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Community-Based Local Initiatives Project (CLIP 2)

Community-based local initiatives in Türkiye provide multi-sectoral social services for refugees and vulnerable residents of the host community and strengthen their resilience.

General Context

Türkiye is home to the world's largest refugee population, including over 3.3 million Syrians and 300,000 international protection holders. This presents substantial challenges, with refugees facing difficulties accessing quality social services, jobs, and protection. Despite the government's commendable efforts, issues like poverty, unstable living conditions, and psychological stress continue to impact refugees and vulnerable Turkish citizens. The Covid-19 pandemic and the February 2023 earthquakes in Türkiye have only added to these challenges, disrupting the lives of both refugees and the host community. Language barriers also hinder social integration and employment opportunities. Rising living costs and unemployment further strain vulnerable Turkish citizens, particularly women-led households, and individuals with disabilities. These challenges have led to negative coping mechanisms, such as domestic and/or sexual and gender-based violence, child labour, and early marriages, driven in part by the psychological stress of insecure living conditions. Civil society organisations (CSOs) have been instrumental in refugee integration, but many lack the capacity and expertise, especially in underserved areas, to provide tailored and coordinated social services in partnership with state institutions.

Our Approach

GIZ has been actively backing NGO efforts in Türkiye's refugee response since 2015. The CLIP 2 project, funded

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	European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project area	Türkiye wide with a focus on underserved regions
Most relevant partners	Vice-President's Office of the Republic of Türkiye (Lead executing agency), Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), Municipalities
Target group	Refugees and vulnerable members of the Turkish host community
Overall term	January 2021 – March 2026
Total budget	EUR 18,500,000 by ECHO and EUR 15,000,000 by BMZ

by the European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), focuses on empowering community-based local initiatives in underserved regions in Türkiye. These initiatives aim to deliver tailored services to disadvantaged refugees and vulnerable Turkish host community members. CLIP 2 builds on the successes of the previous Community Centres and Local Initiatives Project (CLIP 1).





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The CLIP 2 project operates across four key action fields:

1. Improving Protection and Specialised Support

GIZ collaborates with local community-based organisations to enhance support services such as legal counselling, social guidance, and psychosocial support (PSS), and specialised assistance for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and survivors of SGBV. These services are extended to both refugees and vulnerable members of the host community, encompassing single-headed households, unaccompanied minors, LGBTQIA+ individuals, seasonal migrants, and child labourers. This empowerment equips the target group to navigate challenges within their living environment, strengthening their personal resilience.

2. Increasing Access to Non-Formal Education

CLIP 2 implementing partners are fortified in their capacity to provide non-formal education, including language courses and skills development programmes tailored to the target groups' needs. Recognising the significance



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of Turkish language proficiency for labour market access and community interaction, especially amidst challenging economic conditions, this provision serves as a foundational element for enhancing the personal, economic, and social prospects of both refugees and host community members.



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3. Promoting Social Cohesion and Intercultural Understanding

The project actively supports community-based organisations that foster intercultural exchange and social cohesion at the local level. Activities encompass dialogue events, cultural engagements, and social programmes. Through regular exchanges, social tensions can be mitigated, and mutual understanding between refugees and the host community can be strengthened.

4. Capacity Strengthening and Cooperation

CLIP2 implements measures geared toward strengthening technical and organisational capacities of local actors across underserved regions in Türkiye. Furthermore, the project seeks to strengthen cooperation and coordination mechanisms among NGOs and related state institutions at all tiers of governance. This collaborative approach ensures the delivery of high-quality, integrated, and complementary social services. The establishment of a peer support network, known as ADA Türkiye, represents an innovative approach involving semi-structured capacity sharing among CLIP 2 partners. This approach is founded on partner exchange, peer support, and mentoring.



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Civil Society Network for Peer Support and Localisation (ADA Türkiye)

The Civil Society Network for Peer Support and Localisation (ADA Türkiye) represents a pioneering initiative that facilitates collaboration, fosters localisation efforts, and works towards achieving sustainable assistance to vulnerable communities. The network's dedication to capacity- and resilience-building ensures that the most vulnerable populations receive tailored and high-quality services across Türkiye.

ADA Türkiye employs a unique "mentoring" approach that is reframed at each implementation period with partner feedback and lessons learned, as a continuous process. By fostering peer learning and collaboration, the network enhances capacities of local initiatives to address needs and challenges effectively. Large-scale NGOs receive specialised support for capacity strengthening, enabling them to empower smaller, local initiatives. This collaborative effort forms a temporary working group named a "cluster" that enhances local initiatives' capabilities in project management, organisational development, and thematic skill development. Simultaneously, through GIZ's capacity strengthening measures, ADA Türkiye empowers larger NGOs in their mentoring role with specific trainings and support structures.





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Through this innovative approach, ADA Türkiye strengthens the overall impact of its partners while ensuring the provision of needs- and rights-based services linked to existing service structures of the state.

ADA Türkiye's primary objective is to create opportunities for CSOs, regardless of their size or capacity, to optimize the services they offer and enhance their eligibility for future funding. This original approach involves connecting implementing partners of diverse capacities and actively fostering peer support, cooperation, and collaboration. This not only empowers civil society actors but also significantly contributes to the overall institutional sustainability of these organisations.

Cash Response Programme

Our implementing partner organisations play a pivotal role in addressing urgent humanitarian needs. They respond promptly by providing crucial protection services, including psychological support, legal and social counselling, core relief items, and more, ensuring the survival, dignity, and human rights of affected individuals. This response is conducted in close collaboration with public institutions, establishing a strong network for effective humanitarian action.

In this endeavour, we are providing multi-purpose cash assistance to over 6,900 households with an estimation of over 33,000 household members affected by earthquakes within both refugee and host community populations. This one-off cash-based transfer has been carefully designed to mitigate the risks of heightened economic vulnerabilities and increasing cash assistance requirements among earthquake survivors. The Cash Response execution involves ADA Türkiye's four mentor organisations, working in tandem with localised referrals from over 15 organisations, all of whom are focused on assisting the most vulnerable members of the communities. With this collaborative approach, we strive to ensure that no one is left behind during these challenging times.

Intervention area

CLIP 2 implementing partners went through a careful selection process, coming from provinces where international donor support was relatively low, and where there were many vulnerable refugees, including people from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran, as well as host community residents facing significant challenges. Our dedicated partners operate in the following cities across Türkiye: Adana, Adıyaman, Aksaray, Ankara, Çorum, Gaziantep, Hatay, İstanbul, Kayseri, Kilis, Konya, Malatya, Nevşehir, Sakarya, Şanlıurfa, Van. These locations represent the heart of our mission to provide essential support to those who need it most, ensuring that even the most vulnerable communities receive the assistance they deserve.

Community-Based Local Initiatives Project (CLIP 2) Implementing Partners



The Benefits

CLIP 2, through ADA Türkiye, brings forth a multitude of benefits to refugees and vulnerable members of the host community in Türkiye. Through a holistic approach, it addresses issues ranging from displacement, trauma and economic hardships to cultural adaptation and social integration.

Enhanced Resilience: CLIP 2 recognises the importance of resilience, which involves the ability to cope with displacement-related traumas and adapt to a new environment while preserving one's identity. This resilience-building process empowers individuals and communities to manage stress, embrace change, and foster integration, ultimately transforming their local surroundings.

Access to Basic Services: The project prioritises access to critical social and protection services, including advisory, information, and empowerment activities. These services cater to both refugees and host community members, benefiting vulnerable groups such as single-headed households, unaccompanied minors, LGBTIQ+ individuals, seasonal migrants, and child labourers.

Education and Skills Development: CLIP 2 places a strong emphasis on education and skills development. Language





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courses and life skills training are provided to improve personal, economic, and social prospects, facilitating access to the labour market and enhancing overall self-sufficiency.

Promoting Social Cohesion: By connecting refugees and host community members with state institutions, providing spaces for interaction and exchange, and strengthening relationships within specific target groups, CLIP 2 fosters a safe and supportive environment. This environment, in turn, encourages positive interactions, bolsters self-help capacities, and nurtures a sense of connectedness within the community.

Bridging Humanitarian and Development Interventions: CLIP 2 goes beyond immediate humanitarian needs, bridging the gap between humanitarian, development, and peace efforts. By addressing emerging needs, building sustainable structures, and promoting social cohesion, the project exemplifies the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus, aligning with global initiatives and priorities.

Localisation

Localisation lies at the heart of CLIP 2 and ADA Türkiye's mission. By actively supporting local NGOs of different size and capacities, this collaborative effort empowers local actors and local leadership, enables access to hard-to-reach groups, strengthens community-based work, and improves cooperation among different local actors. This dynamic approach creates a robust ecosystem that leverages each organisation's strengths, links it to peers for sustainable capacity sharing and enhances the overall impact of community-based services, particularly in underserved areas.

Earthquake Response

Our activities extend to addressing the consequences of the twin earthquakes that struck Türkiye and Syria in February 2023. Our implementing partners have been diligently reaching out to earthquake survivors in the most affected regions, including Adana, Adiyaman, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya and Şanlıurfa, while also providing support to internally displaced people in Ankara, Bilecik, Eskişehir, İstanbul, İzmir, Kayseri, Kütahya, Nevşehir, Trabzon, and Van. In these areas, we have swiftly provided emergency aid, have contributed invaluable technical assistance for search and rescue efforts, facilitated information sharing, offered counselling to survivors in need, conducted rapid assessments of the affected regions, and assisted in the safe evacuation of survivors to other provinces. This comprehensive approach underscores our resolute commitment to the Grand Bargain principles while addressing the immediate needs of those affected by the earthquakes.



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Highlights

As of December 2023, ADA Türkiye and its partner NGOs have achieved significant milestones in their efforts to empower communities and promote social impact. Key achievements include:



Non-Formal Education: Over **6,500** individuals have enrolled in non-formal education courses, providing essential learning opportunities for those without access to formal schooling.



Earthquake Response: An estimated **30,000** individuals have received assistance through ADA Türkiye's earthquake response initiatives, providing crucial support during times of crisis.



Gender-Based Violence Awareness: More than **8,000** participants have engaged in information and awareness-raising measures to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence.



Non-Food and Food Item Distribution: Over **40,000** non-food items and more than **20,000** food items have been distributed, meeting the immediate needs of affected communities.



Legal and Social Support: Over **55,000** people have benefitted from legal and social advice, including referrals to other services, and psychosocial support services.



Intercultural Activities: More than **100,000** individuals have participated in intercultural activities, fostering understanding and social cohesion among diverse communities.



External Service Referrals: ADA Türkiye has facilitated referrals for more than **20,000** individuals to external services, ensuring access to vital resources.



Social Cohesion Promotion: Over **2,500** measures have been implemented to promote social cohesion between refugees and residents of the host community, creating inclusive and harmonious environments.



Special Needs Support: Partner organisations have implemented **21** projects focusing on supporting people with special needs, promoting inclusivity and equal opportunities.



Cash Response Programme: **6,900** households with an estimation of over **33,000** household members affected by earthquakes within both refugee and host community populations are expected to receive cash assistance.





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Transformational Outcome – Saher’s Story

“Solidarity among women is one of the most crucial pillars in the fight against gender-based discrimination”

Saher was born in 1999 in Syria. When she was in high school, internal conflicts intensified in the neighbourhood where she and her family resided. In 2014, she fled to Türkiye with her family after being threatened with death.

Saher was unable to continue her education in Türkiye after having to stop because of the war and migration in Syria. In 2020, she married a Syrian and then had a son, who is now almost two years old.

She visited the HRDF Esenler Multi-Purpose Support Centre in 2021, where she received psychosocial support and participated in a variety of activities. She took part in the programmes for women’s protection, law seminar, social cohesion, group work with psychologists, and women’s solidarity.

She received an invitation to the trainings in February 2022 as a potential facilitator for the Women’s Protection Program. Soon after arriving in Türkiye, she started learning Turkish. So, she decided to voluntarily offer language instruction to Syrian refugee women who, like herself, could not find a place to learn Turkish.

She announced that by joining social media groups created by refugee women, she could teach languages “voluntarily to women.” Over 100 women wrote to her in response to her announcements. Through a Whatsapp group, she brought women together. She then began giving Turkish courses online.

She learned to create video montages by working alone to produce helpful instructional videos for women. Then, as a novice, she produced and distributed videos on teaching the Turkish language.

Saher wants to finish her education, which was put on hold because of the war. When she first arrived in Türkiye, she shared how she struggled alone with the issues and did not want to leave other women struggling in silence.

“One of the most crucial pillars in the fight against gender-based discrimination,” she says, “is the solidarity among women.”

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