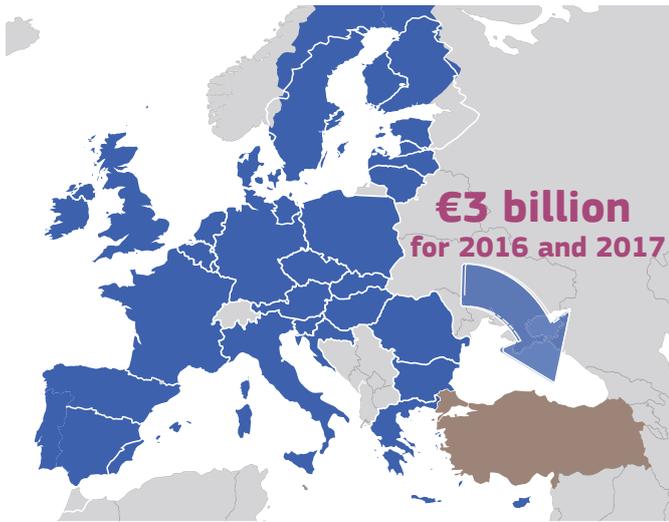




MANAGING THE REFUGEE CRISIS

THE 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 2.7 million registered Syrian refugees and is making commendable efforts to provide them with humanitarian aid and support – more than €7 billion has already been spent by Turkey to address the crisis. 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 FACILITY

The 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. All Member States have sent in their contribution certificates for the €2 billion they pledged. The Facility is therefore now fully operational.

HOW DOES THE 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.

IMPLEMENTATION, PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES

The EU's total support allocated under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey to date amounts to almost €740 million. Within a few months, more than €595 million have been mobilised for humanitarian assistance, and some €144 for non-humanitarian assistance.

The first contracts for the Facility were signed on 4 March 2016 and the first payments took place shortly thereafter:

- **€40 million** in humanitarian aid was provided to the World Food Programme in order to contribute to support 735,000 refugees over the next nine months
- **€37 million** was allocated through UNICEF to get an additional **110,000 refugee children into school**. This builds on existing EU programmes which already support education for 200,000 children

On 19 April, the European Commission announced 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
- Contracts have been signed for a **further €50 million** in humanitarian aid, which will be used to address the immediate needs of refugees in Turkey

On 12 May, the Steering Committee of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey met 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 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

On 26 May, the European Commission announced 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

€740 MILLION OF PROJECTS ALREADY DECIDED, €150 MILLION CONTRACTED, €105 MILLION DISBURSED

Of the overall €3 billion, €740 million has so far been allocated in total, for both humanitarian and non-humanitarian assistance. Of the €740 million allocated, €150 million has been contracted. Of these €150 million contracted, €105 million has been disbursed so far.

On 3 June, the European Commission published a **Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) for Turkey mobilising €505.65 million** of the budget of the Facility.

The Commission is currently preparing a further set of measures under the Facility in the areas of education, health, municipal and social infrastructure, and socio-economic support, which should be submitted for Member States' approval before the end of July. The estimated allocation for these measures would amount to some €1.250 million.

The total amount committed under the Facility for both humanitarian and non-humanitarian assistance should, before the end of summer 2016, **increase to €2 billion for 2016-2017** and, by the same time; the amounts contracted should increase to €1 billion, subject to the smooth and timely cooperation with the Turkish authorities. The Commission will also make all necessary efforts to ensure an acceleration of disbursements under the Facility.

Further information is available on the Facility website at
http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/news_corner/migration/index_en.htm