Overview of Migrant Situation in Turkey

According to the latest available figures from the Turkish Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), there are more than 4.5* million foreign nationals present in Turkish territory, 3.6* million of whom are seeking international protection.

Most of those seeking international protection are Syrians (3,641,370* individuals) who are granted the temporary protection status in Turkey. In addition, international protection applicants are most frequently nationals of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq constitute another group of foreign nationals. According to DGMM, as of end of 2019, there were 56,417* international protection applicants present in Turkey.

In addition, there are 886,653* foreign nationals under residence permit holder status; this number includes humanitarian residence holders.

*Data Source DGMM, 31.12.2020

Monthly Population Chart of Persons Under Temporary Protection

Urban Caseload Residents in Camps

Categories of Residence Permit

67% Short Term
15% Family
9% Student
9% Other

International Protection Applicants

There are 56,417* international protection applicants in Turkey of different nationalities, but primarily originating in Afghanistan, Iraq and Islamic Republic of Iran.

*Data source DGMM, end of 2019¹

Residence Permit Holders

Foreigners who seek stay in Turkey beyond the duration of a visa or a visa exemption or, longer than 90 days, should obtain a residence permit. There are 886,653* residence permit holders in Turkey within various categories. According to DGMM, the “other” residence permit category includes humanitarian residence permit holders, and while the exact number is unknown, it is believed that the vast majority in this category are Iraqis. The breakdown of the residence permit categories is shown in the graph (left). The category breakdown of residence permits and the total number of residence permit holders are monthly published.

*Data Source DGMM, 31.12.2020

¹ UNHCR ended registration process in Turkey on 10 September 2018. The registration process will continue with the procedure carried out by the Turkish authorities (UNHCR). The number of international protection holders is not publicly available as of the date above.
Between 4 April 2016 and 31 December 2020, 2,139* migrants have been readmitted to Turkey from Greece. Main points of return from Greece include Lesbos, Chios, Kos and Samos, while the main readmission points to Turkey include Dikili, Çeşme, Bodrum and Adana airport.

*Data Source DGMM, 31.12.2020

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**Resettlement of Syrians from Turkey**

Since 4 April 2016, when EU-Turkey Statement on the readmission of migrants to Turkey arriving in Greece after 20 March 2016 entered into force, a total of 27,579* Syrians were resettled to a number of European countries (see graph below) according to One-to-One mechanism with the assistance of IOM.

*Data Source DGMM, 31.12.2020

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**Apprehended/Rescued Persons on Sea**

According to Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) reports, the TCG apprehended 1,250* irregular migrants and no fatalities were recorded in December 2020. The top ten nationalities of apprehended/rescued migrants are Afghan, Somali, Congolese, Syrian, Iranian, Pakistani, Palestinian, Central African, Senegalese and South African.