



Strengthening Cooperation with Countries of Origin and Fostering Cooperation with Strategic Partners to prevent Irregular Migration through Complementarity actions (COMPLEMENT)

Executive Summary

Various economic, political, social and security factors in the region trigger migration towards Türkiye, including the ongoing conflicts and instability in the neighbouring countries. Following the onset of the Syria crisis in 2011, Türkiye became the main destination country for Syrians fleeing conflict, with over 3,7 million of Syrian having sought refuge in Türkiye under a temporary protection status . Meanwhile, Türkiye also hosts a significant number of persons under international protection, particularly Afghans, Iraqis, Iranians and Pakistanis. The increased flow and apprehension of irregular migrants in 2019 (454.662), dramatically decreased to 122.302 in 2020 with the effect of Covid-19 restrictions and finally recorded as 162.996 in 2021 , corresponding to nearly 33% increase as compared to the apprehensions in the last year. The considerable increase in the number of apprehensions in 2021 despite the Covid-19 context demonstrates the ongoing magnitude of the challenge Türkiye is facing in terms of irregular migration flows, and reiterates the importance of cooperation with the countries of origin to efficiently address the problem.

While Türkiye previously had ad-hoc dialogues with some countries of origin (CoO), enhancing these dialogues with a systematic approach and expanding cooperation with critical counties where significant number of irregular migrants are originated and would be more efficiently returned in case of a stronger cooperation will facilitate proactive stance in addressing the challenges connected to irregular migration. This will also contribute to ensuring sustainability of returns through promoting voluntary returns to primary countries of origin when circumstances allow.

With this background, this project will support the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) and, where applicable, Turkish law enforcement agencies in enhancing dialogue and partnership with prioritized CoO; and contribute to multidimensional interagency cooperation in the area of irregular migration.



Current Context

According to PMM's statistics, while the main countries of origin of apprehended irregular migrants remain same, the number of apprehensions as of 9 June 2022 is 110.968, which would be a sign that the number of apprehensions can be higher than the last year.

Türkiye's law enforcement agencies arrested a total of 31.982 migrant smugglers between 2016 and 2020, the highest being 8.996 in 2019. In 2021 7.918 migrant smugglers were apprehended, presenting 73.3% increase compared to 4.282 in 2020 and before the first half of 2022, law enforcement agencies already arrested 3.742 smugglers (as of 09.06.2022). Considering the role of transnational networks in irregular migration flows and the fact that irregular migrants subject to smuggling may directly or indirectly take part in the smuggling business, bridging the cooperation between migration agencies and the law enforcement agencies of Türkiye and critical countries is also crucial for having a comprehensive response to the problems connected to irregular migration.

Objectives

The overall aim of the project is to contribute to the ongoing efforts of the Government of Türkiye in addressing migratory challenges through strengthening the capacity to respond irregular migration by enhanced cooperation with the primary CoO and by the strengthened inter-institutional cooperation among the strategic partners at various levels. This outcome will be achieved through the following outputs:

1. PMM strengthened its operational capacity to have systematic dialogue and cooperation on migration and migration related matters with the strategic CoO.
2. Coordination capacity of PMM is enhanced and interagency cooperation with strategic partners at national, regional and international levels is fostered in line with the Strategy Document and Action Plan on Irregular Migration.

Beneficiaries

Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Interior Presidency of Migration Management

Project Duration

01 April 2022 - 30 September 2023