



IOM-supported Ensar Community Centre organizes activities to enhance social cohesion between Syrian and host communities.

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Migration Stories Make Classical Music History in Vienna

The “Voices of Migration” concert, the first ever musical event of its kind took place in the Rotunda of United Nations Vienna International Centre on 28th June, showcasing the richness of culture and art that migration brings. The highlight of the programme was the world premiere of two dynamic pieces by migrant composers whose musical creations were inspired by their own migration stories and the current migration crisis. One of the works was “Aylan Bebek” for flute and piano by the young Turkish composer Cem Güven. It was inspired by the story of Aylan Kurdi, the three-year-old Syrian boy whose lifeless body, photographed on a Turkish beach after his family’s failed attempt to reach Greece, became an image that shocked the world.

“Migration is a complex issue and one that dominates world news”, said Argentina Szabados, Director of IOM’s Regional Office in Vienna. “All too often we see sensational headlines where migration is portrayed in a negative light. However, there is a more positive story of migration which we wish to tell – and celebrate – here today.”



Young talented composers and musicians are pictured with IOM Regional Director Argentina Szabados and Bärli Nugent, Assistant Dean and Director of Chamber Music of the Juilliard School.

Transportation Programme Makes Education Possible for Syrian Students

Through the support of IOM’s School Transportation Programme, 7,911 Syrian students so far this year were able to get to school and back everyday on 394 buses. The programme targets migrant families living in remote areas of Southeastern Turkey who face difficulties accessing transportation. Currently IOM is helping students get to summer school programmes in Hatay, Sakarya, Mersin and Adana. Summer school provides a real opportunity for Syrian students to catch up on their studies and improve their Turkish language skills before the next school year begins.

To see the impact of IOM’s assistance, IOM Turkey Chief of Mission Lado Gvilava visited Adana in May to watch a football tournament of students from Education Centres served by IOM buses. The students proudly represented their schools in a fierce competition and showcased their talents after months of training and preparation. IOM’s school transportation programme is funded by the EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid – ECHO.



Students on board an IOM bus on their way to school in Adana province.

Syrian Refugee Finds Solace and Safety at Istanbul LGBTI Guesthouse

Growing up a gay man in Aleppo was hard, especially in the conservative neighbourhood where Sammy* lived. In 2014, he fled to Istanbul, Turkey, in search of safety and acceptance. A year later, Sammy met Wajed* and fell in love. They started building their life as a couple. But prejudices began to surface. Both Wajed and Sammy were verbally and physically attacked on several occasions but fearing retaliation they didn't make any complaints to the police. A UN interpreter living nearby put Sammy and Wajed in touch with Kivilcim, the manager of The Trans* Home, a shelter run by trans people. A project of the Istanbul LGBTI Solidarity Association since 2013, it's a home for trans people, who currently have no place to stay, are threatened by violence, as well as LGBTI refugees and asylum seekers from North Africa and the Middle East. IOM, the UN Migration Agency, has supported the guest house with generous support from the US Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) by rehabilitating the building, providing new furniture, a new water system and perhaps most importantly, new security cameras to increase protection for the guests. According to Trans* house, these renovations have benefitted about 330 individuals, including Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans, and Turkish people. For the first time in their relationship, Wajed and Sammy can live together safely as a couple.



"I love being part of the LGBTI community here," Sammy said.

*The names in this story have been changed to protect identities

Our Stories: Tuba

Tuba always wanted to work in beauty. "Of course I wanted to work here!" she explained enthusiastically, "just like every girl growing up, I loved makeup." Zeki Kozmetik vendors in Gaziantep specializes in hair and beauty products for local businesses. Their customer base was small and local, but customers came at a steady rate. Tuba joined just as Ali's shop began working with IOM's In Kind Grants project. Ali qualified as a reliable businessman who could offer IOM the partnership it needed. The system was simple: Ali received financial support to order to cater to the needs of the new Syrian businesses who would be directed to his shop for their supplies. Tuba was the first of five new staff members that joined the business last year to cater to growing demand. The business has also expanded into the shop space next door, with an extremely healthy Turkish and Syrian customer base. Tuba tells us she hopes to keep working in the shop in the future.



IOM Facilitates Greater Labour Market Integration of Foreign Workers in Turkey

IOM is currently supporting the integration of foreign workers in Turkey in two main ways. The first initiative is in partnership with the ILO on a UN Joint Programme- funded by the European Union Trust Fund (MADAD)- to promote labour market integration of Syrians and host communities in Turkey. Together with the International Trade Centre, IOM will support and train Syrian and host community members to develop their innovative business ideas through the support of an Entrepreneurship Training Programme in eight provinces across Turkey starting in Autumn of this year.

In addition, IOM, is working with the Turkish Directorate General on International Labour under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS), to facilitate the integration of seasonal Georgian migrant workers into the agricultural sector in the Black Sea region. These workers are helping cope with active harvests from tea and hazelnut plantations.



A young entrepreneur brings her business idea to life through IOM's support.

In an effort to inform governmental authorities, including mayors, governors and district governors about worker registration procedures for seasonal migrant workers from Georgia, IOM and the DG on International Labour conducted six scoping missions in Artvin, Rize, Giresun, Ordu, Trabzon, and Samsun provinces. During these missions, informative brochures designed and published in Turkish and Georgian, were shared with local authorities.

Activities Supporting Migrant Integration across Southeastern Turkey

IOM's Mobile Psychosocial Support (PSS) Teams held a range of recreational and social activities this quarter for both migrant and host communities in rural areas of Southeastern Turkey to support integration. Activities included cooking events, museum trips, and picnics for Syrian and Turkish women and children in Belen, Hatay, Siverek, Bozova and Sanliurfa. PRM-funded Mobile PSS Teams also organized a kite festival in Belen to celebrate National Sovereignty and Children's Day in Turkey, heavily attended by migrant and host children and their parents enjoying the long weekend. During the holy month of Ramadan, community events included two iftar dinners in Hatay and Sanliurfa with over 1,400 Syrian and Turkish women, men, boys and girls sitting down to share the tradition of breaking fast together.

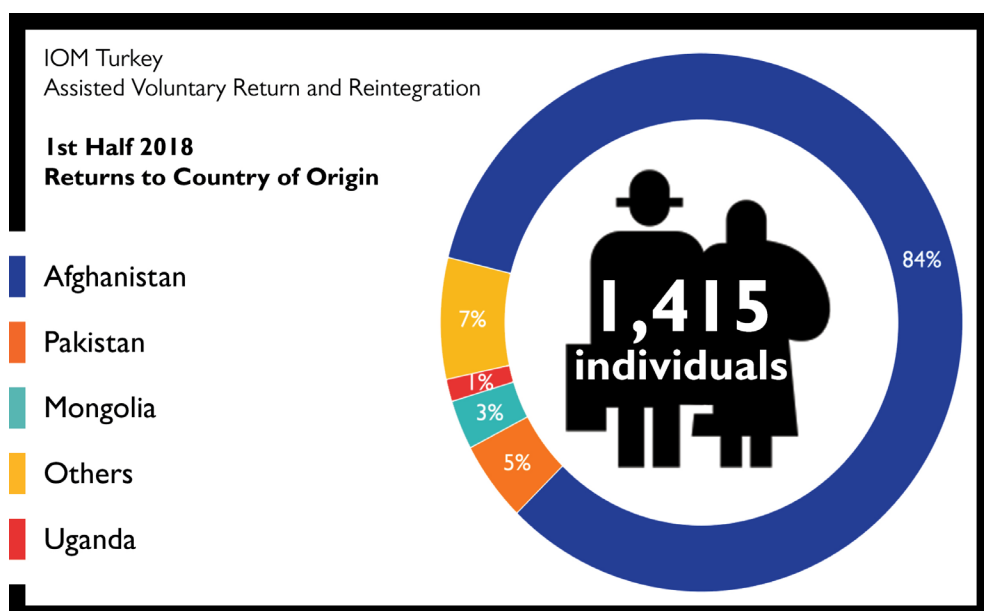


Mobile PSS teams celebrated Children's Day with community activities including arts and crafts and kite-flying.

IOM Assists over 1,400 Migrants to Return Home to Their Countries of Origin

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) is an IOM programme funded by the UK that assists stranded migrants wanting to return to their country of origin, but lacks the means to do so. Beneficiaries of IOM's assistance include:

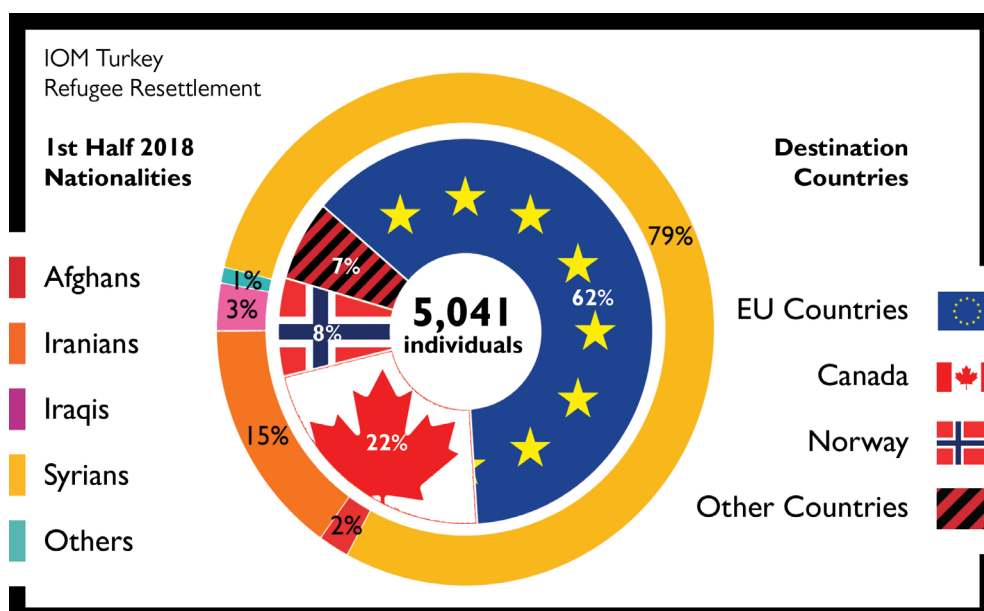
- individuals whose application for asylum was rejected or withdrawn
- stranded migrants
- victims of trafficking, and
- other vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied migrant children, or those with health-related needs.



IOM Resettles Over 5,000 Refugees, Majority to Europe

IOM Turkey handles resettlement programs for the refugees and migrants to more than 20 countries including the USA, Canada, Australia and European Union countries. Programs are funded by a number of donors in relevant countries, including the US State Department, Canadian Immigration Services, and the Australian Government.

IOM has cooperative agreements with these countries to provide specific resettlement service which may include: Case processing, Health Assessments, Pre-Departure Orientation and Movement. Upon arrival, resettlement countries provide refugees with legal and physical protection, including access to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights similar to those enjoyed by nationals.



Migrants and Refugees Increasingly Choosing Turkey as Final Destination

IOM's latest Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS) in Turkey shows that a majority of migrants and refugees leaving their countries of origin have reported Turkey as their intended destination at the time of departure from their country of origin, especially for Syrians. The Survey published on 11th June interviewed 3,173 migrants and refugees in 14 Turkish provinces during the period of 11 December 2017 and 11 February 2018. The majority of Syrian respondents (86%) reported Turkey as their intended destination at the time of departure from their country of origin or habitual residence, followed by Iraqi (68%) and Afghan (64%) nationals. The lowest was among Iranian nationals (29%). As Turkey grapples with hosting an existing 3.8 million registered foreign nationals, migrant flows across its eastern borders are likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Funding for FMS was provided by the US Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.



Afghan migrants in Eastern Turkey having just crossed the Iranian border into Eastern Turkey.

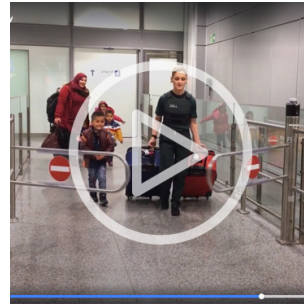
Watch Our Videos!



Syrian and Turkish families celebrate Syrian Mother's Day at Ensar Community Centre.



Ramadan feasts across Southeastern Turkey bring Syrian and host communities together through common tradition.



IOM's Family Assistance Programme reunites migrants with relatives resettled in Germany.



IOM refurbished a school in Sanliurfa for Syrian and Turkish children.



*For iOS users, scan the QR Code with your camera
For Android users, download the QR Code Reader App and scan the code

IOM Turkey's Activities are Supported by:

