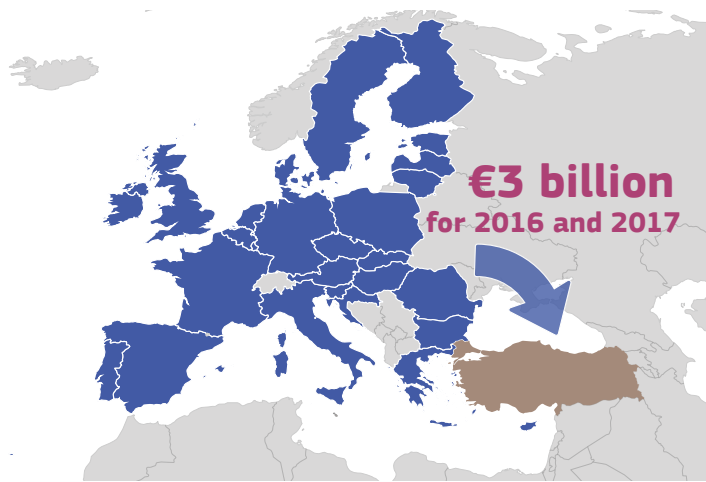




MANAGING THE REFUGEE CRISIS

THE FACILITY FOR REFUGEES IN TURKEY

Turkey's geographical position makes it a first reception and transit country for many refugees and migrants. As the result of an unprecedented influx of people seeking refuge, the country currently hosts more than 2.7 million registered Syrian refugees and is making commendable efforts to provide them with humanitarian aid and support. The EU is committed to assist Turkey in dealing with this challenge. The European Commission is providing humanitarian assistance to support vulnerable refugees who have fled violence in their country, in particular those living outside of camps and in need of immediate aid, and those requiring health assistance and access to education.



THE FACILITY

The Facility for Refugees in Turkey is the answer to the EU Member States' call for significant additional funding to support refugees in the country. The Facility is designed to ensure that the needs of refugees and host communities are addressed in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. The Facility for Refugees in Turkey focuses on humanitarian assistance, education, migration management, health, municipal infrastructure, and socio-economic support.

The Facility has a budget of €3 billion for 2016-2017. This is made up of €1 billion from the EU budget, and €2 billion from the EU Member States.

HOW DOES THE FACILITY FUNCTION?

To ensure the coordination, complementarity and efficiency of the assistance, the Facility Steering Committee provides strategic guidance on the type of actions to be financed, with what amount, and through which financing instruments. The Steering Committee is chaired by the European Commission and composed of EU Member State representatives, with Turkey sitting in an advisory capacity. Projects are selected according to a needs assessment, and following the procedure of the financing instruments mobilised.

TOTAL SUPPORT THROUGH THE FACILITY TO DATE

Of the overall €3 billion, **€2.2 billion have so far been allocated**, for both humanitarian and non-humanitarian assistance. Of the €2.2 billion allocated, €1.3 billion have been contracted. Of these €1.3 billion contracted, €677 million have been disbursed to date.

HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT UNDER THE FACILITY

Since the beginning of the Syria crisis, the European Commission has contributed **more than €583 million for humanitarian assistance** inside Turkey, providing services such as health, food and basic needs assistance, winterization, shelter, education, water and sanitation, psychological support and protection programmes to refugees in camps and urban settings.

In June 2016, the Commission published the **Humanitarian Implementation Plan for Turkey (HIP)**, for a total amount of **€505,65 million**, making it the largest HIP ever published. The largest ever humanitarian programme in EU history was contracted in September under this HIP for a total amount of €348 million: the **Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN)**. The ESSN is using direct cash transfers through debit cards to cover the everyday needs of the most vulnerable refugee families in Turkey. Financed by the EU and its Member States under the 'Facility for Refugees in Turkey', it is the first social assistance scheme of its kind, combining international humanitarian know-how and government services to reach out to one million refugees across Turkey. The ESSN is cost-effective and efficient as well as more dignified for the beneficiaries. The ESSN comes on top of the €74 million contracted by the end of July under the HIP Turkey to scale up activities in the field of protection, winterisation, health and education. €90 million had already been contracted by 15 April, under the HIP Syria regional crisis, in order to scale-up ongoing humanitarian activities.

In the second half of 2016 and early 2017, the implementation of the Humanitarian Implementation Plan published on 3 June will focus on:

- Ensuring the swift implementation of the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) for refugees in Turkey, announced on 8 September 2016. The first cash transfers under the ESSN are planned for October 2016, and as many as one million refugees will benefit from the scheme by the first quarter of 2017.
- Implementing projects in the field of winterisation and protection as well as non-formal education and health, in complementarity with the projects under the EU longer-term instruments.
- In order to ensure the consistent implementation of humanitarian assistance under the FRIT, information management projects will also be implemented.
- Finally, a funding buffer has also been secured to respond swiftly to urgent and unexpected humanitarian needs.

NON-HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT UNDER THE FACILITY

In July 2016, the Commission adopted a **Special Measure worth €1.415 billion** which provides three strands of funding to address urgent needs of refugees and host communities in Turkey in the priority areas of education, health, municipal infrastructure and socio-economic support in the ten most affected provinces.

The first strand provides **two direct grants worth €600 million** with the Turkish ministries for education and health, signed at the end of September, 2016. These grants will cover operational costs of and access to education and healthcare services for Syrian refugees and their children.

The second strand provides EU financial support for education and health-related infrastructure. It also provides for funding for municipal infrastructure in host communities and socio-economic support for Syrian refugees in Turkey, and will be implemented through delegation agreements with International Financial Institutions.

The third strand of the Measure includes an allocation to top-up the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, allowing it to continue funding bottom-up assistance to refugees and host communities.

In August 2016, the Commission signed a €60 million agreement with the Turkish Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM), to ensure that the transportation, reception and hosting of migrants returned from Greece to Turkey is carried out in a secure way in dignified conditions.

TIMELINE

4 October 2016: The fourth Steering Committee of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey meets in Brussels.

27 September 2016: The European Commission announces the:

- Signature of **two direct grants worth €600 million** to support Syrian refugees and host communities in Turkey in the areas of **education and health**.

8 September 2016: The European Commission announces the:

- **Biggest ever humanitarian aid programme worth €348 million.** The contract of the **Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN)** is signed by the European Commission with the World Food programme who will work in partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent and Turkish authorities to address the everyday needs of as many as 1 million refugees.

28 July 2016: The European Commission adopts:

- A **Special Measure worth €1.415 billion** to support refugees in Turkey in the areas of education, health, municipal and social infrastructure, and socio-economic support.
- A series of **humanitarian aid projects** in Turkey, worth **€74million**, bringing the **total humanitarian assistance** in Turkey delivered under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey for 2016 to **€165 million**.
- In four months, the European Commission has mobilised support of **more than €2 billion** to support refugees in Turkey.

30 June 2016: The third Steering Committee of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey meets in Brussels:

- To discuss a Special Measure worth €1.4 billion to fast-track the mobilisation of funding in support of the refugees in Turkey
- To present the Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) for Turkey which sets out a humanitarian strategy under the Facility, for a total amount of €505.65 million
- To present the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) that will address the everyday needs of as many as 1 million refugees.

3 June 2016: The European Commission publishes the:

- **Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) for Turkey**, mobilising **€505.65 million** of the budget of the Facility.

26 May 2016: The European Commission announces additional projects under the Facility:

- **€20 million to support the Turkish Coast Guard** on search and rescue operations to save lives and enhance the protection of migrants and refugees and tackling irregular migration and trafficking.
- **A further €27 million** to facilitate access to education to refugee children, young Syrians (skill trainings and university education), and to assist local communities.

12 May 2016: The second Steering Committee of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey meets in Brussels:

- To endorse the fast-track strategy for the Facility and agree on the main priorities the Facility will focus on in the immediate and medium term, including **humanitarian assistance, migration management, education, health, municipal infrastructure, and socio-economic support**.
- To agree on the priorities and practicalities of how support through the Facility will be accelerated in the months to come.
- To discuss the findings of an independent needs assessment prepared by experts contracted by the European Commission, which provides valuable guidance for further Facility intervention.

19 April 2016: The European Commission announces that:

- A further **€60 million** will be used to cover expenses for food, health care and accommodation for migrants who have been returned from Greece to Turkey.
- Contracts have been signed for a further **€50 million in humanitarian aid**, which will be used to address the immediate needs of refugees in Turkey.

4 March 2016: The first contracts for the Facility are signed and the first payments take place shortly thereafter:

- **€40 million** in humanitarian aid was provided to the World Food Programme in order to contribute to support 735,000 refugees with food assistance.
- **€37 million** was allocated through UNICEF to get an additional 110,000 refugee children into school. This built on existing EU programmes which already support education for 200,000 children.

Further information is available on the **Facility website** at:
http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/news_corner/migration/index_en.htm