



SURVIVING HOME

A RESEARCH ON AN ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION
FOR THE REFUGEE CRISIS IN BODRUM, TURKEY

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“Think of all the beauty still left around you and be happy.”
Anne Frank

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BODRUM HUMANITY

An Association founded
by the locals in Bodrum
to help refugees

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HOW THE WAR PROGRESSED OVER TIME
WORLD’S ROLE THROUGHOUT THE WAR

The conflict in Syria started in 2011, some might argue, as part of Arab spring. A group of peaceful protesters were marching against the government. In March 2011, the Assad regime start fire to the peaceful demonstrator. In July, protester started fighting back. Even some of Syrian troops who joined the rebels. They formed Free Syrian Army. A civil war between Assad regime and Free Syrian Army started. Many extremists around the world came to Syria to join Free Syrian Army. As extremists joined the rebels, it got difficult for western world to support them. By January 2012, al-Qaeda formed its new branch in Syria called al-Nusra. In the meantime, Kurds on the North, who was backed up by the rest of Kurdistan area, created its own side to fight against Assad regime that is independent from rebels and al-Nusra.

The involvement of other countries starts with Iran. As the ally of Syria and as another Shia government at the region, Iran supported Assad regime and sent hundreds of officers by the end of 2012. As Iran supported Assad, Sunni Gulf States started supported rebels, by sending money and weapon through Sunni Turkey. In mid-2012, Assad gained support from another Shia group at the region, Hezbollah from Lebanon. In response, Gulf states increased their support to rebels, by using including another Sunni country, Jordan, to the game.

April 2013, the United States started to intervene to this rapidly growing war. United States decides to include CIA to the war, and help rebels, as the government were trying to stop Gulf States to send support to extremists. The United States was not successful on its first attempt. In August 2013, Assad regime used chemical weapons against civilians near the capital, Damascus. In September 2013, Obama gave a speech on “respond[ing] to the Assad regime’s use of chemical weapons to a targeted strike”. However, Russia in response, supported Assad regime. Both sides, the United States and Russia, ended up backing down. Towards the end of 2013, CIA reached Syria, to support rebels against Assad regime. The United States officially joined the war. February 2014, a new group in Iraq separates itself from al-Nusra, called Islamic States of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

ISIS starts fighting against al-Nusra, rebels and Kurds. In September 2014, the United States declares war against ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Unlike the previous time, Pentagon takes the stage from CIA, and starts training rebels just against ISIS.

In August 2015, after the terror attack in July, Turkey agreed to fight against terrorism along with United States, as Turkey agreed to allow the United States to use the army base in Incirlik, Turkey. Under the cause of fighting terrorism, Turkey started bombing Kurds, the only army on the ground that fights ISIS. In the meantime, Turkey chose not to fight against ISIS.

In September 2015, Russia decides to intervene as Assad is losing power. Russia claims to fight against ISIS, even though it only bombs only the rebels, including the ones supported by the United States.

In November 2015, Paris had the bloodiest day in its history. This attack created a very negative perspective against Syrian refugees, while it was never very positive since the beginning. It also made France join the war against ISIS. Within the same week, France started bombing ISIS in Syria.

Again, in November 2015, a couple days after Putin claimed that there are some G20 countries supporting ISIS in the G20 summit in Antalya, Turkey. Turkish government shot down a Russian war plane near Syria-Turkish border. This created a significant conflict between the two countries. In response, Russia created some economical restrictions to Turkey. Russia, a few days after claiming Turkey supporting ISIS by purchasing oil, shared video footages with the large numbers of trucks crossing Turkey-Syria border, claiming they were sent by Turkish government to send weapons to ISIS and purchase oil from them. Currently, Turkey did not officially respond to accusations.

December 2015, Britain voted to join the war against ISIS. Within a few hours, Britain sent its first warplanes to Syria.



- SUNNI MUSLIM
- SHIA MUSLIM
- NON-MUSLIM
- MIXED

EUROPE'S STAND ON REFUGEES

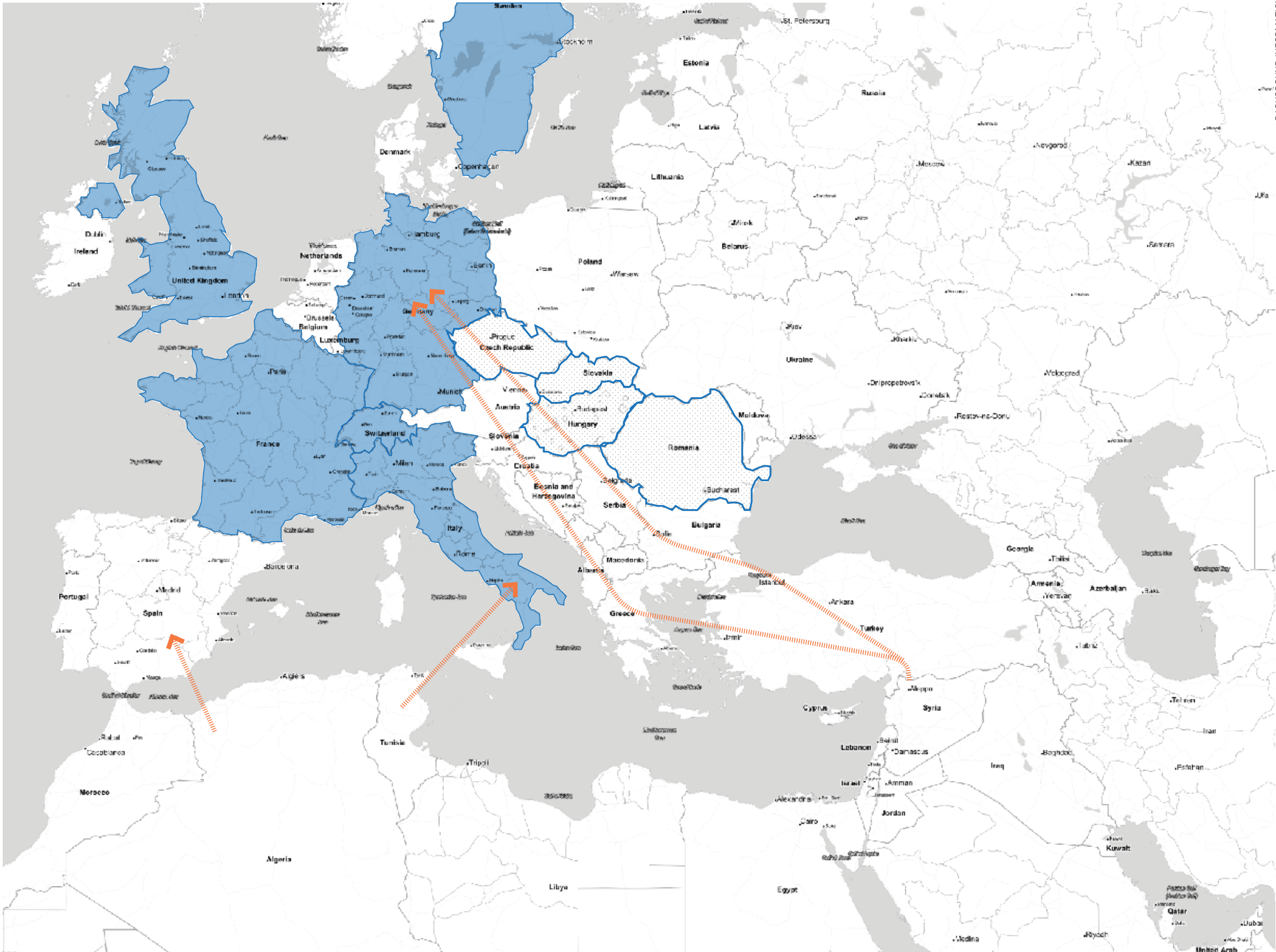
Europe's stand on refugees evolved over the course of war. Different countries took different stands, roles and responsibilities about refugees.

Mediterranean countries --Greece, Italy and Spain-- took the biggest burden due to their location in relation to the transition countries. These countries were the entry points to European Union for refugees. While a significant amount of refugees were willing to move to financially stronger countries, such as Sweden, Germany, France, Great Britain etc. Most of them ended up staying for temporarily or for good in these Mediterranean countries. Almost all of the entries to the Mediterranean countries happen through the sea, rather than land. This resulted in high rates of deaths in the process of moving.

Countries like Germany, Sweden, France, Switzerland, Austria and United Kingdom are the top countries to accept refugees. However the transportation to these countries were not provided and the refugees are not able to reach these countries unless they take very dangerous routes. Almost all of these routes requires the infamously famous boat rides through Mediterranean. The attractive offer from the European countries lead refugees to take these dangerous routes for the chance of a better life.

In the meantime, countries like Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Romania are strictly against rest of Europe's refugee intake. Hungary, for instance, proposed to build a wall to prevent refugees to enter their country. Aside from the talk about the wall, there is a significant propaganda against refugees. While Greece is considered as one of the major transition countries, it did not allow refugees its border with Turkey from the land. This caused the refugees to take the only option--crossing the Mediterranean with a boat.

The Paris attacks on November 13th, increased the fear against refugees in Europe, even though none of the attackers were a Syrian refugee.



- GENERAL ROUTES FOR REFUGEES
- TOP 6 REFUGEE ACCEPTING COUNTRIES
- COUNTRIES AGAINST REFUGEES IN EUROPE

REFUGEES

Facts & Numbers
Life as a Refugee
Analysis



Number of People
Effected by the War **11,000,000**

Number of
People Killed **220,000**

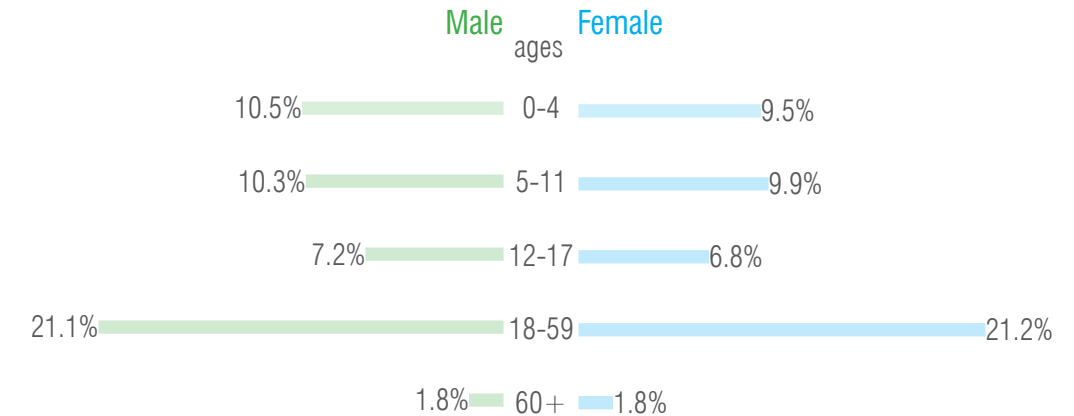
Number of
Internally Displaced People **7,632,500**

Number of
Refugees **4,632,500**

Number of
Refugees in Turkey **2,181,293**

Number of
Asylum Applications **689,365**

People in
Refugee Camps in Turkey **217,000**



1,182,261 Refugees or 54.2% of the refugees are under the Age of 18

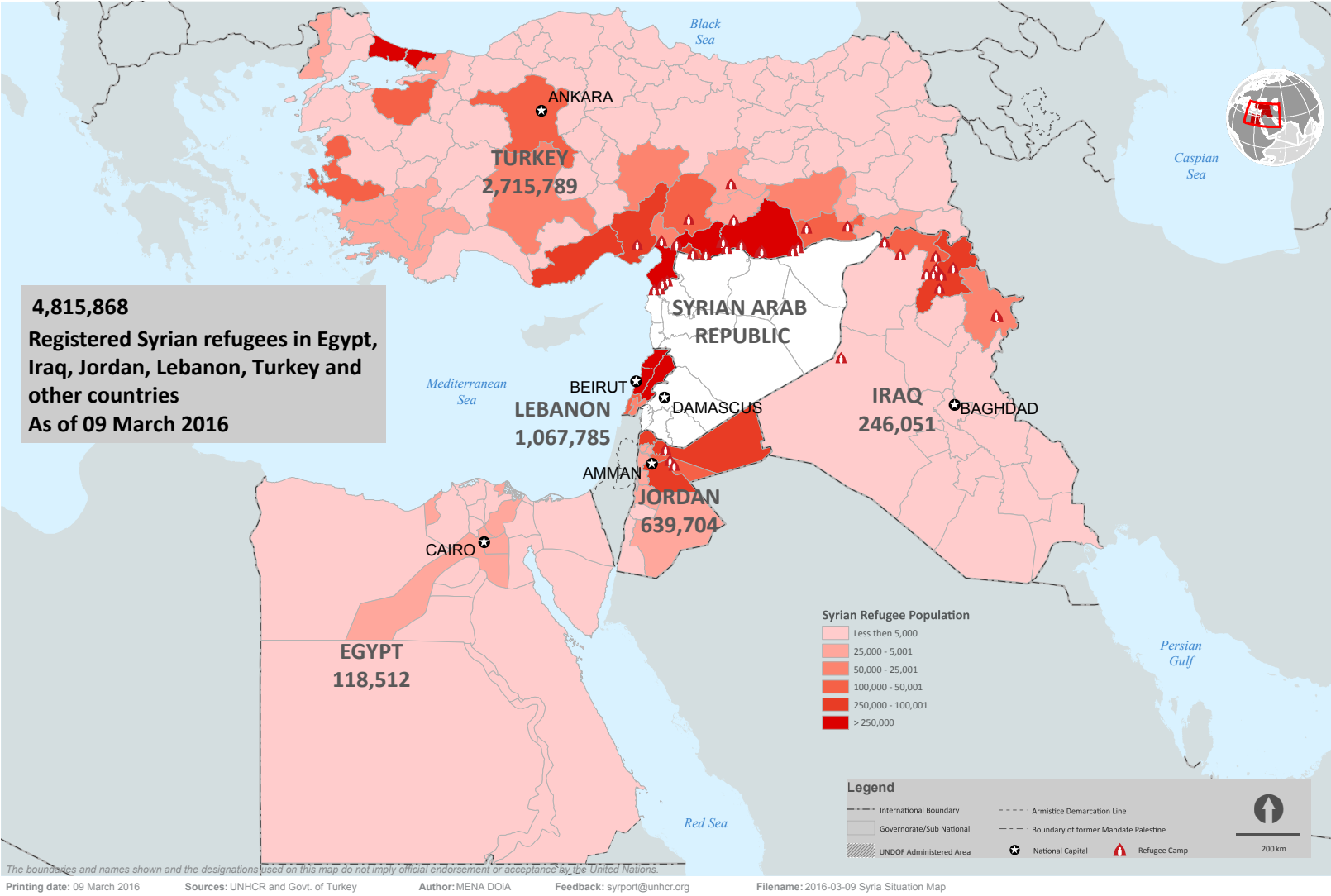
That is approximately the population of Brussels. 440,621 of these are at school age. They need to get back to their education. 305,308 of the rest are at high school level, who also needs to continue their education. About 436,259 of these are under school age. Even though they will not need education yet, they will need education in the near future.

1,964,293 Refugees are living outside the camps

Even though this number is an approximation, it is still a very large population. It is unknown how many of the refugees are living in which cities, whether how many of them are homeless, how do they manage to create an income, etc. However considering refugees' general paths, they mainly stay in south-eastern cities, close to Syrian border; west coast, mainly cities close to Greek islands to escape; north-west, near Bulgarian and Greek borders, and large cities for better chances of income.

Province	Temporary Shelter Center	Type	Population	Total Population
Hatay	Altinozu 1 Cadirkenti	263 Large Tent	1,351 Syrians	18,041
	Altinozu 2 Cadirkenti	622 Tent	3,077 Syrians	
	Yayladagi 1 Cadirkenti	236 Tent	2,766 Syrians	
		310 Large Tent		
	Yayladagi 2 Cadirkenti	510 Tent	3,299 Syrians	
	Apaydin Konteynerkenti	1,181 Contaigner	4,934 Syrians	
Gaziantep	Guvecci Cadirkenti	1,000 Tent	2,614 Syrians	49,644
	Islahiye 1 Cadirkenti	1,898 Tent	8126 Syrians	
	Islahiye 2 Cadirkenti	2,364 Large Tent	10,105 Syrians 8,735 Iraqis	
	Karkamis Cadirkenti	1,686 Tent	7,211 Syrians	
	Nizip 1 Cadirkenti	1,858 Tent	10,553 Syrians	
	Nizip 2 Cadirkenti	938 Contaigner	4,914 Syrians	
Sanliurfa	Ceylanpinar Cadirkenti	4,771 Tent	21,727 Syrians	110,715
	Akcakale Cadirkenti	5,00 Tent	29.879 Syrians	
	Harran Konteynerkenti	2,000 Contaigner	14,083 Syrians	
	Viransehir Cadirkenti	4,100 Tent	17,981 Syrians	
	Suruc Cadirkenti	7,000 Tent	27,045 Syrians	
Kilis	Oncupinar Konteynerkenti	2,063 Contaigner	10,385 Syrians	33,583
	Elbeyli Konteynerkenti	3,592 Contaigner	23,198 Syrians	
Mardin	Midyat Cadirkenti	1,300 Tent	3,032 Syrians 1,055 Iraqis	13,057
	Derik Cadirkenti	2,100 Large Tent	8,970 Syrians	
Kahramanmaras	Merkez Cadirkenti	3,684 Tent	18,497 Syrians	18,497
Osmaniye	Cevdetiye Cadirkenti	2,012 Tent	9,487 Syrians	9,487
Adiyaman	Merkez Cadirkenti	2,260 Tent	9,619 Syrians	9,619
Adana	Saricam Cadirkenti	2,162 Tent	10,586 Syrians	10,586
Malatya	Beydagi Konteynerkenti	2,083 Contaigner	8,000 Syrians	8,000

Syria Situation Map
Syrian Refugees



PRECEDENTS

Existing Successful Refugee Projects
Ideas for Materials and Systems



IKEA homes are one of the most preferred solutions for the refugee crisis. It is 188 square fee. It can be assembled withing four hours by four people. It only costs \$1,000, and it works with solar energy.

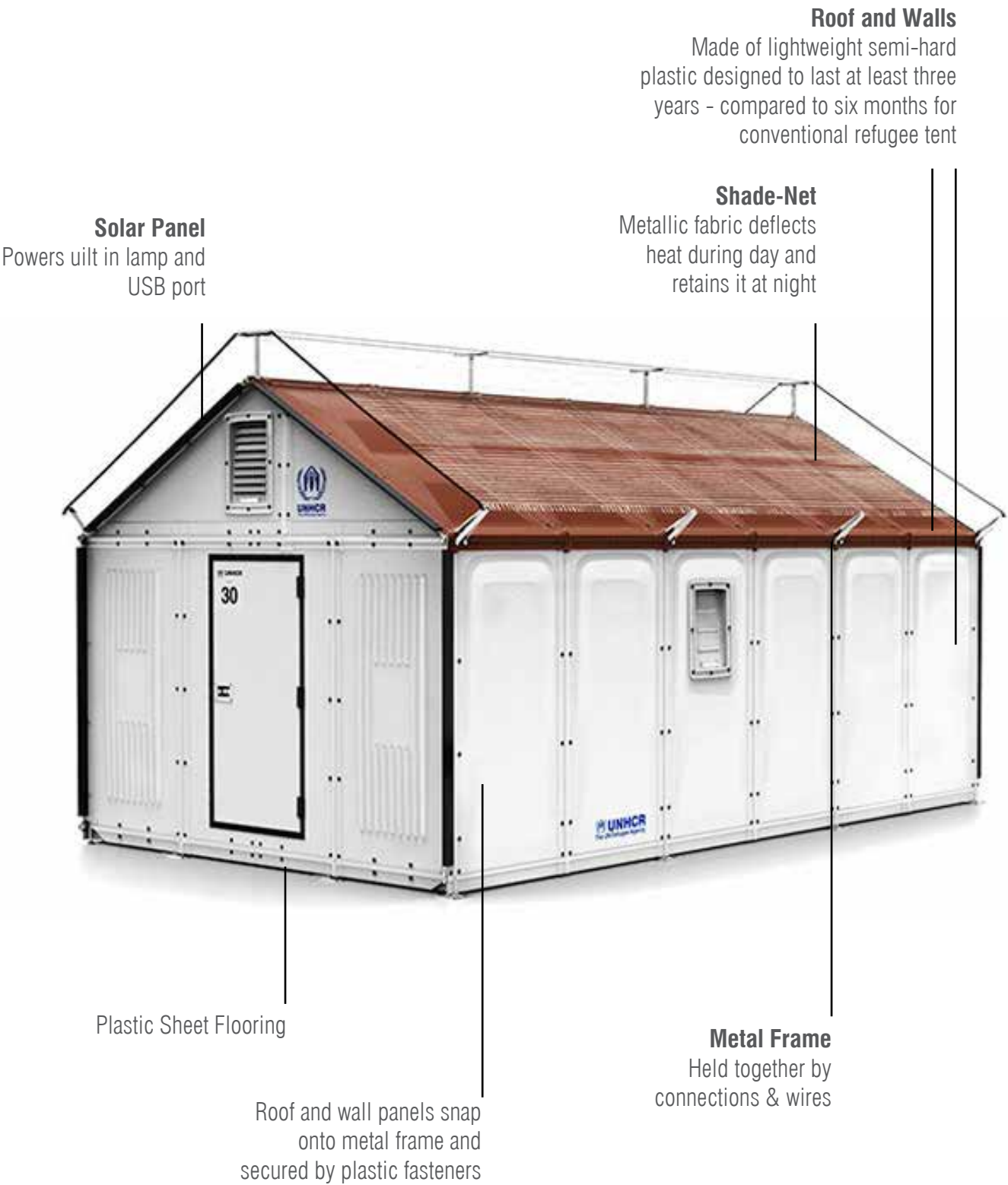


One of the biggest concerns about tent cities it the hygiene. IKEA homes are doing much better job of having better quality interior space as opposed to tent cities.

Renewable energy is also important, as most of the refugee camps are off the grid which requires extra service, that costs a lot for the host.

Despite its advantages, there are also some disadvantages to IKEA homes. It is entirely manufactured and shipped to the site, which reduces the cost of the house, however wastes a lot of energy during the process.

IKEA homes are better solutions for first port of safety. However for longer time span, it is not the ideal solution.

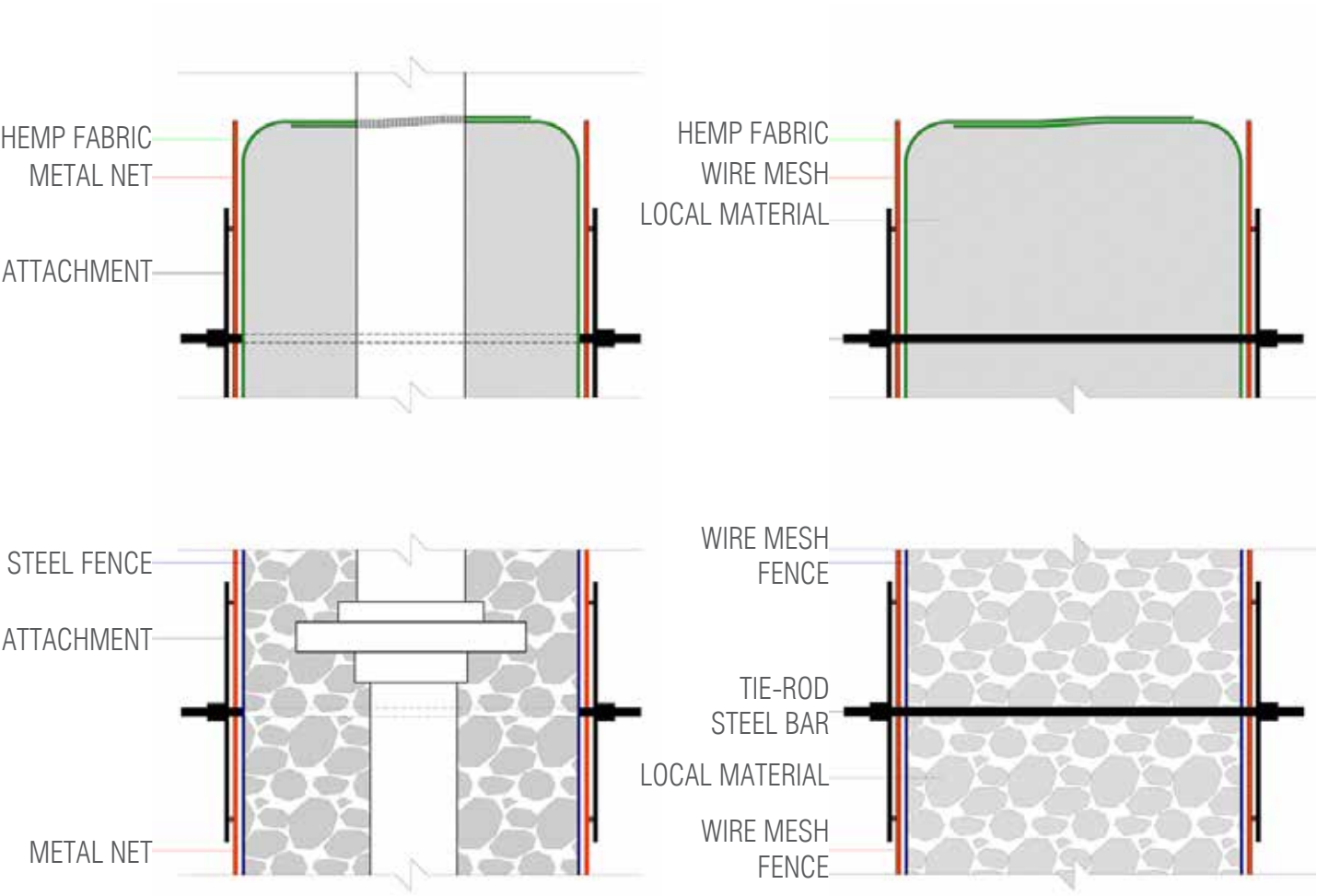


Size	Weight	Assembly	Cost	Houses
188 sq-ft	100kg	4 hrs / No tools required	638 £	5 people



This project is also proposed for refugee camps, but the structure is much more resilient and intended to last longer.

It is essentially several panels of metal cages that are filled with local materials, such as dirt, gravel and rocks. Because it is designed manually, it can be assembled based on the users' needs. Unlike IKEA homes, these homes are not creating solar energy, but they carry green roofs where the residents can grow their food.



STUDENT PROJECTS FROM GERMAN STUDENTS

*All the photos and explanations are taken from www.dw.com's article titled "German students design residences for refugees".



“This model shows how surfaces on flat roofs can be used. They plan to actually build this design on the roof of their faculty. Their other ideas are just fiction – for now.”



Floating houses
About 870 barges currently aren't in use in Germany. They could be converted into floating refugee centers. The water from the river could be processed through filter systems and used in the housing modules on the barges. Electricity for the structures would be provided by solar and wind power.



A different kind of mobile home
An old freight station in the northern part of Hannover has been empty for years. There would be enough space for refugees here. The architecture students came up with the idea of housing the refugees in disused wagons. There are vacant stations in every big city which could apply this concept.



Multicultural allotments
In Germany, small parcels of land are rented to gardeners, and these are usually equipped with small houses. The students of the Leibniz University suggested that some of these garden houses could be used for refugees. The gardens also have the advantage of providing food and a relaxing hobby for the refugees.



Remains of Expo 2000
The Dutch pavilion from Expo 2000 has been empty since the end of the world fair held in Hannover. It could potentially be expanded and turned into a refugee camp. The open garden on the third floor provides a good connection between the residential and leisure areas. All concepts include common areas and spaces where people can meet.



Filling the gaps
These prefab housing modules made of wood can be individualized and easily adapted to any vacant lot - and there are many in Germany. They can be built within just a few days and can quickly be taken down or converted into offices whenever they are no longer needed.

SITE ANALYSIS

Turkey's Current Situation

Vulnerabilities

Local Resources and Needs

From Bodrum To Akyarlar

If I had to pick a word to describe this problem, it would be “ambiguous”. Predicting the future based on changing patterns of refugees, unpredictable events and vague statements of politicians and choosing a site and problem based on this ambiguity is a real challenge. During this process, I have gone through several completely different proposals. However, the ambiguity left some suspicion on every decision I’ve made, until I forced myself to make a final decision. At the end, I accepted the fact that there is no single right or wrong solution to the refugee problem, as it is a process and just like every process, each step requires a different solution. Therefore, instead of picking one solution on a single site, I divided the problem into three phases based on the path refugees are taking to find a home.

My research started in Bodrum, Turkey; small town on the west coast of Turkey, across from the Greek Island, Kos. Bodrum is one of the several coastal towns that are close to Greek Islands, where refugees can enter to EU territory. While majority of the people leaving the coast, made it to Greece, thousands people lost their lives and even more people are rescued and brought back to Bodrum, where they were treated in the only public hospital in Bodrum.

During my interview with the Police Chief in Bodrum, he described the steps they take after the refugees are rescued. Refugees are first brought to the hospital for their treatment. In some cases the hospital in Bodrum is not equipped enough. Then, they transfer those patients to larger hospitals in the region. Once their treatments are finalized, they are brought to the police station for interragation, because they are considered as witnesses and victims of human smuggling. Once the interragation is over, police contacts the immigration office in order to decide what may their future destinaion be. Typically if they are not Syrians, they are sent back to their countries. If they are Syrians, depending on the capacity in refugee camps--there is mostly no extra room-- they are either sent back to camps or larger cities away from the coast. Sometimes, people who are rescued may request family unification. In

that case, police is oligated to arrange a way to unite the family. In most cases, the whole process takes several days. However, there is not any room for refugees to stay in this time span. As a result, refugees are sleeping on the floors of the police station, or if the weather is nice, they sleep outside the station, in the garden.

Based on my research and observations, Bodrum is relatively friendly town where Bodrumers mostly volunteer to help refugees, providing them food and clothing as much as possible. However, temporary shelter is a need for the short time period where they need to stay in Bodrum.

Phase I: Temporary Shelter

As a result, for phase I, I proposed to design a temporary structure that can be assembled and disassembled depending on need. Bodrum is an ancient town with narrow streets. It is a peninsula that is consisted of several former small fisherman villages that merged into a more unified town, as it become a major summer tourism destination in Turkey. Even though the villages grew to touch each other, the buildings are still only on the coast, and most of inland is not developed. Many villagers uses scooters and minibusses for transit in addition to more compact automobiles.

These structures meant to be light weight and compact when they are disassembled, due to the narrow streets and small cars of the town. It is not desirable to drive containers around the town. These temporary structures would be a temporary solution not for refugee problem but for an important problem of refugees.

Phase II: Hospital

Once the refugees’ immediate needs are satisfied in phase I, I proposed to design a second public hospital on the peninsula. Single public hospital is already not enough for the locals. As the refugees are rescued and treated on a daily bases, the public hospital’s capacity in Bodrum peninsula is

challenged even more. Furthermore, the location of the only hospital in Bodrum is near the center. However, when the refugees are rescued they are brought to the town, Turgutreis, which is still 20 km away from where they first brought to the land. I propose to have a public hospital in Turgutreis, near the port. That way, the existing hospital would have less pressure on it. In addition to the short distance between the port and hospital would be better for the patients health .

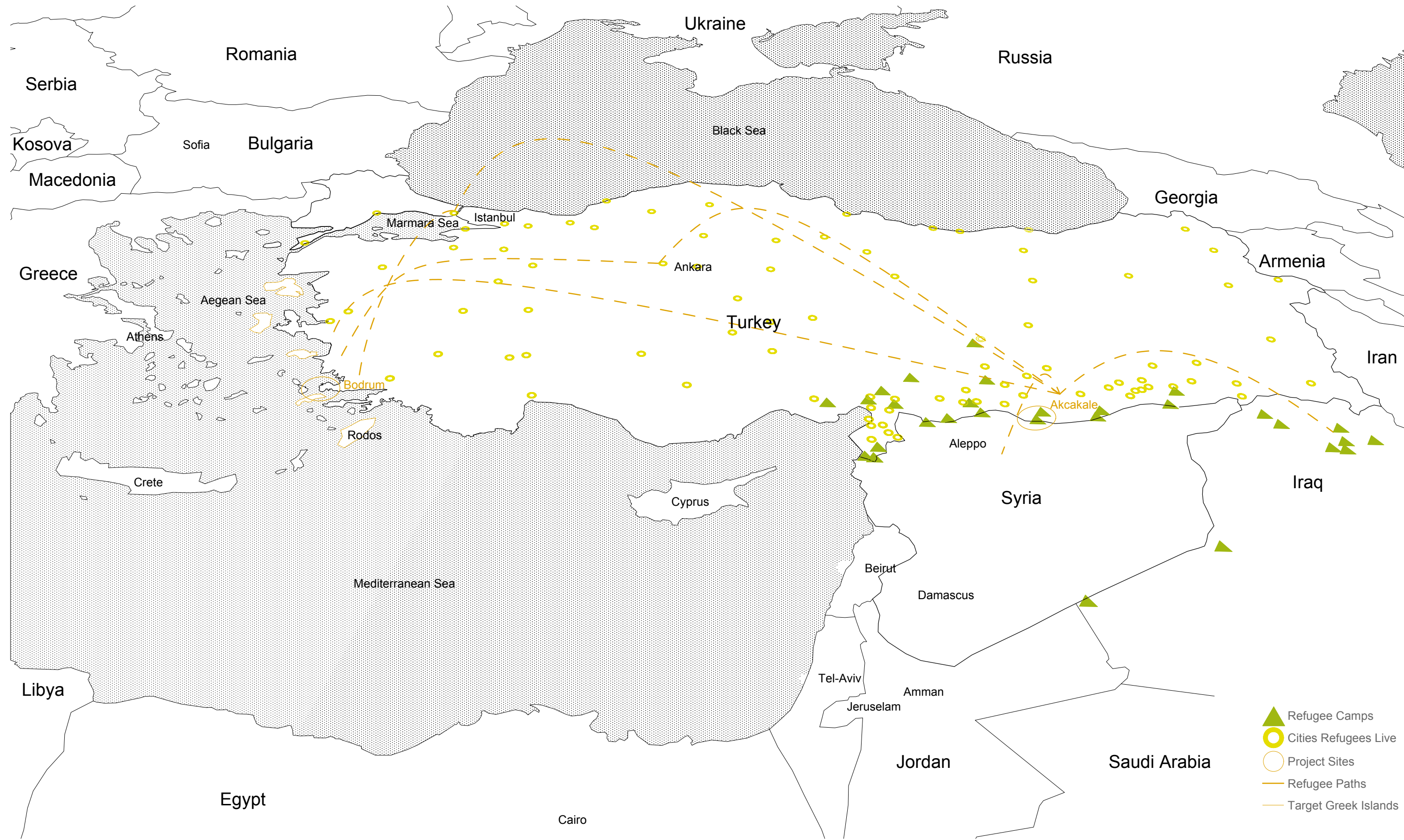
Phase III: Permanent Stay

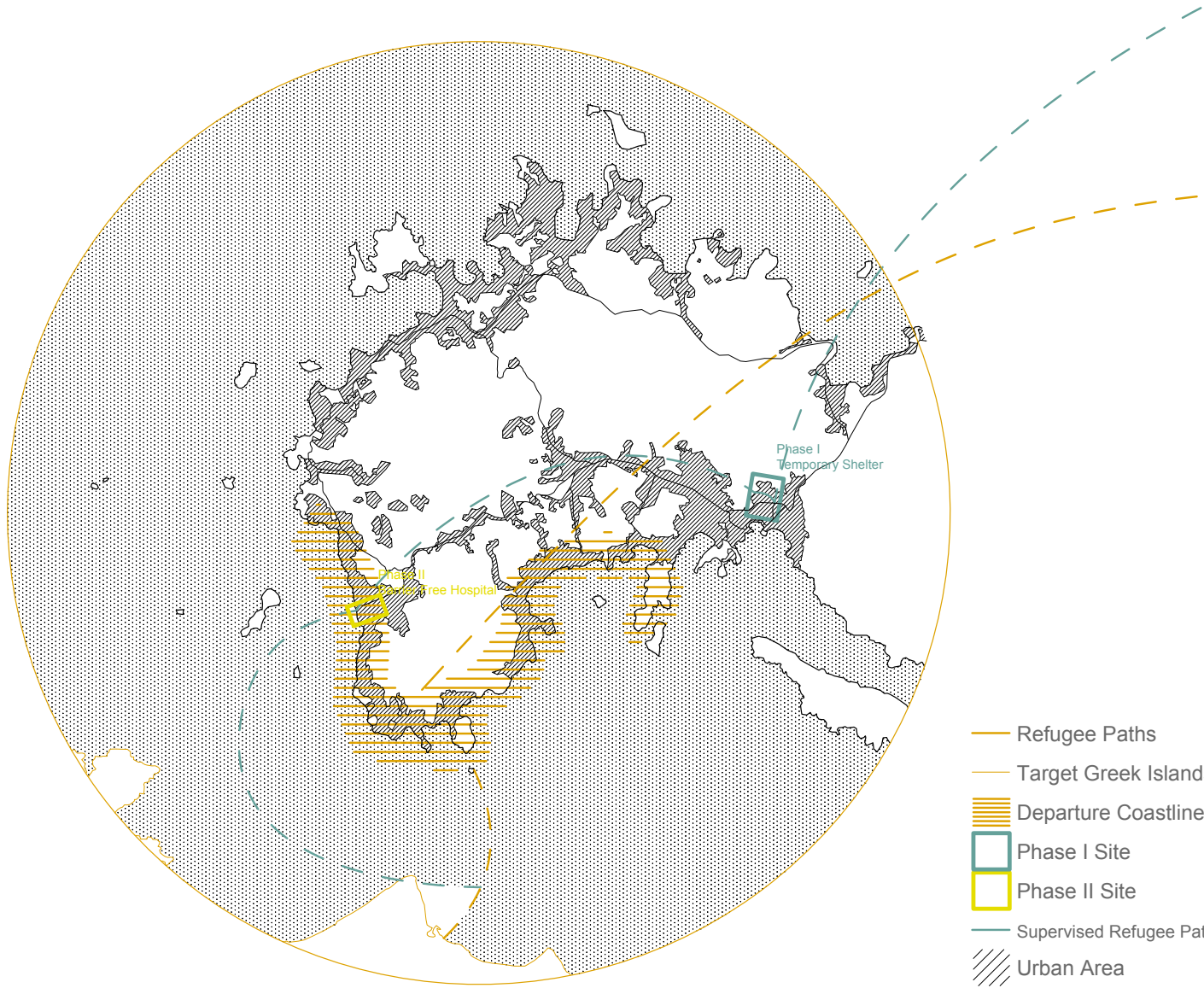
Turkish government is trying to keep refugees out of coastal towns as much as they can, in order to prevent crossings to Greek islands and deaths that come with crossings. To accomplish that, they have check points on the coastal town entrances,and they send the refugees back to inner parts of the country, to the camps--if they have room-- or larger cities, once they catch the refugees.

Camps reached their maximum capacity for several years now. At the same time, the cities are not planned or equipped to host refugees in a decent way. The main reason why Turkish govenment is not trying to take bold steps to create a decent framework for refugees in the cities is their approach to refugees as being temporary. While they always accepted them as only temporary, it’s been five years since the war started and refugees started entering Turkey. Even though legally they seem temporary, in reality they are quite permanent in Turkey.

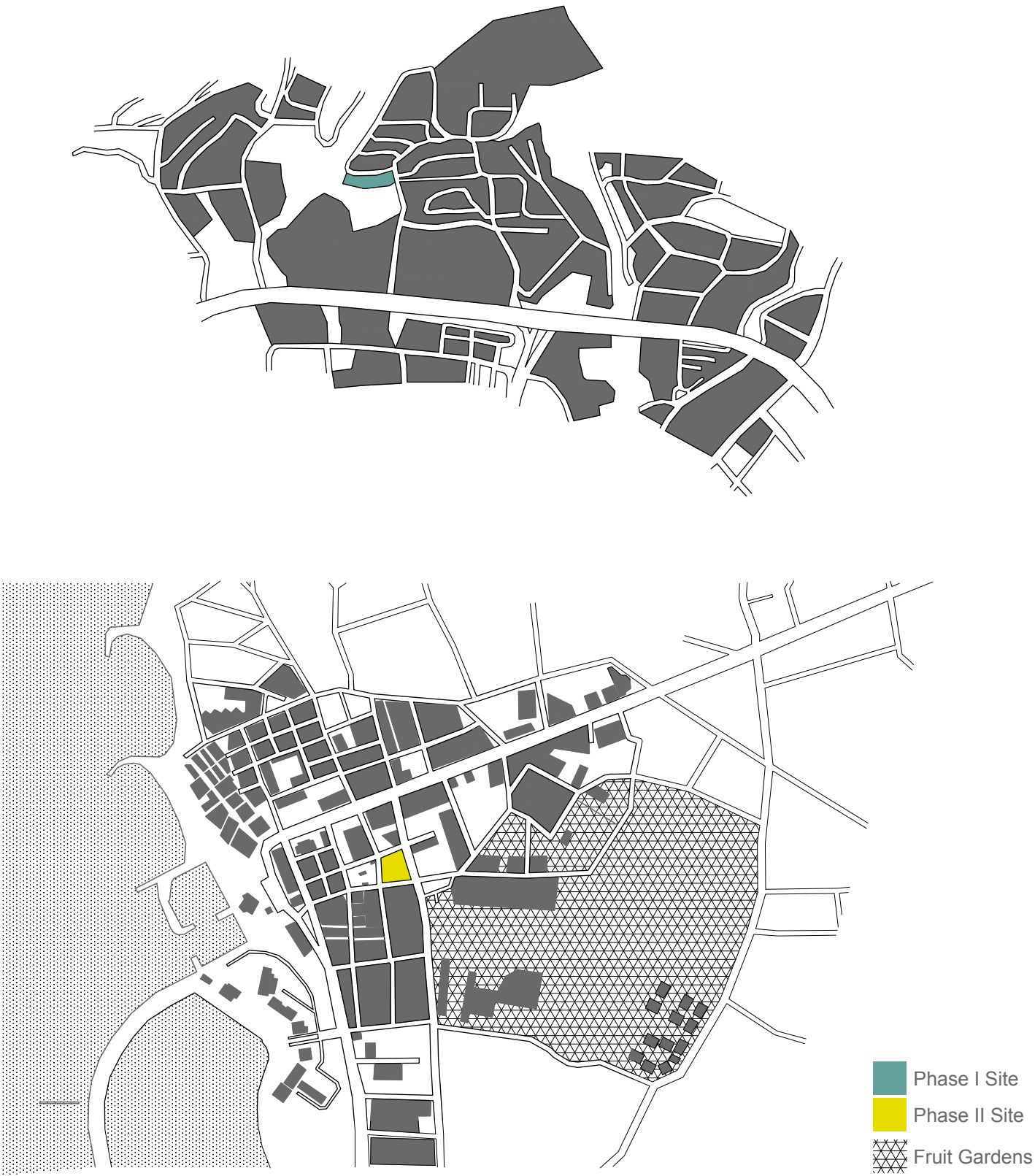
As a result, I choose Suleyman Sah tentcity in Sanliurfa. LArgeest refugee camp in Turkey, that is 5km away from the Turkey-Syria border. It was built in 2012, and expended in 2013. In other words, it’s a temporary tent city for four years now. I chose this site, because refugee camps are legally dedicated to refugees. Social conflicts in larger cities do not exist here. It has more room for innovation and experimentation, in terms of creating living spaces. I find designing shelters, a very top down approach to the problem. It’d lack the sense of ownership and identity. Instead , I’m proposing to create a structure to give the right

skill set for refugees to build their own shelters the way they desire. These skills would be useful both for creating jobs, as well as creating places to call home.



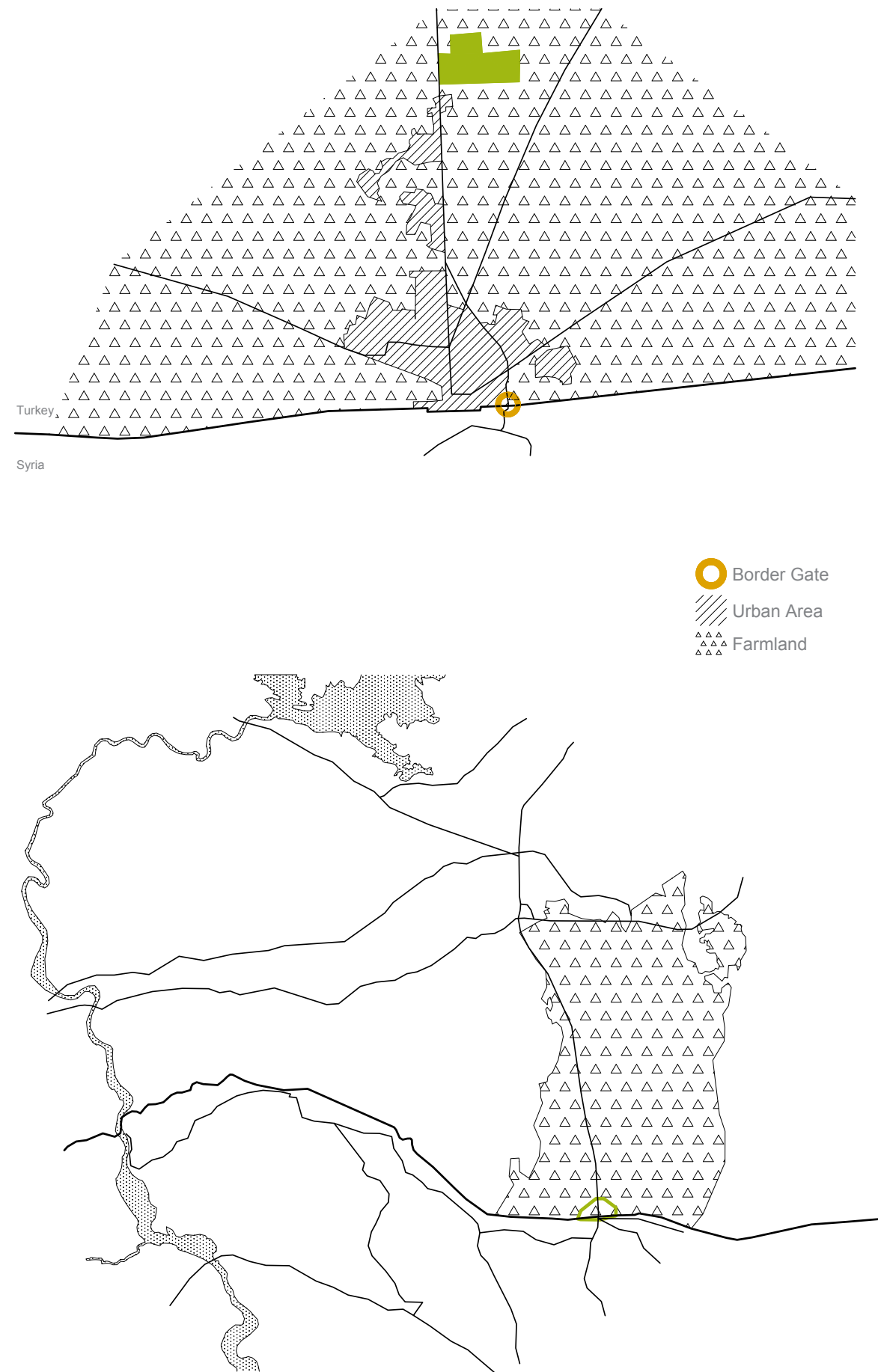


- Refugee Paths
- Target Greek Islands
- Departure Coastline
- Phase I Site
- Phase II Site
- Supervised Refugee Paths
- Urban Area



- Phase I Site
- Phase II Site
- Fruit Gardens



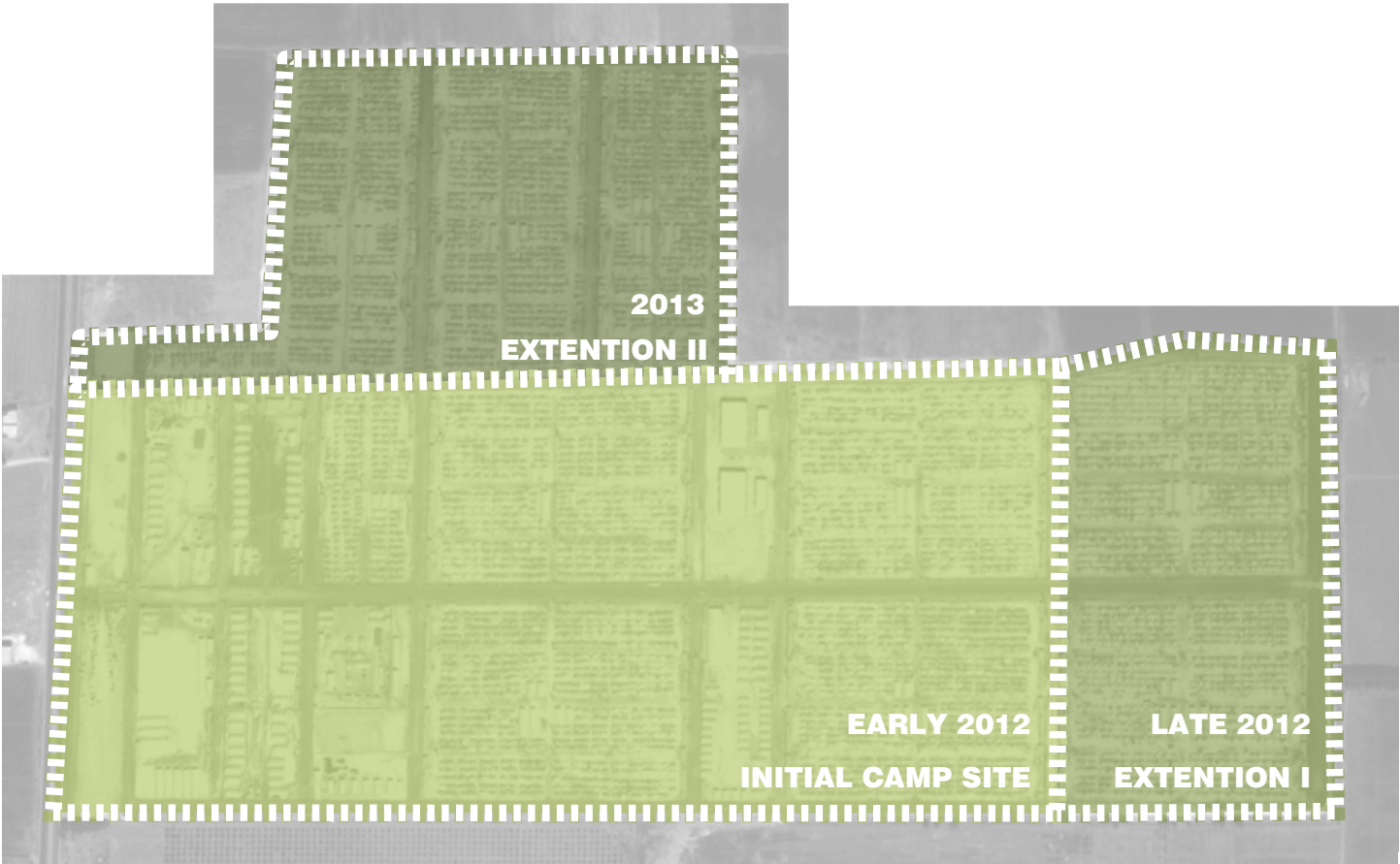


Suleyman Sah Tentcity currently hosts about 20,000 residents. It is located near Sanliurfa, near Tigris river. It is 5 km away from the Turkey-Syria border. It is placed in the middle of farmlands. The area is known for it's high quality soil, stone work, masonry and ancient civilizations' remains. The soild type and traditional architecture is very similar to the ones in Syria. Likewise, the population in this area of Turkey is mainly Arabic.

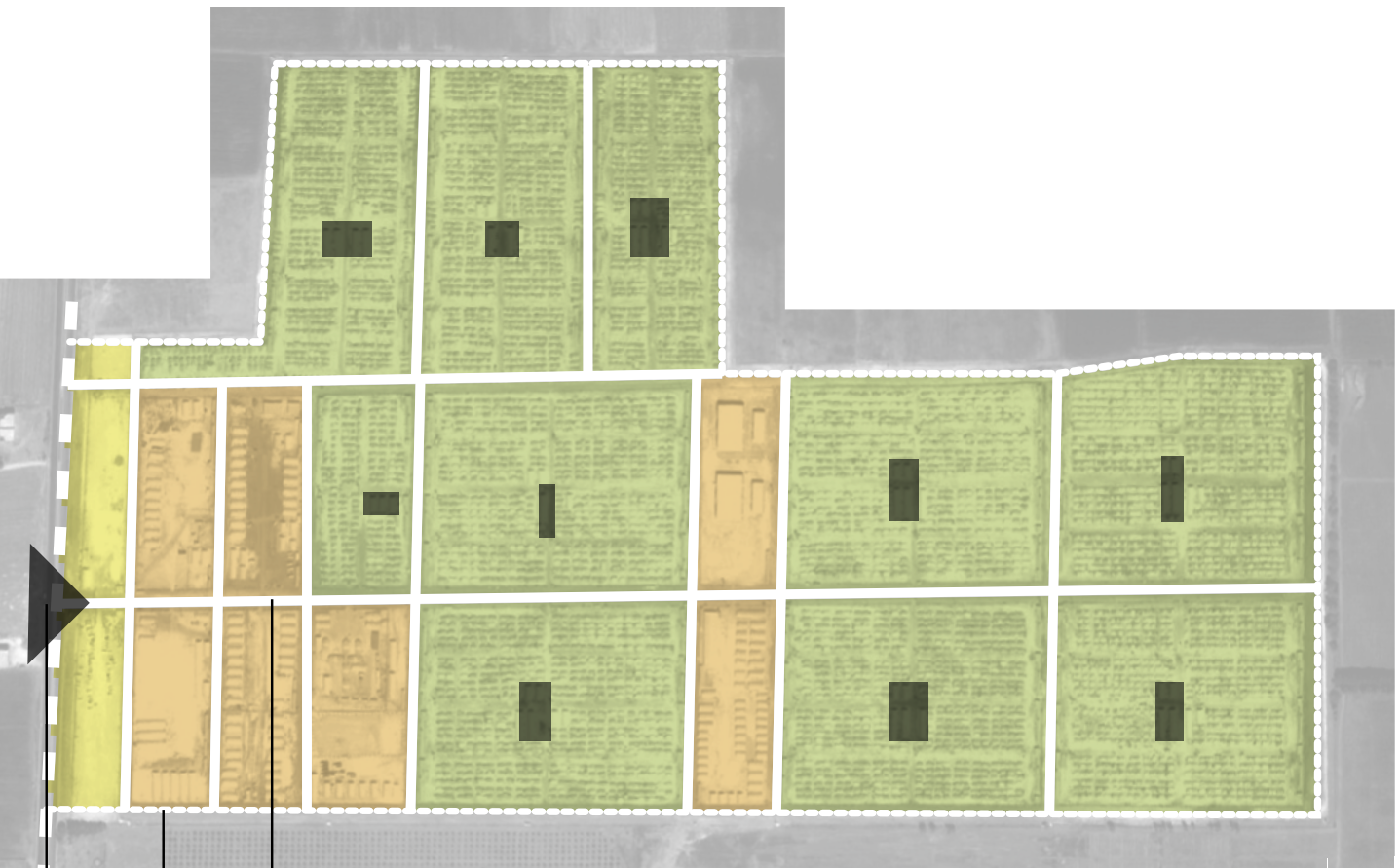


EVOLUTION OF THE TENTCITY OVER TIME

The site is built in three phases. It is built in neighborhoods. Each neighborhood has the right to elect their “mayor”, who is responsible for providing the needs of the neighborhood. There are schools for students of different ages, a super market, a hospital, a mosque, sanitaton units and registration offices. People who live in the camp are not able to find jobs outside the camp. The camp is also remote from the urban areas nearby.



STRUCTURE OF THE CAMP



MAIN ARTERIES

2-3 LAYERS OF FENCES

SITE ENTRANCE

- ENTRY / PARKING
- PUBLIC BUILDINGS
- RESIDENTIAL AREA
- NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER



PROJECT LANGUAGE

Program
Language Development

Use Local Materials

Use of local materials will reduce the cost of buildings as well as the carbon footprint due to low transportation demand. It will benefit the local economy and local people. This may help seeing refugees as a positive thing in the local peoples' mind.

Using local materials will provide an easier way to replace materials that were damaged. Instead of shipping materials from the other end of the planet. By using familiar materials all the time, people can know the materials better, which may lead to more innovative solutions to their existing problems. They can discover new uses to what they have.



Photo by Kazim Kizil / A drawing by a Syrian child

Think Sustainable

This is not to say sustainable for environmental reasons only. This include sustainable economy, sustainable society and sustainable resources.

Considering the status of the refugees and their rights in Turkey, most of them are not allowed to work and get proper education due to the language barrier they are facing. Currently, because the Turkish government treat them as transient, they are not allowed to join to production and the economical system overall. This is a costly perspective for Turkish government. When the government don't allow them to be financially independent, the government is burdened to provide everything the refugees need. This system is not socially and economically sustainable.

Most of the resources provided by the Turkish government is bringing resources from long distances, in massive containers, without taking advantage of the natural, sustainable resources. This can be handled more inexpensive and sustainable than the current stage.

Don't Just Save the Day

Because the refugee crises grows so rapidly, every step we take is towards saving the day. There is no thinking about the bigger picture of the situation, and it only leads to bigger problems for the future.

Today an average time a refugee spends in a refugee camp is 17 years. This is a very long portion of their lives. Looking at the refugee problem and thinking it as a temporary problem that can be fixed with tents and containers is not realistic. By doing so, the world prevents millions of people to reach their full potential. Millions of children don't get enough education. Millions of men and women don't get a chance to explore, innovate or produce within the camps they were trapped for many years.

Refugee camps can't be seen as temporary shelters. They will be there for many years to come, and will be the cities where millions of children will grow up. It should be seen as a village, town or a city, given the high population in the camps. They should be designed in a way that would create room for development for its residents



Photo by Kazim Kizil / A pantomime artist visit a refugee camp in Turkey

Understand the Refugees as Individuals

Unfortunately, when we think of refugees, we think of these people who only need shelter. We tend to forget that they have needs that are more than just survive.

Every refugee is a different person, with different background and different skills. Refugee camps should be seen as one of the most diverse communities, because they are. There are people from different countries, different ethnicities, different towns, different socio-economic background. In a community these values would be seen as richness. However, when we see refugees as just refugees, we fail to understand their true value, and these tent cities true potential.

Empowerment

After many years of war, and terrible treatment of the world towards refugees, and the living conditions of the refugees for many years, refugees had lost the perception of what is tolerable and what is not acceptable. In a society where, deaths, bombs, poverty became normal, people would lose their dignity. It is important to remind them that they are as important as any other person.

It is very difficult to build that kind of personality, when that person is stuck in a refugee camp, with very limited freedom. This is why we need to transform our camps into more livable environment where people create and innovate. The more we let them to achieve, the more they will have self-respect, and courage to create more.



A refugee camp in Turkey

Rebuild

After many years of war, and terrible treatment of the world towards refugees, and the living conditions of the refugees for many years, refugees had lost the perception of what is tolerable and what is not acceptable. In a society where, deaths, bombs, poverty became normal, people would lose their dignity. It is important to remind them that they are as important as any other person.

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“You cannot find peace by avoiding life.”
Virginia Woolf