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PERSON-CENTRED SERVICES TO PROMOTE DIGNITY

Protection Activities by the Community-Based Local Initiatives Project (CLIP 2)

Context

Turkey hosts the largest refugee population in the world with more than 4 million people registered in 2022 (3,7 million Syrians under temporary protection, 330,000 individuals under international protection). As individuals continue to flee their homes with the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and the war Ukraine, Turkey's role as a host and transit country of refugees and asylum seekers will not diminish anytime soon. These refugees, regardless of their legal status, need protection, including basic needs support, legal as well as psychosocial counselling and access to urgently needed health care. In addition, even after several years of living in Turkey, many refugees still have limited awareness of their rights and obligations. Especially those living in underserved areas or particularly vulnerable groups have difficulty accessing available social support services. Vulnerable groups include among others single-headed households, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), persons with disabilities, child workers and persons with specific psychosocial support needs. Refugees have often undergone traumatising experiences, which necessitate professional and well-programmed interventions – notably in their native language.

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| Project objective | Improving the personal and socioeconomic resilience of refugees and vulnerable residents of the host community |
| Implemented by | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) |
| Commissioned by | German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) |
| Project area | Turkey wide with a focus on underserved regions |
| Most relevant partners | Vice-President's Office of the Republic of Turkey (Lead executing agency), Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS), Presidency for Migration Management (PMM), NGOs, CBOs, Municipalities |
| Target group | Refugees and vulnerable members of the Turkish host community |
| Overall term | January 2021 - August 2023 |
| Total budget | EUR 6,500,000 by BMZ and EUR 4,000,000 by ECHO |

In light of this, there is an urgent need for person-oriented protection services that are tailored to meet basic human needs, particularly those of vulnerable groups. These services aim to protect persons of concern from psychological or physical violence, threats of violence and the consequences of such violence, as well as from coercion and systematic deprivation of basic rights. They may also reduce an individual's vulnerability to such threats, strengthen (self-protection) capacities as well as enhance the sense of safety and dignity.





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Approach to Strengthening Protection Services

CLIP 2 builds upon the experiences of the previous Community Centres and Local Initiatives Project (CLIP 1) and the support provided to refugees and host community members in cooperation with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). Protection services are at the heart of CLIP 2 and are provided by all partner organisations with the goal of increasing the beneficiaries' personal resilience. 'Protection' covers all activities that aim to achieve full respect for the rights of the individual. It requires the creation of an environment conducive to preventing or alleviating the immediate effects of a specific pattern of abuse and restoring human dignity.



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Refugees and vulnerable residents of the host communities receive:

- Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) and Case Management
- Legal and social counselling
- Psychosocial Support Services (PSS)
- Empowerment
- Information and awareness raising (e.g., on health-related issues)
- SGBV prevention and response
- Child protection services
- Specialised services for persons with specific needs (e.g., persons with disabilities, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence)





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The term psychosocial combines psychological (thoughts, feelings, behaviours) and social aspects of human experience. Psychosocial wellbeing refers to a positive physical and mental state that fosters personal growth, enabling the individual to relate constructively to other people. It is a lifelong, dynamic process.¹ Psychosocial support in the context of forced displacement and violence also aims to create safe spaces for affected persons (e.g., in community centres or local initiatives).

In addition to the support of protection services, GIZ also provides capacity development to partner organisations under CLIP 2, including Basic Refugee Protection Training with UNHCR, Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) and Case Management Training with Welthungerhilfe and Gender-Based Violence Training of Trainers with UNFPA.

1 GIZ (2018). Guiding Framework for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Development Cooperation



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Highlights

As of June 2022:



Over **29,000** individuals have benefitted from protection services in the areas of legal and social advice and psychosocial support



Around **8,000** individuals have been referred to external services



Additionally, about **10,000** individuals benefited from projects to support mainly Afghan refugees who arrived after August 2021. These projects primarily include advisory and counselling services as well as in-kind support



Over **2,800** people took part in information events on the prevention of sexualised and gender-based violence



13 projects have been implemented by partner organisations with a focus on supporting people with special needs





A woman can achieve anything if she desires to!

Nida has been subjected to her husband's psychological, financial and physical violence since the beginning of their marriage. However, because of her strong attachment to her children, she was unable to leave the house. When her husband married again, she felt even more desperate and ineligible. She eventually decided to stop accommodating herself to the situation and seek assistance from the Refugees Association (RASAS).

Her primary and most urgent need was for psychological assistance. When RASAS provided Nida with PSS services she soon found the strength to leave her home and settle in RASAS' Women's Solidarity Centre. Nida became more resilient thanks to PSS support and her participation in Turkish language classes, seminars and workshops at the centre with other women.

Nida took a lot of brave steps to get her life back on track.

Despite struggling a lot, Nida eventually thought she was strong enough to apply for a job in order to gain financial independence. She got a job, legally divorced her husband and moved out of the RASAS Centre by renting a house to be closer to her children with the support of CLIP 2.

"I'm stronger than I've ever been and I'm not afraid of any upcoming challenges," Nida remarks.

On the other hand, Nida's daughter, whose own family has a history of domestic violence, did not have a different life path. Nida's daughter has always returned to the violent environment due to lack of social support and self-confidence.

But things had changed for Nida and she was determined to make a difference in her daughter's life as well. She enrolled her daughter in RASAS, where she received protection services as her mother. Nida and her daughter, who has a legal job, now live together.

"A woman can achieve anything if she desires to," Nida says, *"My mother has been a huge source of inspiration for me!"* her daughter adds.



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