

# The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

## REGIONAL REVIEW

# Submission by Turkey

## Section 1. Methodology

Historically and geographically situated on multiple major migration routes, Turkey thoroughly monitors all the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), and attaches particular importance to the principles of prevention of irregular migration at its source and to shared international responsibilities and burdens. The success of the GCM depends on a collective whole of government approach and social response by all states to various issues highlighted by the Compact. This report summarizes the steps taken by the Government of Turkey for the Compact and how it has handled the process. As part of this state-led review, an inclusive method has been sought and adopted in line with the whole of government approach and social response, which are among the guiding principles of the Global Compact.

Established under the coordination of IOM, the communication network and working group gathered respective departments of public agencies, organizations and other stakeholders concerning migration management to contribute to the development of the report. In addition to data provided by organizations, the related stakeholders had access to organizational briefing notes, actions and statistical records via online, public data sources offered by public agencies and multi-stakeholder projects. The majority of data accumulated for this review was collected from websites of public agencies, including the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Family and Social Services, Ministry of Labour and social Security and the Council of Higher Education. The internal reports of the public institutions prepared for inter-departmental coordination are among the other sources of information included in this review. Publications covering field observations of various studies on migration are also taken into consideration.

## Secton 2. Policy and Enabling Environment

Since the dawn of history, the Republic of Turkey has been at the heart of population movements that result from ever-changing global, regional and local dynamics. While the number of registered foreign residents in Turkey has increased from 1.5 million in 1990 to 4.5 million in 2020, the number of registered foreign residents in Turkey has increased from 1.5 million in 1990 to 4.5 million in 2020.





following the coordination and implementation thereof; and is chaired by the Minister of Interior and consists of representatives from ministries, institutions and establishments determined by the Ministry of Interior. The Board shall convene upon the call of the Minister of Interior.”

The Migration Board held its meetings with its new structure on 21 November 2018, 24 January 2019, 12 July 2019, 19 September 2019, 18 December 2020 and most recently 15 September 2021, chaired by Minister of Interior. In line with its duties, the Board made decisions mainly on:

- x Starting the preparations for the creation of the migration strategy document,
- x Adoption of “Turkey’s Harmonization Strategy Document” and “National Plan of Action”,
- x Making arrangements for the issues within the scope of its duty regarding residence permits across various boards.

In line with the resolution “Creation of a National Migration Policy” taken in the first meeting of the Migration (Policies) Board, a “Migration Area Current Status Analysis” was submitted to the Board. “Needs Analysis of Foreigners Based on Their Status”, the second step in the creation of the Policy Document, was proposed to the Ministry of Development as a project, and accordingly, budgeted. The Needs Analysis was prepared by a team of academics, specialized in the field of migration, in coordintegy D 1 (c)4- (mic2 (c)4- 2.1 (2a)4o-v)7 (e)3- 2

As a country hosting the highest number of asylum seekers





with Objective 17, data sharing is aimed at countering false information that results in

A priority of the PMM

Per Objective 13, alternatives to detention were included in the Law in order to use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives.

Decisions made by the European Court of Human Rights, Constitutional Court, or Administrative Court for the cases of irregular migrants are examined diligently, and the relevant legislation is updated when there is a need for improvement.

Addressing Irregular Migration, including through Managing Borders and Combatting Transnational Crime

Objective 9	Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
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Objective 10

Especially Women and Children” referred to as the Palermo Protocol of 2000, and the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, adopted in 2005. Human trafficking was included in the Turkish Criminal Code for the first time in 2002. The Regulation on Combatting Human Trafficking and Protection of Victims was introduced to ensure uniformity in the Law No. 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection as well as to determine the procedures for relevant processes and proceedings. Provincial governorates issue a 30-day residence permit to victims so they can recover from the traumatic event and cooperate with the authorities. It is essential that victims are provided accommodation for free during this process. The Regulation on Combatting Human Trafficking and Protection of Victims includes provisions regarding the procedures in detecting and identifying victims, support services for victims, and the Coordination Commission on Combating Human Trafficking.

Per provisions of the Regulation on Combatting Human Trafficking and Protection of Victims and per Objective 21, victims are provided with physical, psychological and social support services in cooperation with relevant public institutions and organizations, paying regard to their safety and protection needs. The victims’ right to support services is secured under the regulation. Victims are provided with support programs based on informed consent during their hearing, taking into consideration their safety, health, and special status. Currently there are three shelter houses serving to the victims of human trafficking free of charge.

In addition to provisions on protecting and prov







the regular participation of migrants in labour market. There has also been an increase in the number of people coming to Turkey as a consequence of the political developments and instabilities in the region. With these developments, Turkey started to develop a more comprehensive vision geared towards the adaptation to the labour market in order to encourage regular migration, to strengthen the international protection system, and to prevent irregular migrant labour. A vision has been set forth in the 11<sup>th</sup> Development Plan (2018-2023) for the migrant needs and arrangements, in line with Turkey's labour market priorities. The plan emphasizes that efforts to develop international labour policies will be undertaken taking into account the global, regional, local, and sector related labour dynamics, to particularly contribute to the economic and social development of Turkey.

Another issue underlined by the development plan is the sensitivity migration creates in relation with work life.



coordination meetings, providing language and vocational and on-the-job trainings and supports for entrepreneurship. As of 31.12.2021, more than 33.000 beneficiaries have participated in the language, vocational and job trainings organized within the scope of the "Employment Support for Syrians under Temporary Protection and Turkish Citizens" Project. Another project "Opportunities for Life" has provided mentorship and training for entrepreneurship and granted aid to 158 beneficiaries between 2019-2021.

Inspections on employment related rights and duties as well as information services for migrants are continuing to be offered by the Social Security Institution and the Department of Guidance and Inspections. Teams established by representatives of the Social Security Institution Provincial Directorate and the relevant agencies continue with guidance activities to prevent informal employment. Labour inspectors focus on matters such as suitable working conditions, regular employment, occupational health and safety, and strive to increase formally registered employees. Penal sanctions continue to be issued for Syrians and foreigners, and workplaces offering informal employment.

Building in a trans-boundary manner and conducting in different countries scientific work that support development in different areas can be assessed within the scope of Objective 19. Following programs: "Research Scholarships for International Researchers", "Support for Guest Scientists or Scientists on Sabbatical", "International Leader Researchers", and "Exchange of Researchers with International Experience" realized by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (T.C. Bilimsel ve Teknik Araştırmalar Kurumu) support the exchange of researchers coming from overseas with programs that facilitate and support qualified labour. Local funds are provided through the MSCA and ERC funds, which are a part of the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. These funds can benefit from award and support programs with a view to help them carry out their individual researches in institutions in Turkey. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security (T.C. Çalışma ve Sosyal Güvenlik Bakanlığı) has a point within the scope of the abovementioned programs to facilitate the adaptation of the researchers coming to Turkey, and cooperate with the Ministry of Labour to accelerate the work permit processes of foreign researchers.

Per Objective 18, investing in skills development and facilitating mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences, the equivalence certificates of diplomas received from overseas at higher education level are granted by CoHE (Council of Higher Education, YÖK). The application processes have been digitalized in order to facilitate and speed the process.

Care for the labour market of migrants of different status and sustainable involvement with a human rights approach is pivotal for this framework for building an efficient and effective system.

**Improving the Social Inclusion and Integration of Migrants**

Objective 4	Ensure that all migrants have proof of identity and adequate documentation
Objective 15	Provide access to basic services for migrants
Objective 16	Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion

Objective 22 Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits

nationals living in Turkey, to lay the foundations of an effective social harmonization policy. The provision of needs-based services will support the social inclusion of foreign nationals into Turkish society, reducing the risk of marginalization and thus contributing indirectly to public order and safety. The Harmonization Strategy Document and National Action Plan, entered into force following the approval of the Migration Board in 2018, have increased the level of coordination among all institutions.

The strategic priorities, goals, and objectives for all the topics: social inclusion, information, education, healthcare, labour market, and social support - have been determined by a Commission formed with senior representatives from the relevant institutions and organizations, the National Technical Teams, and via thematic working meetings. Different stakeholders, including provincial organizations of public institutions, local administrations, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and migrant communities have been brought together at consultation meetings organized at various provinces to complement main meetings. In addition, four

international education projects while the CoHE regulates the processes at the associate,

registered in Turkey and who have been issued temporary identity document benefit from emergency, protective, and basic healthcare services, as well as all therapeutic healthcare services free of charge. Individuals without temporary identity document are provided services aimed at fighting infectious diseases, immunization, and emergency healthcare within the scope of the Temporary Protection Regulation.

Primary healthcare services for Syrians in Turkey are provided in community(s)12.1 ( in)6 ( 0 Td(.)Tj0.24 0

Under its Constitution, as a welfare state, Turkey is responsible for providing social justice and thus social stability, The Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS) is the institution that determines and develops social policies. Local administrations, other public institutions and



Affairs, Ministry of Interior, and Ministry of Health, Provincial Directorates of Migration







