IOM TÜRKİYE | 2023

EAST, SOUTHEAST AND MEDITERRANEAN (ESEM) REGION



OVERVIEW

IOM has been working in Türkiye for over three decades, having established its presence in 1991. In 2004, Türkiye became a full-fledged member state of IOM. As the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration, IOM supports the Government to promote safe, orderly and regular migration.

As one of IOM's largest missions worldwide, IOM Türkiye's programmes focus on addressing the challenges of migration while leveraging the opportunities it brings for sustainable development. This scope of work includes protecting migrants and promoting resilience, improving their health and wellbeing, advancing livelihoods and labour mobility, fostering integration and social inclusion, strengthening border management, and conducting research to inform policymaking. Furthermore, IOM supports the resettlement of refugees to third countries through movement operations, health assessment and cultural orientation.

IOM plays a leading role in emergency response – having responded to the Syrian crisis and its refugee outflows to Türkiye since 2012, delivered cross-border humanitarian assistance to Northwest Syria since 2014, and supported response and recovery efforts following the February 2023 earthquakes that heavily impacted the region on both sides of the Türkiye-Syria border. These programmes are primarily overseen through IOM's presence in the East, Southeast and Mediterranean (ESEM) Region, which includes a sub-office in Gaziantep and field offices in Adana, Adiyaman, Hatay, Malatya, and Şanlıurfa.

KEY PROGRAMMES



EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

IOM has played a leading role in response efforts in Türkiye and Northwest Syria following the February 2023 earthquakes and is currently supporting long-term recovery of affected communities. IOM dispatched over 2.5 million relief items in both countries in the subsequent six months. Its response covers shelter and non-food items; temporary settlement support (TSS); water, sanitation and hygiene; health; protection; cash and livelihoods. Furthermore, IOM co-chairs the UN Earthquake Solutions and Analysis Team (ESMAT) and the TSS Sector within the Inter-Sector Coordination Group.



REFUGEE RESPONSE

Aligned to the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan, IOM is part of a coordinated effort to provide humanitarian assistance to Syrians under temporary protection, as well as other migrants and refugees. This assistance includes attending to basic needs, cash-based interventions, economic empowerment, education, mental health and psychosocial support, shelter and more. IOM has also assisted municipalities to establish migrant and community centres to facilitate access to services and has established a state-of-the-art Resilience Innovation Facility hosted by the University of Gaziantep building capacity, knowledge, and skills in the field of science and technology for migrant and host community youth in Gaziantep. Overall, IOM's initiatives foster greater social cohesion among migrants, refugees and host communities.



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CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS

Since 2014, IOM has been delivering lifesaving humanitarian assistance to Northwest Syria, with a focus on the procurement, storage, shipment and distribution of relief items. The IOM multi-sectoral programme includes dignified shelter, provision of non-food items (NFI), improvement in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); camp coordination and camp management (CCCM); protection services; health interventions; food security; and early recovery and livelihoods. Through its 16,000 m2 warehouse in Burc, Gaziantep, IOM operates an extensive logistics and supply chain management system to ensure proper management of emergency stocks at its warehouses and commodity tracking until point of delivery in Northwest Syria. IOM further works with implementing partners in Northwest Syria to ensure that standards and protocols are followed during the implementation of all its activities, through close coordination and provision of capacity development support.

THEMATIC AREAS OF WORK



ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND LABOUR INTEGRATION

IOM supports the Government to develop a comprehensive and human rights-based labour migration management system. This involves assessing foreign labour needs in Türkiye, advocating for the rights and registered employment of migrant workers, promoting formal employment, and supporting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.



HARMONIZATION

IOM supports national harmonization efforts to promote social cohesion between migrant and host communities. Through its technical expertise, IOM offers policy support and capacity building, promotes community engagement and develops supportive infrastructure and services for migrants.



IMMIGRATION AND BORDER GOVERNANCE

IOM supports the Government to further develop legal, institutional and managerial capacities to strengthen border management policies and structures in line with international best practices. The aim is to reduce irregular migration and cross-border crime, facilitate regular migration and the protection of migrant rights, build capacity for humanitarian border management, and enhance international cooperation.



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MIGRATION HEALTH

IOM is committed to promoting the physical, mental and social well-being of migrants by offering comprehensive, preventive and curative health services. Health is an integrated component of IOM's overall humanitarian response, with a focus on health system recovery and assistance to crisis-affected populations. IOM further carries out pre-migration health activities (PMHA) for migrants and refugees resettling to third countries, in order to ensure continuum of care and minimize the potential public health risks of human mobility.



PROTECTION

IOM provides vulnerable migrants comprehensive protective and assistance services, taking into account the factors that contributed to their vulnerability and developing tailored responses. A key focus is on preventing trafficking in persons, protecting victims, and building authorities' counter-trafficking capacities, including in prosecuting perpetrators. Furthermore, IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme facilitates the dignified return and reintegration of migrants who are unable or unwilling to remain in host or transit countries and wish to return voluntarily to their countries of origin.





Data and Research – IOM conducts a broad range of research to enhance the evidence base on migration and promote evidence-based policymaking and dialogue. Through its Migrant Presence Monitoring (MPM) programme, IOM works with authorities to collect data on migrant/refugee presence and flows and improve information management capacities. Further, IOM employs its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tool to conduct data collection activities, including site mappings and needs assessments, in earthquake-affected areas. This approach empowers humanitarian partners to implement a well-informed response guided by substantiated data and evidence.



Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Risk Reduction – IOM aims to carry out advocacy and research to better identify the linkages between impact of climate change and migration. This will support stakeholders to design appropriate interventions to support climate change adaptation and migrants impacted by environmental degradation.



Migration Governance – IOM supports the Government to strengthen its migration governance framework, in particular to implement the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), of which Türkiye is a Champion Country. The country's UN Network on Migration was established in 2021 and is the primary platform for coordinated UN support to the Government's GCM commitments and overall policy priorities.



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MAP OF ACTIVITIES























