



*IOM DG William L. Swing visits Turkey for the handover ceremony of six search and rescue vessels to the Turkish Coast Guard*

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## International Migrants Day Events in Turkey

On 19 and 20 December, IOM hosted three events in partnership with Gaziantep and Keçiören Municipalities in celebration of International Migrants Day. In a packed auditorium at Gaziantep Municipality, about 800 migrant and Turkish families, as well as local government and IOM staff, gathered to watch films being screened as part of IOM's Global Migration Film Festival. The audience heard the Gaziantep Youth Choir, composed of Syrian and Turkish youth.

About 400 people attended the event at Keçiören including Abdulsamad, an Iraqi migrant who came with his wife and family. They brought a bright red cake with the emblem of the Turkish flag as a gift to thank the centre's staff for helping them enroll their children in school. "It is almost like home here (in Turkey). We found peace and respect which we cannot even find in our own country at the moment," he said.



*Abdulsamad, his family and Centre staff come together to cut the cake the family brought as a gift to say thank you for all of the support they received.*

## Why Gaziantep Still Matters Seven Years After Start of the Syrian Conflict

IOM Deputy Director General Laura Thompson travelled to Gaziantep of 1.9 million to see how it has coped over the years, meet with the Mayor, and visit IOM project sites. "We appreciate the efforts of the Government and people of Turkey to provide essential services for migrants and refugees," said Ambassador Thompson. "Gaziantep is a successful example of a municipality improving migrants' well-being and fostering social cohesion."

After her meeting with the Mayor, Ambassador Thompson visited Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality's Ensar Community Centre which IOM has been supporting with funding from the Japanese Government since mid-2017. Ambassador Thompson met with young people and women of all ages engaged in a range of activities from mosaic-making to painting, cooking and sports (taekwondo, handball, basketball).

"The Gaziantep Municipality values IOM's support of our initiatives such as the Ensar Community Centre," said Mayor Şahin. This support has played a crucial role in helping to develop our institutional capacity to effectively address migrants' needs."



*Ambassador Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General of IOM (right), with Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep*

## International Women's Day Event: Talk for Equality. Time is Now!

The United Nations agencies in Turkey called for equality everywhere at the International Women's Day event in Ankara. "In 1975 all governments agreed there is need for equality so they declared March 8th International Women's Day. If there was no inequality there would be no need for such a day" said Resident Coordinator Irena Vojáčková-Sollorano opening the event. Sollorano emphasized that women play a role for each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and continued, "For this reason we need to work together to achieve these goals. This way we can reach days of women and men in partnership." The event ended with the opening of the photography exhibition featuring women's portraits. Included were photos by IOM of olive production training, farming, in-kind grants and livelihoods activities for the empowerment of women.



*Photos from IOM Turkey exhibited at the Talk for Equality event at Cer Modern, Ankara*

## Strategy and Policy for Displacement and Mobility Tracking

IOM's Regional Director Argentina Szabados was in Istanbul in February at a meeting of senior directors to discuss the global use of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). Some of the discussions focused on Turkey, where the UN Migration Agency is running some of the biggest and most complex relief operations it has ever undertaken in the affected region.

"We cover 25 provinces in Turkey with our Displacement Tracking Matrix, and the data collected is helping provide more information on migrants and refugees' access to essential services," noted Ms Szabados.

Participants shared ideas for building staff capacity through mentorship programmes, and how to brand and publicize DTM more effectively so that it becomes more visible and within and outside the United Nations.



*IOM's Regional Director Argentina Szabados addresses the global DTM meeting in Istanbul*

## Countering Tough Winter Conditions in Record Time

IOM Turkey scaled up its Non-Food Item (NFI) and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) operations in partnership with S/NFI and CCCM cluster partners to respond to harsh winter conditions and the escalating violence in northern Syria. IOM's winter response served over 88,000 vulnerable displaced people in 2017/18. 342 truckloads of NFI items were transported to northern Syria by the end of 2017 with 400 planned arrivals for early 2018.

As part of its winterization activities, IOM distributed 67,000 winter clothing kits and 10,700 NFI kits including mattresses, blankets, jerry cans, solar lamps, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, plastic sheets, baby diapers and carpets through 11 local implementing partners across 17 locations. IOM also responded to the shelter needs of displaced families by providing 1,775 new tents, 18,412 plastic sheets and 431,715 square meters of insulation material. Activities covered 32 IDP camps/informal settlements and benefited a total of 9,206 households. Additionally, through its emergency common pipeline, IOM procured, stored and transferred 28,823 NFI kits to humanitarian partners. According to the SNFI Cluster, this was the first time in the seven-year crisis that winter items were delivered before the end of the year.



*Winterization activities provide much-needed support for families dealing with harsh weather conditions*

## Working with Refugees and Migrants Rescued at Sea

IOM continues to provide Psychosocial Support (PSS), interpretation, food and Non-Food Item (NFI) assistance to refugees and migrants rescued at sea through our partnership with the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG). When compared with the initial two weeks of March, a 200% increase of refugees and migrants in need was reported by the IOM mobile team in Dikili, who provided support to 462 individuals between 26-31 March alone. IOM currently maintains a presence in Çeşme, Küçukkuyu and Dikili, whilst assistance is also provided through the TCG in Kuşadası. In 2018, IOM has supported 3,030 migrants and refugees with food and non-food item (NFI) assistance, 2,100 with PSS, 31 with recreational activities and 3,397 with interpretation assistance. IOM also works to identify refugees and migrants with special needs and refers them to national organization and institutions for support, 135 of whom have been referred since January 2018. Nearly half of the referrals were medical cases, with the remaining referred for legal counselling, family re-unification and some were cases of separated and unaccompanied children.

Alongside humanitarian support, IOM Turkey and IOM Director General William Lacy Swing handed over six state-of-the-art search and rescue vessels to enhance capacity of the Turkish Coast Guard on 24 February. Recent video footage of the rescue of 42 Syrians from a sinking boat in the Aegean Sea underlines the imminent need for increased support to safeguard the lives of the thousands that have attempted the fraught crossing in recent years. The vessels, specifically designed for search and rescue operations, can operate under harsh weather conditions and have the capability to right themselves when capsized and so far 578 migrants and refugees at sea have been rescued in them. To accompany the boats, IOM trained 629 TCG staff on topics such as international migration law, counter-migrant smuggling and human trafficking.



*A rescued migrant girl received assistance from IOM*

## Bilateral Consultation between IOM and the Government of Turkey

During 6-8 March, a high-level delegation from Turkey met with the DG Swing, IOM's senior staff and Chief of Mission in Geneva to discuss IOM-Turkey cooperation. A successful partnership spanning over 25 years, IOM and the Government of Turkey have collaborated to develop and implement solutions for migration management and deliver essential humanitarian assistance in response to the ongoing Syria crisis. H.E. Ambassador Mehmet Samsar, Director General for Consular Affairs from Turkey's MFA, and H.E. Ambassador Naci Kuru, PR of the Mission of Turkey to the UN Office in Geneva, assured IOM of the Government's commitment to supporting and enabling the continuation of IOM activities including refugee response (3RP), resettlement, migration management, and cross-border operations.

This wide variety of programming takes place in 16 different locations across the country and demonstrates the exponential growth of the IOM Turkey mission since 2014.



*IOM's DG William L. Swing and H.E. Ambassador Mehmet Samsar*

## Enhancing Integration at National and Local Levels

This quarter, IOM worked in cooperation with the Turkish government to share its technical expertise through various projects under its integration programme. In collaboration with the Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM), IOM continues to facilitate the integration of migrants and refugees living in Turkey by running migrant services centres in Keçiören-Ankara and Şanlıurfa. These centres conduct activities that increase knowledge and awareness of migrants' rights, the political situation in Turkey, social and economic systems and culture. These efforts support the implementation of integrated public services and awareness-raising campaigns that strengthen the capacities of local authorities and promote social cohesion.

## Continued Support for Integrated Border Management

In October 2017, as part of the EU-TR-funded project “Regional Co-operation on Border Management with Greece and Bulgaria Phase 2 (RCBM)”, a project launch and first project steering committee meeting was held in Ankara to coordinate with all involved parties. The project aims to support Turkey’s border management efforts by enhancing cross-border cooperation with Greece and Bulgaria. IOM’s border management team also began field work at the eastern and southern borders of Turkey alongside the Ministry of Interior. The UK-funded project “Integrated Border Management Assessment (IBM) in Turkey” will provide valuable information to build the most appropriate response to managing Turkey’s most challenging borders.



*Habur Border crossing point between Turkey and Iraq*

### Our Stories: Delbaz

Delbaz from Al-Hasakeh had been living in Turkey for some time when the Syrian crisis began. He decided to dedicate his time to supporting Syrian integration through art. He volunteered as a teacher for Ensar Community Centre run by Gaziantep Municipality. “It was hard at the beginning, as many students didn’t want to sit next to their Turkish and Syrian counterparts and didn’t want to talk to each other. I encouraged many of them to work together on one painting to break down those walls”, an approach that worked incredibly well. Six months later, Ensar Community Centre received funds from IOM and Japan to support existing classes and expand activities. To the delight of Delbaz, it was now possible to pay volunteers a salary so he could dedicate more of his time and energy to the Centre and his classes. “I feel proud of those young artists and how they got along with each other. I want to continue working on integration through the arts at Ensar”.



## Commitment to Migration Management in Turkey

IOM Turkey launched its first Steering Committee meeting for EU-TR co-funded project “Supporting Turkey’s Efforts to Manage Migration” with the participation of representatives from Ministry of Interior Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), European Delegation to Turkey (EUD), Central Finance and Contracts Unit, along with members of other relevant institutions on 5 December 2017. During the opening ceremony of the meeting, Tomasso de Cataldo (IOM Turkey Programme Manager) stressed the importance of working together to “increase the positive aspects of migration, which promotes humane, orderly migration and boosts economic growth for the benefit of all”. The members of the steering committee focused on continued close cooperation and committing to a result-oriented approach for migration management. Such activity aims to contribute to the establishment of a more comprehensive and structured Migration Management system in Turkey.

## Shelter Rehabilitation Benefiting 8,600 Migrants

In addition to health, water, nutrition, and sanitation, shelter is an essential component of survival in a post-disaster environment. Shelter not only provides physical protection from the elements, but also privacy, dignity and psychosocial well-being. The IOM Shelter Unit helps vulnerable migrants, refugees and host community members. With an interest in providing a better living area and protection from the cold weather during winter, the IOM SSU Team is creating a total of 1,250 shelters (250 of which were already rehabilitated with a further 1,000 undergoing rehabilitation post assessment in December), improving the living conditions of 8,600 beneficiaries. As part of this project IOM offers the opportunity for beneficiaries to earn cash for work and gain skills by participating in the rehabilitation process.



*New windows provide insulation and privacy in beneficiary homes*

## Building Bridges through Mobile Outreach

Our Mobile Outreach Teams reached 227 individuals in the last three months through a range of activities. Four different groups in Hatay and Sanliurfa, made up of 31 Syrian and 27 Turkish beneficiaries, took part in a course of structured group sessions designed to offer psychosocial support (PSS) to people living in underserved areas in the provinces. Each course was based around the specific needs of the participants and was offered in 'safe spaces', specifically chosen based on their accessibility in terms of security, location and social suitability. All participants expressed their satisfaction in being given the rare opportunity to be listened to and to express their feelings, opinions and challenges during the course. Following the group session in Sanliurfa, a number of participants from one group went on to attend a Turkish language course together with neighbours in their communities after a referral to a Public Education Centre by IOM staff. Mobile outreach also offered ten awareness and information dissemination activities based on the stated needs of the beneficiaries. Activities were conducted to provide information on family law, temporary protection regulation, reproductive health and child protection. Within the department, a range of training activities took place, building staff capacity in Sanliurfa in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) basics, international guidelines, IOM's policy of MHPSS interventions and how to work with migrants and refugees. IOM volunteers also took part in half-day workshops on how to work with migrants and refugees and how to conduct house visits.



*Young Syrian and Turkish beneficiaries getting to know each other*

## Human Rights in Removal Centres

Through various projects, IOM continues to support the Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) in ensuring the human rights of migrants in Removal Centres. Numerous capacity building activities were carried out for different projects from October – December, including five one-day Human Rights training programmes. The activities were organized as part of the project "Supporting Turkey in Establishing a Human Rights based and Effective System for Implementation of the EU-Turkey Readmission Agreement Project", funded by the Netherlands Embassy. 104 security and service personnel of Removal Centres took part in the programmes in Gaziantep and Antalya. IOM also organized various capacity building programmes for DGMM staff under the UK funded project "Supporting DGMM's Efforts in Enhancing Administrative Capacity and Material Conditions of Removal Centres within the Framework of Human Rights Standards". 54 DGMM experts working in removal centres attended a five-day course on "Strengthening Administrative Capacity" in Ankara. 229 security personnel of Erzurum, Kırklareli and Van Removal Centres attended a 2-day training course on "Human Rights and Removal Centre Management". In addition to the delivery of capacity building services, IOM also procured clothes, wheel chairs, cradles and stretcher trolleys to be distributed to Removal Centres in 19 provinces.

## Children's Art Exhibition as a Successful Example of the Social Cohesion

IOM has been supporting Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality's Ensar Community Centre with funding from the Japanese Government since mid-2017. In February, IOM and Gaziantep Municipality opened an art exhibit in Ankara by Ensar Community Centre where 200 Syrian and Turkish youth created works of art together to give a successful example of the social cohesion between local Turkish and migrant communities.

"At a time when Turkey is the country hosting the largest number of Syrians in the world, and when many other countries are turning their backs on the displaced - we are here today to celebrate the excellent initiative of the Municipality of Gaziantep to provide opportunities for migrant children and their families to lead engaging and productive lives," said Lado Gvilava, IOM Turkey Chief of Mission at the opening ceremony of Ensar Community Centre's Children's Art Exhibition in Ankara.



*Opening ceremony of the exhibition attended by Japanese Ambassador Akio Miyajima; Lado Gvilava, IOM Turkey Chief of Mission; Abdullah Aksoy, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality Head of Health and Social Services Department (from left to right)*

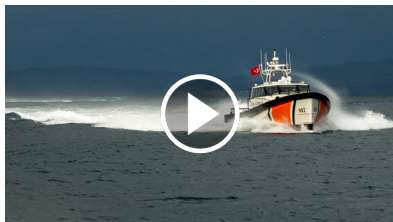
## Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments

Since April 2017, IOM in collaboration with UNDSS, has been carrying out Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments (SSAFE) Training in Gaziantep. The OCHA-funded programme provides essential security and safety awareness training to all UN and associated personnel operating in areas of high risk. A total of 237 humanitarian staff took part in the training in 2017. Parallel to SSAFE, the IOM Security Coordination and Training Officer has been providing essential First Aid (IFAK) training programmes mission-wide. From October to December 2017, 46 UN staff members were trained in Istanbul, Ankara and Gaziantep.



*SSAFE training prepares trainees for a range of challenging circumstances*

## Watch Our Videos!



IOM supports the Turkish Coast Guard to curb irregular migration and rescue migrants at sea



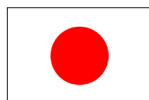
Opening ceremony of Ensar Community Centre's Children's Art Exhibition in Ankara



Global Migration Film Festival in Turkey

\*For iOS users, scan the QR Code with your camera  
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 Birlik Mahallesi, Şehit Kurbanı Akboga Sokak,  
 No:24, 06610 Çankaya, Ankara Turkey