



The Turkish Coast Guard hoist the flag for the first time on the vessel.

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€ 20 Million EU Project Supports Turkish Coast Guard to Save More Migrant Lives

On 15 June, the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) received two sophisticated search and rescue vessels that will boost their abilities to rescue even more migrants and refugees as they try to reach Europe. The vessels are part of a € 20 million agreement signed with the European Union and the UN Migration Agency (IOM) to strengthen the operational capacity of the TCG.

Since the beginning of 2015, nearly 1,050,000 migrants and refugees (mostly from Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq) have used Turkey as a launching point to try to reach Europe.

The Turkish government responded to the increased migration flows by rescuing nearly 135,000 migrants and refugees as they tried to make their way to Greece.

The vessels, specifically designed for search and rescue operations, will increase the geographical coverage and frequency of coast guard patrols. These sophisticated vessels are faster and can operate in some of the harshest weather conditions. The boats have the capability to right themselves when capsized and a hydraulic platform will make it easier for the TCG to pull migrants and refugees out of the water, especially for those injured or for those who have already perished.



IOM Chief of Mission Lado Gvilava signs handover documents with Turkish Coast Guard Captain Ahmet Arslan.

IOM, EU & Turkey Cooperate on New € 8.5 Million Migration and Border Management Projects

Millions of migrants and refugees have passed through or settled in Turkey in recent years, with over one million making the sea journey to Greece since 2015. Now the United Nations Migration Agency (IOM) has enhanced its partnership with the Turkish authorities through two new projects funded by the European Union and the Turkish government to the tune of € 8.5 million.

The two projects will increase coordination along Turkey's European borders and strengthen national policies and frameworks relating to migrants and refugees in Turkey. One project - "Supporting Turkey's Efforts to Manage Migration" – is worth € 5.5 million and sets out to help the Turkish government better manage migration by reinforcing migration management capacity, strengthening government institutions and assisting regional governments to work together to understand migratory patterns and challenges.

The other, a € 3 million border management project continues cooperation among Turkey, Bulgaria and Greece to enhance joint actions, strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks and help tackle irregular migration and cross-border crime.



IOM's FAP Continues to Help Families Reunite in Germany

IOM's Family Assistance Programme (FAP) has been extended for another 16 months to assist vulnerable migrants apply for German family reunification visas and avoid dangerous irregular migration across the Mediterranean Sea. During this second phase, FAP will continue to fulfil its aim to dissuade Syrian and Iraqi families from seeking unsafe, irregular migration channels, to support German Consular staff, and to better prepare Syrian and Iraqi beneficiaries to successfully integrate within German society.

So far, FAP has assisted over 162,000 beneficiaries and over 20,000 applicants came to visit the two centres in Turkey.

Our Stories: Abdulrahman

Sixteen year old Abdulrahman and his four younger siblings were five of those supported through the FAP programme. In 2015, Abdulrahman's father was among the one million migrants and refugees who crossed into Europe in search of a safe life for his family. Knowing the risks of the journey, the father made the difficult decision to travel ahead of his children. Alone in Turkey, young Abdulrahman acted as a father-figure to his younger siblings, living in a one bedroom apartment and surviving on money sent back by their father. After the father was granted refugee status in Germany, IOM's FAP programme expedited the process to reunite the children with their father.

“There are no words to express what this means to have my family in a safe country, surrounded by such generous people,” said the father.



Kitting Out the Turkish National Police and Coast Guard

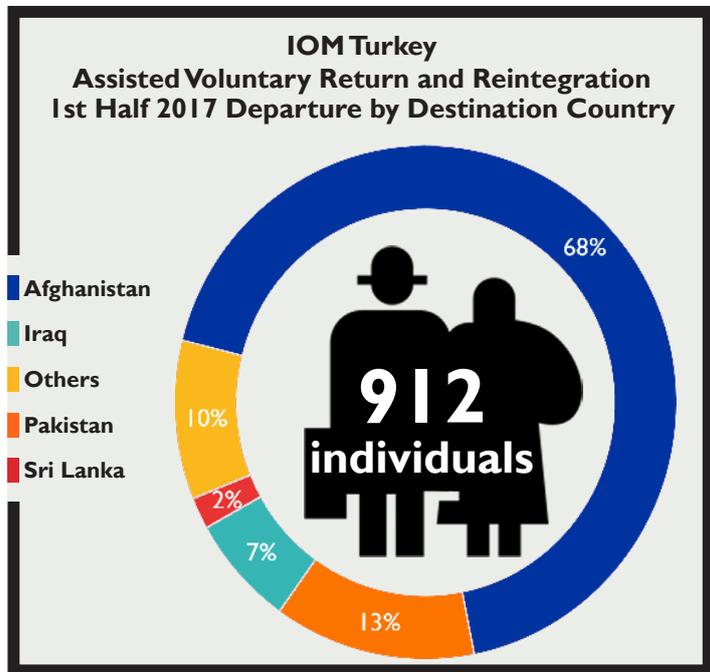
Through three separate UK-funded projects, IOM has delivered equipment to support both the Turkish National Police (TNP) and the Coast Guard Command (TCG). IOM supplied the TNP with specialized passport reading devices and trained staff on its usage in April. Under a separate project, IOM supplied night vision goggles to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking. Lastly, IOM procured rescue equipment for the TCG, including marine rescue platforms, air rescue platforms, rescue stretchers and collapsible rescue baskets.



IOM Integration Programmes Build the Basis for Independent Lives

Integration is about building the basis for independent and active lives for the entire population. It is about promoting equal opportunities for all – both host nationals and migrants- economically, socially and politically. In the last quarter, IOM completed two projects supporting migrant integration in Turkey and launched a new project that will raise migrant's awareness on their rights and responsibilities. In June, IOM finalized an 18-month project that conducted comprehensive research and held events bringing together institutions, municipalities, NGOs, scholars and migrants. This formed the foundation of Turkey's draft Strategy Document and National Action Plan on Harmonization, set to be finalized in 2017.

IOM is also continuing our work to raise awareness among migrants and refugees about their rights, responsibilities, access to services and about life in Turkey. In March, IOM finalized a joint project with the Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) and the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) that developed a harmonization module for migrants and refugees used in MoNE-run career development centres throughout Turkey. Building on that, IOM has begun work on a project supporting Turkey to develop a digital platform specifically for migrants and refugees. By using modern technology, IOM and the Turkish government are working to ensure information is accessible to all migrants and refugees in Turkey. The multi-language online platform will provide information on how to access services (including health, education and daily life), migrant responsibilities, and Turkey's political, social, cultural and economic environment. The state-owned online platform aims to promote social cohesion through public awareness campaigns.



Labour Management Projects Work with Turkey's Priorities for Effective Policies

In May, the UK accepted two new project proposals to support Syrian inclusion in Turkey's labour market and to strengthen labour migration management policies. The project will work within provincial priorities to promote economic development, social inclusion and social cohesion, including a "Field Level Piloting of Labour Migration Management Framework: Sustainable Labour Market Inclusion of Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP) in Gaziantep Project". The pilot aims to improve labour market inclusion of Syrians in Gaziantep, in line with the overall international labour migration management framework. The second project will support Turkey to develop a comprehensive and human rights-based labour migration management system.



Vocational trainings are one way IOM is helping Syrians to increase their employability.

Psychosocial Support Certificate Programme in Turkey Aids War-affected Communities

In July, 33 Turkish and Syrian humanitarian graduates from IOM Turkey's Executive Professional Certificate Program on Psychosocial Support and Conflict Transformation. The programme—the first of its kind in Turkey with the potential to help tens of thousands of refugees living in the country—trained humanitarian providing direct assistance to war-affected communities to cope with distressing experiences and psychosocial challenges.

The five-month course was funded by the U.S. Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) and aimed to foster dialogue, contribute to the resilience of impacted communities, and promote social cohesion between refugees and local residents in Turkey. In collaboration with the Social Sciences University of Ankara, international and Turkish experts delivered psychosocial support, conflict, and arts modular teaching courses in the areas of systemic approaches to psychosocial support, counselling, nonviolent communication, small scale conflict mediation, conflict transformation, drama therapy, social theater and oral history.



Creative approaches for PSS and dialogue was one part of the five-month course.



Construction Underway for Reception/Transit Centres for 43,200 IDPs in Northern Syria

Now in its seventh year, the conflict in Syria has displaced an estimated 5.76 million people internally, with 102,210 displaced in just the month of May. An estimated 1 million IDPs are in formal camps, informal tented settlements or collective centres. Frequently, these IDP sites are the last resort for people who have exhausted all other financial and social assets. Thus, residents in such camp-like settings are among the most vulnerable, with an estimated 85 per cent relying on humanitarian assistance to meet their most basic life-sustaining needs.

IOM is responding to urgent shelter needs by establishing three emergency reception/transit centres in northern Syria. These centres will provide temporary shelter assistance for up to 45 days to newly displaced IDPs until they can find longer-term solutions. Centres will be equipped with multi-sectoral assistance and services including NFIs, protection, WASH, health and nutrition. Construction is already underway for one centre and IOM is holding consultations with local councils regarding land allocation for the other two sites. After their completion, an estimated 43,200 IDPs will live at the three centres.

Additionally, IOM provided training to Syrian humanitarians operating in northern Syria to strengthen their capacity to establish the three reception centres.



A young girl in northern Syria waits as her mother receives an NFI kit supplied by IOM.

Boosting Refugee Access to Health Centres along Turkish-Syrian Border



Syrian patients wait to see a doctor at an IOM-supported clinic in Turkey.

In June, IOM handed over medical equipment worth nearly a quarter million Euros to Turkey's Saraykent Migrant Health Training Centre to provide medical services to approximately 5,600 migrants and refugees each month in Hatay province, on the Turkish-Syrian border. The equipment was funded by the European Union (EU).

“Health is a fundamental right for every person and is one of the building blocks needed for a productive society,” said Lado Gvilava, IOM Turkey Chief of Mission. “A healthy population means children can be in school and adults are able to earn a living.”

The handover of this medical equipment is part of the € 6.7 million project to complement the Turkish government's efforts to provide essential services to migrants and refugees. In addition to providing medical equipment, the project also runs two community centres and one medical clinical reaching both the host community and the Syrian population. Since July 2015, over 190,000 Syrians and local community members have accessed the services.