

TURKEY

EXTERNAL UPDATE

31 August, 2015

KEY FIGURES

(SYRIA –RESPONSE)

Tents: 45,220 (for 227,540 beneficiaries)

Foam mattresses: 270,000

Plastic Sheets: 32,840 (for 120,190 beneficiaries)

Kitchen sets: 83,544 (for 417,720 beneficiaries)

Jerry cans: 136,500 (for 341,250 beneficiaries)

Blankets: 1,596,975

Sanitary napkins: 1,130,880 (for 26,926 women)

FUNDING

UNHCR Turkey operation

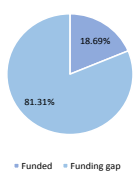
USD 336.4 million

Funded: 18.7 %*

(USD 62.9 million)

(*excluding contributions earmarked at the Regional Level)

Funding level of UNHCR Turkey
As of 31 August 2015



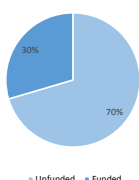
Inter-agency Syria Response (3RP) in Turkey

USD: 624 million

Funded: 30%

(USD 184.5 million)

Inter-agency 3RP Funding Level in Turkey



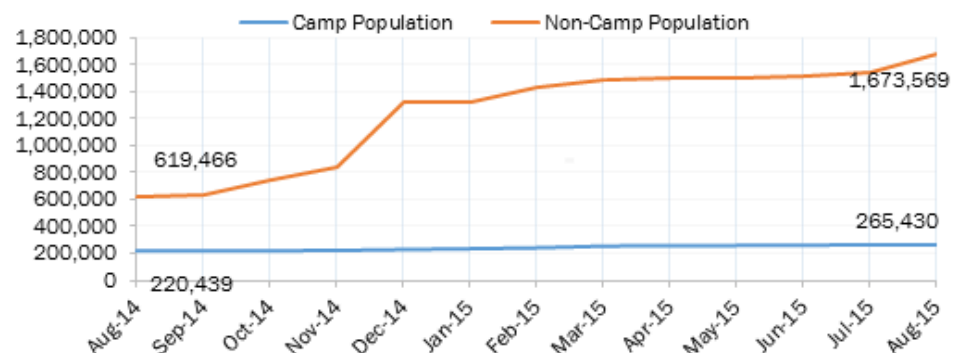
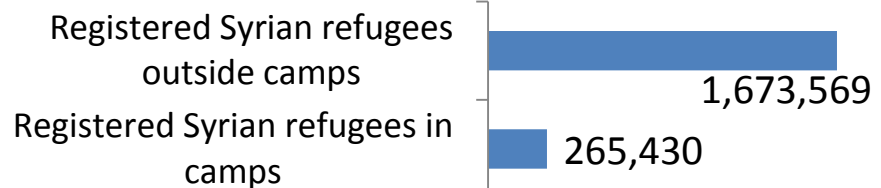
HIGHLIGHTS

- Stories of courage—how refugee women in Turkey are making something of their lives in exile.



Creation date:19/11/2014 Sources: UNCS, UNHCR
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Syrian Refugee Population in Turkey 1,938,999* persons (*As of 25 August, 2015)



Refugee women: stories of courage

The desperate and rather horrific situation in Syria is well known, with more than 4 million refugees globally, of which nearly half live in Turkey. More than 7 million are internally displaced within Syria and half that number of refugees and IDPs, are children. In the camps in Turkey, 78% of Syrian refugees are women and children.

Imagine living a sheltered life in a village in Syria and suddenly that tranquillity is shattered forever. Imagine a woman, who has always lived in a traditional society and is now forced to move, to start life, to work even, in a country that is not her own. It is up to her, to adjust to make sure that the children cope and support her husband, if he hasn't disappeared or been killed in the war. Her needs seldom come first and the huge leap she has to make requires courage and spirit of determination that things could only get better.



Naheed. ©UNHCR/N.Bose

Meet some of the brave women who have made something of their lives in exile in Turkey, and have been enabled to do so to some extent, by working with UNHCR partners, giving them a platform to do more. Naheed (29) is a bright, young psychologist who works as a counsellor for women in Narlica, Hatay at the UNHCR –Support to Life Community Centre. She has a degree in engineering and psychology from Aleppo University and was studying for her Masters when the war broke out. Married, with two children the young family came to Hatay from Idleb three years ago. “Not only did the war suddenly erupt in our village, but I was also at risk. I used to work in a camp and every day, had to cross a check point. We couldn't stay any longer,” she says.

Naheed counsels women and girls in group sessions, divided by age: 13-18 year olds, 18-25 year olds and 25-45 year olds. Isolation and depression are common and she speaks with pride of

a case she has helped. “They are twins, 14 years old. They dropped out of school and were depressed and isolated in their new and for them, strange surroundings. They had left Syria under very difficult conditions and were traumatised. The mother was sick and also pregnant again, unable to give them much attention,” she remembers. A relative encouraged the twins to come to her sessions and over time, they opened up. “One had almost forgotten how to write, I encouraged her, and helped them both. They are now both in school again,” she says with a smile.

Stress, and how to cope with it cuts across most groups she counsels. “They say ‘I don't know how to deal with stress, how can I channel it’. I help them to cope,” says Naheed. “I encourage them to take up a hobby and highlight how they should never take it out on their children.” Watching women interacting and sharing more, coping with their depression and isolation makes Naheed grateful for what she can do to help other women. “I am proud of my achievements,” she says.



Hamima ©UNHCR/N.Bose

Hamima (50) has never worked in her life before. She now collects and cleans garbage for a living, supporting her disabled daughter. She has five sons and two other daughters, all married, all in Turkey but none in Gaziantep, where she is. Her husband died of stress, she says, from the war, the violence, the fighting. Originally from Aleppo, she came to Gaziantep a year and a half ago and it is her fiercely independent spirit that prevents her from living in a camp. “I collect garbage, plastics, cans and clean and sell them,” she says. “In Syria, my husband worked in a school. I never left

my home,” she says breaking down. “Some people here like to help us and we are getting help from them,” she says. Hamima also received a one-time cash voucher card, supported by UNHCR and IMC that she used to buy the essentials: sugar, rice, oil, yoghurt, eggs and tea.



Huda ©UNHCR/N.Bose

Huda (27) is a teacher at a Temporary Education Centre in Narlica, Hatay. Her father is still in Syria, she’s here with her mother and sisters and brother. Huda teaches Grade 1 (six to eight year olds). She studied in Damascus and managed to complete her degree, despite the bombs, the violence, and the war. Along with her mother and brother and two sisters, they fled a year and a half ago. Her father chose to stay back –he could not bear to leave Syria. “He knows we are safe here,” she says. They stay in touch over the phone.

Her eyes light up when she talks about being a teacher. Her classes are the most creatively decorated and she sees herself as a role model for young Syrian children. “I love teaching a lot,” she says. “First graders are hungry to learn and I see them watching how I behave, how I talk. It makes me very happy when they say ‘ I learnt this from my teacher’.” She believes she has a positive influence on their manners, the values they learn and says she’s noticed

a change in the behaviour of her students. “Now when they need to leave the class, they ask for permission. And they have begun putting back materials that I use for teaching, in the right places after they finish.” Huda hopes for the war to end so that she can go home, but till then, she’s happy to be making a difference in the lives of refugee children.

“I lost the the most important things in my life: my husband, my hopes for the future,” says Falak (45). “I became psychologically depressed and needed help when I came to Istanbul.” Well educated with degrees in Anthropology and Library Sciences, Falak is originally from Damascus. She used to work in an NGO there and does the same here. She is also part of the Women’s Solidarity Group at the UNHCR-HRDF Community Centre in Istanbul and was advised to join, to help her cope with her initial depression. “The staff is very kind. They told me that I had a lot to share because of my education and I am much better now.” From being someone who needed the group to help her battle her fears, Falak is now someone who helps other women in the group. “All women should be self-reliant,” she says. “In the group, I support other women and I try and help them culturally. I am learning as well from them, but I have also given them a lot of help and advice.”



Najlaa ©UNHCR/L. Kovacova

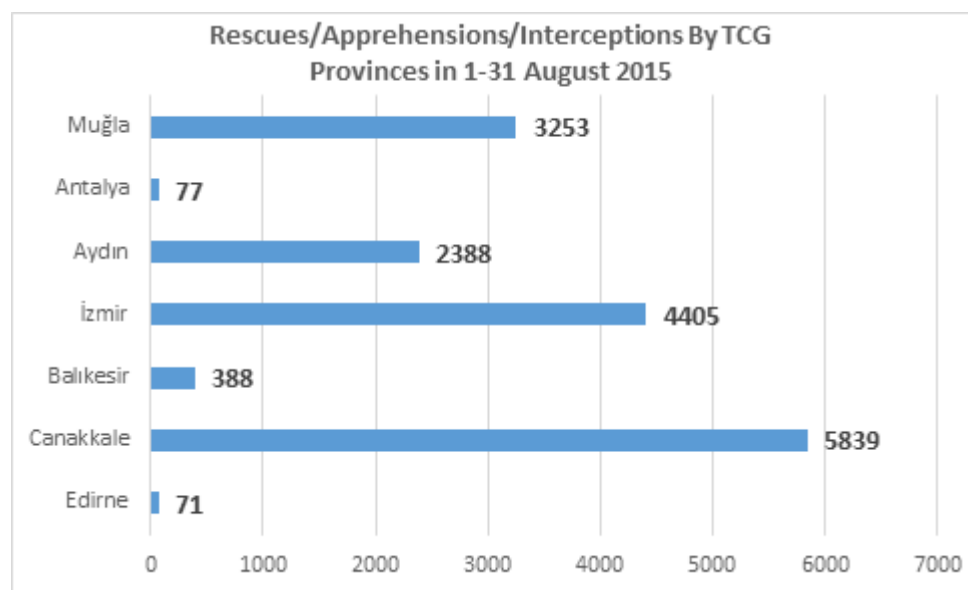
And finally, meet Najlaa (40), who runs women’s community centre in Kilis, southeast Turkey. Her journey began in the midst of civil war, when armed men raided the apartment block in Damascus where she was living with her two sons. She escaped to Aleppo but soon after, the airstrikes began. Uprooted once more, the family moved to Najlaa’s hometown of A’zaz. In 2012, bombs hit the town, and they had little choice but to flee to Turkey, where her nine-year-old son Amer was admitted to Kilis State Hospital emergency room to treat injuries to his face.

Once he had recovered, Najlaa planned to build a new life in Kilis, reconnecting with many of the Syrian women who had fled there. But she was shocked to find that many were simply letting the time pass. “What has happened to us?” she remembers asking herself. “We were the kind of people who could do anything.” It didn’t take long for Najlaa to realise that knitting and handicrafts were common skills among the women, and she began wondering how she could use these to build a community.. “I told my landlord about 18 talented women that I have met and without even knowing the value of

Turkish money, he generously lent me 1,000 Turkish lira (US \$328),” she says.

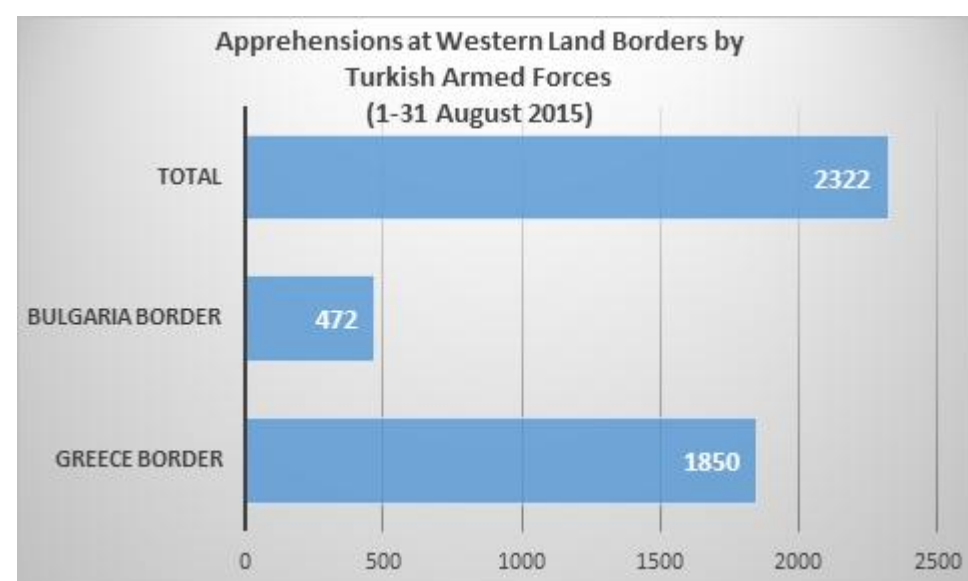
Najlaa invested the full amount in materials and, together with the 18 women, began knitting workshops at her home. In just over a year, the knitting group has grown to support 45 women, among the centre’s 260 participants. Eighteen trainers now offer workshops in hairdressing, Turkish and Arabic, and sewing. She hopes that the centre can continue to receive support and is proud of her work so far. “With every challenge, I thought that this time is the worst, but I knew I had to continue,” she says. “I feel a lot of pressure and will feel a lot of sorrow if I cannot ensure that the women who put their soul into their work at the centre cannot make ends meet.”

Borders



According to the data of the Turkish Coast Guards Command, between 1 and 31 August, 16,421 persons were rescued/ apprehended/ intercepted while trying to leave Turkey irregularly through Aegean and Mediterranean Seas. Majority of the persons apprehended claimed to be Syrians (12,709 persons), Afghans (1,257 persons), from Myanmar (209 persons) and Eritrean (61 persons). The majority of the incidents took place in Canakkale (5,839 individuals), followed by Izmir (4,405 individuals), Mugla (3,253 individuals) and Aydın (2,388 individuals). Cargo ships, inflatable boats, fishing boats and private boats

are used mainly by those trying to cross.



According to the data of Turkish General Staff concerning persons apprehended at the western land borders, between 1 and 31 August 2015, some 2,322 persons were intercepted while trying to exit illegally at the western borders of Turkey. It is reported that 1,850 persons were apprehended at the Greek border, and the number of persons apprehended at the Bulgarian border was 472.

Update on Donor Funding

UNHCR met with the special projects manager of Koc Foundation, a private donor in Istanbul and discussed the possible allocation of quotas for refugees in private hospitals established by Koc Foundation; establishing child friendly spaces for refugees; supporting vocational trainings; scholarships to be offered by Koc Foundation University to refugees; and activities for children who were previously engaged in child labour. The Koc Foundation has provided UNHCR with a donation of 40,000 USD to support the provision of education to Syrian refugees. UNHCR used the donation to fund the procurement of teaching materials for 25 temporary education centres in camps.

Strengthening Links, Increasing Capacity

UNHCR delivered a 3-day training to 16 newly recruited DGMM central staff on 5-7 August 2015. Training topics included international human rights law, international refugee law, migration and international protection, national framework concerning international protection in Turkey, role of UNHCR and mandate, registration, persons with special needs and referral mechanisms, international protection under international refugee law, exclusion, interview techniques, credibility, drafting legal analysis, appeal procedures, ECtHR jurisprudence, temporary protection regulation and scope of 1951 Convention in terms of mass influxes, temporary protection and international standards.

A workshop on Interviewing Techniques for Persons with Special Needs, which took place on 13 August, 2015 under the *'Strengthening the National Asylum Decision-Making Procedures'* project focused on special interviewing techniques for traumatized persons, victims of sexual and gender based violence, and persons with mental disabilities and mental health problems. This was followed by a workshop on Interviewing Techniques with Children Seeking International Protection on 14 August, 2015, under the same project that focused on interviewing techniques with children, as well as on national legislation related to child protection and referral mechanisms. UNHCR delivered the trainings to 34 staff of Provincial Directorates of Migration Management who deal exclusively with international protection procedures and who come from different provinces and to five International Protection Department staff of DGMM attending from Ankara.

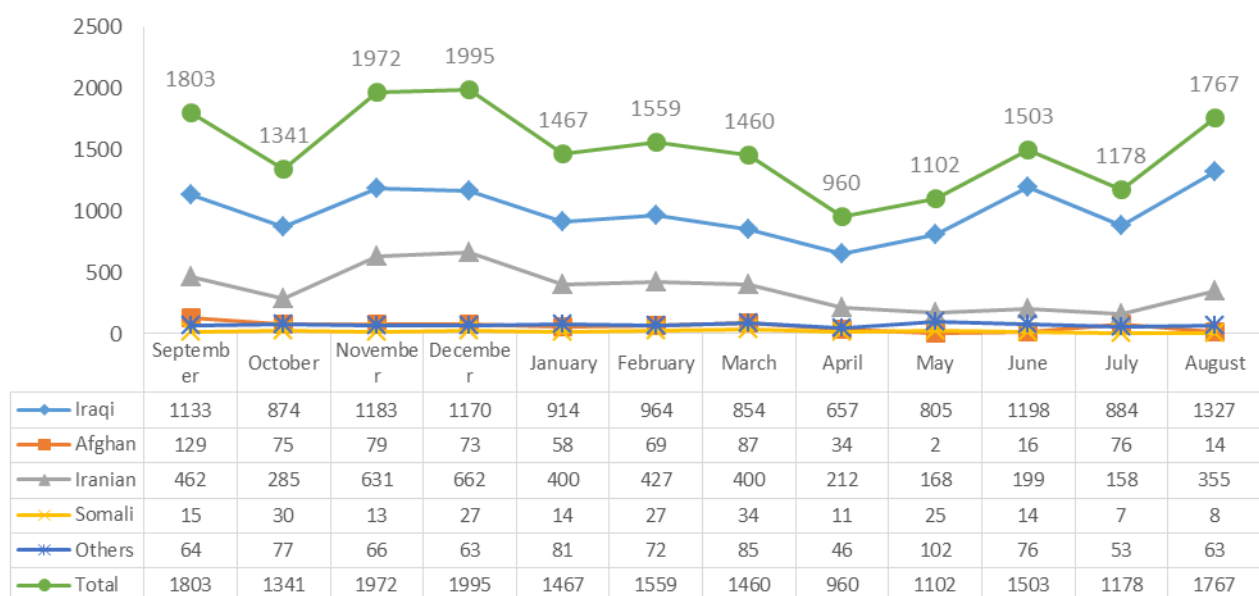
As a part of the cooperation between UNHCR and IOM, UNHCR was invited to deliver sessions related to 'Human Rights Dimension of the Readmission Agreement', "Vulnerable groups – International Protection Nexus" and "Vulnerable groups - Unaccompanied Children" for the training workshop on the "Implementation of EU - Turkey Readmission Agreement for Stateless and Third Country Nationals in consideration of Human Rights" for 80 staff from various provincial directorates of Migration Management. The workshop was held in Istanbul on 10-12 August. UNHCR's "Guidelines on the Applicable Criteria and Standards relating to the Detention of Asylum-Seekers and Alternatives to Detention" which have been translated were distributed.

A joint on the job visit was conducted to Samsun on 17-18 August 2015 with DGMM under the *Strengthening the National Asylum Decision-Making Procedures* project. The purpose of the mission was to observe registration and refugee status determination procedures of PDMM together with DGMM staff in order to provide feedback and observations. Registration and RSD interviews conducted by the PDMM staff were observed. Both UNHCR and the DGMM representative from Ankara provided feedback on the interview processes and on the implementation international protection procedures outlined in the law

At a Glance: General Refugee Response (non- Syrian)

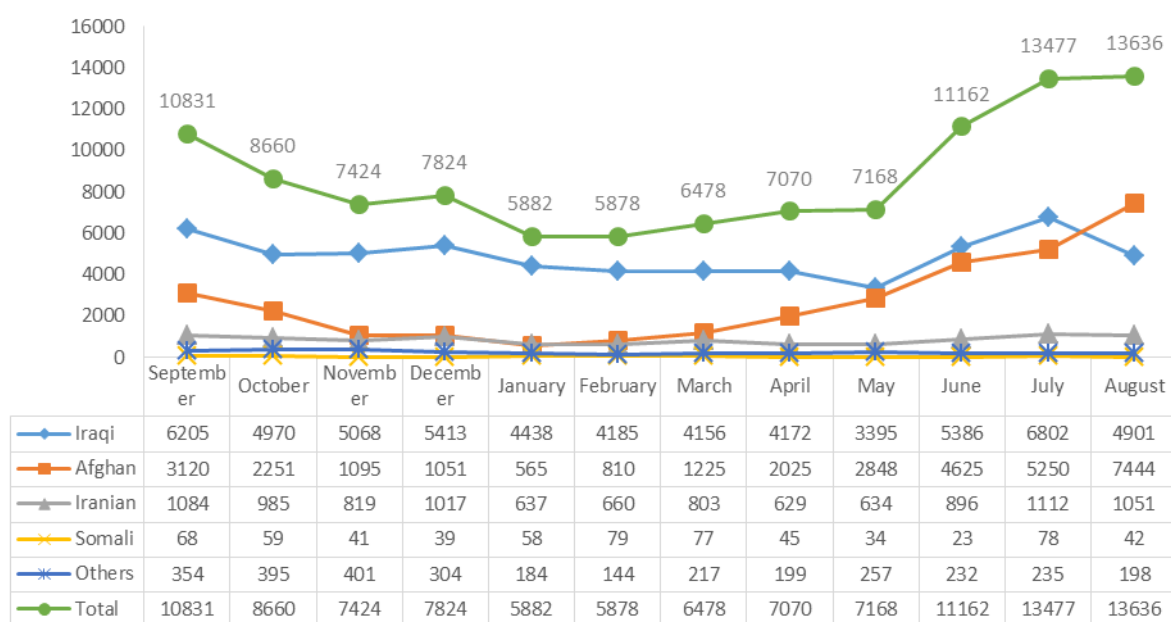
New Arrival Trends

9,700 Individuals were recorded as new arrivals in August 2015. Of this number, 2,399 were Iraqis, 6,369 were Afghans and 932 were of other nationalities. This is a significant change from previous months with Afghan applicants currently forming the biggest group of new arrivals.



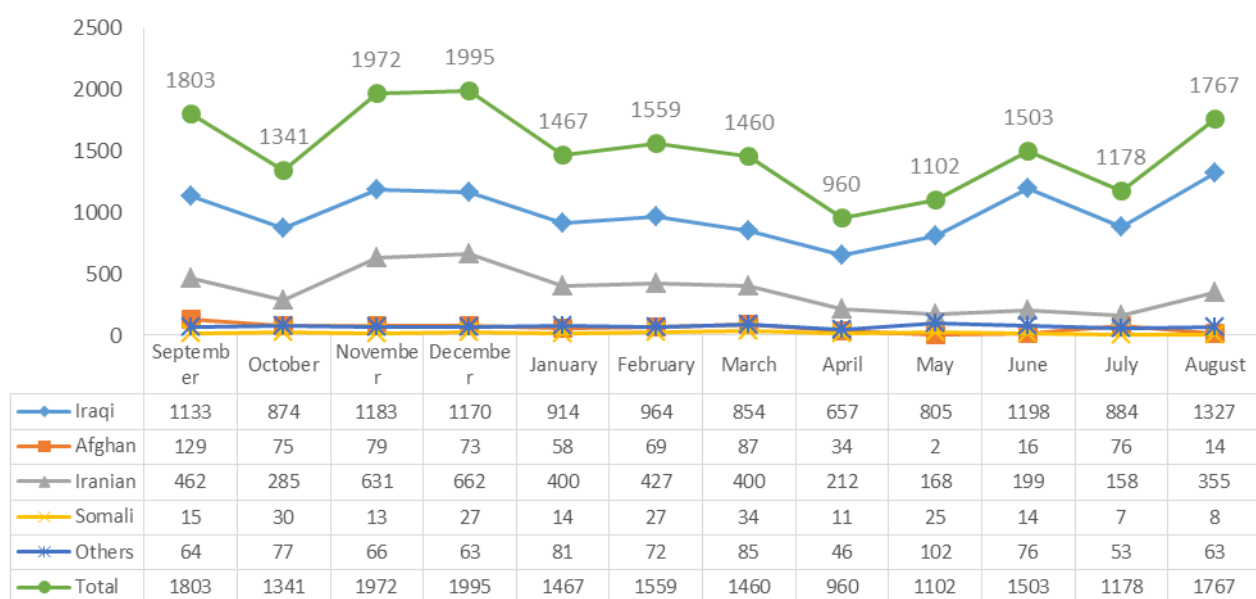
Registration Trends

In August, UNHCR’s partner, ASAM registered a total of 13,636 individuals, of which 4,901 individuals were from Iraq, 7,444 from Afghanistan, 1,051 from Iran and 240 of other nationalities.



UNHCR Registration

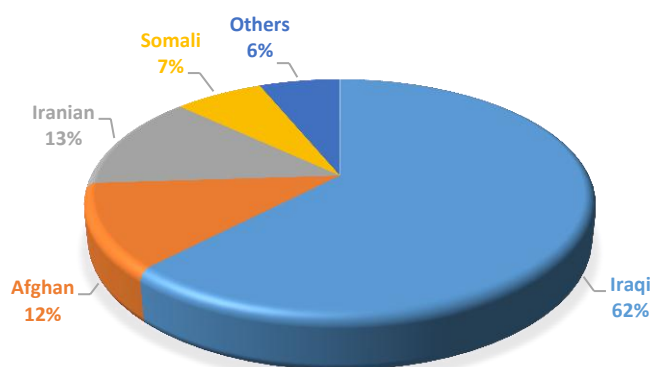
In August 2015, a total of 1,767 individuals were registered by UNHCR in more detail/simplified RSD procedures either at the UNHCR office or on mission. Of this number, 1,327 were Iraqis, 355 were Iranians and 85 were of other nationalities.



Urban caseload (all nationalities except Syrians)

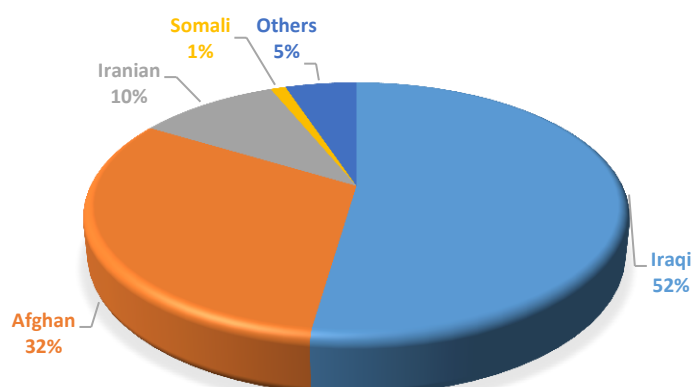
1. Active Caseload by Nationality – Refugees

No	Nationality	Female	Male	Total
1	Iraqi	9779	12150	21929
2	Afghan	1882	2271	4153
3	Iranian	1972	2611	4583
4	Somali	1223	1181	2404
5	Others	1013	1177	2190
Grand Total		15869	19390	35259



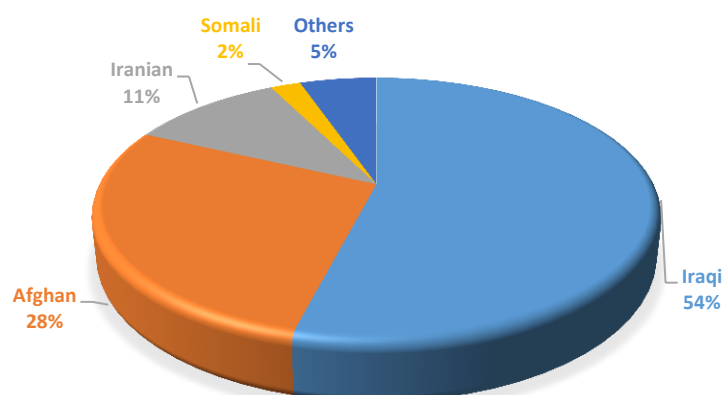
2. Active Caseload by Nationality – Asylum Seekers

No	Nationality	Female	Male	Total
1	Iraqi	36820	50477	87297
2	Afghan	16443	35938	52381
3	Iranian	6153	10770	16923
4	Somali	784	1019	1803
5	Others	2818	5715	8533
Grand Total		63018	103919	166937



3. Active Caseload by Nationality – All

No	Nationality	Female	Male	Total
1	Iraqi	46599	62627	109226
2	Afghan	18325	38209	56534
3	Iranian	8125	13381	21506
4	Somali	2007	2200	4207
5	Others	3831	6892	10723
Grand Total		78887	123309	202196



END.

UNHCR Türkiye'ye Katkı Sağlayan Ülkeler – Countries Contributing to UNHCR Turkey – الدول المانحة لمفوضية شؤون اللاجئين في تركيا



Bölgede UNHCR'yi Destekleyen Diğer Donör Ülkeler – Other Donor Countries Contributing to UNHCR in the Region - الدول المانحة الأخرى الداعمة لمفوضية شؤون اللاجئين في المنطقة



Contacts:

Nayana Bose, Reporting Officer, bose@unhcr.org Cell: +90 539 585 4643

Selin Unal, Public Information Officer, unal@unhcr.org Cell: +90 530 282 7862