

OVERVIEW

With a presence since 1991, IOM has been working in Türkiye for over three decades. 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. Moreover, IOM plays a leading role in emergency response – including responding to the Syrian crisis since 2012, delivering cross-border aid to Northwest Syria since 2014, and supporting response and recovery efforts following the February 2023 earthquakes.

From its sub-office in Istanbul, IOM oversees resettlement of refugees to third countries through movement operations, health assessment and cultural orientation. In Istanbul and through its field office in Izmir, IOM provides assistance to migrants for addressing their basic and protection needs and economic empowerment. In Izmir and through its field office in Edirne, IOM further provides assistance to migrants, refugees and host communities – in particular vulnerable migrants in irregular situations along the Aegean coast and the north-western part of Türkiye.

KEY PROGRAMMES



AEGEAN REGION AND WESTERN BORDER RESPONSE

Through presence in Edirne and Izmir, IOM has responded to the need for humanitarian support along the Aegean coast and north-western part of Türkiye by establishing mobile teams, which work with the law enforcement and migration management authorities to provide interpretation assistance, medical first aid, food and non-food items (NFIs), and other available services. IOM strengthens the capacities of the government authorities through training, workshops and equipment, with the aim of enhancing their capacity to combat irregular migration and transnational crime and adopt a victim-centred approach.



REFUGEE RESPONSE

Through its presence in Istanbul and Izmir, and 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, refugees and host communities. This assistance includes basic needs, cash-based interventions, economic empowerment, education and disability inclusion, mental health and psychosocial support, shelter and community stabilization. Overall, IOM's initiatives foster greater social cohesion among migrants, refugees and host communities.

AREAS OF WORK IN TÜRKİYE



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.



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.



RESETTLEMENT AND COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS

Through its presence in Istanbul and Ankara, IOM facilitates the resettlement of refugees nationwide to third countries in coordination with the receiving countries' authorities. IOM supports the selection interview process, visa applications, exit formalities, arranges safe movement to destination countries, and assists at the airport on departure. IOM also conducts medical assessments and provides pre-departure orientation to prepare refugees for life in the resettlement country. Furthermore, IOM supports family reunification movements to third countries and operates the Family Assistance Programme (FAP), which facilitates the reunification of vulnerable migrant families, who are compelled to leave their country of origin, with a person holding protection status in Germany.

CROSS-CUTTING



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.

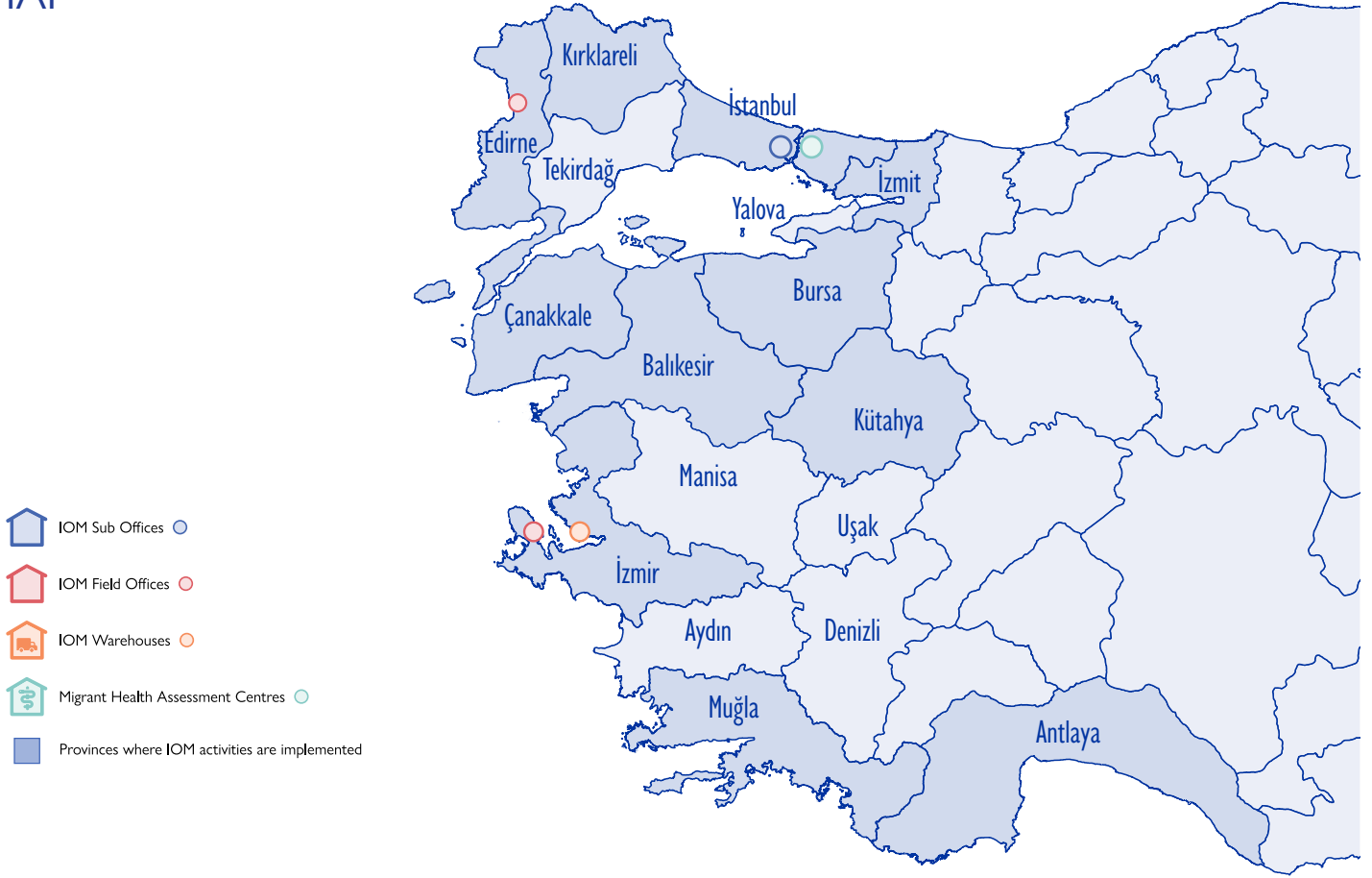


Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Risk Reduction – IOM aims to carry out advocacy and research to better identify the linkages between impact of climate change and migration. This will support stakeholders to design appropriate interventions to support climate change adaptation and migrants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

MAP



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