ELEVATING HOPES
UNDP Turkey Syria Crisis Response and Resilience Programme
Our world faces many grave challenges. Widening conflicts and inequality, extreme weather and deadly intolerance, security threats. We have the tools and wealth to overcome these challenges. All we need is the will.

Resilience is the ability to cope with and recover from shocks and sustain development gains. This includes strengthening the required capacities at all levels, for refugees, host communities as well as national and local institutions - to be better able to resist shocks. A resilience-based development approach that complements the humanitarian response is more relevant than ever, including in Turkey, currently hosting the largest number of refugees in the world.
Executive summary

The Government of Turkey and host communities have demonstrated an unprecedented level of generosity and openness in hosting the largest population in the world. UNDP has provided resilience oriented support since 2014 to national and local institutions, communities and refugees to be better able to cope with and recover from the impact and sustain development gains.

The main challenges to date include access to employment and self-reliance, social cohesion and harmonization, as well as access to quality municipal services such as solid waste management. UNDP experience and expertise supporting local development in Turkey for over 50 years has been an essential in terms of ensuring ownership of the support provided and timely delivery. In addition to that, the UNDP Turkey Country Programme has been able to mobilize on strong relationships with local authorities, private sector, small businesses and key ministries to create synergies between efforts to address the Sustainable Development Goals and the priorities of the National Development plan on the one hand, and the needs to Syrians and host communities on the other. This network, local presence and expertise has been essential to support the Government in transforming the refugee presence into an opportunity to further advance local development.

In these endeavours, strong partnerships remain our main asset – mobilizing the capacities, the expertise of UNDP globally, Government, non-Governmental partners. UNDP is proud to take a leadership role in creating these synergies, co-leading the 3RP at regional and national levels, and ensuring operational coordination of the livelihoods sector and municipal support interventions amongst UN agencies and appealing 3RP NGOs.

UNDP is also playing a key role in ensuring that global displacement and migration related discussions are able to capitalize on Turkey’s experience. Turkey has been at the forefront of the implementation of global commitments of the Global Compacts on Refugees and on Migration, of the SDGs and the New Way of Working. In line with the localization principles, the Government of Turkey is demonstrating good practice examples of replicable and scalable responses to refugee and migrant challenges - responses that are central and embedded in the evolving global processes around migration and displacement diplomacy.

Overall through our support provided in Turkey, particularly through the UNDP Turkey Syria Crisis and Resilience Response Programme, we ensure that these pragmatic, practical and proven programmes provide the keystone to bridge the humanitarian and developmental responses to optimise choices for refugee, migration and host populations and to leave no one behind.

Claudio Tomasi
UNDP Turkey Resident Representative a.i.

UNDp's Support to the Syria refugee response in turkey

With the Syria crisis entering into its 9th year, resilience-oriented support for the refugee response in Turkey has become increasingly critical to cope with and respond to the impact of the large-scale displacement. Refugees, host communities and relevant institutions must be at the forefront of our sustained cooperation as the lead resilience partner to the Government of Turkey.

Turkey is home to over 4 million refugees and is thereby the largest refugee hosting country in the world, including 3.6 million Syrians under temporary protection.1 The Government of Turkey and its communities have generously hosted the refugees over the years. This includes the Government’s adoption of the temporary protection regulation that provides Syrians with access to legal employment opportunities and national services such as health, education and other social services.

However, recent surveys point at the fragility of relations between Syrian and Turkish host communities. For instance, lack of employment opportunities is often considered an important factor in driving inter-community tensions: while 51% of Turkish respondents indicated that unemployment was the most pressing issue, 71% said that “Syrians are taking away jobs from people in Turkey”.2 The increase of waste in public spaces and insufficient capacities for proper waste management is cited as negatively impacting the image of Syrians within communities. Language challenges significantly limit possibilities to interact, break-down prejudices and build confidence.

All in all, such real or perceived issues within communities critically impact social inclusion and self-reliance of Syrians. External support to address these challenges is becoming more crucial than ever.

Brussels III commitments

During the Brussels III Conference, Turkey was commended for its continued efforts to, amongst others, provide access to national services including health, education, labor market, social as well as municipal services. It is recognized also that Turkey actively contributed to good practices, lessons learned and valuable experiences for the Global Compact on Refugees.3 Furthermore, the conference acknowledged the close cooperation between 3RP actors and Turkey in planning the refugee response, particularly by investing in the self-reliance and resilience of refugees and host communities, and supporting their inclusion in services provided through public institutions at the national provincial and municipal levels.

UNDp’s support to the Syria refugee response in Turkey

UNDp is one of the key resilience partners to the Government of Turkey, in terms of coordination of all as well as programmatic support. Turkey co-chairs the 3RP at regional and national levels in Turkey with together with UNHCR, leads the coordination of the resilience response and co-chairs the 3RP Livelihoods Sector.

UNDP Turkey implements its Syria Crisis Response and Resilience Programme. The programme uses funding to bring support to scale and deliver results that have a lasting impact on individuals and communities, as well as the national and local institutions that provide the services to them. The programme was initiated in 2014 and has a current budget of 85M USD for 2019-2020.

Underfunding of the resilience response

The response in Turkey has been characterized by an integrated refugee and resilience response, embodied in the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) with a progressive transition from humanitarian assistance towards socio-economic integration and self-reliance. This sustained shift must materialize in support to Turkey on the creation of a convergence of interests.

The importance of this transition is commonly recognized, including fact that vulnerable refugees and host communities are best supported by strengthening existing systems and government institutions. However, resilience-oriented support has been significantly underfunded. In 2018, the total financial requirement for the Turkey 3RP was 1.74 billion USD out of which 1.45 billion USD was received. The total funding received for the resilience pillar was 216 million USD, which was 40% of the financial resilience requirements.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN A TIME OF CHANGE

The new SDGs are unique in that they call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. All countries thereby support a common vision of how the world should be in 2030.

In Turkey, the resilience approach has become instrumental in articulating and bridging humanitarian and sustainable development priorities in supporting refugees, host communities and local and national institutions. Resilience helps to incorporate the 2030 Agenda’s core principles (e.g. Leaving No One Behind) and to identify strategic collective outcomes to foster cross-sectoral and longer term resilience-building perspectives in crisis response.

This goes along with the recognition that the 2030 Agenda and its overarching aspiration to “Leave No One Behind” and “Reach the furthest behind first” provides an important framework for strengthening synergies between humanitarian and development action. This is in line with the New Way of Working (NOW) that emerged from the World Humanitarian Summit (2016) and charts a clear pathway for development and humanitarian partners, along with national and local partners, to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, in a way that leaves no-one behind, through tailored SDG-relevant ‘collective outcomes’ that effectively reduce risks and vulnerabilities.

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SDG IMPACT ACCELERATOR:

Turkey’s first-ever international impact accelerating programme “SDG Impact Accelerator” is led by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNDP and supported by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Eczacıbaşı Holding, Limak Holding and UN World Food Programme (WFP). The Accelerator will convene partners from across sectors and fields of expertise to prototype products and services for the most vulnerable groups in the world such as refugees. This exciting new initiative will move beyond siloed, single-point solutions and apply systemic lens to finding innovative solutions to big challenges, such as integrating refugees or eliminating poverty and vulnerability among the Least Developed Countries.

The scale and breadth of market-based solutions to the broad development challenges we face today are currently insufficient to be considered as major drivers of social change. It is clear that to work effectively, market-based solutions require access to information and coordination of different stakeholders in order to provide necessary inputs to the markets. The SDG Impact Accelerator aims to accelerate “systems entrepreneurs” for market-creating innovations, initially for refugee populations, and in turn for the LDCs.

For more information, please see: https://www.sdgia.org/

CLAUDIO TOMASI
UNDP Turkey Resident Representative a.i.
Turkey’s response has consistently stood out for its strong national ownership and leadership, with partners playing a support role to the Government of Turkey within the established national asylum framework, including access to national systems such as health, education, employment and social services.

The New York Declaration (NYD) for Refugees and Migrants (September 2016) calls for the development and application of a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). The aim is to allow refugees to benefit from national services and integrate them into national and local development plans. This process aims to strengthen inclusion, ensure more predictable support in protracted refugee situations and to decrease refugee dependency on aid. This requires engagement of multiple actors, including Governments, refugees, NGOs, UN agencies as well as the private sector, international financial institutions and civil society (i.e. think tanks, academia and faith leaders). It also aligns with the pledge to “leave no one behind” in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
UNDP’s SUPPORT TO THE SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN TURKEY

UNDP is one of the main resilience and development partners to the Government of Turkey, in terms of coordination of policy as well as programmatic support. UNDP Turkey co-chairs the 3RP in Turkey together with UNHCR, leads the coordination of the resilience response and co-chairs the 3RP Livelihoods Sector.

UNDP Turkey implements its Syria Crisis Response and Resilience Programme. The programme uses funding to bring support to scale and deliver results that have a lasting impact on individuals and communities, as well as the national and local institutions that provide the services to them. The programme was initiated in 2014 and has a current budget of 85M USD for 2019-2020. The programme promotes a resilience-based development approach to complement humanitarian assistance. The main objective of the programme is to enhance self-reliance of Syrians and strengthen institutional capacities of local and national partners to be able to respond to the increase in demand for public services. The main donors for the Syria response programme in Turkey include the European Union, the Government of Japan, the Government of Korea, KfW, the Government of Kuwait and the US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (USBPRM).

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Our programme team currently counts over 45 experts represented in both Ankara and several field locations. In addition to that, our Syria response programme builds on strong existing expertise and networks from our development-oriented portfolios on inclusive and sustainable growth, local governance, rule of law and environment.
UNDP Turkey:

has over 50 years of experience in Turkey as a key development partner to the Government of Turkey. Its established relationship with national and local partners ensures relevance and ownership of UNDP’s support, in alignment with Turkey’s national development goals.

is one of the only agencies in Turkey supporting the actual creation of new jobs. UNDP does this amongst others in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Technology through the design and creation of SME capability and Innovation Centres that support SMEs to expand and create additional demand labour.

carries out its own procurement, in line with UNDP rules and regulations. This has allowed timely and high-quality delivery of the municipal infrastructure support and other large-scale procurement activities under the programme. UNDP has well established partnerships with relevant municipalities ensuring strong ownership at all levels.

promotes access to technology and innovation for SMEs, training and job placements for youth. This includes, for instance, the facilitation of access to employment through Techno-Entrepreneurship Support programmes for high-skilled youth in techno-intensive sectors and vocational training in the renewable energy sector.

provides adults language skills training for Syrians at scale, specifically aimed at facilitating access to the formal labour market. The trainings are provided through blended learning models combining online and in-class trainings in cooperation with the Ministry of National Education.

acknowledges the important role of the private sector (Turkish and Syrian) and works closely with the local Chambers of Industry and Chambers of Commerce under the programme. We also build on our broad private sector networks, established partnerships and platforms.

What is our added value?
UNDP TURKEY SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

IN 2014-2017

DONORS

The Government of Japan
The Government of Kuwait
U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM)

PARTNERS

GAP RDA
AFAD
Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality
Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality
Kilis Municipality
Hatay Metropolitan Municipality

IN 2018-2020

DONORS

The Government of Japan
The Government of Kuwait
U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM)
Government of the Republic of Korea

PARTNERS

Presidency Of The Republic Of Turkey
Ministry of National Education
Ministry of Industry and Technology
Ministry of Environment and Urbanization
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
ILBANK
Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR)

PARTNERS

Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality
Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality
Hatay Metropolitan Municipality
Izmir Metropolitan Municipality
Ankara Metropolitan Municipality
İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality
Kilis Municipality
Şanlıurfa Haliliye Municipality

PARTNERS

HARRAN UNIVERSITY • ANATOLIA UNIVERSITY • HATAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY • HATAY CHAMBER OF SHOEMAKERS AND MANUFACTURERS • GAZIANTEP CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY • ŞANLIURFA GAP AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

HARRAN UNIVERSITY • ANADOLU UNIVERSITY • ANATOLIA UNIVERSITY • TURKISH RED CRESCENT • GAZIANTEP CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY • ADANA CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY • MERSIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY • IZMIR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE • İZMİR REGIONAL CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY • ŞANLIURFA TECHNO-PARK • ŞANLIURFA DIRECTORATE OF PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY • METU TECHNO-PARK • TURKONFED
UNDP TURKEY
SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

Sustainable jobs and livelihoods

The programme provides support to both the labour supply and labour demand side of the market, with the aim to facilitate access to the formal labour market for Syrians and Turkish nationals in host communities. In terms of the labour supply side, UNDP’s support focuses on adult language skills training, vocational training and support to the local capacities in terms of registration, counselling and job matching, including the Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR). In terms of the labour demand side, UNDP supports job creation through the transformation of ISKUR into the Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR), the establishment of SME Capability and Innovation Centres, the transformation of industrial zones, establishment of SME capability and Innovation Centres, and fostering enterprise development and inclusive business initiatives and development institutional capacity of Şanlıurfa Technopark in business development services.

Municipal service delivery

UNDP Turkey helps strengthen the capacities of municipalities to respond to the increase in demand for public services, in particular with respect to solid waste, wastewater and firefighting service. UNDP supports both infrastructure development, the procurement of required equipment and technical support for the management and future planning of waste infrastructure development. UNDP’s support in terms of municipal services currently focuses on Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Kilis and Hatay.

Youth and women’s empowerment, social cohesion and access to justice and legal aid

UNDP’s response serves both Syrians and host communities in support of peaceful coexistence. UNDP provides support for Syrian women and Turkish women in host communities to enhance their social and economic empowerment and to enable them to engage actively within the community. UNDP also supports multi-purpose community centres (ÇATOMs) and local organizations by providing equipment, technical assistance and counselling. UNDP works with the Turkish National Bar Association to increase their employability through ICT (i.e. e-work) and renewable energy.

RESULTS

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND JOB CREATION

UNDP is grateful for all donor and partner contributions so far to the Syria Crisis Response and Resilience Programme and other development portfolios. The programme has significantly scaled up for continued support in 2019-2020 and beyond.

2014-2017

- 8,560 people provided with life skills trainings
- 4,321 people benefited from vocational trainings and education
- 45% of the trainees were women
- 34% of the trainees were youth

2018-2020

- Strengthens capacities of the Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR) to deliver active labour market services targeting both Syrians and Turkish host community members.
- Establishes and operationalizes Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Capability and Innovation Centres in various locations.
- Supports the creation of 4,000 formal and sustainable jobs for Syrians and host community members.
- Ensures that 1,000 Syrians and host community members will benefit from awareness raising and other types of business development and employment services, including innovation-driven entrepreneurship.
- Supports 650 SMEs with business advisory services in the form of technical assistance and investment/equipment support.
- Supports 250 new SMEs to be established focusing on innovation, set-up by Syrians and/or Syrian - Turkish joint ventures.
- Delivers 52,000 adult language skills trainings to Syrians to support them to enter the labour market in Turkey.
- Works with the Şanlıurfa Technopark of Haran University to support more than 50 inclusive business initiatives and enterprises to employ Syrians and Turkish nationals.
- Supports ISKUR (i.e. the Turkish Employment Agency) to increase capacities to provide active labour market support to Syrians and host communities. This includes support to the digital transformation of ISKUR to increase outreach and registration services.
- Supports 500 Syrians and Turkish nationals (of which 40% women) to increase their employability through vocational training in the renewable energy sector.

UNDP Turkey Syria Crisis Response and Resilience Programme
MUNICIPAL SERVICE DELIVERY

2014-2017

470,120 Syrians and host community members benefitted from strengthened municipal services.

179,783 tons of efficient transportation of solid waste facilitated (per year).

5,500 Syrians and host community members completed trainings on recycling and environmental protection.

4 waste transfer stations were constructed.

2018-2020

The following infrastructures will be designed and constructed to improve municipal service delivery for over 307,000 Syrians and host community members.

1. Mechanical Biological Treatment facility (i.e. Gaziantep).

Leachate management of sanitary landfill site and renovation of one existing facility (Kilis).

1 wastewater treatment facility (Hassa).

3 waste transfer stations (i.e. one in Şanliurfa, two in Hatay).

In addition to that 3 project management offices (PMOs) (Gaziantep, Şanliurfa and Hatay) will be set up to provide technical support. Moreover, equipment and technical support to municipalities in Hatay and Şanliurfa to strengthen their firefighting capacities.

Additional support will be provided for the establishment of participatory waste management for some waste driven recycling to ensure landfill diversion as well as incentives for recycling collectives.

SOCIAL COHESION, EMPOWERMENT AND PROTECTION

2014-2017

70 different activities for women in 14 multi-purpose community centres.

2,893 Syrian women reached out through empowerment and social inclusion activities.

2,942 Syrian women completed life skills trainings.

1,120 Syrian young people completed life skills trainings.

2,256 Women of host community members reached out through empowerment and social cohesion activities.

UNDP organized two youth camps and a coding bootcamp for youth to address both social cohesion and improving access to decent work opportunities in the technology sector.

2018-2020

UNDP’s overall support to livelihoods, job creation, adult language skills training as well as municipal service delivery contributes to reducing real and perceived tensions over access to jobs and public services.

UNDP will work with the Turkish National Bar Association to improve access to justice for refugees, asylum-seekers and host community members.

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Resilient Southeast Municipalities respond to additional demands for services

While the Government of Turkey has demonstrated remarkable national ownership of the response by providing a solid and comprehensive rights-based legal framework, the large increase in the population has placed local institutions under considerable strain. Municipal services are automatically affected by any sudden population increase such as may arise due to a refugee influx. The municipalities in South-East Turkey collectively host over 1.3 million refugees, representing over 20% of their pre-crisis population. This increase in numbers has led among other things, to the consumption of 10 billion litres more water and the generation of 1 million tons of additional solid waste per year.

As early as 2014, UNDP Turkey provided the municipalities of Gaziantep, Sanlıurfa, Hatay and Kilis additional equipment such as fire-fighting and solid waste vehicles. To date, municipalities and UNDP have implemented almost 40 projects, including the provision of over 10 vehicles and 10 solid waste management facilities and 1 wastewater treatment plant were constructed. The municipalities concerned have built on this support and worked gradually towards introducing more comprehensive changes in municipal service delivery management. UNDP support has allowed the municipalities to allocate corresponding amounts of resources to meet other needs. Initial infrastructural support soon set a virtuous circle in motion, with additional benefits in terms of the environment, public health and livelihoods of local communities. For instance:

In Kilis, the municipality faced overwhelming pressure on its waste disposal infrastructure, limiting its ability to maintain a healthy and clean environment for the host community and Syrians alike. The provision of a solid waste compactor has extended the existing solid waste storage capacity by two years, and UNDP is now establishing a leachate treatment and evaporation system within the Kilis sanitary landfill site to eliminate contamination risks.

In Sanlıurfa, investments in Solid Waste Transfer Stations has greatly improved the transfer of waste from district to central facilities. The transfer stations have significantly improved the environment by preventing the use of wild dump-sites while generating economic benefits through recycling and cost savings. The municipality and UNDP then analysed the solid waste management system to identify efficiency gains able to sustain these improvements. By re-allocating solid waste vehicles across districts and replacing private contractors with municipal staff and linking districts to alternative transfer stations, the municipality was able to reduce its annual expenditure for the transfer of solid waste from TL 2.2 million to TL 1.3 million – a saving of TL 900,000, or 42.7% of the municipal solid waste budget.

Gaziantep, Hatay and Sanlıurfa municipalities are now using a new project management approach supported by UNDP to take proactive and preparatory steps prior to the submission of projects to international donors. In Gaziantep, an examination of the municipal fire-fighting department showed how re-allocating emergency equipment such as fire-fighting vehicles across the municipality, based on an analysis of population size (including the refugee population) and the occurrence of incidents, would extend the coverage of the emergency department from 800,000 people to 1,000,000 without any increase in resources. Such support is therefore bringing major change in their operational culture and enabling municipalities to increase their capacities beyond the pre-crisis levels.

However, these impacts need to be scaled up geographically and thematically. So far, UNDP has invested over USD 30 million in the capacities and services of the four municipalities with the support of the Government of Japan, the US BPRM (United States) and the EU Regional Trust Fund for the Syria Response (MADAD).

For more information on UNDP Turkey support to municipalities in relation to the Syria response, please see:

The Reyhanlı waste transfer station facility in Hatay in South East Turkey transpots 120 tons of solid waste per day. With the waste transfer station and services supports in Hatay, Southeast Turkey, Hatay is host to with over 447,000 Syrians, making up that makes around 28% of its population. As a result of the support provided for the waste transfer station and related services, 1 one out of 4 four people of its inhabitants now live in a healthier environment.

2018 © UNDP
Cooperation with the private sector for job creation and job placements

UNDP Turkey is the only UN agency working on actual job creation and supporting the Government at scale in terms of labour demand, including the creation and facilitation of 4,000 sustainable jobs for both Syrians and Turkish citizens in host communities. UNDP does this in partnership with the Ministry of Industry and Technology by supporting local economies, primarily through private sector engagement involving Turkish and Syrian-owned business, including the establishment and operationalization of SME Innovation and Capability Centers. For instance, UNDP provides training and tailor-made business development consultancy programmes on lean manufacturing and innovation management services to SMEs, entrepreneurs and start-up businesses for Syrians and host community members. The centres will support SMEs in achieving higher productivity and sustainable growth that would lead to job creation.

UNDP carried out a “Private Sector Survey” in 2019 to better understand the Syrian crisis response in Turkey is perceived by the Turkish private sector, which is being positioned at the heart of the livelihoods strategies.

The survey shows that the Turkish businesses are willing to learn more about the Syrians - mainly about their profiles, educational backgrounds and vocational skills. Their perception of Syrians as “employees” and / or “refugees” is shifting away from their temporariness in Turkey towards their integration with society and the local economy. Access to Arabic-speaking countries is a driving factor for the employment of Syrians. The survey also revealed a lack of information about the work permit procedures. Employers are still not well informed about the online application system and work permit procedures in general.

The survey also suggests that access to reliable information could trigger both income opportunities for Syrians and for business between the Turkish and Syrian business communities. The private sector needs guidance, on how to ensure positive interactions between Syrians and host community members at the workplace. Through the on-going initiatives of Sanliurfa Technopark on improvement of Business Development Center infrastructure, UNDP Turkey supports setting up a common office space for incubation programme and development of corporate strategy document.

Language skills training for adults for access to the labor market

Turkish language skills are a key challenge for Syrians under Temporary Protection to enter the labour market. Adult language training in Turkish can have a positive effect in improving their opportunities to find formal employment.

UNDP is delivering training for 52,000 Syrians in 10 provinces and developed a blended learning system in partnership with the Ministry of National Education to provide Turkish language courses to Syrian trainees.

The blended learning modality provides an opportunity for Syrians to interact with other students and the instructor both online and in a face-to-face environment. Trainings have started in March 2019. UNDP also provided support to refurbish and establish new Public Education Centers to increase the capacities to deliver the language skills trainings.
WHERE DO WE WORK

We are active in Southeast Anatolia
INVESTING IN STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN SHOWS POSITIVE IMPACT

Entrepreneurship Trainings in three provinces

Entrepreneurship trainings were given to 580 Syrians and host community members in Mersin, Adana and Gaziantep with the aim to support them in establishing their own business, as well as improving their soft skills. Participants meeting targeted performance levels have been granted EURIO passcard certificates and/or KOSGEB certificates.

Android coding training programme brings Syrian and Turkish youth together

UNDP, funded by the Government of Japan and in partnership with the Southeast Anatolia Project Regional Development Administration (GAP RDA), provided seven months of coding training sessions and facilitated partnerships between Re:Code and Harran University. Re:Code conducted a five-month intensive coding bootcamp focused on Android Development for conflict-affected youth, aged 15 - 35, in Sanliurfa. The bootcamp program also included training on entrepreneurship and freelancing, career coaching and events to inspire students and cultivate the tech sector and developer community in Sanliurfa.

Students (of whom 50% were women and 37% refugees) benefitted from (1) Android coding training, (2) soft skills, freelancing and entrepreneurship training and (3) client project apprenticeships. For the client project apprenticeships, six international and local clients were sourced for the students to work with. During the apprenticeship, students worked in teams to create their first real Android applications and gain experience as a freelance developer with a remote client. Almost all students completed the bootcamp and received freelancing and entrepreneurship training from local and international experts and actively sought employment or internship opportunities after graduation. Some are currently working as freelancers or are venturing into entrepreneurship.

Even after the training, the trainees kept in touch and formed a group called “coders(developers): coding community”. Some of them started a start-up involving members of host communities and Syrian youth. They are still working together and are generating income.
Workshops on Sectoral Road Maps and Conference on New Approached in Manufacturing Industry & Side Events on Business Development and Employment

UNDP organized 2 days event in Gaziantep to provide the opportunity for private sector representatives, Syrian and Turkish business communities, Government institutions and NGOs to discuss about the livelihoods sector strategies.

More than 200 participants have discussed also how to increase the competitiveness, strengthen their resilience and labor absorption capacity in the region.

As the side events, B2B meetings between Syrian and Turkish companies were organized to explore the business opportunities for both communities.

Throughout the event, Syrians and Turkish companies and individuals benefitted from consultancy on business development and employment services in Turkey provided by İŞKUR, KOSGEB and Livelihoods Sector partners.

Pre-crisis labour force participation rate (LFPR) amongst Syrians was 73% for men and 14% for women. Challenges for women to enter the labour market in Turkey may even be higher, noting challenges to work outside the house, language barriers, additional household responsibilities and limitations to the use of public transportation.

UNDP organizes the Basic Gender Equality Training as part of Entrepreneurship trainings which organized in three provinces and in total over 400 people participated in. During the training, the participants learnt the basic concept of gender equality and importance of women’s empowerment.

6 Absorptive Capacity and Potential of Local Labour Markets Assessment, UNDP 2016.
THE BETTER FACTORY CONDITIONS

Resilience Building via Increased Livelihoods Opportunities and Strengthened Social Cohesion for Syrian Refugees and Host Communities Project

Man working at a factory given mentorship support. With these supports, the factories in the region are steadily progressing in the areas of integrated manufacturing, better labour conditions, sustainability and better end products. In the last 10 years, 2 new organized industrial zones are opened in Şanlıurfa, increasing its possible future export capabilities. Because of its geographical position, vast labour force and multicultural environment, Şanlıurfa may become a focal point in the area in the future. The smile of the workers is a proof of the better factory conditions.

THE DREAM OF BETTER FUTURE

Opening day of GIGAP (Gazelle Innovation & Entrepreneurship Programme) Atelier.

On these chairs sit the future CEOs, chief designers and bright minds. On these chairs, the handpicked local entrepreneurs design the future of the sustainable world by recycling electronic waste, producing reusable 3D printer materials and training the future workers with VR. All because of the GIGAP. Some choose to develop applications while others prefer to produce concrete products. However, they have one thing in common: the dream of a better future.
Not shackles but support: UNDP improves the quality of life both for “host communities” and Syrians in border provinces

“Leave no one behind!”

08 July 2019 23:30
Gonca Tokyol

“Would you like to return to your country?”

More than 40 percent of Syrians who responded to the survey conducted by the Socio-Political Field Research Centre in January in the border provinces of Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Kilis answered “No” to this question. According to the global data, 70 percent of refugees continue to stay in the countries where they stay. Indicating that half of the Syrians across the country said they would not choose to return even if the conflict ended, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) says, “We can envisage that the majority of the refugee population will continue to remain in Turkey.”

But how?

In Turkey which had elections for three times, one of which was only specific to Istanbul, in the last one year, both the populism brought about by elections and the continuation of economic downturn partly by deepening and partly by relenting feed the antagonism against foreigners.

While citizens whose purchasing power fell, who lost their jobs and became impoverished, see Syrians as the first among the reasons for this, UNDP aims to increase the living standards of both host communities and Syrians by implementing a resilience-based sustainable development policy within the framework of post-crisis management.

The objective of ‘Turkey Resilience Project in Response to the Syria Crisis’ (TRP), which is financed by the European Union, is to bring long-run solutions for the problems faced by municipalities and local governments due to the sudden population growth in Şanlıurfa, Hatay, Kilis, and Gaziantep, which are located along the Syrian border.

Post-crisis’ management

Sukhrob Khojimatov, UNDP Turkey Assistant Country Director, who came together with journalists in Hatay to tell about the projects that were completed and are still ongoing, briefly describes the project, which aims to invest in local governments and strengthen the capacities of main institutions in order to ensure that they can provide adequate services to both the host and refugee communities by focusing on three key support areas, as ‘post-crisis management’.

More than 97 percent of Syrians under ‘temporary protection’ in Turkey live in cities. Hatay with a population of around 1.6 million also hosts 426,617 Syrians, but this does not change the share of the border province received from the central government budget. The burden on Hatay Metropolitan Municipality, which currently has difficulty in fulfilling its obligations due to the expansion of its jurisdiction from the centre to provincial boundaries by the amendment of the law in 2014, is increasing day by day. The fact that population growth increases the need for services and related problems due to the inadequacies causes the people living in the province to react to the Syrians whom they see “that they are eating at their tables’.

More than 95 percent of the host citizens responding to the survey by the Socio-Political Field Research Centre cited above think that migration changed their cities. When asked what changed, the first thing that comes to their minds is the socio-economic structure, security level and unemployment rate. Right here, UNDP becomes involved.

Project seeks to improve economic, social resilience of Syrian refugees

A new project, co-funded by the European Union and the UNDP, has been launched in Turkey to improve economic and social resilience of Syrian refugees. The project seeks to improve economic and social resilience of Syrian refugees and their host communities through implementing a resilience-based sustainable development policy within the framework of post-crisis management.

The project is called ‘Turkey Resilience Project in Response to the Syria Crisis’ (TRP), which is financed by the European Union, to bring long-term solutions for the problems faced by municipalities and local governments due to the sudden population growth in Şanlıurfa, Hatay, Kilis, and Gaziantep, which are located along the Syrian border.

Under “Turkey Resilience Project in Response to the Syria Crisis” (TRP), funded by the European Union, UNDP offers long-term solutions to problems experienced by municipalities and local governments due to the sudden population growth. In this context, support is provided to the state of infrastructure, equipment, capacities planning, technical support and capacity building, as well as development of sustainable waste management and water/wastewater management in order to increase the capacity of local governments and municipalities and strengthen municipal services in Turkey, Hatay, Şanlıurfa and Gaziantep.

Sudden population growth due to the Syrian crisis caused a huge increase in demand for local government services including waste management, sewerage management and fire brigade services. This caused new pressure on local government and limited opportunities to respond to additional services. In the past, there was a need to respond to additional services, which now become a permanent challenge.

In this context, UNDP works together with municipalities and local governments by supporting infrastructure investments and technical support. UNDP offers long-term solutions to the problems faced by municipalities and local governments due to the sudden population growth in Şanlıurfa, Hatay, Kilis, and Gaziantep, which are located along the Syrian border.
ELEVATING HOPES

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