**Community-Based Local Initiatives Project (CLIP 2) Peer Support Network has kicked off**

***Co-funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union, through its Humanitarian Aid Operations department (ECHO), the Community-based Local Initiatives Project (CLIP 2) started its activities. Following the call for project proposals in May, projects of 22 Non-Governmental Organisations operating all over Turkey were selected to receive financial and technical support. CLIP 2 implementing partners convened in Ankara for their first network meeting on Tuesday, November 9.***

CLIP 2 held a meeting in Ankara on Tuesday, November 9, with the participation of the representatives of its co-funders, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the EU Humanitarian Aid and the leading implementing partner Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The meeting brought together the **CLIP 2 Peer Support Network** for the first time. Representatives of 22 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) from all over Turkey exchanged knowledge and shared views on potential further collaborations for the network to achieve more efficient results.

The Community-based Local Initiatives Project (CLIP 2) aims to strengthen the personal and socio-economic resilience of refugees and vulnerable members of the host community and focuses on the development of social services in four areas: protection services, access to non-formal education, social cohesion and capacity development. In this context, the project supports NGOs in Turkey's relatively underserved regions to date, providing integrated and differentiated services for disadvantaged refugees and vulnerable members of the host community. The implementing partners are in many different locations of Turkey reaching out to a variety of vulnerable persons, for example, working and unaccompanied children, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, traumatised persons, people with serious medical conditions and persons with disabilities.

**A living support network has come to life: CLIP 2 Peer Support Network**

Since early 2021, the CLIP 2 project has gathered all the NGOs (currently 22 NGOs) to which it provides technical and financial support, thus creating a network that will increase cooperation between them. Born with a vision of localisation and sustainability, the CLIP 2 Peer Support Network has an approach based on peer learning and peer exchange as a basis for capacity development, networking and cooperation for the empowerment and sustainability of civil society actors, with special reference to supporting grassroots organisations and local initiatives.

In addition, the Peer Support Network provides a framework for efficient collaboration amongst CLIP 2 partners of different sizes and capacities; thus it constitutes a sustainable mechanism through which NGOs can work together, get capacitated, establish referral pathways, increase their credibility and are enabled to receive (national and international) funding in future. To this end, the Peer Support Network offers organisations a sustainable and thriving mechanism, not only individually but also as a network.

**“Mentoring” system for localisation and sustainability**

The CLIP 2 Peer Support Network has a process that supports development within itself. Structurally larger and well-established NGOs act as “mentors” and technically support small-scale local initiatives to increase in-network efficiency. CLIP 2 “mentors” offer a range of activities to smaller NGOs in their organisational structure as well as their technical expertise for high-quality and integrated service delivery. During this process, GIZ supports the technical development of the whole network through capacity development measures specific to mentors and local initiatives.

CLIP 2 implementing partners operate in provinces with relatively higher concentration of non-Syrian residents (Afghan, Iraqi, Iranian, etc.), where NGOs fail to provide adequate services for disadvantaged refugees and vulnerable host community members. Implementing partners are grouped in four different regions or “bundles” in Turkey (namely, Marmara1, Marmara 2, Central Anatolia and East Anatolia), and will carry out their projects in the following cities: Adana, Aksaray, Ankara, Bursa, Elazığ, Gaziantep, Istanbul, Kilis, Konya, Kütahya, Sakarya, Trabzon and Van. The projects target Syrian refugees as well as those coming from other countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran. Kayseri and Nevşehir are planned to join the implementation areas in 2022.

CLIP 2 is designed as a follow-up project based on the achievements of the Local Initiative Fund in Turkey (LIFT) as a part of “Leave No One Behind – LNOB” principle in the past years and aims at reaching a total of 49,000 beneficiaries in the areas of protection, education and training as well as intercultural exchange and learning. The CLIP 2 Peer Support Network, on the other hand, is planned to function as a self-operating and sustainable system that is open to development and that can access different financing opportunities, even after the completion of the project.

*The project “Improving Community-Based Social Services for Refugees and Vulnerable Residents of Host Communities in Turkey (CLIP 2)” is* *co-funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union, through its Humanitarian Aid Operations department (ECHO) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.*

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