

## IOM Cyprus Supports Migrant Communities During COVID-19 Outbreak



Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak in Cyprus, the International Organization for Migration has maintained its focus on supporting the most vulnerable migrant communities on the island.

Despite the low numbers of registered cases among migrants and refugees, contagion risk is still existent due to often overcrowded living conditions, difficult access to basic services, including health services, and communication barriers.

In order to address these concerns, IOM has undertaken a series of actions, such as the provision of in-kind assistance to migrants waiting to be repatriated and the supply of hygiene kits to unaccompanied children moving from camps to independent living.

IOM has been working in coordination with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Interior of Cyprus to ensure access to health services for all migrants and the continuation of services for populations in need. IOM has also worked together with local authorities, NGOs and UN agencies on common information provision efforts on COVID-19 and the translation of social distancing measures adopted by the government in more than 25 languages.

“Having managed to adapt our office operations very quickly in accordance with government measures, our team continues to work daily with our program beneficiaries and implement initiatives aimed at protecting the most vulnerable populations against COVID-19. This includes providing food and supplies to beneficiaries in need, while ensuring that access to information and basic services is available to all”, added Natasa Xenophonos Koudouna, Head of IOM Cyprus.

For IOM’s global press release: <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-maintains-covid-19-support-vulnerable-migrant-communities-cyprus>

## COVID-19 Spread in Cyprus

As of 30 April 2020

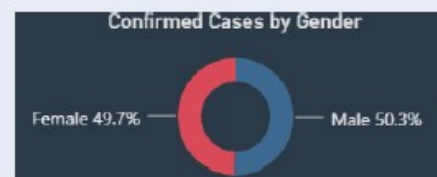
Confirmed Cases	843	Deaths	15
Active Cases	725	Recovered	98

According to the official data provided by the government and the University of Cyprus, a total of 843 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been registered during the months of March and April, with 15 deaths recorded during the same period.

The majority among confirmed cases were reported in the municipality of Aradippou (120) and the municipality of Pafos (68).



In terms of demographics, 6% among confirmed cases refer to non-Cypriot nationals, whereas there is an almost equal distribution between men and women.



IOM collects data from the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. <https://covid19.ucy.ac.cy/>



## IOM Supports the Transition to Adulthood of Unaccompanied Migrant Children in Cyprus



The International Organization for Migration in Cyprus has launched a new program in April, aiming to ease the difficult transition to adulthood for unaccompanied migrant children in Cyprus through semi-independent housing and other support.

The program is being managed and implemented by IOM in partnership with the Social Welfare Services at the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance of Cyprus.

Through the provision of semi-independent living opportunities and adequate protection, the IOM programme will help to promote the inclusion of children in local society and the safeguarding of their rights.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the children have access to clean water and hygiene kits upon their arrival, including reusable masks, gloves and sanitizers in addition to basic household items. Information on COVID-19 prevention measures has been provided in coordination with the Ministry of Health, including handwashing and physical distancing practices in line with government measures and WHO advice.

IOM in its work is striving to address individual needs of older unaccompanied migrant children by ensuring their access to education and vocational training, health care services and psychosocial support.

The IOM project, which is being implemented in line with international human rights and child related principles, also recognizes that achieving social inclusion of the children is in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals on quality education, productive employment, inclusive societies and global partnerships.

For IOM's global press release: <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-supports-transition-adulthood-unaccompanied-migrant-children-cyprus>

## AVRR Information Session in Kofinou



IOM Cyprus was warmly received by staff working at the Reception and Accommodation Centre for Applicants for International Protection in Kofinou area.

During an information session held at the end of February, IOM staff members had the opportunity to exchange views and answer questions about different aspects of the organization's Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration program.



Members of the IOM team were also able to provide information material to residents of the reception center and engage in discussions in relation to their current needs and immediate future priorities.