



At the United Nations Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants which took place on 19th of September 2016 in New York, Ambassador William Lacy Swing signed a document formally linking IOM to the United Nations. On 19th September, IOM joined the UN as one of its related organizations, giving the United Nations, for the first time, an explicit, official migration mandate. With offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing support and assistance to governments and migrants.

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## Developing a More Coordinated Approach to Voluntary Return



Authorities met in Edirne to develop a more coordinated approach to AVRR.

For migrants who want to return home but lack the means to do so, IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme is often the only solution to their immediate situation.

Under the project "Consolidation and Strengthening of the National Referral Mechanism to AVRR of Irregular Migrants in Turkey", IOM Turkey conducted the first workshop in Edirne which is one of the border cities of Turkey to Greece and EU. With 28 participants from the Directorate General of Migration Management, Red Crescent, Edirne Municipality, General Directorate of Turkish Border Coast Health and the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, the workshop focused on developing clear procedures and guidelines for more coordinated approach to AVRR, strengthening coordination of concerned authorities, as well as the implementation of a coherent AVRR referral mechanism in Turkey.

## The Launch of IOM Family Assistance Programme in Istanbul and Gaziantep

IOM Turkey and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ankara launched the Family Assistance Programme (FAP) in Istanbul and Gaziantep to help reunite Syrian families with a close relative granted refugee status in Germany.

IOM FAP Offices - two in Turkey, one in Lebanon- assist Syrian families through the family reunification visa application process and provide German integration classes in Arabic language. In Turkey alone, more than 2,500 Syrian families were advised through the call centre, and more than 650 families visited an IOM office and 62 Syrians have attended the integration course since the opening.

The project aims to dissuade Syrian families from seeking unsafe, irregular migration channels, to support German Consular staff, and to better prepare Syrian beneficiaries successfully integrate within German society.



Opening in Gaziantep: IOM Turkey CoM Mr. Lado Gvilava, Mayor of Gaziantep Ms. Fatma Shahin and German Ambassador H.E. Mr. Martin Erdmann

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## Our Stories: Hamdo and Hamadi

Hamdo and Hamadi, married for 50 years, are an elderly Syrian couple living in Gaziantep. They fled Aleppo, Syria three and half years ago with their family after a rocket hit their house and killed one of their sons, Ali and his children.

Life has been hard in Turkey. Cost of living is high, especially in the city. As a result, the couple live alone in a small apartment which is furnished with some chairs, a cot and an old blanket. The couple has sold some of their items, including spare furniture, stove, and humanitarian relief which they had received from aid agencies, in exchange for money to pay their rent (250 Turkish Lira ( 80 USD) per month).

Identified as a vulnerable case, the couple was provided with rental assistance for an initial period of three months. While largely thankful and relieved to have this assistance, the couple are still anxious about their future: what will happen to them when the rental assistance finishes and the winter comes? At the end of the rental assistance, their case will be re-reviewed and additional support may be provided, additionally they will be referred for winterization assistance to help them keep warm in the winter months.

Hamdo and Hamadi are among hundreds of thousands of vulnerable Syrian families in Turkey facing increasing destitution after years of displacement, who require immediate and sustainable assistance to ensure a life in safety and dignity.



## Syrian Students in Kobane Continue Their Education in Refurbished Schools



*Syrian children continue their education after the rehab of their schools.*

After the five months of intense conflict, from September 2014 to January 2015, 48% of the buildings were destroyed in Kobane, including a quarter of schools - according to the Kobane Reconstruction Committee.

Most operating schools in Kobane city were severely damaged during the conflict, which was a major hindrance for Syrian children trying to continue their education. To provide a conducive and safe learning environment for Syrian students in Kobane, from October 2015 to July 2016, IOM conducted extensive rehabilitation works in this six schools, including tilling playgrounds, building football and basketball facilities, reinforcing windows with shatter-resistant films, replacing doors and baseboards, equipping classes with student desks and white boards, and repairing facades, stairs and sanitation facilities. A total of 6,779 Syrian students in Kobane, aged between 7 and 17, have benefited from this project funded by Government of Kuwait.

## Humanitarian Partnership Build Resilience of Migrants and Refugees

As the Syrian crisis enters its 6th devastating year, IOM, along with the European Commission's Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), has been making major contributions aimed at integration, resilience and cohesion between Syrians and host communities in Turkey.

By working closely with governmental and non-governmental partners, IOM supports Multiservice Community Centers providing free basic services such as Primary, Secondary and High School Education; Legal Counselling; Psycho-Social Support; Vocational training; Primary Health Care; Outreach; in addition to other socio-cultural activities for refugees. For the children's graduation ceremony in Hatay, IOM's leading partner, Syrian Social Gathering (SSG) had invited Clowns without Borders on July 21st and put together a very successful show for over 1,000 students and parents from the refugees and host communities at the center. In August, International Blue Crescent (IBC), has conducted Conflict Management Training, in which attendees gained insightful knowledge on the core principles of the causes and methods of resolving conflict. And in September, 2016, SSG has signed the protocol with the Minister of Health for opening up their own Migrant Health Clinic, which is planned to open in October 2016.

Besides these commitments, IOM is also supporting implementing partners (IPs) by building their capacity through various trainings. Between July and September, IOM provided Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation training and facilitated two trainings; one on the Turkish Legal system provided by the American Bar Association (ABA ROLI), and the other on Gender Equality and Communication Techniques provided by UNFPA.



*The graduation ceremony brought the refugees and host communities together.*

i am a migrant

i am a refugee

[refugeesmigrants.org](http://refugeesmigrants.org) campaign is about humanizing migrants' and refugees' stories 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.

## Cash Assistance Programmes Empower Beneficiaries

IOM started supporting vulnerable households living in Hassa, Kirikhan and Kumlu districts of Hatay with a beneficiary-oriented cash assistance programme. Prior to launching the project, 19 shops were selected as service providers and all shop owners were trained on the cash programme, where beneficiaries will receive e-voucher cards topped up with cash, redeemable at the selected shops.

From the end of July to September, IOM distributed 913 households (5,615 individuals) in the above districts with e-voucher cards, containing 62 Turkish Lira worth of credits per individual family member. The same amount will be topped up every month until December 2016 for beneficiaries to purchase a range of commodities. The ECHO funded cash programme meets the urgent needs of vulnerable households and enhances their dignity and self-reliance. Continuous monitoring is undertaken to ensure that assistance is targeted to the most vulnerable.



Cash assistance programme meets the urgent needs of beneficiaries.

## Supporting Migrant Integration in Turkey at Central and Local Levels

IOM Turkey 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 UK and Switzerland. The project activities including research and consultations with various stakeholders are ongoing and the results are feeding into the draft Strategy Document and National Action Plan on Harmonization (Integration).

In summer 2016, a pilot 15 months IOM project funded by ECHO has begun to support a district municipality of Ankara, Keçiören in establishment and operation of Keçiören Migrants Service Center. IOM Turkey, through this project, will contribute to integrated service provision for migrants and refugees and social cohesion.

## Contributing to the Turkey's Efforts in Migration Management

In today's migration environment, migrants come from diverse backgrounds with diverse needs and face diverse challenges which requires a cooperated response from diverse authorities with their unique mandates. For that reason, the closure meeting of "Implementation of the Strategy Document and National Action Plan on Irregular Migration with a Focus on Mixed Migration Flows" was held in Ankara on 27 September with participants from IOM, Directorate General of Migration Management, the Coast Guard Command as well as from the other law enforcement, line ministries and the UK Embassy. The accomplishments and lessons learned during the implementation of the project, as well as the needs for the upcoming projects were discussed.

In the framework of 'Contribute to the Turkey's Efforts in Responding to Migration Crisis through Enhanced Migration Management' project, IOM organized a training on the protection of migrants and refugees in Ankara between 30 September - 1 October 2016 in cooperation with Ankara Bar Association. IOM, DGMM, the European Court of Human Rights, Turkish Coast Guard and NGO representatives as well as university lecturers and lawyers from Ankara Bar Association delivered presentations during the training to the members of the Bar.

IOM facilitated a Needs Analysis Meeting in Istanbul between 25-26 August 2016 under the "Strengthening Capacity and International Cooperation in Detecting Forged Travel Documents Project" where the Turkish National Police heads units of the border gates in several provinces, the representatives of the British Embassy and IOM participated. Moreover, Detection of Forgery Training for Trainers was undertaken between 10-14 October in Ankara. These projects were all made possible through the EU funding.

## Regional Cooperation on Turkey's Shared Borders

The EU-funded project, "Regional Cooperation on Border Management among Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria- Phase 1" aims at strengthening Turkey's border control mechanisms and migration management.

In July, IOM conducted joint document security training to 22 representatives from Turkish, Bulgarian and Greek agencies performing border checks. In August, IOM provided 29 document verification devices to detect forged documents at the Turkish land borders in the region. In September, in Antalya, IOM organized a conference on effective border and migration management with participation of more than 100 high-level representatives from the Turkish Government, Bulgarian and Greek border management authorities, EU Delegation to Turkey, the embassies in Turkey, international organisations, EU Member States and EU Agencies such as Frontex and EASO.



Identifying fraudulent and forged documents leads to stronger border management.

## Continuing to Support Migrants Rescued at Sea

IOM Turkey continues to support Turkish Coast Guard by distributing food and non-food items (NFIs) such as clothing items to those rescued at sea as well as psychosocial support activities such as recreational activities for children (drawing activities) to more than 1,200 migrants and refugees rescued at sea between July and August. Additionally, IOM's social workers identify vulnerable people with special needs and refer their cases to related authorities and organizations.

With funding from European Commission - Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO), IOM has provided prefabricated cabins, tarpaulin tents, a small storage cabins to change as well as food and non-food items such as blankets, baby diapers, hygiene kits, underclothes, food kits, water, water dispensers, outdoor heaters, plastic chairs and vertical freezers to increase the well-being of migrants and refugees after being rescued. Along with the items, IOM also provides transportation in and around İzmir for migrants and refugees to hospitals and health clinics for vaccination and primary health services.

Additionally, with the funding from US Association for International Migration (USAIM), IOM procured 900 pairs of shoes to be used by rescued migrants and refugees at sea in Çeşme, Dikili and Küçükkuyu.



*IOM Staff distribute shoes to rescued Migrants in Dikili and Çeşme.*

## Cultural Orientations Help Beneficiaries Successfully Adapt into the New Country

Anyone moving to a country where culture, tradition and practices are different from one's own may have unrealistic and perhaps inaccurate expectations of life in the new country, which requires an adjustment period to adapt successfully.

IOM Turkey offers pre-departure cultural orientation to beneficiaries of resettlement by providing accurate information about life in the new country; assisting them in developing the attitudes and skills necessary to successfully adapt to the new country; addressing questions and concerns, and by helping develop realistic expectations about resettlement prior to arrival. During the last quarter, IOM Turkey was able to deliver pre-departure cultural orientation trainings for 1644 beneficiaries in total who were destined to Canada, Germany, Australia, UK, France, Italy and Norway.

## Supporting Labour Migration Management for All Migrants in Turkey

Nearly 3.5 million migrants and refugees live in Turkey which calls for a comprehensive labour migration management strategy to help Turkey's economy best utilize the influx of foreign labour.

In collaboration with the Turkish Government, IOM implemented the project "Supporting Labour Migration Management in Turkey" to develop a comprehensive and human rights based labour migration management system. On 13 August 2016, in line with the project goals, the Law on International Labour Force (Law no. 6735) has been ratified as the primary legislation aiming to identify, implement and monitor policies on international labour force as well as to regulate foreigners' work permit applications and labour market integration. This legislative change has also called for establishment of the Directorate General on International Labour under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

To support the Turkish Government's initiatives, materials for a public outreach and awareness-raising campaign on work permits for migrants including foreigners under temporary protection, holders of international protection status and applicants were finalized to support foreigners' labour market inclusion in Turkey. For more information on the campaign, please follow this link which is planned to be active soon: [www.workinturkey.gov.tr](http://www.workinturkey.gov.tr)