



Turkey: Refugee crisis

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Official estimate of refugees in Turkey (Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs):

Over 3.2 million

EU funding:

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

€664 million

EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey:

€3 billion (2016-2017)

For more information on the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey

https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news_corner/migration_en

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Key messages

- The **number of refugees in Turkey has reached over 3.2 million**, making Turkey the host country with the largest refugee population in the world.
- About **90% of Syrian refugees in Turkey remain outside of camp** settings with limited access to basic services. **The European Commission is providing humanitarian assistance** to vulnerable refugees, particularly to those living outside of camps.
- The European Union and its Member States are funding the **"EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey"** which provides **€3 billion** to address needs of refugees and host communities with humanitarian and development assistance in 2016 and 2017.
- The European Commission is providing **€348 million** to the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), **a single card social assistance scheme that will allow up to 1 million refugees cover their basic daily needs.**
- **All in all 35 humanitarian projects have been contracted with 19 humanitarian organisations** which are working in close cooperation with Turkish partner organisations to provide refugees and vulnerable people.

Humanitarian situation and needs

About 3.2 million registered refugees are living in Turkey making it the largest host of refugees in the world, including Syrians, Iraqis, Afghan, Iranian, Somalian and other nationalities. Out of the close to **3 million registered Syrian refugees** in the country, **some 260, 000 people are hosted in 26 camps** run by the **Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD)**, where refugees have access to shelter, health, education food and social activities. Despite these efforts from the government, local authorities and the generosity from host communities, **90% of Syrian refugees (over 2.5 million persons)**, as well as many refugees from other nationalities, **live outside the camps** under very challenging circumstances with depleted resources. Registered **refugees have**, in principle, **access to public services, including education and healthcare**. However, for many, access to these basic facilities is often limited for various reasons, including problems in registering with local authorities and the language barrier.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

The total humanitarian funding provided by the EU to Turkey since the beginning of the crisis amounts to over €664 million.

In November 2015, the EU launched the €3 billion [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 in 2016-2017. The Facility is funded both from EU budget and from the contributions of Member States.

The flagship humanitarian programme funded by the EU in 2017 is the [Emergency Social Safety Net \(ESSN\)](#), a single card social assistance scheme that will allow up to 1 million of the most vulnerable refugees to meet their most pressing basic needs. With an **initial grant of €348 million from the EU**, the implementing partner, the World Food Programme, in collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent and Turkish government institutions, is distributing electronic debit cards to refugee families.

Building on to the ESSN, **the European Union and UNICEF are now rolling out the Conditional cash for Education (CCTE) project** in Turkey. The **EU contribution of €34 million will fund bimonthly cash-transfers to vulnerable refugee families whose children attend school regularly.** The project also includes a child protection component in order to ensure the continued school enrolment and attendance of the most vulnerable refugee children as well as their referral to complementary child protection services as required. These projects are complemented by a string of other aid projects that have been launched in 2016 and 2017.

All in all 35 humanitarian projects have been contracted with 19 humanitarian organisations which are working in close cooperation with Turkish partner organisations to provide refugees and vulnerable people with **assistance including food, access to health services, education in emergencies, essential items for winter, protection as well as specialised assistance for the most vulnerable people.**

Long-term assistance under the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey

These projects complement and tie in with the EU's assistance under the Facility focusing on education, health, migration management, municipal infrastructure and socio-economic support, channelled through the European Commission Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR).



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