

Refugee Economics: Case of Turkey

Isil Fulya ORKUNOGLU-SAHIN (<http://orcid.org/0000-0002-7238-1215>),
Gazi University, Turkey; e-mail: iforkunoglu@gazi.edu.tr

Ahmet Burcin YERELI (<http://orcid.org/0000-0002-8746-6756>), Hacettepe
University, Turkey; e-mail: aby@hacettepe.edu.tr

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Introduction

Today, civil wars and terrorist incidents, especially in Muslim countries, brought up refugees' issues. However, as a refugee is known to be under not the protection of his own country as an immigrant, he may be subject to various human rights violations. On the other side, this situation includes the legal troubles and the economic opportunities and problems, which arise because of various social, political, health, education, tourism, population and settlement, adjustment of the refugees and regulation of their legal status, in the country where refugees live. In this context, according to the Global Threats Report 2017 published by the World Economic Forum, there is the first rank risk in 2016 for the first time in the list of possible global risks and the large scale unintentional migration which is the second rank threat after 2017's extraordinary weather events. In parallel, according to the Global Trends 2015 report issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) The number of people displaced by forced violence and violence, conflict and violations of human rights has reached 65.3 billion in worldwide by the end of 2015. Of this number, 21.3 million are refugees, 40.8 million are displaced in the country they live in, and 3.2 million are seek asylum. According to the figure of end of 2015, between the 2,754,540 persons come to Turkey; 2,541,352 persons are refugees, 212,408 persons are seeking asylum, 780 persons are stateless.

However, according to the results of the International Amnesty International 2015 report, Turkey is ranked as first in the list of the countries with the highest number of refugees in the world (with about 2.5 million refugees). The biggest contributor to this result is the presence of Syrian refugees. Following the Syrian civil war broke out in March 2011, the first wave of migration began from Syria to Turkey in May 2011. Therefore, worth considering the human rights granted to refugees, the possibilities provided and the economic situation and economic contributions before and after the refugees. For this reason, it was discussed refugee economics in Turkey which is very up-to-date subject in the study.

In the study, Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), the Ministry of Interior General Directorate, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Amnesty International's refugee data was used. In this respect, the number of Syrian refugee, which is 3.72% of Turkey's population, registered in Turkey is 2.969.669.

With respect to the 2016 Turkey migration report, the distribution of the Syrians, which had temporary protection and which are in the Temporary Welfare Centers, according to the provinces is as follows: 6% in Adana, 4% in Adıyaman, 2% in Burdur, 3% in Bursa, 3.5%, 16% in Gaziantep, 24%,

93% in Kilis, 2% in Istanbul, 4% in Kayseri and in Şırnak, 8% in Osmaniye, 20% in Urfa, 11% in Mardin and 8% in Malatya and in Maraş and 3% in Konya.

According to the AFAD's description dated July 17, 2017, the number of Syrians in the centers of marriage is 242,771. Also, Hatay, Gaziantep, Urfa, Kilis, Mardin, Kahramanmaraş, Osmaniye, Adıyaman, Adana, Malatya are within the 10-province tent city or container city in the form of shelter is provided. According to another AFAD statement on the same date, 25 million dollars of aid to Syrian refugees belongs to Turkey. The amount of aid of the world to Syrians in Turkey is 526 million dollars. Health services and medicines registered in Turkey are provided free of charge in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and 1,143,393 inpatients and 25,919,750 patients have received outpatient services. 508,846 students from kindergarten to high school last year were collected from the streets and participated in education system. 1.75 billion TL of humanitarian aid was delivered directly to Syria.

Positive Studies in Turkey for Syrian Refugees

- Law No. 6358 dated 11.04.2013 and Temporary protection regulation are entered into force.
- Signed a protocol between the Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) and the Women and Democracy Association (KADEM) for the social, economic and cultural integration of the Syrian women on February 23, 2017.
- Submitted the Draft Law on the Amendment of the Population Services Law and Some Laws to the Presidency of the Assembly on 25.07.2017.
- Established in 1995, the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (SGDD) has launched various projects of the Refugee Council established in 2014.
- Young Refugees Support Program was supported by the United States and the European Union Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).
- The Syrian Refugee Project, in which the Ministry of Youth and Sports supports via EU Project Management, implemented on 5th of December 2015 approximately with 600 thousand TL budget.
- A circular (No. 2014/21 dated 23.09.2014) was issued by the Ministry of National Education for the education services of the Syrian refugees.
- In the period of 01.07.2015-31.12.2015 a commitment amounting to TL 375,000 a protocol was signed between the Ministry of Health and AFAD for 2015 health service procurement.

The Negative Effects of the Syrians Refugees on Turkey's Economy

- The crisis of a large number incoming refugees.
- Because of many Syrian may not want to return to Syria, there is a need for more projects and financing for adaptation to the new financial, legal and economic conditions in Turkey.
- Existence of negative prejudices against the refugees in most of the citizens of Turkey and the deterioration of the social peace especially due to the possibilities of having the right to citizenship of them.

- Budget-increasing costs, which are set aside for the social and cultural needs of the refugees.
- The possibility of increase in the crime rates of the Syrians who are not integrated enough in the social life and their possible contribution to terrorist events in the country.
- Many diseases in Turkey, including pediatric diseases that have been treated in the past, come back on the agenda and the health of the community is being under threat.
- The significant decreases in imports and exports with Syria affected employment and caused to economic stagnation.
- The fact that the Syrians can easily establish companies in Turkey without having some legal sanctions, and that they are present in the economic world.
- The fact that there are not yet serious steps taken to deal with the language problem of Syrian refugees in Turkish education system and their education orientation.
- Promoting the commission of humanitarian crimes subject to abuse because of the shortage of the legal regulations that will protect the rights of the Syrians.
- Increase in unregistered employment by making use of cheap labour force.
- -When meeting the residential needs of refugees, the cost increases in the housing sector negatively effects the citizens home purchase and renting prices.
- The short-term vitality of the economy with the refugees entering the country has adversely affect the economy with the increasing budget costs in the long term.
- The possibility that the effects of international political threats and the increase in the intensity of pressures on Turkey in the geographic area where the political circle of borderline has narrowed more and more in the coming period.
- In the long-term, the signing of Readmission agreement between EU and Turkey will destroy the balance of between refugee and citizen, in point of political, cultural, social and legal aspects, and actuarial balance in Turkey.

Positive Effects of the Syrians on the Turkish Economy

- Short-term economic vitality.
- The social spiritual satisfaction by the humanitarian aid provided to needy people.
- Sectoral cheap labour force with agriculture sector, construction sector etc. and some additional Employment opportunities in the fields.
- New opportunities for Turkish construction companies and other service sector companies in the reconstruction of Syria.
- Although limited to international funding, the possibility of financing additional costs with humanitarian assistance.

Policy Suggestions for Syrian refugees

- To revive hand crafts such as tinning, silk, weaving, shoemaking, goldsmithing, leatherworking, ironworking, tailoring, carpentry, training in the field of textiles, occupational training courses can provide in some cities like Mardin, Şanlıurfa, and Kilis. In this respect, a certain percentage of the labour force needs in the relevant areas will be met by Syrian refugees and this situation will compensate for the loss of trade with Syria.
- When meet the Syrian refugees sheltering need, should be followed the program of transfer to non-touristic provinces for reasons of prevention of negative influence of the possible crime and terror effects to tourism.
- Syrian refugee women can be provided with occupational training courses and child care trainings, which can be employed at certain percentages in kindergartens to be opened under state supervision.
- Complicated and prolonged procedure of citizenship granted to only Syrian refugees who are not involve in any crime, not contagious diseases, and having the right to apply to the registered owner of vocational labour force participation will be an appropriate practice.
- Although some work is being done to overcome the legal gaps in Syrian refugees' access to settlement, work permit, health and education services, these are insufficient in Turkey. Completion and supervision of such legal deficiencies are critical. Especially education of refugee children should be continued as Arabic and Turkish, the orientation of orphaned children to society should be executed with the child protection agency to return. At the same time, some precautions should be taken against the abuse of refugee children.
- As encountered the language problem with the employment of the Syrians affects the quality of the offered services and brings up unfair competition for the employment of Turkish citizens, must be brought some limitations on refugee employment. Should be avoided from refugee politics based on intense refugee recruitment which is likely to create employment opportunities with low salaries for refugees. Also, making the increasing frequency of unregistered inspections of refugees in employment and the increase of sanctions against them will be positively affect employment policies in the country.
- In terms of combined risk factors according to the 2016 results of a questionnaire survey study of Syrian refugees; it was being found a risk of infectious diseases at rate on exceeding 50% between 18-69 age years. So, in a group of Syrian refugees in Turkey is a serious threat to health. Therefore, must be taken urgently health policy measures relating to refugees.
- Especially with the contribution of collaborative studies of international institutions and organizations, should be taken political measures to an end of the war and carry out reconstruction in Syria and the return of Syrian refugees to their homeland.

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