

MPM TÜRKİYE
Overview of Migrant Situation
Migrant Presence Monitoring

ANNUAL REPORT
2024



IOM
UN MIGRATION

GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE
DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

BACKGROUND AND KEY FINDINGS

According to the latest figures from the Turkish Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), there are more than 4.1 million foreigners in Türkiye, of whom 3.1 million are seeking international protection. Most of them are Syrians 2,901,478 individuals who have been granted temporary protection status. There is an decrease of 313,302 individuals in the number of Syrian nationals under temporary protection in comparison to last year's figures.¹

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there were 230,617 refugees and asylum-seekers in Türkiye as of 2024.²

In addition, 1,056,632 foreigners are present in Türkiye holding residency permits including short-term residence permits, family residence permits, student residence permits, long-term residence permits, humanitarian residence permits and residence permits for victims of human trafficking.³

According to PMM, 225,831 migrants in irregular situation of different nationalities were apprehended in Türkiye in 2024.⁴ Please see Page 4 for more details.

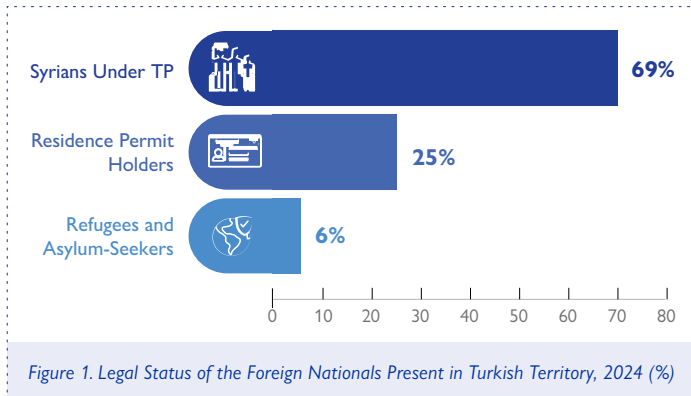


Figure 1. Legal Status of the Foreign Nationals Present in Turkish Territory, 2024 (%)

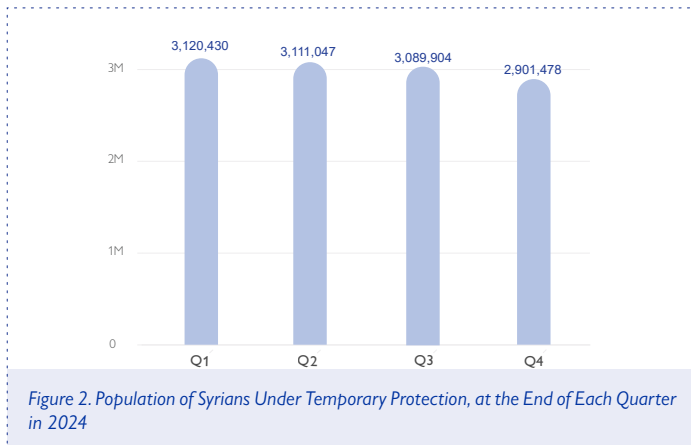


Figure 2. Population of Syrians Under Temporary Protection, at the End of Each Quarter in 2024

CATEGORIES OF FOREIGNERS IN TÜRKİYE

Temporary Protection (TP)

Türkiye's Temporary Protection regime grants 2,901,478 Syrian nationals the right to legally stay in Türkiye as well as to have some access to basic services.

The demographic breakdown of Syrian nationals under temporary protection is shown on the graph in Figure 3. Seventy eight per cent is below the age of 35.⁵

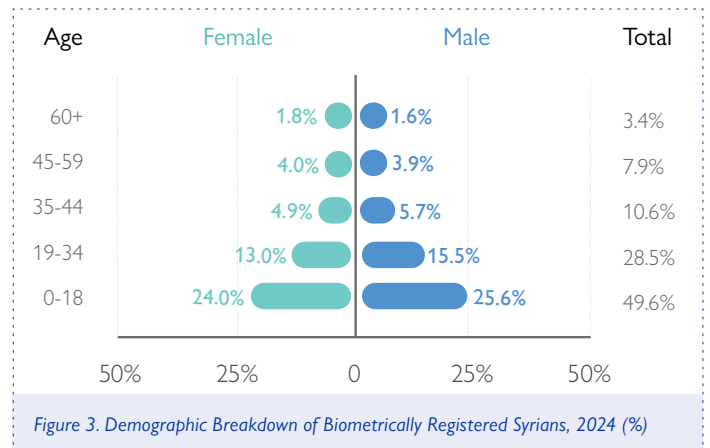


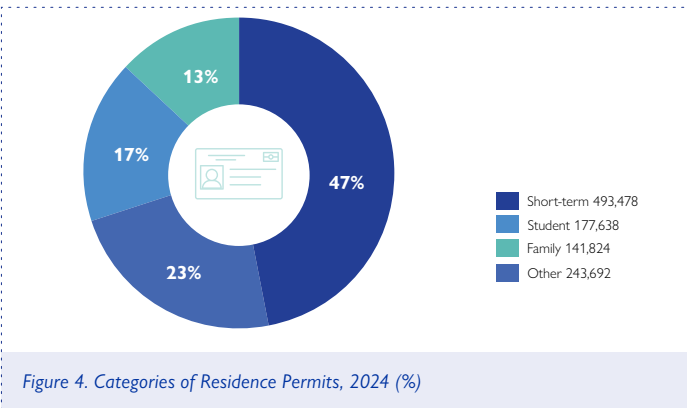
Figure 3. Demographic Breakdown of Biometrically Registered Syrians, 2024 (%)

Residence Permit (RP)

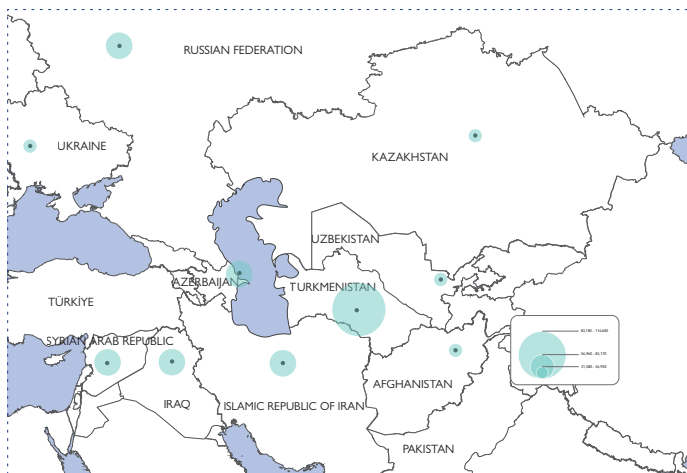
Foreigners who seek to stay in Türkiye beyond the duration of a visa or visa exemption (i.e. longer than 90 days), must obtain a residence permit. According to PMM, there are 1,056,632 residence permit holders in Türkiye with various categories of the residence permit. In Türkiye, a valid work permit and a work permit exemption confirmation document are both recognized as residence permits.⁶ As of 2023, there were 239,835 foreigners holding a work permit in Türkiye. In addition, there were 434 work permit holders who were working in free zones, 12,090 work permit holders with work permit exemption, and 76,707 work permit exemption were given to foreigners who worked in seasonal agriculture and animal husbandry.⁷

1 PMM, 2024.
 2 UNHCR, 2024.
 3 PMM, 2024.
 4 PMM, 2024.

5 PMM, 2024.
 6 PMM, 2024.
 7 Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Labour and Social Security, 2023.



There are 493,478 short-term residence holders which compose the majority of all RP holders. When compared to the previous year, the figure of short-term residencies has decreased by 145,286 individuals. The short-term residence holders are followed by 177,638 student residence permit holders. Additionally, 141,824 individuals hold family residence permits. Moreover, 243,692 “other” residence permits were granted. Also, there is an increase by 54,429 in the number of other residency permit category in comparison to last year’s figures.⁸



Map 1. Main Countries of Origin for RP Holders in Türkiye for 2024
 This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

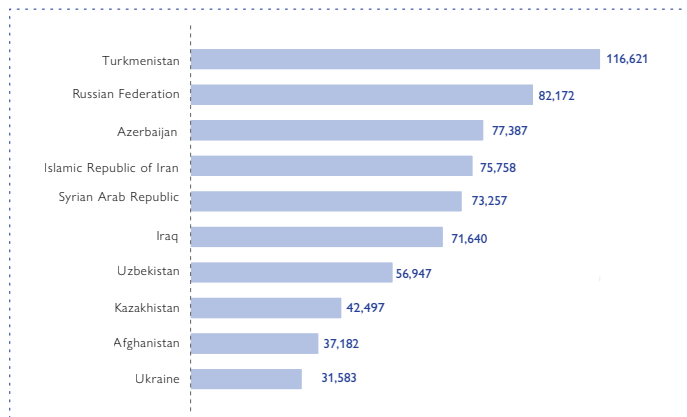


Figure 5. Top 10 Nationality Groups holding Residence Permits in Türkiye in 2024

Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Türkiye

According to UNHCR, as of 2024, there are 230,617 refugees and asylum-seekers in Türkiye, most of whom from Iraq, Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ukraine.⁹

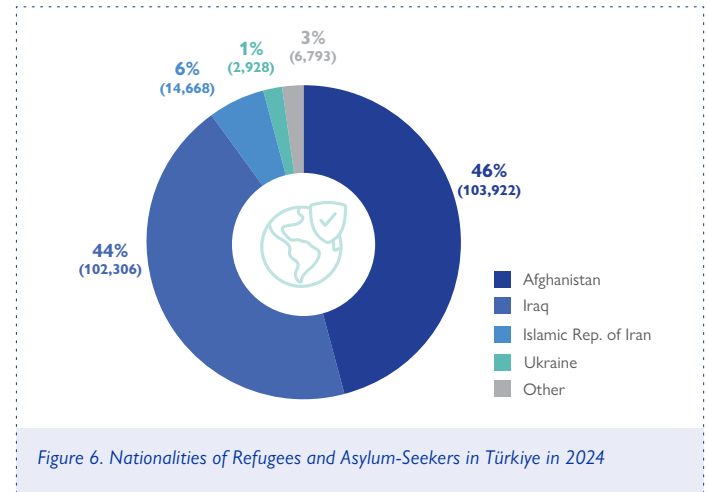


Figure 6. Nationalities of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Türkiye in 2024

MIGRANTS IN AN IRREGULAR SITUATION

According to PMM, 225,831 migrants in an irregular situation and 13,020 migrant facilitators have been recorded in 2024. Most migrants in an irregular situation entered Turkish territory from neighboring countries including Islamic Republic of Iran, Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, and transited or resided in Türkiye before attempting to cross the Aegean Sea to Europe. The top three nationalities in 2024 are Afghanistan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkmenistan.¹⁰

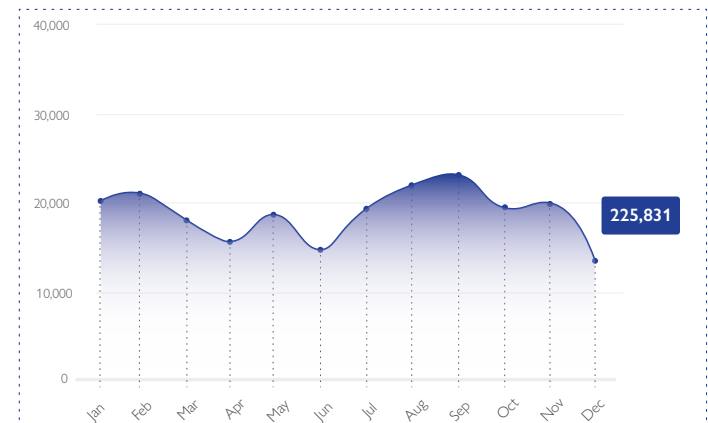


Figure 7. Monthly Breakdown of Migrants in Irregular Situation in Türkiye for 2024

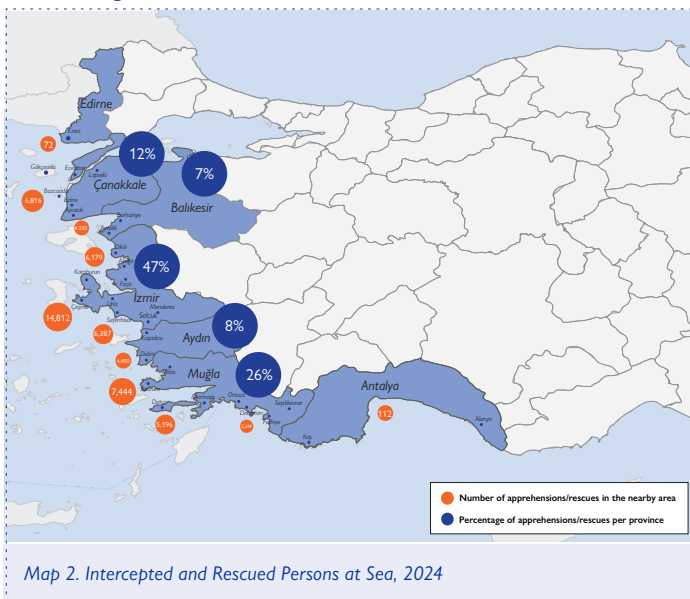
8 PMM, 2024.

9 UNHCR, 2024.

10 PMM, 2024.

Intercepted and Rescued Persons at sea

According to Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) daily reports, TCG recorded 58,097 migrants in an irregular situation at sea and registered 37 fatalities in 2024. During the reporting period, there was a decrease of 1,725 intercepted persons at sea by the TCG compared to the previous year. The top ten nationalities of intercepted or rescued persons are Afghanistan, Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Egypt, Yemen, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Congo, and Somalia.¹¹



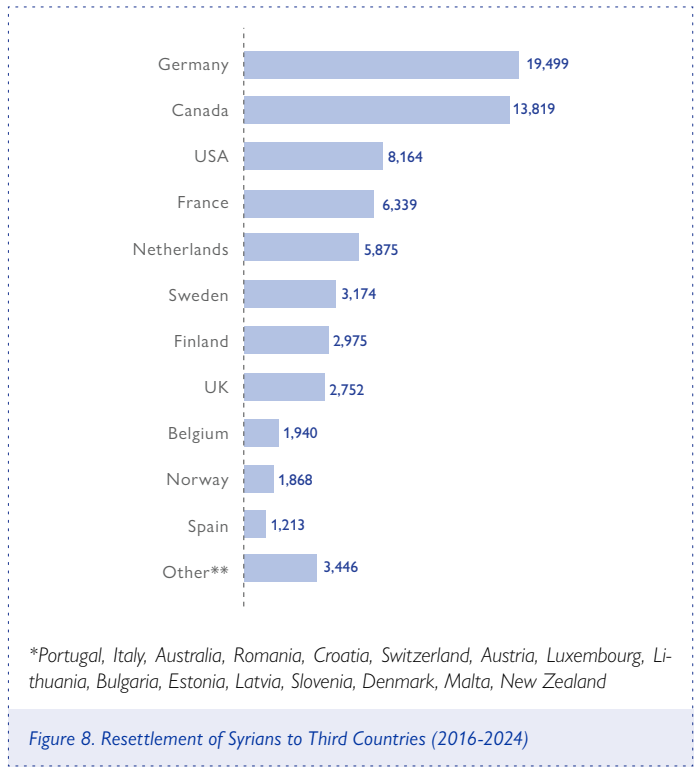
This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

Interceptions and Rescues by TCG by Month in 2024 (1 January - 31 December)				
Month	Events	Migrants in Irregular Situation	Deaths	Facilitators
	All Seas	All Seas	All Seas	All Seas
January	113	3,684	4	7
February	186	6,184	0	21
March	118	3,128	22	19
April	117	3,176	0	24
May	156	3,790	3	30
June	149	3,977	0	24
July	181	4,840	8	47
August	262	6,774	0	52
September	259	6,935	0	95
October	197	5,352	0	74
November	230	6,508	0	63
December	143	3,749	0	40
Total	2,111	58,097	37	496

RESETTLEMENT OF SYRIANS FROM TÜRKİYE

The resettlement of Syrians aims to replace disorganized and irregular migratory flows by facilitating organized and safe pathways to third countries under different schemes since 2016. According to PMM data, 71,064 persons have been resettled under this instrument, with primary resettlement destinations being Germany, Canada, the United States of America (USA), France and Netherlands.¹²

Removal centres host and monitor foreigners under administrative detention. 30 removal centres are operating in the provinces of Adana, Ağrı, Ankara, Antalya, Aydın, Balıkesir, Bursa, Çanakkale, Çankırı, Edirne, Erzurum, Gaziantep, İstanbul, İzmir, Kayseri, Kırklareli, Kocaeli, Kütahya, Malatya, Muğla, Niğde, Şanlıurfa, Van and Iğdır. In total, the removal centres can currently hold 20,540 persons.¹²



¹¹ TCG, 2024.
¹² PMM, 2024.

VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING (VoTs)

According to PMM, the gradual decline in trafficking victims' numbers between 2010-2013 was followed by a progressive increase starting from 2013 and continued until 2017. A total of 215 individuals were identified in 2019, 282 in 2020, 402 in 2021, 343 in 2022, 223 in 2023 and 179 as of December 2024.¹³



Figure 9. Annual Number of Victims of Trafficking in Türkiye, (2005-2024)

MAIN EXIT AND ENTRY POINTS

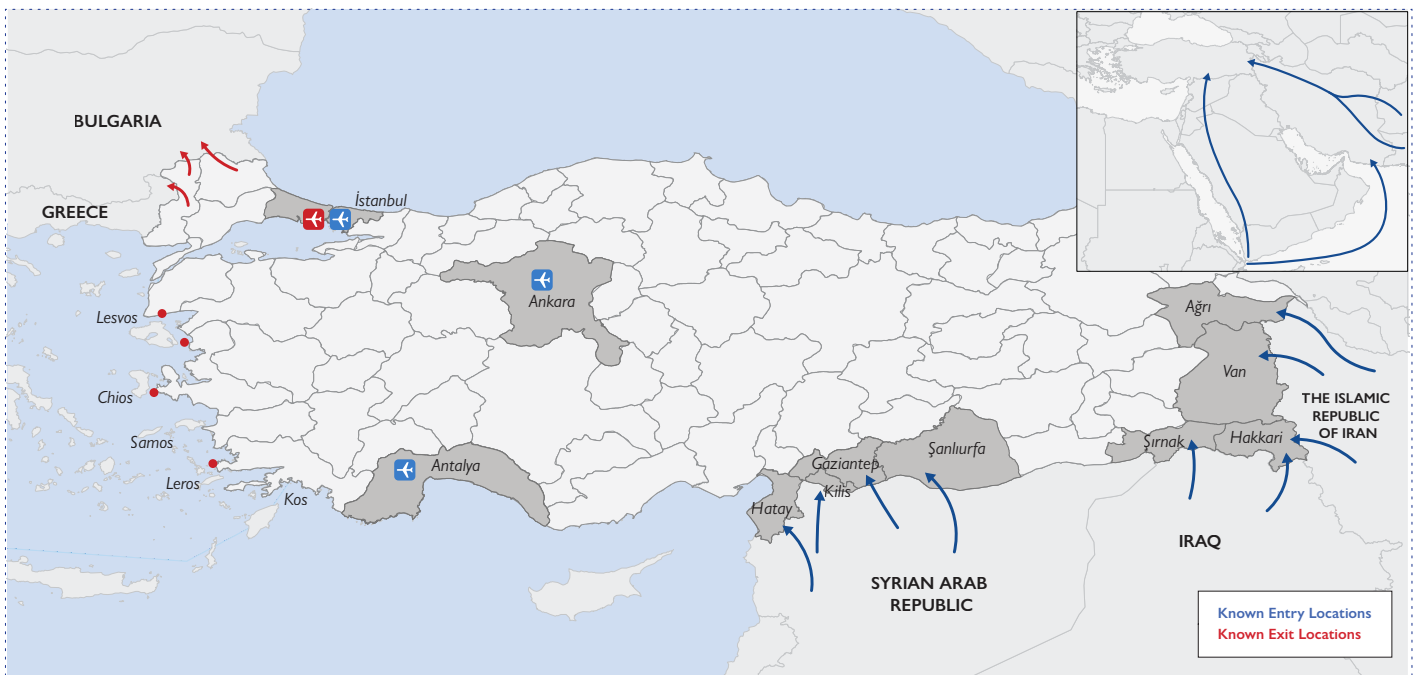
Known entry points by land: Hatay, Kilis, Şanlıurfa (from the Syrian Arab Republic), Silopi, Çukurca (from Iraq), Şemdinli, Yüksekova, Başkale, Ağrı, Doğubeyazıt (from the Islamic Republic of Iran)

Known entry points by air: İstanbul, İstanbul Sabiha Gökçen, Antalya, Esenboğa Ankara (from third countries)

Known exit points by sea: Çeşme, Ayvalık, Didim, Bodrum, Küçükkuyu (Locations close to Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Symi, Kos and Rodos), and Kırklareli, Kocaeli, İstanbul on the Black Sea

Known exit points by land: Edirne (to Greece and Bulgaria), Kırklareli (to Bulgaria)

Known exit points by air: İstanbul, İstanbul Sabiha Gökçen (to certain EU member states)



Map 3. Main Exit and Entry Points

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13 PMM, 2024.

METHODOLOGY

Data Collection

This report uses annual data from secondary sources. Data are collected between the first and the tenth day of the following month, depending on when the sources publish the data. No primary data from the IOM MPM programme are presented in this report. Sources were chosen from government authorities and UN agencies to provide a complete picture of the migration situation and flows in Türkiye.

Data Categories

The report focuses on several distinct categories of migration data:

1. Migrants in Türkiye by migration status (stock): The number of migrants reported to be in Türkiye by their migration status. It distinguishes people with a refugee status, a temporary protection status, or a residence permit. Data come from PMM and UNHCR statistics.

2. Migrants in an irregular situation by nationality (stock): Migrants who are in irregular or undocumented situations. Data come from PMM statistics.

3. Migrants intercepted or rescued at sea (flow): Migrants who are intercepted or rescued while trying to cross to Europe by sea. Data come from TCG regular reports, which include the number and self-reported nationalities of migrants intercepted or rescued by the TCG at sea or land.

4. Migrants resettled from Türkiye: Migrants who are resettled from Türkiye to other countries. Data come from PMM statistics.

TCG's daily irregular migration reports provide detailed data on the location of incidents, the means of irregular migration, the number and nationality of facilitators, and the nationality of intercepted/rescued migrants. However, TCG may make some adjustments to the number of intercepted/rescued migrants in later stages. These changes are not reflected in the daily reports but in the cumulative data published on TCG's website. Therefore, this report relies on the data presented in TCG's daily reports for details such as nationality, which may result in discrepancies when compared with the monthly and annual figures published on TCG's website.

In addition, due to the newly adopted methodology, the 2024 annual report is based on figures from TCG's daily reports, whereas the monthly reports relied on the monthly data published on TCG's website. As a result, there may be discrepancies between the annual figure and the total obtained by aggregating the monthly figures.

LIMITATIONS

Sources

The data sources were selected based on their trustworthiness

and expertise, but secondary sources have inherent limitations. Different sources may use different methods and definitions to collect data, which may cause variations in the figures they report. For example, IOM Glossary on Migration (2019) defines a migrant in an irregular situation as a person who crosses or has crossed an international border and does not have permission to enter or stay in a State according to the law of that State and the international agreements that bind that State. However, IOM cannot confirm whether the PMM uses the same criteria to identify migrants in an irregular situation. The data quality also depends on how transparent and accurate the original reporting entities are.

Data Validity and Verification

Despite efforts to check and compare data from various secondary sources, it is important to recognize that the accuracy and reliability of the compiled information may not be fully verifiable. Secondary data pose a challenge in terms of tracking the original data collection processes. Therefore, the limitation of not being able to verify the data directly remains, and it is advised that users of this report exercise caution and consider the possible margin of error associated with the data.

Data Gaps and Incompleteness

Migration data are often affected by gaps due to the informal nature of some migration movements and the difficulties of data collection. The report acknowledges the possibility of underreporting or excluding 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 the overall migration context in Türkiye, caution is advised when applying findings to specific cases or predicting future trends.

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IOM Türkiye Displacement Tracking Matrix
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