3,600 interviews with key informants were conducted between 1 October–31 December 2018
ABOUT MIGRANT PRESENCE MONITORING PROGRAMME’S (MPM) BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Turkey’s central geopolitical location on the Eastern Mediterranean Sea Route and its proximity to countries suffering internal crises (e.g., Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan) has placed the country under sustained migratory pressure. Currently, more than 3.9 million foreign nationals are present in Turkish territory. To gain valuable insight into their presence, flows, locations, intentions and vulnerabilities of refugees and migrants living in Turkey, International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) Migrant Presence Monitoring Programme (MPM), part of the global Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), conducted a MPM Baseline Assessment. This Baseline tracks migrant presence in Turkey and creates a database that enables the Government of Turkey (GoT), humanitarian aid organizations and other migration-related stakeholders to understand and address the scale and complexity of the current migration flows to and through Turkey as well as the stock of refugees and migrants present in the country.

The Baseline Assessment took place in İstanbul between October and December 2018, with the engagement of 12 team leaders and 33 enumerators.

In line with the established methodology, the data collection of Baseline Assessment consists of two phases: Baseline 1 and Baseline 2. Baseline 1 is the initial phase of the Baseline, during which the MPM team gathers official data on migrant presence, at provincial and sub-provincial level, in coordination with the DGMM. Unlike Baseline 1, Baseline 2 focuses on collecting data on migrant presence directly from the field. During this phase, the MPM team gathers data through Key Informant Interview (KII) methodology, where Key Informants include both government officials (e.g., mukhtars) and other community leaders (e.g., neighbourhood (urban) and village (rural) local authorities). Similarly to Baseline 1, Baseline 2 data collection also focuses on migrant presence, but it does so at neighbourhood and village levels. The results of both phases are then compared to reveal discrepancies and information gaps which the MPM team then analyses for further insights. For example, the Baseline provides valuable insight on tracking changes in migrant mobility and identifying migrant figured per category, including estimated numbers of irregular migrants.

IOM’s MPM Programme, including this Baseline, is coordinated jointly with the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), the lead national agency charged with managing migration issues in Turkey. The methodology and operational implementation of the MPM Programme activities are based on IOM’s DTM model which seeks to improve the information management capacity and aims to ensure that information and data on migrant/refugee presence are collected and corroborated in accordance with the applicable procedures.2

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1 Note that in order to be considered a ‘Key Informant,’ the participant must be understood to have good knowledge and awareness of the migration population in their area (province, sub-province or neighbourhood/village).
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFAD     Disaster and Emergency Management Authority
CBO      Community Based Organizations
CSO      Civil Society Organizations
DGMM     Directorate General of Migration Management
DTM      Displacement Tracking Matrix
EU       European Union
GoT      Government of Turkey
IHH      Humanitarian Relief Foundation
IP       International Protection
IOM      International Organization for Migration
KII      Key Informant Interview
LFIP     Law on Foreigners and International Protection
MPM      Migrant Presence Monitoring Programme
PDMM     Provincial Directorates of Migration Management
SASF³    Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation
SSC⁴     Social Service Centre
TCG      Turkish Coast Guard
TP       Temporary Protection

³ Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASF) are organizations established under the administration of governorships. SASFs aim to assist people in need, including asylum-seekers and refugees, and provide them with cash support, non-food items and assistance for education. There are 40 SASFs operating in Istanbul.
⁴ Social Service Centres (SSC) are organizations operate that operate under the Provincial Directorates of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services. SSCs are responsible for identifying people in need and providing them with protective, preventive and supportive services. There are 17 SSCs operating in Istanbul.
Contents

About This Report

Observations Based on Sub-Provinces:

Region 1
- Arnavutköy
- Başakşehir
- Çatalca
- Silivri

Region 2
- Beylikdüzü
- Büyükçekmece
- Esenyurt

Region 3
- Avcılar
- Bahçelievler
- Bakırköy
- Küçükçekmece

Region 4
- Eyüpsultan
- Gaziosmanpaşa
- Sultangazi

Region 5
- Beşiktaş
- Beyoğlu
- Kağıthane
- Şişli

Region 6
- Kartal
- Maltepe
- Pendik
- Tuzla

Region 7
- Adalar
- Ataşehir
- Kadıköy
- Üsküdar

Region 8
- Beykoz
- Çekmeköy
- Sarıyer
- Şile

Region 9
- Sancaktepe
- Sultanbeyli
- Ümraniye

Region 10
- Bağcılar
- Esenler
- Güngören

Region 11
- Bayrampaşa
- Zeytinburnu

Region 12
- Fatih
About this Report

Given the large population and vast urban area, Istanbul was divided into 12 regions each of which consists of one to four sub-provinces to organize and improve the efficacy of the fieldwork. These regions were formed based on proximity of sub-provinces to one another (i.e. neighbouring sub-provinces were grouped together) as well as on the density of migrant population in each sub-province. Accordingly, data collected from Key Informants and observations made by the MPM team members during fieldwork have been organized per sub-province.

All information and observations were classified according to the four categories below:

Category 1: Migrant Profile and Settlement

This category primarily collected data on the migrant profiles, location and motives for choosing a certain sub-province. It also surveyed the prevalent socioeconomic structure in each sub-province and analysed settlements at the mahalle level.

Category 2: Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

This category focused on employment areas and livelihood activities of the migrant population in Istanbul province. In addition to nationality and arrival date of migrants, Key Informants were also asked about migrants’ sectors of employment and place of work based on their gender and nationality.

Category 3: Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

This category focused on the assessing the cohesion between migrants and host community members through examples and insight from mukhtars and other Key Informants. The category also shed light on difficulties encountered by migrants in accessing basic services.

Category 4: Migrant Mobility

This category focused on migrants’ movements both between Istanbul and other provinces as well as intra-province within Istanbul province only. Their departure and destination points, as well as their motives for mobility, are indicated based on information obtained from Key Informants and observations of MPM field teams.

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5The views expressed in this field observation report do not reflect the views of the IOM and DGMM.

6Note that during fieldwork for the current Istanbul Baseline Assessment, the MPM team observed that migrants participate in economic activities both as employers and employees in various sectors.

7Under this category, cultural differences and similarities, namely the differences or similarities in language, traditions, practices, conception of morality and the way of dressing or interacting with their environment between host and migrant communities as well as among migrant groups of different nationalities are referred to as a factor of lack of cohesion or good relations depending on traits of different communities living together.
According to Baseline 2, there are 49,569 migrants registered in Arnavutköy sub-province, most of whom are Syrian. Mukhtars cited favourable living conditions and established migrant networks as the main pull factors for the sub-province’s increase in the Syrian population since 2016. Baseline 2 data suggest that almost 100 per cent of Syrians in Arnavutköy sub-province arrived in 2016 and after. Additionally, the main reasons given for the increased migrant population include lower rent prices, owing to Arnavutköy’s on-going urbanization, and distance from the city centre; employment opportunities in the factories also attracted migrants.

In Arnavutköy sub-province, mahalles\(^8\) with the highest density of Syrians were found to be Anadolu, Merkez, Boğazköy, and İslambey. Interviews with Key Informants in these mahalles, particularly Syrian tradesmen, indicated that the majority of migrants in the sub-province are registered in the provinces of Hatay, Gaziantep, Kilis, Bursa, and İzmit, and originate in Aleppo.

Following Syrian nationals which account for 82.1 per cent of the total migrant population surveyed in Arnavutköy sub-province, the other two large migrant groups are Afghans (5.6 per cent) and Pakistanis (4.4 per cent). Local Key Informants noted that this migrant population has been growing during the last two years. Most migrants from Afghanistan and Pakistan are males within the age range of 20-25, travelling to Turkey alone. KIIIs suggested that Istanbul province is attractive to Afghan migrants, as monthly incomes there are seven to eight times higher in comparison to Afghanistan. In terms of living conditions, Afghans tend to live in shared accommodation, often in suboptimal conditions, such as in overcrowded rooms in basements, unlicensed buildings, or old detached houses with bunks.

Additionally, Baseline 2 identified temporary migration of Nepalis into the sub-province. Mukhtar in Tayakadin mahalle suggested that 1,300 Nepalis temporary settled in or near this mahalle of Arnavutköy sub-province, specifically to work at airport construction sites located in İmrahor, Yeniköy and Tayakadin mahalles.

\(^{8}\) Mahalle is the smallest administrative unit in Turkey, representing a neighbourhood (urban setting) or a village (rural setting), and is usually administered by a local mukhtar.
Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Reportedly, migrants living in the sub-province generally work in construction, paper collection/recycling, textile facilities, agriculture, animal husbandry and factories. Certain busy locations at the centre of the sub-province (e.g. Anadolu Mahallesi, Mimar Sinan Caddesi mahalles) are densely populated by Syrian tradesmen due to the large Syrian population there. Furthermore, factories in the sub-province are one of the fields where migrants are primarily employed. According to insights from mukhtars and tradesmen interviewed in Hadımköy mahalle, there are about 700 factories which employ and even host a large number of Syrians and unregistered Afghans. The on-going construction of the airport, highway and link road projects in the sub-province provide daily employment opportunities for many migrants. In addition, several Key Informants noted that tensions between Afghans and Syrians are emerging since Syrians agree to work for lower wages compared to Afghans.

Many Afghans and Pakistanis work at unlicensed textile facilities in the so-called 'old village' part of Boğazköy mahalle, in agriculture and animal husbandry in the rural mahalles of the sub-province.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

According to mukhtars, in mahalles where there is a large Syrian community - e.g. Anadolu, Atatürk, Boğazköy, İslambey and Yunus Emre – local people originate in eastern provinces of Turkey such as Hatay, Van, Bitlis, Siirt and Muş. No tensions were reported between local community and Syrians living in those mahalles who have similar cultures. As a matter of fact, for example, in Anadolu mahalle, there are even some Turkish-named restaurants which are run by Syrian people and serve Syrian food.

On the other hand, the local community in Boğazköy, İslambey and Adnan Menderes mahalles had complaints about clothing and hygiene of Afghans and Pakistanis. The mukhtar of Adnan Menderes mahalle stated that those migrants have been sent to the Merkez mahalle in Arnavutköy which is densely populated by Afghans by police force. Key Informants noted that the complaints about migrants have significantly reduced in the last two years.
Comparison between Baseline 1 and Baseline 2 figures suggests that many migrants prefer the sub-province of Arnavukturöy for reasons such as its low residential rents, industrial areas (abundant with job opportunities), fellow-township relationships, and cultural cohesion with local community.

According to KII's with mukhtars of the sub-province and the SASF staff, Syrians living in the sub-provinces of Bağcılar, Fatih, Sultangazi, and Zeytinburnu in Istanbul or registered in other provinces have started to settle in Arnavukturöy within the last two years. Reportedly, there was also a migration flow from Arnavukturöy sub-province to Esenyurt sub-province, which hosts the largest migrant population in Istanbul province, according to Baseline 2. Furthermore, migrants also travel between Arnavukturöy sub-province and other sub-provinces. Specifically, in addition to those who settle in the sub-province permanently, some also travel to different sub-provinces or come to Arnavukturöy sub-province to work as daily labourers. For example, the minibus drivers interviewed in Boğazköy mahalle stated that Afghans and Pakistanis living there regularly commute to sub-provinces such as Bayrampaşa and Esenler for jobs including portage. Meanwhile, designated buses bring migrants from the central sub-provinces of Istanbul such as Fatih to Arnavukturöy to work at construction sites.

The sub-province of Arnavukturöy is also a transit location where migrants seeking to continue to Europe and elsewhere gather. This is because of Arnavukturöy's proximity to Edirne province which is a major exit point from Turkey. KII's with the DGMM's Removal Centre of Binkılıç in Çatalca reported that migrants attempt to reach Edirne province via the Northern Motorway Ring by departing from a location close to Durusu mahalle in Arnavukturöy sub-province. According to the information obtained from a community leader in Taşoluk mahalle, and confirmed by the local mukhtar, there are three refugee houses located in this mahalle where smugglers send Afghans until the latter can be transported to Europe.

KII's with Arnavukturöy Representation of Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH) suggested that Syrians return to Syrian Arab Republic during Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr holidays to check on their property, preparing for a potential future return.
Başakşehir Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Başakşehir stands out as a sub-province known for its cultural diversity and is considered to be among the most liveable and preferred sub-provinces by migrants in Istanbul province. In addition to its cultural diversity, Başakşehir sub-province is also socio-economically varied as people of various income levels live there. Like Arnavutköy, the sub-province is located far from the city centre and is also undergoing urbanization. Newly built homes with comparatively lower rents and enhanced migrant networks have contributed to an increased migrant population. In fact, findings show that migrants tend to choose Başakşehir sub-province due to its multicultural nature and the opportunity to live in new and secure residences for comparatively lower rents. Accordingly, Baseline 2 registered more than 80 nationalities there.

Of the 10 mahalles in Başakşehir sub-province, only Şamlar mahalle has no migrant presence. As per KIIIs with the local mukhtar, the Municipal Social Welfare Affairs Unit and SASF this is because Şamlar mahalle has fewer residential areas and lower population density compared to other mahalles in the sub-province. Meanwhile, Güvercintepe, Şahintepe, Altınşehir and Ziya Gökalp mahalles host many migrants from low-income groups in informal housing, while medium to high-income groups reside in villas and multi-storey condominiums in mahalles like Kayabaşı, Başak, and Başakşehir. The remaining two mahalles, namely Bahçeşehir 1. Kısım and Bahçeşehir 2. Kısım are mahalles where price and quality of residences are much higher; accordingly, migrant population is comparatively lower.

Baseline 2 data suggest that Syrians (48,353) constitute more than half of the foreign population (71,604) in Başakşehir sub-province. They are mostly registered in the low-income housing mahalles with lower prices of rent. According to information from the governmental bodies and the local mukhtars, the local networks established by the Syrians who were previously settled in this sub-province and the support provided to migrants significantly increased the Syrian population there. After Syrians, nationals of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan and the Islamic Republic of Iran constitute a large part of the foreign population in the sub-province.

* This support is generally provided by the municipality, the governorship and various relief organizations.
Başakşehir Sub-province

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

In Başakşehir, Syrians tend to be professionals like educators and physicians. They engage in local business and manage real estate offices or shops. Those living in Güvercintepe and Ziya Gökalp mahalles work at the Organized Industrial Zone of İkitelli and commonly in the shoe industry. Meanwhile, Azerbaijanis are employed in domestic services including eldercare or child care.

Migrants, primarily originating in the Gulf countries, who are generally better off, consider Başakşehir an investment opportunity due to ongoing construction projects in the sub-province and its surroundings and therefore invest in real estate regardless of whether they are settled in the sub-province.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

According to local Key Informants in the sub-province, one of the most significant factors leading to new migrant influx includes positive relationship with the host community. Migrant population, especially in mahalles with multi-storey condominiums in higher-income mahalles such as Kayabaşı, Başak, and Başakşehir are accepted by the local community. Meanwhile, mukhtar of Güvercintepe mahalle, which hosts the largest Syrian population according to Baseline 2, stated that a conflict took place between the local community and Syrians, but a similar incident was not seen afterwards.

In an interview, a representative from the Municipality of Başakşehir Social Welfare Unit stated that the municipality organized various activities to foster cohesion between Turkish and migrant children through activities like boy/girl scouts and summer camps. According to the Sub-province Directorate of National Education, majority of Arabic-speaking parents prefer their children to attend religious schools, where most are enrolled in math and science courses and do not take Turkish language and literature. This consequently leads to communication problems with Turkish children. Furthermore, interview with a local school principal noted instances of conflict/disharmony between children of foreigners at schools with dense migrant population.

10 These are: United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, State of Qatar, State of Kuwait.
Başakşehir Sub-province

Migrant Mobility

Many local Key Informants in Başakşehir sub-province emphasized the increasing number of Iranians, Iraqis, Egyptians and Jordanians and drew attention to the migrant flow from the sub-provinces of Bağcılar, Güngören, Esenler, Fatih and Sultangazi to Başakşehir. The reasons for this is reportedly an existing Arab presence in the sub-province, accommodating migrant preference to live within their own community. Başakşehir sub-province also receives migrants both from other sub-provinces of Istanbul province and from various other provinces across Turkey including Kilis, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Kayseri, Bursa, Ankara and Mardin. However, some local Key Informants reported an outflow of migrants, moving toward neighbouring sub-provinces, namely Esenyurt, Küçükçekmece and Avcılar.
Çatalca Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Although Çatalca is the largest sub-province in Istanbul, it hosts the third lowest number of migrants (903) based on findings from Baseline 2. This is because the sub-province is partly rural, has fewer residential areas and is located far from the city centre with few economic activities. Nevertheless, according to findings from Baseline 2, migrants are present in all but five of the total 39 mahalles in Çatalca sub-province.

The sub-province is populated by Syrians (413) and Afghans (183) who constitute more than half of the foreign nationals living there. Meanwhile, Turkmens, Uzbeks and Azerbaijanis that constitute the largest populations, following Syrians and Afghans, are settled in many different mahalles rather than living collectively in certain mahalles. Migrants are found both in central mahalles, including Kaleiçi, Ferhatpaşa and Çakıl, and rural ones, such as Akalan, Atatürk and Fatih. This is primarily because migrants are a part of agricultural industry which accounts for half of the sub-province’s economy.
Çatalca Sub-province

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Many Key Informants interviewed in Çatalca sub-province stated that since Afghans are skilled in animal care and they tend to be engaged in animal husbandry in rural parts of the sub-province. Meanwhile, Syrians are mainly employed at construction sites as daily labourers, at condominiums and villas as security, or at marketplaces as shop attendants or shopkeepers.

According to mukhtars across Çatalca sub-province, local community is accepting of the migrants and welcomes their presence. According to KIIs, it is difficult to find Turkish citizens to work in animal husbandry; as such, particularly Syrians and Afghans’ skills in this sector help fill a gap and thus help the local economy flourish.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Since Çatalca sub-province does not host many migrants and is not their preferred destination, migrant mobility is very limited. However, reportedly, some migrants are commuting from Çatalca to Silivri and Büyükçekmece sub-provinces to work at textile facilities and factories, while others are brought by companies to Çatalca from certain sub-provinces including Fatih to work in construction.
Silivri Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Located at the western border of Istanbul province, Silivri sub-province features large spans of forestland and is distant from the city centre. Despite its proximity and similarities to Çatalca, this sub-province hosts a larger and more diverse migrant population. This is because the TEM\textsuperscript{11} and D-100 highways that pass through Silivri sub-province connect its residential areas to the neighbouring industrial zones of Istanbul province. The related transportation network facilitates accessibility to surrounding sub-provinces and related job opportunities, thus attracting migrants to Silivri sub-province rather than Çatalca.

Nevertheless, migrant population is still relatively low (6,010) and not present in four mahalles which are Bekirli, Büyüksinekli, Çayırdere and Küçüksinekli in north Silivri sub-province. There is, however, a larger migrant presence in the mahalles, e.g. Selimpaşa, Mimar Sinan, Gümüşyaka and Yeni, located on the coast of the Sea of Marmara and around the highways. According to Baseline Assessment findings, more than 30 different nationalities are registered in Silivri sub-province; of these, Syrians stand out as the largest group of foreign nationals. They are registered in various mahalles, with the largest Syrian population settled in Selimpaşa mahalle, being one of the most central mahalles in the sub-province. In addition to Selimpaşa, Kiptaş Phase 1 residences in Yeni mahalle are also densely populated by Syrians. Mukhtars interviewed in those mahalles noted that the Syrians prefer to settle in the sub-province because of existing familial links.

Selimpaşa mahalle also hosts a large Chinese population (790), representing the second largest migrant community after Syrian community (4,268) in Silivri sub-province. Many families from Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China live in Selimpaşa and have founded their own educational institutions. In an interview with the head of Uygur Science and Craft Foundation, he stated that the economic situation of Chinese nationals is good, with many looking to settle permanently and obtain Turkish citizenship.

\textsuperscript{11} Trans-European Motorway
Silivri Sub-province

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

According to KIIIs with Social Service Centre (SSC) and mukhtars in the central mahalles of Silivri sub-province, migrants of various nationalities work there in various sectors, including construction, bakeries, restaurants, grocery shops as well as unlicensed manufacturing facilities. Specifically, mukhtars of Fevzipaşa and İsmetpaşa mahalles stated that locally, migrants work at factories where they also often live. Meanwhile, Syrians and Afghans are employed in agriculture and animal husbandry, with Azerbaijanis mostly providing patient, child and elderly care; Turkmens are generally employed as daily labourers.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

SASF and mukhtars noted that some issues have been recorded between the local community and migrants, particularly during summer when the overall population in the sub-province increases with the influx of vacationers and seasonal labour. However, these are minor and overall, the migrant community is well-accepted by the local residents.

Migrant Mobility

Since Silivri sub-province is a holiday destination for residents of the inner parts of Istanbul province and the surrounding provinces, the overall population significantly increases during the summer months. Consequent job opportunities lead to a seasonal migration flow as well. For instance, some tradesmen interviewed stated that Azerbaijanis and Uzbeks travel to the sub-province during the summer months alongside families, with whom they are employed as domestic workers. Similarly, the mukhtar of Kadiköy mahalle pointed out that this mahalle is known as the ‘land of watermelons’ and is engaged in watermelon farming. As a result, Kadiköy mahalle receives a significant influx of seasonal labour including migrants during the harvest months to work on the watermelon farms as daily labourers.
According to the mukhtar of Gümüşyaka mahalle, approximately 50 Syrian families that had lived in that mahalle left and moved to Tekirdağ province in the last three months. At the same time, SASF stated that Syrians in the sub-province are mainly registered in the provinces of Gaziantep, Kayseri and Şanlıurfa. This can be explained but the prominent location of Silivri sub-province which serves as one of transition points for migrants who seek to journey onward to Greece. This is due to the sub-province's proximity to Tekirdağ and Edirne provinces and is located at the coast of the Sea of Marmara. However, KIIs with mukhtars of the coastal mahalles in Silivri sub-province revealed that migrants, who attempted to journey to Greece by boat a few times in 2017 were arrested and sent to the local Removal Centre.
REGION 2
Beylikdüzü, Büyükçekmece, Esenyurt

Beylikdüzü Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

The sub-province of Beylikdüzü features many residential areas which have been rapidly growing on the western axis of Istanbul province, due to the sub-province’s transportation connections, education and security. The number of foreign nationals in the sub-province according to Baseline 2 was 18,953, with a large Syrian population. Overall, KIIIs with mukhtars, the local Directorate of National Education, SASF and tradesmen suggest that since 2016, there has been an increase in migrants, mainly nationals of Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan who have been moving to Beylikdüzü sub-province, where their numbers have been growing. Syrians are the highest migrant group there, followed by Afghans, Turkmens, Iraqis, and Iranians. Meanwhile, Azerbaijani and Iraqi populations have decreased, as they have obtained Turkish citizenship, while Iraqis still have a significantly large population in the sub-province.

All mahalles of Beylikdüzü host migrants, based on available job opportunities. For example, there is a large migrant population in the Organized Industrial Zone of Beylikdüzü as well as in Adnan Kahveci, Barış, Kavaklı and Yakuplu which are the mahalles surrounding the main arterial road called D-100 separating Esenyurt sub-province from Beylikdüzü.
Beylikdüzü Sub-province

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Beylikdüzü sub-province has an economy based on industry and service sector which has been witnessing a rapid increase in the number of workplaces. The interviews made in the sub-province indicated that Syrians belonging to high-income groups own workplaces, while those of low-income work in construction, textile industry and marble factories. Iraqis are also engaged in trade, enjoying a good socioeconomic position. Afghans work in the food and plastics industry while Uzbeks and Turkmens mainly work at construction, recycling and electronics as well as automobile and carpet cleaning factories. Women migrants are often engaged in domestic work, including cleaning houses and baby-sitting.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Mukhtars stated that Syrians of low incomes mainly live in Kavaklı, Yakuplu and Sahil mahalles, where they occupy abandoned villas belonging to members of the local community. According to mukhtar of Sahil mahalle, some issues have been reported between Syrians living in those mahalles and the local residents, primarily due to alleged wrongdoing, such as acts of theft and mugging. Meanwhile, other foreigners enjoy good relations with the host communities, including in Barış mahalle which hosts the highest migrant population in the sub-province.

Migrant Mobility

KIlSs in the sub-province indicate that Beylikdüzü experiences an influx of foreign nationals from the European side in Istanbul province as well as from the provinces of Adana, Hatay, Mersin, Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep. This mainly includes Syrians from high-income groups originating in Latakia, Damascus and Aleppo in Syrian Arab Republic. The main pull factors include increased economic opportunities in Beylikdüzü sub-province as well as a well-connected transportation network and surplus of new housing areas.
Büyükçekmece Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Büyükçekmece is socioeconomically well off, as the majority of the population are professionals from the public and private sectors. The sub-province has many summer houses; therefore, the population density varies particularly during the summer months. Baseline 2 indicated that the largest foreign population groups in the sub-province include Syrians, Turkmens, Afghans, Uzbeks and Iranians. Majority of them arrived and settled in the sub-province in 2015 and before.

According to the mukhtar and tradesmen of Ulus mahalle, the mahalle has a large foreign presence, including Syrians who have recently arrived from Adana and Hatay provinces to the mahalle. They could not officially register, as the registration in Istanbul province is closed (due to high density of migrants). As such, they cannot benefit from public services.

In addition to Ulus mahalle, migrant population can be found in the mahalles of Pınartepe, Mimarsinan, Türkoba, Sinanoba where there are business and industrial organizations. Residential rents are relatively lower for former summer houses. Meanwhile, the mahalle of Ahmediye, situated at the border of Çatalca sub-province, has the smallest migrant population in the sub-province, likely due to its somewhat rural character. Karaağaç and Alkent are the mahalles which are mainly populated by foreigners of high-income groups from the Gulf countries who own villas.
Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

According to KIIs, Syrians in the sub-province tend to belong to high-income groups, live in villas and work in trade; nevertheless, the sub-province also hosts Syrians of lower income group, who work at grocery stores, the markets, phone stores and local fast food restaurants. Additionally, primarily female Turkmens are engaged in domestic works in Alkent 2,000 mahalle consisting of luxury villas, while Afghans are employed in agriculture and animal husbandry in Türkoba mahalle and in the paper recycling industry in Ulus, Pinartepe and Cumhuriyet mahalles.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Generally, the local community in Büyükçekmece sub-province is welcoming to foreigners. However, according to the mukhtars in Ulus mahalle, Syrians were relocated from Büyükçekmece sub-province to neighbouring Esenyurt sub-province due to reported conflicts with the local community. Similarly, Syrians living in Türkoba mahalle also reportedly experience some conflicts with locals. Nonetheless, the municipality carries out activities to improve relationship between the two communities; for example, they organize a “Migrant Adaptation Project” for foreigners who want to learn about the Turkish cuisine and culture.

Migrant Mobility

Although Büyükçekmece sub-province borders Esenyurt, Beylikdüzü and Arnavutköy sub-provinces with high migrant population, the sub-province is not the preferred destination of foreign nationals due to limited job opportunities, its remoteness from the centre and the unavailability of affordable housing. As a result, only those belonging to high income groups migrate to this sub province.
Esenyurt Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

According to data from Baseline 2, Esenyurt sub-province witnessed a rapid spatial expansion in conjunction with population growth. It is the sub-province that hosts the largest migrant population in Istanbul. Out of the total foreign population of 226,439, 141,415 (approx. 63 per cent) are Syrians. Nevertheless, 78 different nationalities have been identified across the sub-province with migrants residing in every mahalle across Esenyurt. Following Syrian nationals, Iranians, Iraqis, Afghans and Uzbeks have the greatest presence in the sub-province.

KILs with mukhtars, SSC, and SASF in the sub-province informed that Üçevler, Yeşilkent, Talatpaşa, Bağlarçeşme and Fatih mahalles, located in the centre of the sub-province, are known as the ‘Syrian mahalles’ by the local community. As such, they are largely populated by Syrians, who prefer these mahalles for their accessibility (given their central location), aid provided by the municipality to those in need, and an established social network through relatives and/or acquaintances settled there. Additionally, employment opportunities range from textile, automotive, food and carpet-cleaning companies, restaurants to shops and kiosks. Meanwhile, few migrants are present in the mahalles of Osmangazi and Orhangazi, as there is insufficient residential accommodation. Additionally, Zafer mahalle hosts many Yemenis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>226,439</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreign nationals</td>
<td>226,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian</td>
<td>141,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>85,024</td>
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</table>
Esenyurt Sub-province

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

According to the interviews conducted with representatives from the municipality, tradesmen and mukhtars, Syrians in Esenyurt sub-province have their own businesses or work at restaurants, cafes, pharmacies, markets, grocery stores, mobile phone shops, hairdressers, jewellery stores, and exchange and international money transfer offices in the mahalles of Fatih, Üçevler and Talatpaşa. Meanwhile, Afghans work in paper and plastics recycling, whereas Turkmen and Uzbek males are employed in construction, textile industry, transportation, plastics, metal and packing factories, automobile and carpet cleaners with females of the same nationality employed in domestic services (childcare, house cleaning etc.). Iraqis represent another large migrant population in the sub-province and work in the automotive and real estate sectors, in translation offices or are engaged in trade.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

KIIIs conducted with mukhtars suggested that the migrants in the area are of lower economic status compared to the local community. As such, the mahalle representatives suggested that the migrants may, at times, engage in illegal activities, sporadically leading to tensions with the local community. KIIIs with the municipal representatives of Esenyurt sub-province suggested that assistance is provided to Syrians who wish to voluntarily return. To this end, the municipality reportedly organizes free-of-charge journeys to the non-state armed groups and Turkish Allied Forces area of influence in northern Syria.
Esenyurt Sub-province

Migrant Mobility

KIIIs conducted with mukhtars, Community Based Organisation (CBO)/Civil Society Organisation (CSO) staff and building complex managers in Esenyurt sub-province suggested that the local Syrian population arrives to the sub-province from elsewhere in Turkey, both other sub-provinces of Istanbul province and other provinces. Most notably, many Syrians come from Avcılar, Başakşehir, Küçükçekmece, Fatih, Zeytinburnu and Gaziosmanpaşa sub-provinces, while others come from the eastern Turkish provinces including Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Hatay and Kilis. Meanwhile, migrants of Nigerian, Kenyan, Ghanian and Congolese origin come from Fatih and Beyoğlu sub-provinces. Recently, this influx has reportedly been increasing, primarily due to factors such as relationships by affinity established among migrants in the sub-province, a number of job opportunities and affordable housing.
REGION 3
Avcılar, Bahçelievler, Küçükçekmece, Bakırköy

Avcılar Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

As per KIIs with SASF and SSC in the sub-province, the main reason foreigners chose Avcılar in previous years is low-cost rent. However, it should be noted that Avcılar is not as preferred as Esenyurt, Başakşehir, Küçükçekmece and Bağcılar sub-provinces since rents have gone higher in certain mahalles of the sub-province.

According to the information given by mukhtars and the SASF personnel, most Syrians, who constitute the majority of foreign population in the sub-province, settled in Avcılar in 2015 and before. Almost half live in Yeşilkent mahalle, due to affordable rent, existing network of foreigners in the sub-province, and good relations with the local community. In Tahtakale mahalle, which hosts the second largest Syrian population after Yeşilkent, also hosts foreigners from other Arab countries such as Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Libya and Yemen. KIIs with developers of a luxury building complex in Ispartakule Quarter suggest that some nationals of aforementioned countries purchase apartments in these building complexes and use them as summer houses. Both Yeşilkent and Tahtakale mahalles feature low residential rents and are located at the northern edge of Avcılar sub-province with remote transport networks.

Iraqis, who constitute the second largest nationality group following Syrians in Avcılar sub-province, live in Denizköşkler, Ambarlı and Merkez mahalles on the coastline in southern part of the sub-province. According to mukhtars and local school principals, Iraqis own their houses, while some of them use them as summer houses.

Afghans mostly live in Tahtakale and Yeşilkent mahalles. Interviews with tradesmen in Yeşilkent suggest that Afghan population in the sub-province fluctuates, and allegedly this mahalle may be a transit point for Afghans on their journey towards other provinces.
Avcılar Sub-province

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

In Avcılar sub-province, the majority of Syrians tend to work in the textile industry, while people of Afghan nationality are employed in the recycling industry. Turkmens and Uzbeks constitute a large population in the sub-province tend to work as waiters, dishwashers and delivery personnel in small restaurants or as live-in workers at houses.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Interviews in Yeşilkent and Tahtakale mahalles in Avcılar sub-province, which host a large population of foreigners, suggest that there are strong ties between host communities and migrants as they demonstrate cultural similarities. Nevertheless, the language barrier remains an issue, preventing the two communities from developing closer ties. When local sources in Yeşilkent mahalle were asked about the migrant population, it was noted that they showed hesitation in sharing information with the worry that the study could cause harm to migrants living in the sub-province.

In other mahalles such as Denizköşkler, Merkez, Cihangir and Ambarlı, complaints were voiced against migrants’ presence, in particular concerning cultural differences and inadequate hygiene conditions where Syrians and Afghans reside, that were contrary to the protective approach witnessed in Yeşilkent and Tahtakale mahalles. Interviews with mukhtars suggest that the cause of these complaints is also belief that Syrians are more privileged than Turkish citizens. This is likely based on the prejudices arising from lack of communication and understanding, pointing on the need for cross-cultural, cohesion-building activities.
Migrant Mobility

According to KII s with mukhtars and governmental bodies in Avcılar sub-province, majority of Syrians (98 per cent) came to Avcılar sub-province in 2015 and before. Migrants from Iraq, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and the Gulf countries started to settle in the sub-province in 2016 and after. During fieldwork, many Key Informants mentioned a migration flow from Avcılar to Esenyurt sub-province and stated that the main reason for this is the support and services provided by the Municipality of Esenyurt to foreigners in need. In addition, community leaders suggest that people of Syrian nationality who are not registered in Turkey move to the surrounding provinces including Edirne and Tekirdağ due to financial difficulties.
Bahçeşehir Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Bahçeşehir sub-province has the highest density of population per square kilometre in Istanbul province. While the total population of Bahçeşehir sub-province is 594,043, there are 39,955 migrants living there according to Baseline 2 findings. This population density has caused a rapid spread of residential areas across the entire sub-province, resulting in contiguous housing. Accordingly, the migrant population in the sub-province is also large. Although their presence was noted across the sub-province, Baseline 2 findings suggest the largest migrant group registered in the sub-province is Syrians (30,022). They primarily live in Yenibosna Zafer, Cumhuriyet and Soğanlı mahalles, which often host low-income populations. Given that Syrians living in the sub-province usually have low incomes, they often live in old buildings and basements, especially in high-income mahalles such as Kocasinan Merkez and Siyavuşpaşa. Meanwhile, Bahçeşehir Merkez and Yenibosna Merkez host a smaller Syrian population. As these mahalles are close to transportation networks, Syrians here are engaged in economic activities due to the greater daily traffic. Meanwhile, according to KILs with SASF, many Syrians also apply for financial/material support.

Based on field observations and KILs conducted in the sub-province, Hürriyet and Zafer mahalles are populated by migrants from Syria, known as Dom. According to interviews with their community leaders, the Dom people are often subject to discrimination in Syria, and are consequently socially excluded by Syrians, having had to move to Turkey. Meanwhile, tradesmen interviewed in Hürriyet mahalle claimed that the Dom often rely on soliciting money and have recently been relocated from the mahalle to Pendik sub-province (see ‘Cohesion’ section below).

The Dom are a peripatetic people, present throughout the Middle East. They are generally nomadic or semi-nomadic, practising traditional crafts in various areas and professions such as traditional healing.
Bahçelievler Sub-province

Bahçelievler sub-province is also one of the sub-provinces that hosts the largest Egyptian population along with Bağcılar and Esenyurt sub-provinces. People of Egyptian nationality are settled in the mahalles of Şirinevler, Hürriyet and Çobançeşme located at the border with Bakırköy sub-province. Klls with mukhtars in those mahalles suggested that Egyptians migrated to Istanbul after 2011 due to the political instability in Egypt.

Other large foreign national groups recorded in the sub-province include Turkmens, Afghans and Uzbeks.

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

According to Klls in Bahçelievler sub-province, migrants are employed in different business sectors, as Bahçelievler sub-province has many diverse job opportunities. For example, many migrants are employed in the industrial zone in Yenibosna mahalle which is known as the East Industrial Zone. Some of them live at their workplace. Many Syrians work at textile facilities while some have their own shops in the mahalles with a large Syrian population such as Zafer, Şirinevler and Soğanlı. Turkmens often work as sales assistants at various shops. Majority of them are employed in carwash. Uzbeks work as caregiver at houses or service personnel or dishwasher at cafes and bakeries.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Language is the biggest barrier between the local community and foreigners in Bahçelievler sub-province. Interviews with the governmental bodies and mukhtars of the sub-province revealed that the local residents in the sub-province are not open to accepting foreign nationals and fostering good relations. According to the same sources, several complains have been voiced against the Dom people in relation to them soliciting money. As a result, some of the Dom people were relocated to Pendik sub-province. The mukhtar of Hürriyet mahalle also claimed that several individuals of Afghan and Syrian nationality were evicted from their houses two years ago due to some tension with the local community.
Bahçelievler Sub-province

Migrant Mobility

Interviews with SASF and municipality personnel in the sub-province suggest that the influx of Syrians into the sub-province continues. Particularly those registered in Gaziantep, Hatay and Mardin provinces choose to settle in Bahçelievler sub-province and apply to the foundation and the municipality for resettlement in the sub-province.

Migration outflow from Bahçelievler is due to cohesion issues in the sub-province. According to KIIIs with local authorities, Syrians and Afghans in Hürriyet mahalle were relocated to Pendik sub-province by the police force. Afghans met the same fate after a fire started in a paper collecting centre in the mahalle of Kocasinan. During fieldwork, the MPM team also observed a flow of daily out of Kocasinan to other sub-provinces on a daily basis.
Bakırköy Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

The European side of Istanbul province hosts 88 per cent of the total migrant population in the province. Nevertheless, according to Baseline 2, Bakırköy sub-province, located on the European side, hosts the fewest number of migrants, following Çatalca sub-province. The low density of foreigners living in Bakırköy sub-province is rather surprising given that the neighbouring sub-provinces such as Küçükçekmece, Bahçelievler, Güngören and Zeytinburnu host a large migrant population. It is likely that the reason is the socioeconomic structure of Bakırköy sub-province which is mainly populated with specialized professionals with high incomes who can afford the high costs of housing. The latter stems from the sub-province’s location at the seaside.

Overall, the sub-province is largely residential with high income housing, including luxury building complexes and villas, and thus offers limited job opportunities and low human mobility. These factors have not only led to a low migrant population but also to a different migrant profile in the sub-province. Syrians constitute the largest group of foreign nationals in 35 of the 39 sub-provinces of Istanbul province. However, the largest group found in Bakırköy are Turkmens. According to KIIs with mukhtars, some of the Turkmens in the sub-province reside with families with whom they are employed, while others only commute to the sub-province for work. However, mukhtars have limited access to this population group because they work within households.

Other large foreign national groups in the sub-province include Syrians, Iranians, Uzbeks and Libyans. In addition, many Key Informants noted that migrants residing in the sub-province primarily belong to high income groups who trade and conduct business in Turkey. They often originate from countries including Libya, Saudi Arabia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq and Lebanon.

Syrians in the sub-province are found in Sakızagaçı and Yenimahalle mahalles. These mahalles are located at the border of Zeytinburnu sub-province and are mainly populated by middle-class people. The mahalles in Ataköy Quarter, which is located at the sub-province centre, are, based on field observations, the ones with the lowest migrant population. One reason for this may be that a large portion of the sub-province is occupied by Atatürk Airport (approx. one third), consequently having lesser availability for residential areas.

88% of all migrants in Istanbul live on the European side
Bakırköy Sub-province

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

According to KII with mukhtar, foreign nationals with high incomes often have their own business or work as professionals in the private sector. Turkmens and Uzbeks are employed in domestic work such as cleaning houses, aiding elders or child care. Turkmens also work in retail or in the restaurants in the sub-province.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

According to KII in Bakırköy sub-province, interaction between the local community and foreigners is quite limited. Turkmens and Uzbeks, on the other hand, have much more contact with the residents of the sub-province as they often speak Turkish and are employed in the domestic service sector. Meanwhile, the majority of both the local and migrant population commutes to other sub-provinces in Istanbul province for work.

KII with mukhtar of Zuhuratbaba mahalle suggested some tensions between migrants and local residents due to some allegations of wrongdoing by the first. Some incidents have also been reported in low-income mahalles, such as Yenimahalle and Sakızağaç, where Syrian populations are denser. Many people of Russian, Ukrainian and Uzbek nationality, employed in domestic services, were relocated from the mahalle due to fraud and theft incidents alleged to take place in Zuhuratbaba mahalle and Ataköy Quarter. Further interviews with real estate agents in the sub-province supported these findings and suggested that the sub-province is not very welcoming for outsiders; in addition, house owners are very picky when selling or renting out their properties and do not prefer to rent out to foreigners.
Bakırköy Sub-province

Migrant Mobility

According to observations of the mukhtars interviewed, migrants mostly (65.3 per cent) settled in the sub-province in 2016 and after, with low migrant mobility. Turkmens in the sub-province reportedly primarily come for work, while they reside in Zeytinburnu sub-province.
Küçükçekmece Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

According to data from Baseline 2, Küçükçekmece sub-province hosts the sixth largest migrant population in Istanbul province, while it is the fourth most preferred sub-province by Syrians. This is because of the affordable residence prices, job opportunities and existing networks developed over the years by Syrians settled in the sub-province in 2015 and before. Syrians are present in all mahalles of the sub-province; however, in Atatürk and Mehmet Akif mahalles, located at the northern edge of the sub-province, and Kanarya mahalle in the centre, Syrians account for nearly 25 per cent of the total population in each mahalle.

Another nationality group found in the sub-province includes Chinese. KIIs with Yusuf Has Hacip Foundation staff and the mukhtars in the sub-province found that the Chinese population originates in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China and has started to settle in the sub-province after 2016. The large majority of them are now settled in Kemalpaşa and Fevzi Çakmak mahalles, located in the centre of the sub-province. Initially, they were known to purchase apartments in the sub-province and subsequently provide financial support to their relatives and other kinspeople so as to facilitate their settlement in the following years.

Turkmens, Afghans and Uzbeks have a smaller population in the sub-province and prefer Küçükçekmece because of the availability of affordable housing and the multicultural character of the sub-province.

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Many different businesses are owned in Küçükçekmece sub-province. The mukhtars of Atatürk, Fevzi Çakmak and Kanarya mahalles stated that the number of shops run by Syrians has recently increased and many migrants are employed in textile, carpentry and marble workshops. Migrants from Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China are mainly employed at construction/renovation works and marble workshops. Turkmens and Uzbeks often work as service personnel, waiters and dishwashers at small restaurants and cafes.
Küçükçekmece Sub-province

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Mukhtars interviewed in the sub-province emphasized that Küçükçekmece has a mixed cultural structure due to internal migration and the presence of migrants from Albania, North Macedonia and Bulgaria. KII findings, particularly with local residents across the sub-province, indicate that local community has socially accepted Syrians, although they do not have a very positive attitude towards them. On the other hand, the attitude toward people of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and China residing in the sub-province is more positive compared to Syrians.

As mentioned before, Key Informants in the sub-province stated that there are conflicts arising from cultural differences between local community and Syrians as well as between different Syrian groups in Atatürk, Mehmet Akif and Kanarya mahalles which are densely populated by Syrians to the extent of ghettoization.

Migrant Mobility

According to the statements of SASF and the mukhtars interviewed in Küçükçekmece, most Syrians settled in the sub-province before 2015 while the second wave of migration during 2015-2017 significantly increased their population density in the sub-province. Syrians who have settled in the sub-province in recent years tend to come from near Istanbul and the south-eastern Anatolia region. According to the mukhtars, there are many Syrians in Küçükçekmece sub-province who attempted to flee to Europe or returned to Syria. Several mukhtars stated that they have been observing a return trend to Syria. It was also recorded that people of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan nationality are able to gain permanent residence of the sub-province through marriage.

Interview with the mukhtar of Kanarya mahalle, which is densely populated by Syrians, claimed that Syrians collectively attempted to cross into Europe until 2017. The interview with Yusuf Has Hacip Foundation in the sub-province revealed that their fellow countrymen directed Chinese nationals to Nuri Paşa mahalle in Zeytinburnu and of Fevzi Çakmak mahalle in Küçükçekmece when they first arrived at Istanbul province. Findings from Baseline 2 indicate that Zeytinburnu and Küçükçekmece stand out as the two sub-provinces which have the largest Chinese population. It was identified that Syrians have moved from Fevzi Çakmak, Kemalpaşa and Sultan Murat mahalles to other mahalles in Küçükçekmece as the Chinese population has increased.
During KIIIs, mukhtars, SASF and SSC staff in Eyüpsultan sub-province noted that Eyüpsultan sub-province has a structure suitable for people of different socio-economic levels due to its central location and various settlement areas. Following Syrian nationals, Afghans, Pakistanis and Turkmens constitute highest migrant population in the sub-province. Nişanca, Defteddar, Eyüp Merkez, Topçular mahalles situated in the Golden Horn and Alibeyköy and Silahtar mahalles are predominantly commercial areas and hence there are no migrants recorded here. Syrians travel from Eyüpsultan to Gaziosmanpaşa sub-province to work and the Syrian population is high in Akşemsettin, İslambey and Yeşilpinar mahalles which are located on the Gaziosmanpaşa border. This is because of easy acces and relatively cheaper rents. Furthermore, Düğmeciler mahalle is densely populated with Syrians as it is close to the industrial areas. The mukhtar of Güzeltepe mahalle suggested that Syrians who have higher income levels tend to live in building complexes in the mahalle.
Eyüpsultan Sub-province

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Migrants of higher income groups live in Göktürk mahalle. In the same mahalle, a dense population of Russian (400), Turkmen (600), and Uzbek (100) migrants are also present. They work in domestic services, including elderly and child care and cleaning. In addition to collecting waste paper in the sub-province Afghans and Pakistanis also work in agriculture, livestock and construction sectors in rural parts of the sub-province, such as Ağaçlı, Akpınar, Işıklar and Odayeri mahalles.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Syrians, Afghans and Pakistanis, with high population in the sub-province, are not accepted by the local community due to their increasing presence in the sub-province after 2016. Interviewees from the local community voiced their concerns about the possibility of an increasing migrant population and competitiveness in the job market. However, Turkmens, Azerbaijani and Uzbekistanis do not face the same issues due to linguistic and cultural connection with the local community and can thus easily find employment.

Migrant Mobility

Migrant mobility in Eyüpsultan sub-province is limited to daily work commutes to neighbouring sub-provinces such as Fatih, Sultangazi and Gaziosmanpaşa and vice versa. However, mukhtars in Akşemsettin, Alibeyköy and Çırçır mahalles noted that urban transformation projects are expected to start in foreseeable future and may lead to migrant mobility to different sub-provinces across Istanbul.
Gaziosmanpaşa Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

According to Baseline 2 findings, there are 67,308 migrants living in Sultangazi sub-province out of whom 57,040 are Syrians. KIIIs with mahalle mukhtars, building complex managers and SASF reveal that Gaziosmanpaşa sub-province is similar to Sultangazi sub-province in terms of demographic structure and migrant profile, but unlike Sultangazi, the migrant population in Gaziosmanpaşa is concentrated in certain mahalles. It was mentioned that migrant presence is low in mahalles, such as Yıldıztabya, Pazarıçi and Yenidoğan, where house rent is high.

Syrian nationals tend to have more presence in Karadeniz, Karayolları and Barbaros Hayrettin Paşa mahalles that share borders with other sub-provinces such as Sultangazi and Bayrampaşa, rather than the central mahalles of Gaziosmanpaşa sub-province. These mahalles are vastly preferred due to reasons such as more employment opportunities as well as linguistic and religious unity with the local community. Migrants from Italy, Croatia and Kuwait who have a higher socio-economic level reside in Fevzi Çakmak mahalle.

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Syrians, Uzbeks, and Azerbaijanis mainly work in textile workshops, while Afghans, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis work in the recycling industry. In addition, during fieldwork the MPM team observed that migrants from African countries, especially from Nigeria and Senegal, are often engaged in street vending.
Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Syrians, Afghans and Pakistanis, who feature large populations in the sub-province, are not well-accepted by the local community. Turkmen, Azerbaijani and Uzbek nationals are finding employment easily as they have similarities with the local community in terms language and culture.

Migrant Mobility

KILs with the sub-province municipality, tradesmen and mukhtars noted that in Yenidoğan, Yıldıztaba, Sarıgöl mahallesmigrant presence decreased compared to previous years due to the urban transformation projects and that mainly Syrians went to Sultangazi and Arnavutköy sub-provinces.
Sultangazi Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Sultangazi, neighbour of sub-provinces with high migrant populations such as Eyüp, Esenler, Gaziosmanpaşa and Başakşehir, has a demographically multicultural structure with different religious and ethnic backgrounds. Socio-economically, it is predominantly comprised of lower- and middle-income groups. During interviews with religious officials of Djemevi, mosques and mukhtars in Sultangazi sub-province, it was understood that these identities play a role in the distribution of migrant population. Syrian nationals stand out as the migrant group with the strongest presence in Sultangazi sub-province, followed by Pakistanis, Afghans, Azerbaijaniis and Iraqis. Although there is migrant presence in all mahalles of the sub-province, mahalles with low rents and slums such as 50. Yıl, Esentepe and Zübeydehanım are densely populated by persons of foreign nationality due to more employment opportunities in these mahalles. Besides having the highest Syrian population, it was identified that Esentepe is also the mahalle with the highest number of Syrian tradesmen. Cebeci mahalle has the densest migrant presence and is located in the centre of the sub-province. Migrants prefer it because of its easy access and traditional character which facilitates the preservation of their cultural and religious identities.

In Sultangazi sub-province, Pakistanis and Afghans have the highest level of presence after Syrians. They mainly live in Cebeci, Esentepe and İsmetpaşa mahalles and are engaged in the recycling industry. Unlike Syrians, Afghan and Pakistani nationals came alone without their families and that they are inclined to return to country of origin once they have sufficient savings. Interviewees stated that Turkmen, Uzbek, Azerbaijani and mainly Syrian nationals registered themselves in order to benefit from health, education and other social rights. Pakistanis and Afghans did not register due to lack of knowledge about the registration procedures.

Interviews with mukhtars, pharmacies, municipality and SSC in the sub-province revealed that migrants from African countries are primarily Ugandan and Senegalese, primarily living in Uğur Mumcu mahalle. Majority of this migrant population in the sub-province came and settled in the sub-province in 2016 and after.
**Sultangazi Sub-province**

**Migrant Participation in Economic Activities**

Syrians primarily work in textile workshops while those with high level of education and income own businesses (grocery, restaurant and patisserie) in many mahalles across sub-province except Cumhuriyet mahalle where their presence is relatively low. Pakistani and Afghan nationals prefer Sultangazi sub-province due to cheap rent and employment opportunities. They were engaged in waste paper collection and work informally in textile workshops. Ugandan and Senegalese earn their livelihood with street vending.

![Migrant Participation in Economic Activities](image)

**Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities**

Afghan and Pakistani nationals experienced some tensions both within their community and with the local population, primarily stemming from cultural differences.

KII’s with Malkoçoğlu and İsmetpaşa mahalle mukhtars and sub-province police department revealed that Afghan presence in these mahalles was much stronger the previous year. This is because subsequently, Afghans were removed from the mahalles by police forces and sent to Zeytinburnu sub-province as a result of tensions between them and the local community. Due to this, the number of Pakistanis (1,100) in these two mahalles exceeded the number of Afghans (600).

**Migrant Mobility**

According to interviews with Key Informants in the sub-province, Sultangazi is currently undergoing an influx of migration from Gaziosmanpaşa and Eyüp Sultan sub-provinces. Migrants most likely prefer this sub-province because of religious diversity, more employment opportunities and lower rent compared to Eyüp Sultan and Gaziosmanpaşa sub-provinces. There is migrant mobility between Sultangazi and aforementioned neighbouring sub-provinces in general due to their socio-economic similarities.
REGION 5

Beşiktaş, Beyoğlu, Kağıthane, Şişli

Beşiktaş Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Turkmen (1,302) stand out as the largest migrant group in Beşiktaş sub-province, followed by Syrians (574), Uzbeks (555), Azerbaijani (371) and Afghans (357) respectively. Turkmen mainly reside in high-income mahalles such as Balmumcu, Gayrettepe and Levent, as they are often employed in the domestic service sector.

Participation in Economic Activities

As noted above, foreign nationals in Beşiktaş sub-province are employed in a number of different sectors. For example, some provide domestic services to Turkish citizens, such as eldercare and childcare. Mainly women from Turkmenistan, the Philippines, Azerbaijan and Moldova are employed in this line of work. To work as a governess or a nurse, they must speak at least one foreign language well in addition to Turkish, possess basic medical knowledge in order to work as caregivers. Their employers often cover their social security, in addition to fair wages. Foreigners residing in Ortaköy and Etiler parts of Beşiktaş sub-province have high income and are well educated (e.g., retired Syrian judges, pre-occupation Iraqi officers, Iranian merchants and consular workers). In restaurants, diners and entertainment centres in Beşiktaş sub-province, mainly migrants from Turkic republics are preferred because their language and cultural similarities.
Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Given that the migrant profile in Beşiktaş sub-province is different, people coming from the Turkic Republics do not experience any linguistic and cultural adaptation problems. This cultural and linguistic similarity provides both employment and housing opportunities for these individuals.

Migrant Mobility

Migrant mobility in Beşiktaş sub-province can be explained by student exchange programs and consular relations. People that reside in this sub-province identify with their economic identities rather than national identities. That is to say, while living with their established communities is a primary factor for most migrant groups, those in Beşiktaş sub-province prefer to settle here based on their income level and lifestyle. The most important example of this is the migrant presence residing in the residences in luxury quarters of Beşiktaş such as Ortaköy, Ulus and Akatlar.
Beyoğlu Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Beyoğlu is the second smallest sub-province in Istanbul and is home to many establishments in entertainment, tourism, culture and arts sectors. Residential settlement areas are limited in this sub-province. However, a high migrant presence (61,118) was recorded in Baseline 2. This is mainly owing to the central location and the employment opportunities in the tertiary industry. In addition, intense human mobility in the sub-province provides some degree of anonymity, especially for irregular migrants. The proximity of the sub-province to Fatih, being the first stop of Syrians arriving to Istanbul province, and the fact that it is one of the settlement points for Afghans after Zeytinburnu and Beykoz sub-provinces, was decisive in foreigners’ preference for Beyoğlu.

In mahalles where there are many entertainment and shopping places, there was not any migrant presence identified due to the limited number of residential areas here. Due to expensive rent prices, foreigners prefer mahalles near Bosphorus and Golden Horn with higher income levels. Dense migrant population was recorded in the Hacıahmet (3,962), Piyalepaşa (6,215), Halıcıoğlu (3,900), Fetihtepe (8,400) and Örnektepe (8,000) mahalles, bordering the sub-provinces of Şişli and Kağıthane, where there are more residential areas and rents are relatively lower with easier access to transportation networks.

While Syrians (42,861) are the largest migrant community in Beyoğlu, other large communities include Nigerians (3,546), Uzbeks (3,033), Turkmen and Afghans (1,590) respectively.
Beyoğlu Sub-province

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Textile is the main sector in Beyoğlu sub-province. There are many textile workshops especially in Piyalepaşa, Keçeci Piri, Hacıahmet, Küçük Piyale, Sütlüce mahalles where Syrians are employed. Afghans and Pakistanis mostly work in construction and in the recycling industry. Some of them also reside in the warehouses where they deliver the papers they collect from mahalles such as Çukur and Bülbül, as indicated by mukhtars in these mahalles. During the meetings with the business owners, it was noted that migrants from Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan were preferred in restaurants in the sub-province because of linguistic and cultural similarities.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

The mukhtars stated that migrants are in harmony with the local community. Although Syrians encountered cohesion problems before 2015, this situation was overcome by the time. Afghans and migrants from African countries are also in harmony with the local community. For example, it was emphasized that in Hacıahmet mahalle, Syrian Kurds and Turkish Kurds live together in harmony due to the language and culture unity shared between them.

Migrant Mobility

Beyoğlu sub-province, due to its central location and intense economic activities, witnesses very high mobility during the day. This attracts foreign nationals from the surrounding sub-provinces to Beyoğlu for work. Interviews with mukhtars, tradesmen and associations in the sub-province suggest that Syrians move from Fatih, Eyüp, Bayrampaşa sub-provinces while Afghans move from Zeytinburnu to settle in Beyoğlu.
Kağıthane Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

In Kağıthane sub-province, large migrant populations were concentrated in some mahalles. It included Çağlayan, Hamidiye, Hürriyet and Yahya Kemal mahalles located in the centre of Kağıthane sub-province, are preferred because of cheap housing, informal employment, ghettoization and urban sprawl increases migrant presence. In other mahalles such as Seyrantepe, Ortabayır, Telsizler, Mehmet Akif Ersoy and Emniyetevleri migrant population is low due to the lack of employment opportunities and relatively higher rents. Syrians (39,300) are the largest migrant community recorded in Kağıthane sub-province according to Baseline 2. The second largest foreign community is the Turkmen (6,520), followed by Azerbaijanis (3,070), Uzbekistanis (2,770) and Mongolians (2,668) respectively. Majority of the migrant population in the sub-province arrived and settled in the sub-province in 2016 and after.
Kağıthane Sub-province

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

During the interviews mukhtars emphasized that there are migrants working for lower fees than Turkish citizens in Çağlayan, Hamidiye and Okmeydanı mahalles where there are many textile workshops. These interviews suggest that foreign nationals residing in the sub-province work mostly in menial jobs that do not require qualifications such as construction and transport of goods.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

In the meetings held with mukhtars and tradesmen in the sub-province suggested that in Merkez, Şirintepe, Çağlayan, Gültepe, Nurtepe, Sultan Selim, Yeşilce mahalles there are problems related to drugs, social disagreement, robbery, gangs and forced labour. While in Yahya Kemal and Ortabayır mahalles there is a state of harmony. Key Informants noted that the harmony in Yahya Kemal mahalle is the result of the cultural similarities between the local community and migrants and that Syrian nationals with middle income levels in Ortabayır mahalle are also in harmony with the local community.

Migrant Mobility

According to information received from Key Informants, Syrians migrated extensively to Esenyurt sub-province in the last two years. Afghan mobility between Telsizler and Harmantepe mahalles, known as Gültepe Quarter, and Zeytinburnu sub-province is evident. In addition, there was a reported increase in the number of Azerbaijanis in the same mahalles, where the latter either settle permanently or use this area as a transit point towards other sub-provinces such as Bağcılar and Gaziosmanpaşa with larger presence of Azerbaijani nationals.
Şişli Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Şişli is both residential and industrial sub-province. It is usually inhabited by migrants from upper-to-middle income groups. KIIIs with mukhtars, SSC and SASF suggest that the migrant population is concentrated in Mahmut Şevket Paşa, Mecidiyeköy and Kuştepe mahalles, situated near Beyoğlu sub-province where there is an established migrant network, as rent there is reasonable and employment opportunities are high.

Syrians (5,770) have the strongest presence in Şişli sub-province. Following, the largest foreign communities are Turkmens (1,533), Nigerians (1,499), Cameroonians (712) and Ugandans (642), respectively. One of the striking differences of the sub-province, compared to others, is that it is mainly populated by people coming from African countries. For Nigerians, Cameroonians and Ethiopians the unity of language, religion and culture are some of the factors for choosing the sub-province. This migrant group individuals have their own cargo companies, establishments in the food and entertainment sector in 19 Mayıs, Gülbahar and Mecidiyeköy mahalles. The Yoruba community, which is one of Nigeria’s ethnic groups, has an association and a church in this area.

Şişli is one of the most preferred sub-provinces of the upper income group with its central location and as one of the centres of culture and art in the city. It has a multi-cultural structure with 58 different nationalities recorded in the sub-province as per Baseline 2. For example, Libyan nationals reside in Fulya mahalle and there is an elite private Libyan school in the sub-province.

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

In Şişli sub-province, mainly there are Uzbek and Turkmen females working as a governess, in elderly or patient care and in domestic work. Afghans are engaged in waste paper collection and recycling industry in Şişli.
Şişli Sub-province

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

During the meetings in the sub-province, Afghans are reported to have cohesion problems and supposedly engage in illegal activities such as robbery in Kuştepe, İnönü and Fulya mahalles. However, in mahalles like Kuştepe with low income and low schooling rates, there is an absence of cohesion between local communities and migrant populations primarily due to conflict of interest stemming from illegal activities of two groups. In addition, a KII with a community leader in Gülbahar mahalle suggested that there is social incompatibility within the Cameroonian community due to differences in their unique cultural identities and historical ties.

Migrant Mobility

Şişli has significant migrant mobility due to its high business and trade volume, proximity to Istanbul’s attractions, transportation networks and being located at the centre of the social facilities. However, this mobility is temporary rather than being permanent residence. KIIIs in the sub-province suggested that Syrians there originate in Aleppo and Damascus and settled in the cities of Antalya and Gaziantep provinces first, and then came to Eskişehir and Feriköy mahalles of Şişli sub-province. Increased emigration took place from these two mahalles of Şişli sub-province in the last two years. Some Syrians left to Esenyurt sub-province, while others reportedly returned or plan to return voluntarily to Government of Syrian Arab Republic area of influence.
Migrant Profile and Settlement

Kartal sub-province is one of the most important trade and industry zones in Istanbul. During KII, sub-province mukhtars, SASF, SSC and building complex managers noted that mahalles with the largest migrant population in Kartal sub-province were Hürriyet, Gümüşpinar, Orhantepe, Çavuşoğlu, Topselvi. The latter are situated on the upper part of the D-100 highway and Yalı mahalle, represented largely with unplanned sub-standard housing occupied by low-income migrants of different nationalities such as Syrians, Turkmens and Iraqis.

It has been determined that there is less migrant presence in mahalles with higher rents such as Esentepe, Karlıktepe and Petroliş, situated near the coast and in Yukarı mahalle which is close to the seaside with no settlement areas. Syrian nationals stand out as the migrant group with the strongest presence in Kartal sub-province. Following Syrians in the sub-province, the largest foreign communities are Turkmens, Afghans, Iraqis and Azerbaijanis respectively. The majority of the migrant population in the sub-province came and settled in the sub-province in 2016 and after.
Kartal Sub-province

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

KIIs show that Syrians, who constitute the largest foreign population of the sub-province, have businesses in the mahalles where they live; however, many also work in the service sector and as daily labourers. Meanwhile, Afghans often work in paper recycling and also live in the waste paper warehouses. Iraqis and Turkmens are working in construction and car washing facilities and that they also often live where they work.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Kartal sub-province is culturally diverse and, based on observations, migrants get along well with the local community. In addition, during the meeting with the MPM team, the Mufti in Kartal noted that in-kind assistance was provided to foreigners in need by the local community and that this assistance improved relations.

Migrant Mobility

KIIs with mukhtars, mahalle residents, tradesmen and Sub-province Directorate of National Education suggest that Kartal sub-province has been receiving migrants from neighbouring sub-provinces, such as Maltepe, Pendik, Sultanbeyli, contributing to a steady increase in the local migrant population.
Maltepe Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Syrians followed by Turkmens, Afghans, Azerbaijanis and Georgians respectively have the strongest presence in Maltepe sub-province. In the meetings held with mahalle mukhtars, Sub-province Municipality and Sub-province Police Department, it was noted that there is a stronger migrant presence in Aydınevler and Başbüyük mahalles located on the border of Kadıköy sub-province and in Gülsuyu and Gülensu mahalles where there are employment opportunities.

Turkmens tend to earn their living as domestic workers, mainly live in mahalles close to Kadıköy sub-province with relatively cheaper rents such as Altıntepe, Başbüyük and Fındıklı.

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

During KIIs, it was noted that the working areas of migrants in Maltepe sub-province vary according to the dynamics of the mahalle they live in. Female Uzbeks and Turkmens work in domestic services in the mahalles with high socio-economic groups. Male Turkmens work as fishermen in Çınar mahalle situated along coast line. Afghans engage in waste paper collection because paper warehouses are close to Gülşuyu and Yalı mahalles. Uzbek and Ukrainian nationals are employed in entertainment venues in Ceviz mahalle. Syrians, who make up the largest migrant population in the sub-province, are employed in textile workshops, industrial zones and restaurants and own their businesses.
Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

According to KIIs, mahalles situated on the upper part of the D-100 highway in the sub-province are multicultural in nature while the coastal mahalles have a more homogeneous culture and host residents of high-level incomes and education. Therefore, there were no issues reported between local community and foreigners in multicultural mahalles. However, in coastal mahalles, local communities find it challenging to accept migrants because of economic and cultural differences. Nonetheless, there is no tension between the local community and foreigners in the sub-province.

Migrant Mobility

During the interviews held with mukhtars, tradesmen, Sub-province Municipality, SASF and SSC, it was noted that Maltepe receives migration from neighbouring sub-provinces such as Sultanbeyli, Ümraniye and Sancaktepe and from Maltepe there is an outflow to Pendik, Fatih and Bağcılar sub-provinces. Within the sub-province, there is mobility from the mahalles situated on the coast such as Bağlarbaşı, Cevizli and Yali towards Zümrütevler, Gülensu and Gülsuyu mahalles on the upper part of D-100 highway. On the other hand, the increase in rent as a result of urban transformation projects reportedly caused migrants to leave the sub-province. Migrant population of the sub-province has been increasing for the last two years due to the employment opportunities and good inter-community relations in the sub-province.
Pendik Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Syrian nationals stand out as the migrant group with the strongest presence in Pendik sub-province. Following Syrians, in the sub-province the largest foreign communities are Uzbeks, Turkmen, Afghans, and Germans respectively. Based on Baseline 2 data, majority of migrants arrived in Pendik sub-province in 2016 and after.

Interviews with mukhtars, tradesmen and building complex managers in the sub-province suggest that migrant population is concentrated in Kaynarca, Fevziçakmak and Çamçeşme mahalles which are close to transport network with important social centres for social life. The prevalence of slums provides less visibility for irregular migrants, which is considered as a reason for the increase in population recorded in these mahalles. In Pendik sub-province, Baseline 2 findings suggest that 16,678 migrants are present, while Baseline 1 data recorded a total of 10,751 migrants.
Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

According to mukhtars and community leaders in the sub-province, migrants work in food, weaving and machinery companies and choose their residence close to their work places. Unlike neighbouring sub-provinces such as Maltepe, Kartal and Tuzla. Due to affordable house rents, job opportunities and an established Uzbek community, a large Uzbek population was recorded in Kaynarca mahalle where, according to KIIIs, they work in textile mills, recycling industry and domestic sector.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

KIIIs conducted in the sub-province noted that except for Sapanbağları and Yeşilbağlar mahalles, there are no cohesion problems between migrant communities and the host community. According to the information received from the mukhtars of these two mahalles, migrants who arrived from the Balkan countries during the 1990s reside here; they hold Turkish citizenship. Reportedly, they are resistant to new migrants incoming in these mahalles, as they believe it would disrupt the current mahalle order.

Migrant Mobility

KIIIs with mahalle mukhtars, Turkish Red Crescent and Sub-province Police Department suggest that due to the proximity of the sub-province to Kocaeli and Sakarya provinces, periodic and seasonal migration have been reported.

According to mukhtars in Velibaba and Çamçeşme mahalles situated in the upper part of the D-100 highway, rents are reasonable and that causes migrant inflow from Sultanbeyli and Ümraniye sub-provinces to these mahalles. In addition, various Key Informants in Pendik and Tuzla sub-provinces alleged that migrants come to Pendik from different sub-provinces of Istanbul and attempt to continue abroad illegally through the Ro-Ro port.
Tuzla Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Syrian nationals stand out as the migrant group with the strongest presence in Tuzla sub-province. Following Syrians, the largest foreign communities are Turkmens, Afghans, Azerbaijanis and Jordanians respectively. Mukhtars in Cami, Fatih and Eviya Çelebi mahalles stated that these mahalles either consist of high cost building complexes and villas or contain limited residential areas; consequently, they have low migrant presence. Şifa and Mimarsinan mahalles located on the border with Kocaeli province, on the other hand, are preferred by migrants as they are easy to access, have relatively cheap rents and also because of the prevalence of existing social ties.

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

KIIs in the sub-province suggest that the leather industry and the shipbuilding yard provide employment to migrants regardless of their nationality, while in high-income mahalles such as Postane, Tepeören and Fatih, Turkmen and Azerbaijani nationals work in domestic services.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

KIIs with AFAD\textsuperscript{13} field coordinator and mosque imams in different mahalles noted that the host community provided in-kind assistance to migrants who live in their respective mahalles. For instance, an imam of a mosque interviewed in the Yayla mahalle stated that mahalle residents provided goods for migrants in need who have recently moved to the mahalle and that as a result, social cohesion between migrants and host community increased. However, local residents and shopkeepers interviewed in Orhanlı mahalle claimed that a number of individuals from the host community visited houses of elderly migrants where they attempted to force women and girls to prostitution with the promise of finding them a job.

\textsuperscript{13} Disaster and Emergency Management Authority is an institution working to prevent disasters and minimize disaster-related damages, plan and coordinate post-disaster response, and promote cooperation among various government agencies.
Tuzla Sub-province

Migrant Mobility

During interviews in the sub-province, Key Informants noted that due to the proximity, migrants living in Tuzla sub-province go to Kocaeli province for work while at the same time others come from Kocaeli to Tuzla to work at shipyards and in industrial areas. Additionally, according to mukhtars in Akfat and Yyla mahalles located far from the sub-province centre, migrants travel from these mahalles to Sakarya province as seasonal workers. In addition, majority of migrants living in the sub-province arrived in 2016 and after due to increased employment opportunities. There is a migrant mobility between Tuzla and neighbouring provinces and sub-provinces mainly for employment purposes.
Adalar Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Adalar sub-province, consisted of five islands named Büyükada, Burgazada, Heybeliada, Kınalıada and Sedef, is the sub-province with the lowest population in Istanbul province. It also hosts 795 migrants, the second lowest number of migrants, among the sub-provinces of Istanbul. Since the construction is prohibited for most of the zones in Sedef island, almost all the population is concentrated in the remaining four islands. KIlS conducted with mukhtars and Sub-province Police Department show that Adalar is mostly a tourist destination, active primarily during the summertime season. As such, many local residents move to other sub-provinces of Istanbul province during offseason for employment purposes. Therefore, Adalar’s population changes dramatically depending on the time of year. Accordingly, there are also discrepancies in economic activities and demand for workers between summer and winter. The island of Büyükada, which is the largest in size and population density in Adalar sub-province is a hub for tourist activities. Syrian nationals constitute majority of the migrant population, followed Turkmens, Uzbeks, Afghans and Georgians.

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

According to interviews conducted with mukhtars, owing to large number of Arab tourists in the sub-province, there is a demand for Arabic-speaking staff in restaurants. As a result, Syrians work as service personnel in the restaurants in Büyükada. Turkmens and Uzbeks are mainly employed for the care of horses that draw the carriages, the main touristic attraction of the island. During winter months, Turkmens and Uzbeks work as boarding caregivers to the elderly. It was also noted that migrants tend to reside in their workplaces or live collectively in flats.

Some reports of local Key Informants also suggest that migrants working illegally are pursued. For example, a shopkeeper, claimed that police raided some of the studs in Büyükada island and identified some Turkmens, Uzbeks, and Azerbaijanis working illegally.
Adalar Sub-province

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

During interviews, residents of the sub-province stated that there has been an increasing discontent within the host community over growing migrant population in the sub-province.

Migrant Mobility

According to data obtained from the interviews with mukhtars, Syrian, Turkmens and Uzbeks commute daily from Kadıköy, Maltepe and Kartal sub-provinces to Adalar to work during summer months when the tourism season is high. Moreover, most property owners are from countries such as Russian Federation, Italy, and Germany and reside in Adalar sub-province for only a few months of the year.
Ataşehir Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Ataşehir was formed by the mahalles under the administration of Kadıköy, Üsküdar and Ümraniye sub-provinces in 2008. The sub-province has a multicultural characteristic with varied mahalles with diverse income groups. While building complexes are mainly found in the sub-province’s central mahalles, Batı Ataşehir Quarter is undergoing urban transformation and consists of luxurious residences. Local residents of lower socio-economic class reside in Yeni Çamlıca and Ferhatpaşa mahalles. Fetih and Örnek mahalles, on the other hand, host the middle-lower class. This diversity naturally creates a variety of employment and settlement opportunities for migrants as well. Generally, Syrians tend to live in mahalles distant from the sub-province centre. Persons of different foreign nationalities who reside mostly in building complexes and Turkmens and Uzbeks who work as caregivers in these complexes constitute an example for this diversity. During the interviews with SASF and SSC, it was noted that Afghans are the largest migrant group in Ferhatpaşa mahalle. They tend to live where the rents are cheapest and irregular urbanization occurs. Syrians mostly prefer Esatpaşa and Yeni Çamlıca mahalles with similar properties. Iranians, the invisible minority in the migrant population live in the luxurious residential mahalles such as Atatürk and Barbaros.

It was also noted that the migrant population is lower in mahalles where there are fewer job opportunities such as Örnek and Fetih. Afghan nationals constitute majority of the migrant community in Ataşehir, followed by Syrians, Turkmens, Uzbeks and Iranians respectively.
Ataşehir Sub-province

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Interviews with shopkeepers revealed that Syrians tend to work in workshops and light industries in Ferhatpaşa and Mimarsinan that are adjacent mahalles far from the sub-province's centre. While Afghans work in paper recycling and live in paper warehouses like in Kadıköy sub-province. Uzbeks, Turkmens, and Azerbaijanis gain employment as child caretakers, elderly caregivers and cleaners. The broad range of occupations in Ataşehir sub-province is like the neighbouring sub-provinces, Kadıköy and Üsküdar. However, unlike Kadıköy and Üsküdar, some of the Turkmens and Uzbeks caregivers in the sub-province do not reside in homes of the employer but commute daily. Paper warehouses are spread across mahalles close to D-100 and TEM\(^1\) highways, such as Yeni Sahra, Barbaros, İçerenköy, Mustafa Kemal, Esatpaşa, Kayişdağı and Ferhatpaşa.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

During the interviews, mukhtars and shopkeepers underlined that there are no negative views towards migrants. The host community has been generally sympathetic towards migrants. However, it is stated by various Key Informants that low visibility of migrants in high-income mahalles and the benefits of cheap labour offered by migrants in lower-income mahalles affect this sympathy.

Migrant Mobility

During the interviews with mukhtars, Municipality and SASF, it was noted that Ataşehir sub-province receives migration from surrounding sub-provinces such as Maltepe and Kadıköy depending on the variety of employment and settlement opportunities in the sub-province in addition to its multicultural characteristic.

\(^{1}\) Trans European Motorway
Kadıköy Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Kadıköy sub-province is one of the most central sub-provinces and historically the oldest settlement on the Anatolian side of Istanbul province. Therefore, along with being economically active, Kadıköy sub-province mainly hosts residents coming from middle-to-upper income groups. Although Kadıköy is not seen as a great settlement place due to relatively expensive rents, it may be preferred for its employment opportunities and active economy. For this reason, the number of migrants living in the sub-province, their living standards and working conditions are different in comparison to some other sub-provinces on the Anatolian side, such as Beykoz, Ümraniye, Sultanbeyli.

Mukhtars, SSC and SASF noted that irregular migrants constitute majority of the migrants here. They live in congested mahalles due to expensive rents in the sub-province. It is also stated that migrants with low-income tend to live in shared houses with cheap rents in Fikirtepe, Hasanpaşa and Rasimpaşa mahalles. Zühtupaşa mahalle, where cafes, restaurants and business places are found rather than residential areas, however, has the lowest migrant presence.

According to Baseline 2 data, Kadıköy is the only sub-province in Istanbul where Uzbek nationals constitute majority of the migrant population. Uzbeks are followed by Turkmens, Afghans, Syrians and Azerbaijanis respectively. Most of the migrant population came to the sub-province and settled in 2016 and after.

Fikirtepe Quarter in Kadıköy sub-province, consisting of Dumlupınar, Eğitim and Fikirtepe mahalles, is the only quarter in Kadıköy, where middle-lower class lives. Moreover, as urban transformation projects begin to be implemented in the quarter, some of the empty buildings that are not demolished yet but are expected to be demolished soon can be rented for cheaper prices. The quarter is also very close to the centre of the sub-province where there are many job opportunities. Thus, it is preferred by Turkmens, Syrians, Azerbaijanis, and especially Uzbeks. Although there are few affordable dorm-type houses in Hasanpaşa and Rasimpaşa mahalles, close to Fikirtepe quarter; these mahalles are also densely populated.

Mukhtars and building managers reported that female Turkmens and Uzbeks reside in houses where they work as caregivers in almost all mahalles of Kadıköy, except for Fikirtepe, Dumlupınar and Eğitim.
Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Turkmens and Uzbeks residing in Fikirtepe quarter and adjacent areas, mainly work as waiters, service personnel and sale clerks in almost all mahalles, notably in central ones of Kadıköy. There are reportedly traditional restaurants and post offices in Rasimpaşa mahalle, run by Turkmens and Uzbeks. A large majority of female migrants are engaged in child, elderly and patient care and their working conditions are similar to those of Turkish citizens in similar professions. Working conditions of Afghans, however, are different as one of few sources of income for them in Kadıköy sub-province is collecting paper for the recycling industry. Afghan nationals collect paper on the streets throughout the day and live in poor living conditions, most often in paper warehouses in Fikirtepe mahalle. Some Afghans also work in shops owned by other migrants. The main motivation for Afghan migrants is to save money to migrate to a third country unlike the motivation of Turkmens and Uzbeks, which is the possibility of obtaining residence permit in Turkey.
Kadıköy Sub-province

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

According to information obtained from mukhtars, associations and shopkeepers in the sub-province, Turkmens, Azerbaijanis and Uzbeks easily overcome the language barrier due to their linguistic similarities and have, due to shared cultural traits, few difficulties in adapting to the new context. Yet, as a result of the lack of a rooted history of their presence in Turkey, they live as a relatively closed community. This is similar in the case of Afghans, who are even more closed to the outside world and communicate within their own group.

Migrant Mobility

Syrians reportedly came to the sub-province from south-eastern provinces of Turkey and settled in abandoned or demolished buildings after the urban transformation projects began to be implemented in 2016. This is particularly true for Fikirtepe mahalle, where the highest migrant presence is found in the sub-province. However, these Syrians were reportedly evacuated from the buildings by police forces upon complaints of local residents. Afghans in Kadıköy sub-province, on the other hand, initially arrived in Zeytinburnu sub-province on the European side and later moved to Fikirtepe mahalle.
Üsküdar Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

During KIlS, mukhtars, SSC and SASF noted that although Üsküdar is a neighbouring sub-province of Kadıköy located at the centre of the Anatolian side of Istanbul province, residential areas are larger in the sub-province with fewer economic activities. However, the sub-province has fewer migrants according to Baseline 2 data mainly because of low mobility in the sub-province and local residents’ reluctance to rent out accommodations to migrants. This was confirmed by mukhtars in Salacak and Selimiye mahalles inhabited by people who reside in the same house for a long time. Also, since house rents increase as they get closer to the shore of the strait of Istanbul, it enables only the migrants with higher economic status to reside in these mahalles. However, villa-type buildings create potential job opportunities for caregivers of foreign nationals here. Therefore, the migrant presence is mostly concentrated in inner parts of the sub-province, especially in mahalles near the border with Beykoz and Ümraniye sub-provinces such as Küçüksu, Yavuztürk and Ünalan.

Afghan nationals constitute the majority of the migrant community in Üsküdar sub-province. Afghans are followed respectively by Syrians, Uzbeks, Turkmen and Iraqis. While Yavuztürk mahalle near the border with Ümraniye hosts a significant number of Syrians, Küçüksu mahalle near the border with Beykoz shelters almost all of Afghans in the sub-province. Küçüksu mahalle is considered by Key Informants in the sub-province as a centre for Afghans in this part of the Anatolian side. Interviewed Afghans noted that their motivation, while they were coming here, was the presence of an Afghan community. Cheap rents in slums, the lack of traditional settlement characteristic and proximity to the labour market in Beykoz’s Göksü mahalle are among reasons for preference.
Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

According to KII, participation of migrants in economic activities varies across Üsküdar sub-province depending on the area of employment. Turkmens, Azerbaijanis and Uzbeks work in shops as cleaners or service personnel in Mimar Sinan and Ahmediye mahalles. Female migrants mostly work as babysitter and caregivers in wealthy mahalles. Syrians in Çengelköy mahalle work as craftsmen and open their own shops (restaurants, grocery stores), or work in small shops in Yavuztürk mahalle. Syrians in Ünalan and Küplüce mahalles work in textile mills. Informants noted that Afghans come to Üsküdar sub-province in the morning hours from the labour market in Gökşu mahalle to work in non-technical jobs like construction, in adjacent mahalles such as Güzeltepe and Mehmet Akif Ersoy and later they are transported to the working sites. Afghans in Küçüksu mahalle, however, open their own restaurants and grocery shops since Küçüksu is densely populated by settled Afghans.
Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Host and migrant communities in Üsküdar sub-province reportedly have a good relationship with the exception of Yavuztürk and Ünalan mahalles. Specifically, mukhtar of Ünalan mahalle reported that many Syrians came to the neighbourhood in 2014, and some incidents were recorded, primarily during the ‘adjustment period’ where local residents sought to adapt to the new presence. However, the mukhtar added that the number of Syrians decreased recently, and concurrently similar incidents did too. Similarly, SSC in the sub-province and mukhtar of Yavuztürk mahalle also suggested that some Syrian families left the mahalle following integration issues with the host community. Following the drop in Syrian population, Afghans and Palestinian refugees settled in the mahalle. In an interview with the Sub-province Police Department, it was noted that Palestinian refugees lived in abandoned buildings in Ünalan mahalle but were later evacuated by the police. It was also reported in Küçüksu mahalle that there is no issue of cohesion in Küçüksu mahalle where Afghans are densely present since Afghans are willing to adapt socially.

Migrant Mobility

According to KIlS, there has been an Afghan influx from Zeytinburnu sub-province towards Küçüksu mahalle of Üsküdar sub-province, where rents are relatively cheap, and an Afghan community network is present. Syrians also left Üsküdar to go to Sultanbeyli sub-province for the same reason, decreasing the number of Syrians in the sub-province.
REGION 8  
Beykoz, Çekmeköy, Sarıyer, Şile

Beykoz Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Baseline 2 revealed that as the sub-province mostly consists of green and rural areas, the migrant population is concentrated in the settlement areas in Acarlar, Tokatköy, and Yenimahalle mahalle. According to Baseline 2 data, approximately 80 per cent of the migrant population (12,776) in Beykoz sub-province reside in these mahalle. No migrant presence was identified in Poyraz, Ali Bahadır, Göllü and Polonezköy mahalle that were formerly villages and have few settlements and large green areas.

During the interviews held with SASF, municipality, SSC and Sub-province Directorate of National Education, it was noted that Beykoz is one of the sub-provinces hosting the densest Afghan population. The densest Afghan presence within Beykoz is found in Yenimahalle. Additionally, Yenimahalle shares a border with Küçüksu mahalle of Üsküdar sub-province and Hekimbaşı mahalle of Ümraniye sub-province, another two mahalle densely populated by Afghans. On the other hand, reasons such as availability of low-cost housing, kinship relationships between migrants and proximity to job opportunities render Yenimahalle attractive. Mukhtar of Yenimahalle noted that there has been a settled Afghan community in the mahalle for many years and more Afghans have settled there in recent years via the migrant network created by this community. Syrians are concentrated in Tokatköy mahalle due to cheap rents and employment opportunities. It was also noted that Turkmens prefer Acarlar mahalle because of employment opportunities. According to Baseline 2 data, most of the migrant population in the sub-province arrived in 2015 and before.

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Informants underlined that Afghans are mainly composed of single men who migrated from their country alone. Reportedly, Afghans from Beykoz sub-province gather in the labour market in Yenimahalle and they are taken to construction sites for daily works, receiving 30-40 Turkish lira daily wage in return. Some Afghans also open their own businesses. Syrians mostly live with their families and young men in the family are either working in daily jobs or operate their own businesses to earn family’s livelihood. Key Informants noted that Turkmens and Uzbeks work in the domestic services sector.
Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Key Informants indicated that host community in the sub-province has generally negative views on Syrians and therefore some shopkeepers prefer to employ Afghans, Turkmens and Uzbeks rather than Syrians as the three nationalities are perceived to be more hardworking and share language-culture proximity with Turkey. Mukhtars noted that although Afghans have some quarrels among each other and with local residents, overall migrants are integrated into their surroundings.

Migrant Mobility

During KII in the sub-province, mukhtars and shopkeepers stated that there has been no outgoing migrant movement, but there has been an intense Afghan influx from Zeytinburnu sub-province to Yenimahale mahalle of Beykoz sub-province in the last three years.
Çekmeköy Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Interviewed Mukhtars, SASF, building managers and shopkeepers stated that Çekmeköy is a new sub-province established in 2009 and therefore the sub-province is mostly covered by building complexes. In addition, the pine forests stretch throughout the sub-province and rents are cheaper than the neighbouring sub-provinces such as Ümraniye, Sancaktepe, Beykoz. Syrian nationals constitute most of the migrant community in Çekmeköy. Syrians are followed respectively by Afghans, Turkmens, Uzbeks, and Pakistanis.

The mahalles with large migrant population are Mehmet Akif, Mimar Sinan, Aydınlar, Ekşioğlu and Merkez, located near the border with Sancaktepe and Şile sub-provinces. More employment opportunities in Ümraniye sub-province increased the migrant population in these mahalles. Since Hüseyinli mahalle is considered a village-type settlement, no migrant population was found here. According to Baseline 2, most of the migrant population in the sub-province arrived in 2015 and before. As slum areas in the sub-province are rare and building complex are abundant, the sub-province structure is not conducive to unregistered settlement. Migrant presence is visible in the sub-province and most of foreign nationals are reportedly registered.
Çekmeköy Sub-province

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Syrians and Afghans mainly go to neighbouring sub-provinces of Sultanbeyli and Ümraniye due to limited job opportunities in the sub-province. They either own businesses such as market and jewelery in bazaars or work in restaurants, construction sites or textile mills. Key Informants noted that Turkmens and Uzbeks go to Beykoz where the income level is higher in the domestic service sector.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Syrians, who constitute the majority of migrants in the sub-province, along with Afghans, Uzbeks, and Turkmens, live in harmony with the local community, but some minor issues stemming from competitiveness in the job market have been noted among the migrant communities.

Migrant Mobility

Although there is no significant migrant mobility in Çekmeköy, Syrians from Ümraniye, Sancaktepe and Pendik sub-provinces increasingly settle in Çekmeköy sub-province.
Sarıyer Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Syrian nationals constitute most of the migrant community in Sarıyer sub-province. Syrians are followed by Turkmens, Uzbeks, Russians and Afghans respectively. According to Baseline 2 data, most of the migrant population in the sub-province arrived in 2015 and before. Mukhtars and shopkeepers noted that Syrians are concentrated in Çamlıtepe mahalle where rents are relatively cheap and job opportunities are more numerous. Moreover, Zekeriyaköy mahalle, filled with villa-type building complexes, hosts the biggest migrant groups. A high number of migrants, in particular Uzbeks, work and live in these villas. The sub-province accommodates people coming from different income groups, with more than 60 nationalities represented in Sarıyer sub-province.

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

High-income people living in the Demirciköy and Zekeriyaköy mahalles prefer Turkmens and Uzbeks to be employed in the domestic service sector (gardener, babysitter, cleaner), resulting in an increase in the number of said nationals in the sub-province. Some foreigners are working in white collar service jobs in addition to Afghan and Syrian nationals who tend to work in unskilled jobs.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Host community has reportedly accepted the migrants well, and Klls revealed no issues. This is likely due to the similar socio-economic level of the host and migrant communities in the sub-province.

Migrant Mobility

During Klls, mukhtars and municipality workers stated that migration mobility in the sub-province is not significant, and there is only movement between mahalles. It was also noted that high-income foreigners prefer this sub-province when settling in Istanbul.
Şile Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Although Şile sub-province is the third largest sub-province in Istanbul in terms of its size, almost all of the sub-province is covered by forests and mountains. According to Baseline 2 data, Şile has the lowest migrant presence in Istanbul with 705 migrants living in the sub-province. 57 of the 67 mahallels in Şile are village-type settlements, and the population of the migrants is low due to limited availability of settlement areas. Syrian nationals constitute the majority of the migrant community in Şile. The remainder of the migrant community is populated by Afghans, Uzbeks, Turkmens and Indonesians. According to Baseline 2 data, the migrant population in the sub-province settled there in 2016 and after.

During KIIIs, mukhtars, SASF, and SSC stated that most of the migrant presence in the sub-province is concentrated in Çavuş mahalle. The main reasons for this preference are the availability of settlements and the cultural similarities between the locals and foreigners fostering a degree of kinship. No migrant presence was identified in 37 mahallels of the sub-province.
Şile Sub-province

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

It was noted that in Şile where summer houses are mostly located, migrants are employed as interpreters, cleaning workers in hotels and seasonal workers in beaches and restaurants regardless of their nationality. Migrants are mostly employed in these jobs during the fall and summer seasons.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Since migrant presence is not dense in the sub-province, no issues with the host community were observed.

Migrant Mobility

Being a touristic sub-province, tourism activities in Şile escalate in summer months. This creates a movement of workers of foreign nationality from nearby sub-provinces such as Ümraniye and Pendik towards Şile. Within this context, Key Informants underscored the existence of seasonal migration in the sub-province rather than regular mobility.
REGION 9
Sancaktepe, Sultanbeyli, Ümraniye

Sancaktepe Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Sancaktepe became a sub-province in 2018. Subsequently, settlements in the sub-province and its population increased the most in the last 10 years. Baseline 2 revealed that Syrians constitute 90 per cent of the migrant presence in Sancaktepe, similar to the neighbouring sub-province, Sultanbeyli. SASF noted that Syrians prefer the sub-province as a lot of CSOs/CBOs, were providing food and other aid to foreigners in need. Additionally, the affordability in the sub-province, the existence of Migrant Health Centre that facilitates migrant health in İnönü mahalle, the sub-province’s proximity to Sultanbeyli sub-province (another favourable place for Syrians to live in), are among the reasons why Syrians prefer to settle in Sancaktepe. In line with migrant preferences, migrant presence is largely absent in rural areas in the north of the sub-province, while mahalles near the border with Sultanbeyli sub-province, such as Osmangazi and Akpınar, are densely populated by migrants. According to data obtained from the Refugees and Asylum Seekers Assistance and Solidarity Association (RASAS), responsible for provisioning aid to those in need, migrants in Sancaktepe sub-province received the second most aid from the Association after migrants in Sultanbeyli sub-province. In addition, Afghans, Turkmens and Uzbeks were also identified in the sub-province despite their low number.
Sancaktepe Sub-province

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

In the interviews held with the mukhtar and local authorities in Sancaktepe sub-province, it was noted that job opportunities are limited. Foreigners living in the sub-province are generally dependent on aid. While mukhtars of Veysel Karani and Akpınar mahalles stated that foreigners work in construction sites in these mahalles, the mukhtar of Abdurrahmangazi mahalle said that they are employed as janitors in building complexes. Syrian nationals could work in a small number of factories within the borders of the sub-province, and in restaurants and cafes. On the other hand, Afghans make their living by working in dairy farms in Paşaköy mahalle. Afghans working in the paper warehouses in this area were also identified. A small number of Turkmens and Uzbeks work in places such as cafes and restaurants. People who cannot find a job in the sub-province go to the surrounding sub-provinces to work.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

During KIIIs, some mukhtars and aid organizations in the sub-province reported that some, particularly Syrian national, frequently visit relief organizations seeking aid and may be receptive act aggressively if they do not receive any. A Syrian doctor at Migrant Health Centre in İnönü mahalle said that since more than one family live together in the same house, diseases spread more easily.

Mukhtars of Emek, İnönü, and Meclis mahalles, where Afghans account for the largest proportion of foreign nationals in the neighbourhoods, noted that local residents feel uncomfortable with them. This is because most of the Afghans are single men living in shared houses, with new residents constantly coming and others moving on. This practice is raising some suspicions among the local residents as the Afghans never interact with the host community.

Some of the schools in the sub-province were interviewed in addition to the Sub-province Directorate of National Education. Reportedly, many Syrian families who have no ID card or who are registered in other provinces seek to enrol their children into the school. Their demands are, however, not accepted. Certain mukhtars took the initiative to enrol some children with no ID card into the schools.
Migrant Mobility

Interviewed mukhtars and SSC indicated that most foreigners who came to the sub-province settled before 2015, and the arrivals decreased after 2015. Sancaktepe sub-province received limited migration, and migrants mainly moved to neighbouring sub-provinces such as Sultanbeyli and Ümraniye. According to statements of mukhtar of Fatih mahalle, a person formerly living in the mahalle brought persons of foreign nationality to the mahalle after collecting their money by promising them to provide a house and job in the sub-province. Following the disappearance of this person, several foreigners left Fatih mahalle to settle in various mahalles in neighbouring Sultanbeyli sub-province.

KII with the mukhtar and shopkeepers in İnönü mahalle suggest that Afghans, Turkmens and mostly Syrians gather in Demokrasi street and are recruited by persons or institutions looking for workers. It was also claimed that Demokrasi street is used as a meeting point by persons of foreign nationality who plan to flee abroad. According to this claim, foreigners are taken from here to Tekirdağ and Edirne provinces with buses, and from there they are smuggled to abroad via sea.
Sultanbeyli Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Baseline 2 identified that 88 per cent of the total migrant population in Istanbul, was living on the European side, while only 12 per cent percent were living on the Anatolian side of the city. Sultanbeyli sub-province hosts the majority of migrants compared to other sub-provinces on the Anatolian side. According to findings obtained on-site, Sultanbeyli (like Esenyurt and Fatih sub-provinces) has the greatest level of integration between Syrians and the local community. Communication between migrants and the local population are developed with extensive aid activities available in the sub-province. Baseline 2 also identified that aid from local authorities and CBOs/CSOs is more effective compared to Fatih and Esenyurt sub-provinces. Also, registration and monitoring of migrants, is easier as there is not a very large migrant population compared to Fatih and Esenyurt sub-provinces.

In Sultanbeyli, more than 90 per cent of the migrant population are Syrian nationals. Interviews with mukhtars and CSOs/CBOs pointed at extensive aid, social acceptance towards migrants and cheaper life costs as the main reason for the high concentration of Syrian nationals in the sub-province, despite being far away from the city centre. Syrians are scattered across all mahalles in the sub-province. Other nationalities represented in the sub-province include Afghans, Iraqis, Pakistanis, and Tajikistanis. They are settled in Sultanbeyli based on similar motivations as the Syrians.

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Despite the wide migrant network, extensive aid activities, and favourable life standards, the recorded migrant presence in Sultanbeyli is lower than many other sub-provinces. This is due to limited job opportunities. According to Key Informants, Syrians mainly work in textile mills or in jobs requiring physical labour. Furthermore, Syrians run some restaurants and own shops in an area, known as Perşembe bazaar, in Fatih mahalle and Ziya İlhak street in Mehmet Akif mahalle of Sultanbeyli sub-province. Afghans in the sub-province generally collect papers and scraps while Pakistanis work in factories under minimum wage. A few of the recorded Turkmens and Uzbeks are also employed in cleaning and care-taking services in houses.
Sultanbeyli Sub-province

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

At the meeting held in Sultanbeyli with the participation of all mahalle mukhtars, the mukhtars stated that they received complaints regarding the local migrant community, stemming primarily from cultural differences and the spreading of rumours and prejudices. Some conflicts between foreign nationals and local people have been reported, according to the same Key Informants. This points to the necessity of cross-cultural activities and further education campaigns on the issues of migration. Nevertheless, Turkish courses are offered to Syrians by Turkish Red Crescent and the municipality to strengthen cohesion in the sub-province. Reportedly, interaction between Syrians and local residents has increased after the language barrier was surpassed and it also played an important role in the social acceptance of foreigners in the sub-province.

In the case of Afghans residing in the sub-province, although social acceptance is high, communication and interaction between local people and Afghans is reportedly limited.

Migrant Mobility

Key Informants in Sultanbeyli sub-province noted that there is migrant movement between mahalles since some mukhtars are perceived to be more favourable to migrants than others; relief organizations are also believed to prioritize areas with higher migrant presence.

Some foreigners arriving from outside of the city to settle in the sub-province are Syrians, who originate in Aleppo and Damascus, and are often registered in Hatay and Gaziantep provinces. There are also other migrants coming from adjacent sub-provinces such as Sancaktepe, Pendik, Ümraniye and Tuzla. KIs with the associations in the sub-province highlighted that the migrant presence in Sultanbeyli sub-province has increased gradually since 2012, and this increase was followed by the systematic development of aid activities after 2016.
Ümraniye Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

According to Turkish Statistical Institute data, Ümraniye is one of the most crowded sub-provinces on the Anatolian side along with Pendik sub-province. According to Baseline 2, however, it hosts the second highest migrant population on the Anatolian side following Sultanbeyli sub-province. Ümraniye's central location, its proximity to Kadıköy and Üsküdar sub-provinces where job opportunities in the service sector are abundant and its various areas where foreigners with different income level can reside in are the main reasons why there is a settled migrant presence in the sub-province for years. Interviewed mukhtars in the sub-province pointed out that Syrians, the largest migrant community in the sub-province, came to the sub-province mostly before 2015. The Syrian population is more concentrated in slums in mahalles close to Çekmeköy and Beykoz sub-provinces.

The second most recorded nationality in the sub-province are Afghans. Following Beykoz and Üsküdar; Ümraniye sub-province is one of the most densely populated sub-provinces by the Afghan population on the Anatolian side. Main reasons for this density can be stated as follows: higher job opportunities in Ümraniye compared to adjacent sub-provinces such as Beykoz, Çekmeköy and Sancaktepe; migrants' motivation to reside in a location close to paper warehouses in Ataşehir and Kadıköy sub-provinces; and the presence of an Afghan community living in the intersection point of Beykoz, Üsküdar and Ümraniye sub-provinces. After Zeytinburnu and Esenyurt, the third largest Afghan community in Istanbul was recorded in the intersection point of Yenimahalle mahalle of Beykoz, Küçükçsu mahalle of Üsküdar and Hekimbaşı mahalle of Ümraniye. Furthermore, one of the reasons in the increase of the Afghan population in Ümraniye is the labour market in this area, which mostly consist of Afghans.

According to Baseline 2, Syrians and Afghans correspond to about 90 per cent of the migrant population in Ümraniye. The other migrant groups do not have a large presence in the sub-province. It was also identified that most of Turkmens and Uzbeks in the sub-province settled in Ümraniye before 2015. Yet, during KIIIs, building managers and shopkeepers in Parseller mahalle noted that Uzbek and Turkmen women begun to leave the sub-province due to depreciation of the Turkish lira.

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Afghans residing in Ümraniye mostly earn a living from collecting paper and scraps, or from working in textile and construction sectors. For the same purposes, they also go to the surrounding sub-provinces such as Beykoz, Üsküdar, Kadıköy and Ataşehir, in addition to Ümraniye. Turkmen and Uzbek women work as cleaners, eldercare-givers, and babysitters in the building complexes built in urban transformation areas. There are also few shops operated by Turkmens, selling water in Parseller mahalle. MPM teams observed that Syrians often work in construction and textile sector as well. Additionally, a few numbers of places such as jewellers, restaurants, shops and pet-shops are operated by Syrians in different parts of the
Ümraniye Sub-province

The sub-province. There is no street filled with restaurants, cafes and shops operated by Syrians like in Sultanbeyli sub-province.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Key Informants indicated that social adaptation of Syrians, Turkmens, and Uzbeks is high, fostering good relations with the local community. Since Syrians have been residing in the sub-province since before 2015, local people accepted them during these years. Migrants coming from Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan, however, were said to have limited interaction with the host community and therefore local residents are more distanced to these nationalities. One of the most complained situations by mukhtars is the fact that a lot of single migrant men live all together in the same house rather than living as families. Some mahalle residents consider these people as threats. Ümraniye SSC indicated that school enrolment rate of children of foreign nationally corresponds to 80 per cent, a figure above the average, and it plays an important role in the social adaptation of migrants.

Migrant Mobility

Mukhtars, foundations, and official institutions interviewed during fieldwork, stated that Ümraniye sub-province received most of the migration flow before 2015. Migrants who came to the sub-province after 2017 are fewer than those who leave the sub-province. The increased urban transformation work in the slums, and the subway line that started to operate in the Ümraniye sub-province in 2017 caused migrants to move to different mahalles and sub-provinces. It was noted that migrant movement is mainly towards the bordering mahalles migrants who left the sub-province prefer Sultanbeyli and Esenyurt sub-provinces. It is also known that Afghans periodically come to Ümraniye from Zeytinburnu.
REGION 10
Bağcılar, Esenler, Güngören

Bağcılar Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

According to Turkish Statistical Institute statistics for 2018, Bağcılar is the second highest populated sub-province of Istanbul and, as per Baseline 2, it is the third largest sub-province of Istanbul in terms of migrant population after Esenyurt and Fatih. The mahalles with highest migrant presence are also the most densely populated. Accordingly, Bağcılar sub-province houses a sizeable population despite its small surface area. The ability of the sub-province to accommodate such concentrated population is due to multi-story apartment buildings, constructed in close proximity to one another because of unplanned urbanization. Given this high population density, economic activities, such as trade and industry, are very vibrant.

As per the data collected during Baseline 2, Bağcılar sub-province hosts the second largest number of Syrians (76,055) after Esenyurt sub-province (141,415). Syrians have a dense presence in all 21 mahalles except for Bağlar mahalle where there is limited residential area. Based on the results of KIIs in the sub-province, approximately 85 per cent of Syrian nationals settled in the sub-province in 2015 and before. Such deep-rooted presence of Syrian community in the sub-province led to more Syrian population to settle in this sub-province. During fieldwork, MPM team observed that the profile of the host community residing in certain mahalles also has effects on the migrant presence in those places. For instance, many Syrian Kurds reside in 15 Temmuz mahalle, as the Turkish citizens living there often have origins in the eastern provinces of Turkey, where a large population of Turkish Kurds resides. Similarly, a real estate agent in that mahalle stated that approximately 350 Syrian families sought housing between June and November 2018.

During fieldwork in Demirkapı and Fatih mahalles with higher migrant presence, the Key informants noted that due to the proximity of these two mahalles, many migrants travel between them. There are many shops ran by foreign nationals, especially on the main street separating these two mahalles.

In proportion to its large migrant population, Bağcılar sub-province reportedly has also a great diversity of nationalities. Baseline 2 determined that there are more than 50 different nationalities living in this sub-province. As for these nationalities, Syrians are followed by Uzbeks (4,840), Afghans (3,845), Azerbaijanis (3,721) and Georgians (3,521). The migrants’ network in the sub-province and favourable rental fees plays a significant role on the settlement of these people in this sub-province. During the studies carried out in Güneşli and Bağlar mahalles, there are numerous commercial complexes creating employment opportunities for migrants and some of the informants stated that there are more foreign national workers than Turkish ones working in these commercial complexes. Most of the workplaces in these
commerical complexes in Güneşli mahalle are textile workshops and this mahalle is the place where Uzbeks, Georgians, Turkmens and Azerbaijanis are most found.

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Migrants registered in Bağcılar sub-province mostly work in textile industry which has the highest share in the manufacturing carried out in the sub-province. Especially the interviews carried out in Bağlar, Güneşli, Merkez, Yenigün and 15 Temmuz mahalles revealed that the textile workshops concentrated in these mahalles provide employment to many foreigners from different nationalities. The mukhtar of Yenigün mahalle stated that foreigners in textile industry are not only workers but also employers as well and that there are more than 20 workplaces operated by foreigners in his mahalle. According to the statement by the mukhtar, some foreigners working in these commercial complexes stay at the workplace during the night too.

In the sub-province that Uzbek nationals work as bellboys or salesclerks in addition to textile sector, and that there are many Uzbeks working in the restaurants in Kemalpaşa mahalle. Most of those employed in service sector are Turkmens, Uzbeks, and Azerbaijanis, who have affinity to Turkish language or those of other nationalities who learned Turkish. There are many markets, butchers, barbers, mobile telephone and sports goods shops owned by the foreigners in Çınar and 15 Temmuz mahalles. Finally, ISTOC trade centre located in Mahmutfey mahalle of the sub-province provides ample employment opportunities to foreigners. The tradesmen and shopkeepers of the mahalle stated that there are many migrants working here as porters and salesclerks.
Bağcılar Sub-province

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Considering high migrant presence in Bağcılar sub-province, the complaints stated by the locals are focused on cohesion and social acceptance, though both are relatively low. Especially the mukhtars emphasize that the foreigners living with their families have less difficulties in integration and they are more accepted by the locals of the sub-province. There is disturbance about the single men who reside in large groups in their workplaces or houses. For instance, tension has been reported between local people and migrants at certain intervals in Barbaros mahalle. Mukhtar of Yenigün mahalle stated that the local authorities identified an illegal maternity clinic operated by foreigners which was immediately closed. He also stated that the residents of the mahalle complain regarding such issues.

Migrant Mobility

Bağcılar sub-province receives migration from central sub-provinces of Istanbul, such as Fatih, due to its concentrated migrant population. Furthermore, assistance and communication network among that population, and the living conditions in this sub-province, are favourable to migrants. However, according to the observations of some mukhtars interviewed, there is a flow of migration from Bağcılar to such sub-provinces as Esenyurt and Beylikdüzü. When asked about the reasons of such migration flow, Key Informants stated that the migrants are inclined to move to places with better living conditions and more assistance. Besides, Baseline 2 shows that there is movement between Güngören and Esenler sub-provinces which are located in the same region as Bağcılar sub-province and have very similar socio-economic conditions. According to mukhtars of 15 Temmuz and Demirkapı mahalles, most of the Syrian Kurds coming from other sub-provinces prefer these two mahalles as the Kurdish speaking population is high in these mahalles.

During fieldwork, MPM teams observed continuous movement between various mahalles of Bağcılar sub-province, where foreigners frequently relocate to alternative mahalless. This is likely because they follow employment opportunities, locate cheaper housing or, in case of irregular migrants, to ensure that mukhtars and other local authorities are not able to track them.
Esenler Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

During KIIs with the local authorities in Esenler sub-province, SASF noted that 290 new Syrian families applied to SASF for assistance between November and mid-December 2018. This suggests that at least 290 families may have newly settled in this sub-province during a relatively short time, indicating an influx of foreigners into Esenler sub-province. Examining the distribution of Syrian nationals in the sub-province, Syrian population is higher in Nine Hatun, Kazım Karabekir, Tuna and Fatih mahalles, which are close to the location where the sub-province intersects with Bağcılar and Güngören sub-provinces, which, as noted above, also host a large Syrian population. In particular, KIIs in Tuna mahalle showed that the foreign population in the sub-province consists mostly of Syrian Turkmens who maintain close ties with one another through their own cultural institutions.

During KIIs, mukhtars and shopkeepers in the sub-province also emphasized that ample employment possibilities in the sub-province are a significant factor for the settlement of not only Syrians but also other nationalities in Esenler sub-province. Although it is not located within the borders of the sub-province, Great Istanbul Bus Terminal is very close to the sub-province centre and, therefore, there are many Afghans who temporarily settle in the sub-province. Esenler sub-province is preferred by Afghans and Pakistanis, as this sub-province borders Zeytinburnu and Sultangazi sub-provinces, hosting large Afghan and Pakistani populations, respectively, according to Baseline 2.

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Upon investigating the sectors in which the persons with foreign nationalities work in Esenler sub-province, textile is the most significant sector as it is in Bağcılar sub-province. Persons of different nationalities, mostly Syrians, work in the textile workshops in the sub-province especially in Tuna mahalle. Some of the textile workshop owners interviewed in Fatih and Tuna mahalles stated that Syrian nationals have manual skills and they adapt more quickly to working in the workshops. Parallel to these statements, many of the textile workshops in these mahalles posted ads and posters in Arabic language to find foreign workers. Likewise, there were many workplaces observed on the Bağcılar avenue, which is located at the intersection of Fatih and Tuna mahalles.

Most of the Afghans and Pakistanis residing in the sub-province work as waste paper collectors in the streets. It was also learned during KIIs with tradesmen that there are Afghans working as porters and cleaning staff in ISTOC Trade Centre, which is located partially in Bağcılar and Esenler sub-provinces. Turkmen and Uzbek nationals work in food and service sector in the sub-province, or they travel to different sub-provinces for work during the day.

51 According to the findings of Baseline 2, Syrians account for the majority of foreigners in Esenler sub-province.
52 Afghans primarily arrive to Istanbul province by bus from the eastern provinces of Turkey, which often represent the primary point of entry into the country for Afghan migrants.
Esenler Sub-province

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Manufacturing industry, especially in the textile sector in Esenler sub-province, play a role in enhancing cohesion between foreigners and local community. According to interviews with mukhtars and shopkeepers, migrants provide cheap labour for business owners. During the meeting with SSC, the staff noted that foreigners prefer the mahalles which are populated by people who migrated to Istanbul from eastern provinces of Turkey. The similarities in their cultural and family structures make it easier for them to live together. However, some of the mukhtars, especially Davutpasa and Mimar Sinan mahalles, stated that the biggest challenge is the tensions among youth. The tensions reportedly stem from prejudices and misinformation of Turkish citizens that migrants benefit from the GoT, while Turkish citizens in need are ignored.

During KIIIs with Turkmen Humanitarian Assistance and Solidarity Association and Council of Syrian Turkmens Association (two CBOs) in Tuna mahalle, where many Syrian Turkmens reside, the staff stated that Turkmen children born in Turkey speak Turkish but not Arabic. Their parents sought help from the CBOs, as they wish to teach their children Arabic, in case of future return to Syrian Arab Republic.

Migrant Mobility

During the interviews with the mukhtars and community leaders in the sub-province, they stated that the mobility of the foreigners in the sub-province is directly related to social and economic dynamics of the mahalles within the sub-province. That is to say, the population of Yavuz Selim and Menderes mahalles, which are located on the subway line, have higher level of income and education. Both persons of foreign nationalities and local people who do not meet these conditions tend to move to other mahalles.

The Director of SASF in Esenler sub-province confirmed that there is continuous movement through the sub-province. For example, foreign nationals often leave the sub-province when they find better conditions elsewhere, often in Esenyurt sub-province. Following an improvement in their economic status, migrants prefer to live alone with their families as opposed to sharing with two or three others, as is often the case in Esenler sub-province.
Güngören Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

According to the Baseline 2 findings in Güngören sub-province, Syrians (15,849) account for the majority of foreign nationals in the sub-province. There has been a large increase in the number of Afghan nationals in the sub-province in parallel with the influx of Afghan nationals across Istanbul.

According to Key Informants, job opportunities were the most decisive factor in migrants' decision to settle in a mahalle in Güngören sub-province. Higher migrant populations were recorded in mahalles with greater job opportunities, such as Güneştepe, Merkez, Mareşal Çakmak and Genç Osman. They are located on the borders of Bağcılar sub-province. Many dwellers moved out of their houses in Tozkoparan mahalle due to urban transformation projects, and as these projects were delayed, said houses were rented to Syrian, Iraqi and Azerbaijani nationals at lower prices.

Güngören sub-province also has the third highest population of Georgian nationals among the assessed sub-provinces following Bağcılar and Fatih sub-provinces. Georgian nationals are especially concentrated in Güneştepe mahalle. This mahalle has been selected for its employment opportunities. Additionally, the mukhtar stated that these persons generally live in single-person accommodations.

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Very much like in Bağcılar and Esenler sub-provinces, the textile sector has a significant role in the economy of Güngören sub-province. Key Informants stated that foreign nationals play active roles in various stages of this sector. Many are employed doing cutting and sewing work in manufacturing workshops in Güneştepe and Merkez mahalles, and in sales in Mehmet Nesh Özmen and Nazif Gürman mahalles. Locals said that the number of wholesale stores in the mahalle had increased in the last two years, and that each of these stores employed one or two persons of foreign nationalities at least. In the interview conducted with the mukhtars of the same mahalles, it was discovered that the cargo companies owned by Iranian nationals residing in the sub-province were closed down due to the loss in value of the Turkish currency 'lira'. An irregular migrant from Turkmenistan in Tozkoparan mahalle stated that he knew many Turkmen nationals who had returned to their country for the same reason and that he intends to do so as well.

At the beginning and end of working hours, the MPM team observed a high density of migrants at the intersection of Merkez, Güneştepe and Mareşal Çakmak mahalles. This is where the migrant population is highest in the sub-province. During KIIs, mukhtars of these three mahalles stated that foreign nationals, most of whom are Syrian, Uzbek and Georgian nationals, gather at the intersection every morning before they are transported to textile
workshops and industrial sites by buses. They are returned there in the evening.

**Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities**

Mukhtars and other official authorities interviewed in Güngören sub-province stated that overall, no particular tensions exist between foreign and host communities at the local level. Local residents provide material support, such as clothes and basic supplies, to foreigners in need, through mukhtars. This is especially true in the Genç Osman mahalle. According to a statement from the mukhtar of Mareşal Çakmak mahalle, police intervened when the local residents voiced complaints against migrants residing at shops where they were employed. Subsequently, police intervened, and migrant workers were no longer allowed to reside at their workplaces.

In addition, a common complaint voiced by local mukhtars was that many foreigners, particularly non-Syrian nationals, are generally not registered.

**Migrant Mobility**

During KIIIs, the Director of SASF noted that mobility in Güngören sub-province relates to income level of migrants. For example, if the migrants are able to make enough money, they usually move to Mehmet Nesih Özmen and Haznedar mahalles in Güngören sub-province, or to Esenyurt sub-province where there is better housing. Mukhtar of Güven mahalle also shared similar information, stating that some Syrian families residing in the mahalle moved to Esenyurt sub-province. Meanwhile, other Key Informants in the sub-province suggested that there are a similar number of incoming and outgoing foreign nationals passing through Güngören, which is the reason that the total number of migrants in the sub-province remains relatively unchanged. According to the same sources, newcomers generally come from Fatih and Zeytinburnu sub-provinces because of housing at lower-cost and employment opportunities in textile sector in the sub-province.
Regional Assessment

Bayrampaşa, Zeytinburnu

Bayrampaşa Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Bayrampaşa sub-province is historically one of the first places where foreigners who came to Istanbul settled, and the population of the sub-province increased with migration. During meetings held in the sub-province, all mukhtars pointed out that many foreigners from neighbouring countries, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Kosovo and Albania reside in the sub-province. However, these people came many years ago and many of them have since acquired Turkish citizenship. Another factor that impacts the multicultural composition of Bayrampaşa sub-province is the Great Istanbul Bus Terminal located within the borders of the sub-province. Because of this terminal, Bayrampaşa is one of the first sub-provinces that foreigners who come to Istanbul by bus get a glimpse of the city. In addition to that, the central location of the sub-province; its proximity to the historical peninsula; and the fact that surrounding sub-provinces like Esenler, Sultangazi, Gaziosmanpaşa, Eyüpşultan, Fatih and Zeytinburnu all have high migrant presences based on both Baseline 1 and 2 datasets; have all played a role in the preference that different migrant communities have had for Bayrampaşa sub-province upon arriving in Istanbul province in recent years.

Bayrampaşa is a sub-province with few residential areas due to the presence of the bus terminal, a wholesale fruit and vegetable market, industrial sites and factories located within the borders of the sub-province, and for this reason has a lower population than other sub-provinces. In Baseline 2, the highest recorded foreign nationality in Bayrampaşa were Syrians (14,914), and when this number was compared to the recorded data from Baseline 1 (10,981), the number of Syrian nationals present increased by 35 per cent. The mahalles with the highest density of Syrians are Vatan, Kartaltepe and Muratpaşa mahalles as these mahalles offer low-cost housing.

The majority of the migrants from Afghanistan and Pakistan live in Muratpaşa mahalle. During KII with the mukhtar in Muratpaşa mahalle, he noted that it is the local industrial sites that attract migrants, as they offer employment. In addition, it was mentioned that in...
Bayrampaşa Sub-province

some houses in the mahalle 20 to 30 migrants most of whom are Afghans and Pakistanis live together, and it is difficult for mukhtars to track this arrangement.

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Many industrial sites operate in different parts of Bayrampaşa sub-province. During the interviews with mukhtars, it was noted that these industrial sites are the main work areas for the migrant population in the sub-province. For example, the mukhtar in Terazidere mahalle stated that there are many migrants working in small-scale industrial sites in his mahalle, but that only a small percentage of these migrants live in the mahalle. In addition, it was learned that many migrants are working informally for low wages in textile and apparel workshops. In addition to industrials sites and textile workshops, it was noted that nationals from Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan residing in the sub-province also work in cafes, restaurants and stores as service personnel. It was also learned that foreigners also work in goods transportation, for example in the wholesale fruit and vegetable market in the sub-province.

Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

In the meetings held with public institutions, mukhtars, community leaders and tradesmen in Bayrampaşa sub-province, there were many different opinions on cohesion and social acceptance of migrants in the sub-province. It was noted that foreigners living as a family did not have much difficulty in terms of social acceptance, but that young men who lived and moved together caused discomfort in the local community. During MPM’s meeting with İsmetpaşa mahalle mukhtar, the latter noted that there were migrants that lived collectively in the same houses in the mahalle, wandered the streets all day and were not working but waiting for financial assistance. Some Key Informants in different mahalles of the sub-province also highlighted that from time to time, local community members and migrants experienced disagreements, where police had to intervene.

Migrant Mobility

According to information received from the public institutions interviewed in the sub-province, the population increases up to four times during the day. One of the most important reasons for this increase is related to the abundance of economic opportunities in the sub-province. It was stated that migrants that reside in the neighbouring sub-provinces such as Zeytinburnu and Esenler are among the people who come to the sub-province each day. In addition, some mukhtars stated that there are migrants who go to Bağcılar and Esenyurt sub-provinces from Bayrampaşa and settle there, due to cohesion or economic problems in the sub-province.
Zeytinburnu Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

According to the data on the presence of Afghan nationals (18,620) in the sub-province collected in Baseline 2, there has recently been a 3.5 time increase in the number of Afghans in Zeytinburnu sub-province. This has been confirmed by all Key Informants interviewed across Istanbul province. At present, Zeytinburnu sub-province hosts approximately one fifth of the total Afghan population in Istanbul province. In addition, Key Informants within the Afghan community stated that the first stop for all Afghan nationals arriving to Istanbul is Zeytinburnu sub-province, and they later disperse to other sub-provinces, mainly to Beykoz and Esenyurt. This was confirmed during other KIIs, when the International Association of Afghan Turks for Social, Culture and Cooperation staff noted that after entering into Turkey, Afghan nationals come to Istanbul where they first meet with their relatives or other connections in Zeytinburnu sub-province before choosing to move on to other sub-provinces across Istanbul province. The likely reason Zeytinburnu sub-province is the first destination for Afghan nationals coming to Istanbul province is the local network of Afghans, established in the sub-province. Although there were Afghan nationals recorded in all 13 mahalles of Zeytinburnu during Baseline 2, the most concentrated mahalles were recorded to be Yeşiltepe, Sümer, Nuripaşa and Veliefendi.

Although Zeytinburnu appears to be the sub-province with the largest Afghan population in Istanbul, Syrian nationals (21,750) were in fact the largest foreign community in the sub-province according to Baseline 2. The central location of Zeytinburnu; its proximity to Fatih sub-province, which has a large population of Syrian nationals; and the job opportunities in the sub-province were the primary reasons reported for why Syrian nationals preferred this sub-province. Although Syrian nationals were spread across the sub-province like the Afghan population, the highest presences of Syrian migrants were recorded in Seyitnizam and Veliefendi mahalles. These mahalles appeal to middle and high-income groups due to their proximity to transportation networks and the residential sites constructed in the recent years. Parallel to this, fieldwork findings from across the sub-province showed that the number of Syrian nationals in need of assistance is not very high. The Key Informants interviewed in Çırpıcı mahalle stated that, although the density of Syrian nationals is low, the young migrants generally stay and sleep in the shops on the ground floors of the buildings.

Note that Afghan migration to Turkey is an ongoing phenomenon that has been ongoing for at least a decade, punctuated by periods of increased influx. As such, there is an established and locally accepted Afghan community in Zeytinburnu sub-province, which has existed for some time. This network offers support to newcomers, inciting many to the sub-province.
Zeytinburnu Sub-province

Another group of migrants residing in large numbers in Zeytinburnu sub-province are Chinese nationals originating in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China. Zeytinburnu is the sub-province with the largest number of Chinese nationals in Istanbul. During KIIIs with the Turkistani Culture and Social Assistance Association in Istanbul, the staff noted that, similar to Afghan nationals, Zeytinburnu has also served as the primary settlement area for migrants originating in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China for many years. These individuals reside mostly in Nurıpaşa and Sumer mahalles. In addition, some of the shopkeepers stated that the population of Uzbek nationals in the sub-province has recently been increasing.

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

During fieldwork, the MPM team observed that the migrant population increases considerably during daytime, as many foreigners come into the sub-province for work. During KIIIs, mukhtars claimed that many migrants work informally in manufacturing workshops and in stores, as the sub-province is one of the manufacturing and trade centres for the leather and textile sectors in Istanbul province. Unlike the other sub-provinces of Istanbul, Afghan nationals in Zeytinburnu stated running their own stores, and the MPM team indeed observed spice shops and clothing stores run by Afghan people in each mahalle. This was, for example, especially true on 58th avenue in Gökalp mahalle which was full of shops and stores run by Afghan nationals. Based on these observations, Key Informants concluded that Afghan nationals residing in Zeytinburnu sub-province are relatively better-off; the type of work in which Afghans are engaged, however, is different in the neighbouring sub-provinces, where these workers also earn less.

Large numbers of Syrian nationals are working in textile workshops in the sub-province, and they also run their own restaurants and markets in certain parts of the sub-province. There is a street called ‘Minor Aleppo’ (Küçük Halep) in Seyitnizam mahalle where all shops and stores are run by Syrian nationals and used as a meeting point for Syrian nationals who gather to go to work. Among Chinese nationals, there are those who run their own workplaces like the Syrian nationals, and those who work in textile workshops or who work as waitstaff in cafes and restaurants as they can speak Turkish. Generally, among migrants, the younger ones tend work in the textile business and as apprentices in different shops and workplaces, with few women employed.
Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

During KIs, mukhtars, shopkeepers and community leaders, as well as local residents noted that most of the communities in Zeytinburnu sub-province had, at some point, voiced complaints against migrants. The most problematic mahalles are Nuripaşa and Sümer where the population of migrants is highest. Mukhtars stated that there were foreigners who had to move out of the sub-province because of issues in the past years. Some mukhtars also noted that employment of those with foreign nationalities in different sectors in the sub-province increased interactions between the local residents and migrants, but that the employers and landlords also exploited them. Notably, migrants may often be employed at very low wages, while the house rental prices are very high, forcing many to live in suboptimal conditions (e.g. overcrowding, lack of privacy).

Another finding in regard to host-to-migrant community relationships was that local residents display a more protective approach towards Chinese nationals due to cultural, historical and linguistic ties. However, conflicts between Chinese nationals in Telsiz and 5 Telsiz mahalles elicited complaints from the local residents. Meanwhile, Afghan nationals, when compared to Syrians, are better accepted by and get along better with the local community. This may be because some local residents believe the Syrian community to display an attitude of self-containment. Nevertheless, local Key Informants stated that there have not been many problems between these two groups as there is limited interaction between them.

During fieldwork in the sub-province, the MPM team observed that there are many children living in the migrant communities. KIs, conducted with the community leaders of migrant groups found that Afghan and Chinese children especially seldom attended school, as the capacity of the local schools was insufficient and, given that migrants are mostly unregistered, many fear deportation.

Migrant Mobility

There is very high entrance, exit and internal mobility in Zeytinburnu sub-province. During KIs, mukhtars stated that Afghan and Chinese nationals continue to arrive in the sub-province, that Uzbek and Iranian nationals have settled in the sub-province at a high rate in the recent period, and that there is an increasing number of Bangladeshi communities in Veliyeendi mahalle especially. Additionally, the mukhtars also stated that there has been an influx of migrants every morning who come to work from neighbouring sub-provinces, such as Fatih.
During KIIIs, Turkistan Culture and Social Assistance Association in Istanbul staff noted that some migrants from Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China moved to Küçükçekmece and Silivri sub-provinces, and that they live in these places in communities. Afghan nationals are moving from Zeytinburnu to different sub-provinces of Istanbul, and there is an influx to Beykoz sub-province where a smaller Afghan community lives.

Attempts to cross to third countries occur in Zeytinburnu as it many migrants living there wish to continue their journey.
Fatih Sub-province

Migrant Profile and Settlement

Fatih sub-province, which is located in the centre of Istanbul and contains many of the tourist areas known as old Istanbul, is one of the most well-known sub-provinces for migrants when it comes to Istanbul. Furthermore, Fatih is one of the first stops for migrants who come to Istanbul province due to its existing migrant network, which has evolved in the sub-province. Baseline 2 findings recorded the second highest migrant density in Istanbul province in Fatih sub-province, with migrants of more than 70 nationalities.

In regard to migrant distribution, there were no migrants in 15 of 57 mahalles in the sub-province. The common feature of these 15 mahalles is that all of them are located in the east of the sub-province with tourist destinations like the Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque, and in shopping areas like the Grand Bazaar. Although many migrants, especially tourists and foreigners working in hotels and shops, can be found in this part of the sub-province during the day, mukhtars interviewed stated that many foreigners do not reside in the sub-province because of the limited and expensive housing in these mahalles.

According to data obtained through fieldwork carried out in Fatih sub-province, Syrian nationals (60,850) constitute more than half of the migrant population (111,569) in the sub-province. Fatih is one of the first sub-provinces where Syrian nationals settled in Istanbul since they started migrating to Turkey in 2012. Syrian communities, although scattered across Fatih sub-province, are most dense in Hırka-ı Şerif, Aḵşemsettin, İskenderpasa and Kocamustafapaşa mahalles. During KILs conducted in these mahalles, Syrian tradesmen noted that Syrians who arrived during the past few years chose to settle in Fatih sub-province due to the existing support networks, including the relief organizations. As such, the Syrian population in the sub-province steadily increased. However, this increase has reportedly slowed recently, as many chose to leave the sub-province in favour of other. This is likely because the living conditions in Fatih are not as favourable as they used to be for foreigners.

Uzbek population living in Fatih sub-province are reportedly concentrated across a number of different mahalles, such as Nişanca and Mimar Hayrettin. Meanwhile, Turkmens, Iraqi and Afghan nationals appear to be distributed more evenly across the sub-province. When interviewed, mahalle mukhtars stated that Uzbek and Syrian nationals have generally come as a family unit, while Afghan nationals and migrants from African countries are mostly men who come alone and live together in disused, low-cost, rental housing.

Aksaray mahalle is among the most multicultural diverse in Fatih sub-province. In addition to nationals from Syria, Turkmenistan, Iraq, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, many Georgian nationals
Fatih Sub-province

and individuals from North Africa (e.g., Morocco and Algeria), Eastern European (e.g. Moldova and Ukraine) countries and Russian Federation were recorded in Aksaray mahalle. Due to high density of the population and vibrant socioeconomic scene, this mahalle appears to be one of the busiest in the sub-province, especially during daytime.

Kumkapı Quarter which includes Muhsine Hatun, Saraç İshak and Şehsuvarbey mahalles and its surroundings represent another culturally diverse area. The Saraç İshak mahalle mukhtar stated that there are a great number of migrants from African countries, as well as Afghan and Pakistani individuals in the quarter and its surroundings and that these individuals generally move within the quarter from the early hours of the day until late at night. According to the mukhtar, the reason why many foreigners prefer this mahalle is because the high density of foreign nationals provides a perception of anonymity, particularly for irregular migrants.

Migrant Participation in Economic Activities

Fieldwork conducted in Fatih sub-province found that the large Syrian population was very active in the economic fabric of the sub-province. Foreign enterprises, present in almost all parts of the sub-province, are especially concentrated across the so-called Aksaray–Yusufpaşa–Şehremini line. There are many restaurants, cafes and markets in these areas, with the majority run by Syrian nationals. Abundance of local Key Informants in each mahalle, played an important role in data triangulation and verification. Due to the concentration of migrants in the sub-province, there are many businesses that provide consultancy services to migrants, such as advice on obtaining residence and work permits. Some of these consultancy services are run by migrants, and migrants coming from Arabic-speaking countries often work as interpreters in these enterprises.
Cohesion between Migrant and Host Communities

Information and observations collected during fieldwork in Fatih sub-province in regard to the relationship between the migrant and local communities is somewhat contradictory. Some Key Informants, for example, observed that foreigners are well-integrated into the local community with high level of interaction. This is especially true for the mahalles with a vibrant socioeconomic scene. However, mukhtars as well as local and foreign tradesmen interviewed in the densely populated residential areas voiced a number of complaints regarding the lack of cohesion. In particular, they mentioned that a number of conflicts triggered by cultural differences occurred where the Syrian population is most dense. These incidents, although having no legal consequences, may nevertheless inspire mutual misconceptions between the local residents and the Syrian community and should thus be addressed.

Also, during KIIs conducted at the mahalle level, mukhtars and tradesmen claimed that Georgian nationals were involved in robbery and that migrants from Uzbekistan and African countries are trafficking women in Aksaray mahalle; some may also be involved in drug trafficking in Katip Kasim mahalle of Fatih sub-province. Tensions between Syrian nationals and other migrant groups are reportedly also present, resulting in a subsequent exclusion of Uzbek nationals by Syrian nationals rather than by the local community in the same mahalle.
Fatih Sub-province

Migrant Mobility

KIIIs with SASF in Fatih sub-province, associations established by mukhtars, community leaders and migrants, highlighted migration flows from Fatih to other sub-provinces of Istanbul province. Many foreigners from different countries, especially Syrian nationals, have left Fatih and settled in sub-provinces, such as Esenyurt, Başakşehir, Bağcılar, Küçükçekmece and Beylikdüzü. When the reasons for this movement were asked during the interview with the Syrian Associations Platform located in Fatih sub-province, it was mentioned that landlords took advantage of the increasing population and consequently increased the rents. These increases in rent in renovated areas in mahalles, such as Balat and Aşvansary, have resulted in foreigners needing to move to different areas. Increased robberies and similar incidents have also led foreigner nationals to feel unsafe and consider moving to newer and safer houses in sub-provinces with larger migrant networks, such as Esenyurt and Başakşehir. Migration for economic reasons has also taken place between the mahalles located in Fatih sub-province. Mukhtars stated that migrants constantly change their residence between different mahalles and that because of this it is difficult to track them.

Although there are foreigners who leave Fatih and settle in other sub-provinces, a steady influx of migrants who come to Istanbul province from other cities have replaced them. Due to its high migrant presence and central location, Fatih stands out as the sub-province with the highest migrant mobility during the day. The fact that transportation networks in Fatih make the sub-province accessible by land and sea from many parts of Istanbul makes it easier for a large number of people to come to work in the sub-province. In addition, due to the fact that the number of cafes and restaurants run by migrants in Fatih is very high, a large number of migrants from neighbouring sub-provinces came here to socialize as well. Key Informants noted that, similarly, foreigners living in Fatih are taken to other sub-provinces of Istanbul by bus to work in construction and industrial sites.

During KIIIs, some mukhtars in the sub-province claimed that Fatih is also a sub-province where there are a high number of migrant smuggling operations and that these activities are carried out opposite the shopping mall situated on Vatan Street, one of the busiest streets in the sub-province. However, according to information obtained from some community leaders, recently, the negotiations between traffickers and people who want to flee to Europe started taking place in very luxurious cafes and restaurants to avoid suspicion. In addition, it was mentioned that migrants who had agreed with human traffickers to go to Europe were kept waiting in houses and hotels for a while, especially in Katip Kasım mahalle and Laleli Quarter, and that then they were taken to Edirne overland.