Syrian Refugees in Turkey

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Overview

Turkey as second largest receiver of refugees from Syria

- Over 200,000 in the refugee camps
- Approx. 500,000 non-camp population

A total of 20 refugee camps in 10 border provinces

Syrian refugees settling further inland, including the large cities

- Over 120,000 Syrian refugees in Istanbul
- Around 70,000 Syrian refugees in Izmir

Unofficial sources estimate nearly 1 million Syrian refugees in Turkey
Overview

April 2011: Open door policy since the arrival of refugees from Syria
October 2011: “Temporary protection” status to Syrian refugees
Summer 2012: Increased violence in Aleppo and Northern Syria
October 2012: First IDP camp established in Northern Syria
Jan 2013: Circular on free medical service for all Syrian refugees
April 2013: Registration of urban refugees
April 2013: Law on Foreigners and International Protection
September 2013: Circular on support to formal education for Syrians
In-camp population needs handled by the Turkish government

- Turkish Red Crescent setting up camps
- UN agencies providing limited technical assistance

Non-camp population assisted by local, national and int aid agencies

Support to Life provides aid to over 3,500 households, 19,000 Syrians

- In-kind and cash assistance through an e-voucher program for food security, hygiene support and winterization
- Protection through community-based psycho-social support in community centers
Humanitarian Aid

25 IDP camps and nonformal settlements over the border

- Atmeh Camp being the largest with 30,000 IDPs

Cross-border delivery at “zero-point” facilitated by the Turkish government with the support of the Turkish Red Crescent

- 100,000 people in IDP camps
- 35,000 out of camp, in villages in Northern Syria

Bilateral donors, national NGOs, international NGOs, Syrian relief agencies, Syrian diaspora groups, ACU/SNC and other opposition forces
Challenges

Limited humanitarian space for aid actors to operate
  • Lack of trust and coordination
  • Limited access to the refugee camps in Turkey
  • Cumbersome registration process for international NGOs
  • Lack of data on camp and non-camp population
  • No insight into protection needs

Lack of safe access into Northern Syria
  • Politicization of aid as a result of remote management
  • Risk of further fueling the conflict
  • Exposing IDPs to armed groups and criminal activity
  • Exposing Turkish towns to attacks from Syria

Increased tensions between refugees and host communities

No policy on how to deal with the refugee crisis in the long run
Way Forward

Syria as a country with rich ethnic and religious diversity
Turkey as a strong state regarding itself as the sole provider of aid
Important that humanitarian assistance that does not cause harm

Promoting the humanitarian principles

Improving transparent access in Syria

Assistance in setting up mechanisms for longer term solution to Turkey’s refugee crisis
Thank You!

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