

# Turkey

Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy

## Country Overview

Population (2018)	82,319,724
GNI Per Capita (2018)	\$9,525
Country Classification by Income Level (2018)	Upper-middle-income
Number of Registered Philanthropic Organizations (2018)	111,485
Philanthropic Environment Country Overall Score (2018)	2.73
Philanthropic Environment Cross-Border Flows Score (2018)	3.50

**Data:** Population, GNI Per Capita and Country Classification by Income Level: World Bank, [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)  
 Number of Registered Philanthropic Organizations: Global Philanthropy Environment Index: Middle East and Northern Africa, [globalindices.iupui.edu](http://globalindices.iupui.edu)  
 Philanthropic Environment Country Overall Score and Cross-Border Flows Score: Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, 2018 *Global Philanthropy Environment Index*. [globalindices.iupui.edu](http://globalindices.iupui.edu)

## Cross-Border Resource Flows, 2018 (in millions of inflation-adjusted 2018 US dollars)

Total Resource Flows	Philanthropy	Official Development Assistance (ODA)	Remittances	Private Capital Investment
\$14,377.40	\$725.00	\$8,611.79	\$4,737.35	\$303.26
Quality of Data on Philanthropic Outflows			++++	

**Data:** Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, 2020 *Global Philanthropy Tracker*

## Summary of cross-border philanthropy

The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency's Department of Strategy Development released a report in 2018 which detailed the private flows – including philanthropic outflows – that came from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector.

### SENDING CROSS-BORDER CHARITABLE DONATIONS

While there are not legal barriers to cross-border philanthropic donations, there are no incentives either. As long as the Turkish government is notified of the transaction, the donation is processed through a bank, and declared to be in-line with the receiving organization's purpose, philanthropic cross-border donations are free to be dispersed (Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, 2018).

### RECEIVING CROSS-BORDER CHARITABLE DONATIONS

As long as philanthropic organizations (POs) notify the government when they receive in-kind and cash contributions from abroad before said donations are used, this type of funding is permitted (Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, 2018).

Yet, neither the legal nor the political actors provide a favorable environment for incoming cross-border philanthropy. During and after the two-year state of emergency in Turkey that ended in 2018, the number of POs shutdown (1401 associations, 122 foundations, and 19 unions) violated freedom of association rights. Currently, in 2020, the precarious nature remains.

Nonprofit organizations, whether they receive foreign funding or not, can be subject to inspection due to their “political affiliations, advocacy on rights-based issues, proximity to government or opposition, and person complaints” (International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, 2020).

### ESTIMATED CROSS-BORDER GIVING

Global issues are not a priority with Turkish organizations, and although there is a large Turkish diaspora, “programs to work cross borders are very limited” (Bikmen, 2017). The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency's Department of Strategy Development released a report in 2018 which detailed the private flows that came from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector. Of the private flows, USD 707.6 million went to NGOs. Those funds were then relatively evenly split between humanitarian aid (USD 384.6 million) and development aid (USD 323.0 million) (Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency Department of Strategy Development, 2017).

The rigorous surveys conducted by the Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV) are representative of the voting-age population in Turkey. In 2019, TUSEV interviewed 2,502 individuals. While they do not address cross-border philanthropy specifically, they provide invaluable information on the environment of individual giving in Turkey (Aytaç et al., 2019).

When, in 2015, survey respondents were asked what type of organization they would prefer donating funds to, 1.1 percent said they would give to an organization that assists refugees. This question was not repeated in the 2019 survey.

#### ESTIMATED CROSS-BORDER VOLUNTEERING

N/A

#### CROSS-BORDER GIVING BY CHARITABLE CAUSES

N/A

#### KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS IN CROSS-BORDER GIVING

Because trust between individuals is low in Turkey, the amount of cross-border giving by individuals can be expected to be quite insignificant. Although the TUSEV 2019 report showed that the surveyed population's trust in most people increased from 10 percent (2015) to 21 percent, still 79 percent declared that "one can never be too careful" (Aytaç et al., 2019).

TUSEV further explains that most of those surveyed would rather give directly to individuals (87%) rather than give to a "relevant organization" (12%), so again cross-border giving is less likely to occur (Aytaç et al., 2019.). Furthermore, in 2015, 68 percent of respondents said that they would prefer to give donations to their family members, neighbors, or those who live in the same town. While that number has decreased since the 2004 survey (85%), it is still quite high, and the number of those who prefer to donate to those who are culturally similar increased from 9 percent to 22 percent (Aytaç et al., 2019.). Due to these factors, the low percentage of philanthropy focused on refugees or other countries is understandable.

## References

- Aytaç, S. E., Çarkoğlu, A. (2016). *Individual Giving and Philanthropy in Turkey*. Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV).
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## Do you have information to add to this profile?

We greatly appreciate the contributions of researchers, scholars, and leaders around the world to the study of cross-border philanthropy. If you know of any additional information or newly available data that could be included in future editions, please send us an update at [indices@iupui.edu](mailto:indices@iupui.edu).