



JULY 2020

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IOM together with the European Union partner to support the Turkish Coast Guard in saving more lives at sea

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HIGHLIGHTS



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IOM's Mediterranean Response team assisted more than 7,000 migrants and refugees rescued in the Aegean Sea between January-June 2020. Compared to last year, IOM increased its assistance by 24 percent.



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Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, IOM has provided support through local authorities to more than 25,000 households of migrants, refugee and host communities across 13 provinces in Turkey.



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Marking World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30th, IOM Turkey's counter-trafficking programme highlighted its assistance to 42 victims of trafficking so far this year. IOM has worked with Turkish authorities to protect and assist a total of 342 cases of VoTs since 2014.



At Least 60 Migrants Killed in Turkish Boat Disaster

The New York Times reported on one of the single biggest boat-related tragedies in Turkey in recent years. IOM Turkey's Migrant Presence Monitoring team was on the ground following the rescue effort. Turkish search and rescue teams retrieved the bodies of 60 migrants after their boat sank in Van Lake in the eastern part of the country. "People are still trying, and they always will whether there is a pandemic or not," said Lanna Walsh, spokesperson for IOM Turkey speaking to the NYT.

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IOM Director
General, António Vitorino's
statement

LISTEN NOW! 'Birlikteyiz'
podcast launched

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"This year is the twentieth anniversary of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, and its historic Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children."

[Watch Deputy DG Laura Thompson's Message](#)

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Birlikteyiz is a podcast series showcasing stories of solidarity among migrants, refugees and host communities in Turkey. We explore their challenges, hopes, fears, and perseverance. **Episode 1: Putting in place a humanitarian response to COVID-19** is now available in English and Turkish. Produced by IOM Turkey's Public Information Team.



IOM Recognizes Frontline Employee Spotlight: Mahmut Budak

Despite the health risks, IOM Turkey's frontline staff are working around the clock to continue providing essential humanitarian relief to beneficiaries. Response teams are working along the Aegean coast provide life-saving assistance to migrants rescued at sea. Warehouse staff in Gaziantep keep the lifeline of aid flowing to IDPs in Turkey (AFAD), then for the Provincial Syria. Response teams across southeast Turkey delivering relief items to over 13 provinces, and staff at provincial migrant centres provide counseling and distribution services person and by phone to vulnerable migrant groups.

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PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Staff's Choice - Selected by IOM Turkey staff on a voting basis.



Migrants riding an inflatable boat off the shores of Küçükuyu, Çanakkale, headed for Greece. ©IOM 2020/Bekir Erdinç

STORIES: **SEMAH**



“I do not want to be a regular housewife anymore. I have my dreams and I want to achieve them so I can be useful to others in my community and feel satisfied with myself. The COVID-19 pandemic was a wake-up call for me, I realized that I had to change my situation and do something meaningful with my life,” said Semah, a Syrian mother of four children.

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IOM TURKEY IN THE NEWS

National [Daily Sabah](#) covered the handover ceremony held in Damen’s Antalya shipyard of two new SAR vessels to the Turkish Coast Guard from IOM.

Şanlıurfa’s local outlet [LKHA news](#) covered the visit of the board of trustees to IOM’s ongoing Green House project in Viranşehir province.

[The New York Times](#) quoted IOM Turkey’s spokesperson Lanna Walsh in a piece covering the tragedy in Van Lake where 60 migrants lost their lives.

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