mayor of Denizli Metropolitan Municipality, Mr. Osman Zolan, the Provincial Director of Migration Management, Mr. Burak Daggez, and the President of Denizli City Council, Mr. Ali Degirmenci, as well as Ms. Baran Akin, Secretary General of the City Council where they held discussions on social cohesion and the meaningful participation of refugees in city council volunteer activities. UNHCR and Denizli Metropolitan Municipality jointly inaugurated the Youth Academy which targets young people aged 15-30 years residing in Denizli for peer support and mentorship programmes, skills-building trainings and social activities that will contribute to social cohesion. During the inauguration, the Representative expressed his belief and hope that youth, as agents of transformation and innovation, will shape the future together towards a peaceful and cohesive world. The cooperation between UNHCR Turkey, Denizli Metropolitan Municipality and Denizli City Council aims to provide young people with the opportunity to contribute to society collectively by participating in the city council's volunteer activities.



Representatives from Denizli Metropolitan University and UNHCR inaugurate the Denizli Youth Academy



On 15 December Dokuz Eylül University, Faculty of Business, organised an [Orange Summit](#) marking the 30th Anniversary of the 16 Days of Activism to combat violence against women and girls. During the Summit, UNHCR Representative, Mr. Philippe Leclerc met with faculty students and thanked the professors for equipping their students with the knowledge, skills and awareness on prevention of gender-based violence. He commended the younger generation's enthusiasm to be active and engaged with global challenges and their willingness to take a stand against violence against women and girls.

Inter-agency Coordination

The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for the Syria Situation ([3RP High-Level National Consultation meeting](#)) on the mid-term review of the 3RP (2021-2022) was held on 30 November with the participation of 130 high-level representatives of public institutions, UN agencies, embassies, donors, international financial institutions, and international and national NGOs. Representatives of the Resident Coordinator's Office, UNHCR and UNDP, as well as government counterparts, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Presidency of Migration Management delivered speeches. The purpose of the High-Level Consultation meeting was to take stock of the progress achieved in 2021, validate planning assumptions and agree on implementation priorities for 2022 to appeal for strong international support to Turkey's comprehensive refugee response. In line with this, inter-sector coordinators presented the progress achieved and discussed priorities for 2022 in line with evolving needs.



Prior to the consultation meeting, UNHCR had organised [field consultations](#) in October and November in regions across Turkey with officials and partners. The meetings focused on the 3RP priorities for 2022 while delving into registration challenges for international protection applicants, social harmonization activities, and outreach activities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings of the sessions were meant to feed into the larger National Consultation meeting.

On 1 December, UNHCR helped to facilitate a [“Basic Accountability to Affected Populations \(AAP\) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(PSEA\) Training”](#) including perspectives on Gender and Age in program management co-organized by UNHCR, UNFPA and UNWOMEN. The training was held to promote a shared understanding across 3RP partners of basic AAP terminologies, concepts and elements, to introduce UN standards of conduct on sexual exploitation and abuse, to develop knowledge of PSEA, an understanding of different forms of sexual exploitation, and to gain a practical understanding of how age, gender and diversity

perspectives need to be taken into consideration in all phases of programme management. Around 70-80 participants joined the sessions.

Engaging at the Local Level



Mülteciler Alanında
Belediyeler Arası
Koordinasyon Platformu

On 16 December, UNHCR co-facilitated the fifth 'Municipality Coordination Meeting for the Marmara Region within the Context of Refugees'. The coordination platform was formed stemming from a need that arose when coordinating stakeholders and local governments in

cooperation with the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, the World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD) and UNHCR, and means to facilitate a sharing of good practices, discuss local level priorities, and identify municipalities' needs to respond to the refugee situation in the Marmara Region. Over 30 Municipalities participated in the meeting, including donors, the European Investment Bank, the World Bank, national and international NGOs and UN agencies. Participants shared information on the responsibilities, gaps and needs of municipalities to enhance social cohesion between refugees and the host community. They also discussed and explored good practices and challenges in facilitating refugees' access to livelihoods. The coordination platform will deliver outputs with relevant stakeholders, disseminate the Istanbul Declaration (an output of the platform currently being updating) and bring together respective actors in related areas. Two videos were produced for the meeting; one including messages of mayors to participants, and another comprising of interviews with refugees who benefitted from various municipal services. The messages of participants were crucial, and the need for collaboration with refugees was commonly raised.



UNHCR cooperated with Izmir City Council on a [social cohesion project](#) called 'Muhit' aiming to improve public attitudes towards refugees by visualizing Izmir through the eyes of refugee children living in four different districts of Izmir. The project served to raise awareness amongst the local community through the photographs. A qualified photographer trained 24 Syrian children from 20 November to 8 December. The children took photos depicting how they relate to the cities they live in, their



houses, streets and neighbourhoods. An exhibition, inaugurated by the City Council, Izmir Municipal Council and UNHCR, displayed 72 photographs taken by the children.

Education

An [online orientation workshop for DAFI scholarship holders](#) of all nationalities was jointly organized with the Presidency of Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) and the Ministry of Youth and Sports on 11 December, with more than 100 student participants. The ministry provided a training on the culture of volunteerism culture and opportunities available through the ministry, such as activities conducted by youth centres. UNHCR underlined the importance of participating in volunteer activities to gain experience which would support access to the labour market, increase language skills and support social cohesion. UNHCR and YTB will jointly follow up with students' volunteer activities, which is considered a condition of the DAFI scholarship programme.

Thanks to donors for their support to UNHCR Turkey in 2021

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