HUMAN INTEREST STORY: EDUCATION FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

The start of a new school year brings joy to many children. Bergüzar, Sami, and Tarkit from Mersin share this excitement. However, they don’t take access to education for granted. They could have missed the opportunity to study as a result of multiple barriers: the absence of school transportation, high costs of public transport, and safety. IOM Türkiye’s School Transportation Programme makes sure these children get to and from school – safely and on time – everyday!

SUMMARY

In the third quarter of 2022, IOM’s Türkiye’s Refugee Response programme reached a total of 71,952 individuals. The Recovery and Stabilization Unit (RSU) focused on supporting those that have been affected by the ongoing economic crisis in Türkiye, initiating community-building projects in various provinces to foster cohesion, and increasing livelihoods and job opportunities for individuals and families. The Protection and Resilience Unit (PRU) continued to support vulnerable individuals including children with specific education needs, through its Municipal Migrant and Community Centres (MMCCs), Psychosocial Mobile Teams (PMTs), case management, and counselling, referrals, and information sessions to host, migrant, and refugee communities.

397,777
Beneficiaries
Assisted
since
the beginning of 2022

3,386,993*
Beneficiaries
Assisted
in total
since
2014

*This number includes host community members as well as beneficiaries who have received multiple services over the years from IOM, and approximately 40% are non-unique beneficiaries
During Q3 of 2022, the IOM Psychosocial Mobile Teams (PMTs) provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to 571 individuals from migrant, refugee, and host communities in multiple locations. With the month of July coinciding with Eid Al Adha, the teams supported the community members by hosting traditional ceremonies as well as providing up-to-date information on transportation permits and legal procedures for the Eid crossings into Syria. During August, to mark World Youth Day, a series of activities took place for young people, which included creative art workshops and awareness-raising sessions on early marriages, access to education and gender. In September, the PMTs activities aimed to enhance social cohesion between the different communities, all planned and implemented in accordance with the needs, capacities, and requests of the community members. IOM also continued to provide school transportation services for 706 students during the summer school period. Direct cooperation with Specific Education Centres in Adana, Gaziantep, Kilis and Izmir continued for 123 children with specific learning needs to support their future integration into the public school system. The Emergency Case Management (ECM) Team provided support with accommodation, medical items, transportation, and legal fees for 732 beneficiaries. Finally, legal information and awareness was provided to 91 beneficiaries in 4 different provinces regarding rent tenants’ rights, registration, and citizenship. Capacity building on registration and work permits was also provided to the volunteers of the Ukraine Solidarity Association in Istanbul.

During this quarter, IOM Türkiye’s MMCCs provided a range of services to 20,883 individuals from among migrant, refugee, and host communities. In Adana, the MMCC focused on increasing access to education for the children who are at risk of dropping out or out of school, and hosted a ‘Employer and Employee Matching’ with job-seekers and employers to promote employment opportunities. Similarly, in the Ankara/Kecioren MMCC, education was at the forefront in addition to counselling and referral services. The Centre also focused on expanding its scope to reach migrant and refugee populations residing in Ankara’s other districts. To further ensure community engagement and participation, preparatory work was carried out to strengthen the local Refugee Council, and action plans were prepared. Within this quarter, the Mersin MMCC strengthened its efforts on disability inclusion and gender mainstreaming through inclusive socio-cultural activities and targeted support for diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) individuals. To further expand its scope of activities, coordination, and support to the communities in the province, new projects were established by the Recovery and Stabilization Unit. During the summer, IOM, in cooperation with the Municipality and local NGOs in Gaziantep, successfully organized a series of events for children from refugee and host communities, including a cooking masterclass and movie screenings as well as rock climbing and trekking. Gaziantep/Ensar Community Centre’s “Child Resilience Program” was especially successful and showed significant improvements in the wellbeing of children who participated in this programme. Finally, in Kilis and Sanliurfa MMCCs, counselling, information sessions, and socio-cultural activities continued while further focusing on coordination with local actors to expand services in the respective Centres.

IOM supported five Entities – the Çiğli Municipality in İzmir, PDMM and the Kırıkhan Municipality in Hatay, PDMM in Gaziantep and Kahramanmaraş - with PPEs, Machines, and Tools as part of COVID-19 Response to disinfect public areas.
**COVID-19 Cash Assistance**: IOM supported 6,890 refugee families in various locations affected by COVID-19 with one-time unconditional unrestricted cash assistance via debit cards, in total 41,902 people benefited from the assistance.

**Non-Food Items (NFIs) and Personal Oral Hygiene Kits Distribution**: IOM delivered hygiene kits to 203 families in İzmir and Kırklareli to assist vulnerable families from refugee/migrants and host communities in meeting their basic needs reducing expenditure on essentials, and improving overall hygiene. Additionally, IOM supported 29 families in Gaziantep, İzmir and Mersin (97 individuals) through procuring and delivering core relief items (NFIs).

**Food Kits Distribution**: IOM delivered food kits to 495 households in İzmir and Kırklareli to assist vulnerable families from refugee/migrant and host communities in meeting their basic needs, thereby reducing expenditure on essentials, and ensuring access to basic food needs.

**Community Stabilization**: IOM Türkiye supported a workshop in Gaziantep to bring together organizations working in the field of ‘Migration and Social Cohesion’ along with students and workers in this field to provide opportunities to learn from each other’s experiences, discuss current conditions, propose solutions, and publish the workshop’s book on “Migration and Social Cohesion.” The activity created a suitable environment for refugee and host communities and to mitigate existing social tensions.

**Basic Needs Support**

From July to September, 848 young people visited the ‘Resilience Innovation Facility’ (FABLAB), which was jointly designed by IOM and Gaziantep University, to use its co-working space, educational opportunities, and digital manufacturing, design, and prototyping laboratory. In cooperation with the Gaziantep Regional Industrial Design and Hybrid Modeling Centre (GETHAM), Fablab organized a series of training courses on topics such as Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Vocational Training, and Sensitization, as well as workshops and a Mentorship programme on leadership and confidence skills. Furthermore, IOM facilitated group discussions for students of all genders, where they could come together and discuss different social and gender issues affecting them.
IOM Türkiye’s Cash-Based Interventions teams distributed one-time-use basic needs market cards to community members in Adana.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF IOM TÜRKİYE REFUGEE RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST QUARTER

- 54 PROVINCES
- 71,952 BENEFICIARIES
- 9,630 BENEFICIARIES

- 25,038 PROTECTION
- 46,118 BASIC NEEDS
- 668 EDUCATION
- 128 LIVELIHOODS

Donors:
- The U.S. Department of State: Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
- From the People of Japan

Data Source: IOM Türkiye (July - September 2022 Refugee Response Data)
Baseline Source: OCHA - UNHCR