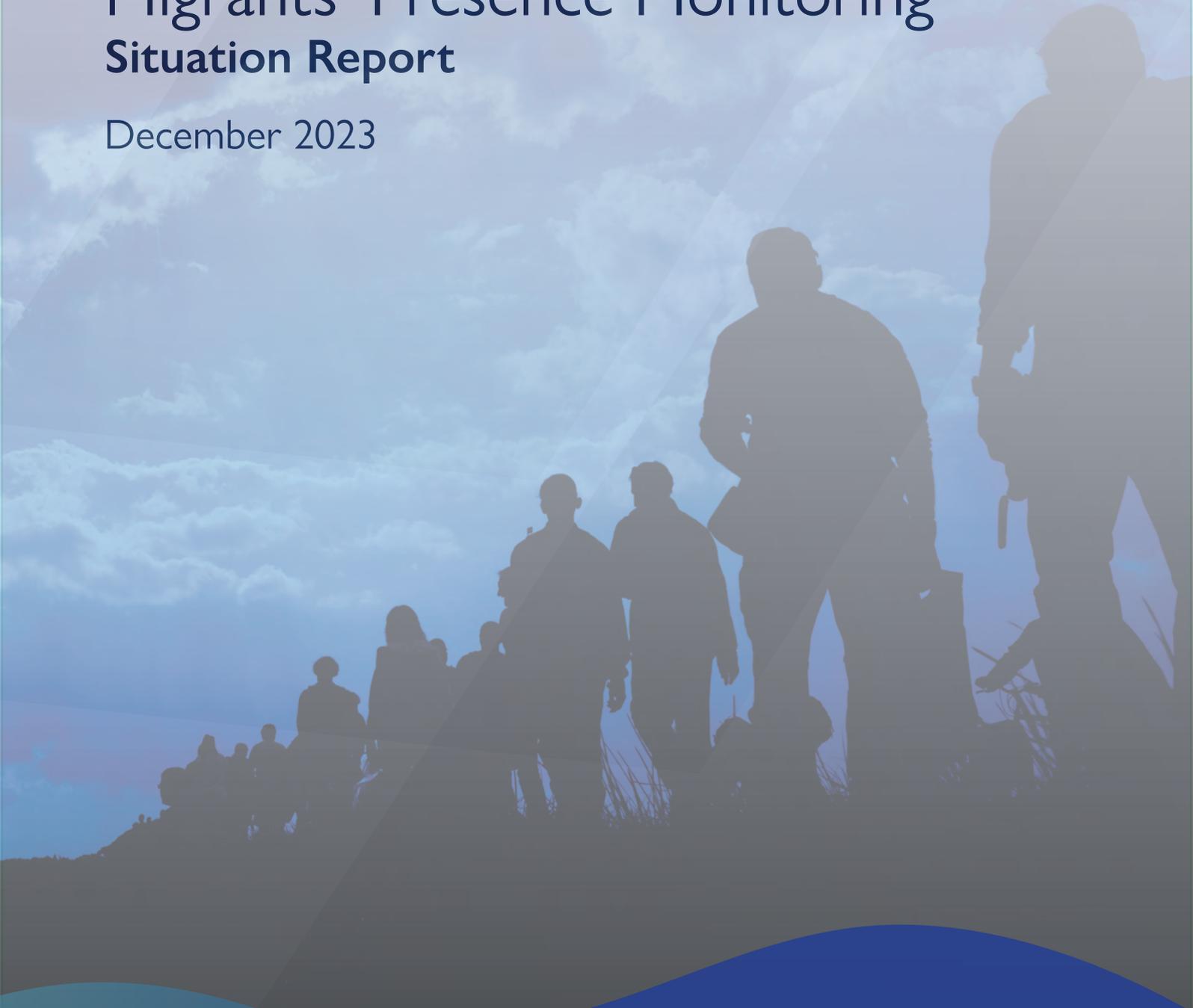


# MPM TÜRKİYE

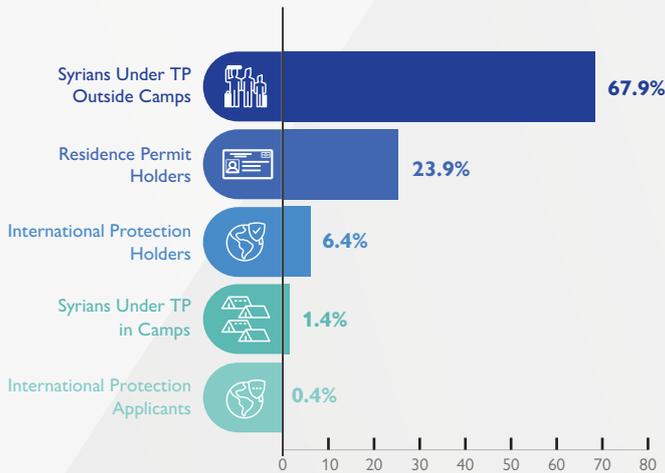
## Migrants' Presence Monitoring Situation Report

December 2023



This report aimed to present an overview of migrant presence in Türkiye on a monthly basis. For more information, please see Methodology and Limitations section on page 5.

## Overview of Migrant Presence in Türkiye



According to the latest available figures from the Turkish Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), there are more than 4.6 million foreign nationals present in Türkiye, 3.5 million of whom are seeking international protection. Most are Syrians (3,214,780<sup>1</sup> individuals) who have been granted temporary protection status. In addition, international protection holders from countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ukraine constitute another group of foreign nationals. According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there were 296,685<sup>2</sup> refugees and asylum-seekers in Türkiye as of 2023. Moreover in 2023, according to PMM, there were 19,017<sup>3</sup> international protection applicants in the country, a figure released by PMM annually.

In addition, there are 1,107,032<sup>4</sup> foreign nationals present in Türkiye, holding residence permits. Compared to December 2022, this is a decrease of 247,062 individuals.<sup>5</sup>

## Syrians under Temporary Protection

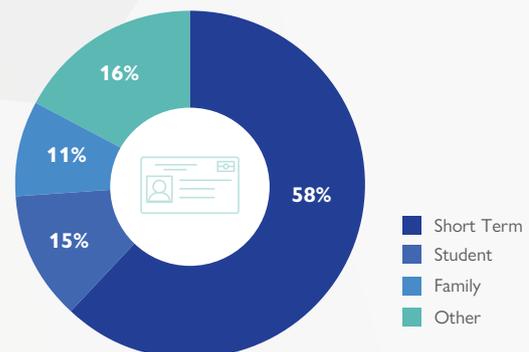
Türkiye's temporary protection regime grants 3,214,780 Syrian nationals the right to legally stay in Türkiye as well as obtain some level of access to basic services. The vast majority - 3,150,899 individuals – live outside camps, known as temporary accommodation centers. As such, only 63,881 Syrians live inside camps, the majority of which are located close to the Syrian border. The current number of temporary accommodation centers is nine.<sup>1</sup> 16,356 more Syrians currently reside in the centers compared to previous year.<sup>5</sup>

Monthly Population Chart of Syrians Under Temporary Protection



## Residence Permit Holders

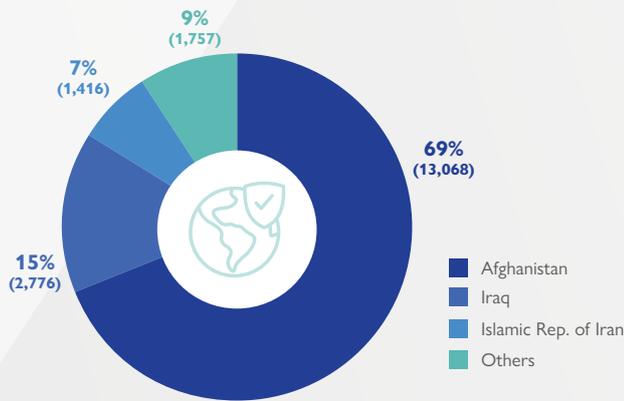
Foreigners who seek stay in Türkiye beyond the duration of a visa or visa exemption -i.e. longer than 90 days, must obtain a residence permit. According to PMM, there are 1,107,032 residence permit holders in Türkiye with various categories of the residence permit, including short-term residence permit, family residence permit, student residence permit, long-term residence permit, humanitarian residence permit and residence permit for victims of human trafficking. A valid work permit as well as Work Permit Exemption Confirmation Document are also considered as a residence permit in Türkiye. As of 2021, there were 168,103<sup>6</sup> foreigners with work permit in Türkiye.



## International Protection Applicants & Holders

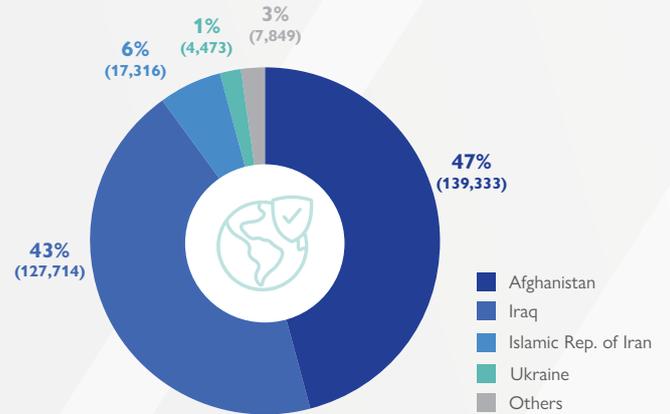
There are 19,017 international protection applicants in Türkiye of different nationalities, but primarily originating from Afghanistan, Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran.<sup>3</sup> PMM releases the number of international protection applicants on an annual basis.

Nationalities of International Protection Applicants



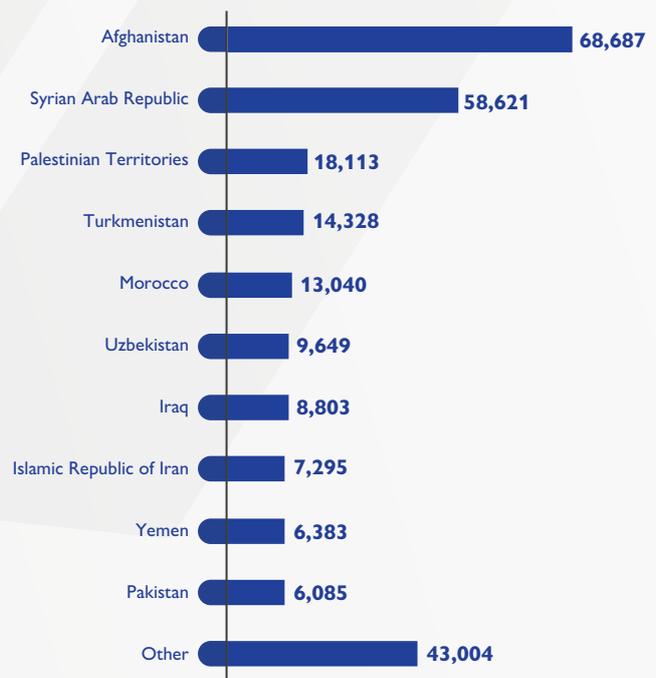
As of 2023, there are 296,685 refugees and asylum-seekers in Türkiye, most of whom from Iraq, Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ukraine.<sup>2</sup>

Nationalities of International Protection Holders



## Migrants in Irregular Situation

For years, Türkiye has remained under migratory pressure not only because the country is hosting the largest Syrian refugee population in the world, but also it continues to receive migration flows due to, among other factors, forced migration from Afghanistan and labor migration from Central Asia and Africa. Along being a host country and intended destination, due to its location on migration routes from Central Asia, Middle East and even Africa towards Europe, Türkiye is also a transit country. According to PMM figures<sup>7</sup>, the number of migrants in irregular situation apprehended in Türkiye reached a peak in 2019, followed by a sharp decrease due to COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, and has been on the rise ever since. Accordingly, 2022 recorded the second highest yearly number of migrants in irregular situation apprehended by authorities in Türkiye. Top nationalities of migrants in irregular situation do not include only those who enter Türkiye irregularly (e.g., Afghan, Pakistani, Bangladeshi nationals) but also those who enter the country through regular means but overstay their visa or visa-free period and become irregular (e.g., Turkmen, Uzbek, Moroccan nationals).



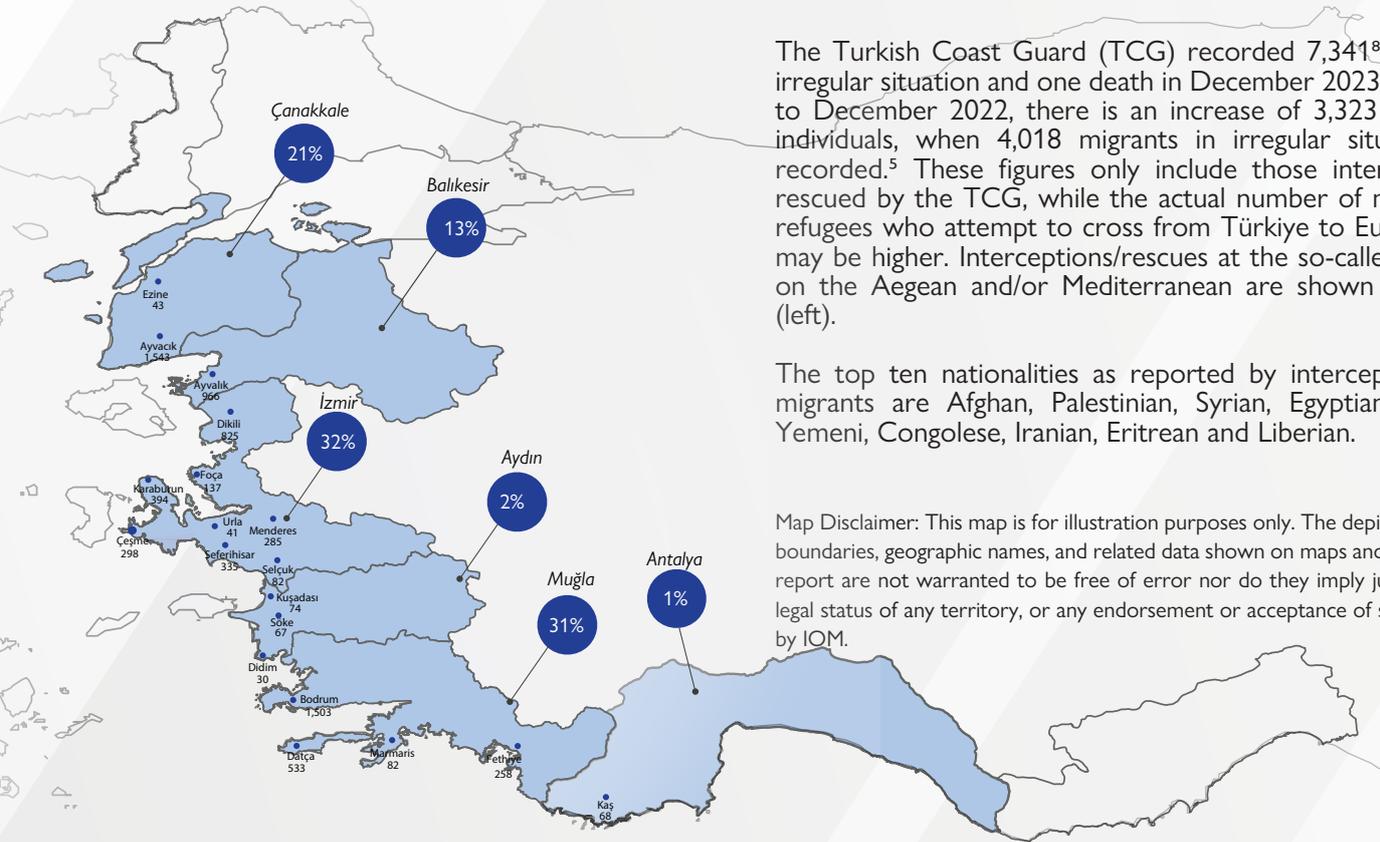
TOTAL: 254,008

## Intercepted and Rescued Persons on Sea

The Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) recorded 7,341<sup>8</sup> migrants in irregular situation and one death in December 2023. Comparing to December 2022, there is an increase of 3,323 intercepted individuals, when 4,018 migrants in irregular situation were recorded.<sup>5</sup> These figures only include those intercepted and rescued by the TCG, while the actual number of migrants and refugees who attempt to cross from Türkiye to Europe by sea may be higher. Interceptions/rescues at the so-called 'hotspots' on the Aegean and/or Mediterranean are shown in the map (left).

The top ten nationalities as reported by intercepted/rescued migrants are Afghan, Palestinian, Syrian, Egyptian, Sudanese, Yemeni, Congolese, Iranian, Eritrean and Liberian.

Map 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.

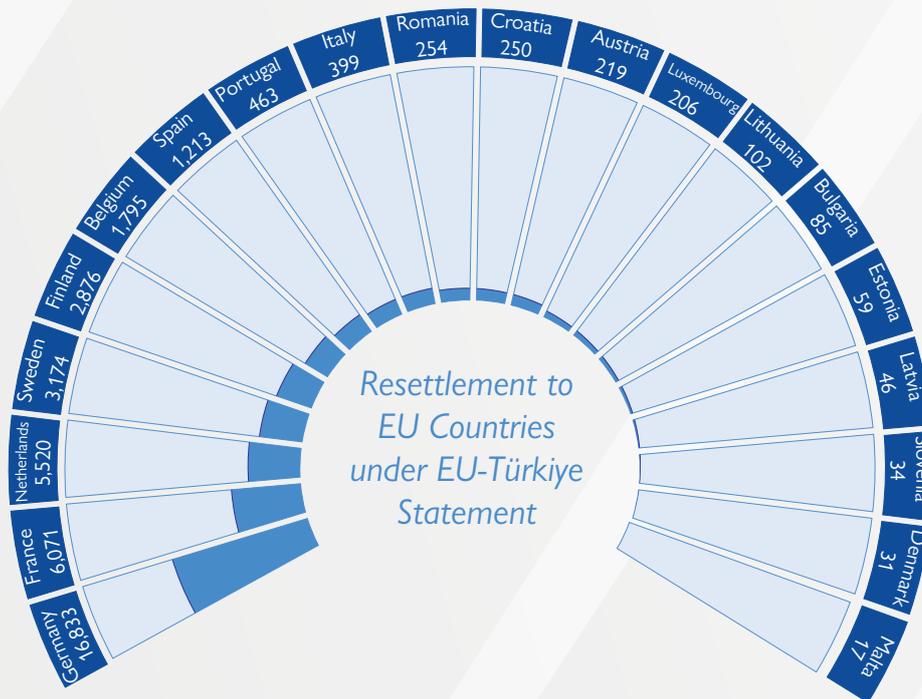


**Interceptions/Rescues by Turkish Coast Guard Statistic for 2023  
(1 January - 31 December)**

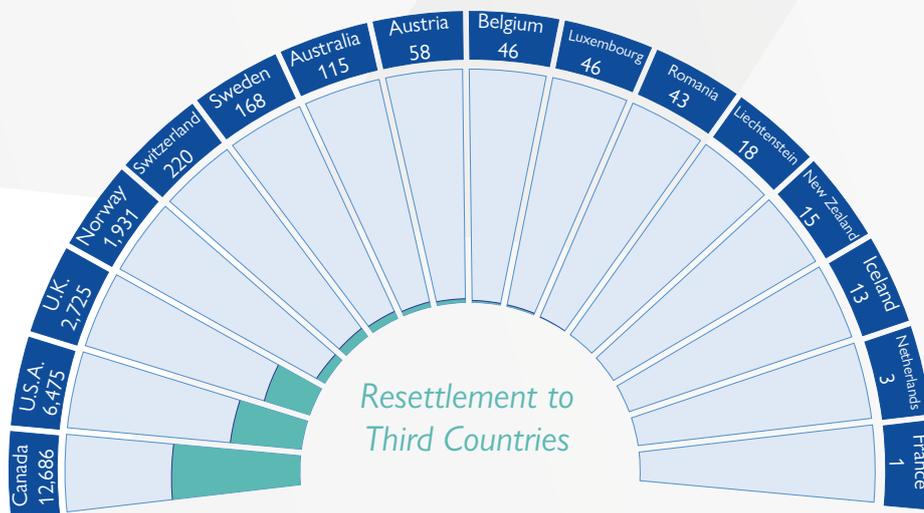
Time Period	Numer of Cases	Number of Migrants in Irregular Situation	Number of Deaths	Number of Organizers
	All Seas	All Seas	All Seas	All Seas
January	105	3,025	0	3
February	68	1,802	0	4
March	94	2,614	11	12
April	89	2,806	0	6
May	109	3,161	1	17
June	125	3,102	0	20
July	104	2,909	0	12
August	190	5,005	0	9
September	304	9,623	0	32
October	342	10,736	1	24
November	165	4,830	7	6
December	204	7,341	0	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,899</b>	<b>56,954</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>169</b>

## Resettlement of Syrians from Türkiye

The 18 March 2016 EU-Türkiye Statement aims to replace disorganized and irregular migratory flows by facilitating organized and safe pathways to European countries. Specifically, the statement stipulates that for every Syrian returned to Türkiye from the Greek islands, another Syrian will be resettled directly to EU countries from Türkiye. According to PMM data released on 7 December 2023, there are 39,647 persons that have been resettled under this instrument, with primary resettlement destinations being Germany, France, the Netherlands, and Sweden.<sup>1</sup>



There are also Syrians who have been resettled from Türkiye to third countries under different schemes other than the EU-Türkiye Statement. According to PMM, as of 7 December 2023, a total of 24,563 Syrians have been resettled to third countries, mainly Canada, the United States of America (USA), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) and Norway.<sup>1</sup>



## Methodology

### Data Collection

The data presented in this report is compiled from secondary sources on a monthly basis. The data is collected between the first and tenth days of the month following the reporting period, depending on the availability of the data from secondary sources. These sources encompass data and statistics provided by government authorities and UN organizations. No primary data collected by the MPM programme is presented in this report. The selection of sources is undertaken with the intent of achieving a comprehensive portrayal of the migration context and flows in Türkiye.

### Data Categories

The report focuses on several distinct categories of migration data:

1. **Migrants present in Türkiye by migration status:** This presents data on the stock of migrants reported to be in Türkiye by their migration status. Distinction is made between individuals with a refugee status, individuals with a temporary protection status, and individuals who hold a residence permit. Data is extracted from PMM and UNHCR statistics.
2. **Migrants in an irregular situation by nationality:** This category pertains to migrants who find themselves in irregular or undocumented situations. Information is gathered from the PMM statistics.
3. **Migrants intercepted or rescued at sea:** This is flow data on migrants who are intercepted or rescued while attempting to cross by sea to Europe. It is collected from TCG regular reports. The reports include the number and self-declared nationalities of migrants intercepted or rescued by the TCG whether at sea or land.
4. **Migrants resettled from Türkiye:** This category includes statistics on migrants who have been resettled from Türkiye to other countries. Information is sourced from PMM statistics.

## Limitations

### Source Reliability

While the data sources were chosen for their credibility and authority, inherent limitations of secondary sources exist. Different sources may employ varying methodologies and definitions for data collection, leading to potential variations in the reported figures. For instance, according to IOM Glossary on Migration (2019), migrant in an irregular situation is defined as a person who moves or has moved across an international border and is not authorized to enter or to stay in a State pursuant to the law of that State and to international agreements to which that State is a party. Nevertheless, IOM is unable to confirm the criteria used by the PMM in practice to identify migrants in an irregular situation. Additionally, the accuracy of the data relies on the transparency and accuracy of the original reporting entities.

### Data Accuracy and Verification

Despite efforts to validate and cross-reference data from various secondary sources, it is important to acknowledge that the accuracy and reliability of the compiled information might not be fully verifiable. Secondary data inherently presents a challenge in terms of traceability to original data collection processes. Therefore, inability to directly verify the accuracy of the data remains a limitation, and it is recommended that users of this report exercise caution and consider the potential margin of error associated with the data.

### Data Gaps and Incompleteness

Migration data is often affected by gaps due to the informal nature of some migration movements and the challenges of data collection. The report acknowledges the possibility of underrepresentation or omission of certain migration flows or presence due to factors such as incomplete reporting, differing definitions, and unreported cases.

### Generalization and Predictive Limitations

While the data analysis provides insights into overall migration context in Türkiye, caution should be exercised when generalizing findings to specific cases or predicting future trends.

## Disclaimers/References

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Citation: International Organization for Migration (IOM), December 2023. MPM Migrant Presence Monitoring - Situation Report (December 2023). IOM, Türkiye. For more information on terms and conditions of DTM information products, please refer to: <https://dtm.iom.int/terms-and-conditions>

<sup>1</sup> Data retrieved from <https://en.goc.gov.tr/temporary-protection27> on 09.01.2024

<sup>2</sup> Data retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=1M1Dak> on 09.01.2024

<sup>3</sup> Data retrieved from <https://en.goc.gov.tr/international-protection17> on 09.01.2024

<sup>4</sup> Data retrieved from <https://en.goc.gov.tr/residence-permits> on 09.01.2024

<sup>5</sup> For further information, please see: MPM Migrant Presence Monitoring - Situation Report (December 2022) <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/turkiye-migrants-presence-monitoring-situation-report-december-2022>

<sup>6</sup> Data retrieved from <https://www.csgb.gov.tr/media/90062/yabanciizin2021.pdf> on 09.01.2024

<sup>7</sup> Data retrieved from <https://en.goc.gov.tr/irregular-migration> on 09.01.2024

<sup>8</sup> Data retrieved from <https://en.sg.gov.tr/irregular-migration-statistics> on 09.01.2024