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# STRENGTHENING of RESILIENCE

## The Resilience Approach of the Community-Based Local Initiatives Project (CLIP 2)

### Context

Resilience, once mostly associated with natural disasters, has become a buzzword in international development in the context of migration and forced displacement in recent years. The United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, as well as the Global Compact on Refugees, emphasize that resilience is not only the responsibility of individuals, but also of society (community, state) and the international community as a whole, in order to ensure that 1) human rights are ensured and vulnerable people are protected from the negative effects of crises or can better protect themselves and 2) support structures are in place during and after crises, so that individuals and communities can increase their capacity to cope with and prevent crises and shocks. A resilience approach focuses on the strengths, potential and abilities of individuals, institutions/organisations and societies.

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



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Resilience can be defined as the following three capabilities:

- **Capacity for absorption/stabilisation:** the ability to prepare for, mitigate, or prevent the negative consequences of a crisis. Absorptive capacities allow individuals, groups, communities and states to develop and implement coping strategies for meeting basic needs and ensuring survival in times of crisis (e.g., maintaining the provision of basic services).
- **Adaptive capacity:** the ability of a person, group, community, or state to adjust, modify or change actions to limit potential future damage caused by a crisis (e.g., a lost generation of young people) and to seize opportunities (e.g., by improving access to education for all, creating alternative income-generating opportunities).
- **Transformative capacity (“building back better”):** promoting structural change to create long-term livelihoods that address the root causes of vulnerability. It refers to the ability to design new systems or structures so that crises/shocks do not reoccur or occur in the same way again (e.g., by strengthening the economic and social role of particularly disadvantaged groups, promoting inclusive social structures).

## Resilience approach in CLIP 2

The overall objective of CLIP 2 is as follows:

“The personal and socio-economic resilience of refugees and vulnerable residents of the host community has been strengthened.” Resilience is understood as the capacity of refugees and vulnerable members of the host communities as well as communities as a whole to a) develop/use their emotional strength to cope with and recover from the shocks and stresses emanating from the impact of forced displacement (e.g., trauma, lack of orientation) as well as current challenges in Turkey (e.g., social and economic distress) and in this process; b) constructively deal with new requirements (e.g., different political, social or cultural rules/norms) and c) transform the local environment in a way that enables integration and cohesion by developing self-help capacities and the participation of all groups in decision-making process. This contributes to better coping with stresses, change and uncertainty in the long-term.

The development of the above-mentioned capacities requires a resilient environment in the form of inclusive and effective support structures and institutions.

CLIP 2’s approach combines the three resilience capacity levels and thus also contributes to the operationalisation of the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus. Specifically, the following activities are supported:

- **Absorptive:** protection measures, access to social support, empowerment (humanitarian oriented)
- **Adaptive:** non-formal education, social cohesion activities (development oriented at individual level)
- **Transformative:** strengthening participation, capacity development of institutions and organisations, improving cooperation and networking structures, promoting integrated social service structures (development-oriented at institutional and societal level)



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## Social Cohesion and Resilient Environment

Supportive environment where the rights and dignity of all individuals and groups are respected, which enables participation as well as positive interactions with others and improves the self-help capacities and self-esteem of individuals and groups, their feeling of connectedness to their living environment, as well as access to needs based social services in the areas of protection, non-formal education and learning to live together.

## Resilience and Well-being

Supporting Personal Resilience  
(Physical and Psychological Well-being)

Supporting Socioeconomic Resilience  
(Social and Economic Well-being)

## Strength-based, Empowering Activities

Protection Activities - contributing to personal capacities, support mechanisms and increased access to protection services

Non-formal Education Activities  
Contributing to life skills, language skills, employability and increased access to vocational training and job opportunities

Intercultural exchange and learning activities - contribute to social cohesion

social environment, use relevant social services from governmental and non-governmental institutions and participate in designing a supportive environment.

## Resilience in Action

CLIP 2 supports Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in underserved regions of Turkey that reach out to refugees and particularly disadvantaged groups (e.g., single headed households, persons with disabilities, persons with specific psycho-social support needs, unaccompanied minors) to improve their personal and socio-economic resilience. The project also contributes to a resilient or supportive environment by building the capacities of CSOs as well as relevant state authorities and by strengthening networking and coordination among different stakeholders.

- **Personal resilience:** The physical and psychological well-being of individuals and groups including the ability to cope with and recover from stress and trauma, manage everyday life, adapt to requirements of a new environment (e.g., social/cultural norms, rules, procedures), establish positive relations with the

- Activities: Information and awareness raising activities, (Mental Health) PSS, empowerment and strengthening of self-confidence and self-help capacities of individuals and groups, supporting participatory structures.

- **Socio-economic resilience:** The ability to cope with and recover from social and economic distress, to develop competencies relevant to life and employment, to seek appropriate income generating activities and to be able to confront social and economic challenges and find solutions.

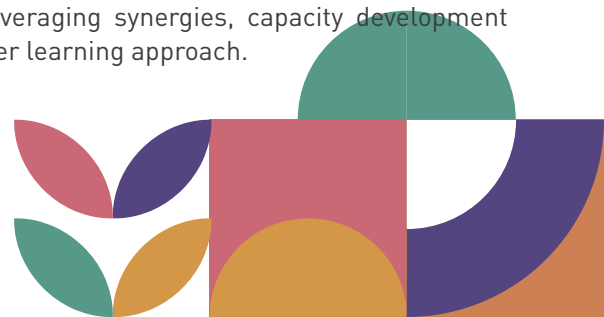
- Activities: language courses, employment and life skills courses (e.g., handicraft or computer courses, courses to increase communication skills).

- **Supportive environment:** Establishing sustainable support structures and networks to facilitate the development of personal and socio-economic resilience of vulnerable groups and persons as well as the resilience of communities.

- In the case of CLIP 2 this entails: establishing a peer support network between NGOs/CSOs, strengthening cooperation and coordination structures between NGOs/CSOs and government agencies as well as referral pathways, improving access to integrated, quality social services by leveraging synergies, capacity development including a peer learning approach.



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## To all women out there: Don't give up!

Rasha and her family moved to Kahramanmaraş from Aleppo in 2014. Rasha (32) is married with four children. Despite the agonizing war and migration, she has written a story of resilience that will inspire all women with faith and determination.

After living with her family in Kahramanmaraş for about a year, Rasha settled in Ankara due to her husband's job. Over the years, she became a role model for many of her female friends who built a new life with her efforts to work, support her family and improve herself.

*"We arrived in Turkey in winter; it was a difficult journey especially for our children. It was well worth the effort to live in peace and warmth today,"* Rasha says.

Back in Syria, Rasha had received education until the 7th grade and had no work experience. She started learning Turkish, realising the significance of breaking down the language barrier. She is currently involved in activities promoting social cohesion and capacity building at the SGDD-ASAM Ankara Community Centre.

*"SGDD-ASAM stands by and empowers women, no matter how weak they may feel,"* Rasha notes.

Despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, Rasha emphasises the support she received from Ankara Community Centre staff for her family's overall resilience, notably for the school enrolment of her children who received online education.

Rasha has been working as one of the most active members of the BERI Women's Cooperative for three years, explaining that she does her best for her children's education. The cooperative, where the beneficiaries are referred to, carries out activities for women's empowerment and income generation.

Rasha claims that her cooperative friends trust her in helping them improve their professional skills; therefore, they have picked up on her business ideas.

*"I hope our project will be our strength, our dream and our triumph,"* Rasha says. *"No matter how much I explain, words are insufficient. We exist as BERI, not as Turks or Syrians."*

She wishes to continue her path by becoming more resilient as a result of her work at the BERI cooperative. *"I have to stand by my children in order to be a strong mother and have a solid future,"* Rasha adds.



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