

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **OPEN TO COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION**

This chapter explains the cooperation between the government of Turkey with International Community and Non-Governmental Organizations' responses and its action to assist the influx of refugee in Turkey. Thus, this chapter describes the strong relations and cooperation between the Turkish government and other actors. Although Turkey is a country that has a fairly good capacity, but managing more than three million refugees is not easy. Therefore, Turkey works closely and coordinates with the International Community and NGO.

#### **A. Turkey's Cooperation with International Community**

Although Turkey is a country that has a fairly good economic capacity, but managing two million refugees is not easy. As of August 2015, Turkey spent more than 6 billion dollars to support the needs of refugees from Syria and Turkey only received aid from the international community of around less than 400 million dollars. When the crisis began, Turkey chose not to cooperate with UNHCR in addition to ensuring supply of tents for the camp and overseeing voluntary returns. In addition, Turkey was reluctant to be included in UN's first Syria Regional Response Plan (SRRP). But then, the Turkey government began to coordinate with international communities such as UNHCR and WFP (Batalla & Tolay, 2018).

## 1. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR)

The core of UNHCR's duty is to be responsible for protection over the years. This is an ongoing effort to promote and expand the international legal framework, to develop and strengthen asylum systems, to improve protection standards, to find durable solutions, and many other activities designed to ensure the safety and welfare of refugees. In addition, UNHCR is mandated by the United Nations to monitor and protect stateless people throughout the world, helping countries and individuals (UNHCR, 2016).

With its proven operational expertise, UNHCR plays an important and more direct role in countries where migration occurs either helping returnees to settle back to their areas of origin or through activities on behalf of refugees in countries such as Syria. In this and many other cases, the immediate priority is to save lives by meeting basic needs in terms of shelter, food, water, sanitation and medical care (UNHCR, 2016).

From the start, protection was a top priority for UNHCR in Turkey. The two main objectives are to support the Government's revision of the regulatory framework, and support the Government for the registration of Syrian refugees. Recognizing that refugees will stay for some time in Turkey, in 2015 UNHCR shifted its protection strategy from the case management and camp paradigm to community-based protection and urban paradigms, which seemed to the evaluation team as the most efficient and effective approach, and most likely to increase coverage and impact (UNHCR, 2016).

UNHCR works in a very systematic approach to coordinating various institutions in Turkey and providing financial assistance from the larger international community. Since the start of the Syrian crisis, UNHCR has supported Turkey through the provision of core aid items, field monitoring and technical advice. UNHCR in Turkey is working closely with the authorities to develop a new asylum system. It supports all relevant ministries, as well as the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority that deals with emergency response for Syrian refugees and DGMM (Wahab, 2016).

The role undertaken by UNHCR in dealing with Syrian refugees especially in Turkey is as a determinant of the refugee status of every person who enters and enters the Turkish state, as an initiator and facilitator of humanitarian assistance and protection for Syrian refugees in Turkey (Patunru, 2014).

a. Role as Determinant of Syrian Refugee Status

In the process of providing humanitarian assistance and protection, UNHCR will previously determine the status of everyone including refugees as stipulated in the 1951 convention or not. The process of determining refugee status is important so that the distribution of aid can be right on target. In carrying out this role, UNHCR through its staff in Turkey opened refugee registration posts which are generally located on the border between Syria and Turkey which will then be processed for further treatment. UNHCR generally cooperates with the local state (Turkey) which in this case is carried out by the Turkish Directorate of Disaster and Emergency Management (AFAD) (Patunru, 2014).

After the residents who leave Syria and enter Turkey are determined as refugees, UNHCR will then determine the next protective measures and assistance to the refugees and find the best solution for them. They are then placed in refugee camps scattered in areas near the border between Syria and Turkey and receive humanitarian assistance provided by UNHCR and AFAD. With the clear status of Syrian refugees as global refugees as determined in the Geneva Convention 1951 and the Protocol 1967 and in the UNHCR Statute itself, humanitarian assistance to be provided to these refugees will be clearer and accountability can be done to the global community in this case, namely the UN (Patunru, 2014).

b. Role as an Initiator and Facilitator of Humanitarian Protection and Assistance

UNHCR strives to be a pioneer in the delivery and distribution of humanitarian assistance by the global community through the United Nations to be provided to Syrian refugees in the country. As the initiator and facilitator of the protection and assistance of refugees, UNHCR is actively working to collect global financial assistance and channel it in the form of construction of tents, distribution of food and clothing for refugees. Refugees who are housed in refugee camps located in Turkey by UNHCR are given protection and humanitarian assistance in the form of:

- Building camps for Syrian refugee families;
- Providing and distributing various basic and secondary necessities for Syrian refugees;
- Providing access to education for Syrian refugee children.

UNHCR is assisted by the global community for its funding through the United Nations and in collaboration with the Turkey's government in its implementation. As an independent international body, the role of UNHCR is very important to ensure the protection of the human rights of Syrian refugees in Turkey at least from the arbitrary actions of the country where the refugees are located. With the existence of UNHCR, this body can simultaneously supervise and protect Syrian refugees from actions that violate the rules of international law such as unfair/discriminatory treatment or even forced eviction and repatriation to their countries which might be carried out by the Turkey's government in the process of handling Syrian refugees in the country (Patunru, 2014).

c. Handling Syrian Refugees by UNHCR with the Organization International-Regional

The humanitarian problem faced by Syrian refugees when forced out of their country and into another person's country is a complex problem so that it is not easy to find the best solution. The case of Syrian refugees in Turkey requires a lot of power and funds to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to these Syrian refugees. Therefore, UNHCR needs other parties to handling Syrian refugees in Turkey. In providing protection and providing assistance to Syrian refugees in Turkey, besides collaborating with the local country, UNHCR also actively cooperates with other international organizations so that the burden borne by this problem can be lighter (Patunru, 2014).

Some of the cooperation activities in handling Syrian refugees in Turkey carried out

between UNHCR and other international organizations includes:

- UNHCR in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in cooperation with the Turkey's government (AFAD) comprehensively registers Syrian refugees to obtain specific data from refugees such as refugees with special needs or who have infectious diseases.
- UNHCR together with UNFPA continue to provide social services for every Syrian refugee in refugee camps in Turkey.
- UNHCR together with The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will seek access to adequate education for Syrian refugee children who are of school age and distribute educational tools such as books for study groups in refugee camps.
- UNICEF will endeavor to establish a comfortable environment for the communities of Syrian refugee children and to form a community of extracurricular activities for Syrian youth in refugee camps.
- UNHCR and World Health Organization (WHO) work together to deal with health problems experienced by Syrian refugees in refugee camps such as the provision of health clinics and the provision of medicines.

UNHCR's collaboration with international organizations is important to do given the large number of refugees that must be addressed so that the more parties involved in handling it are

expected to increasingly provide natural distribution of protection and humanitarian assistance for all Syrian refugees in Turkey (Patunru, 2014).

## 2. World Food Program (WFP)

The World Food Program is part of the United Nations which is carrying out its mission "Fighting hunger throughout the world". This is the largest humanitarian organization in the world focused on food security across borders. WFP is the main actor in the rehabilitation of Syrians at its border which provides facilities for 4.25 million people who need it every month. Since October 2012, WFP has successfully carried out a major project "E-food card" among Syrian refugees in Turkey with the support of Turk Kizilayi and AFAD. The e-food card program operates in 11 of 25 camps, and allows 150,000 Syrians to buy food items from 26 contracted shops so they can prepare traditional food for their families. In addition, in mid-2015, WFP and Kizilay launched a similar program to support the most vulnerable Syrians living in urban and suburban areas. So far, WFP has reached around 20,000 Syrians with the help of e-food cards in Hatay, Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa, with plans to raise the figure even higher (Wahab, 2016).

### **B. Turkey's Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organization**

In addition to collaborating with the international community, the government of Turkey also collaborates with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The NGO continues to coordinate with Turkish authorities in handling and meeting the needs of refugees. Active participation

from NGOs includes providing basic needs such as food distribution, medical assistance, education and others support.

### 1. Rizk

Rizk is an NGO affiliated with the Syrian Forum that actively works among Syrian refugees in Turkey that provides employment and livelihood facilities. Rizk works as an intermediary between Syrian job seekers and Turkish business owners with sophisticated publication methods. As it grows, the NGO is supported by the Syrian Forum, a consortium of well-known NGOs formed in 2011. The group's aim is to build the capacity of Syrian individuals and institutions and to build and support civil society organizations aimed at Syrians. The major setback he faced was the issue of legal wages for Syrians working in Turkey. But their efforts have had a profound impact on the daily lives of large numbers of underprivileged refugees. Rizk managed to find work for around 1,400 Syrian refugees in 2014 and for another 900. This has a huge impact on the refugee community and an important dripping effect, if we calculate that each Syrian worker earns an average of \$ 500, reports they analyze. It also contributed a lot to the Turkish economy with a broad impact on the job market (Wahab, 2016).

### 2. Caritas Turkey

This is a larger group of humanitarian activists in Turkey with support from various units abroad. It has worked among refugees and migrants since 1991. Among his activities are assistance projects in securing personal documentation, providing food assistance to those in need and responding to emergencies such as floods, earthquakes and waves of



refugees. With the outbreak of the Syrian conflict in 2011, Turkey, together with Jordan and Lebanon, welcomed thousands of Syrian refugees, some live in refugee camps and share other crowded households, especially in southern and southeastern Turkey. The refugees attended by Caritas are not only received medical assistance, food and supplies, but also support and solidarity from their staff. Caritas Turkey's main areas of work include emergency response, disaster preparedness, social development, care for the elderly and disabled, support for refugees, assistance for the poor and needy (Wahab, 2016).

### 3. Turkish Red Crescent

The Turkish Red Crescent, better known as Turk Kizilayi is part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The Turkish Red Crescent continues to monitor and assess the needs of those who seek refuge in Turkey, in close coordination with the National Disaster Management Agency (AFAD) and other authorities. It offers food programs in partnership with WFP, housing, educational and recreational activities and psychosocial support to refugees. The IFRC has requested 44.6 million Swiss francs to enable the Turkish Red Crescent to meet the needs of the 250,000 most vulnerable people displaced by fighting and hosted in Turkey (Wahab, 2016).

This humanitarian organization is an international organization that collaborates with UNHCR in dealing with Syrian refugees in Turkey. The collaboration between UNHCR and Turkey's ICRC and Qatar's ICRC is in providing humanitarian assistance in refugee camps. Cooperation conducted by UNHCR with ICRC Turkey in handling Syrian refugees, one of which was stated through the

cooperation of the construction of 18,500 tents that would be used by around 90,000 Syrian refugees in Turkey as agreed in the protocol of cooperation between the two parties. In addition, the Turkish Red Crescent organization also carries out humanitarian actions in the field of health and psychological trauma handling assistance as assistance to these Syrian refugees (Patunru, 2014).

In addition, data from UNHCR also stated that cooperation was carried out jointly with the Qatar Red Crescent Organization in the provision of emergency relief items for Syrian refugees in the winter through funds provided by Qatar, as reported by the Anadolu News Agency. In the statement mentioned, QRC (Qatar Red Crescent) will provide 10 million US dollars for the winter program including 7,000 durable family-size tents and 315,000 warm blankets for those who fled the civil war scene in Syria to Turkey (Patunru, 2014).