



Turkey Mediterranean and Land Border Crisis Response Plan 2020

2020

Funding Required

\$3,000,000

Target Beneficiaries

150,000

IOM Vision

With the Eastern Mediterranean and Land Border routes through Turkey identified as the main route taken by migrants and refugees, IOM seeks to support the efforts of the Government of Turkey to ensure that migrants and refugees attempting to cross through Turkey receive the humanitarian protection and assistance that they need.

Context Analysis

The Eastern Mediterranean route continues to surpass both the Western and Central Mediterranean routes as the main route taken by migrants and refugees travelling to Europe, as it has done since February 2019. Since the signing of the EU-Turkey Statement and closure of the 'Balkan Route', as of March 2016, refugees and migrants have attempted to reach Western Europe through alternative paths, including overseas crossings from Turkey to Greece. Although the closure of the 'Balkan Route' initially resulted in a reduction in land crossing attempts, there have been significant increases in both the land and sea border arrivals from Turkey to Greece. The Edirne province remains a popular transit point for both irregular migrants and refugees who wish to enter the EU. This is due to its strategic land border between Turkey and Greece which is partly demarcated by the Maritsa River and acts as a

potential entry point into the EU. The same applies to the Aegean Sea crossing where migrants and refugees are departing from Izmir province to reach Greece.

The Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) identified 60,544 individuals at Turkey's maritime boundaries in 2019 - an increase of more than 138 per cent compared to 2018 [1]. Meanwhile, approximately 62,445 refugees and migrants arrived by sea to Greece in 2019, an increase of 90 per cent from 2018 [2]. Additionally, according to the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) Turkey identified 454,662 migrants and refugees on land across the country in 2019, an increase in 70 per cent compared to 2018. In 2019, arrivals to Greece from Turkey by land numbered approximately 8,941 [3].

An increase in crossings over sea and land has continued in 2020, particularly as a result of continued instability in the region, from countries such as Syria, Afghanistan, and Iran. The number of migrants crossing the Aegean Sea have also risen in the past year. IOM has provided humanitarian assistance to migrants and refugees since the onset of the crisis. In 2019, approximately 37,400 migrants and refugees rescued at sea and 2,400 migrants and refugees apprehended on land were provided with humanitarian aid by IOM, which is 61 per cent of all migrants and refugees intercepted/rescued by TCG and less than 1 per cent of those apprehended on land by Gendarmerie/Turkish National Police. Interviews with migrants and refugees by IOM's field teams note that the increase in numbers was caused by a number of factors. These factors include the new order concerning migrants and refugees who are not registered in Istanbul to relocate from the city, increased fines to businesses who employ unregistered migrants, rising rents and living costs, and difficulty in finding jobs. Following the announcement from the Government of Turkey on 28 February 2020 that north-western borders to the EU would be opened, IOM has observed tens of thousands of migrants and refugees present in the Edirne province and at many locations on the Aegean Sea with intention of crossing over to Greece. Migrants and refugees on the move from all parts of Turkey include both single men and families with young children, with many vulnerable individuals including pregnant women, disabled, and elderly. IOM field teams have observed migrants and refugees sleeping outside exposed to winter weather with limited means to cover basic needs including food, water, clothing, and medical care. While UN, local authorities and NGOs have been providing basic supplies, existing provisions are limited, and urgent humanitarian assistance is needed to protect those lacking basic needs and exposed to dangerous winter weather conditions.

For all regional activities related to the Syria crisis, please see [IOM's Syria Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan 2020](#).

[1] Turkish Coast Guard official irregular migration statistics in the Aegean Sea

[2] IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix arrivals to Europe figures

[3] DGMM official statistics of irregular migrants apprehended on land

As part of the Mediterranean response, IOM will continue its close coordination at the central and field levels with TCG, Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), and other relevant line ministries. IOM and UNHCR co-chair the monthly inter-sectoral coordination meetings in Izmir, ensuring that the Mediterranean response is coordinated among UN agencies and NGOs. IOM provides protection referrals to the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM), Mülteci-Der, Medicines du Monde (MDM), Community Volunteers' Association (TOG), Centre for Support to Refugees (Müdem), Refugee Rights Turkey (RRT), Bar Associations, Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), Turkish National Police (TNP), the Provincial Directorates of Migration Management (PDMM), Provincial Directorates of Family and Social Policies, National Health Institutions and UN agencies, particularly UNICEF for cases of unaccompanied minors.

IOM's Mediterranean and Land Border response will continue to engage with UN partners through coordination fora in Turkey, including through Ankara-based UN Country Team and sectoral working groups, as well as the Izmir and Istanbul Inter-Agency Taskforce.

IOM Capacity

IOM has over 1,000 staff across Turkey, with offices in Istanbul, Ankara, and Gaziantep and sub-offices in Izmir, Hatay, Sanliurfa, Adana, and Edirne. The modality of the operations for IOM's expansion in Edirne partnering with DGMM to support migrants and refugees with humanitarian needs on land will mirror IOM's existing Mediterranean response operations which support the TCG to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and migrants rescued at sea. With over four years of experience in the Aegean Sea, IOM has provided basic food, NFIs and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to over 58,000 migrants and refugees and has an established methodology of MHPSS and counselling support. Building on these good practices, IOM will support the implementation of a customized model of humanitarian assistance for local authorities in Edirne.

One of IOM's advantages is established working relations with Turkish border and migration management authorities in Edirne through previous and ongoing projects relating to counter migrant smuggling, immigration and border management and Migrant Presence Monitoring (MPM).^[1] This has facilitated local partnerships and the implementation of projects with stakeholders such as the Ministry of Interior's Directorate General of Provincial Administration, DGMM, TNP, Gendarmerie and TCG. Furthermore, IOM has existing staff working in Edirne for its MPM programme and will be able to capitalize on its already developed infrastructure of key informants to collect information on scope and structure of the migratory flows in the province and anticipate humanitarian needs

^[1] In 2016, IOM implemented a project to improve the conditions in removal centres (including Edirne and Kırklareli) through the provision of non-food items for irregular migrants. IOM has worked with Edirne authorities in the context of phase I and II of the 'Regional Co-operation on Border Management with Greece and Bulgaria' project.

Objective

Saving lives and protecting people on the move

\$3,000,000

Funding Required	150,000
	Target Beneficiaries

Migrants and refugees attempting to cross to Europe through Turkey.

Basic needs, including food and multi-purpose cash assistance

Funding Required

\$1,775,000

IOM's mobile teams will continue to provide migrants and refugees rescued at sea and at land with food supplies. The food composition is decided in discussion with TCG and in line with the needs of people and availability in local markets. IOM has a warehouse in Izmir and Edirne for storing food which are then distributed at required locations.

Protection

Funding Required

\$500,000

IOM will provide protection services, which aim at reducing protection risks for migrants and refugees taking into account specific vulnerabilities (including gender-based concerns). Protection activities include vulnerability identification, case assessments, referrals and interpretation services as well as counselling, which consists of IOM providing key information regarding migrants' rights and responsibilities to support them once they leave the TCG premises. Unaccompanied children will be referred to the DGMM for registration and provision of associated protection support. Following this, IOM will liaise with childcare institutions, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM) for best interest assessment/determination (BIA/BID) procedures to provide follow-up assistance.

Mental health and psychosocial support in humanitarian response

Funding Required

\$500,000

IOM will continue to provide culturally sensitive and community-based psychosocial support, including recreational activities, as well as individual counselling and referral to specialized care if when needed. IOM has extensive experience in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in emergency contexts, implementing a variety of projects including as part of its Mediterranean response in Turkey over the past years. IOM will draw on institutional tools and expertise, including the recently published IOM [Manual on Community-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies and Displacement](#). Specifically, with this intervention, the Organization will continue to provide psychological first aid, recreational activities for children waiting with their parents at TCG or PDMM premises, as well as individual counselling

and referrals to specialized care if needed.

Shelter and settlements

Funding Required

\$225,000

IOM's mobile teams will continue to provide migrants and refugees rescued at sea and at land with essential non-food items (NFIs). To decide on the contents of NFI kits, IOM maintains regular contact with the TCG in Izmir and the PDMM in Edirne and Istanbul to identify the needs of vulnerable migrants and refugees. NFI items include blankets, shoes, sweat suits, hygiene kits, socks, baby diapers, children's underwear and winter coats. IOM has a warehouse in Izmir and Edirne for storing NFIs which are then distributed at required locations.

Multi-sectoral support

Funding Required

\$0

Includes funding which supports multi-sectoral interventions or cannot be attributed to a specific activity area.

OPERATIONAL PRESENCE

68 International staff and affiliated work force	and	1031 National staff and affiliated work force	13 IOM Field Offices
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