

IOM and International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation (IBC) - A Partnership to Improve Access to Services for Syrian Refugees in Istanbul



LOCATION OF PARTNERSHIP



Turkey

CONTEXT

With the Syrian conflict in its sixth year, the protracted crisis continues to see refugee flows into neighbouring countries, including Turkey. Turkey now hosts the largest number of refugees in the world, with over 3 million Syrian refugees. Ninety percent

live with host communities, while the remainder reside in camps operated by the Government of Turkey. Over half of Syrian refugees recognised under Turkey's Temporary Protection Regulation are children.

Whilst the Temporary Protection Regulation offers protection and assistance and access to basic services such as health and education, the large number of refugees has overburdened the national and local public service delivery system. Access to services is further limited by language barriers, lack of information and awareness and different interpretations of the legal provisions by some service providers.

IOM - IBC PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

In contributing to the refugee response, IOM and its partners have worked to establish and operate multi-service community centres. One such center was established by IOM and IBC, with IOM providing financial resources and technical support.

The community centre seeks to improve access to services for Syrian refugees residing in Istanbul and to contribute to their self-reliance and local integration. In view of the urban nature of displacement, fostering the resilience of host-communities is also a key objective.

The multi-service community center located in Sultanbeyli district of Istanbul, provides the following services:

- Psychosocial support
- Legal assistance
- Non-formal education for children
- Language and computer and other vocational training for Syrian adults
- Interaction with host community to manage conflict and promote social cohesion



THE NECESSITY OF PARTNERSHIP

In 2015 IBC undertook consultative meetings with district mayors to better understand the needs of the refugee and host population. With some 10,000 Syrian refugees registered in one local municipality, the mayor struggled to meet the needs of refugees and the host communities. IOM was able to enter into a partnership to provide financial support to IBC for the establishment of a community centre to respond to the needs of refugees in this locality. Throughout this initiative, IOM and IBC have worked closely with national and local authorities and in line with national policies and international humanitarian standards.

PARTNERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS

Over 1,400 Syrian refugees have benefited from the services at community center during the first five months of 2016 (58% female) from the period January 2016 to May 2016.

Over 200 Syrian refugees have participated in socio-cultural activities/awareness raising activities in the host community.

ADDED VALUE OF THIS PARTNERSHIP

This partnership has provided IBC an opportunity to gain international experience and best practices for responding to the needs of people who have fled conflict. The various capacity building initiatives provided by IOM, as well as ongoing technical support to develop appropriate conflict management and social cohesion activities, has strengthened the NGO.



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Engagement with a local actor has enabled access to hard to reach refugees residing in an urban setting.

The partnership has also strengthened dialogue with local authorities, opening opportunities for IOM to engage with, and support the capacity building of local municipalities. On the basis of this partnership, IOM and IBC are currently initiating an assessment of the conflict dynamics between refugee and host communities in order to inform the conduct of conflict management and social cohesion activities.

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