Overview of Migrant Situation in Turkey

According to the latest available figures from the Turkish Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) currently there are more than 4 million foreign nationals present in Turkish territory seeking international protection.

Most of them are Syrians (3,641,344* individuals) who are granted the temporary protection (TP) status, while according to UNHCR another large group of the foreign nationals are 368,230** asylum-seekers and refugees consisting of different nationalities, but mainly coming from Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Somalia and other countries.

In addition, there are 922,530* foreign nationals under residence permit holder status including humanitarian residence holders.

*Data Source DGMM, 28.03.2019
**Data Source UNHCR, 28.02.2019

Temporary Protection*

Turkey implements a Temporary Protection regime for 3,641,344 individuals from Syrian Arab Republic which grants beneficiaries right to legally stay in Turkey as well as some level of access to basic rights and services. A vast majority of them, 3,501,266 individuals, live outside the camps and are spread across the Turkish border provinces while nearly 140,078 live in 13 camps the majority of which are also located close to the Syrian border.

*Data Source DGMM, 28.03.2019

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Another large group other than Syrians who are under TP in Turkey are 368,230* asylum seekers and refugees consisting of different nationalities, but mainly coming from Afghanistan, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran and Somalia.

*Data Source UNHCR, 28.02.2019

Residence Permit Holders

Foreigners who would stay in Turkey beyond the duration of a visa or a visa exemption or, longer than ninety days should obtain a residence permit. There are 922,530 residence permit holders in Turkey within various categories. According to DGMM, the “other” residence permit category includes Humanitarian Residence permit holders but the exact number is unknown. It is believed that vast majority of this category are Iraqi nationals. The breakdown of the residence permit holders are shown in the map on the left. The category breakdown of residence permits are published annually whereas the total number of residence permit holders are monthly published.

*Data Source DGMM, 28.03.2019
Resettlement of Syrians From Turkey

Since 4 April 2016 there are 1,842* migrants and refugees readmitted to Turkey from Greece. Main returning points from Greece include Lesvos, Chios, Kos and Samos and the main readmission points to Turkey include Dikili, Çeşme, Bodrum and Adana (through the airport).

*Data Source DGMM, 28.03.2019

Apprehended Persons on Land*

According to Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) sources, in March 2019, TAF registered a total number of 17,765 irregular border crossings: 14,949 of which having entered Turkey from Syrian Arab Republic, Greece, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq and Bulgaria and registered 2,816 irregular crossings from Turkey into Greece, Syrian Arab Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq and Bulgaria. The numbers per border are shown in the table on the left.

*Data Source T.A.F., 31.03.2019

Apprehended/Rescued Persons on Sea

According to Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) reports, the Turkish Coast Guard apprehended 1,849* irregular migrants and four fatalities were recorded in March 2019. The top ten nationalities of apprehended/rescued migrants are Afghan, Palestinian, Syrian, Iraqi, Congolese, Yemeni, Central African, Somali, Malian, and Togolese.

*Data Source T.C.G., 31.03.2019

INFO: mpmturkey@iom.int

*Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purposes only. The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names, and related data shown on maps and included in this report are not warranted to be free of error nor do they imply judgment on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries by IOM.