

Enforcing Turkish Coast Guard Efforts to Mainstream Human Rights Based and Gender Sensitive Response to Irregular Migration (ESSENCE)

Executive Summary

Compliance with human rights and gender mainstreaming play a key role in the functioning of government institutions, specifically the law enforcement agencies both with respect to the legality and proportionality as well as effectiveness of their operations. The importance of human rights and gender mainstreaming is even more substantial specifically in relation to mixed migration movements frequently faced by the TCG as the individuals in these mixed groups have a higher likelihood of being in a vulnerable. Human rights of women, men, girls and boys need to be respected at all stages of migration, their specific needs should be properly understood and addressed.

Aforementioned principles and needs are also identified by the Government of Türkiye in general, and by the Ministry of Interior and the TCG in particular. Eleventh Development Plan of Türkiye, 2019-2023 Strategic Plan of Ministry of Interior and the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan of the TCG highlight the importance of human rights compliance in migration management and the national Human Rights Action Plan dated 2021 also designates regular human rights training and awareness raising activities for law enforcement agencies among its goals under the main aims.

With this background, this project aims to support the institutional and organisational capacity of the Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCG) by reinforcing human rights-compliance of their efforts in responding irregular migration. In this context, The project provides support TCG to strengthen its capacity in mainstreaming human-rights compliance and gender equality through developing training materials and delivery of trainings focusing on international migration law, human rights and gender mainstreaming.

Current Context

Due to geographical features of Türkiye TCG is one of the main actors in the country which have responsibilities directly related to and affecting migrants. TCG has a total of 22 main responsibility areas and irregular migration has become one of the top three responsibility areas in the last decade, in turn requiring extensive

resources both financially and in relation to the staff capacity and qualification. one of the main law enforcement institutions in Türkiye. The number of irregular migrants rescued by TCG was 60.802 in 2019, 20.380 in 2020 and 23.676 in 2021, and 15.127(as of 30 May) in 2022. The number of migrant smugglers apprehended by TCG was 80 in 2019, 53 in 2020, 113 in 2021 and 111 in 2022 (as of 30 May 2022).

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to support the institutional and organisational capacity of the Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCG) by reinforcing human rights-compliance of their efforts in responding irregular migration.

In this context, the outcome statement of this project is that *TCG staff has equipped with sufficient knowledgebase to identify human rights concerns, take measures to prevent violations and implement gender mainstreaming throughout their operations and procedures regarding migration.*

The project aims to reach the overall objective and outcome through the following output:

1. TCG strengthened its capacity in mainstreaming human-rights compliance and gender equality through developed training materials and delivery of trainings focusing on international migration law, human rights and gender mainstreaming

Beneficiaries

Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Interior Turkish Coast Guard Command

Project Duration

01 April 2022 – 31 May 2023