

Highlights:

- Turkey contributes USD 500,000 to UNHCR for core relief items and shelter;
- Over 660,000 Syrians registered/numerated by the end of March 2014;
- UNHCR launches ten million Lira host community programmes;
- Construction of pre-fabricated health clinics commenced.

UNHCR launches host community programme with UNDP

UNHCR signed a partnership agreement with UNDP, aiming at strengthening the resilience and absorption capacity of the host communities in Kilis, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep and Hatay.

Turkish people have demonstrated remarkable generosity and hospitality in receiving over 800,000 Syrian refugees in the past three years. The impact of the presence of refugees cannot be overlooked, particularly in some cities in the South East where refugee population sometimes outnumbers the local population. The continuous influx stretches the local infrastructure and public services, affecting refugees and Turkish people alike. UNHCR therefore partnered with UNDP to support the host communities to cope with these unprecedented challenges.



Syrian refugee negotiating the cost of rent with his Turkish landlord. Mehmed and his family fled to Turkey in June 2012. The family used to have two houses and a car, now Mehmed lives in a 250 TL apartment in Gaziantep with his mother, sisters and eight children. They make 15 TL per day removing pistachio shells. "My children are not going to school. What will happen to them? When will the war end and when can we go home" he asked. Photo UNHCR/ T. Adanali

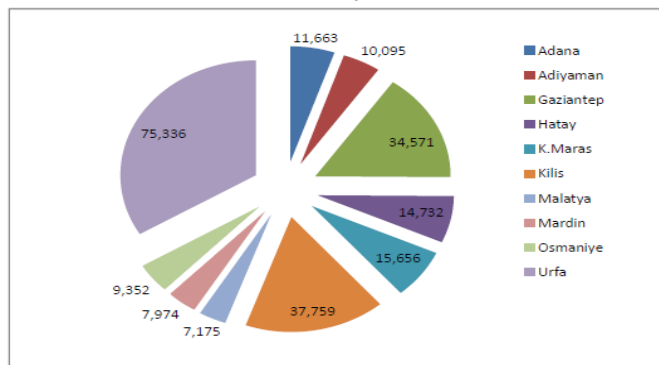
This ten million Lira programme will support the delivery of public services and invest in schemes that will provide employment and business development of the host communities, as well as provide technical advices to local authorities on livelihood needs assessments.

Statistics

As of 31 March 2014, Turkey registered/numerated close to 670,000 Syrian refugees in ten South Eastern provinces. The official estimation of the total Syrian population in Turkey is over 800,000.

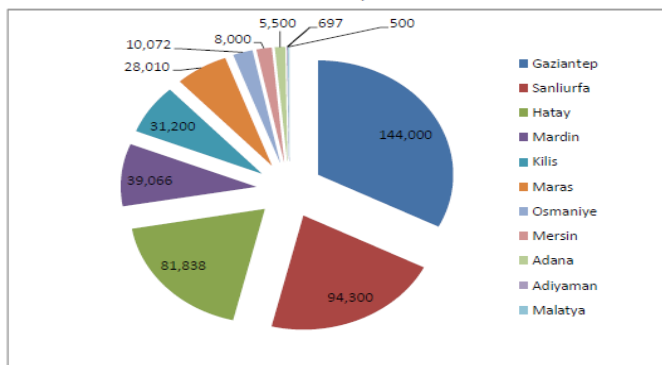
Registration in camps by provinces as of 31 March 2014

Total: 224,313



Non-camp registration by provinces as of 31 March 2014

Total: 443,183



Donor Countries of UNHCR's Regional Syrian Refugee Programme for Turkey:



Other Donor Countries contributing to UNHCR's Regional Syrian Refugee Programme in alphabetical order including un-earmarked funding:



Syrian refugees in Lebanon surpass one million

The number of refugees fleeing from Syria into neighbouring Lebanon surpassed one million on 3 April, a devastating milestone worsened by rapidly depleting resources and a host community stretched to breaking point.

Three years after Syria's conflict began, Lebanon has become the country with the highest per-capita concentration of refugees worldwide, struggling to keep pace with a crisis that shows no signs of slowing. Refugees from Syria now equal one-quarter of the resident population, with over 220 Syrian refugees for every 1,000 Lebanese residents. The UN and partner agencies have mounted an unprecedented response, targeting both refugees and Lebanese host communities.

Sector progress

Protection

Over 1,000 refugees in camp waiting areas

Over the past month, some camps have received increasing numbers of spontaneous arrivals, who are temporarily accommodated in large rub-hall tents in the waiting areas. As of the end of the reporting week, there were over 1,000 refugees sheltered in the waiting areas of Islahiye, Nizip 1, Karkamis, Adiyaman and Ceylanpinar. These refugees are provided with hot meals and basic needs, until a decision on admittance is taken. Refugees will be registered and admitted to camps following the instruction from AFAD HQ. However, reception conditions in some camp waiting areas are not suitable for longer term as shelter and sanitation facilities are insufficient.

Training to partners

During the last week of March 2014, UNHCR trained 32 staff of implementing partners Support to Life (STL), International Blue Crescent (IBC) and International Medical Corps (IMC). The group included management, protection and community services staff. The training gave an overview of international refugee protection principles and the temporary protection regime in Turkey, while the main focus was on identifying and working with refugees with special needs and vulnerabilities.

Assistance

Pre-fabricated health clinics

The construction of ten pre-fabricated health facilities procured by UNHCR has begun. These facilities, funded by the European Union, will be set up in six camps and four towns in the South East of Turkey. They are expected to be operational by July 2014.

Each health facility is fully equipped, including a radiology machine, ultrasound machine, ECG machine, observation beds, emergency equipment required for resuscitation, etc. The facility also has a 'short stay' observation area.

In the camps, the pre-fabricated health facilities have the potential of providing consultations approximately 400 refugees if fully staffed. In the urban areas, it can be either utilized as a 'stand-alone' clinic or built next to an existing hospital in order to enhance its capacity.

Turkish Government contributes to UNHCR

On 1 April 2014, The Government of Turkey sent a pledge letter to UNHCR, confirming a contribution of USD 500,000 for UNHCR's Strategic Response Plan for Anbar Emergency, earmarked to core relief items and shelter.

UNHCR highly appreciates this contribution from Turkey, which comes as a time that it already hosts and offers protection to over 800,000 Syrian refugees.