

<p>UNHCR Washington Fact Sheet Questions and Answers on Resettlement of Refugees from Turkey</p>

1. How many refugees are in Turkey?

UNHCR Branch Office in Ankara has an active caseload of 6,663 persons which includes Iranians, Iraqis, various African nationalities, Afghans, Uzbeks and others.

2. Is Turkey a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees?

Yes. Turkey is a party to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, but has maintained the geographic limitation of Art. 1B (1) of the 1951 Convention. Turkey has consequently limited its obligations only to persons having a well-founded fear of persecution “as a result of events occurring in Europe”.

The Asylum Regulation adopted in November 1994 remains the only national legislation in force for processing individual asylum claims in Turkey. Under the 1994 Asylum Regulation, however, Turkey grants temporary asylum to *non-European* nationals who fulfill the international criteria for refugee status pending their resettlement to third countries. The Government looks to UNHCR to assist non-European refugees during their stay and to organize their resettlement, in cooperation with third countries and IOM.

3. Where is the UNHCR office in Turkey located?

UNHCR Ankara			
<i>Street Address</i>	12. Cadde, 212. Sokak No: 3 Sancak Mahallesi, Cankaya Ankara	<i>Telephone</i>	90 312 409 7000
<i>Mailing Address</i>	12. Cadde, 212. Sokak No:3 Sancak Mahallesi, Cankaya Ankara	<i>Fax</i>	90 312 441 2173
UNHCR Van			
<i>Street Address</i>	Istasyon Mahallesi, Terminal 1st Street, Hayirlar Cadese No. 40.2 Van, Turkey	<i>Telephone:</i> <i>Refugee Counseling</i> <i>Switchboard</i>	90 432 223 13 00 90 432 223 48 58 90 432 223 21 92 90 432 223 53 06 90 432 223 53 07
<i>Mailing Address</i>	Istasyon Mahallesi, Terminal 1st Street, Hayirlar Cadese No. 40.2 Van, Turkey	<i>Fax</i>	90 432 223 32 44

4. What is UNHCR’s role in Turkey?

The UNHCR Branch Office in Turkey ensures the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers in the country. Because Turkey offers only temporary asylum to non-European refugees, UNHCR conducts

**UNHCR Washington
Fact Sheet
Questions and Answers on Resettlement of Refugees from Turkey**

refugee status determination under its Mandate to identify persons in need of international protection and seeks solutions for those recognised as refugees. For nearly all non-European refugees, the only viable durable solution is resettlement to a third country through UNHCR.

5. Does an asylum seeker need to be registered with the Turkish authorities?

The Turkish 1994 Asylum Regulations requires asylum seekers to submit their application within 10 days after entering the country and to provide an official identity document within 15 days. The Government issues temporary residence permits to non-European asylum-seekers and regularly extends the permits of those UNHCR has recognised as refugees until they depart for resettlement. Persons properly registered in the Government procedure generally enjoy reliable temporary protection during the consideration of their application and while awaiting a resettlement opportunity. Instances of refoulement involving such persons are relatively rare and typically involve individuals charged with criminal offences in Turkey. The rule according to which asylum-seekers must register with the Turkish authorities within 10 days is applied with flexibility by the Turkish authorities.

6. If a person does not meet this deadline, is there any way that the person can have their case considered?

Those who approach UNHCR and are recognized by UNHCR, legal or illegal, are in a better position since UNHCR can intervene on their behalf. If one comes into the country with a valid passport and has the required visa, then he/she should have no problem departing.

Asylum seekers who do not travel directly from their country of origin and pass through one or more other countries before reaching Turkey may also be refused registration in the Government procedure. Such "extra procedure" asylum seekers and refugees have no legal status in Turkey and are subject to arrest and deportation, although UNHCR is usually able to intervene successfully if notified in time. For some of the extra procedure cases, UNHCR has had to sometimes resort to emergency resettlement submissions for those who received deportation orders.

7. How does a person obtain refugee status?

Upon submitting their applications for temporary asylum to the Turkish authorities, non-Europeans surrender their passports and receive temporary residence permits. The residence permit serves as the asylum seeker's identity document and is valid for six months, renewable. The Government charges a significant fee for this document.

UNHCR carries out refugee status determination under its Mandate. The Government place substantial weight upon UNHCR's views when determining whether to grant temporary residence to non-European asylum seekers.

8. Can a person appeal a denied application for refugee status?

The applicant has the right to appeal UNHCR's decision within 30 days. The person has also the option to request his/her case to be reopened if important facts were not reported in the first interview or new developments make a reassessment necessary. The applicant will be informed in writing about the result of the appeal

**UNHCR Washington
Fact Sheet
Questions and Answers on Resettlement of Refugees from Turkey**

9. How does a refugee get referred for resettlement from Turkey?

Refugees recognized under UNHCR's Mandate are automatically considered for resettlement. They are given individual durable solutions interviews. At the interview, a determination is made whether the refugee meets UNHCR's criteria and is otherwise eligible.

10. If a person is found to be a refugee, will he/she be resettled to a third country?

Based upon current understandings with the Turkish Government, UNHCR seeks resettlement opportunities for all non-European recognized refugees. UNHCR submits the resettlement applications of non-European refugees to one of several countries, based upon the priorities and criteria articulated by the government concerned. Currently, the main countries of destination for non-European refugees in Turkey are Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the United States. Each resettlement country has its own policies and procedures concerning resettlement established under national law, and the final decision on resettlement is made by a resettlement country, not by UNHCR.

11. What is the process for refugees who are referred to the US Resettlement Program?

UNHCR refers resettlement cases for the United States to the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) office in Istanbul. ICMC has been designated by the US Department of State to prepare documentation on individual resettlement cases in Turkey for the US resettlement program. All further steps are co-ordinated by ICMC. To be resettled to the US, every refugee will be interviewed by an officer of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) who makes the final decision about the individual's eligibility for the resettlement program. If approved, refugees will also have to pass medical tests and security checks, in addition to other administrative requirements. Please note that UNHCR has no decision making role or authority in the resettlement process once the referral is made to ICMC.

12. I have been told I need to pay money for resettlement to the USA, is this correct?

Neither UNHCR nor the US Resettlement Program charges a fee for resettlement interviews or decisions. UNHCR does not either charge any application fee or receive money in connection with the refugee status determination procedure. Applicants and their relatives should be wary that persons soliciting money for resettlement might be involved in fraudulent and illegal activities. If your relative/friend is asked to pay money for resettlement you should inform the UNHCR office in Washington. Refugees approved for resettlement to the USA will receive a travel loan from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and will be asked to sign a promissory note to repay that loan in the future, after arrival in the USA.

13. Where should I direct further questions regarding refugee relatives/friends seeking resettlement to the US?

You should first contact a resettlement/immigration agency in your area with your questions. If needed, the agency may contact the UNHCR office in Washington.

By mail: UNHCR Washington, 1775 K St. NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC, 20006

By fax: 202-296-5660

By email: USAWA@UNHCR.ORG

14. Where can I obtain more information about resettlement?

The best source for information on resettlement to the United States is a voluntary agency in your community that specializes in resettlement and immigration. To locate one of these agencies in your area, please contact the agencies on the attached chart. You can also find general information about resettlement on UNHCR's web site: www.unhcr.org

<p style="text-align: center;">UNHCR Washington Fact Sheet Questions and Answers on Resettlement of Refugees from Turkey</p>

15. What is an Affidavit of Relationship (AOR) and do I need to file one to bring my relative here?

An Affidavit of Relationship (AOR) is a document used by the US Resettlement Program (administered by US Department of State) for persons applying for family reunification. However, only a few specified nationalities are eligible to apply. Eligible nationalities for Fiscal Year 2006 (October 2005 – September 2006) are Afghan, Burmese, Burundian, Colombian, Congolese (DRC, Brazzaville), Cuban, Ethiopian, Eritrean, Haitian, Iranian, Iraqi, Ivorian, Korean, Liberian, Rwandan, Somali, Sudanese, Togolese, and Uzbek. Persons of these nationalities interested in sponsoring their immediate family members for resettlement to the US should contact a local resettlement agency for assistance and advice. (See attached chart for information on agencies.)

If you have friends or family members accepted for resettlement to the USA, you might want to contact a local resettlement agency and fill out an Interest Form, to ensure that your family members/friends will be resettled in the area where you live.

Please do not send Affidavits of Relationship or Interest Forms to any UNHCR office. *UNHCR has no decision making role or authority in the US Resettlement Program.*

17. Are there any other ways to help my family members to reunite with me in the US?

Persons with asylee or refugee status, permanent residents and US citizens may be eligible to file visa petitions on behalf of certain immediate family members. UNHCR has no role or authority in the processing or issuance of US visas. This falls under the jurisdiction of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). For information and assistance, contact an attorney or immigration organization in your area. You may also use the following sources for information.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services:

- <http://uscis.gov>

Department of State, Consular Affairs:

- http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1249.html (see FAQ and Immigrant Visas)
 - Visa Services' Public Inquiries Branch: 202-663-1225
 - National Visa Center: 603-334-0700 (For inquiries about a petition that has already been approved by BCIS)
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**UNHCR Washington
Fact Sheet
Questions and Answers on Resettlement of Refugees from Turkey**

U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES – Headquarters

<p>Church World Service (CWS) 475 Riverside Drive New York, NY 10115-0050 Phone: 212-870-2061 Fax: 212-870-3523 Email: info@churchworldservice.org Main webpage: www.churchworldservice.org/Immigration/program.html Find local offices: Click on Affiliate Offices link on main webpage www.churchworldservice.org/Immigration/program.html</p>	<p>International Rescue Committee (IRC) 122 East 42nd Street New York, NY 10168 Phone: 212-551-3000 Fax: 212-551-3179 Email: info@their.org Main webpage: www.theirc.org/Resettlement/index.cfm Find local offices: www.theirc.org/where/index.cfm</p>
<p>Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) 815 Second Avenue New York, NY 10017 Phone: 212-716-6251 Fax: 212-972-0860 Email: emm@episcopalchurch.org Main webpage: www.episcopalchurch.org/emm Find local offices: Click on Affiliate Network link on main webpage www.episcopalchurch.org</p>	<p>Iowa Bureau for Refugee Services 1200 University Avenue, Suite D Des Moines, IA 50314 Phone: 515-283-7926 Fax: 515-283-9160 Email: refugee@dhs.state.ia.us Main webpage: www.dhs.state.ia.us/refugee/resettlement/default.asp Find local offices: Not applicable</p>
<p>Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. (ECDC) 1038 S. Highland Street Arlington, VA 22204 Phone: 703-685-0510 Fax: 703-685-0529 Email: info@ecdinternational.org Main webpage: www.ecdcinternational.org Find local offices: www.ecdcinternational.org/whoweare/offices.asp</p>	<p>Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) 700 Light Street Baltimore, MD 21230 Phone: 410-230-2700 Fax: 410-230-2890 Email: lirs@lirs.org Main webpage: www.lirs.org Find local offices: www.lirs.org/what/partners/affiliates.htm</p>
<p>Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) 333 Seventh Avenue, 17th Floor New York, NY 10001-5004 Phone: 212-967-4100 Fax: 212-967-4483 Email: info@hias.org Main webpage: www.hias.org Find local offices: call HIAS headquarters in NY</p>	<p>United States Conference of Catholic Bishops / Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS) 3211 4th Street, NE Washington, DC 20017-1194 Phone: 202-541-3170 Fax: 202-722-8750 Email: mrsrp@uscbb.org Main webpage: www.usccb.org/mrs Find local office: www.usccb.org/mrs/resettlementoffices.htm</p>
<p>US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20036 Phone: 202-797-2105 Fax: 202-347-3418 Email: irsa@irsa-uscr.org Main webpage: www.refugeesusa.org Find local offices: www.refugeesusa.org/who/partner_agencies.cfm</p>	<p>World Relief (WR) 7 East Baltimore Street Baltimore, MD 21203 Phone: 443-451-1900 Fax: 410-347-0014 Email: worldrelief@wr.org Main webpage: www.wr.org Find local offices: Click on Where We Work link on main webpage www.wr.org</p>