



Alaa is able to study for his baccalaureate because of IOM Turkey's transportation program.

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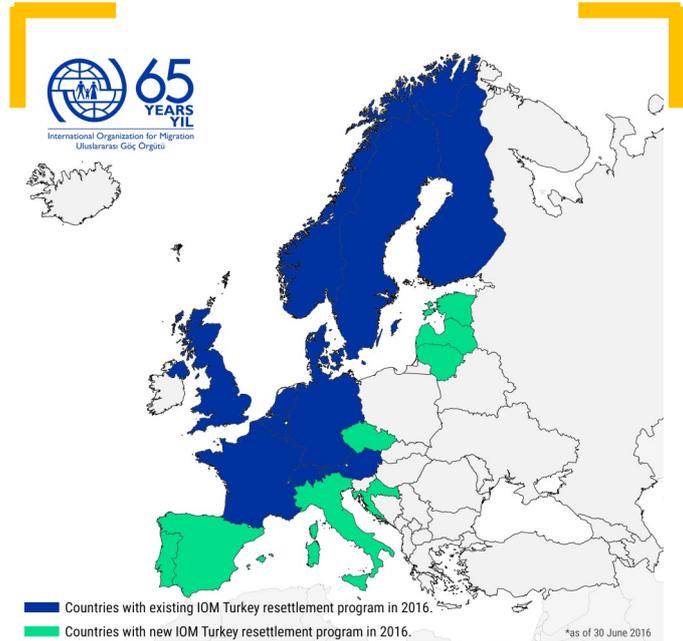
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## Building a Better Future: Transporting Syrians to University Exams

IOM's school transportation programs overcome one of the most common barriers to education: distance between home and school. Not only does IOM provide daily school transportation to over 6,000 Syrian student in Turkey, another IOM Turkey program gave over 1,500 Syrian student graduating high school the opportunity to take a university entrance exam in June. Just over half of those taking the exam were females! On the day, IOM organized 23 vehicles across 10 cities in Turkey to transport the aspiring university students: Adana, Adiyaman, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis, Malatya, Mardin, Osmaniye and Şanlıurfa.

## Reuniting Syrian Families in Germany

In March, IOM launched a 15-month project with the German Government to help reunite Syrian families with a family member already granted asylum in Germany. IOM offices in both Turkey and in Lebanon are helping to streamline the visa application process by guiding Syrian family members to correctly complete the German Family Reunification visa application and compile supporting documents. IOM has also initiated an Arabic outreach program to Syrian family reunification applicants, offering voluntary integration classes in Turkey. Through these efforts, the program aims to protect vulnerable Syrian families from potentially unscrupulous visa agents/brokers and to reduce the number of migrants and refugees considering irregular migration.



**IOM Turkey is expanding our  
resettlement programs in Europe.  
Our operations now include nearly  
25 countries worldwide!**

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## Our Stories: Adel

"I've built schools, banks, power stations and roads," says Adel. For twenty-eight years, he worked as a civil engineer building the infrastructure to what once considered one of the most beautiful countries in the world. "But the thing I'm most proud of: I've built some of the highest buildings and towers in Syria. Before the war, of course."

"How much of what I have built has been destroyed?" asks Abdel. "I may never know. Each building, each structure was a part of me. How much of me still survives in Syria?"

Adel is one of the Syrians attending an IOM-supported community centre in Istanbul providing language courses, legal assistance, vocational trainings and conflict management/socio-cultural activities. Here, Adel is learning Turkish to help him get through every day interactions here in Turkey.



"I want to build things again. One of the scariest things I face now is that I have no idea what the future will bring."

"I have no stability. But with my Turkish lessons and the legal advice here at the community center, I'm beginning to set up life here in Turkey." The community center is funded by the European Union.

## Continuing to Support Migrants Rescued at Sea

Although the number of migrants and refugees attempting to cross from Turkey to Greece has decreased since April, there are still those who risk everything on the dangerous voyage. IOM Turkey continues to assist the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) to distribute food, water, and NFIs (including clothing and shoes) to more than 2,000 migrants and refugees rescued at sea between April and June.

In addition to humanitarian assistance to rescued migrants, IOM Turkey also provides equipment to enhance the reception conditions that increase migrants' well-being after being rescued. Twenty-four prefabricated cabins donated by IOM are now used by the TCG to store the NFIs, hygiene kits, and blankets or may be used as a changing room for female rescued at sea. Tarpaulin tents, insulation materials (to keep out the summer's sweltering rays and the winter's chilling winds), water dispensers, freezers and ventilators also make migrants a bit more comfortable after the rescue.

IOM's outreach along the coast is not limited to rescued migrant and refugees, though. Our activities also provide humanitarian assistance (like hygiene kits) to some of the most vulnerable Syrian families in Izmir. IOM Turkey's assistance is possible through funding from the European Commission - Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO).



IOM staff continue to distribute water to rescued migrants in Dikili this summer

## Humanitarian Partnerships Build Resilience of Migrants and Refugees

In June, IOM Turkey and our implementing partner - the International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation (IBC) - participated in the 2nd IOM NGO Humanitarian Consultations in Geneva. The consultations sought to enhance cooperation and dialogue between IOM and humanitarian NGOs on how to strengthen collaboration to change the negative public narrative on refugees and migrants, as well as approaches to build the resilience of refugees, migrants and host communities. IOM's principles for Humanitarian Action were presented as part of the joint operationalization of the Accountability to Affected Populations.

At a side event, IBC showcased its activities in its partnership with IOM Turkey. Through our partnership, IOM provides financial resources and technical support for a community centre to improve access to services (psycho-social support, legal counselling, non-formal education, language- and computer training) for Syrian refugees residing in Istanbul's Sultanbeyli district. Over 1,400 Syrian refugees have benefited from the services at the community from January-May 2016. This partnership between IOM and IBC is part of IOM Turkey's refugee response programme funded by the European Union Instrument for contributing to Stability and Peace.

**i am a migrant**

[i am a migrant](#) campaign is about humanizing migrants' stories of migration and providing a platform to present their narratives in their own words. This project can help change the lens through which people view migrants and migration.

## Italy and Turkey Share Commonalities of Mixed Migration



Turkish authorities share best practices with Italian counterparts at a migrant hot-spot in Lampedusa, Italy.

Regardless of whether a migrant decides to enter, transit or leave Turkey, he is frequently part of a mixed migration flow – the concept that migrants come from diverse backgrounds, with diverse needs and facing diverse challenges. Since June 2015, the UK Embassy has funded a project to expand the capacity of the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) and the DGMM to better understand and respond to mixed migration flows, to implement the Strategy Document and National Action Plan on Irregular Migration, and to address the protection needs of vulnerable migrants.

In May, IOM Turkey facilitated a study visit to Italy for the TCG and DGMM in order to develop a screening model, as well as a referral and assistance mechanism for vulnerable migrants. After meeting with Italian counterparts in Rome, the delegation visited a first reception center/hot spot in Lampedusa, Italy to view first-hand migrants' initial reception, identification, finger-printing and provision of psychosocial and humanitarian assistance.

### Did You Know?

The large majority (nearly 95%) of IOM Turkey's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) cases were to Afghanistan this year.

## IDPs in Syria Have New Home in Repurposed Farm

After years of conflict in Syria, damage to houses, public buildings and infrastructure is widespread. A June 2016 population baseline survey found that there are around 5.1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) inside Syria. The vast majority of IDPs live with host families, rent rooms in private buildings, or live in improvised shelters, often in unfinished buildings or makeshift tents without access to basic services. IOM Turkey, together with our Syrian NGO partners, is committed to reducing the suffering of IDPs and providing them shelter and facilities to cover their basic needs.

In May, six farms in northern Syria were repurposed into suitable accommodation with functional WASH facilities for over 100 vulnerable displaced families who were previously living in makeshift tents in Aleppo governorate. Nearly half of the 471 beneficiaries were children under 16 years of age. IOM Turkey also provided transportation for the families from the original location to their new homes. The program not only provided shelter, but also employed 54 workers for two months as part of a cash-for-work schema, providing people with rare income. This project was funded by the Government of Kuwait.



The majority of internally displaced Syrians have limited access to adequate shelter after years on conflict in the country.

## Enhancing Cooperation on Turkey's Shared Borders

Regional integrated border management between Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria will help combat irregular migration and the smuggling of goods or people between the three countries. The EU-funded project aims to strengthen border control mechanisms and migration management among the three countries. In April, the project held a training for local Turkish authorities on overall border management and a workshop to enhance identification of clandestine migrant entries for government officials and private transportation entities. In May, the project organized two study visits to European nations to enhance ties and to share best practices for EU border agencies. In June, Turkish and Bulgarian border officials attended a training on how to identify stolen vehicles.

## Supporting Labour Integration for All Migrants

Nearly 3.5 million migrants and refugees live in Turkey. Because of this, a comprehensive labour migration management strategy is important to help Turkey's economy best utilize the influx of foreign labour. IOM Turkey works closely with the Turkish government to boost legislative and administrative capacity to tackle irregular migration, prevent labour exploitation and human trafficking, as well as promote registered employment of foreigners in Turkey.

With UK-funding, the 18-month project recently trained 30 experts from Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the DGMM, and the Ministry of Development on international frameworks facilitating labour migration, policies/practices on labour mobility, and how to counter irregular migration while protecting migrants themselves.

This summer, a national awareness-raising campaign on foreign employment in Turkey will launch an interactive website ([www.workinturkey.gov.tr](http://www.workinturkey.gov.tr)), infographics, short films and smart phone applications. The outreach will provide impartial and practical information on the risks and dangers of irregular labour migration, and the different avenues towards registered employment for foreigners with diverse backgrounds.



National and international labour migration experts met in Kizilcahamam in May.

## Comprehensive Migrant Integration Vital for Turkey

Undoubtedly, migrant integration is a hot topic in Turkey. IOM continues to support the Turkish government to develop a holistic integration policy for all migrants (both Syrian and non-Syrian) under a project funded by the UK and Switzerland. In June, research began to assess Turkey's integration approaches and practices from a comparative perspective and results will feed into the draft Strategy Document and a National Action Plan. Consultative meetings in Ankara, Kayseri, Antalya and Alanya are identifying integration needs and priority areas for different migrants groups on the ground. The project is also working with municipal governments on their role in integration and has twice convened a National Technical Team (representing 18 public institutions) to ensure state ownership of the Strategy Document and a National Action Plan, whose first drafts are expected in September 2016.

## Cash-based Assistance Programs Empower Beneficiaries



Syrian students in Adana receive voucher for new clothing to celebrate Eid-al-Fitr.

IOM Turkey's emergency assistance programs strive to empower our beneficiaries as much as possible. One way to do this is through cash-based assistance programs, either through e-cards (which are topped up monthly) or through one-time vouchers or coupons. In May and June, IOM completed comprehensive assessments of more than 2,000 households in Hatay to identify those most vulnerable and in need of monthly conditional cash assistance. Prioritized households (like those with little or no income, or those with vulnerabilities) received e-cards which were topped up in July.

IOM Turkey also distributed one-off vouchers to 1,232 students to purchase clothes and shoes exclusively at one of the biggest malls in Adana. Vouchers were distributed to students between the ages of 7 and 17, but over half of the recipients were in elementary school. The vouchers not only provided urgently needed clothing for the students, but also enabled families to observe the tradition of wearing new clothes to celebrate Eid-al-Fitr – a holiday in Ramadan. IOM's voucher program was funded by Child Fund Korea.