



MANAGING THE REFUGEE CRISIS

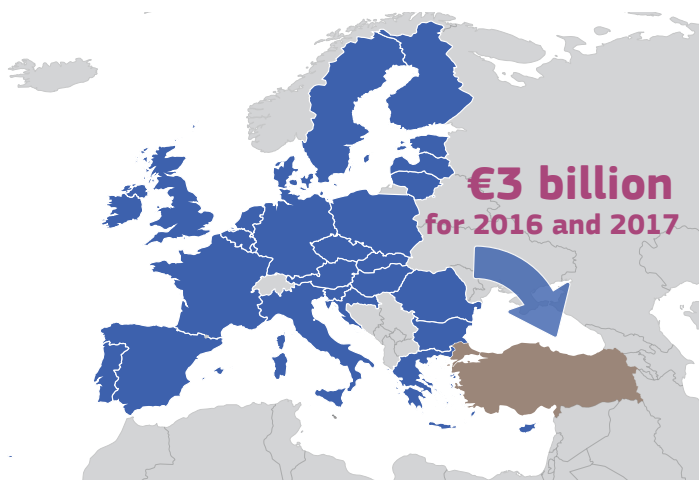
THE EU FACILITY FOR REFUGEES IN TURKEY

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 3 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 EU FACILITY

The EU 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 EU 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 EU FACILITY TO DATE

As of December 2017, **58 projects** have been contracted worth more than **€2.5 billion**, out of which more than **€1.1 billion** has been disbursed. The total allocated for implementation under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey on humanitarian and non-humanitarian actions stands at **€2.9 billion**.

HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT UNDER THE EU FACILITY

Since the beginning of the Syria crisis, the European Commission has committed €1.4 billion for humanitarian assistance inside Turkey. The EU is providing support to vulnerable refugees in Turkey, mainly those living outside of camps in urban and rural areas, in areas such as health, food and basic needs assistance, shelter, education, water and sanitation, support to cope with winter conditions, psychological support and protection. In May 2017, the European Commission published the 2017 Humanitarian Implementation Plan for Turkey (HIP), for a total amount of €714.038 million, making it the largest HIP ever published. This is in addition to the €505.65 million aid under the HIP 2016.

The Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), the largest ever humanitarian programme in EU history, was contracted in September 2016 with an initial budget of €348 million. The ESSN delivers direct cash transfers through debit cards directly to the most vulnerable refugee families in Turkey to cover their everyday needs. This is the first social assistance scheme of its kind, combining international humanitarian know-how and government services to reach out to 1.3 million refugees across Turkey. Delivering aid through direct cash transfers is cost-effective and efficient and gives the beneficiaries the dignity of choice in how to spend the money. The project is implemented by the World Food Programme in collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent, and the Turkish Government. In March 2017, the Commission launched its largest ever Education in Emergencies project.

The Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) project, with a budget of €34 million, provides cash assistance to families sending their children to school regularly. 72,000 children already benefited from this project. In its first year, this project will support 230,000 children. The project is implemented by UNICEF in collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent, and the Turkish Government. Including the ESSN and CCTE, as of September 2017 the European Commission has contracted over €593 million for humanitarian activities in the fields of basic needs, protection, winterization, health and education.

In the second half of 2017, the implementation of the Humanitarian Implementation Plan will focus on:

- Ongoing implementation of the ESSN;
- Implementing projects in the field of protection as well as non-formal education and health, in complementarity with projects under other EU instruments with a long-term focus; and
- Swift response to any urgent and unexpected humanitarian needs.

For further information about the Facility's humanitarian assistance, please [click here](#).

NON-HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT UNDER THE EU 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 is 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

8 November 2017: The **eighth Steering Committee** of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey meets in Brussels.

28 June 2017: The **seventh Steering Committee** of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey meets in Brussels.

23 May 2017: Opening of the first migrant health centres funded under **the 1.4 billion Special Measure**. The inauguration took place in Kilis, Turkey and is a good example of synchronised assistance under the non-humanitarian and humanitarian strands of the Facility.

3 May 2017: Publication of the Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) for Turkey, mobilising **€714 million** of the budget of the Facility.

31 March 2017: The **sixth Steering Committee** of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey meets in Brussels.

12 January 2017: The **fifth Steering Committee** of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey meets in Brussels.

20 December 2016: The European Commission announces the:

- **Two contract signatures** with **KfW** and **World Bank** worth **€200 million** to boost education infrastructure

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.