

CSSF PROGRAMME SUMMARY

PROGRAMME TITLE: Migration – Eastern Route			
HMG Partners (LEAD in bold)	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) , Home Office (HO)		
COUNTRY/REGION:	Turkey, Greece, Serbia		
PROGRAMME DURATION:	April 2017 – March 2019		
TOTAL BUDGET:	ODA: £4.50m	Non-ODA: £0	
PROJECT/COMPONENT	LEAD DEPARTMENT	IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION	BUDGET
Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR), Turkey border management, Supporting Turkey in enhancing Integration in Turkey, Field Level Piloting of Labour Migration Management in Gaziantep, Labour Migration Management – Phase II, Supporting DGMM efforts in enhancing the Capacity of Removal Centres in Turkey	FCO	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	£1.92m
Refugee safe municipalities, Turkish press education, Immigration route research	FCO	Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM)	£0.39m
Supporting the Asylum Decision Making Capacity of Turkey's DGMM –Phase II, Strengthening the operational and strategic capacity of DGMM of Turkey-Phase III, Preventing, Identifying and Combating Trafficking of Refugees in Turkey-Phase II	FCO	International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)	£0.86m
Jandarma capacity building	FCO	United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)	£0.25m
Expert Staff to Greece under the EU-Turkey deal	HO	HO	£0.78m
Serbian Migration systems	FCO	IOM	£0.30m

WHAT SUPPORT IS THE UK PROVIDING?

The CSSF Eastern Route Programme delivers against the objectives in the UK Government's Illegal Migration Strategy.

The Programme includes projects designed to support and continue to build capacity in Turkey's frontline migration institutions and develop Turkey's migration policy framework, working with the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labour and others.

In Greece the Programme supports the EU-Turkey deal by providing specialist deployments to the EU Commission in Athens and migrant camps on hotspot islands, and providing expert support to the European Asylum Support Office. UK staff work to support improved living and security conditions for migrants on the Greek island hotspots.

In Serbia the Programme contributes to capacity development of asylum and migration authorities' adherence to international standards in the area of asylum and migration, including by using UK expertise.

WHY WAS UK SUPPORT NEEDED?

More than a million migrants and refugees crossed into Europe in 2015, sparking an unprecedented migration crisis as countries struggled to cope with the influx. Greece is a key entry point into Europe, with 885,000 people – 17 times 2014's record total - having crossed the Aegean by boat from Turkey in 2015. Whilst Syrians have used the Eastern Route in the greatest number by far and most wish to stay in Turkey as the first safe country, the UK is a destination of choice for other nationals of Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, which also have been amongst the most significant nationalities using the route.

In Greece the UK regards the EU-Turkey Statement of March 2016, which aims to break the people smugglers' business model, reduce the number of illegal border crossings from Turkey to the EU and save lives, as a key element of the EU's approach to migration in that region. Failure of the deal could result in an increase in flows across the Aegean and into mainland Europe, and impact both the protection and humanitarian situation of refugees in Turkey.

The effective implementation of the EU-Turkey deal is inextricably linked to Turkey's capacity to deal with managing irregular migrants in country, stopping them leaving, processing them when they return, processing them fairly and humanely, ensuring access to asylum systems, ensuring stable long term future or removal, and making the sufficient efforts to stop irregular migrants trying once more to reach the EU. As a key partner for Turkey in migration management, the UK has a vital role to play in helping them shape their policies.

Serbia is committed to upgrading its asylum and migration management systems, to meet EU accession criteria. Chapter 24 of the EU acquis requires Serbia to work extensively on these topics. UK support to this new legal framework aids proper implementation and better access to the system for refugees.

WHAT RESULTS DID THE UK EXPECT TO ACHIEVE?

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We expect to build capacity in Turkey's frontline migration institutions, and develop Turkey's migration policy framework, improving conditions for refugees in Turkey and reducing the motivation for their onward movement to Europe.

In Greece we expect the Programme to help improve the conditions experienced by migrants in the island 'hotspots', and enable the processing of migrants leading to increased returns to Turkey.

In Serbia we expect increased capacities of the migration chain institutions at central and local levels, enabling them to successfully implement revised laws on asylum and on foreigners, and other migration-related legislation, in line with international and EU standards.