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für Internationale
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Community-Based Local Initiatives Project (CLIP)

Providing multi-sectoral social services for refugees and vulnerable residents of the host community to strengthen socio-economic and personal resilience.

General Context

Türkiye is home to the world's largest refugee population. By 2024, around 2,8 million Syrians and 221.000 international protection holders call the country temporary home. Despite Türkiye's enormous efforts to ensure the needs of communities, access to protection, education and health services remains a challenge in many regions. Economic hardships and the devastating twin earthquakes of February 2023 have worsened the situation. Vulnerable groups such as households led by women and persons with disabilities are particularly impacted. Language barriers hinder social and economic integration for refugees while limited resources have increased tensions between the communities. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Türkiye are committed to respond to these challenges especially in underserved areas.

Our Approach

GIZ, in collaboration with its implementing partners, has been actively supporting Türkiye's refugee response since 2015. CLIP addresses both the immediate and long-term needs of refugees and the host communities, to strengthen their personal and socio-economic resilience. In alignment with its localization approach, the project empowers community based local initiatives in the most underserved areas.

This approach successfully operationalizes the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus by combining humanitarian aid such as protection and cash assistance with efforts to strengthen the capacities of local initiatives and public service providers. The establishment of ADA Türkiye (GIZ CLIP Peer Support Network), a nationwide network of

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
Partners and Stakeholders	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 – April 2027
Total budget	EUR 42.000.000 (EUR 23.000.000 by ECHO and EUR 19.000.000 by BMZ)

all partnering civil society organisations furthermore ensures the sustainability of assistance for the most vulnerable communities across Türkiye.

The most recent developments in Syria significantly affect the situation of Syrian refugees in Türkiye. This impact is continuously monitored. Escalating tensions and situational uncertainties are factored in and the project's ongoing measures are even more valid and increasingly critical in supporting Türkiye especially during this period of substantial transition.



**ADA
TÜRKİYE**

**CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK
FOR PEER SUPPORT AND LOCALISATION**

ADA Türkiye - A Sustainable Crisis Response

The Peer Support Network (ADA Türkiye) connects CSOs of diverse capacities to facilitate collaboration and achieve sustainable assistance. ADA Türkiye member organisations deliver high quality needs-based social services to refugees and vulnerable members of the host communities in underserved areas in Türkiye.

Established in 2021, ADA Türkiye employs a semi-systematic mentoring approach for peer learning between larger and well experienced CSOs and smaller, local organisations. Thus, the network enhances the capacities of local organisations regardless of their size and widens their outreach. Monitoring is key: ADA Türkiye member organisations are selected through a robust assessment process and the network continuously sets and improves the criteria for further areas of learning. ADA Türkiye's capacity-strengthening measures increase the partners' eligibility for future funding by national and/or international actors.

Action Fields

1. Improving Protection and Specialised Support

Protection services are provided by all partner organisations to strengthen the psychosocial and socio-economic resilience of vulnerable persons. They include psychosocial support (PSS), legal and social counselling, as well as specialised assistance for persons with disabilities, survivors of SGBV, LGBTQIA+ individuals and child labourers.

2. Increasing Access to Non-Formal Education

Non-formal education (NFE) services such as language and life skills courses tailored to the target groups' needs enhance integration into the society and economic life. CLIP recognizes the importance of Turkish language proficiency for labour market access and community interaction. The project's NFE services are learner-centred, accessible to everyone and aligned to the criteria set by the Council of Europe.

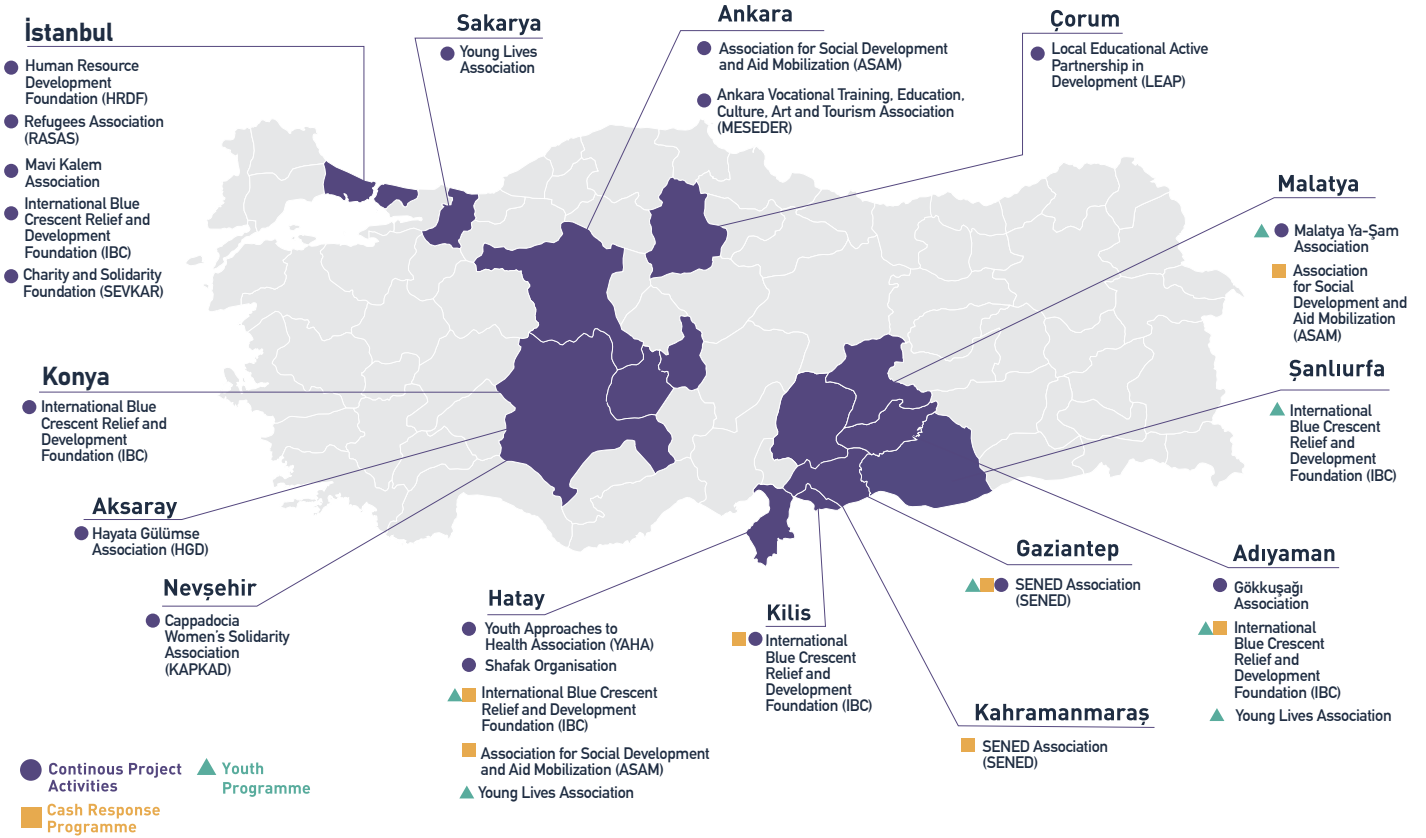
3. Promoting Social Cohesion and Intercultural Understanding

CLIP supports intercultural exchange and social cohesion. This is reflected on both community and institutional levels. The project facilitates social programmes, cultural activities and dialogue events that engage community members, local authorities, and other stakeholders. Regular exchange mitigates social tensions and strengthens mutual understanding between refugees and the host community.

4. Capacity Strengthening and Cooperation

CLIP strengthens technical and organisational capacities of local actors across Türkiye. The project enhances cooperation and coordination among CSOs as part of its peer support network. It promotes peer-learning approaches and enhances capacity sharing among partners of different size and capacities. Further, it fosters networking and collaboration for supporting the sustainability of local initiatives and their services.

Community-Based Local Initiatives Project (CLIP) Map of Implementing Partners



Highlights

As of December 2024, ADA Türkiye and its partner CSOs have achieved significant milestones in their efforts to empower communities. Key achievements include:



Non-Formal Education: Over **16,000** participants have enrolled in non-formal education courses.



Earthquake Response: An estimated **31,000** persons have received assistance through ADA Türkiye's earthquake response initiatives.



Cash Response Programme: Around **10,000** earthquake-affected households with an estimation of over **50,000** persons within both communities have received cash assistance.



Gender-Based Violence Awareness: More than **14,500** participants took part in awareness raising activities and protection services designed to prevent and respond to GBV.



Intercultural Activities: More than **124,000** participants benefited from intercultural activities realized to promote social cohesion.



Protection Services: Over **120,000** people have benefitted from protection services including individual and group PSS, legal and social counselling and case management.



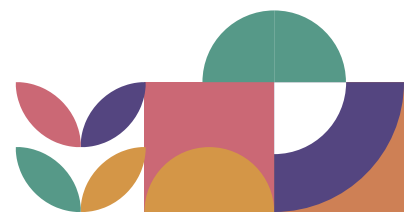
External Service Referrals: More than **29,000** persons have been referred to external services.



Promoting Social Cohesion: Over **3,000** activities and measures have been realized to promote social cohesion between the communities.



Special Needs Support: Partner organisations have successfully implemented **25** projects to support people with special needs.



Women Turning the Tide: Saher's Story

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

Saher was born in Syria in 1999. When she was in high school, escalating conflicts reached her neighbourhood, forcing her family to flee to Türkiye in 2014.

Although she found safety in Türkiye, Saher could not continue her education. In 2020, she married a Syrian man and had a son, who is now almost 4 years old.

In 2021, her life took a positive turn when she visited ADA Türkiye partner HRDF's Esenler Multi-Purpose Support Centre. There, she received psychosocial support and participated in various activities, including women's protection programs, law seminars, social cohesion group work with psychologists, and women's solidarity programs.



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In February 2022, she was invited to train as a facilitator for the Women's Protection Program. Having started learning Turkish soon after arriving in Türkiye, Saher decided to offer language instruction to other Syrian refugee women. Using social media, she announced her voluntary language teaching and received responses from over 100 women. She created a WhatsApp group and began giving online Turkish courses.

Saher taught herself video editing to create instructional videos for women. Despite being a novice, she produced and shared Turkish language teaching videos.

Determined to complete her interrupted education, Saher reflects on her own struggles upon arriving in Türkiye and is committed to ensuring other women do not face the same challenges in silence.

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

Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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On behalf of

Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

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Ankara, 2025