



SUPPORTING TÜRKIYE'S EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN BORDER MANAGEMENT AT THE EASTERN AND SOUTH EASTERN LAND BORDERS (SAFE)

Executive Summary

The “Supporting Türkiye’s Efforts to Strengthen Border Management at the Eastern and South Eastern Land Borders” (SAFE) Project aims to support the ongoing efforts of Türkiye in strengthening its migration and border management capacity in line with the recommendations under Chapter 24.

This support is planned to be provided through the procurement of high-technology border management and surveillance equipment and the provision of training and expert support on the technical skills and utilisation of the equipment, as well as on migration law, human rights-based and protection-sensitive border management and response to mass-influx of migrants. The action covers the procurement and installation of three large scale sets of equipment, namely a lighting system, a stationary surveillance system including communication and surveillance masts and mobile electro-optical cameras. The equipment to be procured will be utilised on Türkiye’s Eastern and South Eastern land borders, complementing similar efforts realised earlier through IPA funds and national resources. It is expected that the action will result in strengthened security at the Turkish land borders, a reduction in the number of casualties among migrants at the land border zones, a reduction in any form of smuggling through the land borders and lead to a modernised border management system that promotes effective border surveillance, secure borders and safe and orderly migration.

Current Context

Due to continuous migration flows into Türkiye as a result of the ongoing conflicts and the political and economic instability in the region, increasing the border surveillance capacity at Türkiye’s Eastern and South Eastern borders has become a major priority for the Turkish authorities. These efforts have also been supported by the European Union.

The efforts towards advancing the border management system strengthened by state-of-the-art technological measures have continued in Türkiye over the last two decades, with extensive support from the EU to improve professional standards related to the prevention of transnational threats and combating cross-border crimes, establishing effective migration and border management structures, and supporting capacity building of relevant competent border management agencies.



However, there is still space for further improvement in border management, due to the challenging nature of Türkiye's borders especially in the Eastern and South Eastern regions, which are mostly mountainous areas with heavy climates and challenging topography.

Moreover, Türkiye's borders with Iran and Iraq, which together stretch around 1,500 km long, lack advanced surveillance systems, posing risks for the Turkish border by enabling irregular migration movements targeting Türkiye from Iran through the Iraqi border. It is also anticipated that, due to the effects of the ongoing civil war and the conflicts between several armed groups in Syria, there will be further attempts at irregular crossings from Syria through the Iraqi border of Türkiye.

Considering the aforementioned situations, further improvements are needed in several areas as complementary actions to the existing systems to increase the surveillance capacity of Türkiye's Eastern and South Eastern borders and direct people in need of protection to safe and orderly routes.

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to support Türkiye's ongoing efforts in strengthening migration and border management capacity in line with recommendations under Chapter 24.

The **Specific Objective** is to increase the institutional capacity and operational know-how in terms of border surveillance and border controls at Türkiye's Eastern and South Eastern land borders, for further strengthening border security through a modernised border management system, reduce casualties among migrants at the borders and contribute to efforts against irregular migration.

The implementation of the project will be structured around the following four **Components**:

- The first component focuses on procurement and installation of a border lighting system consisting of a set of road lanterns or other similar solutions at Türkiye's Eastern and South Eastern land borders.
- The second component aims the procurement and installation of a stationary surveillance system including communication and surveillance masts and other compatible and complementary monitoring technology (including energy supply lines) at Türkiye's Eastern and South Eastern land borders.
- The third component focuses on the procurement of mobile electro-optical cameras at Türkiye's Eastern and South Eastern land borders.
- And the fourth component is focused on the delivery of a tailored training programme and external technical assistance to the beneficiary institutions covering the operation



of procured equipment, technical capabilities and specifications of the equipment, border management technologies, migration law, human-rights based and protection-sensitive border management.

Project Duration

The SAFE Project will be implemented over a duration of 60 months, from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2028.