

NEWSLETTER

The Official Bulletin of Caritas Turkey

On March 7, the Ministry of Interior announced that more than 20,000 Ukrainian refugees had arrived in the country, though that figure is likely to have increased substantially since then.

Caritas Turkey is welcoming some Ukrainian families through the Listening Center of the diocese of Istanbul and the diocese of Izmir providing basic shelter, health assistance, and transportation. Caritas Turkey had a meeting with the Ukrainian embassy and it is establishing a long-term cooperation with it.

Many migrants of other nationalities have also arrived from Ukraine seeking refuge in Turkey, who now find themselves torn apart by the war. Some Russians have also found refuge in Turkey.

Caritas Turkey is participating in the Southeast European Caritas Emergency Group (SEECEG) to discuss the impact of the war in Ukraine on the neighboring countries and to keep monitoring the situation.

Prepared by Giulia Longo



REMAP Meeting

Between March the 27th and the 30th Caritas Turkey has hosted the 3rd meeting on regional migration with the facilitation of Ms. Silva Ferretti along with the participation of Caritas Hellas, Caritas Albania, Caritas Serbia, Caritas Montenegro, Caritas Bosnia and Herzegovina, Caritas Macedonia, Caritas Bulgaria and 4 delegates from Caritas Italiana. During the meeting Caritas Turkey was presented by Ms. Karin Timyanos who is the Caritas Turkey Migration Focal Point and Caritas Turkey REMAP Project Coordinator along with the participation of Ms. Giulia Longo who is the Caritas Turkey Emergency Focal Point. The meeting started with a welcome speech and prayer by Bishop of Istanbul H. E. Mgr. Massimiliano Palinuro and with a welcome speech from Caritas Turkey National Director Mr. Nadir Nadhim.



Migrations along the Balkan route have assumed numerical significance since 2015. Since the signing of the EU-Turkey agreement in March 2016, the borders have been much more closed, causing many people to get stuck in countries with all the psychosocial difficulties that it carries (anxiety, depression, untreated chronic diseases, children out of school, etc). Despite border reinforcement and travel difficulties, migrants and refugees have not stopped arriving in these countries. Most of them come from Syria and Afghanistan.

In this context, the Caritas sister's organizations placed along the "Balkan route", from Greece, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Bulgaria have come together to work on a common initiative and network. This action, named REMAP (Regional Migrant Project) supported by Caritas Italiana and Spain, will allow them to have a greater and better impact. The ongoing process aims to strengthen the capacities and networking of the National Caritas while supporting the projects to assist migrants in each of the countries.

During the meeting participants had a workshop prepared by Ms. Silva Feretti. As a result of the workshop, the Caritas involved have worked on mapping and analyzing their services for migrants and refugees. On the second day of the meeting the group made a field visit to Caritas Istanbul's services for refugees and migrants like the Listening Center, Clothing Distribution Center. In addition, the participants had the chance to visit the activities supported by Caritas Istanbul to its partners: the Don Bosco Learning Centers implemented by the Salesian Community in Istanbul in and the Refugee Prisoners Program run by the Santa Maria Draperis Church. The workshop was a useful space to reflect on the impact of assistance services, with respect to both the beneficiaries and the local communities involved.

On the 3rd day, Ms. Roshan De Stone and Mr. David Suber who are the researchers working for IOM and ILO, with the facilitation of Ms. Giulia Longo from Caritas Turkey, disseminated the first findings of their research on smuggling and human trafficking in Turkey and southeast Europe. During their presentation, the two international researchers have underlined the interconnections between labor and migrants issues. The REMAP group also attended a conference call with Mr. Charel Krieps from Caritas Europa, in order to discuss the relationship between the Ukrainian crisis and refugee flow, to think about a common strategy of intervention, and share the last updates from the Southeastern European Caritas Emergency Group (SEECEG).

Prepared by Karin Timyanos

Here are some photos from REMAP Meeting



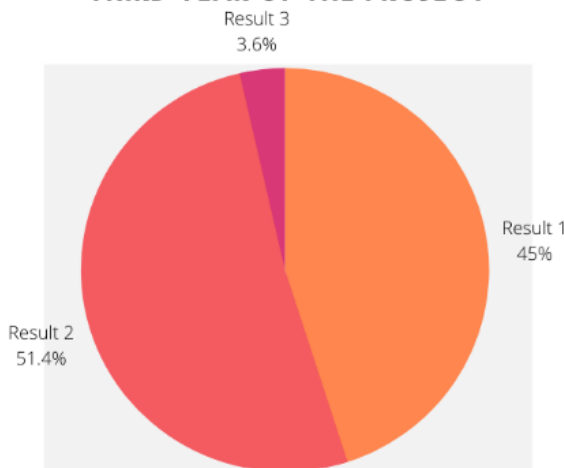


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Furthermore, Caritas Turkey has completed the final report of the project supported by the CEI (Italian Episcopal Conference) and Caritas Italiana "Care and Integration for Migrants and Refugees and Minors in Turkey 2018-2021". The project lasted a total of 40 months and aimed to improve the living conditions of the migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers living in Turkey, with particular attention to families and minors. In the charts below, the main results of the third year of the action are reported

THIRD YEAR OF THE PROJECT

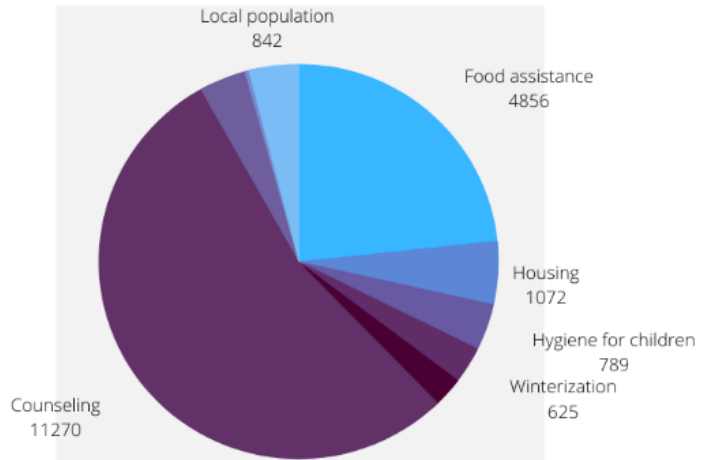


MIGRANTS AND PEOPLE IN NEED ASSISTED	N.
Result 1	7.846
Result 2	12.127
Result 3	842
TOTAL	20.815

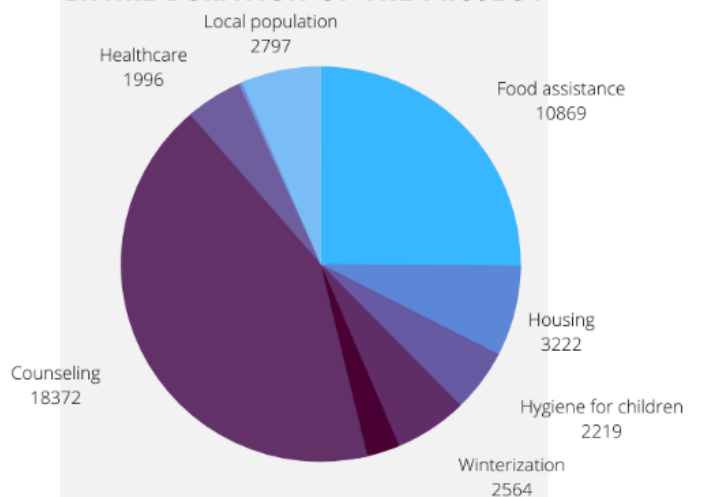
During the third year of the project, more than 20,000 people have been assisted by Caritas Turkey, of which nearly 8,000 migrants/refugees through food assistance, housing support, hygiene items for children, winterization products, and education and training activities (result 1), more than 12,000 migrants/refugees through the psychosocial and health support (result 2), and more than 800 from local Turkish communities (result 3).

MIGRANTS AND PEOPLE IN NEED ASSISTED

THIRD YEAR OF THE PROJECT



ENTIRE DURATION OF THE PROJECT



PEOPLE ASSISTED 40 MONTHS

TOTAL 43.301