

In focus: Turkey

Turkey is susceptible to natural disasters such as earthquakes and often spends significant domestic resources responding to emergencies within its own boundaries. In 1999 the Marmara region of Turkey was hit by an earthquake which killed around 18,000 people and affected over 1.3 million. In October 2011 a 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck the country, killing hundreds and injuring thousands; it is estimated that over 40,000 people were affected.

Turkey is a recipient of ODA and in 2011 it received its highest volume to date, US\$3.2 billion. The largest contribution was US\$2.8 billion from EU institutions, up from US\$313.6 million in 2010. However, volumes of official humanitarian assistance to Turkey are relatively small, peaking at US\$70.2 million in 2000 (following the earthquake) and standing at US\$47.7 million in 2011. The largest humanitarian donor in 2011 was Japan, giving US\$18.6 million.

Turkey is also a donor. While the figures for 2012 are only preliminary (and subject to change), ODA from Turkey has grown substantially in recent years, almost doubling between 2011 and 2012. Turkey's contributions in 2012 make it the 15th largest government donor. Official

humanitarian assistance has also significantly increased to US\$1.0 billion in 2012, making up over 40% of total ODA and ranking it the 4th largest donor that year (see figure 2.16).

It is likely that a large proportion of humanitarian assistance from Turkey in 2012 has gone to the surrounding region, especially due to the escalating Syrian crisis on Turkey's doorstep. It is possible that a significant volume is also being spent housing refugees within Turkey itself.

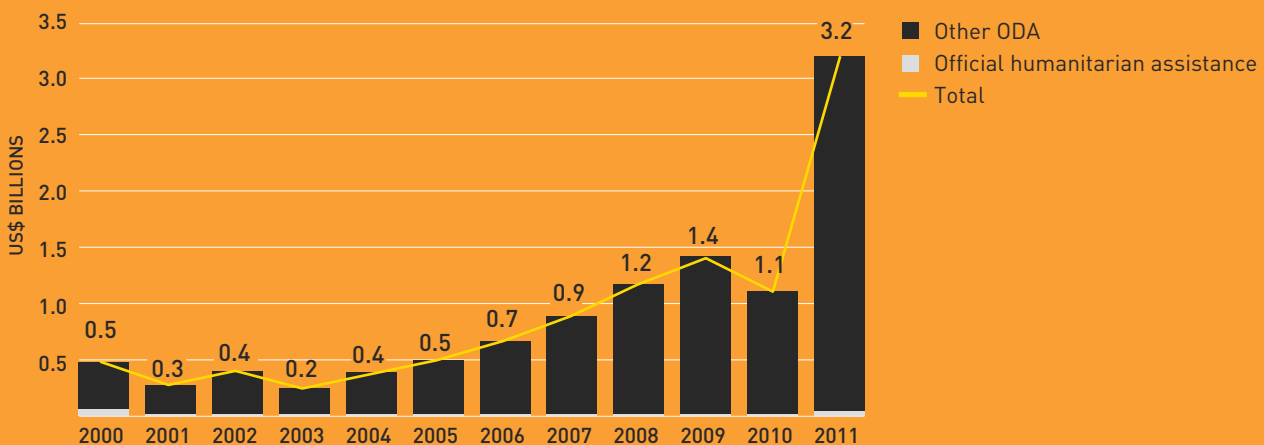
Turkey is housing an increasing number of refugees from Syria. By 10 June 2013 just under 350,000 Syrian refugees were registered in Turkey, and the figure is rising.

The humanitarian contribution that many countries make by receiving refugees is rarely counted or visible in analyses of international humanitarian assistance. The ODA rules allow DAC donors to count the first year's cost of supporting refugees within their borders as part of their ODA. But data from UNHCR shows that 87% of refugees were hosted by non-DAC donor countries.

BETTER DATA

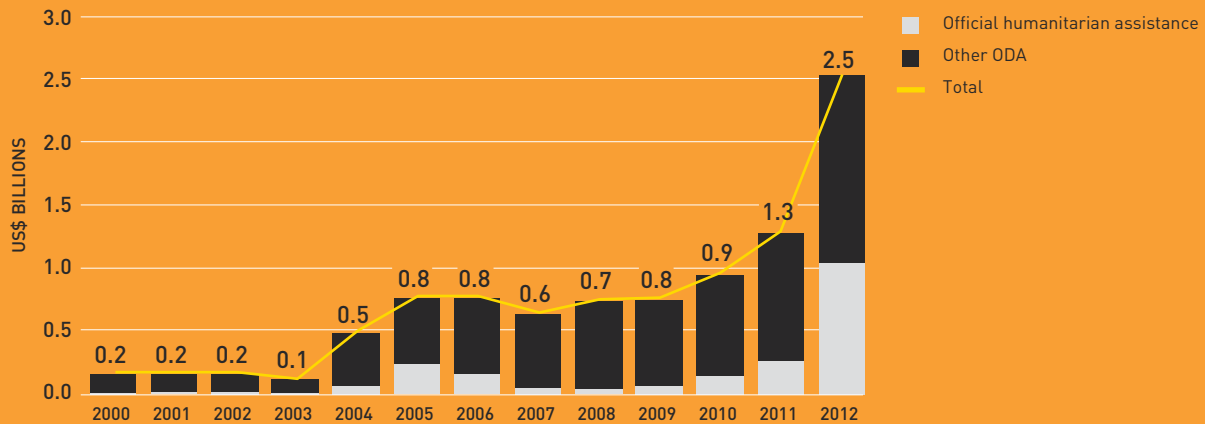
While Turkey's ODA and humanitarian assistance have grown substantially in recent years, particularly in 2012, it also demonstrates improvements in reporting. In this year's GHA analysis we have used OECD DAC data for Turkey (and the Czech Republic) as it is much more comprehensive, is available for more than 10 years and has larger volumes than those reported through the UN OCHA FTS. For example, in 2012 just US\$10 million in humanitarian assistance from Turkey was reported through the FTS compared with US\$1.0 billion in the OECD DAC. While we encourage donors to report their contributions to existing databases in order to provide a more comprehensive picture of flows, it highlights the current limitations with data gathering and the need for standardised information that is comparable, timely and disaggregated. One way of achieving this is to get more donors, agencies, NGOs and private organisations to publish their information to the IATI format.

FIGURE 2.15: ODA TO TURKEY, 2000–2011



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC data

FIGURE 2.16: ODA FROM TURKEY, 2000–2012



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC data

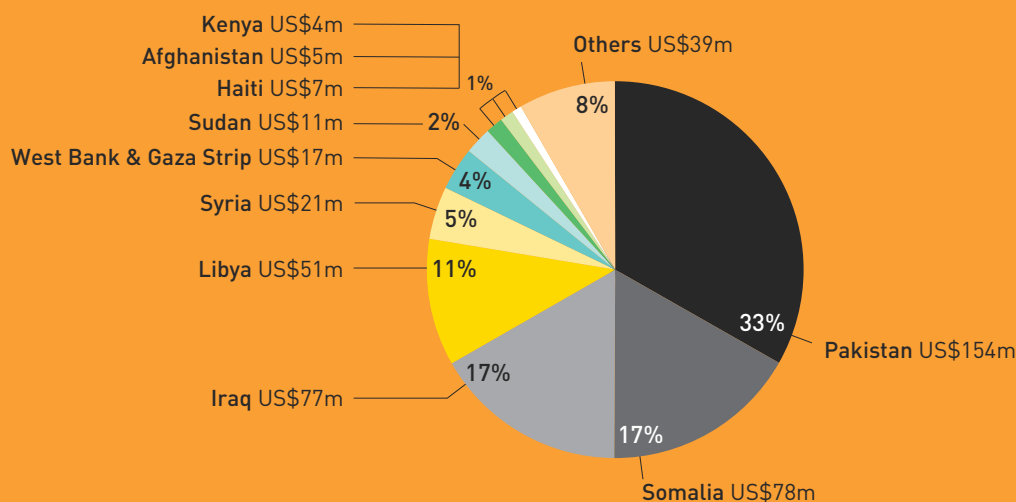
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs oversees Turkey’s development institutions and policy priorities and the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency is the principal body for administering aid. Humanitarian aid is administered through the Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay) and Turkey’s Disaster and Emergency Management Office.

Turkey’s humanitarian assistance has concentrated on a small number of recipients in recent years, with Pakistan, Somalia and Iraq making up 67% between 2007 and 2011.

In 2011 Somalia was the largest recipient of Turkey’s humanitarian assistance receiving US\$77.7 million and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip

Erdogan became the first non-African leader to visit Somalia in over 20 years. While a number of donors and NGOs operate from regional hubs in Nairobi, Kenya, Turkey’s aid agencies are more visible on the ground in Somalia working on a range of initiatives with a variety of actors, including the private sector.

FIGURE 2.17: TOP 10 RECIPIENTS OF TURKEY’S OFFICIAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, 2007–2011



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC data