



Turkey: Syria Crisis

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Official estimate of the total number of registered and unregistered Syrian refugees in Turkey:

Over 1.75 million

Number of non-Syrian refugees inside Turkey (mainly Iraqi, Iranian, Afghan, Somali, Palestinian):

Over 300 000

EU humanitarian funding:

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

€44.6 million for Syrian and Iraqi refugees



Photo credit: EU/ECHO/UNICEF

Key messages

- The overwhelming influx of Syrian and other refugees into Turkey - 1.75 million Syrian refugees have been registered by the Government so far - is impacting the country and host communities.
- Over 85% of Syrian refugees remain 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.
- The European Commission is supporting vulnerable refugees in Turkey who have fled violence in both Syria and Iraq, in particular refugees living outside of camps.
- Additional assistance will be provided to respond to the refugee crisis in Turkey through additional EU channels, notably the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and the Instrument for contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP).

Humanitarian Aid and
Civil Protection

B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel.: (+32 2) 295 44 00

Fax: (+32 2) 295 45 72

email:

echo-info@ec.europa.eu

Website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo>



* All the latest ECHO
Factsheets:
bit.ly/echo-fs

Humanitarian situation and needs

Syrian and Iraqi Refugees

The overwhelming influx of Syrian and other refugees into Turkey is impacting the country in ways not anticipated by either the Government of Turkey or the international community. The Government has already registered over **1.75 million Syrian refugees** in Turkey and estimates that this figure will rise to 2.5 Million by the end of 2015. As well as this, ongoing violence in Iraq has increased the number of **Iraqi refugees** in the country.

The Government of Turkey has been providing high quality assistance in 25 exemplary camps hosting nearly **240 000 Syrian refugees, including up to 15,000 Iraqis, at a monthly cost of €2 million**. With further costs associated with health, education, food security and social and other technical services offered, the GoT estimates it has spent **nearly €5 billion** since the beginning of the crisis. While there has undoubtedly been progress regarding the Government's efforts to ensure registration of all refugees, **over half of the off-camp refugee population, which constitute the vast majority, are not registered and do not receive assistance**. Host communities and Turkish civil society organisations and NGOs have been unwavering in their commitment to assist those who are not covered by government assistance.

Despite these efforts, over **85% of Syrian refugees remain 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. Syrian refugees can only access work illegally, and occasional and underpaid daily work is the norm. Many off-camp refugees live in inadequate conditions or in open areas, with rents often 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.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

Funding

Since the beginning of the crisis **the European Commission has contributed over €44 million** in humanitarian aid to assist Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Turkey. The majority of the resources allocated early on in the crisis assisted refugees inside the camps, while since 2014 support has been primarily focused on off-camp refugees.

The European Commission has been working closely with the Turkish authorities, UN agencies and other humanitarian actors to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of new arrivals as well as the most vulnerable among the refugees:

- Approximately 45% of new funds in 2015 are targeting the **health sector**, especially physical rehabilitation/post-operative care, and primary health care services in acutely under-served areas. In partnership with the World Health Organisation, the Commission is supporting the training and integration of qualified Arabic-speaking Syrian doctors into the Turkish Healthcare system.
- Humanitarian funding is supporting programmes which use of **cash or electronic vouchers**, targeting assistance to the most vulnerable refugee families across the provinces of Hatay, Kilis, Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Mardin, Diyarbakir and Batman,.
- Through the **EU Children of Peace initiative**, Concern International and PIN (People in Need) have been allocated new funds of up to €850 000 from the Commission in order to provide more Syrian children with access to schools, adding to the €1.75 million already committed under the initiative to UNICEF and Concern in 2014. Many children have not **received any education for the last three years and are at risk of becoming a lost generation**.
- Programmes funded by other EU instruments, notably the **€13 million contribution via the EU's Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IcSP)** continue to contribute to bolstering registration and access to health services for Syrian refugees through UNHCR. It is also supporting direct capacity-building of the Turkish Government's National Disaster Agency. A further **€8.8 million contribution channelled through the IcSP**, is supporting UNICEF's project to improve the resilience of vulnerable school-aged Syrian children and youth living in camps in Turkey, as well as funding UNHCR for its response to protection needs. Programming of further allocations under these instruments is underway.

