



Turkey: Refugee crisis

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Official estimate of registered Syrian refugees in Turkey
([Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)):

Over 3 million (July 2016)

Number of non-Syrian refugees registered inside Turkey (including Iraqi, Iranian, Afghan, Somali and other):

141.301 (May 2016)

EU funding:

European Commission humanitarian funding for Turkey since the start of the crisis:

€240million

Refugee Facility for Turkey:

€3 billion (2016-2017)

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Key messages

- The overwhelming influx of refugees into Turkey has reached over **3.1 million people**, making Turkey the host country with the largest refugee population in the world.
- In 2016 nearly 160 000 people have arrived through Turkey to Greece by sea. 89% come from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries.
- About 90% of Syrian refugees in Turkey remain **outside of camp** settings with limited access to basic services. The European Commission is supporting vulnerable refugees all around Turkey, in particular those living in out-of-camp settings.
- The European Commission and its Member States are funding the "**Facility for Refugees in Turkey**" which provides **€3 billion** for humanitarian and development projects in 2016 and 2017.
- End of July, the European Commission has launched another series of humanitarian aid projects in Turkey, worth €79million, bringing the total humanitarian assistance in Turkey delivered under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey for 2016 to €169 million.

Humanitarian situation and needs

Syrian and Iraqi Refugees

Over 3.1 million refugees including Syrian, Iraqi and refugees of other nationalities have so far been registered in Turkey. Due to the constant escalation of violence in the neighbouring countries it is uncertain what the scale of refugee flows from Syria and Iraq to Turkey will be in 2016. In addition, over 857 000 arrivals by sea to Greece from Turkey were recorded in 2015, with nearly 160 000 new arrivals in 2016, the majority being Syrians.

The Government of Turkey currently hosts more than 250 000 refugees in 26 camps, with ongoing costs associated with health, education, food security and social and other services offered. It estimates that it has spent **over € 7 billion** since the beginning of the crisis. Despite enormous efforts from the government, local authorities and generosity from host communities, many of the **90% of Syrian refugees that live outside of camps** in urban and rural areas are often unaccounted for, and are surviving under very challenging circumstances. Access to information, registration and to public services, including education and healthcare, is acutely limited.

Many off-camp refugees live in poor conditions, with rents causing great strain on their already depleted resources. The socio-economic and political impact, not only of the refugee presence, but of the on-going conflict in Syria and Iraq itself, has led to inter-communal tension in refugee hosting areas across the country, and increased movement of refugees and migrants alike – towards EU borders.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

The total funding provided by the EU to Turkey in response to the Syria Crisis since the beginning of the crisis, including humanitarian aid as well as longer-term assistance, amounts to **over €524 million**. Of this amount €240 million is humanitarian funding.

The EU has launched the **Facility for Refugees in Turkey** to deliver efficient and complementary support to Syrian and other refugees and host communities in close cooperation with Turkish authorities. The Facility provides a joint coordination mechanism for actions financed by the EU budget and national contributions made by the Member States, designed to ensure that the needs of refugees and host communities are addressed in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. The resources of the Facility will come from the EU budget and from EU Member States over 2016 and 2017, making a total so far of **€3 billion over two years**.

Since March 2016 more than €169 million have been activated under the Facility for humanitarian aid.

A first €40 million is one of the largest single contracts ever between WFP and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department for implementation in one country. This humanitarian assistance will provide 585 000 Syrian refugees living outside of camps and 150 000 Syrian refugees living in refugee camps with e-cards which can be redeemed for food at designated shops. WFP will work closely with the Turkish Red Crescent for the efficient delivery of the assistance.



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By April 15th further €50 million has been allocated in humanitarian aid to address the immediate needs of refugees in Turkey. The 15 partners funded under this allocation include the Danish Refugee Council, International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Medical Corps UK and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), who are working in close cooperation with Turkish partner organisations. The 15 projects cover all major humanitarian aid sectors including food assistance and non-food items mainly in the form of cash and vouchers, specialised assistance for winter, access to health services, education in emergency, protection, information management, specialized help for persons with disabilities, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). In late July, a further €79 m have been contracted for projects in the sectors of primary health care, informal education, preparations for the upcoming winter and protection.

In the second part of 2016, with further funding under the **Facility for Refugees in Turkey**, the Commission will continue and scale up existing EU humanitarian assistance in Turkey to cover **basic needs** and include interventions specifically focusing on the **protection** of vulnerable groups, e.g. child protection, women's health and activities enabling education.

The Commission is currently working on the design and roll out of the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), a single card social assistance scheme that will allow to cover the most pressing needs in terms of food, non-food items, shelter, water and sanitation of the most vulnerable refugees in a dignified, efficient and cost-effective manner.

Beside the transfer system, **health** interventions will remain in focus to enable access to primary health care in underserved areas and to provide specific services, especially physical rehabilitation/post-operative care for war wounded, assistance to people living with disabilities, mental health services, reproductive health, etc. **Comprehensive Protection activities** remain in the centre of the strategy in order to provide for the most vulnerable groups who may fall through the cracks of the assistance system and who are in need of legal assistance, child protection services or other specialised protection support. **Education in Emergencies** has been identified as one of the priority areas for humanitarian interventions, in close collaboration with long-term instruments also focusing on access to formal education.

