

GENERAL INFORMATION

The International Organization for Migration assists migrants, refugees, and host communities in Mersin Province in close coordination with local authorities. Two main programme units operate in Mersin under the Refugee Response Programme. The Protection and Resilience Unit (PRU) supports access and provides protection services to migrants, refugees and host communities through the Mersin Municipal Migrant and Community Centre, School Transportation, and Emergency Case Management. The IOM Recovery and Stabilization Unit (RSU) assists migrants and refugees through Cash Based Interventions, Community Stabilization, and Shelter Rehabilitation projects.



Women from Silifke district participate in a thematic session on women's reproductive health organized by the IOM Türkiye-supported Mersin Municipal Migrant and Community Centre.

OPERATIONAL PROJECTS AND UNITS

Protection and Resilience Unit

Municipal Migrant and Community Centre: IOM supports the Mersin Metropolitan Municipality's capacity to serve migrants and refugees through the provision of individual counselling, referral services, and informative sessions on protection, community support, and livelihood opportunities. In addition, socio-cultural activities are conducted to bolster social cohesion between host, migrant, and refugee communities. Between July 2021 and June 2022, the centre reached 6,478 individuals (4,422 women, 2,056 men; 6,246 migrants and refugees, 232 host community members). Furthermore, based on beneficiary feedback, the centre provides free Turkish language courses, in cooperation with the Public Education Centres to promote the further integration of migrants and refugees into society.



The IOM Türkiye-supported Mersin Municipal Migrant and Community Centre organized an awareness raising event to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Emergency Case Management (ECM): ECM targets individuals with specific, multiple vulnerabilities and aims to meet the protection needs of migrants, refugees, and host communities. ECM assisted 83 beneficiaries (35

women, 48 men) with medical items, transportation, legal/documentation/notary, and accommodation support in Mersin. Of those assisted, 88 per cent reported the support improved their life situation due to increased health and wellbeing.

School Transportation: IOM provides school transportation services to disadvantaged children of migrant, refugee, and host communities, in coordination with the Ministry of National Education in Mersin. IOM supported a total of 3,559 students (1,991 girls, 1,568 boys) to promote access to education.



A boy gets off a school bus in Mersin provided within the IOM Türkiye School Transportation project.

Distance Education (EBA): IOM established six school computer labs in Mersin providing 90 integrated desktop computers, 6 laptops, 96 sets of table-chair, and installation of the equipment. The computer labs support migrant, refugee, and host community students who have insufficient socio-economic opportunities to participate in online education.

Recovery and Stabilization Unit

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI):

E-Voucher Market Card Support: To improve vulnerable families' access to food and hygiene items, IOM provided 649 households (3,286 individuals) with one-time unconditional restricted cash assistance via prepaid cards.

COVID-19 response Emergency Cash Assistance: IOM provided one-time cash assistance to 622 families (3,622 individuals) through debit cards to mitigate the direct impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

Winterization Support: 11 vulnerable Syrian families were supported by procuring and delivering school uniforms during winter. In total, 49 individuals benefited from the assistance.

Shelter Rehabilitation: IOM rehabilitated 69 shelters, providing 342 individuals (275 refugees, 67 Turkish) with safer and more dignified shelters, ensuring increased privacy and protection from adverse weather.

Community Stabilization: To support local authorities, IOM upgraded the public education centre used by the migrant, refugee and host communities. An estimated 950 migrant, refugee and host community members benefitted from these upgrades.



The IOM Türkiye-supported Mersin Municipal Migrant and Community Centre hosted an educational session on women's reproductive health.



A woman decorates a tote bag at a handicrafts workshop organized by the IOM Türkiye-supported Mersin Municipal Migrant and Community Centre.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Considering the COVID-19-related needs of migrant, refugee and host communities populations, in Mersin, IOM provided basic needs items including hygiene kits, non-food items and food baskets to local entities who distributed these items to a total of 29,100 vulnerable refugees and migrants and host community members.



10,400
PIECES OF HAND SANITIZERS



50
BOXES OF GLOVES (500 PIECES)



11,200
BOXES OF MASK (560,000 PIECES)



4,850 HYGIENE KITS FOR **29,100** INDIVIDUALS

CAPACITY BUILDING:

- 104 online courses were completed by IOM Mersin staff,
- 6 face-to-face and 1 online capacity-building trainings were organized for IOM and municipality staff



IOM Türkiye and the Mersin Metropolitan Municipality distribute non-food items to some of the most vulnerable beneficiaries.

LOCAL PARTNERS

- Mersin Metropolitan Municipality
- Provincial Directorate of National Education

DONORS

The U.S. Department of State:
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration