

TURKEY

July 2019

Key Figures (as of 30 July 2019)

4 million

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Turkey, including over 3.6 million Syrian nationals and close to 400,000 registered refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities

21,728

Calls answered on the UNHCR counselling line

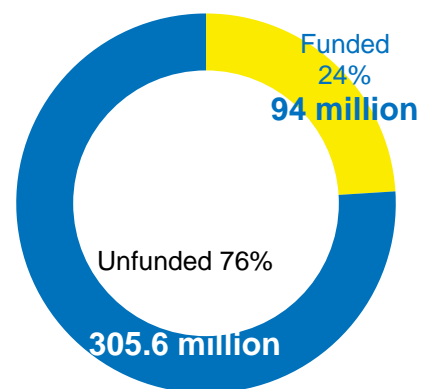
950

Refugee students granted university scholarships by UNHCR through the *Turkiye Burslari* programme or the DAFI scholarship programme in partnership and cooperation with the Presidency of Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB).

Funding (as of 30 July 2019)

USD 399.6 million

requested for UNHCR operations in Turkey



Key Developments in July 2019

On 18 July, DGMM issued a **public announcement** urging all Syrians to comply with the Temporary Protection Regulation for refugees. The announcement followed official public statements including one from the Minister of Interior indicating that Syrians residing in Istanbul without proper documentation would have to return to provinces where they originally registered, or register and move to other provinces. The deadline was set at 20 August, and later extended to 30 October. According to a press release of the Istanbul Governorate on 22 July removal procedures were in place upon apprehension of foreigners who had entered Turkey illegally. Foreigners of Syrian nationality who were not within the scope of Temporary Protection Regulation (i.e. not registered and without a valid ID

document) would be transferred to designated provinces upon instruction from the Ministry of Interior.

UNHCR met with the Director General of DGMM on 24 July to discuss the latest developments concerning the situation in Istanbul to clarify how procedures would be carried out and to offer support to DGMM, including in the dissemination of information to those concerned.

On 30 July, the **Conference on Higher Education for Students under International Protection** was organized with the collaboration of the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB), UNHCR, TRT World Research Centre, and TRT World Citizen.

The Republic of Turkey's eleventh **National Development Plan for the period 2019-2023** was submitted to Parliament following President Erdoğan's approval. Ministries, public institutions and NGOs contributed to the preparations of the five-year plan and views from the public were sought through a survey on the internet with the participation of over 19,000 people. The refugee response was framed under "international migration" in the draft plan, which prioritizes institutional structure and strategy for migration management as well as actions towards social cohesion and harmonization.

Promoting Access to and Provision of Protection

Support to registration and development of the national asylum system

UNHCR cooperates with the Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) in strengthening the international protection status determination procedures by supporting International Protection Bureaux, known as Decision Centres, and Mobile Decision Units established by DGMM.

On 12 July, a meeting of the Quality Assurance Board took place with participants from both UNHCR and DGMM to review the DGMM registration form for international protection applicants. The Quality Assurance Board was re-activated in 2019 with a broadened scope to revise and develop tools for the national asylum procedures.

As UNHCR continues to support DGMM in the development of a Country of Origin Information (COI) System, the newly established DGMM-UNHCR technical team convened in July to formulate guidance notes on country of origin research.

Some 110 lawyers of 52 bar associations of Turkey participated in two protection workshops on 24-26 July, in Ankara, organized by UNHCR, jointly with staff by DGMM. The aim of the workshop was to discuss temporary and international protection, with a focus on procedures, residence permits and administration detention in Turkey. The workshop provided an opportunity for DGMM to convene with lawyers from different bar associations engaged in providing legal services to refugee, and paved the way for further coordination among relevant organisations which provide rights, services and legal aid to refugees and asylum seekers.

Strengthening access to justice by refugees

In July, over 400 legal aid cases were submitted to the UNHCR-Union of Turkish Bar Association Commission for assessment to cover attorney fees and other relevant expenses, amounting to over 2,250 appointments since November 2018. While most appointments were for applications to administrative and civil courts, there were also appointment requests for written and oral counselling, applications against administrative detention decisions, and applications for protective measures as per the Child Protection Law and Law on Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Woman.

Strengthening Protection and Access to Quality Services of Refugees with Specific Needs

In July, the UNHCR Counselling Line started operating, with 26 multilingual operators answering calls and provide counselling to refugees and asylum seekers. During the first month, a total of 21,728 were answered and information and counselling provided. UNHCR also counselled 102 refugees through the UNHCR Gaziantep hotline number. Calls from across the country were received with queries mainly related to resettlement, medical assistance, registration and child protection. The Refugee Call Centre in Sanliurfa received 661 calls in July. In 598 of the calls, the queries and concerns could be addressed and 58 cases, which required further action, were referred to social service centres for follow-up. Queries were related to medical and financial support and registration.

Working towards Durable Solutions

Education

In July, there are around 2,106 students participating in the 2018-2019 cohort of the Higher Education Preparation Programme implemented with YTB through 32 language centres in 18 provinces.

UNHCR organized a graduation ceremony for EU-funded scholarship students in Ankara on 4 July. Following speeches of the UNHCR Representative in Turkey, the Head of the EU Delegation to Turkey and the Director of YTB, two Syrian students shared their own experiences.

Furthermore, on 4-5 July, UNHCR and YTB organized a student workshop for scholarship students in Ankara. Close to 70 students attended the workshop which focused on improving problem-solving skills and entrepreneurial thinking and leadership skills development. The workshop also provided information on access to the Turkish labour market and process of work permits.

Conference on Higher Education for Students under International Protection

On 30 July, a Conference on Higher Education for Students under International Protection was organized with the collaboration of YTB, UNHCR Turkey, TRT World Research Centre, and TRT World Citizen. The conference focused on the experiences of students under international protection in Turkey. Around 150 people attended the conference, and welcoming speeches were delivered by UNHCR Representative, YTB President, Chief Editor of TRT World, and the Co-Chair of UNHCR’s Global Youth Advisory Council. The conference was an opportunity for major actors in the field to outline their ongoing work and perspectives on supporting higher education for students under international protection. University academics provided insight into student needs, the role of higher education in fostering social cohesion, and discussed opportunities for a more effective collaboration between higher education institutions.



University academics provide insights into the needs of students under international protection and the role of higher education in fostering social cohesion. ©UNHCR

Self-reliance and livelihoods support

In cooperation with the Turkish Ministry of National Education, a workshop was organised from 16-19 July in Istanbul to revise and update the vocational training curriculum. Revisions took into consideration an overall sustainable contribution to vocational training and the necessary needs of the country. The participants comprised of 40 experts from the ministry from different regions of Turkey.

Resettlement and complementary pathways

As of end of July, over 9,900 submissions for resettlement of refugee cases (71 per cent Syrian and 29 per cent refugees of other nationalities) were made to 16 countries, and over 6,700 refugees departed for resettlement (79 per cent of them Syrian).

The UK’s Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) ended on 31 July 2019. UNHCR Turkey has submitted 628 children at risk and their families to the UK since the VCRS was initiated in 2016. The UK will replace VCRS and VPRS programmes with a new resettlement programme with less nationalities and submission categories limitation.

Thanks to donors for their support to UNHCR Turkey and their unrestricted and regional funds in 2019 as of 30 July

Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | Republic of Korea | United States of America | United Kingdom | Private donors

CONTACTS

Amira Abd El-Khalek, Reporting Officer, Turkey, abdelkha@unhcr.org, Tel: +90 312 409 7420

LINKS

[Regional Portal - Syria Regional Refugee Response](#) | [Regional Portal - Mediterranean](#) | [UNHCR Turkey website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Services Advisor](#) | [UNHCR Help](#)