

HUMAN INTEREST STORY

COVID-19: Semah's wake up call.

"I do not want to be a regular housewife anymore. I have my dreams and I want to achieve them so I can be useful to others in my community as well as to feel satisfied with myself. The COVID-19 pandemic was a wake-up call for me, I realized that I had to change my situation and do something meaningful with my life," said Semah, a Syrian mother of four children.

Semah has been living in Kilis, Turkey, for eight years with her husband and four children. When the pandemic hit Turkey in March 2020, Semah's husband's job got affected and this affected the income of the family. Semah had been taking some free sewing classes at a nearby community center to keep her occupied during the day but had never a chance to use her skills to raise income for the family.

That changed in April 2020 when IOM provided sewing machines and raw materials to the Kilis municipality as a way to help meet

the demand for free face masks at hospitals and markets in the city. The initiative was also a way to provide job opportunities for the unemployed people with sewing skills from both host and refugee communities.

Semah was one of the women selected to work on the project. "I feel proud," she said. "I am no longer just a consumer in this community because I am taking part in fighting the pandemic. It made me realize that I can do more for the community that received me and made me feel safe after experiencing the terror of war in my country," Semah added.

In addition to helping her community by producing the masks, the income Semah has been earning is also helping her family through this tough period when her husband is working less hours. When the pandemic ends, Semah would like to pursue her studies and work hard on opening a center for training and educating women from both communities.

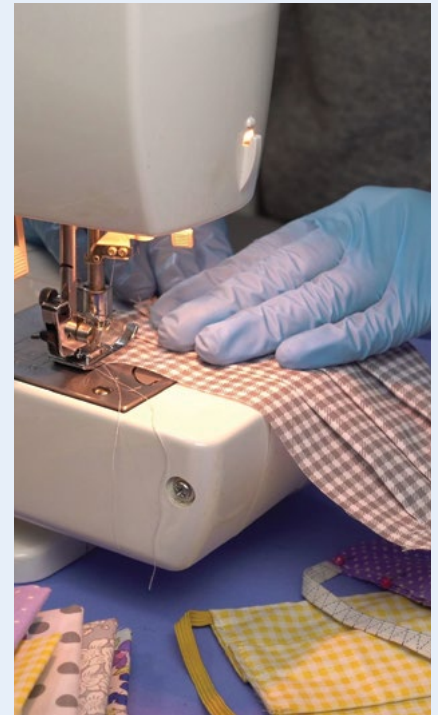
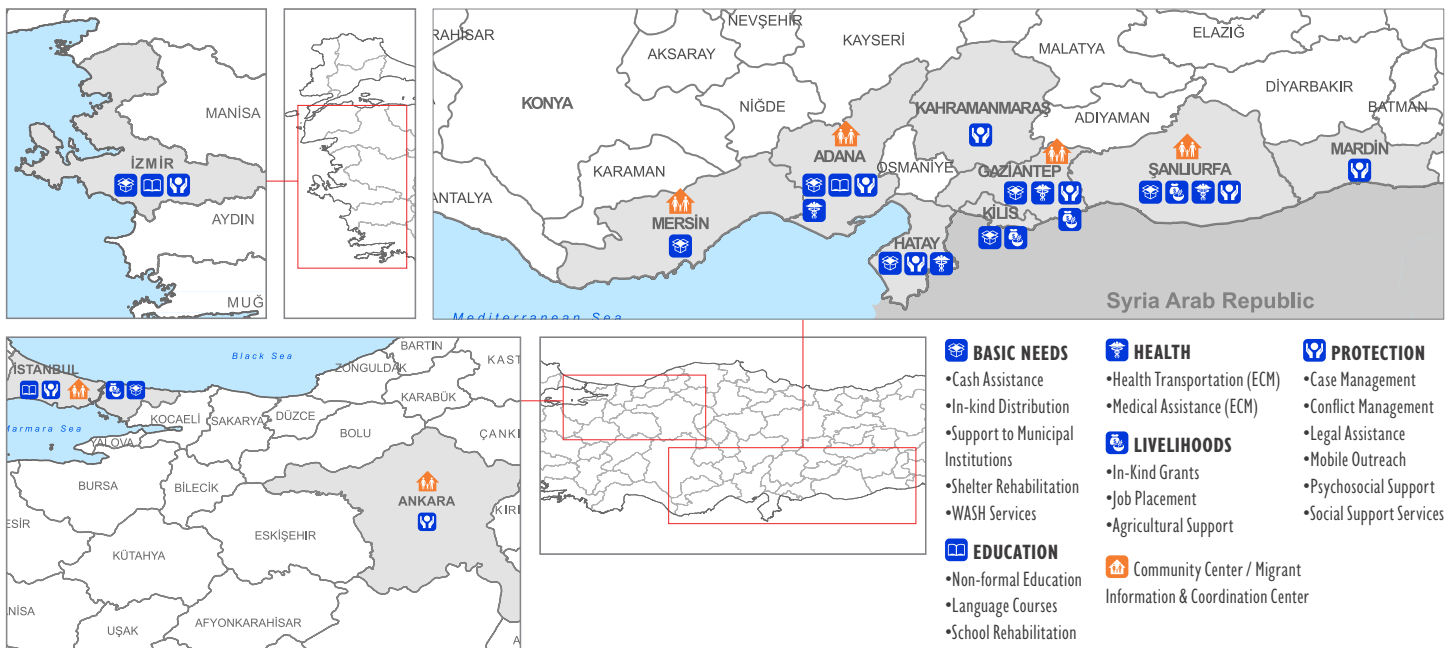


Photo © IOM 2020

Semah makes a cloth face mask using a sewing machine donated by IOM.

According to the Turkish Directorate General of Migration Management, there are currently over 3.6 million Syrians Under Temporary Protection in Turkey who fled as a result of the ongoing conflict. Since March 2012, IOM Turkey has been part of a coordinated effort of UN Agencies, NGOs and government partners, providing humanitarian assistance including basic health and social services to

help migrants, refugees and the host community live a better and more stable life. Through strong partnerships with municipalities across 17 provinces, IOM's initiatives are fostering greater social cohesion among migrants, refugees and host communities. Through these efforts, IOM is actively developing the capacity of government partners to create sustainable solutions for managing migration in Turkey.



HIGHLIGHTS

EMERGENCY CASE MANAGEMENT

The Emergency Case Management team received referrals from internal units and other organizations for support to cases, as well as responding to cases identified in the field. IOM's programming was able to fill gaps in other agencies Case Management response due to its flexibility and often acting as the last resort. This was especially pertinent for support during COVID-19 where other agencies had minimized their footprint but IOM's ECM team continued to provide case management services remotely. During the reporting period, IOM responded to 250 cases supporting 272 beneficiaries with much needed assistance.

COMMUNITY CENTER / MIGRANT INFORMATION & COORDINATION CENTER

IOM's Migrant Municipality and Community Centers located in Adana, Gaziantep, and Şanlıurfa continued to play a vital role in linking vulnerable refugee, migrant, and host communities with ongoing government and non-governmental services during the COVID-19 pandemic. As its impacts restricted visits to the respective centres, the teams adapted their informational counselling and referral programming to provide a continuation of services through telephone and other online platforms. In total, through the three centers, IOM was able to reach 13,343 individuals with much needed information on COVID-19 protective measures, reducing the risk of infection, and referring to internal IOM units and external partners for more complete service delivery. IOM and the Municipality of Mersin have agreed to open another Center in Mersin City, which will become operational in due course. In addition, IOM maintains a similar Center in Ankara/Kecioren, and also supports the International Blue Crescent in running such Center in Istanbul.

COMMUNITY STABILIZATION

- IOM provided sports equipment to Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (FLSS) supported Youth Center in Hatay. The center provides services to members of the refugee and host community.
- 16 Shelters were rehabilitated in İzmir and assessments of other shelters in need of rehabilitation is ongoing in İzmir, Hatay and Şanlıurfa.
- 60 beneficiaries were selected in Hatay for the Business Development Service (BDS) training under cash grant project.
- A new entrepreneurship training project was setup in partnership with Gaziantep University, training teams of Syrian and Turkish students on business skills. The projects aims to provide a grant of TL 200,000 to the top two teams who will win the competition for the best business ideas.
- MOUs to setup solar drying projects were signed with 7 provinces (Gaziantep, Hatay, Şanlıurfa, Kahramanmaraş, Mersin, Kilis, Adana) and construction of the facilities has started.

2,094,681

BENEFICIARIES
ASSISTED
IN TOTAL
SINCE

THE OPERATIONS BEGAN

394,423

IN TOTAL
BENEFICIARIES
ASSISTED
SINCE

THE BEGINNING OF 2020

BENEFICIARIES THIS QUARTER:

52,156

İZMİR
SUB-OFFICE

40,763

ŞANLIURFA
SUB-OFFICE

27,818

ADANA
SUB-OFFICE



162,787

PROTECTION
36,713

BASIC NEEDS & ESSENTIAL SERVICES
125,761

EDUCATION
244

LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY
69



7 PROVINCES



21 PARTNERS

COVID-19 RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

20,865

ASSISTED
HOUSEHOLDS
IN TOTAL



10,615 Hygiene Kits



2,600 Hand Sanitizers



55 Thermometers



10,250 Food Baskets



220 Box Masks
(11,000 Pieces)



1,000 Box Gloves
(100,000 Pieces)

COVID-19 RELATED CASH ASSISTANCE

IOM received funding from PRM and Germany to assist between 15,000 and 18,000 families with one-time cash of 1,000 TL in order to respond to COVID related loss of income.

COVID-19 RELATED PPE PROVISION

As part of the response to COVID-19 pandemic, IOM procured and distributed critical Personal Protective Equipment to different to various local governments and stakeholders throughout Turkey. The support provided included Hygiene and Food kits to vulnerable refugees and community members and the provision of materials, equipment and tools to local governments to help combat the virus.

