Operation: Turkey

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
People of Concern

**DECREASE IN 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>3,907,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>3,993,522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>3,789,320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Refugees**: 3,579,531
- **Asylum-seekers**: 328,257
- **Stateless**: 1

![Pie chart showing distribution of refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless individuals.](chart.png)
Operational context

Since 2014, Turkey has been the country hosting the largest number of refugees under UNHCR’s mandate in the world – with the vast majority being nationals of the Syrian Arab Republic. In 2019, the number of Syrians with temporary protection status remained stable at nearly 3.6 million. Over 98% of Syrians lived in urban, peri-urban and rural areas, with less than 2% residing in seven remaining temporary accommodation centers.

As a result of the EU-Turkey Statement, movements on the western border remained comparatively small, with only a modest increase in onward movements to the European Union.

Turkey’s Law on Foreigners and International Protection, together with the Temporary Protection Regulation, continues to provide a strong legal framework for people in need of international protection, including access to services upon registration with the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM).

UNHCR continued to strengthen its collaboration with State institutions at the national, provincial and local levels who, despite actively delivering services and assistance to refugees, found their capacities stretched in the face of extensive demands. The operation provided important technical and human resources support to improve access to registration and enhance the capacity and quality of public services, especially for people with specific needs. UNHCR also cooperated with DGMM, line ministries, authorities at national, provincial and local levels, local leaders, refugees and civil society in order to implement a range of social inclusion and co-existence initiatives targeted at both host communities and refugees.

With Turkey financing the bulk of its refugee response, the Government called for sustained international responsibility-sharing in line with the Global Compact on Refugees, and proactively contributed to the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019.

UNHCR co-led the refugee and resilience response plan to the Syria crisis (3RP) together with UNDP, coordinating support to Turkey’s refugee response through the Syria Task Force (STF) and sector working groups. The 2019-2020 3RP strategy was launched in March 2019 with government, United Nations and NGO partners and donors. Under the cycle of the United Nations Development Cooperation Framework (UNDCF) for 2016-2020, UNHCR also chaired the Migration and International Protection Results Group.

Population trends

In 2019, Turkey hosted close to 3.6 million Syrians with temporary protection status, in addition to some 330,000 refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities (including 56,400 new international protection applicants from Afghanistan (62%), Iraq (28%) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (6%)).

The Turkish Coast Guard reported that interceptions and rescues at sea along the western sea borders increased by nearly 130% during the year. Among those intercepted, 44% were Afghan and 29% Syrian nationals.

The Turkish Land Forces reported intercepting over 47,700 individuals at the western land borders. The number of apprehensions at other land borders decreased however: by 29% at the border with the Syrian Arab Republic; by 75% at the Iraqi border; and by 53% at the Iranian land border.

The dossiers of more than 17,552 refugees were submitted to some 18 countries for resettlement, with over 10,500 departing for resettlement in 2019. Working closely with DGMM, UNHCR observed voluntary repatriation interviews of more than 34,300 refugees who chose to return to the Syrian Arab Republic during the year.
**Achievements**

- UNHCR assisted the DGMM and its provincial directorates to reduce backlogs and registration waiting periods, and in the identification of people with specific needs.
- The Partnership with the Union of Turkish Bar Associations enabled refugees to access legal assistance, including through three Legal Clinics, and, as needed, legal aid through support to Bar Associations in 18 provinces.
- UNHCR supported the DGMM to verify the registration records of over 2.7 million Syrians, which was completed in February 2019, in parallel with ongoing registration and the updating of registration records for both temporary and international protection.
- In cooperation with the Gendarmerie and the Turkish Coast Guard, reception conditions and procedures were improved for intercepted and rescued persons, particularly at border posts.
- UNHCR’s digital platforms – helpline, Facebook page, and counselling hotline – reached over 1 million people.

**Unmet needs**

Despite legal aid provided by 18 bar associations with UNHCR’s support, more support to bar associations was needed, as in the case of legal clinics, including more interpreters and technical support personnel for DGMM.

Specialized support for people with serious medical conditions remained challenging, and there were limited resettlement places for such cases.

Only 2% of the 360,000 Syrian refugees with resettlement needs (and 0.2 % of the total Syrian refugee population in Turkey) departed in 2019. One of the main limitations in finding resettlement places was resettlement country requirements. At least 14,000 Iraqi refugees had resettlement needs in 2019, however only 6% of these cases were submitted due to limited quotas.
The following table presents the final budget and funds available by pillar and the final expenditure at the objective level, as reported at year-end.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pillar 1 Refugee programme</th>
<th>Pillar 2 Stateless programme</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final Budget</strong></td>
<td>390,547,279</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>390,552,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from contributions*</td>
<td>118,498,604</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>118,498,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other funds available / transfers</td>
<td>17,713,173</td>
<td>1,620</td>
<td>17,714,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total funds available</strong></td>
<td>136,211,777</td>
<td>1,620</td>
<td>136,213,397</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenditure by Objective**

**Favourable Protection Environment**
- International and regional instruments: 0, 1,620, 1,620
- Law and policy: 2,050,538, 0, 2,050,538
- Legal remedies and legal assistance: 3,113,291, 0, 3,113,291
- Access to territory: 531,023, 0, 531,023
- Public attitudes towards persons of concern: 1,309,386, 0, 1,309,386
  **Subtotal**: 7,004,238, 1,620, 7,005,858

**Fair Protection Processes and Documentation**
- Reception conditions: 696,057, 0, 696,057
- Registration and profiling: 26,640,294, 0, 26,640,294
- Status determination: 1,103,798, 0, 1,103,798
  **Subtotal**: 28,440,148, 0, 28,440,148

**Security from Violence and Exploitation**
- SGBV prevention and response: 1,341,899, 0, 1,341,899
- Child protection: 2,675,884, 0, 2,675,884
  **Subtotal**: 4,017,784, 0, 4,017,784

**Basic Needs and Essential Services**
- Health: 27, 0, 27
- Basic and domestic and hygiene Items: 2,037,679, 0, 2,037,679
- Services for persons with specific needs: 40,754,201, 0, 40,754,201
- Education: 12,893,687, 0, 12,893,687
  **Subtotal**: 55,685,594, 0, 55,685,594

**Community Empowerment and Self Reliance**
- Community mobilization: 5,024,195, 0, 5,024,195
- Co-existence with local communities: 3,197,840, 0, 3,197,840
- Self-reliance and livelihoods: 10,754,572, 0, 10,754,572
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Durable Solutions</th>
<th>Pillar 1 Refugee programme</th>
<th>Pillar 2 Stateless programme</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>18,976,607</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18,976,607</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Durable Solutions**

- Voluntary return: 445,476
- Resettlement: 1,566,941
- **Subtotal**: 2,012,416

**Leadership, Coordination and Partnerships**

- Coordination and partnerships: 1,849,437
- Camp management and coordination: 348,393
- Donor relations: 499,978
- **Subtotal**: 2,697,808

**Logistics and Operations Support**

- Supply chain and logistics: 1,155,276
- Operations management, coordination and support: 3,510,501
- **Subtotal**: 4,665,777

**2019 Expenditure Total**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pillar 1</th>
<th>Pillar 2</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>123,500,373</td>
<td>1,620</td>
<td>123,501,993</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the “New or additional activities – mandate-related” (NAM) Reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.*