



Turkey: Refugee crisis

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Official estimate of refugees in Turkey (Republic of Turkey, Ministry of Interior):

Over 3.4 million

EU funding:

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

Over €1.3 billion

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/neighborhood-enlargement/news_corner/migration_en

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Key messages

- The **number of refugees in Turkey has reached over 3.4 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 the needs of refugees and host communities through humanitarian and development assistance in 2016 and 2017.
- The European Commission is providing **€348 million** through the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), **a debit card based social assistance scheme that will allow up to 1.3 million refugees to cover their basic daily needs.**
- Altogether **35 humanitarian projects have been contracted with 19 humanitarian organisations** which are working in close cooperation with Turkish partner organisations to provide support to refugees and vulnerable people.

Humanitarian situation and needs

Over 3.4 million registered refugees are living in Turkey making it the largest host of refugees in the world, including Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans, Iranians, Somalians and other nationalities. Out of the more than **3 million registered Syrian refugees** in the country, **246,720 people are hosted in 23 camps** run by the **Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of Turkey (AFAD)**, where refugees have access to shelter, health, education, food and social activities. Despite these efforts from the government and local authorities, and the generosity of host communities, **over 90% of Syrian refugees (over 2.8 million people)** 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 €1.3 billion.

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 from both the EU budget and the contributions of Member States.

The flagship humanitarian programme funded by the EU in 2017 is the [Emergency Social Safety Net \(ESSN\)](#), a debit card based social assistance scheme that will allow up to 1.3 million of the most vulnerable refugees to meet their most pressing basic needs. With initial financing 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 through which payments are made directly to families.

Building on the ESSN, **the European Union and UNICEF are now rolling out the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) project** in Turkey. The **EU commitment 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 to ensure the most vulnerable refugee children continue to attend school and to ensure they receive complementary child protection services when needed. These projects are complemented by a series of other aid projects that have been launched in 2016 and 2017.

Altogether 35 humanitarian projects have been contracted with 19 humanitarian organisations which are working in close cooperation with Turkish organisations to provide refugees and vulnerable people with **assistance including food, access to health services, education in emergencies, essential items for winter and 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 the EU's non-humanitarian 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).

