

Integration

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Summary:

59.9 million people had to flee their home this year, due to political prosecution, war, etc. (Bis hierher soweit schon hinterlegt. Bitte einfügen)

Introduction:

Since 2013, more people have asked for asylum in Germany than in any other country. For 2015, it is expected that 1 million requests for asylum will be filed in Germany. The country is now reaching its limits with regard to facilities and services, and volunteers must step in.

At the top of the agenda are refugees from Syria, followed by people fleeing Afghanistan.

Turkey as a country of transfer for most refugees has already accepted more than 1 million people who have fled other countries.

Tulin Tanrikut MD 111BO

Current situation:

Turkey has been a transfer country for refugees and is now also becoming a destination. As early as 1951, Turkey decided by law that refugees can stay in Turkey until their application has been processed.

Recently, new legislation was introduced.

In 2014, many refugees arrived here from Syria and Afghanistan. At the moment, there are 1.7 million refugees from Syria registered in Turkey. Around 300,000 people live in 24 UNHCR camps, and the Turkish

government has spent 4 billion US Dollars to support them. During the current crisis, the UNHCR has spent approx. 180 million US Dollars.

By March 2015, the UNHCR paid Turkey another 330 million Dollars, but the country needs more financial support.

The people who need our help most are refugees from Syria, half of which are children and people who arrived recently. Most in need are women, the sick and people with disabilities.

What is being done?

The infrastructure is generally in place and things are well organised. Syrians and other refugees are safe in Turkey and have access to medical services. They are given an identity card and are mainly housed in cities where they have access to support and services.

They are entitled to medical care, should they need it.

Around 60,000 refugees are children of school-going age. Eighty percent are now attending schools set up in the UNHCR camps.

In addition, children from Syria are entitled to attend Turkish schools, and, after registration, the authorities make sure that they know which school to go to. Again, this costs money and funds are limited.

After six months, asylum seekers are allowed to work.
People who live outside the camps need support,
and billions of US Dollars are required to assist them.

We cannot tackle the refugee crisis without addressing the problem of human trafficking

The Lions have filed a submission aimed at increasing awareness. A project to help people who have become victims of traffickers has been launched and substantial cash and goods donations have been received. At the "Kirklareli" camp, more than 150 refugees now rely on our aid and this project is to be continued.

Conclusions:

This project is to be continued and expanded. To illustrate the problem, I want to tell you that, following a recent ISIS attack, around 200,000 refugees came to Turkey during one single night. This is roughly the same number of people who were granted refugee status in the European Union in the year before.

Together with the Lions and the UNHCR, we urge you to support the projects I just outlined.

Javad Ahmadi Leo MD 111 Bo

(personal testimony)

I was born in Afghanistan but my family comes from Iran, and I therefore was prosecuted by the secret police.

To escape from the constant threat, I fled to Turkey. After having arrived there with the help of traffickers, I and a number of other refugees were put in boats and brought out to sea. We were told that we would soon be transferred to a large ship to make the journey to Europe. This was however a lie, as the trafficker accompanying us planned to put us into rigid inflatables and leave us to our own devices.

We were however able to overpower the trafficker and take over the boat we were in. We did not get into the inflatables, as it became obvious that there was no large ship for us to board. Our action saved our lives. We were able to contact the police and were rescued.

I first landed in Athens, and then arrived in Germany where I got a lot of support.

My application to be permitted to work has been turned down. And I am only permitted to take on a "One-Euro-Job" that will pay me about 50 Euro per month. I then began cleaning the asylum centre, which paid for my public transport ticket so that I could attend classes.

My travel expenses were then funded by donations from the Lions.

At the time, I lived in a centre for asylum seekers and shared my accommodation with three other people whose language I did not understand and who watched television around the clock. The noise made it very difficult for me to do my homework and to study.

Thanks to the support of the Lions, I found an apprenticeship place in energy technology. The local authorities however initially refused permission for me to relocate to Nuremberg. I also had huge difficulties in finding accommodation there, and only finally succeeded thanks to help from the Lions. I have settled into my apprenticeship and enjoy it,

but my request for political asylum has recently been rejected. I have been granted the right to stay for the moment and hope that I will not have to leave Germany.

I am involved with an organisation that supports refugees and give German classes.

I am a Leo and feel very privileged and grateful to be part of your organisation and to be here.

Gabriele Meier-Darimont KINT MD 111 MN

Initial situation regarding integration efforts

Since 1945, around 32 million people have moved to Germany. In 2015, an estimated 800,000 to 1.5 million refugees will arrive in the country. In Hesse alone, there are now 1.5 million people with a migrant background, and nearly half of them are children under the age of six. Every third young person under the age of 18 has a migrant background. Immigrants are our future!

Problems: Poor German language skills, below average educational achievement, limited professional skills and opportunities, high unemployment.

What can be done on the ground to help refugees?

Education is the key to integration:

German language courses, starting at kindergarten age; promoting ambition, meeting people of other backgrounds, information, contact with the indigenous community, partnerships with Lions, recruitment of suitable candidates to become Lions.

Projects:

Example: Integration into local organisations and clubs (e.g. voluntary fire brigade, sports clubs, etc.)

Example: Promoting German language skills, e.g. through play at kindergarten in preparation for primary school; mentors for primary schools; homework clubs (with support at school and in close contact with teachers)

Example: Organising school holiday camps; cultural and play activities such as team sports and competitions for school children. Such activities promote ambition and the drive to succeed and also improve language skills.

Example: Lions as senior partners/mentors of young people in education

Example: Activities and support of migrants (e.g. boxing training)

Modular refugee projects of Lions Clubs RII/Z3:

- with Men Power
- through networks
- with financial support
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- 1. Funding of language courses
- 2. Voluntary language teaching
- 3. Sponsoring/mentoring
- 4. Offering internships
- 5. Initiating integration support projects
- 6. Clothes banks, provision of bicycles, sports clubs
- 7. Fund-raising