

Intervention by Turkey under Agenda Item 3 (c) Interactive Roundtable: Supporting migrants' protection, integration, and contribution to development

14:00–15:30 hrs., 11 March 2021 (Bangkok time)

- We shelter more than 4 million people under our protection from different nationalities. More than 3.6 million of them are Syrians under temporary protection.
- We provide all basic services to these people. We have spent more than 40 billion Dollars for the well-being of Syrians.
- We continue our efforts to improve the living conditions of Syrians with a view to ensure their self-sustenance.
- Turkey has been doing its best both during pandemic and currently in this so called “normalization” period to address the needs of refugees.
- Our health-care system provides free and accessible service to everyone, including refugees.
- We have introduced several measures in our Temporary Accommodation Centers, where we host around 60.000 Syrians. All residents and the personnel in TACs are obliged to take relevant precautionary measures. These centers are cleaned meticulously. Hygiene and sanitation kits are distributed. For a long time, we have restricted the visit to and from these centers.
- We believe that informing refugees about the preventive measures against pandemic is essential. Together with related INGOs, we have launched information campaigns and distributed brochures in different languages.
- Questions of foreigners directed to the lines of our Ministry of Health are provided with simultaneous translation. “Foreigners Communication Center” (YİMER) continues to give information to foreigners in 7 languages.
- It is of utmost importance for us to prevent any interruption in education system for both refugees and our citizens. During the pandemic, we have introduced official distance learning programs for our residents. We are also doing our best to enhance refugees' access to specific online training courses including language and vocational trainings in cooperation with related international organizations in Turkey.
- Individuals under our protection and migrants benefit from the same rights as our citizens when it comes to the implementation of COVID measures.
- We invite all the countries to include migrants and refugees to their health services and protection measures against COVID.