



Strengthening resilience of Syrian women and girls and host communities in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey



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FACTSHEET: TURKEY

COUNTRY FACTS

POPULATION: Turkey's population reached up to **80,810,525** as at 31 December 2017 according to the address-based population registration system ¹. **50.2 percent** of the population are men and **49.8 percent** are women. It is worth noting that **23.6 percent** of the population is aged **14** or younger.

REFUGEES: As of October 2018, Turkey hosts over **3.5** million Syrian refugees, of which around **70 percent** are women and children. During 2017, the refugee population in Turkey increased by **21 percent** from **2.9** million to **3.5** million and with **681,000** Syrians registered in 2017.² Turkey's Temporary Protection Regulation provides Syrians access to national social protection systems including health, education, social services and employment.

EMPLOYMENT: Turkey's labour force participation rates for women and men are **37.5 percent** and **78.2 percent** respectively. Women's employment rate is **32.2 percent**³. The Work Permit Regulation grants Syrians the right to apply for work permits and access to formal employment. As of March 2018, **40,918** Syrians have received work permits. In addition, **13,776** permits have been issued for Syrians who have set up their own businesses.

According to the May 2018 results of the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise, nearly **20 percent** of Syrian refugee households have no working household members and over two thirds of them cannot rely on skilled or reliable work. As a result, **59 percent** of Syrian households are classified as multi-dimensionally poor.



Photo by: Farma Zohra Elabb, SG-DD-ASMA

The EU and UN Women are equipping Syrian female refugees in Turkey with vocational training to increase their employability.

KEY ISSUES⁴

Syrian women and girls in Turkey face barriers to meet their basic needs, recover from war traumas, and participate in Turkey's social and economic life. They continue to turn to negative coping mechanisms: unregistered work, child labour, and early and forced marriages.

¹ TURKSTAT. Available at: <http://tuik.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=27587>

² Global Trends, Forced Displacement in 2017, UNHCR. Available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/5b27be547.pdf>

³ Ages 15-64. Eurostat, 2017

⁴ All data from UN Women Report "Needs Assessment of Syrian Women and Girls Under Temporary Protection in Turkey." Available at:

<http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eca/attachments/publications/country/turkey/the%20needs%20assessmentengwebcompressed.pdf?la=en&vs=3139>

ACCESS TO SERVICES: 70 percent of Syrian women do not speak any Turkish, hampering their access to rights and services.⁵

EDUCATION: Adolescent Syrian girls do not attend school. Only 23 percent of girls aged between 15 to 17 years attend school mainly due to child marriage, family pressure, work, and household and care responsibilities.

MADAD PROGRAMME

Largely funded by the [European Union Regional Trust Fund to the Syria Crisis \(EU Madad Fund\)](#)¹. The UN Women's integrated two-year refugee response programme (2018-2019) in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey, Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women, Girls and Host Communities aims to strengthen the resilience of Syrian and host community women through protection, economic empowerment, and increased access to multi-sectoral services.

In Turkey, the programme focuses increasing the skills, qualifications and income opportunities of Syrian and host community women while training the women and girls in crisis prevention, peace building and providing them with immediate and longer-term protection services. To implement the programme in Turkey, UN Women is partnering with the Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM).

¹ (80% of the project is funded by the EU, and the rest by the Government of Japan as well as by UN Women's core resources)

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION: Only 15 percent of women work in income-generating jobs (mainly in agriculture, textiles and service provision). Only 7 percent have access to basic skills and vocational education training. The most popular areas of work are hairdressing (30 percent) and needlework (27 percent), which are closely related to traditional gender roles and provide limited opportunity for formal employment. Women claim that they are not attending courses because of childcare obligations and that they lack information about opportunities. The situation of divorced and single women is dire. Almost half of all

widowed women survive with monthly incomes around \$115 (700 TRY), as do 36 percent of divorced women and 32 percent of single women.

In general, Syrian women appear poorly informed about their rights and available legal support services. Although Syrian women and girls risk ill-treatment and discrimination in their daily lives, 73 percent do not know where to find assistance related to violence or harassment. 74 percent do not know where to seek support for their children.

The objective is to ensure that women, girls and their communities are resilient to conflict, displacement and other crises. The two primary expected results are:

- i. Women refugees and host country nationals are empowered through increased longer term social and economic recovery and livelihood opportunities.
- ii. Women and girls are engaged in promoting social cohesion and co-existence in their communities.



The EU and UN Women are support Syrian female refugees seeking livelihood opportunities in Gaziantep in Turkey.

⁵ In 2017 UN Women, in partnership with the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants, carried out a comprehensive need assessment for Syrian women and girls in seven cities in Turkey. Interviews with 1,230 women and girls revealed that many live below the poverty and hunger thresholds, are isolated from their host community, and unable to engage with economic life due to family burdens. Available at: <http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eca/attachments/publications/country/turkey/the%20needs%20assessmentengwebcompressed.pdf?la=en&vs=3139>

PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND RESILIENCE OF

WOMEN: Under the Turkey component of the programme, a minimum of **5,000** women and girls will directly benefit from protection and livelihood opportunities, with an expected outreach of 20,000. By January 2020, participating women are expected to have increased self-reliance and be economically more empowered.

IMPROVED SERVICE PROVISION FOR WOMEN

AND GBV SURVIVORS: UN Women has established the SADA Women-only Centre in Gaziantep, which provides the most vulnerable refugee and host community women with psycho-social support and refers them to local social service providers. The programme also offers women from refugee and host communities mentoring, job guidance, and language and vocational training. In Gaziantep, SADA has effectively served nearly 3000 women between February to November 2018.

WOMEN LEAD AND INFLUENCE PEACEBUILDING, RECONCILIATION AND CONFLICT PREVENTION:

UN Women Turkey supports efforts by key national institutions and municipalities for a gender-sensitive refugee response that meets both women and men's needs. Besides providing comprehensive training for first-line responders to refugees, the UN Women's refugee response programme will work to enhance peaceful relations between host and refugee communities and engage men and boys as critical actors for gender equality. The programme supports women and women's organizations to take part in dialogue and social cohesion activities between Syrian and host communities. Women's groups will be capacitated to organize social cohesion activities through dialogue, social, cultural and sport events between Syrian women and women from the host community.

The programme will also establish a bridge between women and local decision makers, and empower women to be active peace-builders and champions of cohesion between refugee and host communities.
